

The Barnwell People.

W. W. HOLMES, Editor & Prop.

LARGEST COUNTY CIRCULATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1909

THE LIES LAW.

By a vote of 32 to 35 the House of Representatives on Friday passed the bill to repeal the lies law.

The House, however, has for several sessions been largely hostile to the law, but the more conservative Senate has so far prevented its repeal.

The minority speakers favoring the continuance of the law predicted that if the repeal bill becomes a law there will be an exodus of landless white farmers to North Carolina and Georgia.

An old time friend, a successful man of affairs, who owns a large quantity of land above Columbia, thinks that the evils of the crop lien system can be easily and surely cured by the adoption of two needed amendments to the law:

1st. Limit the binding force and efficiency of the law to the sale and purchase of only the essentials in making the crop. Cut out all luxuries.

2nd. Limit the price of goods advanced to a fair per cent of profit on cost. He argues that if the State has the right and power to limit the price of money—the rate of interest—it has the equal right to limit the prices of commodities.

Another friend believes the lien question should be a matter for local option decision. That each county should decide for itself whether the lien law should stand or be repealed.

He would like to see one county, preferably Kershaw, try it for a year before the measure should be made State wide.

The third friend favors the creation of a commission, outside of the Legislature, consisting of land owners, lien givers, merchants and a lawyer to examine into the whole matter and submit to the General Assembly at the next session full reports of their inquiries.

A fourth adviser, offering a solution that he guarantees will please and profit both lien giver and taker. It is that all farmers undertake and are helped to make their farms self supporting, whether they be land owners or renters. Let those who make advances of merchandise and farm supplies advise, urge and require their customers to give more land and labor to the production of food crops. And above all let the land owner agree to take part payment of rent in other things than cotton—in corn, forage, meat, potatoes etc. That course would in a few years repeal the lien law by removing the need for it.

SOVE TEXAS NEWS.

The Cotton Journal of last week published extracts from the report of H. E. Stringfellow to the Louisiana State Board of Agriculture as to boll weevil conditions in Texas. Col. Stringfellow had seen a million acres of Texas cotton in 1908 and the general experience of the lone star state farmers warrants their belief that the boll weevil has come to stay and that they will never again make top crops.

They used to average a half bale to the acre, but now a third of a bale is the average. But for the boll weevil Texas would now make near six million bales and the price would be five cents a pound. Still the farmers are getting along pretty well, because they have diversified their crops, raising corn and meat for their own use and mules and cattle for sale.

Mr. Taft has said: "I want the very finest inauguration in history," and he will be likely to get his wish if money can buy it and if the weather clerk is in a bleak sky humor. Mr. and Mrs. Taft will go to the White House on March 2d as the guests of the Roosevelts.

On the 4th the outgoing and incoming Presidents will ride to the Capitol together. As Mr. Taft finishes taking the oath Mr. Roosevelt will lay down the big stick, go straight to the depot and take train for his Oyster Point home. Mrs. Roosevelt and children will be ahead of him. If he can Mr. Roosevelt will keep still until he starts on his African hunt.

Mrs. Roosevelt will rest a month or six weeks and then go with Miss Ethel to England.

THIS LEGISLATURE.

The Columbia correspondent of the Charleston Evening Post wrote on Thursday:

The present house is the hardest to get down to a crystallization that many old times have ever seen. Usually by this time a house has been in session three weeks it knows itself, but this house is as yet absolutely ignorant of itself. There is no leadership and no following, no harmony of action, every man stands as a separate atom. It is getting a little better acquainted with itself daily, but the session is not to end in confusion because of that condition. The house wants to be conservative and economical, wants to be just and fair, but is apt to miss it a mile. There is one thing always to be seen, and that is the great game of politics is being played. Every member and each man wants to hold trump. Nobody has the proud possession of leadership because nobody else wants to follow. Every man thinks himself a leader. They all want to do something of their own, but the public schools, but will probably be a success, with which some. A few of the bills to be introduced before the close of the session.

Everybody wants the elections over but it seems next to impossible to get into them or get out of them once well started. The vote for absolute justice

A STORY FOR YOUNG MEN.

WITH A MORAL.

The scene of Bonberger's was an almost deserted and dilapidated saloon. The man who was engaged as "broadhead" on the farm of a relative of his, whose family consisted of himself and wife and eight minor children.

On the fourth of July Bonberger spent the day in the nearby town, celebrating the holiday with some of his employer's children.

Being addicted to liquor, notwithstanding the fact that the State in which he lived had for years before adopted State-wide prohibition, before the day was out he got drunk.

Several days later, while apparently still under the ill effects of liquor, he rose early in the morning, took his employer's shotgun from his place behind the kitchen door, walked into his employer's bedroom, where the employer lay yet unawakened, and deliberately shot him dead.

Returning to the kitchen, where the mother of the family had begun preparations for breakfast, he but-hored the woman, leaving her gasping and weeping in her own blood. Four of the children, next victim to the knife and the gun. Upon the person of the eldest of the children, a girl of fifteen, he perpetrated the assault which was the most general ground for lynching in the southland. Then, arming himself and taking a pony from the stables, he made his escape into Canada.

Such, in briefest outline, is the story of a crime. Bonberger was not drunk at the time of his horrible deeds; but he was influenced by the after effects of a drunk.

Why do we recall such a ghastly story? To point a moral. Every young man who is addicted to liquor is a potential Bonberger.

Drunkenness not only inflames the passions, it also breaks down the restraints which civilization has reared, so that a drunken man is virtually an uncivilized savage. He may not do any harm, but there is always the potentiality of harm.

And what is the state of mind produced upon a sober people at the sight of or the knowledge of young men debauching themselves?

It is a mixture of pity, disgust and indignation, the latter because of the young man's surrender of his manhood, his indifference to the dictates and censures of the social conscience, and his consequent general moral uplift.

Why will young men be such fools? Clitzeu.

THE GREED OF GOLD.

John Burroughs, the naturalist, does not believe that much money means more happiness. He writes:

"I was behind a plow on a school and once wrote a composition on a state for me when I needed it bad. That day he needed seventy cents and I gave him the sum for two old school books. I saw him later in life when he was worth \$70,000, but I do not think that the money had any effect on his character; if it is destroyed you can't replace it. You may be sure that he had it, but it takes a lifetime to get it.

"This thing of speaking evil of our fellow man is a very serious thing and should not be tolerated. There are hundreds of things that happen that are not intended to be evil; it is a mistake to think that some people have and no one but an evil minded person would take it up. We usually find in people what we are looking for, even if we find people not exactly perfect. If we will only take a look at ourselves we will find no halo radiating about us. It is the greatest mistake of our lives to expect everybody to be an angel, when we are so far from it ourselves. It is an old saying 'if you live in a glass house don't throw stones.' Well, we all live in glass houses. They may not be built alike, but they are glass all the same. It may be that you have lived so that no evil tongue can hurt you, but very likely there is some one deer to your head that is not so fortunate. Let me say to mothers, you who think your children are perfect, if they are good try to be thankful for it, but at the same time don't try to run down some poor mother's boy that is not living up to your notch; very likely you are not living up to it yourself, for if you were you wouldn't have time to gossip.

"I had a neighbor once who knew everything that happened in ten miles of her home. She must have been the inventor of wireless telegraphy. She visited a great deal and at every house she got a message and left several. You couldn't get a letter without her knowing it and always everything in it. Not one of the neighbors girls had a beau that she didn't know it and knew just how long he staid and if he was earnest or just coming to make a fool of the girl. Well, he is dead now and I guess her tongue is at rest.

Yes, an old tattle is the most hateful thing on earth, save and except the pulling into every body's house, hunting news, and if she can't find something new, she will fan up something old and start it anew; worse than an old snake hissing around among the briars. A news carrier can tear up a neighborhood and spread what a cyclone. Do you ever notice what a snout tongue a news carrier has; they can wheedle in with you and pick every thing out of you before you know it; worse than a stomach pump. The bad part of these tattleers is that they don't mind telling a lie—have to do it to carry out their piece; otherwise out of ten if they didn't lie they wouldn't have any thing to tell.

"Speak evil of no man." An Old Country Lady.

CAR LOADS OF CATS.

Five thousand cats have been started from Chicago to Japan and more are to go.

They are sent to eat up the rats that abound in the East and that in addition to their great destructiveness and general nuisance are the chief means of spreading the terrible bubonic plague among the people. If the rats can be exterminated the plague can be stopped.

CHILDREN OF DISASTER.

Last week there was an extraordinary religious service in Pennsylvania. Eight hundred Italians who escaped injury in the earthquake disaster that struck their section rano to the United States. The steamer Republic in which they came across the Atlantic was struck by another in a dense fog, over a hundred miles from land. Wireless telegrams brought helping steamers and the passengers were transported to the Baltic. Then the Republic went down with all the baggage of the immigrants. As the train carrying the newcomers west reached the mountain region of Pennsylvania one immigrant knelt down in the aisle of a car and began thankful song and prayer and all the eight hundred followed his example.

NOT IN THIS COUNTY.

A physician engaged a nurse, recently graduated, for a case of diphtheria. He was instructed to bring the patient, and left some medicine, instructing the nurse to administer it to the child as he began to get worse again." At the next call the physician found the patient again having. To his puzzled inquiry the nurse replied that the man had been going on that way for several hours, and that she had not given him any medicine. "But didn't I tell you give it to him if he began to get worse again?" he asked the physician. "But he didn't get worse," replied the nurse, candidly; "he saw red, white and blue turkeys with straw hats on!"

Keep your new year leaf turned over.

Home Course in Modern Agriculture
17.—Water in Its Relation to Plant Growth
By C. V. GREGORY, Agricultural Division, Iowa State College
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We have already learned something of the value of water as a plant food. This is only one of its minor uses, however.

In addition to the water which is decomposed by the plant and used in making starch and other products, many times as much is used for other purposes. One of the principal uses is dissolving plant food and carrying it upward to the leaves.

The cells of which the leaves are made are very delicate and depend for their stiffness on the water which they contain. Without this water they would collapse in the same way a bicycle tire does when the air is let out.

This is the very thing that happens when the leaves wilt. The rise of water from the roots has been checked in some way, and as evaporation still continues the leaf cells become partly emptied and shrink up.

The leaves are not entirely helpless at such a time, however. On each side of the tiny pores on the underside of the leaf is a cell known as a guard cell. When the supply of moisture begins to fail, these guard cells shrink up and in doing so close the openings, thus checking evaporation. In some plants, like corn, the leaves curl up at such a time, thus still further lessening the rate of evaporation. Of course when a leaf is wilted in this manner the work of building up plant tissues is seriously checked. This often happens during the dry weather of July and August, when the soil becomes so dry that the roots have difficulty in obtaining the needed moisture.

The checking of development which results often reduces the yield of corn as much as twenty to thirty bushels per acre and that of other crops in proportion. For every pound of dry matter in a mature plant from 300 to 500 pounds of water have been brought up by the roots and evaporated from the leaves.

One of the most important factors in the production of a maximum crop is the maintenance of a plentiful water supply within easy reach of the roots.

There are three classes of water in the soil. The first is known as ground water and it is that water which collects in a hole dug in a wet soil or runs off through the tile in drained land.

The second is the capillary water and it is that which is left between the soil particles after the ground water has been drawn off. The ground water is affected by gravitation, while the capillary water is not.

If a sample of soil that looks perfectly dry is placed in an oven and heated for some time it will be found that it has lost considerably in weight, owing to moisture being driven off. This is the third class, or hygroscopic moisture. This, of course, is of no value to the plant, since the roots cannot extract moisture from an air dry soil. Neither can they use the ground water. This is really a damage in the upper two or three feet of soil, since it fills the spaces that the roots cannot get enough air.

During a rain the ground water passing through the soil draws considerable air with it. As soon as the

moisture is drawn off the air will follow. Instead of retaining it for future use, as do the clay soils.

The farmer cannot influence the amount of rainfall, of course. After the rain has fallen, however, it belongs to him to do with it as he sees fit. The way he handles it from this time on determines to a large extent the size of the crop he will harvest when fall comes.

The first problem is to get rid of the surplus-ground water quickly, and the second is to waste as little of the capillary water as possible. An endeavor should be made to lower the water table to three or four feet below the surface as soon as possible after each rain. If this can be accomplished in two or three days the growth of the crop will be interfered with very little.

A few soils are so well drained naturally that little artificial drainage is necessary. On almost any farm there are hills and ridges where the natural drainage is sufficient. The hollows between these elevations, however, and all the flat fields will yield much larger crops if tiled.

The distance a line of tile will "draw" in sandy soils often as far as 100 feet on each side, while in heavy clay soils it may not be more than sixteen feet. This distance is also affected by the depth of the tile. The deeper they are placed the farther they will draw. The area usually placed at an average depth of about three feet, though in many instances four would be better. The extra cost of digging the ditch a foot deeper is something of an objection, but is balanced by the fact that the lines of tile do not need to be as close together. Deep tile are not as easily displaced by freezing, and a deeper feeding ground for the roots is provided.

A mistake made more frequently than that of not putting the drains in deep enough is that of using too small tile. The character of the soil, the fall and the amount of surface drainage are the factors which largely determine the proper size to use. Almost every book or bulletin of tile drainage gives tables for figuring the size of the required under various conditions. If there is any doubt it always pays to get a size too large rather than a size too small, even if the cost is a little more.

It is usually better to let the job of tiling to a contractor rather than to attempt to do it yourself. There are reliable tilters in almost every locality who can be depended upon to lay the tile to grade and do a first class job in every particular. Only the hard budgeted should be used. These will last for a lifetime or longer if properly put in. When the job width fifteen or twenty feet of trees the joints should be cemented. Otherwise the tree roots will find their way through the joints and fill up the drains to such an extent that the flow of water will be cut off.

The most important part of a drainage system is the outlet. The tile should empty into a stream if possible. Water should not be allowed to stand over the mouth of the outlet if it can be avoided, as this checks the current and causes the drain to partly fill up with silt, thus reducing its capacity just off much.

With a thorough system of tile drainage in good working order the problem of getting rid of surplus water is solved. Tiling also helps to solve the problem of lack of water. The roots go down so much deeper in a tiled soil that they are in position to withstand a drought better than if they were a foot or two farther above the water table. Removing the surplus water by drainage also hastens the warming of the soil in the spring.

THE INSANITY PLEA.

"St!" said the young woman, with what seemed to be indignation.

"The young man looked embarrassed. 'Yes, I did kiss you,' he admitted, 'but I was impulsively insane.'

"That means that a man would be a lunatic to kiss me?"

"Well any man of disintegration would be just crazy to kiss you."

"This seemed to ease the strain, and no lady being present to meddle in affairs, a satisfactory verdict was reached.

HENDERSON CREMANS, the oldest man in the United States, died suddenly a few days ago at the home of his grand son in Mason County, West Virginia. He was 115 years old and had never tasted whiskey or tobacco.

Hostess—Miss Robinson has no partner for this waltz. Would you mind dancing with her instead of with me? Hawkwar—On the contrary, I shall be only too delighted.—Tit-Bits.

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