

# Agricultural Department.

## Farm Labor

**Its Scarcity--How Labor May be Saved--Cultivate Less Land and Make Wiser Application of Fertilizers.**

(A paper read at the meeting of the Richmond County, Ga., Farmers' Club, by Dr. J. P. H. BROWN.)

Labor on the farm and in the home has become a question of serious consideration. Machinery and all necessary agricultural implements may be on hand, for the execution of the work, but unless the required labor is there the work is obliged to stand still.

The only independent farmers and housekeepers we have now are those who are able to do their own work without calling in outside labor; those who are dependent upon hired labor are often put to great pecuniary loss by not getting it done at the proper time.

I do not think the labor conditions can be improved by passing resolutions or recommending this law or that law for its rectification. Every year labor becomes scarcer. Factories, railroad construction, and other public works, take the best from the farm. They go where they can get better wages. The majority of those that remain are lazy, trifling and inefficient.

The capital stock of the unskilled laborer is the degree of his physical ability to execute work. He has a perfect right to trade or sell this for the most money he can get. No one can blame him. To meet this condition and increased cost of labor will necessitate a complete revolution in agricultural management.

In the first place the employer should have a clear conception of the value of labor. The cost should be gauged by the kind of labor or by the skill required. The brain-worker who pores over his books until his eyes grow dim and his head dizzy, commands more wages than the man who shovels dirt. The hand who can direct the plow—knows just what plow to use on a certain lot of ground, and what to use, at a certain stage of growth of the crop; how to apply his fertilizer, how to economize his time and push his work, is certainly worth more to his employer than the scamp who wastes his time, elicits his work and expects honest pay for dishonest work.

Labor is the foundation of capital. Every dollar the farmer takes in from the sale of his produce, and every dollar he pays out was obtained either directly or indirectly of labor. Either by his own labor or by wage labor. Labor is expensive. "The hands take all the profits in the business," is a cry coming from 50 per cent. of farmers. In most of these cases I am satisfied it is correct. The only remedy that I can see is to economize labor. To work fewer, but more efficient hands, and demand more efficient work from those that you do employ. You ask the question: How can this be

done? Right here starts the new era in farming.

First, by the use of the most modern agricultural implements, and labor-saving machines. Among improved implements I may name the gang plow, which can be used on most of land. The disk harrow, riding cultivator, manure spreader, which can do the work of 6 or 8 hands, the crop harvester and shredder, reaping machine, etc., etc. It takes capital to purchase improved machines. Not one farmer in fifty would be able to purchase a full outfit. Then, how can it be done? Only by union and concert of action. Let A. buy one machine, B. another, and C. another and so on. Then work by turns. Ever bear in mind that "in union is strength." Every neighborhood should have its farmers' union. Such coteries of farmers, conducted in a friendly, brotherly manner would soon consign little petty prejudices and jealousies to the shadow of oblivion.

### SECOND, INTENSIVE CULTURE.

One of the biggest losses to the farmer by wage labor is, when he marks out more land than he can well manure and cultivate. According to Georgia statistics it takes, on an average, three acres to make one bale of cotton; and ten bushels of corn per acre is the acreage yield. If you can get by improved culture, one bale of cotton per acre, and from 20 to 30 bushels corn per acre, you can save two acres of plowing and cultivating, the labor in doing the work, besides the wear and tear of plows and teams. Remember labor is money. Intensive culture calls into action the best thoughts of the farmer. He has to learn what to do; how to do; and when to do. It affords a great field for the young farmer to sharpen up his ideas, and encourage his enterprise and industry.

Third, a large amount of labor can be saved by a wiser application of commercial fertilizers. It is a fact that the effects of commercial fertilizers on light soil deficient in humus or vegetable matter are scarcely perceptible from the unfertilized portions. The fertilizer that is used on such land deficient in vegetable matter is virtually lost. But it costs the farmer money that was obtained by labor. Had that fertilizer been applied to land containing humus the results would be satisfactory with a corresponding increase of crop. But as it was, the labor expended in plowing, planting, applying the fertilizer and cultivating was thrown away. "Curtalement of acreage" should be the farmers' watchword. Apply more manure and compost. Take more time to prepare the land and give better cultivation, and increase your crop by intensive culture and not by increase of acreage.

—Mr. Herbert Horton, son of Mr. H. H. Horton, of Heath Springs, who has been running as express messenger over this division of the Southern, has been transferred to Winston, N. C.

## A Talk to Farmers.

**By Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture--Good Advice to the Tillers of the Soil.**

Do not allow the present price of cotton to allure you into planting this crop to the exclusion of the food crops. First, raise those things necessary to the life and well being of man and beast, raise them plentifully, then make just as many bales of cotton on just as few acres as possible. Do not waste the timber on your farms, or dispose of it for a mere song, but preserve the forests as much as possible. Study your business as a farmer, build up the waste places and not let a day pass that something worth while has not been done. Organize and 'pull together' for moral, social and material uplifting, and for the protection of your homes, and in a few years Georgia will blossom as the rose. Educate your sons, not so much with the idea of entering the always crowded professions, but hold before them in your own life and example the dignity of labor and fit them as skilled mechanics and husbandmen, and a civilization broader and better than now exists will be the result. Factories will spring up within hailing distance of the fields, money that now unnaturally flows from the state for the purchase of finished products from other sections will be kept at home. Then, and not until then; will the people of the south come into full possession of their rich heritage."

**Kershaw County Farmer Sustains Heavy Loss by Fire.**

Camden special to the News and Courier, Nov. 15th: Mr. Wiley Vaughan, who lives about seven miles north of Camden, sustained a heavy loss by fire last night. His residence, kitchen, barn and stable were all consumed, together with their contents. A pair of mules, \$300 in cash and about 400 bushels of corn were included in the losses. His horse and buggy were all he saved from the fire. So far as could be learned he had no insurance.

It would be a good idea for every city, town, village and hamlet along the line of any railroad, says The Four-Track News, to put up a sign or two somewhere in proximity to the railroad station setting forth the name of the town and whatever claim it has for historic, residential and industrial interest. Travelers often wonder, when a train comes to a stop, what the town is that spreads out before them and wherein lies its excuse for being. True, the railroads are doing a great deal to exploit and advertise the attractions, scenic and commercial, of most of the more important places, but it wouldn't be an altogether bad idea for the towns to do a little something themselves, if only to set up a bulletin of facts for the enlightenment of the passing traveler.

## MONEY TO LOAN.

I am prepared, as usual, to negotiate loans, on improved cotton farms, in sums of \$300.00 and upwards for five years. Interest at 7 per cent. on sums of \$1,000.00 and over. Under \$1,000.00, 8 per cent. interest. No brokerage or commission charged—only a reasonable fee for abstract of title.

R. E. WYLLIE,  
Attorney-at-Law.

## Notice.

To the overseers of the Public Roads of Lancaster County. I again ask you all to warn out your hands and work each of your sections of the public roads, as many days as the law requires or until you get your road in good condition. I want to find that each section of road in the county is worked good between this and the last day of November. As you all know you can't do much good working the clay roads during the winter months.

The grand jury held a meeting on the first Monday in September last and requested me to give notice to all of the overseers to put four days' work on each section of road by the first Monday in Oct. and for each of you to make a report to me that day. And I did so, but many of you failed to work or to make any report. So I kindly ask you all to read the report of the grand jury at the last term of the court. You will see by that report that they want to have the roads worked better than they have ever been in the past, or have the law enforced against any one who fails to discharge his duty. Let every one do his duty, and the law will not be enforced against any one, but otherwise, they say it must be done. Take due notice therefore and govern yourself accordingly.

Respectfully,  
M. C. Gardner  
Co., Supr.

## Town Property for Sale.

The following lots in the town of Lancaster, S. C., belonging to the estate of the late Mrs. Julia A. Taylor will be sold at public auction at Lancaster court house the first Monday in December next, to-wit:

The vacant lot corner of Chesterfield Avenue and Market street, lying West of L. C. Lazenby's residence, containing 3 acres—lot capable of division into several desirable building lots.

Also lot, with commodious, 2-story dwelling thereon, south of Lancaster & Chester Ry. depot, formerly occupied by Col. H. G. Melvin.

A perfect, guaranteed title will be given purchaser or purchasers. The heirs of Mrs. Taylor being all of age will join in execution of titles.

WALTER S. TAYLOR,  
MRS. H. G. MCLWAIN,  
MISS JULIA A. TAYLOR,  
J. BURROUGHS TAYLOR,  
Heirs of MRS. JULIA A. TAYLOR.

# HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

YOU can hurry me all you want to; I have got the stuff for your THANKSGIVING Dinner. Anything you can name that you will want. Call on me and get your orders filled correctly and at once. Cherries, Olives, Cranberries, Cranberry Sauce, Celery, Pickle, Catsup, Preserves, Saratoga Chips, Candies, Honey, Cakes and Crackers, Cheese, Maccaroni, Nuts, Raisins, Dates, Citron. Just anything you want.

**Huyler's Candy for De Gals.**

**J. B. MACKORELL**

# WANTED

## The Trading Public to Know

We have the Biggest, Best and Cheapest Stock of Goods we have ever had. We bought goods when cotton was cheap, anticipating higher prices, and, of course, such being the case, we bought more goods than usual.

Our stock of

## DRESS GOODS

IS NEW AND COMPLETE.

We pride ourselves on the best medium priced line of CLOTHING in the town. We carry a well-assorted and up-to-date line

## GENTS' FURNISHINGS.

And at prices that defy competition—quality considered.

When you think of

## SHOES

Think of us. We carry them in an endless variety of styles and quality. We handle the Forbush Cushion Shoe for men, and Kippendorf Shoe for women. Every pair guaranteed.

Give us a call; we welcome you whether you buy or not.

Yours, with Honest Goods at Fair Prices.

**Funderburk Co.**