

# The Polk County News.

INDEPENDENCE IN ALL THINGS.

Subscription Price, \$1.00 Per Year in Advance.

Three Cents the Copy.

COLUMBUS, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1907.

NO. 36.

## THE WILLIAMSON SYSTEM

For Growing Corn Economically and Profitably

### RETARDING IDEA WORTH TRIAL

A Searching Review of the Essential Features of the Method Originated by Mr. Williamson—After a Careful Personal Examination the Clemson Expert Reports That Wherever Tried it Has Been Found Superior—Farmers Urged to Experiment with it Next Year.

Clemson College, S. C., Special.—Prof. C. L. Newman, who recently visited Darlington county and the Pee-Dee section for the purpose of investigating the plan of growing corn originated by Mr. McIver Williamson, an account of his visit having been printed in The News and Courier at the time, has completed his report on the subject. The correspondent of The News and Courier has been permitted to copy the report, which will have great interest for planters in all parts of the State (as well as adjoining States). In part it is as follows:

The peculiar or essential Williamson plan features are:

1. Deep and thorough preparation of seed bed. The soil is not only broken to fully twice the depth to which it is usually broken, but is broken much more thoroughly than is the custom.

2. Deep planting of the seed. The seed are placed four to six inches below the soil level and almost or quite in contact with the subsoil, but covered to the usual depth. This aids in "stunting" or retarding the growth of the young corn and of grasses and weeds as well, since very nearly all the soil proper has been ploughed away from the corn row and into the middles, and no fertilizer has been applied.

3. Infrequent and partial cultivation in early stages of growth. This is contrary to popular belief and practice and Mr. Williamson styles it "the most difficult point in the whole process," requiring experience and judgment "to know just how much the stalk should be stunted, and plenty of nerve is required to hold back your corn when your neighbors, who fertilize at planting time and cultivate rapidly, have corn twice the size of yours."

4. An increase of 200 per cent or more in the number of stalks per acre. With rows 6x1 feet the Williamson plan has a little more than 7,300 stalks per acre against a little more than 2,900 if planting is done 5x3 feet, in accordance with the ordinary practice. Theoretically, this would give 73 and 29 bushels per acre, respectively, and it seems, from evidence at hand, that it is borne out in practice, assuming that each stalk will produce an ear, and one hundred ears will shell a bushel of grain.

5. Postponing application of fertilizers until corn is given its second cultivation. In ordinary practice this would be about the time corn should be worked the third time. The stalk has been checked or "stunted" as desired, and the fertilizer is applied when the plant needs it for the development of the ear.

6. Intentional retardation of early growth of the stalk until its size is reduced one-half or one-fourth its normal development.

7. Augmented development of the ear (following retardation in stalk development) by cultivation and heavy applications of fertilizers made at appropriate intervals.

Since the Williamson plan corn is planted 4 to 6 inches below the level, and is laid by 4 to 6 inches above the level, there is 8 to 12 inches of the stalk below the soil surface. The stalk roots or brace roots are below the surface when the crop is laid by, and probably perform their nutritive functions better than would be of a part of them were exposed to the air.

**Amounts of Fertilizer.** Mr. Williamson recommends the following amounts of fertilizers applied to an acre:

For 50 bushels of corn per acre: Two hundred pounds of cotton seed meal, 200 pounds of acid phosphate, 400 pounds of acid phosphate, 400 pounds of kainit, 125 pounds of nitrate soda, 925 pounds, costing about \$9.

For 100 bushels of corn per acre: 400 pounds of cotton seed meal, 400 pounds of acid phosphate, 800 pounds of kainit, 300 pounds of nitrate of soda, 1,900 pounds, costing about \$19.

The total cost of fertilizers, cultivation, etc., for producing 50 bushels on one acre would vary from \$15 to \$20, and for producing 100 bushels on one acre from \$25 to \$30. These valuations are based on the market price of the fertilizers (assuming the

acid phosphate to be 14 per cent goods) and the average price of labor. The cost of labor varies in different parts of the State and even on adjacent farms.

If the cow pea crop grown with the corn produces one ton of hay, this crop, if left on and in the ground, would add to it about \$12 worth of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. If the cow pea crop would produce two tons of hay, this crop left on and in the ground would add \$24 worth of these fertilizer ingredients. However, the value of the cow pea for feeding purposes is double its value for fertilizing purposes. If judiciously fed to animals this hay will have a feeding value of about \$24 per ton and if all the excreta is saved and returned to the soil between 80 and 90 per cent (\$10.20 per ton) of the fertilizing value of the cow pea hay will be given back to the land. An ordinary crop of cow peas may be made to pay the cost of cultivating the corn, or probably the cost of the fertilizer. A good crop should pay for both.

### Compared With Other Yields.

Considerable effort has been made to gather as much comparative data as possible so as to have Williamson plan corn yields that might justly be compared with yields from the ordinary method. It is highly desirable that as far as possible, and without prejudicing either, the two crops for comparison be grown on the same character of land and planted at the same time, and that the treatment and surroundings of each differ in no way except as to the peculiar or essential features of difference existing between the two plans or methods. Reports of some three dozen farmers who have this year given the Williamson plan a test have been brought to the notice of the writer. Some of these were not considered definite enough for consideration, but twenty-eight reported either a comparison of yields from crops grown this year by both plans or gave yields secured from the ordinary plan in the past on the same land. The two lowest yields reported from the ordinary methods were seven and ten bushels per acre. The two highest yields reported from the same method were forty-five and fifty bushels per acre. The two lowest yields reported from the Williamson plan were twenty-seven and thirty bushels per acre. The two highest yields reported from the same plan were one hundred bushels per acre. The yield from twenty-eight reporting both the ordinary and the Williamson plan compared gives an average of 23.25 bushels per acre for the former and 56.42 bushels per acre for the latter. These twenty-eight show a remarkable average difference of 33.17 more bushels per acre in favor of the Williamson plan, an increase of 142 per cent.

It cannot, however, in justice to either method, be said that these comparisons indicate the actual difference between the Williamson plan and the ordinary method. Many of the reports give the number of bushels per acre in round numbers, indicating that the yields were estimated rather than actually determined. In a number of cases the yield in 1906 from the Williamson plan was compared with the yield secured from the same land when it was last in corn, the compared crops not having been grown the same year. There may be other sources of error. On the other hand, a large majority of farmers who have tried the Williamson plan now enthusiastically accept it and it is the sensation in the communities where the plan has been consistently followed. It is hoped that every farmer in the State will give it a fair and impartial trial in 1907.

### Assassinations Advocated.

San Francisco Special.—Secret service agents here had their attention called to an inflammatory paper published in Berkeley by Japanese entitled "The Revolution," in which the assassination of the Mikado, President Roosevelt and others in authority is advocated in plain language. Marked copies of the paper were sent through the mail to the board of education in this city.

### A Company Headed By Women.

St. Paul, Minn., Special.—The Alaga Garnet Mining and Manufacturing Company of Minneapolis, filed articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State. The board of directors is composed entirely of women. In fact, there does not appear to be a man connected with the company. The company is capitalized at \$1,000,000 and it will mine and manufacture garnets. Mamie R. Fowler of Minneapolis is president of the company.

### PAID MORE THAN HE EARNED.

Office boy—Why, cert. I want more pay; I'm only getting "four" a week, and give my mother all I earn. Proprietor—What do you do with the other three and a half?—Puck.

## MANY DEATHS IN WRECK

Frightful Collision Occurs Near Washington City

### APPALLING DISASTER ON B. & O.

Accident Caused by Collision of Train No. 66 With Dead Head Equipment Passenger Special of Eight Cars Three Miles From Washington.

Washington, Special.—An appalling disaster occurred Sunday night at 7 o'clock on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad at Terra Cotta, about three miles from this city, in which about 33 persons were killed and over 60 injured, some of them so seriously that they will die. The accident was caused by the collision of train No. 66, due here at 8:15 p. m., from Frederickburg, Md., known as the Frederick special, with a dead-head passenger equipment special of eight cars. Over 200 passengers were aboard the ill-fated train. The railway officials were unable to assign any cause for the collision. As soon as the news of the wreck reached this city all ambulances available with as many physicians as could be assembled, were sent to the scene.

Of the injured seven were taken to Freedman's Hospital, 15 to the United States Soldiers' Hospital, and 20 have been brought into the city on a special train to be carried to various hospitals. Among the injured was District Attorney Baker, of this city, who, despite his injuries, walked almost two miles to Brookland and brought the first news of the wreck. He was completely exhausted, and after medical treatment was sent to the city.

### Waiting Passengers Killed.

One of the worst features of the catastrophe was enacted at the station of Terra Cotta. Here a number of passengers were waiting to take the train into the city when the collision occurred. Of the large number only two escaped; the remainder were either killed by being thrown under the train or injured by flying pieces of wreckage.

### Partial List of Dead.

Following is a partial list of the dead:

- Mary Lippold, 30 years old, Employee of bureau of engraving and printing, this city.
- George Higbie, 8 years old, Brookland, D. C.
- Unidentified Negro, 35 years old.
- Unidentified White Boy, 12 years old.
- Elizabeth Pearman, Takoma Park. T. A. Kelly, Kingston, Md.
- Dr. E. Garther Harrie, Washington
- Miss Koll, (a Y. M. C. A. card was found in her pocket.)
- White Girl, 13 years old, unidentified.
- White Girl, 18 years old, unidentified.
- Negro Baby, unidentified.
- White Baby, unidentified.
- Norman Rogers, white, Marion, Indiana.
- Mrs. J. McCaghey.
- 14-year-old Son of Mrs. McCaghey.
- Edward M. Belt, white, 14 years old, address unknown.
- Commodore P. Brown, 60 years of age, address unknown.
- Prof. King, organist Wesley Chapel Kinsington, Md.
- Two Negro Women, unidentified.
- Two White Women, about 30 years old, unidentified.
- White Woman, 25 years old, unidentified.
- White Woman, 20 years old, unidentified.
- White Child, unidentified.

### News Items.

Mrs. Gould was adjudged jointly liable for a jewelry bill of \$57,000. William Faversham violently attacked a waiter in a New York hotel who had thrown a plate at the actor's wife. The Postal Commission will urge Congress to authorize a searching investigation of the Postoffice Department.

### Tillman on the President.

Birmingham, Ala., Special.—"Roosevelt does not know anything about the negro and every time he touches him he makes a mess of it. He had no business discharging the negro troops at Brownsville before making a careful investigation. I doubt very much whether or not he is vested with the authority to take such matters in his own hands anyway." Thus spoke Senator Benjamin R. Tillman after his arrival from Dothan, Ala.

## DID NOT HELP GAMBLERS

Money Placed in Banks by Treasury is for the Relief of Business—Secretary Replies at Length to Letter From Nashville, Tenn., Man Who Insists That Relief Has Been Given Gamblers and Money Sharks, "the Real Cause of High Money in New York," and Inquires How Long Will the Practice Continue.

Washington, Special.—In a letter to a correspondent residing in Nashville, Tenn., Secretary Shaw repudiates the suggestion that the United States Treasury ever has come to the relief of stock gamblers. The correspondent in question, whose name is withheld, insists that such relief has been given gamblers and money sharks, "the real cause of high money in New York," and inquires how long will the practice continue.

To which the Secretary made the following reply: "Your letter of December 23d is received, and I note your sentiments with respect to stock gamblers. Your letter is so courteous and voices so accurately the view of many well informed people that I am constrained to answer it somewhat at length.

"You seem to proceed upon the theory that the existing monetary stringency is caused solely by stock gambling. In this you are in error. Some people gamble in stocks, some in cotton, others in wheat, corn, pork, or lard, and some in land. When times are good people will speculate in anything and everything that possesses a market value. The proportion of speculation as compared with necessary and legitimate business is very small, however, and is probably no larger in New York City than in Nashville, Tenn., where you reside, or in Des Moines, Iowa, where I live. The best estimates I can get place the amount of speculative transactions in New York City at from 2 1-2 to 5 per cent of the aggregate.

"The Treasury has never come to the relief of stock gamblers and probably never will, though the relief, which the Treasury grants frequently aids those who gamble on the bull side of the stock market, and the bull side of the wheat, the cotton market, the corn market and every other market, but it is equally harmful to those who gamble on the bear side of these respective markets. Both bulls and bears importune the Secretary of the Treasury, but the nature of the advice usually indicates the side of the market on which they are operating. Naturally these communications have no influence whatever. The real business situation is the sole consideration.

"During the dull season of 1906 the Secretary of the Treasury withdrew millions of the people's money and locked it up. This would have been a crime if he were not willing to release it now when it is needed. By appropriate use of the money in the vaults of the Treasury I have facilitated the importation of a hundred millions of gold within the last nine months, and have released, or arranged for the release of fifty millions more. This was done, as I say, for the purpose of aiding legitimate business, though it has helped the bull side of the market as much as it has damaged the bear side. I care as little for either of these considerations as do you, but I am intensely interested in the appropriate business interests of the country.

"It is for the relief of business that the Treasury has returned to the channels of trade the money which it withdrew when the people had no use for it except for purposes of speculation. It was then wanted for speculation and I withdrew it. It is now needed for business and I restore it. The last \$10,000,000 deposit went almost exclusively to the cotton producing states and the exceptions went to cotton buying cities."

### Killed By Daughter's Escort.

Monticello, Ga., Special.—James Polk, aged 60 years, was shot and killed by Cirk Waldrop, a young man who had escorted two of Polk's daughters to an entertainment, returning with them about 2 a. m. Polk berated the young man for coming home so late, and in the quarrel that followed, Polk was killed.

### Triple Tragedy Enacted.

Danville, Va., Special.—Joe Parrillo, an Italian laborer, Maggie Sullivan, an American woman, and Lawrence Sullivan, the 12-year-old son of Maggie Sullivan, were shot to death at a camp of railway employes about a mile from Mottley's station, which is about 30 miles from Danville. The murders are the result of a bitter feud. Fred Ammoto, an Italian, who has charge of the commissary at the camp, and his son, Allie Ammoto, have been arrested on the charge of the killings.

## NORTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS

Items of Interest From Many Parts of the State

### MINOR MATTERS OF STATE NEWS

Happenings of More or Less Importance Told in Paragraphs—The Cotton Markets.

### To Push Immigration Matter.

Raleigh, Special.—It seems certain that the next Legislature will be pressed to push the matter of immigration to North Carolina, following the lead of South Carolina, where the movement seems to be so successful. There will also be a very earnest effort to secure immigrants from the Northwest and North, particularly English, Germans and Scandinavians, who have been in the country long enough to become somewhat acclimated and to know enough of the language to make themselves understood. It is the opinion of many observant people that this class is more desirable than those from abroad, as the latter will have so much more to learn in every way. The New England States are now congested with foreigners, and out West the good land has to a very great degree been taken up by homesteaders and great numbers of the people are pouring over into Canada. If this movement could be diverted Southward it would mean a good deal. Governor Glenn feels that North Carolina needs a quarter of a million of sturdy immigrants. A concerted movement, literally advertising and active work by agents will mean a great deal. It is Governor Glenn's desire that Secretary Bruner, of the board of agriculture, shall make a tour of the Northwest illustrating North Carolina by a display of resources and perhaps by stereopticon views and by the very free distribution of literature.

### A Chapter of Tragedies.

A special from Asheville gives the following: Delayed communications from Dillsboro, received here indicate that Jackson county was made a veritable battle ground this week. One man was shot and instantly killed, while another man shot several times, is not expected to live, and a third was cut so badly that he will hardly recover.

In Savannah township Sunday night Coleman Frady was shot and instantly killed by his brother, Robert Frady. The brothers were the best of friends up to the moment of the killing. They were drinking and playing cards, when a dispute arose and Robert drew his gun and killed Frady.

In Canada township Christmas day John Brown was shot several times by Henry Rheinhart and is not expected to live. Rheinhart and Brown engaged in a pistol duel in Rheinhart's store, when both emptied their revolvers. Brown was shot through both shoulders. A few hours afterwards the men met again and for a second time a pistol duel was fought, Rheinhart shooting Brown in the mouth, inflicting a probable fatal injury.

A day before the Brown-Rheinhart shooting, Elijah Owens was stabbed to the hollow several times by a man named Brackens. Owens was fearfully cut. He had the reputation of being Canada township's bad man.

### Mills Shut Down.

Conecord, Special.—On account of the scarcity of coal and the inability of the railroads to deliver the coal the Cannon Mills Nos. 2 and 3 and the Franklin Mill were compelled to close down Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. This, of course, means an indefinite period, and will necessarily throw many employes out of work for the time being.

### Child Burned To Death.

Winston-Salem, Special.—The 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Nunn, of Walkertown, was burned to death. The child was out in the yard with her mother, who was burning some leaves and trash. The little ones clothes ignited and soon her body was wrapped in flames. Effort was made to extinguish the fire, but the child's clothing was practically burned off before the flames few minutes. Mr. Nunn is manager of a flouring mill and is a highly esteemed citizen of Walkertown.

### Three Men Out.

Asheville, Special.—A special from Canton says that there was a serious stabbing affray among the Italians employed by the Champion Fibre Company, at their quarters there last night. Five or six of the men were involved in the fight. Three men were badly cut, one in the back of the neck, one in the side, and the third, the most seriously injured, near the heart. Officers have caught two of the men implicated, but the one believed to be most guilty has not been apprehended.

## SPURIOUS COIN IN CIRCULATION

James W. Muse, of Asheville Arrested, Charged With Passing Counterfeit Money.

Asheville, Special.—James W. Muse probably 30 years of age, has been arrested here charged with passing counterfeit money. He has been given a hearing before a United States commissioner and held under \$1,000 bond, to await the action of the grand jury at the May term of United States District Court. It is alleged that Muse passed several half-dollar and dollar pieces in the railway section of the city, and it was upon this evidence in particular that his arrest was effected. Several of the spurious coins were recovered and are now in possession of the officers. The "queer" is a good counterfeit, and would easily pass undetected. It has been known for some time that spurious money was being circulated in and around Asheville, and the officers have been on the lookout for the guilty ones. The counterfeit that has recently been passed is of half-dollar and dollar silver pieces. Muse makes no denial of paying money to certain persons, from whom the counterfeit was obtained, but contends that he did not know the money was counterfeit. He alleges that he is innocent of the crime and that he will be able to satisfy a jury of this alleged fact when placed on trial. He came to Asheville from Salisbury several years ago and has been employed by the Southern Railway since that time. At the time of his arrest he was a flagman on the Asheville division. The officers say they are confident that Muse has had in his possession a considerable quantity of the counterfeit, and that he knew it was counterfeit. They do not think however, that he has made the money. It is supposed that he was a mere representative of the makers of spurious money.

### Two Trains Collide.

Greensboro, Special.—The Winston-Salem passenger train and a southbound freight train had a head-on collision Monday near the coal shute, in which two passengers were slightly injured. C. W. Rawlings, chief clerk to Superintendent Andrews, was thrown from his seat. His head struck a window and an ugly gash was cut on his forehead. Mr. Rawlings' head struck the window with such force that the woodwork was shattered, and he was rendered unconscious. A physician treated him. The other injured man, whose name was not learned, also received a cut on the head. The responsibility for the accident has not been fixed. It is thought to have been due to a misunderstanding in regard to orders.

### Dies in Paris, France.

Winston-Salem, Special.—A cablegram from Paris, received Tuesday by Geo. P. Pell, announces the death near Paris of Mrs. Edwin L. Hardin, his aunt.—Mrs. Hardin was a sister of Mrs. V. C. Pell, of Oxford; Miss Annie Pell, of Raleigh, and Theo. N. Ramsey, Esq., of Norfolk. She was the mother of Madam De Strole, wife of the Swedish charge d'affaires at Washington, and of Duncan B. Hardin, a prominent Parisian artist. She was a native of Raleigh, being the daughter of Walter J. Ramsey, once a jeweler of that city, and, as Miss Booker Ramsey, was known prior to the war as one of the belles of the State.

### Shooting Scrape at Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Joe Gordon and Pride Brannum, both colored, exchanged several shots Tuesday night. Brannum is in the hospital in a dying condition. Gordon has a ball in one arm, but the wound is not considered serious. The two men fell out over Gordon's wife. Gordon alleges that Brannum was too intimate with her.

### Three Men Out.

Asheville, Special.—A special from Canton says that there was a serious stabbing affray among the Italians employed by the Champion Fibre Company, at their quarters there last night. Five or six of the men were involved in the fight. Three men were badly cut, one in the back of the neck, one in the side, and the third, the most seriously injured, near the heart. Officers have caught two of the men implicated, but the one believed to be most guilty has not been apprehended.