

VOL. III. TIMELY TOPICS FOR FARMERS.

HOW TO DO PLANTING WORK AT THIS SEASON.

Suggestions of Interest from an Authoritative Source. (W. L. Johnston of the Southern Observer.)

The fight with grass and weeds has now fairly begun. If the first working is properly done, success is easy. If not, the struggle is apt to be long and hard.

Because the little grass is having visible, the farmer's fears are not fully allayed, and he is tempted to go over his crop hastily and perhaps carelessly. A little loose dirt from hoe or plow blades does not smother the young grass, and the first rain uncovers it and stimulates to rapid growth.

Where is the farmer of any experience who has not felt the power of "May" grass? It comes up round the cotton plant and hugs it closely; it sends its roots down quickly into the manure intended for the cotton, and grows with amazing rapidity. In hoeing it, the dirt is apt to be taken from the cotton and the latter falls over, or the hand is delayed to fill it up again.

The time to strangle the demon is as its birth—kill it by the time or before it reaches the surface. The lightest, slightest stirring of the soil will then destroy it. Hence the excellent work of the harrow if started in time. It will kill the grass but not the cotton. But it must be started in time—just as the cotton is coming up; it must strike the grass just as the latter is also coming up; later than that, it will only help to cultivate it and make it grow faster.

Another mistake often made is to follow the plow immediately with the hoe; the result is the dirt thrown on the grass by the plow is removed by the hoe and the grass thereby uncovered. Follow the plow with the hoe at an interval of a week, and if possible, let the plows follow closely on the hoes so as to smother again any uncovered, uncut grass. Observe: the plows are to be started the first time very early, just as the cotton fairly begins to come up; if this is done, the hoes can afford to wait a week. But if the plowing is delayed till the cotton is one or two weeks old, the hoes cannot be held back because the cotton will need thinning too badly.

As stated before, everything depends upon doing work at the proper time; this is equally important as doing it in a proper manner. It has always seemed to us that the "blocking" out of cotton was labor lost. It can be brought to a final stand about as early as it is blocked as after. Early and frequent plowings are needed to break crusts and keep the plants healthy and growing, but do not start the hoes till the proper time to start the cotton to a final stand. If the seeds have not been sown too thick, or if the plants have been judiciously thinned out by a harrow, two plowings may be given before the first hoeing. The plow ought to do everything but the thinning of the cotton. We rely too much on hoe work; it is too expensive and cuts up too much of the profits; never lose sight of the great problem of reducing the cost of production; never forget that horse-power is cheaper than human power, and machines than human hands.

Cotton calls for frequent working in its early stages; it is important to push it rapidly beyond the point where it suffers from "soil shins" and lice. In the olden time it was thought best to side cotton with scooters, shovel or other deep-running plows. Ample experience has shown that this is neither necessary nor desirable. The crop is best cultivated from beginning to end with sweep or shovel, set to run quite shallow. A soil deeply broken before planting, but allowed to settle and become somewhat compact, (provided that the surface is kept stirred,) seems most conducive to fruiting. Aside from the matter of roof-cutting, there seems to be a decided advantage in shallow culture to a cotton crop. It makes the growth steady and uniform, and nothing contributes more than such growth to fruiting and the holding on to fruit. Rapid growth, followed by a sudden check, is the chief cause of shedding. We cannot always prevent the check, but we may do something towards putting the crop in condition to receive it with least injury. The object of the farmer should be to keep his cotton growing steadily, but not too rapidly. Rapid growth is always dangerous; it makes a sappy, tender plant, extremely sensitive to every adverse influence.

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE.

All the Powers Anxious for Peace, but Advantages Likely to Cause War.

WASHINGTON, May 5. Baron Favre, the new minister from Austria, has submitted to an interview of some length with a representative of the Post, in the course of which he touches upon the Bulgarian situation, and Austria's apprehensions about it, and the probability of war between France and Germany.

In regard to Kelly's rejection by Austria, he said, in response to a suggestion that Austria desire to be on friendly terms with Italy had caused it "to have nothing to do with Italy. We thought the moral position would not be a pleasant one in Vienna. There are certain prejudices that cannot be overcome, and it is useless to discuss them. Of course you understand me. I do not and I cannot enter into any long argument with you about this matter, because to do so would be to invite papers in America and papers in Austria to take it up and continue the discussion, which would be very prolix thing to do.

There has never been any question at issue between the two countries. We have been represented here by a charge d'affaires because Baron Schœnffer has been very ill. He came near dying, and I had to remain in Russia. Everybody in Europe, he says, is anxious for peace, but there may be war, "because outside of the Cabinets there are adventures who are unscrupulous and who want war for their own private ends. These people may force a conflict, although their Government may be doing everything that is possible to avoid it. Who could have foreseen the deposition of Prince Alexander? That was something that no one calculated on, and yet is just such a thing that disarranges all of one's calculations. It is like a rope, it is all right as long as the rope holds, but it may part."

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The early amber cane planted the first of May, will be ripe by the first of August, and through successive plantings, a continuous supply of it may be had from the first of August well into November—nearly, if not quite, four months. Now, as every observant person knows, hogs eat this plant with avidity. They extract all the juice from the stalks. In addition to eating the grain, and fatten upon it with great rapidity. Many object, and very properly, to raising pork because of the drain on the corn-crop. Here is a substitute, here is a ready-made, hardy, easily raised, productive crop, one that stands drought well, that will grow on poor land and never fails entirely. Could a cheaper, better hog food be found? Almost every one knows this, but how few take advantage of it. We go on from year to year in the same old rut, confining our efforts to corn and cotton production. Cannot the force of mere habit be overcome? Why not cut down the corn crop a little and plant sorghum in place of it? Plant enough to supply your laborers with syrup, the seed and blades to be used as stock food; plant still more to feed green to hogs and mule chow. Three acres of sorghum will feed and fatten ten hogs from August to November. Compare the cost of raising three acres of sorghum with the value of ten hogs whose weight has been increased fifty to one hundred per cent. With hardy fruit trees, like plums, seedling peaches, wild cherries, mulberries, horse and June apples, with Bermuda grass, red and burr clovers, with early productive varieties of sweet potato, like the St. Domingo, with pea patches, and finally sorghum, what hinders a Southern farmer from raising pork as cheap as anybody? Nothing but not making by his mind to do so and arranging for it. He can do it if he wills to do it.

But the syrup sorghum is not the only variety which might be profitably cultivated. The white seeded varieties, like milo maize and Kafir corn are very nearly, if not quite, equal to corn as horse-feed. We have fully tested the milo maize; horses eat it with relish, and can do as much work when fed upon it as upon a corn ration. Neither is it at all inconvenient to handle. The whole heads are put in the manger, and the grain, cut with the brush of the head, is thoroughly masticated. The blades are pulled and cured like fodder. In above respect it stands on the same footing as corn. What are its advantages? It stands drought better and will make something of a crop when corn would utterly fail. If a drought strikes corn just as it "shoots," it fails—it can not wait for future rain. These sorghum on the contrary, will wait quite patiently. If the main head fails somewhat, shoots will spring from the joints as soon as rains set in, and make a second crop of heads. It is next to impossible for a crop of them to fail entirely; but one must be had to get a strain of milo that matures early; there is no difficulty in that point with the Kafir; it is one of the early maturing varieties. The rain of this kind of milo maize makes a very pretty looking animal. We have never tested their value in bread. They have one decided advantage over syrup sorghum—there is less tannin in the seedings of the grain. A poultry food made of sorghum is most excellent; the grains can be eaten by comparatively small chickens.

Parents whose sons are inclined to be factious should counteract this tendency by presenting them positions as messengers.

It is said to be George C. Arnold, of Cleveland, O., who less than one year ago, owing to chronic liver trouble and bright's disease of the kidneys, weighed less than ninety-five pounds, but by using Dr. Hartner's Iron Dose has gained in strength and weight until now he is admitted to be the giant of Ohio.

THE INTER-STATE ENCAMPMENT.

ARRANGEMENTS PERFECTED FOR THE MEETING AT SPARTANBURG.

Details of Interest to all the Farmers of South Carolina—What Has Been and What Will Be Done.

The first annual meeting of the Inter-State Farmers' Summer Encampment, will assemble at the Encampment Grounds, at Spartanburg, South Carolina, at 8 o'clock, a. m., Tuesday, August 2nd, 1887, and continue until Saturday, August 6th.

The Inter-State Farmers' Encampment is the result of the combined efforts of the friends of Agriculture, in all its departments, to fill a want long felt by those most keenly interested in the material progress of our Southern States. It is under the auspices of the Patrons of Husbandry of Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The prime object of this Exhibition is, that the producing classes all over the country, may meet annually in friendly rivalry and competition, for the purpose of displaying what each has wrought during the year. Such gatherings are highly beneficial, not only because they afford to all an opportunity of beholding what has been done, but rather because it is amid such surroundings that the flagging energies and drooping aspiration of the multitudes are quickened into activity, and they return to the quiet of farm and shop determined to equal, and, if possible, surpass the triumphs they have witnessed. Several of these Inter-State Encampments are, and have been for years, in the most successful operation in other parts of the United States, at which there attend annually hundreds of thousands of visitors from all the various occupations of life. They go away benefitted, and for this purpose mainly was this Encampment inaugurated.

The location of the Encampment is central and easily accessible from every county in the States above-mentioned. It is directly on the line of the Atlanta and Charlotte Division of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, with direct connections at Spartanburg (one mile from grounds) with Charleston and the Sea Coast, Augusta and the South, Atlanta and the Southwest and West, Asheville and the Northward and West, and Charlotte and all points beyond to the East, North and Northeast. It lies at the foot of and in clear view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The City of Spartanburg, S. C., was chosen by the committee charged with the selection of a location on account of the many advantages and facilities afforded to such a grand enterprise. 1st. The Railroad facilities of the location at Spartanburg are unsurpassed for easy and speedy access from every part of the whole country. 2nd. The City is the first and only one of any importance directly in the Piedmont region and having direct and short Railroad line across the Blue Ridge Mountains into East Tennessee, Western North Carolina, and beyond to the great West.

3rd. It is in the direct line of all summer travel from the low countries of South Carolina and Georgia, and from Florida to the mountain resorts of Western North Carolina. 4th. The health of the City and County of Spartanburg is unsurpassed by any locality in the whole Southern States. 5th. It is also easily accessible to the celebrated Health Resort of Glen Springs; besides any resort of minor importance within any reach of the City. The whole City and County is alive to any and every enterprise that looks to the upbuilding of the South and the bettering of the condition of the Agricultural and Producing classes. The grounds are thirty acres in extent, facing the railroad, where there will be double side tracks with handsome and convenient depots. Water will be abundantly supplied from wells and from the City Water Works. Streets and Avenues surround and intersect the Grounds at convenient distances.

There has been a mammoth Pavilion erected near the centre of the grounds, in which public addresses will be delivered by prominent Agriculturalists at various hours in the day and evening. One of the States above named is now erecting a handsome and commodious structure for the exhibition of its resources, to be under the management of State Department of Agriculture. The other four States will, in all probability, make provision at the next sessions of their respective Legislatures for the erection of similar State buildings. Every effort is being put forth by the management to give the occasion every possible convenience and facility for the successful accomplishment of the Encampment's object and aim.

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THE CROPS IN THE STATE.

Encouraging Reports of the Department of Agriculture for the First of May.

The State Department of Agriculture has received 250 reports from Special County and Township correspondents, regarding the area and condition of the crops.

The spring seasons have been unusually favorable for preparation of land and planting. It is estimated that in average years 75 per cent. of spring planting is finished by May 1, but for the present year 50 per cent. has been completed, owing to the unusually favorable seasons. Vegetation has been somewhat retarded by cool, dry weather, and such crops as are up have been injured by high winds. Rain was very general throughout the State the last week in April, causing decided improvement in the condition of all the crops.

The reports indicate that the area in cotton will be decreased 3 per cent. This estimate, however, is subject to future revision, as the entire crop had not been planted on the first of May. Early germination of seed has been prevented by cold weather following planting, but more favorable seasons later have partly overcome any injury that may have resulted to the crop from the cause mentioned.

The correspondents report that 57 per cent. of the crop has been planted, and estimate that 37 per cent. of this is "up," against 31 per cent. last year and 34 per cent. in 1885. The general condition is reported as good as last year. The reports show that there has been a decrease of 13 per cent. in the amount of commercial fertilizers used on cotton as compared with last year, while 20 per cent. of the crop has been fertilized with home-made manures. Some damage has been done to the crop by cut worms, but the injury is not serious except in a few localities.

For several years past the farmers have given more attention to the preparation and fertilization of corn lands, and the reports show that this plan has been pursued the present season more closely than in any previous years. Last year the corn crop was destroyed on bottom lands by spring freshets, and to avoid such disasters the present year planting on such lands has been delayed until this danger has been, in a measure, passed. Anticipating a partial loss of the crop on bottom lands and a short crop of oats, the farmers have increased the area in upland corn. The reports show that the area has been increased 5 per cent. over last year's crop; the condition is reported at 96, the stands at 93. Fifty-five per cent. of the entire crop has been fertilized, and 52 per cent. of this with home-made manures. Stands have been injured by birds and worms in some sections to such an extent as to make replanting necessary.

The area already planted in rice in the lower counties has been decreased 2 per cent.; and in the upper counties decreased 3 per cent., showing an average decrease for the State of 1 per cent. The greater part of the crop in the lower counties is usually planted in June, and this planting has not been, of course, included in this estimate. The total area will probably, therefore, not be less than last year. The condition is reported at 82.

The reports show that wheat was not so badly winter-killed as was feared, and the correspondents report a decided improvement in the condition of the crop, which is reported at 87, against 60 for the same time last year. Fall sown crops were badly injured by the severe winter weather, and spring crops have needed rain, but the yield will exceed last year's crop, as the condition is now reported at 87, against 72 on the 1st of May, 1886.

The reports indicate an increase of 13 per cent. in the area planted in cane, and 10 in the area planted in sorghum. The condition of cane is reported at 110 and sorghum 102.

AN UPRISING IN 1880.

BLOODY PLOTS OF THE RED AND BLACK SOCIALISTS.

They Rely Upon a Tremendous Business Panic to Aid Them in Obtaining Control of Affairs—Chicago the Hot Bed.

A few days ago press dispatches contained a report about a projected combination of the three principal socialistic organizations in this country—the Red International, the Black International and the Socialistic Labor party. While the aims and designs of the so-called Black International, or the International Working People's Association, thanks to the anarchists' trial, have become widely known, nobody knew or hardly ever heard of the Red International, or the International Workmen's Association, as being a specific organization of socialists along the Pacific coast.

The organization was founded in San Francisco in 1885. It was organized in all the principal cities throughout the Western States after the mode of the Knights of Labor assemblies, and is by far more authoritarian than that organization. It is now authoritatively announced by an organ of the socialists that the leader of the "Reds" proposes there shall be an uprising in 1889. What would occur, were the uprising he counts on successful, is thus outlined: "The circumstances which may permit decisive action will probably be these: In 1889 the present panic approaches a climax. It will be widespread and alarming, accompanied by closed factories, starving workers, rioting and the use of military force. It may even, complicated by a bitter class feeling, result in a suppression of the rights of free speech, meeting and press. Until then, unless the whole people are aroused, it is the duty of the wise socialist to hold aloof from riots in special localities.

"The time is not yet ripe for success; we have counted our heads, and we know it. To strike this year would be to slaughter our best people and put back the cause a hundred years. No, at present we must be as wise as serpents but harmless as doves. We must take advantage of it for agitation and education only. We must speak much and act not at all. When the working people are hungry their brains weaken. One year of panic means a trebling of our forces at the very least. And while, with our present 100,000 socialists, forcible action is impossible, with 400,000 (what the next panic will give us if we manage wisely) we hold the game in our own hands.

"We have, perhaps until 1889, time in which to perfect our plans. That year in Europe will surely bring grave results. In America, if figures be not another panic, greater, deeper and more widespread than the preceding will be upon us. Then, and not till then, may we risk a cast of the iron die. Then may we strike to win."

The article states that they expect to have in the United States in 1889 at least 500,000 earnest socialists, divided somewhat as follows: Chicago, 25,000; New York, 25,000; in the New England factory States, 100,000; in the central and iron region, 100,000; in Colorado and the Western States, 50,000; on the Pacific coast, 50,000; in the Atlantic and Southern cities, altogether, 100,000, and scattered at various points in towns and villages, 50,000 more.

"The panic comes, the public are excited, outbreaks occur, the large centers revolt, the places where but a few socialists exist are made points for the rallying of the conservative element. "In these small places it should be made the duty of the socialists there, to rise in secret and with all the aid of science in destructive warfare, to raise sufficient turmoil to keep the conservatives busy at home. Meanwhile in large centers bold measures should be taken. Our people should head, lead and control the popular revolt; should seize the places of power; should lay hands upon the machinery of the government. Once installed in power, revolutionary committee should follow this course of action. The decree should at once be promulgated and enforced."

It is proposed to make Chicago the headquarters of the uprising in 1889, which is to follow the combination of the different branches of the internationalists, and quite an elaborate programme is outlined of the manner in which the style of government will be changed after the revolt has proved successful. The year 1889 is also the one decided in 1886 by the National Federation of Trades as the one in which the eight-hour rule should go into effect.

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