

## Our Farm Department

Devoted to the Interest of Those Who Till the Soil

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY

### FALSE REPORTS.

November 1st The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin of New York published the following false report of the cotton crop:

"Smithfield, N. C.—Picked, 40 per cent. Have largest crop ever raised in Johnston County; what the frost damaged would never have been picked; gins not reporting what they have ginned; all gins crowded to their fullest capacity."

The man who wrote the above knew absolutely nothing about it or else he had a lot of cotton sold for future delivery and wanted the price to go down so he could buy in the cotton he has sold at a low price. He certainly was working against the farmers. He ought to tell the truth.

### How Shall We Meet the Labor Situation?

We Southern farmers have several vital problems before us for solution. It is an old saying, "Man proposes and God disposes," and Providence has most effectually settled the 11 cents' cotton question in our favor, though His method was certainly a very harsh one, and one that has worked a great hardship upon many thousands of poor farmers. Some questions Providence will thus settle, others He leaves entirely for us, and among them none is more pressing than "How to settle the labor question."

### THE LABOR CONDITIONS OVER THE SOUTH.

We have traveled a good deal and have seen much from personal observation. We have talked with our farmers upon the trains, at the fairs, in their homes and in our thoroughfares; all admit a deplorable state of affairs and a necessity for reform. Our condition has become very complex.

1. We have our small white farmers who desire additional help in cultivating and in gathering their crops.  
2. The man who wants one or two "standing wage hands."  
3. The small farmer who cultivates a portion of his farm and desires one or two tenants for the balance.

4. The farmer who lives upon his farm and endeavors to oversee the tenants who cultivate his place.  
5. The large and growing class that own large plantations, but live in towns and rent out their lands to negroes.

It is very difficult to get all these various parties to see that their interests are mutual and that they should all work together according to some well-defined system. Our plan of "every man for himself and the devil for all," will not work any high degree of efficiency for our calling. Our farmers, as a whole, are a good and well-intentioned class, but this lack of system has caused neighbors to utterly disregard duties to follow neighbors in this matter of securing labor. One man gets another's hands by all kinds of questionable methods. The negro is thus taught by the white man to have no regard for his obligations to his landlord; the result is he in turn betrays the man who secures him and grows in his unreliability, until now the condition causes universal comment and alarm.

### THE NECESSITY FOR BETTER METHODS IN OUR FARM WORK DEMANDS A BETTER SYSTEM OF TENANTRY.

One has only to travel,—look out of the car windows and see the alarming extent of abused land, the absolute absence of anything worthy the name of preservation or of cultivation of so many of our fields, to realize that we must have better farm work. We do not wish to be considered as one unduly alarmed, but it needs no seer to see that Northern capital has our railroads. They own our mines. They have bought and are developing all our water powers; they own our cotton factories,

oil mills, guano factories, and unless we wake up to better farming it is only a question of a short time when they will own our lands. They know too well the possibilities of our Southern climate and soil. If a man can make ten times as much from one acre than another, he has ten times the advantage. Ten dollars an acre production can not stand against \$50 and \$100 an acre production. As a means for the immediate amelioration of our condition, we know nothing more potent than a written contract; a longer rent term than one year, and to quit meddling with your neighbor's help, but to assist him in every way you can to render it more reliable and efficient. In England they lease for a term of seven, fourteen and twenty-one years. We are not prepared for this yet, but we can adopt two, three and five-year contracts. The negro needs all the training we can give him in three things—thoroughness, reliability and permanency, and a well-defined written contract for two or more years will at least have a tendency to inculcate all three of these in him.

### WHO IS TO SETTLE THE LABOR QUESTION?

To this question there should be but one answer, viz., the landlords. We have no desire to treat the negro unjustly; we advocate dealing with him only in strict justice and no more. All leniency and kindness are thrown away upon him. Cruelty and injustice can only work evil upon both giver and receiver. We have no patience with this complaining, almost whining, we hear among our farmers about the labor conditions. We have it absolutely in our power to control them. If we withhold our support three months they would be forced to accept terms. It is utter folly to think we must cultivate all our lands. It is far better to allow all to remain uncultivated that we can not have cultivated right. We have seen thousands of acres that will not pay expenses, and where is the gain in such cultivation?

There is no secret that the negroes are bound together in secret organizations to protect themselves and to get all out of

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Impoverished soil, like impoverished blood, needs a proper fertilizer. A chemist by analyzing the soil can tell you what fertilizer to use for different products.

If your blood is impoverished your doctor will tell you what you need to fertilize it and give it the rich, red corpuscles that are lacking in it. It may be you need a tonic, but more likely you need a concentrated fat food, and fat is the element lacking in your system.

There is no fat food that is so easily digested and assimilated as

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the white man they can. They meet from once to twice every week in their churches and lodgerooms. Things have reached a pass where definite action on our part can not longer be postponed with anything but loss to us, no matter what your position may be. If you have the prosperity of our farming interest at heart, it behooves you to act. If personally you think you can manage your own farm without any further plan than you now have, you are still due consideration for your fellowmen who are not so fortunate. Every community and county should meet and formulate some plan, and absolutely boycott any farmer who ignores it. But if you can secure concert of action let such individual begin to exact better treatment of our soil. It is both a sin and a shame how the majority of it is abused. Do not remain satisfied with merely receiving a day's work on your annual rent; demand good work or none; your land preserved and properly cultivated, or to vacate. We know in many cases this would work a temporary hardship; but the ultimate results would be infinitely better for every one.

### IN CONCLUSION.

1. Have a better understanding with your hands.
2. Have your contract in writing.
3. Do not allow them to undertake to cultivate so many acres.
4. Insist upon some system of rotation of crops.
5. Make them keep up the terraces, remove the stumps and rocks and cultivate better.
6. Get down to work to have the lien-law repealed.
7. Remember that utilizing your land is far different and more important than attempting to cultivate all of it.
8. There is money in growing hay,—grass for pasture; trees and various other things besides cotton.
9. For half of your land to rest is much better than to be only half cultivated.
10. There is such a thing as "paying too dear for your whistle" or whistler.
11. If you can not make things continue right—at least make the right start.
12. Learn for the future from the mistakes of the past, and surely our present unsatisfactory condition calls aloud for us to readjust ourselves.—Southern Cultivator.

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Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature on every box. 25c.

A Superb Life.

The life of the farmer is fitted to be the ideal life.

Farming is suited to give occupation to all man's best powers. Here we find science and art going hand in hand most happily.

The work cannot justly be said to be of a taxing sort for the most part, if at all. It is mostly in the open air and is usually promotive of health and long life.

The service is with nature in her most fascinating and instructive moods. There is no important work on the farm that does not exhibit many pleasing points.

Here we may have the perfection of that Mother Earth from which life of every kind must be supported. Just think of what every farmer can have on his table from his own farm or garden—all the fruits and vegetables that can be grown in the climate, all the dishes that can be made from fresh milk, butter and eggs, honey and syrup, and the meals and flours.

The farmer is allowed these goods all fresh, and so that he knows what he is getting exactly.

Pause to think what it is to be absolutely sure about such materials. The feeding of the stock can be regulated so as to have the choicest afforded on this account. This is particularly worthy of note as regards poultry and swine.

We clearly see that if there is a living for any person there is surely one for the farmer. "We venture to say," says a person thinking comprehensively on the subject, "that never in the history of the world had people the opportunity for luxurious living that American farmers possess to-day, and it only requires a little aptness to take and enjoy all that is so provided. Long life extends such diet and work."  
—Home and Farm.

## The Tobacco That Made Chewing Popular

Man's fondness for chewing tobacco is created and popularized by the tobacco produced in the famous Piedmont tobacco belt. Only choice selections of this well matured, thoroughly cured leaf are used in making SCHNAPPS. That's why SCHNAPPS requires and takes a smaller amount of sweetening than any other kind—and that's why SCHNAPPS has a wholesome, stimulating and satisfying effect on chewers.

There are many imitations of SCHNAPPS claiming to be "just as good," but without the flavor or quality that has made SCHNAPPS sales more than all similar tobaccos.

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We also have on hand a large stock of Buggies, Surrys, One and Two Horse Wagons, and Harness of all kinds which we will sell very low. We have just received; 2 cars Hay; 1 car best Patent Flour; 1 car Corn; 1 car Oats; 1 car Bran and Ship Stuff, Hulls, C. S. Meal and all kinds feed. See our stock of Dry Goods, Hats, Shoes, Crockery and Hardware, it is complete.

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The six-room dwelling now occupied by Mr. O. V. Booker is for sale. Good stables, wood house, &c. Lot about 1/2 acre size.

For sale a splendid new residence, five large rooms and convenient out houses with 1 1/2 acres of land. The home of Mr. W. J. Gordon at Forks of road in Southern part of Smithfield. Come quick. Write to me or see me.

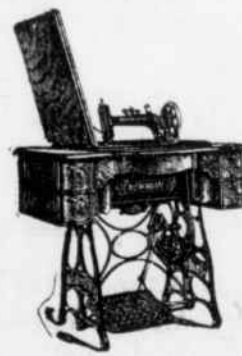
Prof. Merritt's house and lot in front of the school building is for sale at a bargain. Good neighborhood and healthy location. Lot is large enough for another building. Seven-ninths of acre in lot. Six rooms to house.

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Smithfield, N. C.

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TREASURER OF JOHNSTON COUNTY,  
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Monday and Saturday and Court Weeks  
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