

SANDHILL BELT TOBACCO PROSPECT

New Year Foreshadows a Decided Expansion of the Industry.

Bion H. Butler

The experience of the tobacco farmer in the year that has closed leaves one point right definite. The crop of bright leaf raised in this field in 1928 will be bigger than anything that has ever been undertaken here, and the signs are that this summer is to see the Sandhills established as one of the important and dependable production areas of the bright territory. Gradually the farmers have been testing out the Sandhill soil and climate, and the cumulative results are so emphatically favorable that it is believed that here will be a permanent production area, and that tobacco will grow rapidly to much greater importance as a Middle North Carolina crop.

Tobacco men are coming this way in increasing numbers from other sections. Several reasons are offered for their coming. The first that is heard is that the quality of the leaf grown on the light soil of the Sandhills is above the average. I am not judge enough of tobacco to offer this as my opinion, but the fact that the factories appear to pay a little more for leaf here in the sand indicates that they find in it something to interest them. At any rate the Sandhills tobacco sits well toward the head of the table if not at the top, and that is one inducement for tobacco men to produce their leaf in this sandy area. Then tobacco farmers tell me they like this climate. It is dry, and it is possible to plow and work in the fields more days in the year and more hours of the day than in many places. The light soil absorbs the moisture, and immediately after a rain the plows can go to work. The soil is light enough that it takes less power to carry on, and no bother is encountered either from sticky clay soil or from stony ground, which is the bane of some sections. Here also is an agreeable place to live. The proximity of pleasant villages and of sports and amusements, of good schools, churches, picture theatres, good stores, banks, railroad facilities, good road, and good neighbors, count for a lot. Good water is another factor. The delightful country neighborhoods have their charm. The tobacco farmer likes to live in a pleasant community just as everybody else does, and here he finds surroundings that are worth while.

So the tobacco farmers are drifting into the Sandhills, and the most essential fact is that they are able to make a good crop of leaf and sell it for a good price. They find at Aberdeen a good market, with good roads leading in from all directions so they can haul a big load from farm to warehouse, and if they are disposed to try a shot at a market away from home a paved road leads to the factories at Durham and to the factories at Winston-Salem and the factories at Winston-Salem, and the distance to both these big manufacturing centers is not very great. The Sandhill belt is about as admirably situated to please the tobacco farmer as can be imagined, and no place else is so fully provided with so many desirable conditions. And another thing that is of considerable importance, when the farmer in this region is up with his work and wants to pick up a few dollars working at something else, it is usually the easiest thing in the world to find a job for a longer or shorter period until his work at home calls him again. He need lose mighty little time in the year for want of something to do.

One of the things that tells of the likelihood of a greater influx of good tobacco farmers to the Sandhills is that people in all other sections find this a delightful place to

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PREVENTION OF TOBACCO DISEASES

Most Destructive Diseases of This Crop Have Their Origin in the Plant Bed.

F. A. Wolf, Division of Plant Pathology N. C. Experiment Station.

Investigations in this State and in others where tobacco is grown have shown that several of the most destructive diseases of this crop have their origin in the plant bed. This fact is of special significance since it must be made the basis for all remedial measures, and growers should be made aware of this fact so that they may take the necessary precautions to prevent the occurrence of these diseases in the crop of the coming season. The common names wildfire and angular leafspot, also called black fire, are popularly applied to the best known of these leafspot troubles. Wildfire can readily be distinguished by the broad yellow border which surrounds the dead, brown spots. Black fire causes the formation of irregular, angular, dark brown or blackish spots without the yellow border, however.

Once these diseases have been established in the field, there is little that can be done to check their spread. Successful control must therefore depend upon the prevention of their introduction into the fields at the time of transplanting or setting out, and this can best be accomplished by the growing of healthy plants. A disease-free crop is practically assured provided the plants are healthy at time of transplanting. In order to grow healthy plants, attention should be given to the three following sanitary precautions:

Use Disease Free Seed.

Use seed of known healthy origin, or which are known to have come from a disease-free field, and which has been protected at all times from subsequent contamination. If such seed cannot be procured, then place the seed in a cheese cloth bag in a jar, or pour them into a jar and cover the top with a cheese cloth. The seed should then be soaked for ten minutes in a formaldehyde solution. This solution should be of the strength of one tablespoonful of formaldehyde to one pint of water.

If formaldehyde cannot be secured from the local druggist, bichloride of mercury or corrosive sublimate may be used instead. This chemical, which is very poisonous, should be used in the strength of one part to 1,000 parts of water. It is necessary in either case to observe two precautions, or injury to germination will

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The Pilot In University of North Carolina Library

The Pilot has received from Chapel Hill the following letter, brought out by the fact that bound volumes of the paper covering five volumes have been presented to the University of North Carolina Library:

"Jan 14, 1928.

"Stacy Brewer, Editor,

"The Pilot,

"Vass, N. C.

"My dear Mr. Brewer:—

"I wish to acknowledge with thanks your gift of a bound file of The Pilot, vol. 1-5. I am very glad to have these in our North Carolina Collection. Is there any chance of completing the unbound file we have here covering the years 1926 and 1927? I will send you a list of our missing numbers—there are very few missing—if you think there is a chance of finding them. We have a great many calls for material on the Sandhill section, and I am sure your paper will be useful in answering them.

"MARY L. THORNTON."

HEALTH AND WELFARE ASS'N

January Meeting Held in Pinehurst at the Community Club House.

January meeting of the Moore County Health and Welfare Association and the Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Each meeting of the Moore County Health and Welfare Association and the Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross seems to break all previous attendance records. At the January meeting held in Pinehurst at the Community Club House on the afternoon of Tuesday the 10th, there were 85 persons present.

Following the opening prayer composed by the President, Mrs. Francis T. Keating, especially for the association and peculiarly in keeping with its spirit, the Lord's Prayer was recited in unison. The minutes of the last meeting were then read by Dr. Presbrey, the Recording Secretary, as was also the treasurer's report sent in by R. N. Page who was unable to be present. There followed a statement of the returns from the Seal Sale up to date. One or two towns have not yet reported the results of their sales, but it is hoped that when they do, the total will reach one thousand dollars.

Mrs. Mudgett, third vice-president from Southern Pines, told briefly of the work of the Southern Pines committee in taking care of six needy families in their district before Christmas.

Miss Merryman, Red Cross Public Health Nurse, in making her report, re-emphasized the need of education along health lines and cited particular instances of existing ignorance, prejudice and superstition in regard to vaccination. In addition she mentioned her work among some of the school children who have lately been suffering from skin trouble. Other children were reported as having eye diseases and it is hoped that steps may be taken to have these children examined and properly treated.

In her report, Miss Eifort backed up Miss Merryman in regard to the existing prejudice against vaccination. She also stated that the number of unexcused absences from school has been unusually large during November and December. School lunches have been started in two

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Annual Meeting of Bank of Pinehurst

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Bank of Pinehurst was held in its building in Pinehurst on January 11, 1928.

All officers and directors were re-elected and the reports of the president and cashier showed that the year 1927 had been the most prosperous in the history of the institution, and that the bank had grown and developed far beyond the anticipation of those responsible for its organization.

In 1914, when the Bank of Pinehurst began business with a capital of \$12,000.00, it was hoped by its founders that the amount of deposits might, in a few years, reach \$100,000, but this figure was surpassed before it had been in existence twelve months, and by 1919 the business had reached proportions which made it seem wise to increase the capital stock to \$100,000, and to build a new bank home more adequate for its expanding activities. This was done and proved to be a wise measure.

On December 31, 1927, the statement showed deposits of \$1,047,664.01 and loans of \$835,902.80, an earned surplus of \$30,000, and undivided profits of \$10,750.54, making the total resources \$1,189,544.16.

The bank has an unbroken dividend history, never having failed to earn and pay a dividend since its initial

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BRIGHT TOBACCO IS STAPLE CROP

TRAP BEDS TO ERADICATE BUGS

Several Farmers Tried This and Say It's Worth \$20 to \$30 Per Acre.

Z. P. Metcalf, Entomologist, North Carolina Experiment Station.

The tobacco "flea bug" or flea beetle is one of the most troublesome insect pests of tobacco. It lives over winter under the leaves and grass around the edges of the field, along ditch banks and in the woods. It comes out on the first warm days of spring and gathers on the plant beds, attacking the small plants as soon as they are up. It frequently riddles the plants in the beds so that the farmer is forced to get his plants from some other farmer.

When the tobacco is set, the flea bug follows to the field and frequently weakens the plant so that it dies, and another plant must be set in its place.

To combat this little pest on the tobacco beds, we have devised what is called the "trap bed." Several farmers have tried this out and say that it is worth \$20 to \$30 an acre to them, because it gives them stronger plants to draw from the beds, it gives them a more uniform stand, and it reduces their labor bill in setting plants.

With these results as a basis we are asking every farmer to give this method a trial. Don't expect perfect results. Every farmer reporting said that this method would be more valuable if all their neighbors would use it.

Build so Bugs Cannot Enter.

Make your plant bed three feet larger each way than you think you will need. Then make a tight frame of good plank the size you want your bed to be, sinking the plank a little in the ground all the way around so that no flea bugs can get in. Cover it with a good heavy cloth without holes and tack the cloth to the edge of the planking by means of laths so that it will fit tight all the way around and leave no holes for the little flea bugs to get through it. The cloth can then be extended so as to cover the rest of the bed and fastened to poles in the usual way.

In this way we have a tight bed in the center surrounded on all sides by a strip exposed to the flea bug. Now poison this strip every week or ten days and after every heavy rain. The poison to use is arsenate of lead, mixing one pound of the poison in the powdered form with four pounds of finely sifted dry wood ashes until the whole mass is uniformly light gray without streaks or spots of white. (Paris green, 1 pound mixed with 16 pounds of air slaked lime may be used, but it is not quite as good.) This poison can be dusted on by putting it into a small sack of tobacco cloth and going over the strip of to-

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Locomotives and Cars Purchased by Southern

The Southern Railway System has just placed the largest order for motive power and rolling stock ever given by it, having purchased 68 locomotives, 3,000 coal cars, 2,250 automobile box cars, 250 ballast cars, 200 caboose cars, and 25 all-steel mail and baggage cars for delivery during the spring and early summer of this year.

Of the locomotives, 63 are for freight service, 55 being of the Mikado type and eight of the Mallet type, and 5 of the Pacific type are for passenger train service.

The coal cars purchased include 2,500 hopper bottom cars and 500 gondola cars.

Has World Trade and Powerful Influences to Market Its Products.

At a recent meeting of tobacco men at Aberdeen, B. B. Saunders referred to the safety of bright tobacco as a crop for the farms, and among other things he remarked that the Sandhills farmer need not be alarmed about increasing production here in the sand in sufficient degree to affect the market. Mr. Saunders said that all we could increase the crop would not be enough to be even perceptible in the hundreds of millions of pounds of bright leaf that the trade calls for. North Carolina produces so large a proportion of the bright tobacco that it is almost a North Carolina staple, and North Carolina is close to the point of being the producer of the world's supply of this favored type. Fashions in tobacco change. Twenty-five years ago the fashion did not look with favor on the cigarette. The cigarette was a "coffin nail" and the smoker of it was a "cigarette fiend." The prophets predicted that smoking cigarettes would ruin the boys, and crusades were waged against the mild tobacco. Boys then turned to chewing tobacco, and the bolder ones to cigarettes. Now chewing tobacco has dropped to a point where it is the least common form of using tobacco, with the sole exception of snuff, and the cigarette is the foremost. Every other form of tobacco except pipe smoking has lost ground while the cigarette has come forward at such an unexampled rate that cigarettes are used by 14 times as many people, cigars by not so many formerly, chewing by not half so many, pipe smoking by a few more, and snuff has slightly increased, according to population.

The cigarette accounts for as much tobacco now as cigars and chewing tobacco together, and pipe tobacco comes second to cigarettes. The base of these two big forms of tobacco consumption is bright leaf. When the war came it gave the cigarette an unexampled encouragement. Women and other influences that had antagonized the cigarette came forward with baskets and packages of them at the trains or wherever troops were encountered to load up the boys with cigarettes, and that war will entail before the end comes, a higher expenditure of money for cigarettes than for any other thing that entered into the contest.

Nobody can see the limit of the demand for bright leaf tobacco. It is a mild light type, less harmful probably than tobacco in any other form, and it has been carried around the world by the soldiers, and the big tobacco companies are the most powerful selling agency that any farm product has back of it. Cotton is the foremost export product of the country, but tobacco is exported in more systematic form, and by a stronger organized influence than any other commodity, not even excepting the Standard Oil. No other agency is so energetic in finding an outlet for the farmer's crop as the tobacco companies are in marketing the bright leaf tobacco, and in spite of all that is said about the tobacco manufacturers they are by their necessities the hostage to the farmer's success, for they are his selling agents, and they know their business. This one thing gives bright leaf tobacco a firmer assurance as a staple and continuing industrial product than probably anything else that is made in this world, even counting food supplies.

Bright leaf tobacco is made practically without exception in the sandy soils of the Southern Atlantic seaboard, and the great bulk of it in North Carolina. The soil and climate seem to make a leaf that can not be duplicated anywhere else in the world. China has been trying to raise bright leaf, for the Chinese call for a large quantity of it, but while they can

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