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Romance In the Garden

The farmer and home owner is hearing a lot about national planning and much of this he can only take in a general sort of way. But there is another sort of planning which all may understand, and, properly applied will prove pleasurable as well as profitable—garden planning.

There will yet be days when weather conditions will permit outside work, and no better use could be made of one of these than to sit down at the kitchen table and plan the summer garden—on paper. H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist at State College recommends this, and says: "Most folks have plans for their garden, but mental plans are easily confused or forgotten when the time comes to carry them out." He suggests that a written plan be prepared and tacked up in a convenient place to serve as a guide. It should show the direction of the rows, the crops to be grown, the area for each crop, and the time for fertilizing and cultivating so this will not be overlooked in the rush of other work.

Town folks are all too ready to accept the theory that a garden costs more than it is worth. This may be so when there is too much laziness back of the effort. But even when the plowing or spading has to be paid for, a well-planned garden will pay its way in dollars and cents to say nothing of the healthful recreation it affords.

The farmer need not be told that a good garden can be made to supply the family with fresh vegetables in all seasons, and also produce a surplus for canning and drying. The wife has proved that to him year after year. Yet with all the experience, there is room for improvement in garden methods, and one of these should be to diversify the garden crop to include vegetables that heretofore have been neglected, yet which by all means should be a part of the family menu.

It will soon be garden planting time and we are bold to suggest that there is a lot of romance in gardening, if you are inclined to look for it there.

Wasteful Logging Methods

Saw mill operators, as well as owners of forest land, lose money and values through the wasteful methods of logging often practiced in this section. We have been accustomed to a plentitude of timber and it seems that we can't sense the importance of conserving it through intelligent management, both while the forest crop is growing and while it is being harvested.

Too often a landowner will permit a logging crew to cut off all timber with a diameter of six or more inches, and leave the ground strewn with litter. Cutting out the small trees really costs the saw mill operator more than they are worth for timber, and it takes off the land the trees which should be left to produce a worthwhile future harvest.

Unless the area is being cleared for cultivation there should be a well thought out plan for cutting the timber; a plan that would in a sense amount only to thinning. Young trees that have future promise should be left to mature and grow into money.

This is a part of the economic problem, and an important factor at that. Destructive logging soon robs a region of its timber, and if no provision is made for providing a future crop, the saw mill operator will soon be out of luck as well as the landowner. Therefore it behooves each of them to co-operate, not only in the cutting of the trees, but in the condition in which the forests are left.

When trees and limbs are left where they fall when the logs are being removed, not only valuable fuel is allowed to go to waste, but this practice provides breeding grounds for destructive beetles that damage other timber. Much of the wood in tops and limbs can be sold profitably for firewood, or used at home for fuel, but above all, for the sake of the growing timber, the woodlands should be kept clean.

We are getting to the place where it is becoming increasingly necessary to give the same sort of thoughtful planning for our woodlands that we have been giving to our fields.

A Belated Plan

According to State Treasurer Johnson, he and Governor Ehringhaus are working on a plan to refund some of the state's long-term refunding bonds, and thus save the state millions of dollars in interest alone. They are proceeding, Treasurer Johnson says, under a law which they wrote jointly and had passed by the 1935 general assembly, and he adds: "Neither the law nor the plan was suggested in any way by Dr. Ralph McDonald, one of the candidates for Governor, who has recently been suggesting the widespread refunding of the state's bonded indebtedness."

And this reminds the Hickory Record of the "horse laugh" which was raised in Raleigh at the time Dr. McDonald first had the audacity to propose the refunding of state bonds and when "all of us who essayed to applaud the McDonald suggestion were cowed into embarrassed silence for ever having entertained such an impossibly absurd notion of saving the state money."

But now come our Governor and State Treasurer to declare that they put a provision

through the legislature, (of which Dr. McDonald was an important part) and now as a part of their scheme in the interest of the taxpayers of North Carolina they are about to put their plan in action. But if the proper groundwork was laid in the 1935 legislature, why in the name of all that is good and noble, didn't they do something about it sooner? Why wait a year to begin the saving? And why have they suddenly decided to do something about it now? You know the answer—his given name is Ralph.

Unless our recollection is faulty, North Carolina's bonded indebtedness is a little the rise of 150 million dollars. It is somebody's fault that only a small portion of these bonds are "callable." The balance of them carry an interest rate of above 4 per cent and probably a few close to 6 per cent.

Today these bonds would find a ready market on a 2 1/2 percent interest basis—if only somebody had thought to provide for their refunding. It is reasonable to assume that if they had been made "callable," an average of 2 per cent. interest could now be saved on at least 100 million dollars of the state's indebtedness, which would mean a net saving of 2 million dollars a year, and for ten years, which probably is the life of the average bond issue, the saving would be \$20,000,000, which would just about be sufficient to support our schools for a year—without calling on the sales tax to save them.

We are inclined to boast about the efficiency of recent state administrations, yet here is indication of a costly lack of foresight, that isn't much to brag about. At least Mr. Hoey in his endorsement of the status quo, does not list this fault as a virtue.

The United States government has refunded numerous bond issues and as a result has dumped millions into the federal treasury; several North Carolina corporations have made money by the same route—but North Carolina taxpayers are honor-bound to keep on paying almost double interest on their obligations—because somebody failed to look ahead. It is not enough to say that this "callable" clause would have made them less desirable for the investor, because experienced bond dealers tell us it would have made little difference in the case of these bonds.

Asheville and Buncombe county saved around 40 million dollars, by threatened repudiation. North Carolinians are too prideful to willingly resort to repudiation. It would put them in disfavor among their neighbors and would be particularly distasteful to Wall Street. But we are not so sure that we need to think so much about our "standing" with the New York bankers. We might be in better shape today if our credit had not been so good when we sought to market these high-interest notes.

One thing is certain, every person, from janitor up, has had to take a loss on whatever assets he possessed, and there is no reason under the sun why the bondholder should be protected against it—none that is, except our sense of honesty that prompts us to abide by an agreement.

There is no inclination here to argue in favor of repudiating any honest obligation, but if this piece is interpreted as questioning the foresight and business acumen of former accepted leaders, then there is abundant evidence to bolster that interpretation.

Science and Agriculture

Ever since the depression immersed us in gloom, Dr. Carl T. Compton, head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been preaching the gospel of research. If the world can be reformed by the psychologist, according to Dr. Compton it can be made into an economic Utopia.

Give the physicists, chemists, biologists and engineers a chance and they will create new industries and thus do away with much inevitable unemployment. Laying special stress on agriculture's needs he says: "The great problem in agriculture today is to discover new uses for products, uses which will create new social values or partially replace the consumption of our exhaustible natural resources. Silk from wood, rubber from weeds and motor fuel (alcohol mixed with gasoline) from corn and potatoes are actual examples of what can be done. Experience justifies belief that along such lines, science may create demands for farm products which will provide a constructive and permanent solution of the agricultural problem."

We are all too inclined to think that men wearing their life away in laboratories are wasting their time; that young men in remote communities who have hobbies far removed from our understanding, and who pursue them to the tune of our chiding, are parasites because we cannot envision any tangible products from their efforts. All too often we are wrong and history has recorded many a genius who has sprung from the humblest of environments.

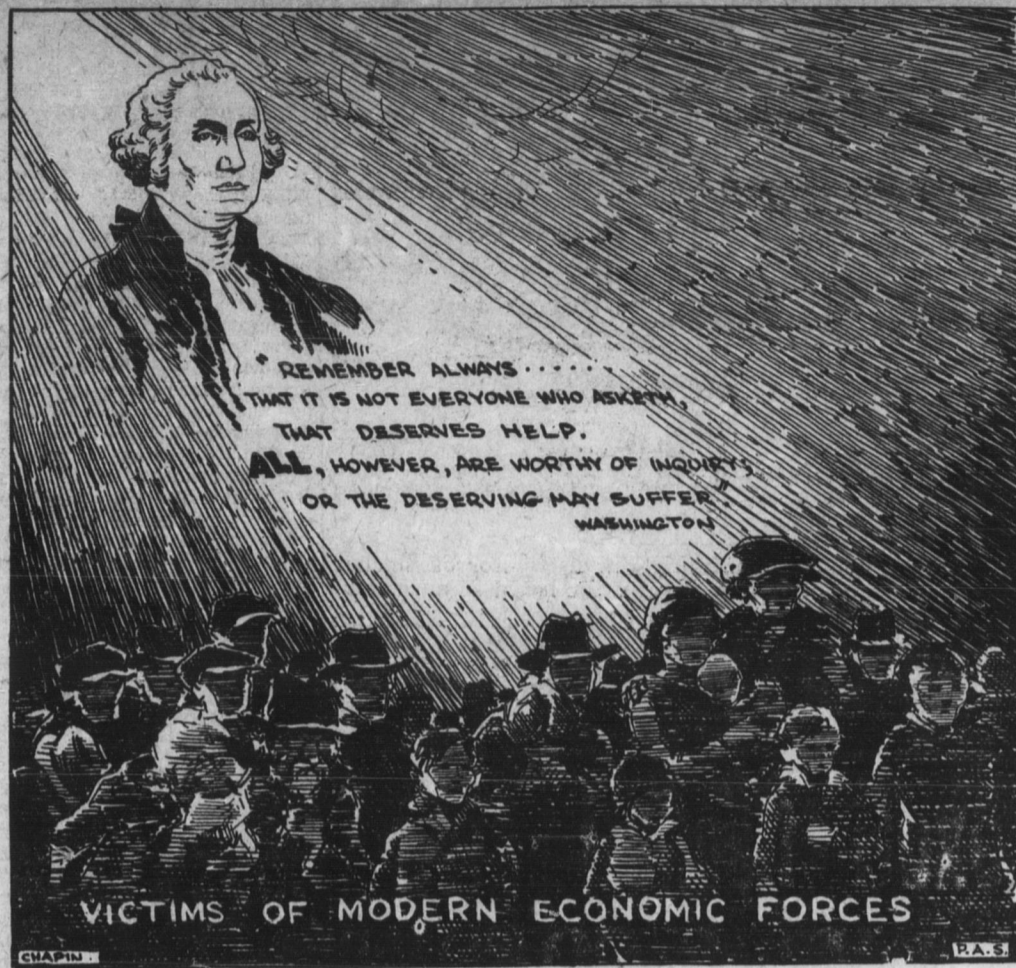
The agriculturist who keeps in tune with the scientist and who plans his program in anticipation of his accomplishments even before they are fully unfolded, is building the surest foundation for himself and those who follow him.

Dr. Herty, the Georgia genius, who established the process by which the quick-growing loblolly pine may be converted into newsprint, has opened the way for the Southern farmer to utilize abandoned acres to his own profit. Slow in coming, yes, but that is not the fault of the idea and discovery. No great pulp mills are in the South today, not because they are not practicable, but because influential financial interests in the north are fighting against this southern development. It will come in due time, when the South has learned, to keep its money at home and finance its own institutions. And then the Southern landowner will profit from this and other developments for which the scientists will be credited.

It is better to dream and hope and attempt the impossible, than to accept, supinely, things as they are or seem to be.

Reckless pedestrians have been getting it in the neck of late. Which should furnish the urge for Al Smith to be cautious when he "goes for a walk."

A Voice From Long Ago — by A. B. Chapin



9 Homicide Cases In Wilkes Court

Nine homicide cases are on docket for trial in the Wilkes court at Wilkesboro, beginning Monday, Mar. 2nd.

The homicide cases are, Conrad Bell, charged with killing his father; Oscar Owens, whose auto killed J. H. Pennell; John Jones, manslaughter, in connection with the death of Miss W. Triplett and Mrs.

Hubert Canter, killed in a bus accident; Dave Jones, charged with beating John Robinson to death; Julius Minton, manslaughter as result of auto accident; William Wood, same; Dock Anderson, shooting Dink Lowe; and Fred Glass, charged with shooting Lum Anderson.

VISION PAN-AMERICAN LEAGUE Washington, Feb. 16.—Visions of a Pan-American league of nations, possibly supplementing or rivaling the world league at Geneva, blossomed today out of the call by Pres-

ident Roosevelt for a conference of American republics in Buenos Aires at an early date.

To congressional leaders who long have advocated strong co-operation between the United States and other American nations the conference sounded promising.

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 - Parents' Magazine 1 yr
 - Pathfinder (weekly) 1 yr
 - Pictorial Review 1 yr
 - Romantic Stories 1 yr
 - Screen Book 1 yr
 - True Confessions 1 yr
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 - The Farm Journal 3 yrs
 - Progressive Farmer 2 yrs
 - Southern Agriculturist 2 yrs

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 - The Farm Journal 1 yr
 - Gentleman's Magazine 1 yr
 - Good Stories 1 yr
 - Home Circle 1 yr
 - Home Friend 1 yr
 - Illustrated Mechanics 1 yr
 - Mother's Home Life 1 yr
 - Needlecraft 1 yr
 - Poultry Tribune 1 yr
 - Progressive Farmer 1 yr
 - Southern Agriculturist 2 yrs
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