

News for the Farmer

TRY A PROFIT-SHARING PLAN WITH YOUR LABOR

There are two outstanding facts in regard to farm labor that every Southern farmer should understand, and then govern himself accordingly.

1. Labor for farm work will this year be shorter than ever before. The draft, the movement of thousands of Negroes north, and the high wages being paid by industries in Southern cities combine to make this certain.

2. A primary factor in getting labor efficiency is to hold the interest and enthusiasm of the worker. Give a worker a direct financial interest in the product of his labor, and, nine times in ten, we have sustained, intelligent effort; without such an interest to spur him on, he cares little for the quality of his work or the amount done; he is a dull plodder with no aim other than to "put in his day."

Ninety per cent of the land owners of the South use more or less labor other than their own in making their crops. With hundreds of thousands of our young men gone, the big problem is to maintain and even increase production with the labor supply that we have. Let us consider in their turn our three chief sources of classes of labor, and what may be done to speed them up to the utmost.

1. The Farm Boys. First of all, make partners of them. Call a council of them, and talk business for the new year. Impress upon them first the fact that prices of practically everything we raise are two and three times higher than during pre-war times, and that big profits await the farmer who efficiently manages his business. Then announce to them a plan by which they are to have liberal prizes if a certain number of bales of cotton, a certain number of pounds of tobacco, so many bushels of peanuts, or so many bushels of corn are made, with an increased bonus for each additional bale of cotton, each additional 500 pounds of tobacco, or each additional 50 bushels of peanuts or corn.

2. Get the interest of the hired man. Where hired labor is employed, the farmer may as well understand at the outset that he cannot get efficient labor at pre-war prices. Other industries are paying on an average probably double what they used to pay, and the wages of our labor must be raised proportionately if we are to hold it. With the high prices of farm products, increased wages are only just and equitable. More than this, it will pay, as with the farm boys, to put hired labor on a profit-sharing basis. Let every worker feel a direct interest in the crop he is helping to produce.

3. Make a business partner of the tenant. With probably half of all the crops of the South grown by tenant farmers, too little is being done to get the maximum efficiency from tenant labor. First of all, put the tenant on a cash basis, letting him have so much money each month, so that he can buy at cash prices, charging him no more than the legal rate for any money advanced. Second, offer liberal cash prizes for the production of a certain number of bales, bushels or pounds of any crops grown. Finally use fertilizers liberally to make every acre the tenant works do its best, and provide him with the labor-saving implements he needs to cultivate a maximum crop.—The Progressive Farmer.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN WORK FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT

Sow cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts seed in the hot bed. The plants can be hardened and set to the garden before danger of frost is past.

The lawn should be given a top-dressing of finely decomposed stable manure.

If the bark of your fruit trees is subject to cracking from sun-scald during late winter, shade the bodies with corn stalks or other cheap material.

Write the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for a list of available farmers' bulletins and then send for those of most interest

to you. There are a number on subjects pertaining to gardening and fruit growing.

Put a few forkfuls of stable manure around shrubbery on the lawn. To grow good specimens on the lawn the plants must be given special attention in the matter of fertilizing.

Sow onion seed in the hot-bed now to make plants for early spring setting. The Prizetaker variety is splendid for this purpose.

See that the winter apples are keeping properly. They demand a cool temperature, but should not be allowed to freeze. A hillside pit such as is used in the storing of Irish potatoes is a good place to store them.

If you haven't a barrel spraying outfit, buy one now and use it during the next two months, before the fruit buds open, in ridding your orchard of scale. Ask for a few of your neighbors to join you in the purchase so as to get them interested in spraying.

The first step in starting an orchard is to know what varieties to plant. The horticultural department of your state agricultural college will be glad to furnish you a list of varieties suitable to your locality. It is a waste of time and labor, as well as very disappointing to plant and care for trees that turn out to be worthless.

Go over the grape vineyard and replace all rotten posts and loose wires. All sagging wires should be tightened and new braces placed at the ends of the rows. It is well also to give attention to the scuppernong arbor in the way of replacing rotten posts and vine supports.

Watch young fruit trees closely at this season when there is a scarcity of green vegetation to see that they are not injured by rabbits gnawing the bark. Broom sedge or corn stalks make good material to the about the bodies of the trees to prevent this injury.

Make cuttings of the bunch grape Use well matured wood of the last season's growth and cut into lengths of eight to ten inches, containing at least two buds. The cuttings may be put out now by placing them a foot apart in rows, allowing just the top bud to be above the surface or they may be tied in bundles and held over in moist sand until spring and then planted.

While awaiting the arrival of your seed catalog make a plan of this year's garden on paper. The sketch should show the location, variety, and date of planting of each vegetable. Also, it should contain a system of rotation that will keep every part of the garden occupied through out the year. With such a plan you will find yourself taking greater interest in your garden work.—The Progressive Farmer.

CONSERVE FOOD.

William Elliott, Food Administrator for South Carolina has issued the following statement:

"The Food Administration requests those who entertain, whether dinners, dances, or other entertainments, in arranging their bill of fare, to omit therefrom all beef, ham or other pork products and to omit as far as possible the dishes containing sugar, and as far as possible to serve no wheat bread.

"The foods that are available after omitting the above, offer a wide range of selection; in fact they are far more appropriate for such occasions than any of the food stuffs mentioned. The Food Administration indulges in no criticism of those who give normal and proper entertainments, provided the above suggestions are complied with."

THE COAL QUESTION.

Every industry in the country that is not engaged in manufacturing war materials will cut their fuel supply which will cut their output.

We think it would be a good idea to start to saving our fuel by all the stores closing at six o'clock the year round. There is very little sold after that hour and it would not take the customers long to learn to do their buying before that hour. Why not start now and save the coal?

GRADUATED RATES OF TAX

Section 201 of the Act of October 3, 1917, imposes the following tax on excess profits:

Bracket 1. 20 per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of the deduction (determined as hereinafter provided) and not in excess of 15 per cent of the invested capital for the taxable year.

Bracket 2. 25 per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 15 per cent and not in excess of 20 per cent of such capital;

Bracket 3. 35 per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 20 per cent, and not in excess of 25 per cent of such capital;

Bracket 4. 45 per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 25 per cent, and not in excess of 33 per cent of such capital; and

Bracket 5. 60 per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 33 per cent of such capital."

The following example is given in concrete form so as to show how the above rates would apply:

A corporation is engaged in the manufacturing business with a capital of \$20,000.00, surplus \$5,000.00 and undivided profits (earned prior to January 1, 1917, of \$5,000.00, making the total invested capital \$30,000.00. They were engaged in business during the three prewar years with the same invested capital. In the three prewar years they have averaged a net income of \$5,000. In 1917, their net income amounts to \$12,000. How much war excess profits should they pay?

ANSWER.

15 per cent of \$30,000. is \$4,500.00. The deduction is ascertained by taking only 9 per cent of \$30,000.00 for the three years, or \$2,700.00, as the profits for those years exceed 9 per cent. So \$2,700.00, plus the specific deduction of \$3,000 makes a total deduction of \$5,700.00. This applied to the first bracket, or \$4,500.00, would make no tax under the first bracket.

In Cases of No Investor Capital

In cases of no invested capital or not more than a nominal invested capital, the following is provided under Section 209:

"That in the case of a trade or business having no invested capital or not more than a nominal capital there shall be levied, assessed, collected, and paid, in addition to the taxes under existing law and under this Act, in lieu of the tax imposed by Section 201, a tax equivalent to 8 per cent of the net income of such trade or business in answer to the following deductions: In the case of a domestic corporation, \$3,000.00, and in the case of a domestic partnership or a citizen or resident of the United States \$6,000.00, in the case of all other trades or businesses, no deduction.

NEW CROP OF SUGAR.

The United States Food Administration has issued the following statement concerning the sales of sugar to manufacturers:

"The new crop sugars are now arriving, but it will be some time before the supply in the Atlantic states is sufficient to fill all requirements. Therefore refiners should not increase sales to manufacturers up to eighty per cent until supplies are ample. In the western section of the country, where ample beet sugar supplies are available, refiners and beet sugar manufacturers should be permitted to supply manufacturers up to eighty per cent. In other words, sales should depend on condition of supplies of the various states. It is estimated that a twenty per cent restriction on manufacturers will result in an annual conservation of several hundred thousand tons of sugar."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Wilson's speech was read in by the world in two hours after he began speaking. So well laid were the plans for heralding the President's words around the world that in less than two hours news was received at the press censorship office that the entire address had been delivered at the news agencies of all the allied centers in South America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and the far East.

No merchant can afford to step out of the line of Progress and that is what he does when he doesn't advertise.

LICENSING OFFICERS.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Van H. Manning, Director of the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, today appointed the following persons as licensing officers in South Carolina in connection with the enforcement of the new Federal Explosives Regulation Act:

J. L. Perrin, Clerk of Court, Abbeville County, Abbeville, S. Car.; Thomas T. Cushman, Clerk of Court, Aiken County, Aiken, S. C.; Paul Whitaker, City Clerk, Bamberg County, Bamberg, South Carolina; S. H. Rodgers, Clerk, Circuit Court, Beaufort County, Beaufort, S. Car.; Edgar C. Dickson, Clerk of Court, Clarendon County, Manning, S. Car.; John C. Muller, Clerk of Court, Calhoun County, St. Matthews, S. Car.; William H. Dunkin, Clerk of Court, Charleston County, Charleston, S. C.; Thomas M. Caldwell, Clerk of Court, Cherokee County, Gaffney, S. Car.; J. R. P. Gibson, Clerk of Court, Chester County, Great Falls, S. Car.; P. C. Johnston, Clerk of Court, Dorchester County, St. George, S. C.; Harry A. Dargan, Clerk of Court, Greenville County, Greenville, S. Car.; C. A. Power, Clerk of Court, Laurens County, Laurens, S. Car.; J. H. Clyburn, Clerk of Court, Kershaw County, Camden, South Carolina; J. Arch Talbert, Clerk of Court, McCormick County, McCormick, S. Car.; Tom C. Hamer, Clerk of Court, Marlboro County, Bennettsville, S. Car.; John F. Craig, Circuit Court, Oconee County, Walhalla, S. Car.; J. F. Walker, Clerk, Circuit Court, Richland County, Columbia, S. Car.; John R. Logan, Clerk of Court, York County, York S. Car.

Francis S. Peabody, Chicago Coal Operator, has been appointed Assistant to the Director of the Bureau of Mines, to have immediate charge of the enforcement of the Explosives Regulation Act.

The law which went into effect November 15, provides that all persons having use for explosives must first obtain from the licensing officer in his county a license stating the manner in which the explosives are to be used and assuring the officer that the explosives will be properly accounted for.

It is hoped in this manner to account strictly for the disposition of all explosives and to prevent them from falling into the hands of evilly-disposed persons. The entire police force of the country has been asked to aid in the enforcement of this law. The penalty for the violation of the law is a fine of \$5,000 a year in penitentiary, or both.

HOME GARDENS CUT STORE BILLS

President Georgia Chamber Of Commerce Shows How Millions Were Saved Last Year

Atlanta, Georgia.—(Special).—"More money was saved in 1917 through the medium of the home garden than ever before, the United States Department of Agriculture estimating that there were fully one million new gardens made last year," says H. G. Hastings, President of the Southeastern Fair and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, in an interview reviewing the 1917 farming operations in the South.

"Thousands upon thousands of our people in the South," said Mr. Hastings, "for the first time in their lives learned to appreciate the money saving power of the home garden, properly planned, prepared for, planted and kept planted during the entire season."

"Up to the present it has been very hard to get our people to consider the home garden seriously as a real substantial factor in food production with the consequent saving of money that went for food supplies at the store. Unless we are much mistaken the home garden will from now on be taken as seriously as any other part of the farm work."

"A quarter to a half acre devoted to a variety of vegetables liked by the family can be kept going nearly the whole year in the South and give its owner as much as the product of two or three acres of cotton, even at present prices, will buy at the store. The right kind of a garden means an abundance of healthful food during spring, summer and fall and an abundance either canned or dried for winter use."

"Let no one be fooled by the lies spread abroad that the Government is going to seize home canned goods on closet shelves in the farm or home. These lies are started by German agents for the express purpose of discouraging our people in increased food production and saving. Few can go to the firing line, but all can join in and have a part in home production of food."

"We have never seen a permanently prosperous farm section either in the United States or in foreign countries that was not a diversified section, and in every diversified section the home garden has an honored and valued place. The home garden is a store bill cutter of the first rank."

GENERAL NEWS

Orangeburg, one of the good towns of the State, has Postal Telegraph Service.

L. S. Bowers has resigned as postmaster at Prosperity after a continuous service of forty years, having been appointed by President Grant shortly after the close of the Civil War. An honorable and a most unusual record.

Mayor Augustus P. Gardner is ill of pneumonia at Camp Wheeler and his condition is causing uneasiness. Mayor Gardner resigned his seat in Congress to enter the army. He is a son-in-law of Senator Lodge and while in Congress made many bitter speeches against the South.

Two churches are being erected at Camp Wadsworth. One now nearing completion has been built by the 102nd Engineers, Col. Vanderbilt's regiment, and the other, for which the foundations are being placed, belongs to the 107th infantry, the old 7th. Funds for the erection of this church have been presented to Major W. R. McCord, chaplain of the 107th, by Mrs. Cipriano Andrade, of New York.

Mrs. Marguerite Vivian Burton Thomson of Burlington, N. J., who recently married Count Christian von Bernstorff, the son of former ambassador Bernstorff, is thirty-five years old. The Count is only twenty-six years old.

The men who will do the nations fighting are those who have no families dependent upon them for a living.

It will not be necessary for the present to call upon the women and children for compulsory work in the munition plants according to the reichstag and the war office in Germany.

In York the fuel administrator seized one of these cars of coal consigned to the Cotton Manufacturing Co. During the recent cold spell there was actual suffering and the coal was distributed out in 500 pound lots.

Tom Lee Mayor of New York Chinatown is dead. He was 76 years old.

The Anderson Daily Mail wants the Congressmen to hear Billy Sunday preach while he is in Washington.

Republican Leader Mann and Representative Sims were the two men who came from their sick beds to cast their votes in the suffrage amendment which won by the necessary vote, 274 to 136.

A Baby Carriage manufacturer insists that he be exempted on the grounds that his work must go on. He thinks making baby carriages is an "essential war industry."

John R. Tolbert, age 84, of Ninety Six, died at his home on Jan. 9th. He was for many years a Republican leader and was a former customs collector at Charleston.

Trotsky told the Peace conference that Russia was not conquered yet. He said the Russians went to Brest-Litovsk not as representatives of a conquered people and did not intend to ask for pity but would continue to act as true revolutionists.

The payroll to the soldiers for the month of December amounts to \$78,580,800. This does not include family allowances, or compensation under insurance act.

Director General McAdoo says that the railroad situation has improved under government control so that there will be no more coal famines in any part of the country during the remainder of the winter.

The Food Administration is considering legislation to make the saving of wheat compulsory and has approved a bill drawn by Representative Lever author of the food control bill, to enforce wheatless days.

Several American soldiers have received commissions upon recommendations of Gen. Pershing. They men have seen service with the Lafayette Escadrille of the French army.

President Wilson received cablegrams from Hyndman, a British Socialist and Dr. Gavronsky, a Russian commissioner, who were aroused to protest by his words expressing our war aims.

Dr. Matthews and Mr. Johns are asking an appropriation of \$87,500 to be used in the maintenance of the Boys Reformatory at Florence.

A Greenwood County man disputes the Dutch Fork weather prophet and says the coldest weather we have ever had was in 1886 and not in 1880.

An embargo has been placed on exportation of butter except to nations associated with the United States in war.

The Mexican mission that is in Buenos Aires was more Hun than Mexican according to the authorities. They will not be treated as guests of the government. They were denied entrance in the Argentine ports except Buenos Aires.

Jacksonville was due to have a temperature of 18 degrees but instead had 24.

The annual meeting of the State Farmers Union will be held in the Jefferson Hotel in Columbia January 16, the opening session beginning at 3 p. m.

Senator Tillman wants to get the names of the soldiers rank, etc., who have dependents who should receive aid. He thinks probably he can get prompt action in cases that have been delayed.

Otto H. Khan, who is of German birth, says that there should be no bar to loyalty. Just because a person was born in Germany and now lives in America he should not just do his duty but he should speak out and let others know that he is loyal.

The Industrial Building under which there were about thirty manufacturing concerns doing business caught on fire and was completely destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$1,000,000. It is thought that it was of incendiary origin.

The supply of coal to less essential industries will be curtailed beginning this week. There has been actual suffering in the cities. The apportionment of coal will be left to the State Fuel Administrators. The instructions are to supply first householders then industries making war material and then unessential industries. Man of the unessential industries will be required to shut down at least three days a week until the fuel crisis is over.

The American Defense Society cup for having made the highest score at short range target practice for battleships was won by the Battleship Florida.

When a fire broke out in and destroyed the Lamar County Agricultural High School, one student was burned to death while the principal and several other students were severely burned.

A cargo of 400,000 bushels of oats will leave an Atlantic Port as soon as plans are completed. This is the first full cargo that has been sent out in several months.

Senator James H. Brady of Idaho, died in Washington Sunday night after a critical illness of about two weeks.

Mexican leaders returning from Germany and Austria will meet in Mexico City. President Carranza still remains at his headquarters at Pachuca.

A meeting of the crown council was to meet in Berlin on Jan. 13th. Von Hindenburg, Gen. Von Ludendorff and the Crown Prince were there.