

ADDRESS OF HON. D. F. HOUSTON, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

(Continued from Page 5.)

amental governmental principle. Such aid or subsidy is neither necessary nor desirable. There has been too much misconception as to what is meant by rural credits and as to the practice and results abroad. There has been so much talk about rural legislation on rural credits that many uninformed people get the impression that it is proposed merely to give farmers Federal money and to give it to them at lower rates than economic conditions could possibly justify, and even to give it to those who have no basis of security. In the minds of many people the term rural credits has become synonymous with governmental financial aid. This notion is highly fallacious and is detrimental to the working out of any national scheme. It is likewise assumed that cooperation abroad results in cheap and easy credit, that credit at interest far below the rate prevailing in industrial circles has extended upon character alone. There is no foundation for this view. There is no cooperation in Europe which does not demand of borrowers a safe security as is exacted by an ordinary institution, and interest rates are never below those which business securities justify, except in rare instances where a State has advanced public funds to be distributed in cheap loans. Where land-mortgage institutions or cooperative credit societies have become firmly established abroad there has been marked change in the rate of interest at which farmers secure money, but this results simply from the rejection of business principles and from the advantages of reliable cooperation. There is enough good cooperation to assure its spread.

There are enough possible advantages to demand the most sympathetic consideration of reasonable means by Federal and State authorities and the enactment of proper legislation at the earliest possible moment. The fact that there has been financial aid in Europe by no means furnished a precedent or argument for such aid in the United States. Intervention abroad, Mr. Herrick correctly asserts, was moved by the old feudal notions and the condition of serfdom or semi-serfdom out of which the peasant farmers had to be brought, and it of which they have not been tiredly drawn. Paternalism has been the relation of the State to the individual abroad. The individual did not have the requisite initiative, and it is not complimentary to the American farmer to compare him with the average European peasant. The American farmers are better than the European peasantry. Furthermore, they are the most independent and self-reliant part of the country's population. Special legislation, either for individuals or classes, would now be revolutionary and would also deaden the spirit of those who should rely upon it. It does not seem likely that they will demand privileges and special favors revised for conditions which have no parallel in this country and which would do them in the long run more harm than good.

It is likewise true that notwithstanding the wide prevalence of special rural financial establishments abroad the great mass of farm loans are made by institutions which are developed and controlled by private initiative, instead of by those which are endowed or guaranteed by the State. The total farm-mortgage indebtedness of Germany is estimated at two million. Of this \$850 millions is lent by savings banks, 750 millions by cooperative associations who receive no financial aid from the State and whose obligations are not carried by the State, and 170 millions by joint stock banks. This leaves a hundred millions, or five per cent only, placed by institutions especially aided by the State.

In this country, no matter what legislation is had at the hands of the State or Federal government much of the lending on farm securities will be done by private establishments. The Department through investigations has ascertained that 930 millions of dollars are lent on farm mortgages in the United States by savings banks, trust companies, and State and private banks, and that insurance companies have invested at least 600 millions in mortgage loans. That more should be invested and to more favorable rates if reliable machinery were devised for inspecting and producing safe rural securities and the business were conducted under efficient governmental supervision I have no doubt. Hence, the necessity for legislation both in the field of land-mortgage banking and of local cooperative credit unions just as soon as the Federal government and the States can determine the wise

course of action. The Department of Agriculture is taking a deep interest in this matter. It has made it a special part of its duty to investigate farm credit in every section of the Union, and to place itself in position not only to offer suggestions for land-mortgage banking legislation, but also as to uniform State legislation permitting and governing all forms of cooperative effort, and particularly cooperation in the field of rural credit.

This whole subject is now in the hands of a joint committee of the Senate and of the House, and I have little doubt that the next Congress will be successful in proposing a satisfactory scheme.

I have trespassed already unduly on your time. I regret that I am compelled to deny myself the pleasure of reviewing before you the extent and variety of the activities of the Federal government through its Department of Agriculture, and of the States and the Federal Government through the land grant colleges in behalf of a better agriculture, a juster distribution, and a more attractive rural life. Today the State and nation together are spending perhaps more than sixty millions of dollars to foster agriculture and a better rural life. No other nation begins to compete with ours in its provision for this great national industry. Through every promising approach the two great agencies are aiming to increase production, to make agriculture more profitable, and rural life more attractive. I can not, however, forego the duty of directing attention to the most recent act for bringing home to the farmers of the nation the results of agricultural science and practice, and to induce the average farmer to do what the best farmer practices. I refer to the Smith-Lever educational extension act, under the terms of which within a few years the nation will be expending, without considering local funds and without further legislation, approximately nine millions of dollars. Through the terms of this act the State and the nation are cooperating as they should in this and in other fields, and instead of trying to reach the farmer through bulletins or the newspapers alone, this large effort will be made to reach him by personal contact. The nation is taking the rural population to school. It has discovered that it can furnish educational aid to the man and the woman busily engaged about their daily tasks who have not had the benefits of the training of the colleges and can not spare the time to attend college. It is the greatest single educational undertaking on the part of any nation, and in my judgment, is the most significant and far reaching.

For many reasons I am optimistic about the future of American agriculture. More helpful agencies are operating on rural life today than ever before in the history of the world, and through his own intelligent effort with the aid of the machinery provided by the State and the nation, the American farmer will more than hold his own and need not fear competition. He will inevitably control the home market except for things which can not or should not be produced here, and will be called upon increasingly to supply the needs of foreign nations. We shall not, however, be blinded by over confidence and misled by the cries and alarm of the demagogue. In the high endeavor of strengthening the foundations of the national life, the Federal Department of Agriculture will cordially cooperate in its proper sphere with its great allies constituted by the States and will labor zealously for the betterment of the condition of the masses.

Origin of Knitting.

Knitting is a Scotch invention of the fifteenth century, and Scotch knitted stockings soon found their way to France. A guild of stocking knitters, too, was soon formed, with St. Fiacre as their patron saint. Hand knitting was not long left without machinery as a rival, for it was as long ago as 1589 that William Lee invented the knitting frame.

Origin of Word "Postal."

From the Latin word "positus," meaning stationed, this method of communication by means of relays placed at different points along the road came to be known as a post system and eventually as the postal system of today.

When Elsie Goes Shopping.

Elsie has been to the city on her first shopping expedition, and at the first store had sorrowfully emptied the contents of her small purse. Coming home on the train, her father slyly slipped a bright penny into the empty purse, with an eye to making his daughter's heart rejoice. Then behind the shelter of his paper he watched his daughter until she chanced to open the pocketbook. Deeply perplexed, the generous parent drew a sobbing little daughter into the shelter of his arms, until at length she howled heartbrokenly: "Fy, oh, fy, didn't I peed it!"

The Pipe of War.

There is hardly a country in the world where the pipe is not smoked in one form or another. In many villages of the northwest provinces of India are to be found public hookahs for the use and comfort of travelers. Everyone has heard of the North American's pipe of peace. General Blucher's pipe smoking was of a very different character. He appointed a man to the post of "pipe master," whose duty it was to fill a long clay pipe and hand it to the general before every engagement. Blucher would then enjoy a few puffs, give back the pipe, and gallop to the firing line.

TRAINING AND PRUNING THE GRAPE WILL BRING PROFITABLE RESULTS

Grape is One of Hardest and Surest Fruits, But Will Not Develop Well Without Proper Care—Very Important to Train Vines to Some Definite Form.

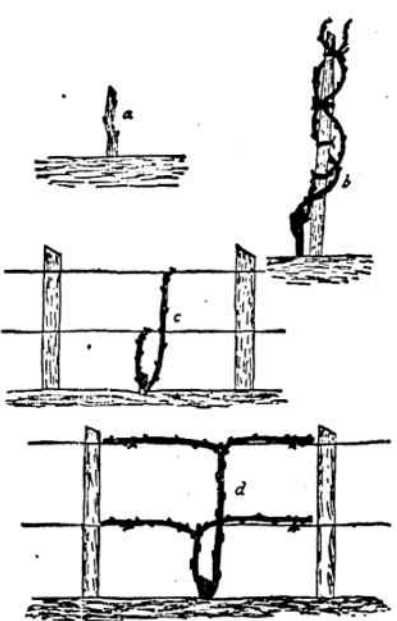
Unquestionably, the grape is one of the surest fruits that can be grown in South Carolina. Practically all the standard varieties will succeed. Nor is the fruit often injured by late frost. In general, it is safe to say that when vines are properly cared for there is almost a certainty of a crop every year.

But although the grape will produce some fruit under almost any treatment, yet results that are really worth having cannot be obtained without proper care of the vines. The old practice of planting a vine just anywhere and letting it grow at will is entirely wrong. Under such conditions, vines become thick and fall on the ground, there is a tendency to overproduction of fruit, to small bunches, and inferior berries, and at about the time the grapes begin to color up, they begin to rot. As a result, when the fruit should be ready for use, one-half or two thirds of it is worthless. Besides, vines handled thus are weak and last only a few seasons.

Perhaps the worst mistake in grape culture is failure to prune properly. It is very important that the vines be trained to some definite form. The easiest method of training the grape is as follows:

First year: Plant one-year-old vines. As soon as they have been put out, cut them back to three buds, as shown at (a) in illustration. Should all three of these grow, rub one off, leaving the strongest two to grow and form the frame of the vine. During the first season's growth the young shoots should be tied to a stake, as shown at (b) in illustration. This is to produce healthy canes. Should they be allowed to run on the ground, they will be weak and more liable to injury.

Second year: A trellis must now be prepared. Set posts 20 feet apart along each row of grapes. This will give space for two vines between each two posts. The posts, when set, should show four and one-half feet above the ground. The end posts should be set at least three feet in the ground and well braced to prevent giving when the vines are stretched. The other posts should be set at least two feet deep. To the posts are nailed two wires on which to train the vines. The lower wire is two feet above ground and the upper wire two feet above the lower. These preparations made, the young canes should be taken off the stakes, one cut off at the height of the first wire and tied, and the other allowed to extend to the top wire, as shown at (c).



Pruning the grape. (a) Young vine transplanted and headed back to three buds. (b) First year's growth, two canes allowed to grow. (c) First season's pruning. (d) Second and all subsequent seasons' pruning

Third year: Numerous canes will be thrown out from the two that were left the preceding season. The pruning necessary this year will consist of removing all canes except four, one going each way from an old vine on both wires. These four canes are commonly called "arms." They form the frame on which the fruiting canes will be produced.

After this year the pruning will consist of renewing the four "arms" each year when suitable canes of the preceding season's growth can be found to take their places. If this cannot be done, all the canes should be cut back to two or three buds. These buds will throw out shoots the next season on which the fruit will be borne. It is always best to renew the arms each year if possible. When this method is followed, each vine will produce from 75 to 100 bunches of grapes each year, which is enough. The vines are also kept thinned out, so that the sun can strike all portions and that spraying can be done successfully.

For further information on the grape, farmers should write to Sidney S. Rittenberg, Clemson College, and ask for Bulletin No. 15, "Fruit Culture for South Carolina."

C. F. NIVEN, Assistant in Horticulture, Clemson Agricultural College.

WHY CROSS BREEDING IS NOT ADVISABLE

Farmers sometimes get the mistaken idea that cross breeding will improve their stock. On the contrary, cross breeding has many disadvantages and farmers are strongly advised not to attempt it. It has at times been used with success in the hands of breeders of long experience, but for the inexperienced breeder it is a most dangerous practice.

Cross breeding is the mating of two purebred animals of different breeds; for example, a purebred Hereford bull with a purebred Angus cow, or a purebred Berkshire boar with a purebred Duroc-Jersey sow. It should be clearly distinguished from grading, which means the mating of a purebred with a scrub or an animal of very little pure blood, and which can be done with perfect safety and is urged upon farmers.

One of the principles upon which livestock breeding is based is that like tends to beget like. When two purebreds of the same breed are mated, we expect the offspring to be like its parents, because there is, behind each parent, a long line of pure blood. When two purebreds of different breeds are mated (crossbreeding), there at once takes place a battle of breeds and the offspring will be like that parent whose blood is strongest. When, therefore, two old breeds, as Tamworth and Berkshire, or Jersey and Holstein, are mated, there is a bitter conflict between bloods and influences that have required centuries to reach their present state.

In cross breeding the first cross is sometimes good, but after that such breeding is very uncertain, because the nature of the offspring will depend upon whichever of its bloods gets the mastery. Moreover, there is a danger that sometimes the good blood in each parent will balance that in the other, which will cause an outcropping of some bad characters that had been held in check ever since the breeds began.

Because of this uncertainty of results, a crossbred sire should never be used nor any crossbred females kept for breeding, except where a purebred is at the head of the herd. Because breeders understand this, a crossbred can never bring more on the market than it is worth for meat or work, and the farmer who breeds such animals loses his chance of selling his best product at purebred

prices. If for no other reason than this, a farmer should hesitate to cross breed. Keep in mind clearly the difference between the purebred and the crossbred. The purebred is the offspring of two purebred parents of the same breed. The crossbred is the offspring of two purebred parents of different breeds. A crossbred can never be registered, even if each of its parents was a breed champion.

If cross breeding is inadvisable, however, grading is advisable and is recognized as the quickest economical way of building up a herd. Grading is the mating of a purebred with a scrub or with a grade. Generally the purebred used is the sire and the scrub or grade is the dam. Grading is perfectly safe because all the power is on one side and the results can be predicted. A purebred Angus bull mated with scrub cows will produce calves of which more than eighty per cent are pure black and hornless, such is the power of pure blood over mixed blood. There is no better way for the young breeder to begin than with a grade herd and a purebred sire. In a few years he can make his herd as profitable as purebreds and will have learned how to take care of a purebred. But let him avoid cross breeding.

J. M. BURGESS, Associate Professor of Dairying, Clemson Agricultural College.

Last year the extension division of Clemson College put forth its greatest efforts in a campaign for increasing the acreage of wheat and oats. This year it is again urging the sowing of wheat and oats, but has added livestock to its propaganda. "Take the second step—livestock."

Manure is subject to heavy losses from several sources. For instance, many farmers lose practically all their liquid manure, yet this contains more valuable plant food than the solid. There are a number of ways to save stable manure and every farmer should exert himself to get the most possible out of his manure.

The most serious limiting factor in Southern agriculture is lack of humus in the soil. The easiest and most economical way to get humus in the soil is by growing and turning winter legumes. This also enables a farmer to get nitrogen from the air and cut his fertilizer bills.

DO NOT NEGLECT TOOLS

Farmers Suffer Large Losses by Failure to Care for Implements That Are Not in Use.

The farmer who puts away his farm machinery without oiling and cleaning it is certain to lose in the deterioration of the machinery many times what the time to care for it would have been worth. Failure to take care of farm machinery is a source of large loss to the American farmer annually.

Most farmers realize that they would save money by taking good care of their machines, but neglect to do so, either through carelessness or indifference. The most important step toward having efficient machinery is keeping it in good repair. In spare time, each machine should be carefully inspected and all missing, broken or overworn parts noted. Write the names and numbers of missing parts on tags and fasten these tags to the machine.

All machines should have a general inspection at least once a year. A rainy day in late fall is very good for this purpose.

Exposure to weather injures both wooden and metal parts of machines and a machinery shed should by all means be part of the farm equipment. Every machine should be cleaned, oiled, and housed after it has been used.

Painting aids greatly in improving the appearance and prolonging the life of machines. It protects both wood and metal from the weather. Paint should be used freely when needed. One of the best paints for all farm implements is made with red lead and linseed oil.

The use of good farm implements is increasing rapidly in South Carolina and farmers owe it to themselves to be more careful of their tools. In the year that has gone, they have learned some important lessons in economy, but there is probably no more practical way in which a farmer can economize than by taking the proper care of his farm implements—repairing them, oiling them, housing them, and painting them.

SIDNEY S. RITTENBERG, Agricultural Publicist, Clemson Agricultural College.

Temperature for Plants and Humans.

What does a plant need in the way of air and heat? By this, of course, house plants, not greenhouse varieties, are meant. The common run of house plants—geraniums, ferns, palms, etc.—ask only for a temperature of 70 by day and 60 by night. This is a very suitable temperature for human beings, too. There must be fresh air for a plant every day, although they cannot stand a freezing draft any better than the housewife can. A door or window as far away from them as possible should be opened and the air be allowed to change gradually. A light cloth thrown over them will enable them to stand a good deal of cold air coming in. Forty-five Fahrenheit will not injure most plants.

Perspiration Stains.

Perspiration stains may be easily removed by a solution of oxalic acid and water. Use a proportion of one drop of oxalic acid to 20 drops of water. Sponge the stains carefully with this and hang the dress to dry in the air.

Hail Kills Seagulls.

In a thunderstorm at Teesmouth, England, it is recorded, so much hail of such large size fell that the beach was strewn with the dead bodies of gulls and other sea birds. On three quarters of a mile of shore, 300 dead gulls were counted, all killed by the hail.

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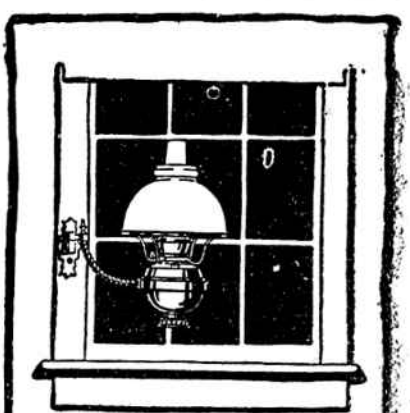
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Abbeville, S. C., June 1, 1915.

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