

Farm Department

Devoted to the Interests of Those Engaged in Agricultural Pursuits. Conducted by J. M. Beatty

RAGGED FARMS.

The farmer who allows bushes and briars to grow on ditch banks or hedge rows, or around stumps, will have a farm ragged in appearance. If this work has not been done, it should not be neglected longer. Do not give the briars and bushes another year's growth, but cut them back this month. All work of this kind on the farm should be done at once as the cultivation of the crops will soon demand all the time.

HOW ARE YOUR TERRACES?

The time is near when we may look for some heavy rains, but usually the first rains do not break the weak terraces as the water goes into the fresh plowed ground. Later we are almost sure to have rains to test the terraces. It may be that your old terraces have weak places in them, which need repairs. Now is the time to do this work before the crops are planted. All new terraces should have another good plowing. Take a look at them and see if it would not be a good plan to run a furrow with a plow, throwing each way on the upper side of the terraces to make a way for the water to go more easily.

Cost of Living to the Farmer.

We have heard a great deal about the cost of living of late years. Not only we, but the civilized people of all countries, are uttering similar complaints. Population has simply been increasing more rapidly than farm products; too many people in the town—too few on the farms. When the cost of living is spoken of, we naturally think of the cost of things we eat and wear. This affects the farmer and all other classes of people alike, except that the farmer raises his own food to a great extent, and hence complains less on this account than people of any other class.

The cost of food, however, does not cover nearly all the cost of living to the farmer. The cost of his living involves the cost of his clothing, the cost of his machinery and tools, and he has a right to complain on this point. Why should not congress do something to reduce the cost of living to the farmer as well as to the people in the cities?

He is paying far too much for his clothing because of the iniquities of the wool schedule. He is wearing poorer clothing than he should because of the iniquities both of the woolen and the cotton schedules. He is paying more than he should for his fence wire because of the steel combination. He does not object to the price alone, but to the quality and the enormous rusting capacity which wire has.

Why should not congress inaugurate the policy of reducing the cost of living for the farmer as well as for the resident of the city? If this cost of living is reduced, we will hear fewer complaints from him on Canadian reciprocity. He has kicked against that, not because he does not wish the closest relations with Canada, but because there has been no corresponding reduction in manufactured products; that's what he is kicking about.

If he wants to buy a suit of all-wool clothes, for example—and he is as much entitled to them as any other man—he must pay just twice the amount that he would pay if he were in England. If he would buy any kind of steel product, he is not given the liberty of buying it at prices at which the same product is sold in foreign countries and from the same factory.

These are things the democratic party should be thinking about, now that it is in a position of responsibility. There is no time to talk about free trade now. We need money for revenue; but the way to get the revenue is to remove tariffs which enable the manufacturers to form trusts and sell their products cheaper in foreign countries than they do at home. Let the democratic party help cheapen the cost of living in this fashion, and they will have the thanks of the farmers without regard to party.

Placing the democrats in power does not end the struggle. It will be discovered in the next six months that there is a standpat faction among the democrats that is just as averse to reducing the cost of living to the farmer as the most reactionary of the republicans. The goats have been separated from the sheep in the republican party—and pretty thoroughly. There will be a like separation in the democratic

party; and then we shall have a chance to count them.

Let the farmers now demand a decrease in the cost of their living. When they get it, they will cheerfully consent to a decrease in the cost of living of operatives and manufacturers. The cost of living is a negligible quantity in the minds of the men who control our great factories and business enterprises. They will buy the things that cost the most anyway. It is a serious thing for the farmer, however.—Wallace's Farmer.

What is Lost by Burning the Cotton Stalks.

Dr. B. W. Kilgore, State Chemist, of North Carolina, states that: "The roots, stems, bolls and leaves corresponding to (or which produce) 500 pounds of lint cotton, are around 3,145 pounds, or more than one and one-half tons, containing 67.7 pounds of nitrogen, 26.5 pounds of phosphoric acid, 59.3 pounds of potash, and 59.3 pounds of lime; or the equivalent of five tons of good manure."

These figures are the result of actual weighing and analyzing, and not guess-work.

North Carolina, or the parts of it where these tests were made, is pretty well toward the northern limit of the Cotton Belt and the proportion of roots, stems, bolls and leaves, to lint produced, is smaller than in more southern portions of the Cotton Belt. Hence it would seem quite probable that the figures obtained in North Carolina are under, rather than over, the average for the Cotton Belt. If this be true, and we have no reason to doubt it, the acre of land which produces a 500-pound bale of cotton also produces, on an average, approximately one and one-half tons of humus-forming material which is destroyed when the stalks are burned. This is the greatest need of our Southern soils, even the supposedly rich Mississippi Delta soils showing large increase in crops from the addition of humus-forming materials. In addition to this, keeping in mind that the next greatest need of Southern soils is nitrogen, it must not be forgotten that when the stalks which produce 500 pounds of lint are burned, there is a complete loss of 67.7 pounds of nitrogen, which at 18 cents a pound is worth \$12.18.

Fire has ever been the bane of Southern agriculture, and every scientific fact and all intelligent experience dictates that it must cease. We must use the implements and team force necessary to plow under all the vegetable matter that can not be used for feeding live stock; for without humus, Southern soils are poor, while with it, they will produce most abundantly.—Progressive Farmer.

Free Seeds.

It grieves us to think that, notwithstanding the spirit of reform manifest in both houses of congress, congressmen are still throwing away the people's money on free seeds. This year they are blowing in nearly \$300,000, plus the postage. This wholesale distribution of free seeds by the department is utter nonsense. The law was first enacted long years ago on the theory that the government might profitably distribute new and improved varieties, and on this ground the appropriation could be justified; but the day for that has long since passed. The varieties of seeds sent out by the department are simply the common sorts grown in any garden. Farmers sometimes plant them, but find they are no better than the seed the good wife saved from her garden the fall before, and often not as good. Sometimes they do not go to the trouble of planting them, but feed them to the hogs or chickens, and we have known of cases where they simply threw them out of the wagon as they went home.

Enforcing the Law.

To the Friends of Temperance and Good Government: The fact that North Carolina has written upon her statute books laws, which prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor, lays the responsibility upon citizens and officers in every community to execute these laws. Let no one believe for one minute that the lawless liquor traffic has a conscience that will lead them voluntarily to obey. The experience of all law-abiding communities teach us that it is necessary to use the strong arm of the law and compel obedience. The way the average citizen in our country enforces law is by selecting officers, who stand for enforcement, and just at this time, I want to emphasize the necessity of citizens using their franchise in the election of the right sort of officers. It is not enough that we have good laws, we must have faithful and efficient officers to make these laws effective, and the making of the officer lies with citizens.

During this spring, many towns and cities will be electing their officers, and now is the time for our temperance forces to be at work. See to it that such men are nominated and elected as will guarantee the execution of law. It is the duty of every citizen to give some time and attention to the matter of civil government, and it shows a lack of patriotism, if not selfishness, for men to be so wrapped up in personal or business affairs that they will not give some thought to the selection and election of men, who are to manage their local government.

If the enforcement of the prohibition law in your community is not what it ought to be, see that you use your influence to secure officers, who will make it good and then give them your full support, as they make an honest effort to do their official duty.

R. L. DAVIS, Supt., N. C. Anti-Saloon League.

you measure him by his record as a statesman, and not as a distributor of common garden seed. The republican party has held on to this hoary humbug year after year. Will the democratic party have patriotism and good sense enough to repeal the law, or, rather, to refuse to make the appropriation?—Wallace's Farmer.

Too Many Pardons.

The Governor is to be commended for ordering the arrest of Ed Caton, to whom he gave a conditional pardon, because since he was released Caton has been living in adultery, unlawfully selling whiskey, and engaging in chicken fighting on the Sabbath day. The Governor was not aware of Caton's past record and the fact that he was an escaped convict, having been away from the gang several days, when he granted the pardon.

The trouble is that the Governor of this State and other chief executives run the pardon mill overtime. The pardoning power was conferred only to meet extreme cases and not to make the executive an appellate court to hear the evidence and set aside verdicts and judgments because he thinks they were wrong or the punishment excessive. There are occasions—very few—when executive clemency ought to be exercised, but in most of the cases in which pardons are granted the ends of justice would be served by letting the verdicts of juries and the sentences of courts stand.—News and Observer.

Midnight in The Ozarks

And yet sleepless Hiram Scranton, of Clay City, Ill., coughed and coughed. He was in the mountains on the advice of five doctors, who said he had consumption, but found no help in the climate, and started home. Hearing of Dr. King's New Discovery, he began to use it. "I believe it saved my life," he writes "for it made a new man of me, so that I can now do good work again." For all lung diseases, coughs, colds, lagrippe, asthma, croup, whooping cough, hay fever, hemorrhages, hoarseness or quinsy, its the best known remedy. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by Hood Bros.

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Watch Your Label.

We earnestly request every subscriber to watch his label. When you pay for your paper watch to see if the proper correction is made. By doing this, if an error occurs, it can be easily righted. Again, we say watch your label, and if you are not given the proper credit within two weeks notify us at once.

IF YOU HAVE A SICKLY YOUNGSTER TRY THIS FREE

The family with young children that is without sickness in the house now and then is rare, and so it is important that the head of the house should know what to do in the little emergencies that arise. A child with a serious ailment needs a doctor, it is true, but in the majority of instances, as any doctor knows, the child suffers from some intestinal trouble, usually constipation. There is no sense in giving it a pill or a remedy containing an opiate, nor is flushing of the bowels to be always recommended. Rather give it a small dose of a mild, gentle laxative tonic like Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, which, by cleaning out the bowels and strengthening the little stomach muscles, will immediately correct the trouble. This is not alone our opinion but that

of Mrs. N. H. Mead of Freeport, Kans., whose granddaughter has been taking it successfully and of Mrs. J. R. Whiting of Lena, Wis., who gives it to her children and takes it herself. It is sold in fifty cent and one dollar bottles at every drug store, but if you want to test it in your family before you buy it send your address to Dr. Caldwell and he will forward a supply free of charge. Dr. Caldwell does not feel that the purchase of his remedy ends his obligation. He has specialized in stomach, liver and bowel diseases for over forty years and will be pleased to give the reader any advice on the subject free of charge. All are welcome to write him. Whether for the medical advice or the free sample address him Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 402 Caldwell building, Monticello, Ill.

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