

Modern Farm Methods As Applied in the South.

Notes of Interest to Planter,
Fruit Grower and Stockman

Growing Good Crops of Wheat.

The present good price for wheat, and the apparent prospect for its continuance, is exciting interest in wheat raising in the South, and I am getting letters from many farmers, who have not been growing wheat, asking for the best methods for its cultivation. While wheat can be grown in the coastal plain of the South Atlantic region, it is hardly probable that uniformly good crops will be made there, because as a rule the soils are rather too light and the climate too humid for the best results in wheat, though in certain unusually favorable seasons good crops may sometimes be made.

The best wheat soils are the medium heavy clay loams, and a limestone soil is highly esteemed for wheat. Good drainage is, of course, essential to a crop that must pass through the winter, and only well drained soils can be expected to make good wheat crops.

Formerly, it was thought that the ideal preparation for wheat was a clover sod broken early in the summer and harrowed and tramped till well settled. And there is no doubt that a well prepared fallow is still excellent for the wheat crop. But cultivators have long since learned that this sort of preparation for the wheat crop is too expensive, as it takes the labor of the farm through most of the summer without any crop on the land, and the exposure to the sun is also a bad thing for the soil. In my boyhood I can well remember that a farmer would apologize for saying that it was "corn land" wheat, and could not be expected to be equal to fallow wheat.

But these same farmers who formerly thought that they were doing well to get fifteen bushels of wheat per acre, have long since found out that fifteen bushels is a very small crop, and that there is no better preparation for wheat than a corn field deeply broken in the spring and cultivated shallowly all summer, so as to bring about the same ideal conditions that an early-broken fallow gives. They have found, too, that after the hoed crop, whether wheat or tobacco, there is no need for re-plowing the land. In fact, there is good reason for not doing so, for the shallow and level culture of the corn has brought about the very best conditions for wheat, a well compacted soil and a fine surface.

Therefore, after a crop of corn or tobacco is off the land, a light disking kept up both ways till the surface soil is made very fine, will be all that is needed. If peas have been sown among the corn or tobacco, they should be mown off, for the turning under of such a growth would prevent the compacting of the soil that wheat demands, and more wheat will be made with the peas cut off than if they were turned under. But one thing is certain, and that is, that the surface soil can not be made too fine.

The best wheat soils in Virginia and North Carolina are the red uplands of the Piedmont section. Lands like the farm of Mr. Lambeth, in Randolph County, near Thomasville, in Davidson, where a crop of over thirty bushels is reported this season, should be made to average that much, or more, every season. The farm of the late Governor Holt, in Davidson, has made over forty-five bushels per acre, and these crops show that these red lands are ideal wheat soils, and will make more wheat to-day under good farming than the famous spring wheat lands of the Dakotas. But good farming demands that crops shall be grown economically, and it has been found, as I have said, that the following system is not an economical way to raise wheat. Our clover sod, while it will make fine wheat, can be more economically used for the corn crop.

The same may be said of the tobacco crop as a preparation for wheat. The leading idea is to make the breaking early, and then devote the whole season to the preparation of the surface soil to get it fine, and the lower soil compacted to the state the wheat prefers.

Then as to sowing. Too early sowing must be avoided on account of the Hessian fly. There is less danger of the fly after we have had one good white frost, and I would always defer the sowing to this time. This will usually make the sowing in all the warmer parts of the State of North Carolina about the last of October or first of November, and somewhat ear-

lier in the upper sections. Mr. Dauthridge, in Edgecombe County, made some years ago a fine crop of wheat sown in December, but in any of the upper parts of the State that would be entirely too late to give the wheat a fair chance, while it might do in lower Georgia and Alabama.

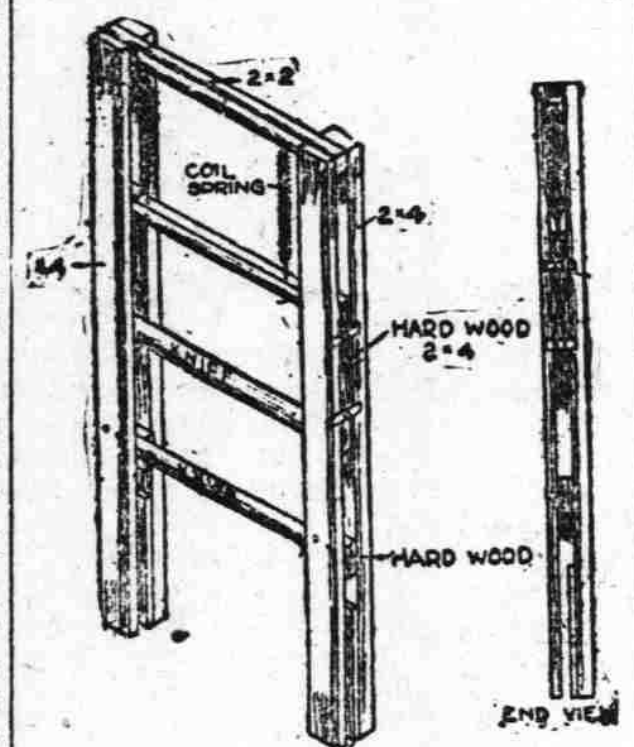
As to the amount of seed to be used, I would sow more on thin land than on strong land, for it will tiller less. On the best wheat soil five to six pecks per acre, and on thin soil seven pecks or even two bushels per acre will be none too much. Get seed wheat, if practicable, south of you rather than north, for south wheat is sown later and ripens earlier, and hence earliness is promoted by going south for seed. In the days of the old Blue Stem White wheat it was common for Maryland farmers to get seed from North Carolina, and they found this to be an advantage in earliness.

Where one has a manured clover sod turned for corn, the only fertilizer that will be needed on red clay soil will be about 400 pounds of acid phosphate per acre, and on sandy or grey soil an addition of twenty-five pounds of muriate of potash will be an advantage. Always drill the seed with a wheat drill, and never follow the old practice of sowing broadcast and harrowing in. See that the seed is clean, plump and heavy, for a great deal depends on the vigor of the plants, and you cannot expect strong plants from shriveled seed.

You will have no cheat unless you sow the seed with the wheat or have land already infested with cheat seed. Cheat is more common among oats in the South than among wheat, for the cheat seed is very much like a small oat, and farmers sow them with the oats without suspecting their presence. Then the winter may be hard and the oats get killed, but the hardy cheat grows, and the farmer, seeing green leaves, imagines that it is oats till it heads out, and then he thinks his oats have turned to cheat. No man ever had any cheat but what came from cheat seed which was in the ground or was sown with the grain.—Progressive Farmer.

Kafr-Corn Cutter.

L. A., of Grenola, Kan., writes that a good kafr-corn header can be made at a little expense out of two old stalk cutter knives and a few pieces of lumber. This is used for heading kafr-corn out of the shock. The lower knife should be bolted in the pieces of the frame, which should be notched so the knife will fit in and form a



smooth edge. The frame should be set on the side of the wagon. One man should stand on the ground and put the bunches or bundles on the knife, while the other man stands in the wagon and pushes the knife down against the bunch, the knife cutting the heads off, which fall into the wagon.

Cultivating Cantaloupes.

A thorough preparation of the soil before it is planted to cantaloupes will very much lessen the necessity for so much cultivating afterwards, but a great deal depends upon frequent and thorough cultivation during the early stages in the growth of cantaloupes; at first it should be deep and thorough, but not close enough to disturb the plants; the cultivations should be more shallow and further from the hills as the plants develop. The grower who cultivates deep and close to the hill because the vines do not prevent him, is cutting off one source of early cantaloupes. He should study the growth of the roots, for they form the counterpart of the vines on the surface, only they ramify the soil more thoroughly and to a greater distance than the length of the vines.

The Separator's Value.

A separator will reduce the number of churnings, the length of time it takes to churn, and improve the quality and increase the yield of butter.

SHOULD WAGE WARFARE AGAINST FLY IN WINTER

The point was recently made by a contemporary that the danger of the Hessian fly does not decrease with the coming of cooler weather, but on the contrary, rather becomes greater. The insect is driven within doors, seeking the warmth from the fires, and becomes at the same time both a greater annoyance and a greater threat to health. The advisability of waging warfare against it, therefore, does

not become any less. Scientists and hygienists declare that disease is often transmitted by this insect, and the claim is one that is supported by facts. Such being the case, the sooner we get to work in earnest, all over the country, to eliminate it, the better. The next few years will witness a great advance in sanitary measures to prevent disease.—Schenectady Gazette.



Good Roads For New Jersey.

The plan outlined in my first message to the Legislature contemplated a great system of highways to be maintained by the State between each county seat in the State and a boulevard on the Atlantic Ocean.

The proposed roads are very largely constructed at this present time, and the parts not now completed could be finished at no great cost. After they are fully constructed the State can maintain them at reasonable expense and relieve the counties of that burden. I doubt if our people fully realize what a connecting highway from county seat to county seat and a great highway upon the Atlantic Coast of our State would mean to the people of New Jersey.

These highways would be 850 miles in length. Think of that great length of highways of the finest roads anywhere, with all the conveniences for travel that they would give! It would increase the values of all agricultural lands and would make the whole State a place of the greatest attraction. The increasing of wealth to our people by this system of good roads cannot be estimated.

The cost of maintaining such a system of highways under the State control would probably not exceed \$300 a mile, if it equalled it. How could the State spend \$265,000 a year to better advantage on its highways? The automobile is with us, and to stay, and the fees that will come to the State from it will provide the necessary revenue each year in the future to cover this cost of maintenance. The automobile owner is perfectly willing to pay our present license fees if he can only have good roads, well maintained.

Such roads will save the license cost many times each year in the wear and tear of tires. Who can foretell what an ocean boulevard will add to our coast in the way of attractiveness? Our coast in a few years will be a city from Atlantic Highlands to Barnegat Inlet, and from Atlantic City to Cape May. People sojourn and erect costly houses where they can get most advantages and conveniences. New Jersey can assure them everything that is desirable, coupled with good laws, reasonable taxation and fine roads. I am convinced that the State highway plan that has been outlined is popular not only in the shore counties but all through the State, and will be more and more so as the matter is understood.—From Governor Fort's Speech at a Meeting of the State Highway Commission.

Passing of the Cobblestone.

Baltimore has made such strides since the great fire and the city has been congratulating itself so on its progress that the application for an injunction to restrain the mayor, city council and city engineer from paving a street with cobblestones comes as a jolt to municipal pride to remind us that we are not free from some of the trammels of antiquity. And of these the worst is the cobblestone. Appropriately enough, in the last year of the nineteenth century—1899—an ordinance was passed that cobblestones should not be used in future in paving streets of the city. So the twentieth century people began in the gladness of hope that this anomaly in a modern community would no longer be extended, and that what was left of it to afflict the sight and make sore the feet would be removed by the gradual process of elimination. Hence the jolt when it is announced that the city is preparing to pave a street with the unsightly cobbles, and hence the injunction of patriotic citizens and disgusted property owners to prevent a resurrection of past century methods. Smooth, well paved streets are among the prime requisites of a modern up-to-date city, and the cobblestones have absolutely nothing to serve them as an excuse for being. They are an unsightly blot on civic beauty; they lose time and create labor in travel; they are a source of ridicule to visitors and of mortification and discomfort to natives—altogether they belong to the past, with its watchmen, its lanterns, its horse cars and its other evidences of a primitive village period.

Old European Regiments.

The Gentlemen-at-Arms, inspected by the King on the four hundredth anniversary of their incorporation by Henry VIII., are not the oldest "nearest guard" of their kind—this honor being contestable by the "Garde Ecosaisse" of the kings of France, of which the lineal representatives—to some extent, at least—are the "Royal Scots," now forming the first regiment of the British line. The Garde Ecosaisse consisted of a hundred men, whereas our gentlemen-at-arms never numbered more than fifty, and the famous "Cent Gardes" of the second empire were modeled on the corps in which Quentin Durward served at Plessis-les-Tours.—London Chronicle.

Labor Bureau Disappears.

The first labor bureau in the world was the Massachusetts bureau of statistics of labor, established in 1869. By a bill passed at this session of the Massachusetts legislature the word "labor" is stricken from the original title of the bureau and it now becomes a bureau of statistics.—Wall Street Journal.

MUST BELIEVE IT.

Every Reader Will Concede the Truth of This Statement.

One who suffers with backache or any form of kidney trouble wants a cure, not merely temporary benefit. Rev. Maxwell S. Rowland, of Tom's River, N. J., makes a statement in this connection that is worth attention. Says he: "I was suddenly taken with an attack of kidney trouble, had severe pains in my back and loins and was generally run down. Doctors were not helping me, so I began using Doan's Kidney Pills. They brought me prompt relief, and as I continued taking them the pains in my back disappeared and the kidneys were restored to normal condition."

Remember the name—Doan's. Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

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The son-in-law's sock is never full. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c. a bottle.

Sweet are the slumbers of the virtuous man.—Addison.

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Child a Mass of Dreadful Sore, Itching, Irritating Humor for 2 Months—In Terrible Plight—Disease Cured by Cuticura.

"My six year old daughter had the dreadful disease called hives for two months. She became afflicted by playing with children who had it. By scratching she caused large sores which were irritating. Her body was a complete sore but it was worse on her arms and back. We employed a physician who left medicine but it did not help her and I tried several remedies but without avail. Seeing the Cuticura Remedies advertised, I thought I would try them. I gave her a hot bath daily with Cuticura Soap and anointed her body with Cuticura Ointment. The first treatment relieved the itching and in a short time the disease disappeared. Mrs. G. L. Fridhoff, Warren, Mich., June 30 and July 13, '08." Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Proprietors of Cuticura Remedies, Boston, Mass.

The talker sows, the listener reaps. When the lining of the bowels is irritated we have pains or diarrhoea. Whatever the cause take Pinkettes (Perry Davis).

Him that is in possession God helps.—Italian.

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"Was Amelia's father encouraging when you went to ask him for her hand?" "Not very. He asked me to put the proposal in writing so I couldn't back out, as all the others did."—Baltimore American. So. 39-'09.

No Let Up.

"There's the devil to pay at my house!" "Better go to church then." "Well, there's the preacher to pay."—Atlanta Constitution.

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National Lead Company, 1902 Trinity Bldg., New York City, makers of pure white lead, Dutch Boy Painter trademark, are offering to those interested a complete painter's outfit, consisting of a blow pipe and lead tester, book of color schemes, etc. State whether you want exterior or interior decorating.

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