

## SOIL AND CROP.

Work of the United States Agricultural Department.

## IMPROVING COTTON

Experiments in South Carolina. The Selection of the Best Seed Improves the Standard Varieties of Cotton and Other Crops. Tea Grown in this State.

The annual report of the secretary of agriculture for the year 1905 has just become available and contains much interesting information relative to soil, crops, methods of planting, etc., in South Carolina.

In the breeding and improvement of cotton the first experiments were made in 1899. At this time little had been published concerning cotton breeding. The frequency of natural crossing in the field has been given attention, so that different varieties might be grown without risk of mixing and deteriorating. The correlation of characters, the law governing the splitting of hybrids, the form of plant and other important matters have been carefully studied. The most important problem in the cotton industry is the securing of varieties as productive as ordinary staple sorts, but producing better and longer lint. This can be done by two distinctly different methods. The first method is to secure hybrids of the long staple, sea island cotton with the standard and short staples, with a view towards securing new sorts which combine, first, improved length of staple with large bolls, opening well; second, the productive character of the plant of the short staple. The department has secured hybrids, one class of which is a distinctly upland type and produces large round 5 lock bolls, has fine silky lint from 1 1/2 to 1 5/8 inches in length and a smooth black seed, so that it may be easily ginned on roller gins is desired, the fiber of this will rival the Egyptian and lower grades of sea island. Two other varieties secured by the department are similar, but have lint averaging only 1 3/8 inches.

A second method of securing improved staple, which has given very striking results, is the straight selection of the standard short staple varieties. It was found by careful examination of such varieties as Russell and Jones improved, that there was considerable variation in the length of lint produced by different plants. Careful experiments have been made with both these varieties and the average length of lint in the breeding stock of these two varieties has increased from the ordinary 1 1/8 to 1 3/8 inches up to 1 1/4 to 1 3/8 inches; meanwhile the plants have maintained their full productivity and all other good characters.

All varieties of cotton have been found to vary greatly in their productivity in the case of different individuals and different strains of the same variety. One strain, Pride of Georgia, which has for several years been selected for increased yield by a careful system of pedigree breeding, has shown marked improvement. A considerable quantity of this seed will be distributed to planters in the spring of 1906, and in 1907 a still higher grade of selected seed of the same variety will be available.

In the boll weevil infested areas there is great demand for earlier varieties of big boll sort. The extensive experiments inaugurated in 1904 in this line have not yet reached a stage where safe conclusions can be drawn, but preliminary experiments stated the year preceding have given one very early strain, selected from a native Texas big boll sort, with which it has been compared. A limited trial distribution of the seed of this variety will be made in the spring of 1906.

A large quantity of Egyptian cotton is imported into this country annually and used in the mills. It is not improbable that in some sections of the cotton growing area suitable soils for this could be found.

During the last two years the bureau of plant industry has had a skilled corps of men in the field battling against the boll weevil, and wherever trouble along this line has been reported, experiments have at once been commenced. The most important work, however, in this connection, has been the field demonstration work which has had for its object the bringing home to the people practical methods of tillage, cultivation and planting to enable them to grow cotton despite the presence of the weevil.

Rice has received special attention during the last six or seven years. The Japanese, or K'ushu variety was brought into the country and disseminated. Since this introduction the development of the rice industry in the South has been phenomenal. Between 1899 and 1904 the rice acreage of Louisiana and Texas increased from 210,396 acres, yielding 179,919,293 pounds of rough rice, in 1896 to 810,700 acres in 1904, yielding 869,426,800 pounds, an increase of upward of 190 per cent in acreage, but far the greatest increase being in Texas. In 1899 Texas had 178 acres of rice, in 1899 8,711 acres, while in 1904 the acreage had increased to 376,600, or more than forty-three times the area under this crop six years ago.

## BADLY SCARED.

Moving Pictures Shows General Treppoff, The Tyrant, His

## OWN ASSASSINATION.

The Ingeniously Cruel Trick by Which The Savage Russian General Was Forced to Cease Butchering Innocent Women and Children and Realigns.

## BRIDEGROOM BODS IN TRUNK

Ran Short of Cash While on Western Wedding Journey.

Because he ran short of money on his wedding tour and had only cash enough for one ticket, George Francis sent his wife through from Denver to Chicago on a passenger train, and he himself attempted to make the trip in a trunk as his wife's baggage. He was taken out of the trunk at Omaha N.B., about three-quarters dead, but the wife got through her journey all right. They had secured a large trunk put in some provisions and water, braced it thoroughly, cut holes in it for air, and after Francis took his place the box was securely locked and strapped. Then it was taken to the depot and checked through to Chicago.

After being smashed around, the trunk was heaved into a Union Pacific baggage car and journey began. Just before reaching Omaha, Wednesday night, the baggage man heard a groan from a pile of baggage. An investigation resulted in his locating the source and with a gun in his hand he demanded to know who was inside threatening to fire through the trunk unless he was answered.

In muffled tones came the answer and the story, with a request that the trunk be broken open and the man inside liberated. This was done and Francis was assisted out. His trunk had been delayed one train, and his water bottles had been broken soon after the trunk was fastened. He had been without water for nearly two days. He was taken to police headquarters and later released. "It was the most remarkable ride I ever took, and I don't want any more of it," said Francis.

## Attacked By Hugh Python

Rudolph Fluogal, an animal keeper at the Cincinnati Gardens, had a narrow escape this afternoon from being crushed to death in the folds of a huge python quartered in the snake cage. Fluogal had gone into the cage to sweep it out, but neglected to take the usual precaution of throwing a blanket over the reptile, which is one of the largest in captivity. While he was at work the immense snake attacked him from the rear, sinking its fangs into his back. The keeper's heavy coat protected him from serious lacerations, but he was panic-stricken as he felt the coils of the long python envelop his body and slowly begin to tighten. Keeper E. J. Coyne and three assistants rushed in to the cage, and while the man beat the reptile over the head to make it release its hold on Fluogal, the latter exerted their strength to unwrap its coils from about the keeper's body. They did not succeed until it had been baten into insensibility. Fluogal was unconscious when rescued and it was an hour before the physicians resuscitated him. He is prostrated by the nervous shock due to fright.

## Whole Family Slain.

Near Independence, Iowa, Mrs. William McWilliams and her five children, ranging from three to eighteen years in age, were slain at their farm home and the husband and father has been charged with killing the members of his family. He declares himself to be innocent. Each person had been killed with a hammer blow on the head. Mrs. McWilliams was atrociously beaten, a few knife thrusts had been inflicted on the crushed body. In the woman's rigid arm lay the corpse of the three-year-old baby, its hood, coat and mittens on, and a piece of buttered bread in one hand. The baby had been killed by one blow of a hammer on the head. The other children lay about the house, dressed in working clothes.

## Fighting in Cuba.

The first shots between the rural guards and insurgents were exchanged recently near the center of Havana province. A telegram has been received from the captain of the rural guards saying that his detachment discovered a party of twenty insurgents led by Martin R. Bau and Rafael Castillo, who organized the original band from Ssuid. The party, the telegram says, after an exchange of shots, fled, some towards the mountains and others across the fields. No prisoner was hurt, with the exception of a sergeant of the guards, who was thrown from his horse. It is reported that Bau is wounded, but this is not confirmed.

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## HID SLAIN WIFE,

Whom He Had Beaten to Death, in a Big Trunk,

## AND THEN RAN AWAY.

The Brute of a Husband, Who Took Two Thousand Dollars of His Victims Money, Tells His Wife's Mother That Fight Started

## ed About Whiskey.

Through confession of his own mother, and uncle and brother-in-law John Hammond now stands accused of the murder of his wife, whose body was found squeezed into a trunk in the fireplace of their home on South Ferry street, Albany, N. Y. The police learned Tuesday night that Hammond was in Montreal and his arrest imminent.

Although Hammond showed extraordinary foresight in preventing the vicinities of his alleged crime from attracting attention, he could not, according to his relatives, bear the burden of his guilt alone. Before going to Montreal on November 14, he told his mother and brother-in-law that he had killed his wife and concealed her body in a trunk.

James Mangini, Hammond's brother-in-law, was arrested Tuesday in Johannesburg and brought to Albany. He told the police that on the night of November 14 Hammond called on him and induced him to accompany him to Montreal. On the way there both men took a number of drinks, and Hammond finally told Mangini that on Sunday before he and his wife had quarreled.

According to Mangini's story, both Hammond and his wife had been drinking. Hammond wanted another drink and his wife would not let him have it. In a fit of rage he picked up an empty bottle and hit her on the head. He left her lying on the floor and went into the next room for more liquor. When he came back she was dead.

Then Hammond, according to Mangini's story, roped her body and put it in the trunk, taking pains to stop up the doors and windows and to sprinkle chloride of lime over the body and the room.

Mangini says that on the train Hammond showed him a roll containing \$2,000 in bills. It was learned Tuesday that shortly before the crime was committed Hammond induced his wife to draw large sums from several banks. On Monday, the day following the murder, he bought a \$200 fur overcoat.

Hammond's story of the crime, as told by Mangini, does not agree with the conclusions reached by the physicians who examined Mrs. Hammond's body and who found unmistakable marks of strangulation and many bruises.

Mangini left his brother-in-law at Rouse's Point, where Hammond told him he was going into Canada. The police are searching in Montreal and vicinity. The Hammonds are a Canadian-French family and it is thought that the husband of the murdered woman may be hiding with one of his Canadian relatives. The Coboc police late Tuesday night declared that they had definite information that Hammond is in or near Montreal.

Mangini says that Hammond was on the verge of nervous collapse on the trip toward Canada. At Rouse's Point they went together to visit an uncle of Hammond to whom the fugitive also confessed that he had killed his wife.

The autopsy upon the woman's body has shown that she was strangled with great violence, and that before death she was brutally beaten or kicked. The stranger gripped her so tightly that the hyoid bone at the base of the tongue was fractured. The body has many bruises on the face, chest and hips.

There seems to be little doubt that the murder was committed on the afternoon of Sunday, November 12, for neighbors on that day heard the piano played as she often played it, for she was a musician of considerable ability. The neighbors say that the playing stopped abruptly, and that after that no sound was heard from the Hammond apartment, though Hammond himself was seen about the house later that day.

## BATTLE WAGED

In the Harbor of Sebastopol Between Mutineers and Troops.

## THE LATTER GIVE UP

Several of the Insurgent Ships Were Sunk and the Others Surrendered to the Russian Authorities.

## Great Damage Was Done

to the City by Shells.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg, Russia, says Sebastopol was on Wednesday the scene of a desperate battle between the mutinous sailors and the troops in the forts on shore. During the battle the town and the forts were bombarded by the guns of the cruiser Ochoakoff, which now lies a burning wreck off Admiralty Point, its hull riddled with shells and its daunting red sign of revolution banded down. Many of the crew of the Ochoakoff were killed or wounded. According to one report the barracks of the mutineers was carried by storm after the mutinous fleet, which is said to have numbered 10 vessels, had surrendered and the whole position is now in the hands of the troops under the command of Gen. Knapuloff. The Associated Press, however, is unable to guarantee the correctness of this report. Owing to the interruption of the telegraph, details of the battle are difficult to obtain, but as the Associated Press is authoritative informed by the naval general staff.

Thursday night, the battle was begun by the troops on shore, who opened fire on the Ochoakoff, which was defiantly displaying the red flag. The commander of the Ochoakoff, Lieut. Schmidt, immediately accepted the challenge, replying with both batteries, one trained on the town and other on the Fort Alexander batteries on the north shore.

Captain Zlotoff, aide-de-camp to Admiral Virenius, chief of the naval general staff, informed the Associated Press that the latest despatches received from Sebastopol showed that the Ochoakoff was on fire and badly riddled, with its revolutionary colors hauled down, but he was unable to give more definite information.

According to a more detailed report from another source and purporting to come from the admiralty, the battle began at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, when Lieut. Schmidt, not receiving a reply to the demands of the mutineers, opened fire from a fleet of 10 ships, to which the northern batteries at Fort Alexander, artillery posted on the shore and several vessels which remained loyal replied.

During the naval battle the sailors on the shore entrenched in the barracks defended their position with machine guns and rifles against the attacking infantry. During an engagement lasting two and a half hours, with the Ochoakoff riddled and on fire and the cruiser Dnieper and another vessel sunk, Lieut. Schmidt, who had been badly wounded, surrendered the entire squadron. The mutinous sailors on shore surrendered to the Russian and Bielostok regiments.

According to this report the Pan-telimon, formerly the Kniaz Potemkin, was injured below the water line and a torpedo boat is ashore on the rocks.

No details of the casualties or of the damage suffered by the town are obtainable at this time by the admiralty, but owing to the confined space in which the action was fought, it is improbable that the town escaped without heavy damage.

The demands of the mutineers are said to have included, besides the fifteen proposals dealing with service conditions, the convocation of a constituent assembly and the complete realization of the liberties promised by the imperial manifesto.

Too Many Bullet Holes. Jake Scott, colored shot and mortally wounded John Walls, foreman of the tunnel gang on the Southern railway extension work between Jasper, Ind., and French Lick, Wednesday evening. A posse, composed of the workman associated with Walls, pursued Scott and early Thursday returned to town with the information that the body of the negro had been found in the woods and that he had committed suicide. Later the body was found at the place described by the workman. There were thirty-eight bullet holes in the body.

Value of a Kiss. Miss Ella Hamilton thinks the kiss she alleges Hayden Marquis, a wealthy young man, stole from her is worth \$10,000. At least this is the amount of damages she demands in a suit filed in the district court of Des Moines, Iowa. The suit will come to trial at the January term. Marquis is the son of E. W. Marquis, reputed to be a millionaire.

Deadly Football. Carl Osborne, aged 18, was instantaneously killed on Saturday at Rockville, Ind., in a football game between Marshall and Baltimore high schools, and Wm. Moore of Union college died in New York on Saturday night from injuries received in Saturday's game between Union college and the University of New York.

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