

16 February 1878

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J. DeTreville, James S. Heyward
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W. B. TREADWELL.
Nov 3

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Sept 1m

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ANTON BERG,

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Sept 8

TAKE NOTICE.

The undersigned respectfully informs the Citizens of the Town and County that he is prepared to do up and make Mattresses on the shortest notice. Also will conduct an Upholstery business. Prices will be as low as possible. Orders solicited.

JOHN ORGEN.

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Application of Commercial Fertilizers.

BY COLONEL THOMAS TAYLOR.

The success of the farmer has been the result of experiment, and not of knowledge; and so long as we work in the dark no specified result can be certain. It is self-evident that all land must be ploughed, but how it should be ploughed depends upon the character of the soil. Sandy soil should be ploughed shallow first; it may be subsoiled to any depth, and the ploughing may be deepened each year without injury to the land or crop.

Clay and bottom land can be ploughed deeper, following with the subsoil, and increasing the depth in ploughing yearly. All land should be ploughed in the fall and winter, and get the benefit of frost and ice; land gets a great deal of fructifying power from ice and frost. We now have exhausted land, improved implements which enable us to prepare the land thoroughly for the seed. We need something more. We get that in the commercial manures, which supply to the plant those chemical properties which have been exhausted by long culture and injudicious management.

We now have land and implements, but we need something to make the land productive to a sufficient degree to pay the producer. We find underlying some of the land and waters in the lower part of the State a phosphatic deposit, which, upon being ground and rendered soluble, forms the basis of a manure, which supplies to land those properties which have been exhausted. These mixtures, known as commercial manures, have become generally used, and have even, with our experimental applications, paid the producer in some instances. This vast source of wealth to the State and farmer seems to be Providential, and as the means by which we will be enabled to recover our losses in a great measure. If the farmers had known how to make proper use of this discovery, their lands would have improved yearly, instead of failing, after repeated applications of fertilizers. It is almost the universal system of the farmer to apply the cotton seed, with its increase by the use of commercial manure, to some other exhausted land, instead of returning the same to the land that made it. Thereby they render the land less productive each year, after the first or second application. This system will not build up our exhausted lands, but have the reverse effect. The rotation of crops in some degree removes the difficulty, but even that will not effect it entirely. You must return all the increased production of an acre of land, which is used as manure, to the same land, and not attempt to build up two pieces of land with the production of one. No land can stand such depletion and pay the producer. The best evidence of the fertility of our lands is that they have been able to stand such a system of culture and produce anything. I have traveled over some of the best farming lands in the Northwest, the New England and Middle States. The same system would and did, for a time, render these lands very poor. The owners, however, saw the error of their culture, and adopted a system of rotation—planting a piece of land once in three years, sowing grass and liming. What was the result? Their lands increased in yield steadily until they surpassed their virgin state. The same thing can be done here, with equal success, by a rotation of crops—sowing peas and clover and turning in the same. Do not take these from the land because they look so fine and you are short of rough food for your mules and cattle. The natural fertility of our lands cannot be disputed. No State has more natural advantages than South Carolina. We can grow all the crops that are grown on the continent, from the olive and banana down to the most substantial needs of a people. Where can we

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fertilizers. Land that will produce 600 pounds of seed cotton without the aid of fertilizers will certainly produce from one-third to one-half more by their use. It may double the yield. That, however, would be too large an estimate as a general rule. I have had, with the application of 200 pounds of Pacific guano, or river bank, a yield of 1,200 and 1,500 pounds per acre of seed cotton, which did not yield more than 500 to 600 pound without it; I have also had the same result from the Etiwan, both beating Peruvian guano. This land, however seemed particularly adapted to the application of fertilizers, and the crop has never fallen back in the past few years. These lands were cleared by the Indian, before the white man settled the country.

The manner and mode of application of fertilizers is very uniform; it is in a deep furrow and the dirt is ploughed upon it—the cotton being ploughed upon the top of the bed. Some use a second application is made in the cotton is thinned to a stand, running a furrow close to the cotton, sowing the fertilizer and throwing a furrow upon it. This second application gives a new impetus to the cotton and goes far to perfecting its growth. There is enough vitality in the cotton to give substance to the plant long a time. There is very little visible in the month of August, but the cotton plant what is called by many farmers. The leaves are and drop off and the plant dies. I say it is not rust in most cases, but proceeds from the soil being exhausted to supply food any longer, the fertilizer having exhausted all the vitality that was in the land for that year. The cotton attained a good size, well fruited, all opened and ready early in September. It may be said by some that preaching and ploughing are two different things. I admit that you may preach always, but if we practice we cannot expect to be the land of poverty. The longer the land is without medicine and food for the plant, the more difficult will be the task of building it up. There is no time like the present to begin the remedy.

Manure is wasted by exposure to washing rains, or by being trampled by stock in wet yards. It may easily lose three fourths of its value in this way.

Indolence is the rust of the mind and the inlet of every vice.