

Farm Department

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

EASIER WORK FOR THE COTTON CHOPPER.

Cotton chopping has started in the southern portion of the cotton area and will advance northward rapidly, costing the cotton growers several million dollars. Cotton chopping is an expensive operation as commonly practiced land often costs twice as much as it should on account of the condition of the seed-bed in when the cotton is chopped, or thinned. Formerly it was the custom to "bar-off" the cotton or "scrape" it just before chopping begins. Improved methods of culture and improved implements have to a great extent done away with the use of both the turn-plow and the scraper in cotton culture and the cotton grower is rapidly realizing that the good preparation of the soil before planting,—the making of a good seed-bed—not only saves half the quantity of seed formerly used but leaves the young cotton plants in surroundings that give them a prompt and better start and reduces the cost of chopping and the cost of subsequent cultivations.

The cotton dropper or a planter that drops the seed at intervals has not met with the favor it deserves for the reason that the seed-bed as commonly made is not in condition to insure prompt and full germination. The dropper planter, when used on well prepared ground has several advantages, one of which is the saving of the cost of chopping. Several machines have been placed upon the market with the hope that they would take the place of the hand-hoe, but none of them has been accepted with enthusiasm. Very little of this year's cotton crop will be thinned with anything other than the cotton hoe.

While the hoe is used universally in the hand cultivation of cotton it is often not used to advantage—its use is entirely too mechanical. The average hoe hand pays no attention to plant selection while thinning cotton nor does he appreciate the value of an earth mulch about the plants and there is much to teach him as well as much that may be done to avoid the bad effects of his unintelligent work. The hoe may be used skillfully and efficiently or it may not be.

When the young cotton plants are very thick great care is necessary if the plant to be left is not injured by being bruised, root pruned, allowed to topple over or by having a hole left near it where the surplus plants were removed.

A sharp hoe is an unknown article in the hands of many cotton choppers yet in the cotton field the sharp hoe is as necessary to good work as is the sharp axe, at the wood-pile. The hoe should never be raised high in making a stroke—the stroke motion should be short and nearly parallel with the surface of the ground and not in line with the hoe handle, but sliding to the right or the left—a sawing motion.

A 12 or 14-inch and rather coarse flat or mill file should always be convenient and used when needed. A sharp hoe will not last as long as one always dull, but will do better work and much more rapidly if kept sharp. To sharpen in the field lay the hoe on the ground, place the knee on the handle about a foot from the blade and a few downward strokes with the file held in both hands will do the work.

The proper use of the weeder greatly simplifies the work of chopping. If the weeder is run over the field just before the cotton is up and again when it is up to a stand, the condition of the soil surface will be such as to stimulate the growth of the young plants and to decrease the amount of hoe work as well as kill the young weeds before they have done harm. The writer has used the weeder as many as four times before chopping and endeavors always to use this valuable implement three times; once before the plants are up, again when they are well up, and again just ahead of chopping. If the soil has become too hard for the weeder a spike-tooth harrow with teeth slanting backwards is substituted. There is not much satisfaction in the use of the weeder if the cotton is planted on high beds.

In a majority of cases the cultivator should immediately follow chopping and with fenders set so that the two cultivator points nearest on either side of the row will throw loose earth near the plant, forming an earth mulch about them. When this is done the work of the hoe may be confined to a narrow strip and much time saved.

No specific rule can be given for the distance the plants should stand

in the row, but experience extending over nearly 30 years with cotton leads to the well established belief that the average cotton field has two stalks where there should be but one.—C. L. NEWMAN, West Raleigh, N. C. In Progressive Farmer.

FERTILIZER MEASURE IGNORANCE.

Some of those who attended the Richmond Conference ventured out of the beaten paths, as the following news report suggests:

"J. W. Newman, Commissioner of Agriculture of Kentucky, injected spirit into the morning session with an unsparing arraignment of the evils which he said follow the reckless use of commercial fertilizers. To this falling he attributed a large measure of the burden which Southern farmers bear today.

"Any man that farms with commercial fertilizers alone will land in the poor-house sooner or later," said Mr. Newman. "If you will add up the sum paid annually by Southern farmers for this item you will have an accurate measure of their ignorance and the annual waste of their unskilled tillage.

"The Southern farmer, he said depends upon fertilizers as the panacea for all his soil ills, much in the same manner as the man who goes to the corner drug store for the pill which is attributed with power to cure all human ailments.

"Mr. Newman saw no relief from present conditions until the farmers of the South learn, through the experiment stations and other agencies, that nature has provided in abundance the fertilizing constituents, that nine-tenths of all land needs, and that crop rotation and farm-produced fertilizers stand ready to help all those who have learned the lesson."

Commissioner Watson, of South Carolina, also took about the same position with reference to the use of commercial fertilizer, and gave it as his opinion that three-fourths of the commercial fertilizers, under prevailing methods of farming, represent a waste and a loss. As this occurred in the Business Men's Conference, it brought a fertilizer manufacturer to his feet to render protest. But there was really no need for the fertilizer man to get excited, for he will not live to see his sale affected materially. As long as more than half the lands of the South are cultivated by tenants there will be a strong demand for fertilizer "pills." Our land owners who want to build up their soils will do well to make a note from Commissioners Newman and Watson and use farm-produced fertilizers, that is, if we can get it out of our heads that we are able to buy the high-priced commercial products every year but are not able to buy clover seed, vetch, seed beans, peas, etc.—Carolina Union Farmer.

WAR AND THE FARMER.

The fourth American Peace Congress was held in St. Louis, May 1, 2 and 3. The committee which has the matter in charge speaks of some of the reasons why the farmer should be interested in this peace movement as follows:

"Some of the important reasons why residents of rural communities owe it to themselves as well as to the effort to secure the abolishment of war by the establishment of a system of arbitration of international disputes are set forth in literature of the peace movement. It is pointed out that the United States annually spends on wars—past and future—approximately \$5 per capita; nearly 70 per cent of its yearly revenue. What might be done to improve rural districts could the war spirit be crushed is hinted in the comparison of the 1911 expenditure of the United States on war preparation, \$283,086,000, with the \$9,000,000 expenditure on the Roosevelt dam, Arizona, which will irrigate 240,000 acres, or ten acres and a living for 24,000 families or 120,000 persons. The \$283,086,000 war preparation total also is compared with the Mississippi river flood prevention total for 1912, \$6,250,000, as a silent reminder of how safe and useful that great stream might become if a part at least of the sum annually circulated through war channels could be diverted to channels of peace.

"The average annual cost of the army and navy is shown to have been \$51,500,000 for the eight years immediately preceding the Spanish-American war (1890-1898), and, for the immediately following eight years (1902-1910), \$185,400,000; the average annual increase for the latter eight years being \$134,000,000, and the increase for the entire eight years hence being \$1,072,000,000, or 360 per cent. This increase, experts in the peace movement point out, is nearly three times the estimated cost of replanting the 56,000,000 acres of denuded forest land in the United States, and is three times the cost of carrying out the whole irrigation program contemplated within a generation.

"The 'North Dakota' a 26,000-ton battleship, cost the nation \$12,000,000, a sum which, peace advocates show, would build a macadam road of approved construction between the cities of New York and Chicago, or would cover the cost of purchasing and planting the proposed White Mountain forest reserve, containing 250,000 acres of burned-over and unproductive lands.

"The peace congress was ushered in with the dedication, April 30th, of the Jefferson Memorial, a \$500,000 structure celebrating the world's greatest peaceable acquisition of territory, viz., the Louisiana Purchase, extending from the Mississippi river to the Rocky Mountains' Summit.—Wallace's Farmer.

THE SHORTAGE OF BEEF CATTLE

The shortage in beef cattle continues and there seems to be no practical and effectual solution to the problem as a whole. Experiment stations in nearly every State have shown the advisability of stock raising over grain farming, both from the standpoint of net profit to the farmer and from the increased fertility of the land which is possible where live stock farming is practiced. The reason that many farmers do not apply the principles worked out for them at these experiment stations, on their own farms is that it is necessary to put in more time, labor and perhaps capital than the old system of farming required. To be successful, live stock farming requires more attention, labor, capital and more knowledge than does general farming, but the profits and benefits, too, are greater.

In a letter on the scarcity of beef cattle, S. W. Allerton, one of the best informed cattle men in the East, says:

"Supply will dwindle until Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri get back to raising cattle. These States could grow 1,000,000 cattle annually and materially increase their own production. I have one Illinois farm of 500 acres that I work myself, and my corn averages 80 bushels to the acre usually. On this farm I feed 100 cattle and raise 200 hogs. I can demonstrate that the man who now earns \$1,500 or \$1,600 a year on 160 acres of land, getting poorer each season by selling corn, can realize \$3,500 on the same investment and grow constantly richer. Until corn-belt farmers improve their methods the country will continue short of live stock."—Indiana Farmer.

THE OTHER GIRL'S LOSS.

"I'm sorry I ever married you!" shrieked the bride, on the occasion of their first quarrel.

"You ought to be!" retorted the groom, really angry and bitter for the first time. "You beat some nice girl out of a good husband."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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on your part will enable you to get some Special Bargains in Buggies.

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NOTICE.

North Carolina, Johnston County, In the Superior Court.

Annie Holland vs Charles Holland.

The defendant above named will take notice that an action has been commenced, entitled as above in the Superior Court of Johnston County, to declare the marriage between the plaintiff and defendant void; and that said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the term of Superior court of said county to be held on the 2nd Monday in May, at the court house of said county in Smithfield, N. C., and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the summons.

This the 1 day of April, 1913.

W. S. STEVENS, Clerk of Superior Court.

R. L. Ray, Attorney.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Edie Watson deceased, late of Johnston County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Smithfield, N. C., on or before the 7 day of March, 1914, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 7th day of March, 1913.

ED. F. WARD, Administrator of Edie Watson, deceased.

NOTICE TO RICH JERNIGAN TO TAKE DEPOSITION.

North Carolina, Johnston County, In the Superior Court to May term.

ANNIE JERNIGAN, vs RICH JERNIGAN.

To Rich Jernigan: You will hereby take notice that on Thursday, the 1st day of May, 1913, at 3 o'clock P. M., before C. B. Upton, Commissioner, at No. 547 Corondelet St., in the City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, the plaintiff will take the deposition of Rev. Geo. H. Cornelison, Jr. and others, to be used in evidence in the above-entitled action at the trial of the same, and that said action is instituted for an absolute divorce.

This 17th day of April, 1913.

ANNIE JERNIGAN, Plaintiff.

NOTICE.

By virtue of the authority contained in a Mortgage deed executed to Hinton Ennis on the 21st day of December 1909, by J. T. Holmes and Sarah E. Holmes and duly Registered in the Register's office of Johnston county in Book I, No. 10 page 217 default having been made in the payment of said bond of even date herewith we shall sell at public auction, for cash, at the Court house door in the town of Smithfield, N. C., on the 2nd day of June 1913 the following described property to-wit:

One town lot in Benson; Beginning on North said main Street, R. B. Brady's corner, and runs as his line N. 37 E. 87 feet; thence S. 53 E, 25 feet to K. H. Parker's line; thence as his line S. 37 W. 87 feet to main street; thence as main street N. 63 W. 25 feet to the beginning, and is that lot on which is situated a brick store house, and fully described in said Mortgage.

Place of Sale: Court House door in Smithfield, N. C.

Time of Sale: 12 o'clock M. Monday, June 2, 1913.

This 2nd day of May 1913.

GENADEUS ENNIS, R. D. ENNIS, Executors Hinton Ennis, Dec'd.

Clarence J. Smith, Attorney.

Dunn, N. C.

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