

Since THE COMMONWEALTH asked this question two weeks ago it has been discussed some by the farmers, and all who have mentioned the matter have said that the land is not improved by a peanut crop if the vines are taken off. They say that perhaps the land will hold its own if the vines are left in the field and allowed to go back as a fertilizer, but to take them off will tend to impoverish the land.

Here the farmers invariably take the vines off the land for stock feed, and so the crop instead of being an improver becomes an impoverisher of the land.

As has been observed before, this is no trifling question, because the peanut crop of this region is an important one, and its effects on the land ought to be studied and known by our farmers.

"STILL BUY MEAT AND HAY."

For a number of years THE COMMONWEALTH has been urging the farmers of this community to raise all home supplies. Perhaps some have thought that we have made this subject a hobby, so often have we written about it; and we must say that our convictions on the subject are such that if we have made it a hobby we think it about as good as we could have selected.

We are reminded to say these things by an observation of Dr. Hufham some days ago. He has been away from Scotland Neck a dozen years and with the general improvement in methods of agriculture throughout the State doubtless he expected to see signs of certain improvements here. He remarked, however, "I see they still buy meat and hay here."

The fact that there is cause for such observation proves conclusively that there is still room for improvement in this particular. We may be saying it for the hundredth time, but that does not alter the fact, that no farming can be called successful in the highest sense which does not maintain a system of home supplies. No matter if cotton has been selling for 15 and 16 cents, the farmer who proposes to make cotton with which to buy his corn and hay and meat makes a great mistake, whatever may be the price of these products. And just as long as they "still buy meat and hay," just so long will the farmers in this community find themselves losers by such a system.

Home supplies first and money crops afterwards, is the motto which should control every farm in the land.

DUTY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS.

This is a year in which many persons will offer themselves as candidates for public office. The old time way of letting the office seek the man has been discarded, and now the man seeks the office.

We are not writing to question this state of affairs, but to give some suggestions about the duty of those who offer themselves and are accepted. It was Mr. Cleveland, we believe, who gave currency to the declaration that a public office is a public trust; and there has been nothing said that means more. The fact that the people select a man for a public office and then cast their votes for him, means that they trust him with whatever interest they have in that office. It means that they are willing to trust him with the duties of such office, and that they expect him to discharge his duties faithfully.


For the most part there is nothing to be implied or inferred concerning how faithfully such officer will perform the duties which he assumes in asking for and accepting the office; for he generally makes broad and liberal promises to do his duty "to the best of his ability."

A man under such circumstances—offering his services to the people, promising to do his duty well and the people trusting him with their suffrage—assumes an obligation that is grave in proportion to the importance of the office which he seeks.

In view of the fact that the candidates are numerous for the various elective offices this year, it is perhaps not out of place to call attention to these things before the obligations are assumed.

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BEARS ABOUT AHOSSKIE.

Windsor Ledger. In the vicinity of Ahooskie bear tracks were plainly visible recently on the premises of A. Mitchell, a justice of the peace of Hertford county. Small hunting parties have endeavored to follow the route of the sagacious brute, but without success.


While the grizzly had been making inroads upon pigs and other small domestic animals, the women and children of the community had been terrorized and we a fearful of venturing far from their homes.

But the limit was reached early this morning, when the wife of A. E. Garrett, sheriff of Hertford county, saw a bear in her yard, and several people reported seeing him through the night, and about seven o'clock this morning a number of citizens gathered to inspect the footprints in the snow, and a young army that would rival the combatants in the Far East, was soon raised. J. B. Garrett, a prosperous merchant of our town, was elected general, and J. A. Copeland, the famous fox hunter, captain. The company hurriedly entered the ranks and marched to a piece of woods on the east part of the town; as they passed out you would see breach loaders, muzzle-loaders, single barrel and double barrel, long guns and short guns, Remington rifles, relics of old Nat's war, and other implements of war, too numerous to mention. After marching several hours and sending out scouts, our hardy soldiers camped in the yard of the farmer where his majestic, the bear, had been a few hours before. The latest advice from the front say the enemy has not been sighted, and night settles down without a drop of blood having been shed on either side. Where it will end remains for the future to reveal.

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Fancy.....	4 1/2 to 5
Strictly Prime.....	4 1/2 to 4 3/4
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If it is a Wagon you want we can sell you a high grade Hackney or a medium grade Chase City.

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\$1.50 Umbrellas (only 100).....	98c.	See our Great Shirts.....	49c.
Table Oil Cloths.....	15c.	Eclipse.....	1.00 and \$1.50
12 1/2 Sea Island Percal.....	10c.	60-Cent Voile (new shades).....	41c.
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Pacific Lawns—worth 10c.....	08c.	Great Drive in Ribbons.....	10c.
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Great Drive in Pearl Buttons.....	05c.	Nice line Lawns.....	05c.
Gold Eyed Needles.....	01c.	American Calicoes.....	03c.
Pins.....	01c.	U. S. Bleaching.....	03c.
Sterling Silver Thimble.....	49c.	50 Styles Swiss Embroidery.....	10c.
3 Thimbles.....	05c.	Beautiful Lace Bands.....	08c.
4 Pair Heavy Half Hose.....	25c.	One Bale Rugs.....	98c.
Great Drive in Ladies' Lace Hose.....	15c.	Ladies' Vests.....	05c.
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7 Cakes Octagon Soap Monday morning, only.....	25c.	Few Quilts left.....	98c.
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Men's Suits, worth \$10.00.....	\$5.98.	Homespun Plaids.....	25c.
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