

Agricultural Department.

Worn-out Lands

How to Restore them--An Experiment that Every Farmer Should Make.

The Progressive Farmer:

We have few soils that are simply worn-out. We simply call them so. We have treated them badly; so badly they have become unresponsive to our calls. Some of these were good, others were less so; but bad treatment, cruel neglect, and thoughtlessness of their comfort have contributed to making them what they are today.

What shall we do with them?

We can do three things:

1. Turn them over to weeds and gullies;
2. Make forests out of them; or
3. Bring them back to productive areas.

I am sure we have no desire to turn them over to weeds and gullies. We have already enough of each. Weeds come as nature's blessings to those abandoned fields, but the gully comes, leaving only ruin and desolation to mark its track.

Perhaps there are many areas where hills and rock abound, that might be used to better advantage if turned over to forest growth. Timber lands are becoming valuable, and with the coming years will be still more so. Hence, lands difficult of tillage and cultivation might be employed better in bringing on new crops of timber for the future generations that will need them.

Still the greater part of these so called worn-out lands can be reclaimed and brought back to the fructuous state they were in before the soil-robbler came.

This is the first step: Clean them up and give them the advantage of good appearance. If clothes make the man, good looks make the field. If fields could think, I surmise they would act like animals and men. To show their value they should wish to look well. But to be covered with brush and thickets and gullies, and the like, is enough to make them shameful and little doers.

Give these lands a fair show and they will brighten up and respond gloriously. For every cent you spend on them in the way of better appearance and clean faces, they will return many. Every gullied wrinkle you remove will bring hope and earning power to them and to you; the care and attention expended in grooming with axe and plow will produce marvelous changes in appearance, productive ability, and commercial value.

You may have many acres of this kind of land. If so, reclaim them as you can. Five acres, ten acres, or fifty acres: work along this line just as you are able. Winter is the time, and there is none better. You are not busy with details of other work; your men, your tenants have many, many idle days; your teams are inactive because winter is on and no work to be done. Make work; employ men and teams in these old fields. Cut the thickets, mow the briars and brush, plow the soil deeper than you have ever done before. Let the one-horse plow alone. It is

useless in these old fields. A larger, heavier one is needed, and two horses or mules will be required for the work. If you are able to do this during early winter the clay sub-soil turned up will do no harm. Freezing and thawing, air and rain, will get things ready for the crop, and no harm will be done.

Have you ever done this work? Have you ever tried it on your old fields? It may surprise you. It did me.

Small Grain.

Some of the Advantages of Sowing Small Grain and Peas--The Onion Crop.

Chas Petty, of Spartanburg, in the Progressive Farmer.

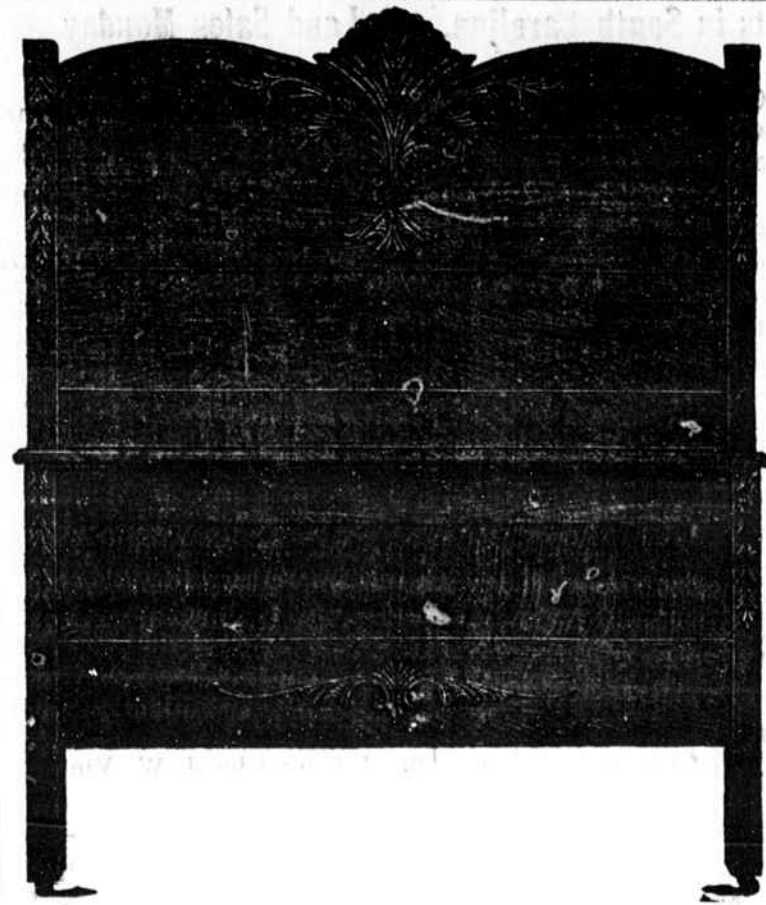
Last Monday the Cotton Association of the county met. The subject for consideration was "Small grain." Prof. C. L. Newman, Assistant Instructor in Agriculture, was present on invitation, and gave an instructive talk. He stated that analysis showed that the first foot of compact clay in the Piedmont section contained nearly four tons of potash and two tons phosphoric acid that was locked up in the compact clay and could be rendered available only by sowing small grain and leguminous crops and a systematic system of rotation with deep plowing.

The soil should be deepened gradually by breaking about two inches every year and incorporating that with the top soil. But deep plowing, the breaking of the hard pan and underlying clay, was worth little unless humus or vegetable matter was added by sowing small grain and following with peas. Small grain will force rotation, the sowing of cowpeas, the preservation of land from leaching and washing, the addition of humus, fall plowing and enable the farmer to secure two crops in a year and improve the soil at the same time. All this will lead up to the raising of stock and everything else needed on the farm that the land will supply. The raising of live stock lies at the foundation of permanent and progressive agriculture. Another advantage is that small grain and peas are the best grass and weed killers known. All the grasses or weeds known as pets can be killed out in two years by keeping the ground shaded with small grain and peas. One year is generally enough. It requires fewer hands to cultivate a farm when one-third of it is sown down. Labor saving machinery can be used in planting and harvesting small grain and peas. The productive capacity of soil can be greatly increased. The farmer who now makes eight bales of cotton on sixteen acres will soon make eight bales on eight acres, when he improves his land. The cost of production will be diminished. These were some of the advantages.

THE ONION CROP.

Since there are many buyers of onions in this Piedmont country the crop is increasing in importance. There have been some wonderful yields reported, especially in Texas, in which State an acre has been made to produce \$1,000 worth. This is a good climate for onions. With a little pains they can be kept well dur-

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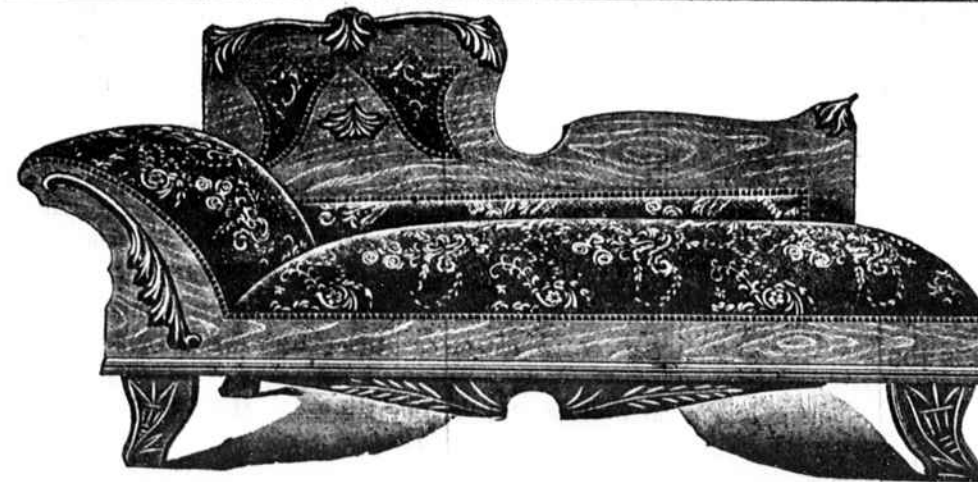
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The Underselling Store.

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ing the warm summer. The usual way to raise them is from small sets. The red and yellow varieties are generally considered best. The sets may be put out October 1st to December 1st, or in open weather in February. The way to raise sets with least trouble is to select a thin piece of land that will not produce grass and weeds. Poor land makes the best sets. Plant the seed in rows about a foot apart, putting a little fertilizer or finely pulverized manure in the hill. Cultivate them several times. They will be ready to gather as soon as the tops die. Solid sets, a half inch in diameter, are best size. The intensive system of culture should be used for onions. That is, they should be planted thick and highly manured. If the rows are a foot apart and the sets twelve inches apart, 5,435 may be raised on one eighth of an acre, or a plot 60x91 feet. The potato onion is the heaviest yielder, and will make about three

times as many as the sets. The best plan to get sets is to plant the seed thick under cover, and then transplant them. The onion demands nearly equal quantities of nitrogen and phosphoric acid, and twice as much potash as nitrogen. Wood ashes worked into soil will furnish the potash and lime necessary for onions. Commercial fertilizers are used the phosphoric acid and nitrogen should be about equal and twice the quantity of potash. For one-eighth of an acre about 200 to 250 pounds of a fertilizer that would show 5 per cent each of phosphoric acid and ammonia and eight per per cent of potash would be about right.

Attacked.

Says Mrs. Nancy Stoddard of Fountain Inn, S. C. - I was attacked by that terrible monster you call Rheumatism. OUR NEW DISCOVERY was recommended to me by our druggist, and after taking two bottles, that great monster of trouble and suffering was forced to take its flight. I gladly recommend it to any suffering with Rheumatism. Sold by Crawford Bros.

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E. M. CROXTON, Cashier-
CHAS. D. JONES, President.

LANCASTER & CHESTER RAILWAY COMPANY

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT MAY 28, 1905.
DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

WESTBOUND			
Lv Lancaster	6:30 a m	3:45 p m	
Lv Fort Lawn	6:49 a m	4:15 p m	
Lv Bascomville	6:59 a m	4:30 p m	
Lv Highburg	7:05 a m	4:45 p m	
Ar Chester	7:30 a m	5:15 p m	
Ar Charlotte--Sou. Ry.	9:55 a m	7:00 p m	
Ar Columbia--Sou. Ry.	10:15 a m		
EASTBOUND			
Lv Columbia--Sou. Ry.	6:05 a m	3:10 p m	
Lv Charlotte--Sou. Ry.	6:05 a m	6:00 p m	
Lv Chester	9:00 a m	8:15 p m	
Lv Highburg	9:40 a m	8:30 p m	
Lv Bascomville	9:50 a m	8:45 p m	
Lv Fort Lawn	10:06 a m	8:55 p m	
Ar Lancaster	10:30 a m	9:15 p m	

CONNECTIONS
CHESTER--Southern, Seaboard, and Carolina & North-Western Railways.
LANCASTER--Southern Railway.
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