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BRIEF CULLINGS OF NORTH STATE NEWS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

SELECTING SEED-CORN FOR LARGER YIELDS.

North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, West Raleigh—O. B. Williams, Director.

The practice of selecting seed-corn from the barn late in the spring costs the farmers of North Carolina, in decreased yields of shelled corn, an amount equal to more than five million dollars annually. Just so long as this method is followed, just so long will the corn-growers of the State lack this amount of producing what they might with the same treatment under identical conditions were they to use better methods in the selection of their seed-corn. The proper place to select seed for planting purposes next year is the field in this fall. One day spent in the field in selecting seed-corn properly will pay better in increased yields than most any labor performed during the entire year. There are many ways in which this work might be done satisfactorily, the exact method depending upon local conditions and practices. Economy of performance of the operation is always to be looked after but not at a sacrifice of efficiency. Where corn is gathered from stalks in the field in the usual way, a good method for the corn-grower to use is to sling a cotton-picking bag over the shoulder or take a basket in the hand and go through and make the selections from the field of corn which he has that is a little above the average in productivity. Take two rows at a time and select seed from those stalks which have two well-developed ears per stalk, remembering that in the selection of seed one should select from the stalks that will yield the largest amount of shelled corn per stalk. The reason why it is advised selecting from two-ear stalks is because in testing and studying varieties of corn during the past eight years on the Experiment Station farm and elsewhere, it has been found that the best yields of shelled corn per stalk and hence per acre were those that averaged near two ears per stalk. Take both of the ears if they are good ones and reject both if they are not. Do not give much detailed attention to the shape of the ears and grains during field selection, but reserve this for some rainy or snowy day during the winter and have the young boys around to help, as there is no loss of farm work that will interest them more or lead them to take a deeper interest in the work of the farm. One reason why so many boys leave the farm is because they are not taught that there is something more in farming than the mere drudgery connected with it. When going through the field selecting these ears it might be well to have the boys along too if they are old enough to appreciate the value and importance of what is being done. A cart or wagon might be at one end of the rows and when you get there each time empty the basket or bag. Enough corn should be gathered in this way so that when the more careful selection is made during the winter at the barn, having in mind the best shape of ears and kernels, enough will be left for planting, after throwing out the ears of poor shape and those having kernels not up to the proper type it is wished to use for planting. Select from the field three to five times as much corn as it is expected to be needed, so that a very rigid selection of the ears may be made during some winter days. Make selections from stalks that not only bear two well-developed ears, but from those that have a good leaf development and large root system. Select ears that are borne at a uniform and conven-

ient height, for such ears are more easily and cheaply gathered; they ripen more uniformly and are less liable not to have the embryo grains fertilized, as the tasselling of all stalks will be practically at the same date and the pollen from all will be given off at about the same time. The ears should be held not upright, but in a rather drooping position, as such ears are less liable to rot, as they will shed the rain rather than admit it into the ears, as they frequently do when held in an upright position; especially is this so if the husks (shucks) do not cover the tips of the ears completely. Also, it is well to discard all ears that have the tips poorly covered with husks, even if all the other characteristics are up to requirements. When, during the winter, the corn thus gathered is gotten out for more careful selection, choose those ears of cylindrical shape and those which possess deep wedge-shaped and large-germed grains which completely and deeply cover the cobs and which are arranged in parallel rows. Select heavy, well-matured ears that have medium-sized cobs with kernels that are heavy in weight and medium rough in indentation, and which have the butts and tips fairly well filled out. Keep the seed stored in a dry place until planting time.

If you have not selected your seed-corn before from the field in the way indicated above try it this fall. You may be a little doubtful at the value of this extra effort, but give it a fair trial and we feel sure that you will never go back to the old and less profitable method of selecting seed-corn from the barn.

Opening at Elizabeth.

Charlotte, Special.—Thursday morning saw one of the most successful openings in the history of Elizabeth College. Students began coming in three days ago until now all the professors and students have arrived and are ready to begin work. Mr. Henry J. Zehm, of the musical department, opened the morning exercises with an organ selection, which was followed by an impressive prayer offered by Rev. G. D. Bernheim. Rev. C. B. King, who presided, then introduced Rev. W. C. Shaeffer, Jr., the principal speaker of the morning, who, in a powerful address, expounded his system of Christian philosophy. The outlook is for the most prosperous year in the history of this splendid institution.

Accused of Wife Murder.

Durham, Special.—The most sensational homicide this county has known since the crime for which John Hodges was hanged, the murder of his wife two years ago, took place three miles from Durham, and W. H. Tilley is held without bail. His claim is that he tried to shoot a dog in the yard, snapping his Winchester three times at the dog, and on the failure to fire he struck the gun with his hand, when it exploded, shooting his wife. The relations of husband and wife were not pleasant, and the theory of murder is generally believed.

Big Fire at High Point.

High Point, Special.—Fire Friday morning at 3:40 o'clock was discovered in the Sapp block on North Main street, and before it was subdued gutted the building, destroying the goods of Clark Shoe Company, valued at \$10,000, and insured for \$6,000; the High Point Clothing Company, valued at \$10,000 or more, with insurance of \$8,000; Moore Book Store valued at \$2,000, with \$1,200 insurance. Several people lived up stairs in the building and lost about all they had.

State News in Brief.

Mr. J. D. Elliott, of Hickory, has been awarded the contract for the new building to be erected at Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S. C.

Trinity High school in Randolph county, opened Tuesday with a good attendance, nearly one hundred being enrolled the first day. The prospects for a good scholastic year are bright.

A fair for High Point is being agitated for 1909 to become a permanent fixture. The plan is to organize a stock company and build race tracks and buildings and other things needful for a successful fair.

The special prizes of \$250, \$150 and \$100 for the best county exhibits in connection with the State fair to be in progress October 11 to 17, is expected to make these county exhibits decided features in the contest.

Thomas Nelson Page, of Virginia, will deliver the annual address before the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association at its meeting at Raleigh in October.

Fire Destroys Seven Stores.

Springhope, Special.—Fire at 3 o'clock Friday morning destroyed the postoffice and seven store buildings in the heart of the town. The loss is about \$5,000. The buildings were all of wood and an eyesore to the town. No insurance was carried on the property.

Sunday School Association.

Charlotte, Special.—The indications are that there will be a large attendance at the convention of the Mecklenburg County Sunday School Association. This is a convention of Sunday schools of all denominations and meets with the Sugar Creek Presbyterian church Saturday and Sunday. Rev. Dr. A. L. Phillips, of Richmond, Va., Mr. J. B. Robertson, State Sunday school secretary and other prominent Sunday school workers will be present.

BITTER ROT IN APPLES.

North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, West Raleigh—O. B. Williams, Director.

Occurrence in North Carolina.—This disease occurs in very destructive form throughout the Piedmont and eastern sections of the State, though it is possibly less destructive further west. In a recent trip through the middle section of the State, the writer saw dozens of orchards ruined by this rot which, but for the presence of it, would have yielded largely. In many of the orchards visited, the trees were in fine condition, showing suitability of soil and climate, and they bore an abundance of fruit, but closer examination showed that the ground under the trees was completely covered with rotten apples and that the apples still on the trees had numerous specks of soft, brown rot. In many villages and towns all apples offered for sale in stores were affected with this rot.

The facts as stated above show the very destructive prevalence of this disease in this State. This rot has been known in destructive form in the United States since 1867. It is estimated to have done \$1,500,000 of damage in four counties in Illinois in 1900. In the Middle States the losses are estimated to be from one-half to three-fourths of the entire crop. The President of the National Apple Shippers Association estimated the damage in the United States in 1900 at \$10,000,000.

Description of the Bitter Rot.—There are many different types of apple rot, some are hard, some soft, some wet, some dry, some of one color and some another, etc. The bitter rot of the apple, sometimes called the ripe rot, is a soft, wet, mellow rot, occurring usually as circular spots on the fruit. These spots, of which there may be from one to twenty or more on each apple, enlarge rapidly, run together, and the whole fruit becomes a soft, rotten mass. The disease usually begins while the fruit is still hanging on the tree, and as the disease progresses, many of the apples fall to the ground below.

Cause of the Rot.—This rot is caused by a fungus, known as Gloeosporium, the spores of which fall upon the apple, grow, penetrate it, and cause the decay. The spores are produced in immense quantities in small pustules, which appear upon the rotted surface. In many instances, the fungus passes the winter in cankered spots on the twigs and bark.

Treatment.—There are two forms of treatment, both of which should be followed. First, inasmuch as the fungus is known to winter in the canker on the branches, it is important when the leaves are off the trees to carefully inspect the orchard, hunt out these cankers, cut them out and burn them, and thus remove the most dangerous source of spring infection.

Second, the trees should be sprayed with Bordeaux Mixture in order to kill all spores which fall upon the fruit or twigs. Sprays should be applied before the buds begin to swell in the spring, just after the blossoms fall, and every ten or fourteen days thereafter until the fruit is almost ripe.

These two treatments combined will to a very large extent, serve to control this very serious disease.

F. L. STEVENS, Biologist.

Kick Fractures Skull.

Statesville, Special.—Mr. Noah Sloan, a young farmer, is in a dangerous condition at his home in Concord township as the result of a kick from a mule. He was in the act of unhitching a team of mules from a mowing machine Thursday afternoon when one of the animals began kicking and Mr. Sloan received a heavy blow on his head.

Bad Fire in East Spencer.

Salisbury, Special.—Nine dwellings were destroyed by fire in East Spencer shortly after midnight Monday night, entailing a loss of \$10,000, with but little insurance. The fire originated in a meat market and the high winds operated against the firemen. This is the worst fire in the history of East Spencer.

Tar Heel Items.

The cotton crops of Scotland county are proving to be very short. This is caused by the extreme dry weather a few weeks before the recent heavy rains, and then the floods made matters worse. Cotton has suffered greatly from the excessive rains; much of it was open and during the rains sprouted in the burs, and is now giving a product classed as storm cotton. With a short crop and short prices, and that coming after a failure on the watermelon and cantaloupe proposition, things are not what they were a year ago from the farmers' standpoint.

MATTERS OF CURRENT NEWS

Items of Interest Gathered By Wire and Cable

GLEANINGS FROM DAY TO DAY

Live Items Covering Events of More or Less Interest at Home and Abroad.

Foreign Affairs.

Chancellor von Buelow welcomed the Interparliamentary Union.

It is thought that Great Britain and Germany will stand together in preventing extreme measures against Castro by Holland.

Sven Hedin, the Norwegian traveler, gave details about his trip through unexplored Tibet.

Cardinal Vannutelli, the Papal Legate departed from London amid the singing of "God save the Pope."

The cholera continues to spread rapidly in St. Petersburg.

Andrew Carnegie has written a letter to the Interparliamentary Union urging universal peace and asserting that Emperor William could abolish war.

The Prince de Broglie has abandoned his wife, an American woman, and their child and says he will sue for divorce on the ground of infidelity.

A case of cholera has developed on the transport Sheridan in Manila and the number of cases at St. Petersburg has doubled in 24 hours.

The German Foreign Office has received the French-Spanish note on Morocco in a friendly spirit, but with caution.

Laws to give the Jews greater freedom are being drafted by the Russian Cabinet.

Political.

Bryan, in two speeches delivered in Delaware, directly charged the Republicans with relying on the contributions of the Steel Trust to elect Taft.

A number of Marylanders conferred with Chairman Hitchcock on the situation in this State.

Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Kern began his Western speaking tour.

A candidate of the Boston and Maine Railroad was nominated for Governor in New Hampshire.

According to the New York Press, Wall street has picked Chanler as the winner for Governor.

Governor Hughes was renominated by the Republican State Convention in New York at the dictum of President Roosevelt.

Bryan made speeches in Delaware and New Jersey, and in an interview at Philadelphia declared Taft was dodging.

Efforts for harmony were made in the New York State Democratic Convention.

The Delaware Democratic State Convention nominated a ticket, and the "drys" talk of putting an opposition ticket in the field.

John Temple Graves, Independence party candidate for Vice President, challenged John W. Kern, his Democratic opponent, to a joint debate.

The Republicans are represented as feeling confident that they will carry Nebraska.

National Affairs.

The Wright aeroplane was wrecked at Fort Myer, Virginia, yesterday. Lieut. Thomas Selfridge being fatally injured and Orville Wright's hip and several ribs being broken.

By new methods of economy the battleship fleet will save nearly \$100,000 worth of coal on its cruise.

Revenue and customs receipts are rapidly increasing, showing an improvement in the country's business.

Secretary Metcalf has run up against an old law which limits increase of navy-yard employes near election time.

Miscellaneous.

In a sham fight between four submarines and a cruiser the submarines scored a complete victory.

E. H. Harriman says he favors an increase in rail rates, not because he needs it, but for the reason that it would help the weaker lines.

The Great Council, Improved Order of Red Men, elected officers.

Emma Goldman, the woman anarchist, is going on a lecturing tour of Australia.

An effort is being made to bring about an affiliation between the English union of engineers and firemen and the American brotherhood.

The former Western manager of the E. McIlhenny Canning and Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, asked for a receiver.

Judge Pritchard, in Richmond, sustained his findings that the South Carolina dispensary system is illegal.

Mrs. Edith Bebe, widow of a victim of the Monaghan mine disaster, committed suicide in Buckingham.

Norfolk has a mysterious child abandonment case.

Burton and Conquest, the negroes convicted of rioting in Onancock, were granted new trials by the Supreme Court.

The State School for the Blind at Raleigh opened this week with 391 students, the largest enrollment in the history of the institution, and Superintendent John E. Ray says the outlook is for the most successful session in the history of the institution.

Linwood College, located at All Healing Springs, near Gastonia, opened last Wednesday with more than 80 in the boarding department. A number of others is expected.

Charlotte people are looking forward to the municipal convention which is to be held in this city in November with a maximum of interest. For months past there has been much talk of a commission form of government for Charlotte and this is the plan, with changes of more or less importance, which is being embodied in the new charter. The committee having this work in charge is "making haste slowly," and investigating every feature before accepting it for municipal purposes.

Forest Fires in West Virginia.

Cumberland, Md., Special.—Reports are being received of disastrous forest fires in the vicinity of Thomas, Davis, William and other points in West Virginia along the line of the Western Maryland Railroad. Water is very scarce, complicating the situation. No water has passed over the Dry Fork dam for some time and conditions are serious in that locality. The smoke is so dense at Thomas that objects a few feet distant are indistinguishable.

Confessed Murderer Arrested.

Jacksonville, Fla., Special.—Walter Ledbetter, a negro tramp, was arrested by Sheriff Bowden, in the settlement of Marietta, and confessed to killing Mrs. Norman and her daughter there Saturday. As soon as the residents of the settlement learned that the negro had been captured, there were threats of a lynching, but the negro was safely lodged in the Duval county jail, where he is under guard. A speedy trial is now being arranged for the negro.

AN IMPERTINENT CURIOSITY.

"Have you read the platform of our party?"

"Yes," answered Farmer Corntos.

"What do you think of it?"

"It's a good platform. But what I want to know is why politics should be the only business that allows a man to collect in advance on the strength of his good intentions?"

Washington Star.

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We will allow a cash discount of 10 per cent (thereby making the price \$4.32 per pair) if you send **FULL CASH WITH ORDER** and enclose this advertisement. We will also send one bicycle puncture closer and two bumper metal puncture closers on full paid orders (these metal puncture closers to be used in case of intentional knife cuts or heavy gashes). Tires to be returned at OUR expense if for any reason they are not satisfactory or on examination.

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