

Modern Farm Methods As Applied in the South.

Notes of Interest to Planter, Fruit Grover and Stockman

How to Raise Good Watermelons.

Watermelons prefer sandy soil of moderate fertility, and are not likely to do well on clay or very heavy soil. If raised on the same land a number of years they will probably suffer from blight. Break the land broadcast thoroughly. Prepare for planting six to ten feet each way, depending on the variety of melon grown and the strength of the soil. Furrow deeply where the rows are to be, and cross furrow if preferred. Where each hill is to grow open a pit eight inches deep and twenty-four inches across, and apply in each pit a shovel of well fermented compost. From four to six pounds will be the right amount.

A compost that has given good service is made of three parts by weight of cottonseed, manure and high grade acid phosphate each, and one part of kainit, all thoroughly mixed and left in a large heap six weeks to ferment. There will not be time now to ferment this mixture for the present year, which would have deprived the seed of life and made the plant food in the compost quickly available. If fresh manure had been applied to each hill before February it would be planting time, if covered with soil, have got in good condition to feed the plants. If manure is scarce, a good commercial fertilizer may be mixed with wood's mold or rich loam and placed in every hill. If the manuring is too heavy it will make more vine than melons.

Put eight to ten seeds in each hill and cover one inch deep. If hard rains and drying winds follow planting lightly scratch the surface of the hills to break the crust. If the soil is kept stirred around the young plants their early growth will be more rapid. Thin to two plants, selecting the most vigorous and stocky ones in a hill, as soon as the plants form the first two leaves. Keep up shallow cultivation and recede from the row as the plants grow. Plant a row of peas in the middles, so the pea vines will be grasped by the tendrils on the melon vines in order that the latter may not be knocked about by heavy winds. Do not move the vines for the purpose of cultivation. When it is seen that vines that keep extending their length in the latter part of the season will not be able to mature what fruit the new growth may put out, it may be best to pinch back the new growth so that the vigor of the vine may be thrown back for developing what fruit can mature.—Chas. M. Sberer, in Progressive Farmer.

Two Most Hopeful Signs.

1. We were talking to a prominent merchant of Fairburn, Ga. He said: "The farmers in our section are improving. And six cent cotton proved a great blessing to them in disguise. It forced them to raise their corn. In 1902 I sold twenty-eight carloads of corn, and nearly all of it on credit. For the last four years I have not averaged a carload per year." This is, indeed, a hopeful sign, and we think a like condition of affairs exist all over the South. We know it goes in all thrifty sections. If your section is an exception to this rule begin to fall into line.

2. In former years it was customary to hear farmers bragging about how few furrows they ran in making a crop. And it was almost the custom to "run off and plant" without any breaking or thorough preparation of the soil. Now we hear the farmers tell with pride how long it took them to prepare their land. This week a neighbor told us how he had prepared his land for corn. He said: "I spent a week with two large mules, breaking $\frac{1}{2}$ of six acres for corn. I am going to try the Williamson plan." Will use 800 pounds guano per acre. I am tired going over so much land for my corn." We rejoice that the day has changed, and that our farmers are beginning to appreciate the vast difference between thorough preparation and good work and scratching the soil.—Southern Cultivator.

Dress Your Saddle With Milk.

Here is a dressing for saddles that is so cheap that the first impulse of the reader will be to say it is no good, but the cost of a thing is not always in accord with its usefulness, and the saddle dressing that will be given will be found worth many, many times its cost. It is produced by every farmer and its inexpensiveness warrants its frequent use, for it will surprise anybody who has not seen the good effects it produces when applied right. It is nothing but milk, fresh milk.

It will be recalled that milk has fat in it, which is here a substitute for oil, and milk also has other things in it that will have a good effect on leather used in the way that saddle

leather is. Do not be content with merely moistening the saddle with milk. First clean it thoroughly with mild soap and water that has been slightly warmed. A little experimenting will show just how dry the leather should be before the milk is applied.

Milk is no exception to the rule that leather dressing should be thoroughly rubbed into the leather. The success of the work will depend largely on the amount and thoroughness of rubbing. Saddles can be greatly improved by the same treatment.

The leather part of the saddle that comes next to the horse may be treated with neatfoot oil. The sweat from the horse will deposit salt on this part of the leather and be hard on it, and that is the reason why special care should be given here. If this lower part of the saddle is kept clean it will be much better for the saddle and much better for the horse.—Progressive Farmer.

A Hive Worth as Much as a Cow.

No farm is complete in its conveniences and business methods without a few colonies of Italian bees comfortably housed in a most convenient hive. Honey is one of the farmer's most valuable assets, and in many places a dozen colonies will gather seventy-five to 100 gallons of honey during a single season, worth in many places seventy-five cents a gallon. All the bee wants is a movable frame hive, in which the honey is stored in a convenient manner for the farmer to get at any hour he may wish to have honey and butter for supper.

Thousands of gallons of the very "quintessence of sweetness," as an old bee keeper used to say, is lost in the country for the want of a place to store it. A real strong colony of Italian bees is worth as much in a year to a family as an ordinary Jersey cow is worth. Bees make the corn and cotton better by mixing the pollen of the different flowers, thereby making the seed larger and heavier, insuring greater germinating power. Farmers, if they so desired, by providing ample storage space for the bees could raise honey to sop both sides of their bread every day in the year and not trouble to make syrup. Honey has valuable medicinal properties that no other sweet has.—J. R. McLendon, in Progressive Farmer.

Cotton Advice.

There has been a larger reduction in the production of the cotton mills. Prices have fallen. Wages in the Northern mills have been reduced, and for the time there has been a reduced demand for the raw material.

The Southern farmers should take these facts into consideration and curtail the acreage for 1908. Plant food crops, raise more hogs, more fruits and vegetables for the market and less cotton.

The acreage for 1907 was larger than it should have been. A late cold spring interfered with the production, and the weather conditions and the labor conditions throughout the season united to reduce the yield per acre.

If we have in 1908 the same acreage as in 1907 and have a better crop year, better weather and better labor conditions with a smaller demand from the mills, it is clear that prices would fall, and the crop would not be remunerative.

The remedy is to reduce your acreage ten per cent, and raise other crops instead.—Home and Farm.

Fertilizing For Peanuts.

Pops in peanuts are caused by a deficiency of potash in the soil, not a deficiency of lime. Lime applied to the soil releases potash and thus aids. Use a fertilizer strong in phosphoric acid and potash. Many peanut growers use plaster, which has the same effect of releasing potash that may be in the soil. But in using phosphate liberally you will of necessity apply forty pounds of plaster in every 100 pounds of acid phosphate, as this is the result of dissolving the lime phosphate with sulphuric acid. The sandy soils of the peanut section are deficient in potash, and a liberal application of acid phosphate and muriate of potash will increase the crop and do as much toward banishing pops as lime.—W. F. Massey.

Better Knowledge.

It is better for a pupil to know the composition of feed for growing stock than to be able to name the battles of the Revolution. It is better for him to know the meaning of protein and nutritive ration than to know what is meant by the least common multiple.—C. K. Davis.

Here and There.

Trust no man's memory—nor your own.

You can nag a man into purgatory easier than you can pray him into heaven.

If a man is right he can't be too radical, and if he's wrong he can't be too conservative.

If you expect to have to borrow money, better borrow it before you need it; it is easier to do so.

Port Paragraphs.

Friskiness doesn't indicate individuality.

Don't be afraid to do more than is required of you.

Don't be afraid to begin at the bottom. It is the safest way to climb.

Girls who are worth their weight in gold are seldom given a weigh.

The ocean is not the only body filled with breakers.

AT THE HEAD OF THE PROCESSION



—Cartoon by W. A. Rogers, in the New York Herald.

PASTOR FINDS A MORAL IN WRECK OF HIS OWN HAPPINESS

Robbed of Bride by Drowning Accident, the Rev. Mr. Vrooman Says It Was Intended For His Regeneration—Sermon Takes Place of Wedding Invitations—On Day Set For Marriage Clergyman Tells of His Bitter Struggle With Despair.

Winthrop, Mass.—Miss Alice C. Loud, of Roxbury, who was drowned here three weeks ago, was to have been married to the Rev. Hiram Vrooman, of Providence. Instead of the wedding invitations that would have been sent Mr. Vrooman has gathered about him his philosophy and issued something like a sermon, his bereavement serving as the text.

The essence of his reflections on the tragic event is that the young woman perished, by divine will, in order that he might be purified by fire and proceed further upon the road to regeneration by being given a perception of his own worldliness. The statement, or sermon, reads:

"To-day was to have been the day of my marriage to Alice C. Loud, whose sudden death by drowning occurred three weeks ago to-day. It is true that from all earthly points of view this providential occurrence is altogether inexplicable, but when spiritually considered there is sufficient explanation to dispel every doubt of its beneficence.

"Both practically and ideally Miss Loud seemed to be bringing to me the largest measure of personal satisfaction that this world has in store for any man. She was bringing not only the most devoted and purest feminine affection that was ever revealed to me in a woman, but also that complex of countless physical, mental and spiritual values which promised to multiply my usefulness.

"At first, upon learning what had happened, all my ardent love for her, which had already given me the rarest happiness that I had ever experienced, turned, as it were, against me to torture me with vague anxieties for her and indescribable pity. Following this, and second only to it by

way of contributing to my suffering, was the despair of personal disappointment. Apparently, I had been deprived of that one satisfaction without which nothing else besides could be satisfying.

"A belief that has not been weakened by doubts in the fact of the divine providence, and which has been inclusive of the unquestioning conviction that what the Lord had done was for the best and permanent interest of every one of us concerned, has given a certain interior peace and sense of security, even while the external or natural affections were being tortured and tempest torn.

"Indeed, the suffering has been tempered and greatly modified by these counteracting influences from within. It has seemed to me at times, and I have permitted myself to believe, that I was sensible of a work being wrought by the Lord in my ruling love, causing it to become a little more unselfish than it had formerly been. Indeed, it is the re-orientation of less selfish loves from more selfish loves in such times as this that verifies the revelations in the word of God of immortality, and confirms the certainty of the resurrection of the beautiful unselfish girl whom I loved and still continue to love.

"I am thankful beyond measure that I have experienced not the slightest feeling of rebellion against the unalterable fact. My suffering has been a revelation to me of the great distance that I have yet to go in the regeneration. I have felt unconcerned whether I live or die. I feel sure that I am suffering less and receiving greater spiritual blessing from it than many persons who have sustained similar loss."

INDUSTRIAL WORK UNSEXING WOMEN.

Future of Race Depends Upon Checking Evil, Says Medical Society Speaker.

Chicago.—The subject of women in the workaday world was the chief theme before the meeting here of the American Academy of Medicine. Several men physicians read papers depicting the fact that too many young home life for industrial work, and depending upon the future of the race upon the checking of "this widespread evil."

Dr. Helen C. Putnam, of Providence, startled the audience by declaring she was in favor of woman suffrage. "Every woman," she said, "has the right to develop her best faculties, to become educated, and to enter a business field, where she meets many men, so she can select the father for her children. I favor establishing a study of 'home-making' in the public schools of our country."

Dr. Emma Culbertson, of Boston, said: "Co-operation of the two sexes alone is needed to settle the question of the place of women in business life."

Conditions had changed during the last hundred years. Dr. Edward Jackson, of Denver, asserted, and women should be allowed to change their habits and occupations.

Better Servants Than Shop Girls.

Dr. Otto Guetner, of Cincinnati, said: "The lack of housewives and domestic servants is disrupting society and home life. I have no sympathy with women who work in stores or other industrial institutions for starvation wages, when there are thousands of homes in which they can get respectable employment better fitting themselves for married life. Women competing with men simply lower the wage scale, cause a lack of support by men and a tendency toward singleness."

Dr. George Hoxie, of Kansas City, declared it to be a deplorable fact that teachers in public schools received less wages than hod carriers.

At the first general meeting of the American Medical Association for scientific discussion here the chief feature of the program was an ad-

dress by Dr. Herbert Burrell, of Boston, president-elect, on "A New Duty of the Medical Profession—the Education of the Public in Scientific Medicine." He said in part:

"At present I believe that physicians are too conventional in their methods of treating disease. They have not paid sufficient attention to the alleviation of the suffering that accompanies some of the incurable maladies."

Doctor's Tribute to the Press.

Dr. Burrell advocated educating the public in sanitation, and urged extensive publicity for all questions of hygiene. He said:

"The medical profession and many of the public are afraid of the press, I never had occasion to appeal to the press for assistance and co-operation in any public measure without receiving hearty, but at times, to my mind, indiscreet, assistance. Newspapers will publish what they think the public wants to know, but not what we think the public ought to know. They assume, quite properly, the right of decision. The greatest power that we can have to diffuse information is the public press. Let us be frank with it and I believe that it will almost invariably be honest with us."

Charles Harrington, M. D., of Boston, took for his subject, "States Rights and the National Health," and suggested that the movement for national control of the public health should be focused either into a department "represented in the Cabinet or of a division of an existing department with a commissioner for a chief."

By unanimous vote the House of Delegates of the association approved a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to create a commission, the sole duty of which shall be to watch and oppose the enactment of laws intended to abolish vivisection. Dr. W. B. Cannon in an address advocated a campaign of education against opponents of the practice, whom he accused of untruthfulness and ignorance.

Wright Brothers Have Several Aeroplanes Ready For Service.

Washington, D. C.—That the Wright brothers have several machines practically ready for service, and that they only await the clearing up of a little obscurity in their Government contract before beginning public exhibitions is good news. Enough is known about the work of the Dayton inventors to justify the belief that they have accomplished more with their aeroplanes than their rivals, and that people are eager to learn more about them.

Mascot Bears March With Our Jackies at Seattle.

Seattle, Wash.—The Atlantic battleship fleet landed an armed force of 3000 men, who paraded through the city accompanied by a land force.

In the middle of the procession were twelve bear cubs, brought from Aberdeen to be presented as mascots to the battleships. Each bear was led by a prominent citizen of Aberdeen. Before the reviewing stand was reached the little fellows tired, and their conductors took them in their arms and carried them past.

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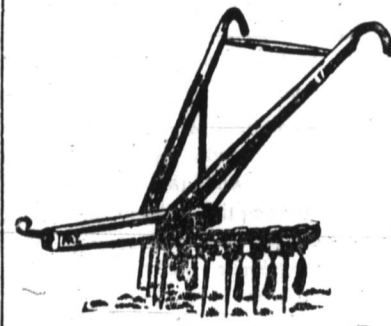
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