## Southern Agricultural Topics.

Modern Methods That Are Helpful to Farmer, Fruit Grower and Stockman.

Amongst the many new fertilizers ich are constantly offered for sale, ock potash has been mentioned and as been given a number of trials. The obtained results differ somewhat ording to the soil and its more extensive and intensive cultivation, bu taken altogether they are not as satisfactory as had been expected.

That more unfavorable than favor able results have been obtained and some adverse criticism has been heard is not surprising on account of the difficult soluble form in which the potash is contained in the powdered rock. On soils rich in lime and humus the solubility of the potash is favorably influenced; on soils poor in either or both of these constituents the effect may hardly have been no

But that should not discourage us The new rock potash, of which we have any quantity in our country, which could take the place of crude notash salts and would have the additional advantage of being free of chlorin, may have the same fate as some of the fertilizers which were unsatisfactory when they were first placed upon the market, but through some slight improvement have become valuable fertilizers.

As the results which I obtained from the crude material were not favorable, it occurred to me if the effect could not be markedly improved by treating the powdered rock with lime the more as soils which are mparatively poor in potash are generally also poor in lime. As the lime could only have a quick effect on the powdered rock if it came in close contact with the rock particles, I mixed the powdered rock with waste, to the consistency of molasses, the airstaked lime also and let both run together into a vessel, in which the mixture was kept moist for a week. The proportion which I used was a half pound of burned lime to three ounds of the powdered rock. Whether other proportions give better results I cannot tell. I have not tried them. The mixture dries quickly and forms a light white powder, which is easy to apply and gives excellent results.

The so prepared rock potash, which contains about fifteen per cent. of lime, will be very valuable for improving sandy soils, which, besides eing poor in clay are generally also or in lime. In improving sandy soils we have to deal with some or all of the following properties:

- 1. The poor water-holding power. The poor absorption power.
- The lack of lime. The lack of humus.
- 5. Insufficient plant food constitu-

The prepared rock potash will im prove some of these properties and will be, without doubt, in the near future a valuable addition to the effective fertilizers which are offered or sale at the present time .- H. Winkelman, in Southern Planter.

For Corn Improvement.

Under average methods of seed s lection and field conditions there is from year to year more or less deterioration in all varieties of corn. This "running out" or "losing in quality and producing power" of a variety is largely due to mixing and careless selection. Corn growers are also finding that much trouble and loss are esulting from seed corn harvested te in the fall. They recognize that The best results can be obtained only when the seed is selected early and stored in a proper manner. For these reasons corn growers should employ sthods in selecting, planting and

rvesting which will give seed of te highest quality and strongest

One way in which every corn grow er can do much to improve and main tain the quality in a variety of corn is by planting a seed corn patch. For this patch he should select about twenty-five of the best and most typical ears of corn of the seed to be planted this year. A germination test should be made of each ear in order that no weak ears may be planted. Shell off and discard the nall and irregular butt and tip grains. Then shell the ears together and mix thoroughly. At the usual time of planting plant this corn on the south or west side of the field to be planted with the same variety This location should be changed if it s near a field planted with another variety. Give this patch usual good cultivation, keeping the ground free and preserving a loose soil

Vhen the corn is five or six sh go through the patch and when the tassels begin to apall stalks which are either sak, barren, smutted, badly suckd or for other reasons undesirable. the corn is mature and not tor than October 15 the seed should

be harvested. Select the seed ears from the strongest stalks with a large leaf development and those bearing the ears four or five feet from the ground and holding them in a right

Through the seed corn patch the farmer can do much to fix a desirable type in his corn and to reduce the number of barren, diseased and suckered stalks that appear in his field. It also furnishes him a convenient place from which his seed corn in the fall can be selected, and he knows that it is from the best seed that he planted .- G. I. Christie, Purdue Uni-

Location and Preparation of Soft.

Roses thrive best where they reeive a generous allowance of sun-In partly shaded positions they never do their best, and in damp seasons, or during a humid spell of weather, with a sudden drop in the temperature, are liable to develop mildew. In Northern climates, the most favorable position for the rose garden is on the east and south sides of buildings or belts of shrubbery, which afford protection from the rough winds of winter. If, however, trees or shrubbery form the protection, the beds must be far enough removed to be safe from the encroachments of their strong roots, which rob the soil of the moisture and fertility especially needed by the roses

The soil should be dug to the depth of at least one foot-eighteen inches is better-and thoroughly mixed with two inches of old, well-rotted stable manure. In the absence of manure, bone-dust is an excellent substitute: it should be applied at the rate of one pound for every square yard of the surface, and should be thoroughly mired with the soil to the depth of a foot. If one may choose the kind of soil, a clayey soil for roses far surpasses the best garden loam. This is especially true in the South, where the adhesiveness of the clay, causing it to cling closely to the stem, prevents drying out. This also server as a root protection in the winters of the North, and the plants seem to derive a certain nourishment from the clay itself. Leaf-mold proves excellent food for the rose, and maker a good winter protection if spread four or five inches deep over the beds at the beginning of winter, to be worked into the soil in the spring. A soil too stiff may be lightened by the addition of coarse sand. Many skilled gardeners spade in a two-inch layer of unleached a thes in autumn, so that the snows and rains may reach it by spring, taking tare that it does not touch the stem 3. An inch layer of wood soot is also very beneficial; but neither of these should be applied during summer, nor be added to wet soggy soils.—Ladies' World.

### Thick or Thin Oat Sowing.

The rate of seeding oats is still a matter of experiment. It has been noticed that in certain seasons the conditions are much more favorable for stooling than others. When the ground is strong enough and the conditions are right it may be safe to practice thin seeding, and this is just the thing the majority of oat growers are doing. But English growers have secured wonderful results, and they invariably practice thick seed One other thing: Don't start on light seed this year. With good, plump seed one can take chances on two bushels of seed an acre, but this year all oats are light and chaffy. I would rather risk three or four bush els of this light seed, if I sowed any of it at all .- L. C. Brown. .

## Plant Forage Crops.

Sow forage crops at every oppor tunity. These can be made to tak the place of hay in feeding the stock on the farm and the hay can be mada sale crop. It has sold for high prices all the past winter, and we ar of the opinion that it will sell well next winter. German millet should be seeded at once, and this makes excellent hay if cut before the seed is formed, and if not wanted at home sells on the market. Cowpeas and sorghum make excellent feed, and cowpeas and millet is much liked by some as a forage crop. Where cow-peas cannot be had sow the sorghum or millet alone. - Southern Planter.

Hog and Hominy.

The orange and vegetable crops may fail and sometimes do, but the sweet potato crop is a certainty. It will yield abundantly on the poores land and without any expense to speak of to the grower. When ready for market there is always a demand at money-making prices. So plant go through and remove them sweet potatoes for a certainty and other crops on the side. In other words, let's come down to the hog and hominy proposition, and we'll win out and never feel financial panfes. -- Manatee Record

### Pert Paragraphs.

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icks the bucket. s world goes wrong for the man

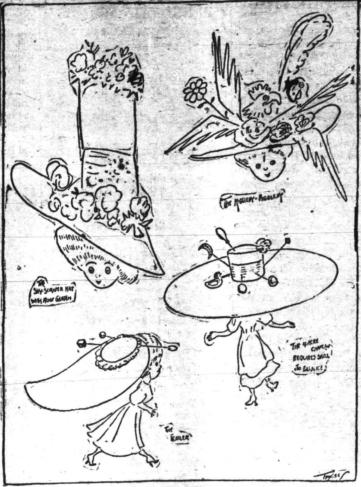
Proverbs and Phra

poes the same way, n't be afraid of failures. They promises of future success a't be afraid to trust your boss.

Why is it that some men would rather lose than see some other fel-

Don't be afraid to watch the suc cesses of your house. The fact that you are in its employ makes you a part owner.

Many a mule has kicked himsolf 't be afraid to trust your boss. out of the harness only to find that ence is a necessary part of he had to pull the load with another set that didn't fit. HERE THEY ARE:



They seem a little queer at first, but we'll soon get used to 'em. -Timely cartoon by Triggs, n the New York Press

# KNEW NO MAN TILL 29, THEN SHE WED THE FIRST

Miss Pratt, of "Women's Commonwealth," Was Reared in the Belief It Was a Sin to Marry-Belonded to Strange Sect Founded by a Woman Who Left Her Husband and Formed a Colony Who Saw No Men.

Philadelphia.—Back of the mar-riage of Miss Adah Pratt, of 1437 Irving street, Washington, to B. Franklin Hoover, of Philadelphia, lies "Somehow or other I could not get

story of unusual romance.

Miss Pratt lived until she was twenty-nine years old without form-ing the acquaintance of a man. She was born and raised in a community of women taught to believe that mar-riage was a sin. She was bound by teaching and belief always to remain single. Then she married the first man to whom she ever had been in-troduced. She did more than half

the courting herself.

Nearly thirty years ago, in Texas, where Mrs. Hoover's mother lived at the time, a Mrs. Martha McWhirter, of Waco, announced that she had had a visitation from the Almighty, and had been told that it was sinful to live with man. Accordingly, she left her husband and, gathering about her a small party of women followers, went to the little town of Belton and there exhalls head and the stablished head and the s there established headquarters of the

It was called the Woman's Commonwealth. Its members were all well to do and self-supporting. Some were spinsters, some had been mar-ried and some had children. Mrs. Pratt was one of the convets of the religion, and, leaving her husband, she joined the colony where, two months afterward, the present Mrs.
Hoover was born. There were ten
children in the colony, all girls.
Ten years ago the "commonwealth"

moved to Washington, taking up a farm of 172 acres in Montgomery County, Maryland, and a large house in the city. The children were taught to beware of men. They never were permitted to have acquaintances with

Of course they Mrs. me Hoover says she often had noticed them. But she never paid attention to any of them until sne met. This is the way she told her story:

"Somehow or other I could not get him out of my mind. I found myself wishing I might see him all the time. I knew it wasn't right; at least, I thought it wasn't. Later I met him down town again, and several times after that. Then he told me he was going to leave the city and asked me to write. I told him I would."

From her story it seems that Hoover, who is a hotel clerk, went to Chicago, then came to Philadelphia, and wrote his intention to Miss Pratt in Washington.

"I was crazy to see him." she admitted, "and decided to risk the fear of my mother's displeasure. slipped quietly out of the house in Washington and came here. When I found Mr. Hoover he was greatly sur prised.
"'Why, Adah, have you come up

here to marry me?' he asked.
"'I don't know that I thought
much about that,' I replied, 'I just felt I had to see you again.' "Well, will you marry me?' he asked. It took me by surprise, al-

though I was not wholly unprepared "'I'm willing,' I said finally.
"'Right away?' he asked. This,
was so sudden it took my breath

away.
"'Can't you wait until to-morrow night?' I asked him, and he said he

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. B. G. Pidge, pastor of the Fourth Baptist Church, at the parson-The same evening the bride

wrote to her mother, but has not re-ceived an answer as yet.

"I'm afraid she never will forgive " she said. "She always was very me, she said. She always was very strict with me. There are still three one made it wide and another would unmarried girls atthecommonwealth, widen the narrow road, so it was They are twenty-three, twenty-eight thirty-three years old

Mrs. Hoover is tall, of a striking

## said, "and then slipped away to be married. Of course they were regarded as sinners. I thought them

MEN TO BE ABOARD MONITOR FIRED AT BY BIG GUNS.

#### They Will Perch in a Tower High Enough to Minimize pits where good gravel could be Danger From Cannon Balls.

Norfolk, Va Norfolk, Va.—The indications are that men will be aboard the monitor Florida when that vessel is made a target for the test of twelve-inch gun fire, two or three weeks hence. An observation tower, sixty or seventy feet above the main deck, is being constructed from the stern of the vessel.

There could be no use for such a stub to prevent injury to the gun.

-The indications are the danger which they will run.

tower, but to observe the effects of the fire. The tower will be large enough to contain several men. Their the firm the deck will be first that should it be struck at the struck at th height from the deck will minimize the water line the vessel will not sink.

### BARS SISSY CHRISTIANS FROM Y. M. C. A. JOB.

Building Boss Discharges Them--Says Non-Believers Do Much More Work

Los Angeles.—General Superintendent C. B. Weaver, who has charge of the construction work of the new Y. M. C. A. building here, has discharged all the Christians. He declares that non-Christians do 25 per cent. more work than the church members:

"There's not a Christian on the job as far as I know." said Weaver.

as far as I know," said Weaver. out of them Lancashire Spinners Abandon the

Plan to Have American Estates Manchester. — The Lancashire cot-ton spinners have abandoned the scheme to purchase cotton growing estates in the Mississippi Delta, ow-

aliens holding real estate.

The Cotton Spinners' Association had already appointed a committee to take preliminary steps to form a com-

\$7,000,000 Plans of Obscure

Young Architect to Be Realized London. — The London County Council has decided to proceed with the building of the proposed County Hall on the site selected on the banks legal impediments against of the Thames at Westminster. It is solding real estate.

and take seven years to build.

The architect is Ralph Knott, who till he won that position by competitake preliminary steps to form a com-pany to take control of a cotton plan-tation in the United States, this be-ing one of the results of the visit of the British delegation to that country, will amount to about \$000,000.



The seed sown in the interest of good roads in the South is beginning to grow and there is evidence on every hand that a harvest will soon mature of which all who have in any way aided in this work will be justly

The South Carolina State Good Roads Association held a meeting in Columbia last month that endorsed the appointment of a State Highway Commissioner whose duties should be to have a general supervision of the roads of the State and inaugurate systematic methods and plans for their improvement and mainten-

Road supervisors are to be appoint ed for a term of four years and a general movement in the matter of improving the roads of the State is to be given life and vigor.

The meeting of the Commercial Secretaries of Texas and Louistana, held at Fort Worth on February 15, gave much attention to the plans for improving the roads of those States while more than usual discussion has taken place in the columns of the press of Alabama on this important subject. In fact, there is something doing for the cause of good roads in all the States of the South, and there is every reason to believe that the interest in this line of development for the South will not relax until there shall exist in each and every State carefully arranged sysems for improving their roads and keeping them in good repair there-

It is scarcely conceivable to imag he any investment which a State can make that will prove of greater value to all its citizens than what may be put into road improvements. This investment first yields a return in an enhanced value of all lands that are served by good roads, and the State finds its immediate return for outlay in that direction, while the owners of these lands can add greater variety of crops as they can the more readily place their products in local

And then the residents of the towns and cities can be more easily and more economically supplied with food products from nearby farms, and so there is an endless chain of benefits resulting from good roads that brings a compensating return to all classes in the State, and so all are interested in this movement and should help it along.

The South is waking up to these facts and it only requires proper persistency on the part of those who most clearly recognize the need of good roads in order to secure what is desired in this direction.—Chattanooga Tradesman.

A Good Roads Method.

A correspondent of the Michigan Farmer in speaking of the Good Roads Convention held in Port Huron, commends highly the address of Hon. A. W. Campbell, of Toronto, who explained the system in vogue in Toronto. He said they used to have the statute labor law by which each township had a great number of overseers and in that township there was generally a new one in each district. One of them would build the road eighteen feet wide, another twenty-five feet wide and some forty feet, and the next year a new one would reduce the width where the always being changed and a share of the work lost each year. So they never had any good roads until they adopted their present system, which is the payment of road tax in money -and they have one commissioner i each township to oversee all of the roads and expend the money. He advocated the establishment of gravel gotten to put on the roads and said his experience had been that good, clean gravel would outlast most of the broken stone. He was in favo of cement culverts—said they had molds, four different sizes they put gangs of men in gravel pits and made up the blocks and left them in pit all winter to season, then next season get them as they wanted them. For very large culvertsthey arched them over — even to the width of twenty and thirty feet. He said do not be afraid to use plenty of cement. This authorthirty feet. He said do not be afraid to use plenty of cement. This authority claims there can be no progress made on our roads under a statute labor law. He claimed any good competent man could build roads and he advocated about a twenty foot roadway with nine feet of gravel surface with a gradual slope each way to ditches, and above all good litches and drainage.

### Tea and Coffee.

A writer in a contemporary me fions that good tea, well cured bacon and thin bread and butter are rare luxurles in America. Good coffee is common, but not tea. However, tea s the drink in Australia. Some peoole now, I notice, take tea after lunch or dinner, as others do coffee. Tea and coffee thirty years ago were always served after dinner; most of the guests took tea, and some even bread and butter, as well.—London Grashie.



#### NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Hamilton, Ohio, has sixty-cent gas. Chicago will establish a curb mar-

Independent automobile manufac-turers plan a traveling exhibition of

The German Imperial Government is thinking of establishing a petroleum monopoly.

America leads the world in trade with Japan, according to figures pub-lished in Tokio.

The National Civil Service Reform League in a pamphlet attacked the Crumpacker census bill.

Federal Judge Grosscup, speaking in Philadelphia, assailed President Roosevelt's attitude on the Anti-Trust Three thousand Chinese, residents. of Manila, are held at Amoy on ac-count of the prevalence of trachoma

mong them. The Andover Theological Seminary was removed to Cambridge and be-come affiliated with the Harvard Di-

The Bavarian Government has practically decided to spend \$90,000,000 for the construction of the great systems of waterways.

The large number of idle miners in the United States has been attracted by the apparently rich and unclaimed lands of Alaska.

The New England Methodist Epis-copal conference voted in favor of removing the Church ban from dancing, card playing and theatre going. In New Yor': City Judge Foster re-leased Michael Briefer, a bigamist, on parole, under hond to support the children of both wives—not the two

women themselves. Forty thousand Slavs petitioned the President at Washington to inter-cede for a naturalized American of their race jailed in Prague for an alleged seditious song.

#### Negro's Body Found Hanging to a Limb.

Fort Worth, Texas, Special. - A special to The Record from Atlanta, Tex., says: Jasper Douglas, a negro was charged in a warrant sworn towith having criminally assaulted his step-sister, a girl of 12 years. Sunday morning his body was found hanging to the limb of a free near this place. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that Douglas came to his death at the hands of unknown

### Naval Store Plant Burned.

Valdosta, Ga., Special-The Southern Naval Stores Distilling Company's plant near here was burned lestheetg Bo.p v ROatV MFWPP Monday afternoon. Loss about \$40,-000; insurance \$7,000. The fire is supposed to have caught from a spark from the smoke stack. The plant was owned chiefly by northern capitalists. It burned last Easter Sunday and had partly been rebuilt,

### Unison Among Steel Magnates.

Hoboken, Special.-There was no trouble at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the United States Steel Corporation here and the report that a committee of stockholders would attack the present administration proved unfounded. There was but one ticket in the field for election, composed of the present board, all of whom were re-elected.

### Democrats Carry Louisiana.

New Orleans, Special.-Early returns from the State eelctions indicate that the Democratic ticket, headed by J. Y. Sanders for Governor had been elected throughout. Returns of the prohibition election in Acadia and St. Landry parishes are coming in slowly. Early in the night, however, the prohibitionists were leading in Acadia.

Like Father, Like Son. The Rev. Dr. Somers was in the habit of addressing Sarah, his wife, in polsyllables when he iwshed tha children to leave the room. He never dreamed that they understood, until 9 year-old Jack, recovering from measles, was one day enjoying the dear privilege of hearing his mother

read aloud. The doctor ventured in and began

softly, "Sarah-" Up rose Master Jack in bed "Sarah" quoth he, "eliminate the ob-norious element!"—Lippincott's,