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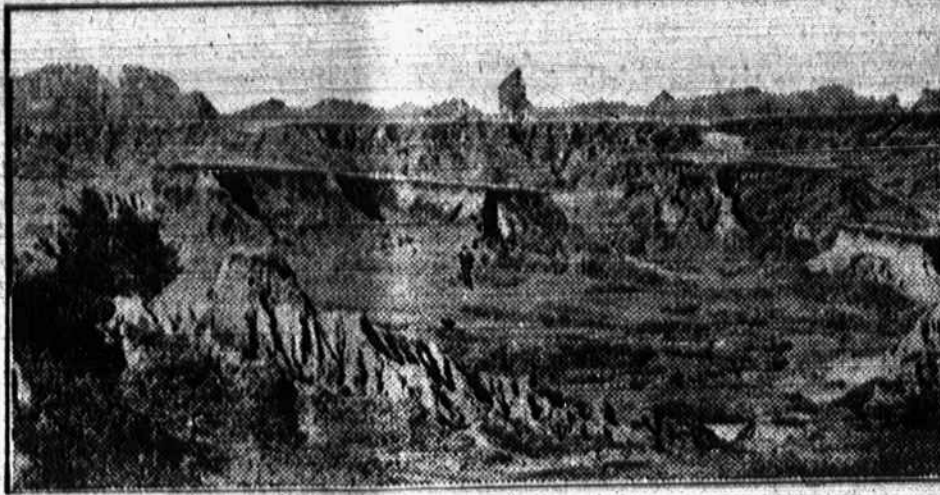
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USE OF COVER CROPS TO CHECK EROSION



Where Gutters Have Carried Away Soil and Subsoil to a Depth of Fifteen Feet in Mississippi.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Nearly four million acres in the United States, it is estimated, have been devastated by soil erosion, and a vastly larger area has lost much of its fertility. Nowhere is soil erosion more serious than in the South. The climate, the character of the soil, the economic conditions, and the type of agriculture, which has hitherto prevailed, have all contributed to the damage, yet with the exception of the amount of rainfall every factor in erosion can be controlled by man.

Soil erosion is the carrying away of the soil by the action of wind or water. In the South the action of water is much the more important. If all the water that falls upon a given area were to be absorbed by the soil, it would cause no erosion. This, however, scarcely ever happens. Where the slope of the ground or the character of the soil is such that the water runs off rapidly, it carries with it a very appreciable quantity of soil particles, the quantity increasing as the speed of the running water increases. Where this erosion is excessive the soil is left bare and gullied. The land is hard to cultivate and so much organic matter is taken from it that it is frequently abandoned as too poor for profitable agriculture.

To check this process, terracing, deep plowing and the use of cover crops are advantageous. Vegetation not only hinders the flow of water over the surface, thus lessening the amount of erosion, but the roots striking through the soil loosen it and enable it to absorb the water more readily. In the South the use of cover crops for this purpose is particularly important because so much of the rainfall in this section is in the winter when the land is frequently bare of crops. Winter rye is particularly advantageous in holding the soil. The value of deep plowing lies in the fact that this loosens the soil for a considerable distance below the surface and thus enables the water to be absorbed quickly. Terracing obviously is designed to provide level areas for the water to fall on instead of steep hillsides down which it can rush.

The importance of measures that will check erosion is indicated by the fact that in some southern states vast areas amounting sometimes to 50 per cent of the arable land in these sections have been abandoned because

condition that practically all the water which fell on it was absorbed. As a result the land increased in value so that the owner declined \$100 an acre for it. The cost of reclamation was approximately \$10 an acre. It is simpler, however, to prevent excessive erosion than to reclaim land after it has occurred.

Locations for Creameries.

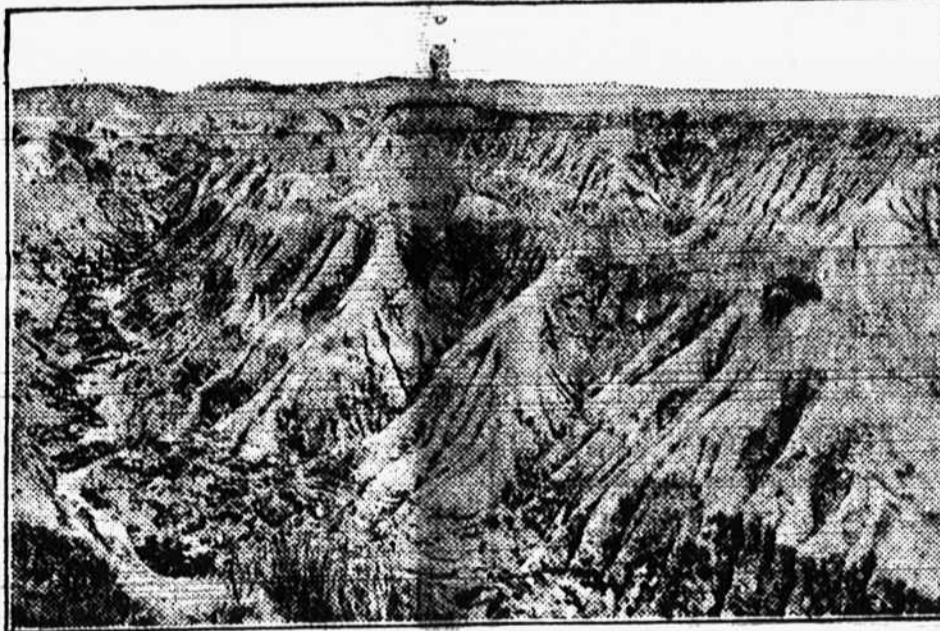
In developing the dairy industry throughout the South a very important matter is the selection of the locations in which to erect creameries. No one would build a sawmill where there is little or no timber suitable to be made into lumber, and it would be equally unwise to start a creamery where the supply of milk and cream is insufficient for economical operation of the plant. In many dairy regions creameries have been operated successfully and have brought prosperity to the community. On the other hand, there are many closed creameries in the United States and many farmers who have lost money by unwise investments in them.

The first essential for the success of a creamery is a sufficient supply of milk and cream. An insufficient supply means a loss for all concerned. The number of available cows in a community is frequently overestimated. About six hundred southern cows should provide raw material enough, and if this is sent to the creamery in the form of whole milk the cows should all be within five miles of the creamery.

In order to keep expenses reasonably low, an average of at least 1,200 pounds of butter must be made each week, which will require about one thousand pounds of butter fat. The smaller the output the greater the cost per pound of butter, for some of the expenses will remain approximately the same whether the daily output is one hundred or two hundred pounds.

If a careful canvass reveals the fact that, excluding those required to meet the demands of home consumption, the necessary cows are available, the information should be sent to either the state agricultural college or the Dairy Division, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., with a request for plans and advice for the organization, building and equipment of a plant that will be likely to succeed under existing local conditions.

Next to an insufficient supply of milk, one of the most frequent causes



A Gently Rolling Field Invaded by Gullies That Started on Steeper Slopes.

the water has carried off much of the best soil and impaired the value of what has been left. On moderate slopes in the Piedmont region of North Carolina erosion has been estimated to cause a yearly loss in crop values alone of three dollars an acre, making the total loss in this region over two million dollars each year. On the other hand, there are many hilly farms in which excessive erosion is effectually prevented. Farmers who wish detailed information of the best methods of terracing and other means of control, should write to the United States department of agriculture for Farmers' Bulletin No. 20, Circular No. 94 of the Bureau of Plant Industry or U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 180.

When land has once been badly eroded the task of reclaiming it is apt to be difficult and long. It can be done, however, and at times may be made very profitable. An instance of this is a tract of 38 acres near Johnson City, Tenn., which was purchased four years ago for \$53 an acre. At that time the land was badly eroded and there was one gully eight or ten feet deep. This the new owner filled with debris and soil, 200 loads of manure were applied, and the soil was plowed to a depth of ten inches, planted to rye and the rye turned under. The deep plowing and the organic matter in the rye left the soil in such

of creamery failures is the erection of poorly planned and cheaply constructed creameries equipped with expensive but more or less useless machinery. Many creameries have been organized by promoters who derived their profit from the sale of the plant and its equipment, not from its successful operation after they had severed their connection with it. In consequence, it was to their interest to unload as expensive and as poor a plant upon the farmers as they could.

Cases are on record in which promoters have secured the signatures of farmers to documents which purported to be nothing more than a general expression of opinion that a creamery in that place would be a good thing. Later it developed that the document was an iron-clad agreement to take stock in the company. Creameries organized in such a way prove profitable only to the organizers. Moreover the failure of one or two such companies serves to discourage dairying in that region for many years thereafter.

Before it is decided to build a creamery, therefore, its prospective shareholders should convince themselves of three things: (1) That there will be milk and cream enough for it to be operated economically; (2) that the marketing facilities are adequate; and (3) that the plant to be built is well designed and equipped and the cost reasonable.

DIED ON HIS BIRTHDAY.

Gen. Gates Was Born 187 Years Ago, April 10, 1728.

Although he gained much prominence in the revolutionary war, Horatio Gates was a poor soldier and a mischief-maker. He was born 187 years ago, April 10, 1728, at Maiden, England, and died 109 years ago, on the same day of the month, April 10, 1806, in New York.

Gates came to America in 1755 and served as a major in the army under Braddock. He was severely wounded at the time of the latter's defeat near what is now Pittsburg. In 1760 he was stationed as brigade major, under Gen. Monckton, at Fort Pitt, and in 1762 was Monckton's aide at the capture of Martinique.

Buying a farm in Virginia in 1763, Gates lived there in retirement until 1775, when Congress appointed him adjutant general in the regular army with the rank of brigadier. In 1770 he was appointed to the command of the army which had lately retreated from Canada, and immediately began intriguing to supplant Gen. Schuyler as commander of the northern department.

This he did through the influence of New England delegates in the Congress on August 2, 1777. The army under his command after fighting the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga, forced Burgoyne to surrender. Gates received nearly all the credit, although Schuyler, Arnold and Morgan had done most of the work, while he had been conspicuous chiefly for incapacity and for an apparent lack of personal courage. Soon afterward Gates entered into the schemes of the "Conway Cabal," whose object it was to have him appointed in Washington's stead as commander-in-chief. For a time he was president of the newly organized board of war, but was detected in several falsehoods, became discredited and withdrew in 1778 to his farm in Virginia, where he remained until

1780, when he was put in command of the Army of the South.

Owing chiefly to his wretched generalship, his forces were totally defeated near Camden, S. C., by Lord Cornwallis, and he was superseded by Greene. A Court of Inquiry, after a long investigation of his conduct, finally acquitted him. Gates again retired to his Virginia farm, and he there until 1790, when, after freeing his slaves, he removed to New York where he remained until his death, April 10, 1806.—Washington Post.

101, He Never Worried.

Pincus Zatulove, who never worried Monday at the age of 101 years and seven months. His home was New York city. On July 5, his birthday, his four children, thirty-four grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren gathered at his home, and despite his years, Pincus Zatulove was the life of the party.

Total abstinence from worry, long walks, plenty of fresh air and moderate indulgence in tobacco and liquor made up Mr. Zatulove's life recipe. He was born near Khusia, and came to the United States thirty-five years ago. Until two years ago he was engaged in the manufacture of shirts. At that time retired from business. His wife died fourteen years ago.

Handicapped.

Arthur Clements, Justice of the Peace, was candidate for re-election in Saginaw, Mich. Having lost his arms in a mine accident several years ago, he was elected two years ago the Republican ticket and has proved an efficient officer. Through the use of ingenious contrivances he is able to turn the leaves of law books, and answer the telephone all by the use of his teeth. Opposed to Clements on the Democratic ticket, was Gen. R. Hensmith, selected by his party order that he might not have an advantage over his opponent. Hensmith has no legs.

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