

DROUGHT VERY SEVERE

ASSISTANT DEMONSTRATOR T. J. W. BROOM GIVES ADVICE.

Advises That People Note Carefully Successes and Failures For Future Success--Things to Do.

Many sections of the state are passing through the most severe drought they have ever experienced at this season of the year. Many of us, as we review the farm operation of the past three months, see where we have made costly mistakes. We also see where we hit the "bull's-eye," so to speak, and scored a success. We should make careful note of these and they will serve us in good stead in the years to come. It would be a day well spent to take a day off at this season and drive over the different fields and farms along the way to make inquiry as to date and depth of breaking, subsequent preparation, date of planting, and method of cultivation, and previous crops grown, noting carefully the physical and mechanical condition of each field. In this way we can get interesting matter for discussion at Union meetings, Alliance meetings, Farmer's Clubs, picnics, and social gatherings. It is thus that we can learn and teach some most valuable lessons in soil and crop management, and thereby make our misadventures contributory to our future success.

Avoid Future Mistakes. But the past with all that it teaches is behind us; the immediate future is just before us, and we should try to avoid making future mistakes. In the beginning of the season our minds and thoughts were engaged principally with the problem of proper fertilization in most instances the methods of preparation and planting received secondary consideration. A great many of us didn't reckon with the problem of moisture, but just took it for granted that it would be forthcoming, and herein we find the cause of some of our most costly mistakes.

Moisture is the most important factor in the production of crops, and methods by which water may be stored in the subsoil and conserved for future use by crops should receive our most careful consideration early in the season. The planting season in many sections opened with less water in the subsoil than ever before and the rainfall in most places since April 1, is below the average for this period by several inches. As a result, the soil is unusually dry, and the soil water unusually low for this season of the year. And as already stated, we are just entering the critical period in the growth of the crop--the stage of growth at which most moisture is required to bring good fruitage and maturity.

Most Preserve Remaining Moisture. With a normal rainfall the remainder of the growing season it will require our utmost skill to preserve every particle of moisture possible, and herein we need to be resourceful, and perform the work in the most efficient manner. The only thing to do is to cultivate. Cultivate shallow, cultivate frequently. Avoid open furrows. The man who takes a shovel plow, or solid sweep and opens a ditch on each side of the row as some are now doing, is guilty of murder--the destruction of plant life. Heel-scrapes, cotton sweeps, harrows, and cultivators set to run shallow, not over one or two inches, are good implements to use in making a dust mulch. Lay aside the Dixie and shovel plow and thereby save the crop. Make all haste to stir the soil after a shower. Under present conditions it is imperative that we do this; if we do not, and a crust is allowed to form and remain for a few days the soil actually becomes dryer than if no rain had fallen, and the crop suffers most severely.

Keep Up Cultivation. We should keep the cultivation going even if no rain falls to form a crust. In some instances it may be better to run a drag or a light roller constructed for the purpose to break the crust or compact the soil where too open and loose. Go over the crop every week or ten days; if allowed to lie too long, injury will be done by cultivation. It behoves us as farmers to study the situation, to stand by our crops, seek advice from each other and try not to let our crops suffer through any mistake of ours.

There is another thing that should not escape our attention--the scarcity and high price of hay. Many of our farmers are now paying \$30 to \$35 cash per ton, and \$35 to \$40 on time for timothy hay. The drought has cut short the hay crop in the North and West, and hay is going to be scarce and high next winter and spring.

Still Time to Sow. Fortunately, it is not too late for us to yet grow the hay and forage that we will need. An acre or two sowed or planted to sorghum now, or any time in July, and well fertilized, will yield an abundance of forage. Millet can be sown, as also can corn, cow peas and soy beans, and no opportunity should be spared to grow an abundance of these crops to provide ample supply of forage for winter and spring.

In the fall, rye, winter oats, barley, wheat, crimson clover and vetch can and should be sown for spring crop of hay. Oat and wheat hay can be easily and cheaply grown, and is far superior to the best timothy hay.

A Smart Boy's Observation. We recently saw a farmer paying \$35 cash per ton for hay, and we wondered by what process of reasoning he arrived at the conclusion to grow cotton to buy hay instead of growing the hay itself. And as we pondered we thought of the remark of a ten-year old boy, who stood in a cotton field, leaning on his hoe handle, in the middle of an afternoon about the last of May,

watching a farmer going by with 10 bales of hay on his wagon. He had passed early in the morning on his way to town and was now returning home. As we drove by with the cultivator the boy said, "Papa, I have just been thinking. If that man had gone out last fall with his team and prepared half an acre of land and sowed to oats and crimson clover, and cut with mowing machine this spring and put in the barn, it would not have taken him longer to do this work than he has been gone from home for this load of hay, and he would have made as much or more hay, too, and he could have saved the money he had to pay for that load." Was the boy right?

Unless more than ordinary attention is paid to our forage crops from now on many farmers in this State will buy next summer at prices higher than they have paid for it in many years. The hay crop outlook out West is short. In fact, it is short everywhere, and we may reasonably prepare for the evil day. If your stubble land is too hard to break with a plow, run a disk or cutaway harrow over it at once so as to form a mulch and stop evaporation of the little water remaining in the soil. Then when the first rain falls prepare and sow at once with some crop of hay. A failure on the part of the farmers of the State to attend to this now will result in costly experience next summer.

T. J. W. Broom, Assistant Demonstrator Approved: W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

BIG ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT.

Piedmont Section of North Carolina Attracting Attention of the World. The immense hydro-electric development in North Carolina and the Piedmont section is attracting the attention of the entire country. North Carolina is said to be the very first state in which water power generated electricity was used for lighting and power purposes. Since this beginning, the state has kept in the lead in the utilization of this most important industrial force of the twentieth century. Of about 400 textile mills in the state, one-fourth use electricity as a motive power. With the completion of a number of lines now under construction this number will be largely increased.

The placing of this electrical energy within the reach of the farmers to churn their butter, pump water and to do a hundred other things that were formerly accomplished by the wearisome expenditure of muscular energy, is making farming in the Piedmont section the most enjoyable occupation in the world. With the completion of the inter-urban electrical railway system now under process of construction, the pleasures of the farm life will be doubly increased. The increasing application of this subtle, mysterious energy to various industries will in time make of the Piedmont section of North Carolina a center of industrial activity. Investigations of expert engineers have disclosed the fact that there is a total of more than 2,000,000 horse power of this energy available in North Carolina. The utilization of this amount of energy would bring upon the state an era of industrial development that cannot readily be conceived.

Within a few days the lines of the Southern Power Company will have been completed to Durham. The steel towers have been erected for some time, and the wires have been strung to within a short distance of the city. This line is reported to be the longest electrical transmission line in the world. The energy will be conveyed from points on the Catawba river a dozen miles below Charlotte to turn the wheels of the cotton mills of Durham. The prediction of such a miracle 25 years ago would have gotten into an insane asylum.

The placing of the energy at the disposal of local manufacturing and industrial plants will mark a new era in the industrial development of Durham. It is hoped that some arrangement can be made whereby this cheap energy can be placed at the disposal of the residents of the city for lighting and household purposes. If this were done, residence in the city would be much more enjoyable as well as less expensive and a great impetus would be given to establishment of small business concerns.--Durham Sun.

Is the Tuberculosis Crusade Losing Ground?

Despite all the efforts being made by advocates of fresh air and egg-and-milk treatments, the number of new cases has not been noticeably decreased. Write to us and ask to be referred to Clergymen, Priests, men and women who took Eckman's Alternative and are today well and strong without a trace of tuberculosis--pronounced so by physicians. Some of them took the Alternative 10 years ago when doctors said they would not live 10 weeks.

Could anything be fairer to yourself and those who love you and would do anything to restore you to health? If you are skeptical--investigate us, our medicine, our advertised statements. Write to those who have sent in affidavits and testimonials telling how Eckman's Alternative cured them. Here is one: 5323 Girard Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. Gentlemen: "In the winter of 1903, I had an attack of Grippe, followed by Pneumonia and later by Consumption. I grew steadily worse. In the winter of 1904 I had cough, night sweats, fever and raised quantities of awful looking stuff and later, I had many hemorrhages; at one time, three in three successive days. Milk and eggs became so distasteful I could keep nothing down. Three physicians treated me. I was ordered to the mountains, but did not go. Eckman's Alternative was recommended by a friend. After taking a small quantity I had the first quiet night's sleep for weeks. My improvement was marked from the first. I gained strength and weight and appetite. I never had another hemorrhage and my cough gradually lessened until entirely gone. I am perfectly well. Everything I say here can be verified by my family and friends." (Signed Affidavit) Annie Floyd Loughran.

Eckman's Alternative cures Bronchitis, Asthma, Hay Fever, Throat and Lung Affections. Ask for booklet of cured cases and write to the Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa., for additional evidence. For sale by all leading druggists and J. G. HALL, OXFORD, N. C.

THE OIL WELL SHOOTER.

Sometimes Blown Into Eternity With His Own Ammunition.

In certain of the petroleum producing districts it becomes necessary sometimes in opening an oil well--sometimes when the well has become clogged or apparently exhausted--to begin or renew the flow by exploding nitroglycerin at the bottom of the well. This explosive is employed because it is exploded readily by the dropping of a weight upon it. A man who carries nitroglycerin from well to well for this purpose is known in the oil regions as a "shooter."

The shooter has a wagon in which to carry his explosive. A square box under the seat is carefully padded, and when it has been solidly filled with cans of nitroglycerin, which is a molasses-like fluid, he fastens down the cover and drives slowly away to the well that he is to shoot. Usually he makes the trip very early in the morning to avoid the customary travel and so diminish the chance of danger.

For the most part the roads are bad, and the wagon jolts along in a way to make any one but an old shooter decidedly nervous. If it is dark there is great danger that a wheel may drop into a hole with force enough to detonate the explosive. Several wagons bearing shooters and their loads have been blown up, but no one ever lived to tell what sort of jar caused the explosion.

In such a case little is ever found except the great hole in the ground which the explosion has dug, with possibly a wheel of the wagon a quarter of a mile away in one direction and another in the opposite direction.

The shooter generally takes from 80 to 240 quarts of nitroglycerin in his wagon. The smaller amount is quite enough if it should explode to leave no trace of the driver of the vehicle.

When the shooter reaches the well which is to be treated long torpedo tubes are placed within the casing of the well, and the nitroglycerin is poured carefully into them. The well may be 1,500 feet deep and is seldom less than a thousand. When one of the tubes is filled it is lowered with the utmost care to the bottom of the well. This operation is repeated until the shooter is satisfied that the load is heavy enough to accomplish the purpose. When all is ready a bar of iron, known as a "go-devil," is dropped into the well. The instant it leaves his hand the shooter takes to his heels, seeking a place of safety.

Suddenly the earth trembles; there is a crash, followed by a snap; a muffled sound arises and becomes louder and louder until a column of oil and water shoots from 75 to 100 feet into the air. The country for hundreds of feet around is filled with clouds of spray floating to leeward. When this subsides the well is in operation and the shooter receives his fee and drives away.--Harper's Weekly.

The Dead Man's Hand.

Charms as cures for sickness were common in England a century ago. Lady Wake, who was born in 1800, tells of a grewsome cure adopted for the removal of some birthmarks which disfigured her face. Her mother was persuaded that "a dead man's hand laid upon my cheek and hands would effectually remove the marks," she writes. "As a man could not be killed for the occasion, it was necessary to wait till some one died. An old man at last did die in one of the nearest cottages, and I was taken there in my sleep. I remember afterward being constantly stopped by the widow, who always examined my cheek in order to ascertain the state of her husband's body, as the marks, she told my nurse, would certainly fade away as he turned into dust. Whatever the cause of the cure, the marks in time disappeared."

"It's the Cut."

An aged country rector who had an old tailor as his clerk, returning from his church one Sunday with the latter, thus addressed him:

"Thomas, I cannot think how it is that our church should be getting thinner, for I am sure I preach as well as ever I did and ought to have far more experience than I had when I first came among you."

"Indeed," replied Thomas. "I'll tell you what; old parsons nowadays are just like old tailors, for I'm sure I sew as well as ever I did in my life, and the cloth is the same, but it's the cut, sir. Ah, it's the new cut."--Pearson's Weekly.

Flower of the Air.

There is a plant in Chile and a similar one in Japan called the "flower of the air." It is so called because it appears to have no root and is never fixed to the earth. It twines round a dry tree or sterile rock. Each shoot produces two or three flowers like a lily--white, transparent and odoriferous. It is capable of being transported 600 to 700 miles and vegetates as it travels suspended on a twig.

A Leading Citizen.

"Didn't you tell me Fargo Joe was one of the leading citizens of Crimson Gulch?"

"Well," answered Broncho Bob, "he was. When he left town he led the vigilance committee by a quarter of a mile clean to the next county."--Washington Star.

Didn't Mean It That Way.

Willie--I say, ma, if dad was to die would he go to heaven? Ma--Hush, Willie! Who's been putting such ridiculous thoughts into your head!--London Opinion.

One today is worth two tomorrows.--Franklin.

RIGHTS OF THE HEN.

Fruit of Her Industry Now Reaching The Billion Dollar Mark.

You hadn't thought much of this, but it's a big subject. When a hen cackles all over the place after lay-sometimes criticize her for making unnecessary disturbance about a trivial matter. Nothing could be more unjust. The hen is entitled to cackle like you please--in a lady-like manner over the product of her industry. An egg more or less may not affect the stability of the republic or the egg market, but after you have come to add together all the eggs produced in a year in this country, and reduce them to dollars and cents, the result is amazing.

Our corn crop running something over a billion and a half dollars in value, is our leading cereal. Wheat which comes next, amounts in value to about half a billion dollars. The egg crop, experts figure--for there have been no official figures since 1900--is now crowding the billion dollar mark. In other words, eggs are our most important national product next to corn.

Poultry raising is fast coming our most characteristic and diversified industry. A chain of poultry fanciers extends across the continent. New England the cradle of liberty, was also the cradle of the poultry industry. Poultry raising is an important factor in the prosperity of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and the Mississippi valley generally. It helps the Georgian solve the problem of the cost of living. It is also a big factor in North Carolina and all other southern states. The laying hen is no longer a stranger on the Pacific Coast.

Formerly anything with feather on it and that cackled was called a hen. An egg was an egg unless it was too small to be visible to the naked eye. Nowadays the hen is the aristocrat of the barnyard. Her value may run as high as \$1,500, and eggs for hatching from \$1 for a setting of thirteen to \$10 an egg. Poultry courses are taught at more than 20 agricultural colleges, and the barnyard. Her value may run as raising more and better poultry by the adoption of modern methods.

Scarcity and high price of eggs have led to experiments in poultry raising in cities, which have demonstrated that the hen easily adapts itself to city life and will be as happy and contented and lay as regularly as on the farm. The rooster is not so easily brought into harmony with urban surroundings, although his crow is much more musical and less disturbing than the siren horns of some of the automobiles and motorcycles. The advent of the crowless rooster, said to be among the possibilities of the near future, will complete the happy domestic circle of the city, poultry

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house without including a jarring or discordant noise.--Greensboro News. Thought They Couldn't Do Better. Philadelphia Record. There's a certain minister whose duties sometime call him out of the city. He has always arranged for some one of his parishoners to keep company with his wife and little daughter during those absences. Recently however, he was called away so suddenly that he had no opportunity of providing a guardian. The wife was very brave during the early evening, but after dark had fallen her courage began to fail she stayed up with her little girl until there was no excuse for staying any longer and then took her upstairs to bed. "Now, go to bed, dearies," she said. "Don't be afraid. God will protect you." "Yes, mother," answered the little girl, "that'll be all right to-night, but next time let's make better arrangements." FOR SALE--Cheap, second hand carriage. Apply to Ledger Office.

Davis The Buggy MAN WANTS to say to you, that if saving money is any item of interest, then now is the time to come and look his line of buggies over. He pays your railroad fare one way, whether you buy or not, just to advertise his buggies and phaetons. Now From The Number of Farmers that have come from Granville this time and bought buggies, it would seem there is a reason. Now won't you to-day write or come to see this man Davis, and just let him show you the styles and makes he has. The man "PRICE" cuts a great figure here. If you can save \$7.50 on a rig, won't this pay you for your time. Yours for business, SAMUEL DAVIS, CLARKSVILLE, VIRGINIA.