

# Our Farm Department

Devoted to the Interest of Those Who Till the Soil

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY

### Why Not Let the Grass Make Money for You?

One of the essentials of successful stock raising is good pasturage; and one of the greatest handicaps to successful stock raising in many sections of the South is the lack of suitable pastures.

A good pasture means, first of all, plenty of grass; but there are other things necessary to make a really good pasture. It must have water and shade as well as grass; and in any section where cultivation has succeeded range conditions it must be enclosed.

Now of shade and water there is no scarcity in the South, and we have the grass, too, if we would only realize it. But when it comes to fences we are tremendously handicapped.

It is safe to say that there are thousands of farmers in every Southern State who would grow many more and much better cattle and horses, hogs and sheep, if they had good pastures for them to run in. Yet it is easy to find all over the Cotton Belt fields grown up to Bermuda—one of the finest pastures grasses in the world—in which the owners plant corn or cotton year after year and spend all summer fighting the grass only to have a poor and very expensive crop at the season's end. We heard not long since a farmer talking of how he was going to kill out the Bermuda on a poor hill-side preparatory to getting it ready to sow in grass. All that he needs to do—and all that thousands of other farmers need to do—is to put a good fence about that field and some stock on it and give it a little attention for a few years, keeping down briars and bushes and giving it an occasional harrowing, and he would have a pasture which would pay him ten times as much as he is now getting from those acres.

A good permanent pasture should be one of the established institutions on every farm; and in the despoiled and neglected Bermuda we have a grass of which Professor Spillman of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says that "no other grass bears pasturing better or yields more herbage in the form of pasture." With our winter-growing grasses and legumes it would be easy for us to supplement it so as to have pastures practically the whole year round.

Yet we go on fighting it to grow sorry crops of low-priced cotton and tobacco to pay for the butter and beef and lard and bacon this same grass would make for us if we would let it!

Only another one of the South's neglected opportunities.—Progressive Farmer.

### How Old is the Silo.

That there is nothing new under the sun is amply proven by the example of the silo. The first of these was a pit or room, below or above the ground, used for the storing of grain. In very early times in Egypt, Italy, Spain and Mexico, seed was stored in such rooms. But the preservation of green food in silos possibly commenced about one hundred years ago. In 1786 Symonds wrote of Italians preserving fresh leaves for cattle in casks and pits in the ground. In 1843 Johnston, an Englishman, published an article on preserving green clover, grass, or vetches in pits, basing his statements on observations made in Germany. Pits were dug 10 to 12 feet square, and about as deep, the sides lined with wood, and a clay floor made. The green stuff was placed in the pit, and plenty of salt scattered over it from time to time. When the pit was full, the top was well salted and a close-fitting cover of boards was placed over it. Dirt to the depth of a foot or so was thrown on the cover to exclude air. In a few days, after the contents had fermented and settled, the cover was removed and more green fodder was thrown in and the cover again put on. In England, between 1860 and 1870, Samuel Jones stored tares, or rye, cut green and chaffed, and fed the fermented material on an extensive scale. Adolph Reihlen who had lived a number of years in the United States, on his return to Germany, stored green maize in pits and thus was probably the first person to use corn silage. The first silos in this country were built in 1875 by Manly Miles of Michigan, while Francis Morris of Maryland commenced

experiments along this line the following year.

With all the favorable experience and remarkable success of the silos, singularly enough a few still doubt and hesitate.—Indiana Farmer.

### Two Great Evils That Should Be Avoided—But are Not.

Since the tariff is likely to be the main topic of public discussion for some months to come now, it is well enough for all of us to understand the fundamental facts involved; and especially necessary that farmers of all parties learn the facts and make their influence felt through personal letters to their Congressmen. Otherwise, the farmer's voice will not be heard. "No individual farmer," as Wallace's Farmer points out, "has interest enough to go before the committee and present his case," nor are his organizations represented. His part heretofore has been simply to bear the burden and keep quiet while by these methods of indirect taxation every average citizen, white or black, rich or poor, pays \$10 a year for pensions without knowing it and \$10 a year for army, navy, and other military purposes, and like heavy taxes for other purposes. Here are the two great evils which it is almost impossible to prevent creeping into any tariff policy:

1. The tariff tax, being collected without the consumer's knowledge, is allowed to become excessive, and extravagance in government results. "Does any one believe," as one writer wisely asks, "that our pension bill would ever have reached \$50,000,000, much less \$160,000,000, if the money had to be collected by direct levies through sheriffs and tax collectors?"

2. The farmer and the laborer not being there to speak for themselves, the tariff burden falls with grievous heaviness upon the poor man, taxes being imposed upon the necessities rather than upon the luxuries of life. Poor and rich alike must eat three meals a day, must wear one suit or one dress at a time; and by a tax levied on the common food and clothing of man, a poor farmer or tenant worth \$1,000 may pay about as much tax as a man worth \$100,000.

These evils, moreover, are not only possible; they are actual. A trip to Europe is all one needs to demonstrate this. In London you can buy a suit of clothes for \$12 that would cost you \$30 at home; you can buy gloves for \$1 that would cost you \$2 here; your field glasses that cost you \$12 in New York are offered you in Paris for \$3, and so on and so on. To quote again from Franklin Pierce's book concerning the workings of our American tariff today:

"Every particle of clothing on your body, from the boots on your feet to the hat upon your head, without one single exception, costs you from fifty to one hundred and fifty per cent more than it would without the tariff. The trust silts by your fire and your table, taxes every piece of glass, cutlery and pottery in your house, makes you pay tribute upon every piece of wool, cotton, and furniture in your home, and robs you steadily day in and day out by its excessive prices. Remember that this increased price does not go to sustain the Government. More than 19-20 of it at last goes into the treasury of the trust."

In view of all these things, President Taft acts none too soon in urging his party to genuine revision and reform. If it is achieved, his party will be greatly strengthened; if not, the minority party will have an issue upon which it can once more arouse the nation.—C. H. Poe.

### Reclaiming Our Worn Soils.

The cheapest and best soil renovator and land builder for the South is the cow pea. There are other legumes, such as soy beans, velvet beans, vetch and clover, which are also good and which give handsome profits on the labor employed in their cultivation, but when it comes to best for all, no man can make a mistake when the cow pea as a general purpose all round soil builder is placed in the front ranks. Every farmer who has tested the value of cow peas for improving his lands and at the same time giving an abundance of the highest class forage for live stock will quickly testify to the statement above made

as being both accurate and conservative. Every farmer who observes local conditions in his neighborhood knows that the uplands in the old States East of the Mississippi River have been worked to death in cotton and washed out by the one-crop system and careless cultivation.

Without commercial fertilizers giving artificial plant food, the farmers in the old States as a rule would be absolutely helpless in the production of yields that would in any wise prove profitable. It is the duty of every farmer to build up his lands instead of pursuing a policy of destruction. He owes it as a duty to himself, his children and future generations.

In Europe lands which have been in cultivation a thousand years are today producing magnificent yields of wheat, barley, oats, rye and other food supply crops; and without the use of commercial fertilizers. The farmers in the old country plow deep and use stable manures as fertilizers. Our country is young. Only a few generations have passed since our forefathers cut the forests and turned up the virgin soil rich in natural plant food. Today we find those once virgin soils torn and furrowed with washes, the top soil practically gone and the fertilizer factory now dependent upon to furnish that plant food which our bad system of farming has heretofore wasted.

We are strong believers in the liberal use of commercial fertilizers and believe that they can be used to a much more profitable advantage on highly improved soils than on lands practically worn out. We urge every farmer in the South to plant cow peas on every available piece of land they have each year. Plant peas in the corn middles, either broadcast or in rows; plant them after cutting off the wheat and oats. Wherever cow peas are planted one year, crops planted on the same land the following year shows a most decided gain in yield as compared with former years. The soil becomes more pliable; it works better; its mechanical condition is improved and its natural fertility greatly increased. All that is needed to convince the most skeptical is a trial. Thousands of farmers know the true value of cow peas and each year plant them, but there are thousands of others who become so absorbed in the fascinating business of giving all their time and attention to cotton that they do not plant cow peas or any other leguminous crops. These are the men we appeal to, to change their present system of farming and get on a profitable basis of agriculture.

There is no better friend to the Southern farmer than the cow pea, be he a poor man or an independent one. It is the best soil renovator and mortgage lifter known to Southern agriculture.—The Cotton Journal.

### They Got Rich Farming.

And so it is everywhere, it is the man and his brains behind every enterprise that bring success. Down in Georgia, James Smith has become more than a millionaire since the war at pure farming with cotton, wheat, peas, and corn, till he now farms 20,000 acres of land. In Queen Anne County, Maryland, William McKinney became a millionaire buying farms and renting them on shares since the war, to grow wheat, corn, and clover. Andrew Woodall, in Kent County, Maryland, became a millionaire since the war in the same way. Mr. McKinney left an estate of forty-two fine farms and Capt. Woodall had thirty of them. And yet all over the country we find men saying that "farming don't pay." The kind of farming they do never will pay, but real farming pays in any section of this country when there are brains and energy behind it. It is the man behind it every time that makes all the difference between success and failure.—W. F. Massey.

### Don't Be a One Crop Farmer.

Dr. W. J. Spillman, of the United States Department of Agriculture, once told some Texas farmers that the most unfortunate thing on earth a country can possess is a single crop that makes men a living and brings them sudden wealth. That is true always. Said Dr. Spillman: "I don't care if it is peaches that he depends upon. In time, if he depends upon peaches alone the farmer is sure to go to ruin. The single crop system is uncertain, and unsafe." He urged diversified farming everywhere. Much as he was pleased with alfalfa, Dr. Spillman said it would play tricks occasionally that would cause it to fall below the profit mark and should not be depended upon as the only thing for roughage.—The Cotton Journal.

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EARLY Sweet potato plants, \$1.50 per 1000. The Wakefield Farms, Charlotte, N. C.

### NOTICE

The undersigned having qualified as administrator on the estate of Blackman Ballance, deceased, hereby notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to me duly verified on or before the 5th day of March, 1910 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery; and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment. This 1st day of March, 1909. L. F. BALLANCE, Adm.

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