

FOR FARMERS ONLY.

SOME TIMELY SUGGESTIONS FROM RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY.

How Farm Work May be Done Profitably at this Season—Valuable Information on Sundry Points.

Southern Cultivator.

With this month the cultivation of the main crops of the farm commences in earnest. On many farms corn has already received its first working and should now be in a thrifty, growing condition. The old rule of plowing over the crop every three weeks should not be observed, further than to be certain that the interval is never so long. Three weeks, as a rule, is too long an interval. If only three complete plowings are to be given, it were better to defer the first plowing until the plants have five or six leaves (if the ground has not been before neglected, or has not been run together by heavy rains), and then give the remaining two plowings at intervals of two weeks. But we have found a still better plan to give only a partial plowing at each going over, say two furrows with a sweep, or other wide, surface cultivator, and go over the crop every week or ten days in this way. We have before remarked that when two furrows with an ordinary sweep or smaller plow, are run side by side, the second furrow does but little over-half work. For general purposes of cultivating corn and cotton we have found the Planet, Jr., Cultivator a most satisfactory implement, leaving little to be desired. The winged sweep or heel scrape is good, but an expanding five or six toothed cultivator is much better. We insist that a four or five foot, or even six foot row, whether in corn or other crop, should rarely have more than one round or two furrows at any one time. Better go over the crop with two furrows to the row every ten days than to give four furrows every three weeks.

The deep plowing, root pruning idea in the cultivation of corn, as another crop, which has been advocated in certain quarters, cannot stand the test of intelligent experiment. On very heavy, rough soils, where shallow surface culture is impracticable and unsatisfactory, deeper plowing and incidentally root cutting may be the lesser of evils. It is better to cut and mangle the roots somewhat, than to do nothing at all. A general surface cultivator, or other shallow running implement may be safely used whenever it will take the soil and thoroughly disintegrate it to the depth of one inch. The idea that the essential object of cultivation of a growing crop is to break the soil so that the roots can penetrate it is fallacious. Such breaking is one of the principal objects of the preparatory plowing before planting, or at the latest, the first plowing. Subsequent cultivation serves to break the surface crust or prevent its formation, thereby permitting a free percolation of air into the root layer of soil, and preventing too rapid evaporation of moisture from below. The destruction of grass and weeds is a secondary and accidental effect of surface culture, necessary, of course, but of subordinate importance to the thorough aeration of the soil.

Of course every farmer will plant peas in his corn fields if for no other purpose than to improve the land. The value of the peas harvested, either in the form of hay, or ripe seed, or pastured by hogs, is nearly always greater than the entire expense of planting and cultivating the peas. Indeed the value of the peas, including seed and the labor of dropping and covering, comprise about all the expense up to the time of harvesting. According to our own experience, the best way to plant peas in corn, in May, is to open a furrow with a shovel in the center of the corn middle, drop eight or ten peas every step, and cover with a cultivator, set to straddle the furrow with two forward teeth, permitting the other teeth to stir the adjacent surface. With this plan in view it is preferable, even when corn is planted in hills, to have the latter wider one way than the other, so as to have the corn hills and the pea hills to pretty equally occupy the land. At the final plowing of the corn peas may be sown broadcast for the purpose, first, of providing pasturage or hay; and secondly, to improve the land. But next month will find enough to discuss the policy of pasturing, or making hay of the peas, rather than permitting them to rot on the surface, or turning them under.

As soon as the cotton is well up, and sometimes before it is up, it is good practice to broadcast harrow the fields, using a harrow the teeth standing backward. This breaks the crust and destroys the weeds more expeditiously than any other plan. The harrow should be run either along the rows, or diagonally across, as the condition of the land and crop seems to indicate as better. Of all the cotton choppers—so called—that we have seen, those that are operated by pulling them across the rows give best results. In the absence of any implement of this kind a common sweep, or heel scrape, may be effectively used on comparatively smooth, level land. We presume, however, that most farmers will adhere to the old method of sowing the young plants, and then chopping out with the ordinary hand hoe. When this method is practiced we advocate rapid work, rather than thorough. On smooth, old land, a hoe hand ought to go over from one and a half to two acres per day. By this plan the entire crop may be gone over in a week or ten days, then go over immediately and thin to a final stand, and clean thoroughly of all grass and weeds that may be present.

Cotton will stand more neglect than corn. Frequent cultivation is important to its rapid and healthy growth and development. Surface culture should be the rule, using the implement that will cover the greatest surface at a going, and satisfactorily pulverize the surface. Af-

ter the first plowing, at least, but one furrow should be run at a time (at one plowing) in rows under four feet wide. That is to say, get a wide implement and proceed and do not put two furrows in a middle. If they overlap more than three or four inches. The three or four inches or more, thus overlapping, is practically labor lost.

During this month the battle against grass and weeds is practically won or lost, especially in the cotton field. It is indispensable that the early grass, that which comes up with the plants, be effectively destroyed before it has reached a stage of vigorous growth. This early crop of grass generally gives more trouble than succeeding germinations, because the cotton is small and it is impracticable to cultivate it as effectively. The young cotton, on thin, light soils especially, is apt to be infested by lice, and the stand is sometimes almost destroyed. Science, which has furnished many valuable insecticides, has so far offered no practical remedy for the cotton plant louse. Good, or well fertilized land, is the best guarantee of exemption, the plant on such land being pushed forward with more vigor. Good cultivation—keeping the surface in good, mellow condition—is the only practical remedy, often fails when the weather is unfavorably cool.

On low lying lands—too cold and wet to plant in March and April—corn may now be planted, and will be more likely to escape the dreaded budworm than if planted earlier. Several years since a practical farmer gave the following as his treatment of corn on lands subject to the depredations of the budworm, or bill bug, as we have heard it called: As soon as corn is well up scrape away the soil from around the stem of each plant. Our informant stated that he used for the purpose of removing the surface soil an ordinary steel or iron garden rake.

Successful plantings of forage crops such as drilled corn, millets, etc., should be made every two or three weeks until mid-summer. We noted on any farm too much green food, if of good quality. Every crop that is fit for green food, can be converted into hay, or ensilage.

May is the month to plant out the main crop of draws from the bed, and plantings rarely do as well, and are never so easily cultivated as those put out in May or June. One of the most essential points to be regarded in securing a good setting of vigorous plants, is to have good, well-rooted, and somewhat hardened slips, and to plant them only on fresh plowed beds. The practice of having the beds already made in anticipation of a rain, and then planting the slips in the sodden soil, is not to be commended. We would greatly prefer not to wait for a rain, but to make the beds fresh by bedding, or rebedding, and plant in the fresh, moist soil, than to plant just after a heavy rain, or without re-plowing the land. The beds should not be less than 3 feet from crown to crown, rather flat, than sharp and high, and the plants set not over two feet, as fewer vines and less time for planting are required, and better potatoes will result where the greater distance is given.

In all the region north of the tropical sugar-cane belt, an acre or two in sorghum for syrup, should be planted on every farm. While not as palatable as the syrup made from the true cane, yet, if made with proper care on one of the many evaporators now available, it comes in "mighty handy" in mid-summer to help out the rations and gain syrup costs less than half as much to produce it as cane syrup, since very rich land, nor very high manuring is necessary to produce a fair yield. As a forage crop the Minnesota Amber is considered by many good farmers as equal to any. For this purpose it may be planted in succession until July 1, and will afford two or more cuttings of excellent food for horses and cattle.

In our discussion we congratulate the farmers of the South on their steady improving condition and brightening prospects before them. The thoroughly organized farmers of the country are a mighty power in the land. Let organization and cooperation continue and be perfected, to the uplifting of our calling, the general advancement of our industrial classes—the real wealth creators of the country—and the reformation of legislative abuses, which have resulted in well nigh crushing taxation on the population of this Nation, to the remaining tenth. Farmers, as individuals, and as a class, ought to take an active interest in the industrial and economic questions of the day, and make the will of the toiling masses the law of the land. Let unjust discriminations in favor of one class, let legislation to make a few rich men still richer while the great majority are struggling under the weight of insupportable and degrading taxation, be abolished. By these interesting and useful in these great questions, and by influencing arguments and votes in moulding and shaping public opinion and the legislation of the country, the farmers do not necessarily become politicians individually, nor does their organization become a great political party. Politician is a word that has come to mean simply an office seeker for office sake. Beware of the leadership of such.

BUTLER TO TILLMAN. A REPLY TO SOME CHARGES AS TO FERTILIZERS.

An Appeal to the Record and the Law—Capt. Tillman Requested to Prove or Retract.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 15, 1890. Capt. E. R. Tillman.—In the newspaper reports of your speech at Anderson on May 10th, you are reported as charging, substantially, that the department of agriculture has permitted the farmers of South Carolina, to be defrauded in the purchase of commercial fertilizers by failure to punish manufacturers whose goods fall below their guarantees. You are further reported to have said that you could prove all that you charged, and that you would bring the annual report of the department for the year 1886 as authority upon which to sustain your statement.

The legal penalty in regard to deficient fertilizers is seizure, condemnation and sale, and because this penalty has not been inflicted you deny that any other penalty has been imposed. This provision of the law cannot be enforced, if the sufficient reason that when the analyses are made the fertilizers have been found to be ground and run out of reach of an action of the kind prescribed. This defect in the law has been reported to the Legislature, and could have been amended if that body had thought it necessary or desirable. That this has not been done, forces me to the conclusion that the representatives of the people honestly believe that the existing laws were sufficient, or that the existing department itself had made amendments unnecessary.

While, therefore, we have not seized and sold deficient fertilizers, we have detected and exposed all deficiencies, as the very report from which you quoted shows. Finding that the law did not reach the case as contemplated, the department resorted to the publication of the manufacturers' guarantees along with the official analyses, printing in italics those brands falling below the guarantee. This directed attention immediately to all deficient brands. It should be understood, however, that the department has never undertaken to exercise the judicial authority to declare which, if any, of such brands were fraudulent. This penalty, voluntarily imposed by the department, was, after detection, put upon every brand which showed slight deficiency. In one case this deficiency amounted to only one hundredth of one per cent of potash, the cheapest ingredient used in commercial fertilizers. The department could not say that this was a fraud any more than it could officially pronounce other brands fraudulent where the difference was greater. Just what the difference is a question to be determined by the courts alone.

There may be a difference of opinion as to whether merely exposing the deficiency was sufficient punishment, but the Legislature has so regarded it, because it has for ten years failed to provide other punishment, even after the defects in the law had been officially reported. But the best evidence of the effect of this method of punishment is found in the subsequent reports of the department. This plan (of italicizing deficient brands) was first adopted in 1884. An examination of our reports since that time will show that there has been a steady improvement in the value of fertilizers. It was not expected that it would in one season result in bringing every brand up to the guarantee, because new brands are being introduced every year, and the manufacturers of such brands, not having realized the effect of this penalty, might take risks that those who had been once exposed would afterwards avoid if possible. With the exception of the ammoniated fertilizers in a single season, the improvement in the grade of fertilizers has been marked. Take, for instance, the very report that you so garbled in making your charges. It is there shown that the averages of the manufacturers' guarantees for ammoniated fertilizers for that season were: Available phosphoric acid, 8.92 per cent. Ammonia, 2.18 per cent. Potash, 1.49 per cent. Commercial value, \$20.79.

The averages of the analyses by our chemist were: Available phosphoric acid, 9.50 per cent. Ammonia, 2.61 per cent. Potash, 2.17 per cent. Commercial value, \$14.47.

Now this shows that, taking the general sales throughout the State, these goods for that season exceed the manufacturers' guarantee in: Available phosphoric acid, 1.08 per cent. Ammonia, 0.53 per cent. Potash, 0.68 per cent. Commercial value, \$3.68 per ton. Why did you not explain this also? Was it because you had determined to denounce the department of agriculture, regardless of facts, and simply made use of such garbled extracts as suited the purpose you had in view? I am forced to that conclusion. This is confirmed by the further reply you are said to have made when you were asked what had become of the money of the department, and replied that you "did not know." The report in which you found so much to condemn, contained, as you well knew, an itemized statement of every expenditure made by the department for that year. You, therefore, did know the purposes for which it had been expended, and your answer was worse than a simple evasion of the question.

You have assumed that all fertilizers found deficient are fraudulent, and that in all such cases the farmers are swindled. The agricultural value of many brands of this character is not affected by the slight deficiencies detected, but all are published, because consumers have a right to know the exact results obtained. It is of ten the case that the commercial value of such fertilizers exceeds the guarantee. But, there being a difference between commercial and agricultural value, we regard and treat any brand falling below the guaran-

THE DEAF HEAR.

That sounds miraculous, and yet one may become temporarily deaf on account of blood poisoning settling in the ear, and then find quick relief by using B. B. B. (Boric Acid Blood Purifier).

John W. B. (Boric Acid Blood Purifier), writes: "Six months ago I had a pain in my ear and in a few days it discharged matter. Then I grew deaf and could not hear at all. I began the use of B. B. B. and the running of my ear soon ceased and I now hear, while my health is much improved and I feel full of gratitude to God and to the proprietors of so good a remedy." S. M. Ellis, Atlanta, Ga., writes: "B. B. B. cured my most stubborn eczema. I had doctored it without success for twelve years." W. H. Davis, San Marcos, Texas, writes: "I am rapidly recovering from blood poisoning by use of B. B. B."

General Joseph E. Johnston has consented to unveil the equestrian statue of General Robert E. Lee, May 29th.

Bradford's Female Regulator will cure irregularities or derangements peculiar to women. The sufferer should use it. Sold by all druggists.

A fact worth knowing is that blood diseases which all other medicines fail to cure yield slowly but surely to the blood cleansing properties of P. P. P. (Prickly Ash, Poke Root and Potassium).

R. L. Burks, the efficient secretary of the Farmers' Alliance of Georgia reports the continued growth of the order. He sent out eighteen new charters in ten days, and the cry is, "Still they come." People wonder when they find how rapidly health is restored by taking P. P. P. (Prickly Ash, Poke Root and Potassium). The reason is simple, as it is a powerful combination of the roots and herbs of the home woods. The directors of the Terrell county, Ga. Alliance met recently, and declared a dividend of 25 per cent. This added to a 25 per cent. previously declared makes a dividend of 45 per cent. on the capital paid in. Good enough. The Farmers' Alliance of North Carolina have pledged themselves not to give their support to any candidate for the Legislature who is not known to be in favor of a railroad commission for North Carolina, nor any candidate for Congress who will not pledge himself to exert his best efforts to secure the early enactment of the bill before Congress known as the sub-treasury bill. The Greene county, Ga. Alliance has resolved to support no man for Governor, Legislature or Congress, or other office of trust in the approaching elections, who has not proved himself to be in full sympathy with the principles of the order; and who is not avowedly opposed to the payment of the per diem of legislators absent from duty, without providing for the same; and who will not agree to give to the agricultural interests his best support first, last and all the time.

A Spring Medicine FOR TIRED MAN AND WOMAN.

P. P. P. will purify and vitalize your blood, create a good appetite and give you whole system tone and strength. A prominent railroad superintendent at Savannah, suffering with Malaria, Dyspepsia, and Rheumatism says: "After taking P. P. P. I feel as well as I have ever felt, and I feel as if I could live forever, if I could always get P. P. P." If you are tired out from over-work and close confinement, take P. P. P. If you are feeling badly in the spring and out of sorts, take P. P. P. If your digestive organs need toning up, take P. P. P. If you suffer with headache, indigestion, dizziness and weakness, take P. P. P. If you suffer with nervous prostration, nervous exhaustion and a general let-down of the system, take P. P. P. For Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Scrofula, Old Sores, Malaria, Chronic Female Complaints, take P. P. P. Prickly Ash, Poke Root and Potassium. The best blood purifier in the world. LIPPMAN BROS., Wholesale Druggists, LIPPMAN'S BLOCK, Savannah, Ga.

LIPPMAN'S PYRAFUCE, A SURE CURE FOR CHILLS & FEVER, DUMB AGUE & MALARIA.

LIPPMAN BROS., Wholesale Druggists, Sole Proprietors, Lippman's Block, Savannah, Ga.

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