

Place Of Fertilizers In Southern Agriculture

Farmer-Banker Discusses Real Value of Fertilizers Out of His Years' of Experience, Observation and Study—Timely Topic Relating to Vital Southern Problem—Extracts From Address.

Bright Williamson, Darlington, S. C.

Agriculture is the bed rock and foundation upon which every other industry must stand or fall. All the people prosper or fail to prosper according to the abundance of the harvest of the soil, and upon agriculture depends the prosperity and happiness of the world.

Better methods of agriculture include the use of modern implements, modern cultivation and soil improvement. This brings us directly to the importance of the fertilizer industry as a means of improving our soils. Fertilizers are absolutely essential in order to increase the fertility of the soil. They have a direct effect upon agricultural production and through the products of agriculture a direct effect upon all other industries.

Anything which contributes to an increase in our agricultural productions, contributes to the welfare, comfort and prosperity of our people as a whole; and this brings us directly to the consideration of the importance of the fertilizer industry in relation to other lines of business.

Fertilizers Necessary in South

The very nature of our soil, climate and rainfall makes it impossible to farm successfully without regularly feeding our crops from artificial sources with at least two of the several principal elements entering into the composition and development of plant life. Without fertilizers much of the best producing cotton lands in the South would become unproductive and farming would be unprofitable. In many states, except in a few localities, soil is no more capable of producing without being fertilized than stock is capable of performing work without being fed. Our lands must be fed just as we feed the stock that work them or they will become too poor to even pay the cost and expense of cultivation.

Transformed Sections

Large sections of land in various parts of the South Atlantic States, forty or fifty years ago, required four or five acres to produce one bale of cotton, which now, by intelligent farming, made possible by the use of fertilizers, yield one bale to each acre, or the equivalent, of other crops. Poverty stricken sections of one or two generations ago have been transformed into populous and prosperous communities. Our ability to rebuild and make our lands more fertile has enabled people to live and settle in more desirable communities, and to enjoy advantages of better markets, schools, churches and social conditions. Better rural conditions have made the "back to the farm" movement not only a possibility, but a reality.

Prosperity Due to Fertilizers

Whatever may be the direct benefit, it is obvious from a study of the situation that the present prosperity and greater population in South Carolina is due more largely to the use of commercial fertilizers than to any other cause, because in South Carolina fertilizers are absolutely necessary to profitable agriculture, upon which most of our business and other industries depend. Had it not been for the use of commercial fertilizers South Carolina could not be considered an agricultural state.

Taking into consideration the cost of fertilizers, statistics will bear out the statement that the once worn out

and abandoned fields of South Carolina yield a greater profit per acre than the richer river lands, once the pride of the Southern cotton planter, or than the more fertile lands of Texas.

Land Values Increased

This statement is reflected in the fact that these same lands in parts of South Carolina are selling freely for more than \$100.00 per acre.

I have been dealing with the effect of the fertilizer industry and the use of fertilizers on agriculture, because, as I have said, the effects on business generally must result from the effect on agriculture, and it is obvious that they must be innumerable. The fertilizer business in the South is one of the most important, and concerns our prosperity more directly than any other industry, and in its effects no other industry so ramifies into other business or has a greater effect on the industries and business generally.

Helps Railroads and Manufacturers

Perhaps among the industries which are more particularly and directly benefited by the use of commercial fertilizers are the railroads and common carriers, which first bring fertilizers to the farmers, and in return transport the increased products of the farm to the ends of the earth; and finally when these products are sold, for a third time, the railroads are called upon to bring to the farmer his supplies of foreign and domestic products.

The use of fertilizer has made more spindles in the South, more oil mills, more live stock, more people and more commerce. The tobacco crop and our trucking industry, requiring intensive fertilization and plant food, would be practically unknown to us. Ships bring raw material from foreign shores in greater quantities and in return carry away more cotton and grain.

Cheapens Cost of Producing Crops

The commercial business is affected in even greater proportion than the farmer himself, and there is no farmer in the South who is not benefited by the judicious use of commercial fertilizer. Large crops give to the people a greater supply at a lower cost of production and at a lower price to the consumer, while on the other hand small crops not only increase the cost of production, but may increase in even greater proportion the price to the consumer. When harvests are abundant the consumer and producer alike share in the increased prosperity.

Other means of cheapening the cost of production can be used profitably only on a very large or on a very small scale, but fertilizers can be applied with practically the same success to the smallest as well as the largest undertaking from the individual plant in the flower pot to the thousand acre cotton field.

It was my pleasure some years ago to know many more manufacturers and dealers in fertilizers than I know at present, but I wish to testify to the high character and intelligence of those with whom I became associated.

The proper use of commercial fertilizer by the farmer is obviously of vital importance to the fertilizer industry as well as to the farmer, and it is a matter that should receive thought and careful consideration at all times by those who promote the industry.

Aim At Above-the-Average Yields In 1919

(From Progressive Farmer, Dec. 31.)

For the average Southern farmer, we cannot think of a better resolution for the New Year than one calling for better than average yields. Average yields, whatever the crop, mean, over a period of years, little more than a living wage. But as the individual farmer rises above the average, his net profits, nine times in ten, correspondingly rise. The man who raises cotton must see that our average of about one-third of a bale per acre can only mean poverty to the grower; the man who grows corn and oats at our average rate of 15 to 20 bushels per acre must see that there can be no profit in such yields; our peanut and tobacco farmers, our dairy and general livestock farmers must see that so long as they are content with a merely average yield per acre or per animal, just so long will they find the farming game unprofitable and unsatisfactory.

Good land, planted to good seeds and well fertilized and well tilled is the key to successful farming; for good land, plus good seed, fertilization and tillage, means high yields and good profits. In the new year, every farmer should aim at these; and in getting

them, it should be remembered that rather liberal expenditures are justifiable. For instance, when a bale of cotton with the seed is worth \$150, our average per acre yield of one-third of a bale is worth \$50; but when we increase this to two-thirds of a bale, worth \$100, we have a gross profit of \$50 with which to pay for the cost of this increased yield, if the matter be gone about judiciously, will practically never be as much as \$50. More often than not, in fact, it will be \$25 or less, leaving a net profit of \$25 or more per acre. And the same rule will hold with other crops and livestock as well. The higher the yield per acre or per animal, within certain limits, the greater the net return.

The new year and the years to come hold great things for the thinking, progressive, business-like farmer. Prices promise to remain good for a long time, and fair profits seem certain for the man who farms right.

Let us, as our first New Year resolution, aim at putting our farms on a big-yielding, money-making basis. There is no surer way for making farm life more attractive and desirable and for keeping the boys and girls on the farms.

Whiskey in Two Barrels.

Savannah, Ga., Feb. 13.—Two barrels marked "vinegar," reaching Savannah on an Ocean Steamship Company's vessel, today aroused the suspicion of government agents guarding the port against whiskey shipments. When the heads of the barrels were removed two large rubber bags containing whiskey were floating in the vinegar.

Bank Cashier Arrested.

Pittsburg, Feb. 13.—With the arrest of J. F. Swartz, cashier, charged with embezzling \$250,000 of its funds, the Park Bank, one of the leading financial institutions of the East End, was closed this morning. It was announced that D. G. Cameron, State bank examiner, had been appointed receiver. The bank's statement of January 1 showed deposits of \$2,235,359.

FANCY Evaporated Apples

We just received a shipment of fancy evaporated apples. Try a pound and be convinced.

Phone 15

TOM DUCKER

BAMBERG, S. C.



TRY OUR SOLID BOTTOMED SHOES ONCE AND YOU WILL ALWAYS WEAR THEM. WE ARE EXCLUSIVE AGENTS FOR SHOES THAT HAVE STOOD THE TEST FOR FIT, COMFORT, LOOKS AND LONG WEAR—ALL AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

BUY FROM US ALL THE YEAR AROUND EVERYTHING YOU NEED FROM FOOT TO HEAD. WE ARE RIGHT HERE TO "MAKE GOOD" ON ANYTHING WE SAY AND SELL.

H. C. Folk Co.

BAMBERG, S. C.

BUY W. S. S.
and Help
WIN THE WAR

BUY W. S. S.
and Help
WIN THE WAR

Just Arrived

We have just received three carloads of mules and huses from the Western markets. These animals were personally selected by our Mr. W. P. Jones, and they are in the pink of condition. They are now to be seen at our stables. Don't fail to see them before you buy.

Jones Bros.

RAILROAD AVENUE BAMBERG, S. C.

New Assortment Waterman's Pens at Heuald Book Store

THE "PRUDENT MAN" IS
PREPARED FOR SICKNESS
HE HAS A BANK
ACCOUNT.



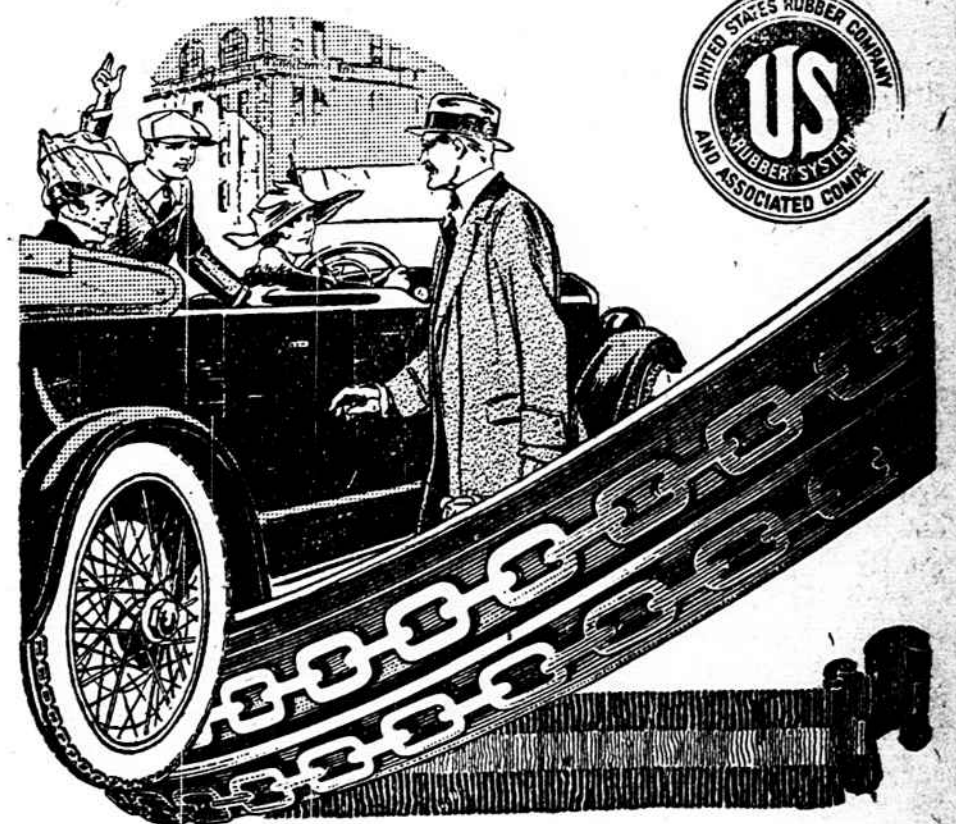
Don't you see strong, healthy men taken down with sickness every day Is not this a lesson to teach YOU to have MONEY PILED UP in our bank so you can tide through your sickness Should you DIE would you leave your family helpless Bank your money; it is your DUTY.

BANK WITH US.

We pay four per cent. interest, compounded quarterly on savings deposits

Farmers & Merchants Bank

EHRHARDT, S. C.



'Chain' Tread

The Economy of Buying Good Tires

It's mighty poor economy to put cheap tires on your car.

If you can't depend on your tires, you can't depend on your car,

—and you can't get the high grade of service it ought to give you.

It pays to buy good tires—United States Tires.

They represent the highest value it is possible to build into tires.

There are five different passenger car treads—the only complete line built by any tire manufacturer.

Each has the built-in strength that means your money back in *extra miles*.

Among them are *exactly* the tires you want for *your* car, and *your* driving conditions.

Our nearest Sales and Service Depot Dealer will gladly help you.

United States Tires are Good Tires