

### THE GROWING CROPS.

Reports Made to the Department of Agriculture by its Special Correspondents.

The State Department of Agriculture has received and tabulated the April 1st reports of its special correspondents. These returns cover every county in the State and over one-half the townships.

### AREA IN WHEAT AND OATS.

Estimates based upon these reports show that the area in wheat has been increased three per cent. over the area of 1886. The condition is reported at 4 per cent. better than at the same time last year, but 5 per cent. below an average crop. The area in oats shows a decrease of 5 per cent. below last year. Condition 2 per cent. below an average crop.

It is estimated that 42 per cent. of the oat crop was sown in the fall, and seventy-four of the correspondents report the early sowing in better condition than that sown in the spring, while one hundred and thirty-seven consider the latter crop the most promising.

The correspondents estimate that only about 3 per cent. of the wheat crop was drilled, the balance of the crop being broadcasted; and the reports, with very few exceptions, show that the condition of the grain sown broadcast is much better than the small proportion that was drilled. It is estimated that 20 per cent. of the wheat crop was winter killed.

### LIVE STOCK.

The condition of horses and other work animals is reported at 7 per cent. below the average of this season of the year, due entirely to the deficiency of grain produced by the small crops of 1886. The condition of cattle, sheep and hogs is fully up to an average.

Live stock has suffered very slightly from diseases of any kind, the principal complaint being of cholera among hogs, but this does not appear to have been as prevalent as in previous years. A few cases of glanders have been reported among horses, but the spread of the disease has been checked by the action of the Department and the owners of the stock in destroying the afflicted animals.

### FARM SUPPLIES.

The reports indicate that the amount of farm supplies purchased will not be less than in 1886, owing to the partial failure of the crops of last year, but the correspondents report that the farmers are using every effort to better their condition by practicing the most rigid economy, and by a determination to increase the area in food crops.

### COTTON ON HAND.

From November 1, 1885, to April 1, 1886, the sales of commercial fertilizers in South Carolina amounted to 101,381 tons; for the same period in 1886-87 the sales have been 91,076 tons, showing a decrease the present season of 10,305 tons. The sales are also 18,238 tons below 1884-85, showing, for the past two years, a steady decline in the consumption of commercial fertilizers by the farmers of the State.

### COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS.

The correspondents report that about 5 per cent. of last year's cotton crop was in the hands of the farmers on the 1st of April. This amounts to about 25,000 bales.

### FRUIT, ETC.

Fruit garden produce, and early planted corn have been injured by the recent frosts and freezes, but it was too early, at the date of the reports, April 1, to furnish an estimate of the amount of damage inflicted.

### REMARKS.

While these reports do not make as favorable an exhibit as could be desired, still there are some facts contained in them that should encourage the farmers. The area in wheat has been increased. The condition of both wheat and oats is higher than at the same time last year. A smaller proportion of the crop was winter killed than in 1886. Horses and other work animals are in fair condition for farm work. There has been no increase in the amount of food supplies purchased, notwithstanding last year's short crops, and there has been a decrease in the amount of commercial fertilizers purchased in value of about \$300,000.

### When to Plant Seeds.

It is a common notion that the temperature of the air and the soil is a reliable indication of the time for planting the different varieties of farm and garden seeds. Many farmers will not plant corn or cotton until, in their judgment, the soil is "warm enough" to germinate the seed. That this is not an unerring guide may be easily demonstrated by the experience of any one who has kept a diary and observed closely. It is quite true that corn, nor cotton, nor other seed will germinate and come up if the temperature of the soil continues, after planting, below the proper degree of warmth for the germination and growth of the particular seed. But ordinary observation shows that in our country the climate of the spring is so variable that the temperature of the air and soil on one day is no guarantee of what it will be three or four days thereafter. The conditions of planting may be all right at the time of planting, and be all wrong at the time of germinating. In the spring corn usually requires about twelve or fourteen days to come up, and cotton seed from five to ten days. Hence, the weather may be all that could be desired for several days after planting the seed and then turn cold or rain. It is more important that the latter half of the period of germination should be more favorable than the first half. The correct rule is to plant according to time—the day of the month—having regard otherwise only to proper degree of dryness in the soil, which

### A BANK OF BILLETTS.

The Relations of the Bank of France—Historical Sketch of a spontaneous Financial Institution.

A few evenings ago, says the *Baroness*, I attended a most interesting reception in the Parisian world—a reception where few foreigners are ever admitted. It was given by M. Magnin, governor of the Bank of France, on the occasion of the eighty-seventh anniversary of the institution. During the evening I gathered much information, and, as it has never been published, my American friends may find a few notes of value. After many trials and failures, the great Bank of France was born in the nineteenth century. In the beginning its capital was 30,000,000 francs, represented by 30,000 shares of 1,000 francs each, and its shareholders were Napoleon Bonaparte, Lucien Bonaparte, Hortense de Beauharnais, Cambaceres, Durue and others less noted. Its temporary home was the Hotel Massieu, in the Place des Victoires. In 1857 its capital was increased to 182,500,000 francs. Many special laws have been enacted giving privileges to this bank until December 31, 1879, privileges renewable after that date. The building occupied by the Bank of France at the present time has great importance. It is an irregular quadrilateral building, surrounded by the Rue Croix des Petits Champs, de la Villeneuve, de la Harpe and de Valenciennes. The public has entire confidence in the bank, and to merit this confidence great precautions have been taken to render private as well as public property safe. The fire brigade, composed of firemen who once belonged to the regiment of Paris, has apartments in the building; under one roof are placed two immense reservoirs, and sixty armories contain lances ready to throw jets of water. Aside from the firemen no night watchmen are employed. The Hotel de la Villeneuve, occupied to-day by the Bank of France, was built in 1635, after the designs of Francois Mansard. The building is generally known under the name of Hotel de Toulouse, because it was bought in 1719 by Louis Alexandre de Bourbon, Comte de Toulouse, second son of Louis XIV. and Mme. de Montespan. The Duc de Ponthieu, who was the son of the Comte de Toulouse, embellished the hotel and gave it its name. When he died in 1793, the building was declared national property, and there the national printing house was installed. In 1808 the Emperor made a decree that the Hotel de Toulouse should become the property of the bank for 2,000,000 francs, but it was in 1811 that the corporation removed from the Hotel Massieu. Popular tradition gives the vaults and the fortification and destruction of bank notes in the Banque de France a profoundly mysterious reputation. The vaults, locked, relocked and locked again, are never seen except by the guardians, but by special permission the precious billets were exhibited to me. In the beginning they were black, but this color is too easily photographed. In 1807 blue was chosen. They are all blue with the exception of the note of 5,000 francs, created in 1840, which was red. Never more than 400 cuttings of this note was made, and of these there are but five in circulation at present. The figures printed on the notes are their means of identification, and the combinations are so numerous that each note has its own mark. A note passes through twenty-three operations from the time it is first engraved until the signature of the first cashier is placed upon it. The surveillance is so severe that workmen cannot take even a clipping of paper. After each impression, women are employed to count and recount the papers and place them in packages of 1,000. The color of the blue ink is unchangeable, and its composition is a secret. These notes leave the bank crisp and bright, to return in less than two years from, solid and often altogether illegible, having made the tour of France, and perhaps of the world. As they are brought back and judged unworthy for use, after many formalities they are destroyed in the presence of the regents. At one time the worthless notes were burned, but now they are reduced to paste; two enormous cylinders receive the notes. Water is poured upon this mass, the orifice of the cylinder closed and sealed and the whole is cooked forty-eight hours. A very fine blue paste is the result, and this is sold by weight for the manufacture of pasteboard. The notes in circulation at this moment represent 3,500,000,000 francs, and since its creation the bank has issued 35,500,000,000.

### White Clover Among Strawberries.

Some of the readers of the *Southern Cultivator* may have discovered that there is nothing in the shape of natural growth so destructive to the strawberry plant as white clover. It is much more rampant some years than others, but it is always the great pestiferous obstacle to the growth and culture of this delicious berry. This may not be the case in other strawberry regions, but in our section of central Virginia, it is especially so. This clover, like all others, is a tap-rooted growth. It crowds, hugs and starves the strawberry plants to a ruinous extent. Clover roots as well as strawberry roots, grow in mild winter weather. This clover and all biennial weeds and grasses may be weeded out to advantage in winter when the ground is not frozen, but it is tedious work.

Now what is the remedy? Hand-weeding is almost impracticable; it may be gouged and torn away, but its long, tough roots often remain to come again and the work is tiresome and will not pay. The best remedy, however, for small lots or for garden culture is to plant in hills, two plants in a hill, hills suitable distance apart. The cultivator can manage them in this position, and not only white clover, but lime grass and all other pests can be eradicated with comparative ease, and the berries will be larger and of better quality.

J. FITZ.  
Koswick, Va.

### A Successful Dairyman.

Does dairy-farming pay? Does anything but cotton-growing pay? asks the *Sparta* (Ga.) *Isis*, and then adds: Let us see. Since the first day of January, 1887, Mr. W. J. Northern has sold 700 pounds of Jersey butter and four hundred and fifteen (\$415) dollars worth of stock. Now let some man who holds the only ready-money crop of this county in cotton—that cotton-growing offers the surest guarantee of money-making—take his pencil and see if he can figure such profits out of a year of toil and anxiety in the cotton-field. But what is it? It does look as if Mr. Northern were making his Jerseys pay. If this be true of him, why may not others succeed at the same business? Cotton has been king, but kings are sometimes deposed; and it not always a wise subject that sides with the king in the days of revolution.

### "That Pale Woman."

At one of the villages on our coast, there are a good many rough fishermen. There are a good number of churches and ministers there, and they have tried to do something for these men in their way of living; but they could not, they have given it up. The Church said, "We have rung our bell, engaged our quartette choir, and if you do not come, we cannot help it."

There is no command for people to go to the Gospel; the command is to carry the Gospel to the people—"Go ye into all the world," that means everywhere. Miss Phelps was given up to die, but her physicians said, "If you go to such a village on our coast, perhaps the sea air may prolong your life; but it is an awfully wicked place." That pale woman arrived there, and took a room. She slept but little the first night, and toward morning was sleeping quietly with her windows open for sea air, when she was awakened by the rough swearing of men under her window. She could not bear it, and, hastily dressing, went down to the door, and said, "Oh, men, I am a poor, sick, dying woman. I have come from the hills to prolong my life, but you are going to drive me away."

"One wicked man said, 'Who is going to drive you away, you pale woman?'"

"You are; you have been swearing about my Saviour."

The man trembled, and said, "I will knock down the man that swears. Nobody shall swear while you are here." A man came along swearing. Said he, "You stop that; there is an angel here."

In a few days she took a little cabinet organ, hired a hall, opened the doors and windows, and the rough men gathered around. She touched the keys, and began to sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus." Before she had finished, tears were in eyes unaccustomed to weep. In a little while she had a church, and had need for a minister, and they are doing great things there that never would have been done but for that pale woman.—*Dr. Bates in Service for Jesus.*

### She Wept.

"I came down here to go out on the Landing train," she said to Officer Patton at the Third street depot yesterday morning, as she held a satchel in one hand and an umbrella in the other.

Yes—train goes in thirteen minutes.

"How are the stoves in the cars?"

"Perfectly safe, ma'am. All the cars on that road can roll over twice and not take fire."

"Bridges safe?"

"Entirely so."

"Don't the rails ever spread on that road?"

"Never."

"How is it about collisions?"

"They don't have any."

"Any chance for some other train to run into the rear end of ours?"

"Not a bit."

"Well, I don't know but I will take risks and go, but I want you to understand that if anything does happen by which I am killed my old man won't take a cent less than \$2,000, and maybe he'll want the burial expenses to boot."

"No wonder," said the doctor, "the child sick all the time. It has both his grandmothers and grandfathers and a candy-store all in the same block."

### A WESTERN TERROR.

The Story of a Western Highwayman and a Mountain Boy.

An amusing story comes to us from the far West. For a long time an outlaw, named Roach the Terror, had been the scourge of the mountain districts of Idaho, and last month he waylaid and proceeded to rob one Bivens, a wealthy gentleman who was traveling through the Territory on mining business. While the two were thus employed—the one in robbing and the other in being robbed—they suddenly became aware of the approach of a mountain boy, one of the most intrepid and fastidious of the Rocky Mountain region. Roach immediately dropped his booty and skinned up a tree as nimbly as he ever could, as for the other man, he didn't stop to pick up his property—he followed Roach up the tree with marked alacrity. The hero, flouting his tail savagely, flinging his hideous lings and rolling his glassy eyeballs suggestively, looked up at the two men in the tree and prepared to join them.

"Have you a pistol?" asked Roach the Terror.

"No," said Bivens, the traveler, "but in my belt I carry a knife fourteen inches long."

"Then," suggested the Terror, "suppose you stick the knife into that varmint when he reaches out for us."

"Yes, but I leave the knife in the lion," said Bivens, "and if he falls with it, what protection have I from you?"

No, I'll keep the knife and let you shoot the varmint with your pistol."

"Yes, but supposing I do shoot him," said Roach, "what protection have I against your knife when my pistol is empty?"

Meanwhile the lion was coming up the tree with alarming rapidity. He seemed to grow three feet every way as he advanced foot by foot.

"Unless we can come to a compromise," said Roach, "the varmint will eat us both. Let's agree to this: You stab him, and I'll shoot him—at my rate, either we fall or that critter has got to die."

"That's so," said Bivens, "and I accept the compromise."

So when the lion got within range Roach blazed away at it and Bivens reached down and drove his knife clean up to the hilt in the monster's breast.

The lion fell to the ground with a bullet hole in his head and eleven inches of steel in his lungs. Then Roach and Bivens descended from the tree. They had escaped so narrowly that they could not be other than friends. Each was indebted to the other for his life. They resolved not to separate, and now they are engaged in the bandit business together in the Idaho fastnesses.

### LEECHES IN A HORSE CAR.

They Escape from a Lady's Pocket and Cause Any Amount of Trouble.

(From the New York Sun.)

A Fourth avenue car was rolling smoothly along Madison avenue, near Fifty-ninth street, the other day, when its ordinary assortment of all sorts of passengers was startled out of semi-sleepiness by a shriek that would have made Buffalo Bill's proudest Sioux burn with envy.

"Take it off! Take it away! Take it off!" screamed a nicely dressed lady, jumping into the aisle, with one hand on the bell-rope and the other outstretched to one of the startled male passengers. Her features were a picture of terror, and her black eyes gleamed with frantic intensity at the wrist of her outstretched arm.

At first a suspicion swept through the minds of the knowing passengers; that it was a case of snakes, but on looking at the pretty wrist, set off by a jeweled bracelet, they saw a real live leech.

A lawyer, who has an office in the Potter building and who has some nerve as well as gallantry, plucked off the leech and put it in a paper box which the lady had carried in her pocket. Meanwhile the other lady passengers did what they could to soothe the frightened sister.

"How many leeches did you have, madam, in the box?" asked the lawyer.

"Three," she gasped.

"Why, madam, there's only one here."

The shriek that followed was a chorus. Every female passenger thought she was being one or both of the other two. But the lawyer found both in the matting of the car, and one of them was crippled in the excitement.

The lady jumped off the car spitefully to conceal her embarrassment. It turned out that she was the pretty wife of a well known iron merchant and member of the Seventh Regiment, who was at home with a swollen leg. His wife had been down town to get the leeches to feed on her husband's leg, but the druggist had sent her a big breathing hole in her pocket. When the husband learned of his wife's adventure he laughed till the swelling went down.

### An Irate Plea for Present Styles.

There is a class of women, and the number of them is unnecessarily large, who have a tendency to assume an air of apology and self-exuse when the love of adornment and eagerness to achieve the same is talked of. They assume a deprecating air when this subject is brought up. And why should they? It is natural and fitting that women should want to look and dress well. More than that, it is a woman's duty, just so far as her circumstances and means will admit, to dress well and tastefully. Why there is any occasion for a woman to make a "guy" of herself for "beauty's sake" is a mystery. Dressing to be sure, is an art, and it is only to those to whom this art is unknown who are raising the hue and cry about "dress reform" and "sensible dressing." The women who theorize most exhaustively upon this so-called sensible dressing are apt to be the most dowdy and ridiculous anywhere to be found. It is the woman devoid of all taste whose figure is scrawny and absolutely destitute of any lines of beauty, whose arm is long and bony, that is sure to offend on every and all occasions to declare that the dressing of the present day is harmful and injurious to one's health. They see sin lurking in every ruffle and pleat.—*Ex.*

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### SCIENTIFIC HOANES.

How Some Scientists Dressed Up Parts of the Mastodon in a Fascinating Manner.

(From the New York Sun.)

The great lesson which Cuvier taught the world was, that many races of animals were entirely extinct, and that nature's chain of existence had not one but many missing links. From his recognition of that fact the science of paleontology may be said to date. But the cardiovascular nature of the mastodon was too fascinating an absurdity to be so easily killed, and it continued to appear at intervals. As late as 1855 we find a New England medical professor writing, as if it were an unquestionable fact, that the giant theory proposed still lingered, and even now cannot be considered entirely extinct among the unlearned. The dictum that the superstitions of one age are but the science of preceding ages receives ample confirmation in the history of this subject. Not longer ago than 1846 a mastodon skeleton was exhibited in New Orleans as that of a giant. The cranium was made of raw hide, fantastic wooden teeth were fitted in the jaws, all missing parts were restored after the human model, and the whole raised upon the hind legs. It certainly conveyed the notion of "a hideous, diabolical giant," and was no doubt responsible for many nightmares. As a sad commentary on the state of the medical profession in the southwest at the time, it may be added that the exhibitor was perfectly honest in his belief, and to support his faith he had a trunk full of physicians' certificates that these were human bones.

In 1840 "Dr. Koch, a German charlatan, created a great sensation by announcing the discovery of the leviathan of Job, which he called the Missourian, from the State where it was found. It turned out, however, to be nothing but a mastodon preposterously mounted. Koch had added an extra dozen or more joints to the backbone and ribs to the chest, turned the tusks outward into a semi-circle, and converted the animal into an aquatic monster which anchored itself to trees by means of its sickle-shaped tusks and then peacefully slumbered on the bosom of the waves. Like the Siberian, he found interesting confirmations of his views in the book of Job, that refuge of perplexed monster-makers. Koch took his leviathan to London, where it was purchased by the British museum, and reconverted into a mastodon by Professor Owen, who at once recognized its true nature.

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At first a suspicion swept through the minds of the knowing passengers; that it was a case of snakes, but on looking at the pretty wrist, set off by a jeweled bracelet, they saw a real live leech.

A lawyer, who has an office in the Potter building and who has some nerve as well as gallantry, plucked off the leech and put it in a paper box which the lady had carried in her pocket. Meanwhile the other lady passengers did what they could to soothe the frightened sister.

"How many leeches did you have, madam, in the box?" asked the lawyer.

"Three," she gasped.

"Why, madam, there's only one here."

The shriek that followed was a chorus. Every female passenger thought she was being one or both of the other two. But the lawyer found both in the matting of the car, and one of them was crippled in the excitement.

The lady jumped off the car spitefully to conceal her embarrassment. It turned out that she was the pretty wife of a well known iron merchant and member of the Seventh Regiment, who was at home with a swollen leg. His wife had been down town to get the leeches to feed on her husband's leg, but the druggist had sent her a big breathing hole in her pocket. When the husband learned of his wife's adventure he laughed till the swelling went down.

### LABOR SENT FROM THE SOUTH.

One Hundred and Ten Negroes from This Section May Become the Cause of Some Trouble.

(From the New York Sun.)

B. J. Coyle, of Washington, has the contract for laying the new system of sewers in East Orange, and on Saturday he secured 120 negroes from North Carolina and Virginia. They were brought on by three agents of a labor bureau, and as the agents got a commission for each man, they made all sorts of representations to secure them, promising many of them \$18 a month and board, and others \$1.50 per day. Coyle could not pay them all the agents promised, and a row seemed imminent. To make matters worse, the agents became intoxicated, and attempted to avoid any discussion with the laborers and to drive them into quarters in an old hat shop in Dodd street where a gang of Italians had been housed. The colored men did not like the quarters, and were dissatisfied