

The Nile mud, which renders Egypt a habitable country, is said to bear a striking resemblance to that which every season is brought down by the Missouri.

SOUTH CAROLINA CROPS

General Review of Conditions for the Past Week.

The temperature was above normal during the week ending Monday, July 21st, with an average of about 84 degrees. The highest was 103 degrees at Heath Springs on the 17th and at Seivern on the 18th, the lowest 62 degrees at Santuc on the 17th. This, the second hot wave of the month, was of comparatively short duration, for by the end of the week the temperature was again normal or below. The winds were generally light and dry, but without the withering effect so noticeable during the previous hot wave.

Showers occurred in every county, but they were partial and generally light, and at a few points only did they supply enough moisture for the need of growing crops. The rainfall was heaviest in the southeastern portions, but was not general in that section. Over the greater portion of the State, crops are suffering for rain, severely in places, and in others not so much. This has caused a great diversity in the condition of crops, so that now there are places in every county where they are doing well and other places where they are partly ruined. This applies particularly to corn and cotton, while other crops are affected in like manner, but in varying degrees. Showery conditions prevailed at the close of the week.

Field crops have been laid by in clean condition, except some cotton that is receiving its last plowing and stubble corn that is yet small.

Some early corn has reached maturity and is a fair crop, but hot weather and drought cut short a large portion of early corn, while late corn is generally promising and in condition to be benefited by timely rains.

Cotton improved in a number of localities, affording much promise, but generally it deteriorated during the week, depending on the rainfall distribution. Over by far the greater portion of the State there are reports of blooming to the top of shedding of the plants turning yellow, and a few reports of rust. Generally the plants are small, but blooming freely and a few sections there are nearly full grown bolls. The crop as a whole is in a condition to be greatly benefited by rains, should they occur within the next two weeks.

Tobacco cutting is being rushed to the neglect of other farmwork, and the crop is curing nicely. In a number of localities this year's crop is the best ever raised, while in other localities it was badly damaged by heat and drought. Rice is threatened by salt water in some districts. Caterpillars have nearly all disappeared after damaging young rice. Peas continue to look well. The majority of reports continue to indicate an inferior fruit crop, with much premature ripening and dropping, except grapes which are fine where not rotting. Minor crops, such as sweet potatoes, cane, pastures, grass for hay and gardens, need rain.

Fatal Accident at Spartanburg.

Spartanburg, Special.—A harrowing tragedy occurred Sunday morning about 10 o'clock at the home of Prof. W. M. Morrison of Clemson college, who is spending the summer at Welford. Prof. Morrison's 6-year-old son and Willie, the 6-year-old son of Mr. J. R. Jackson, a neighbor, were playing together on Prof. Morrison's premises. By some means the little boys unobserved managed to get a breach-loading shot gun, both barrels of which was loaded, from Prof. Morrison's house, and this weapon was brought into their sport. Just how it happened no one will ever know, perhaps, but the gun was discharged and the load entered the body of Willie Jackson just beneath the left shoulder blade, ranging inward and penetrating the lung. The boy lived a little over three hours after the shooting, and was conscious, frequently calling for water. He recognized Dr. H. R. Black, who was summoned and who reached Welford about half an hour before the boy died. He called the doctor by name. The fatal accident is a shock to that entire section of the country, and the parents of Willie Jackson, and Prof. and Mrs. Morrison are prostrated with grief.

Bloody Altercation.

Manning, Special.—Sunday afternoon an altercation occurred between Lawrence Wilson and two young brothers by the name of Warr, in which one of the Warr boys severely cut Wilson two places on the body with a knife. The extent of Wilson's injuries cannot be told, but the physician who attended him thinks that the severest wound was prevented from going into the cavity by his ribs.

A One Armed Forger.

Bamberg, Special.—Saturday morning Sheriff Hunter was surprised to receive a notice from the Bamberg Banking company to the effect that they had received a check from the bank at Barnwell, endorsed by Sheriff Creech of that place, and apparently signed by Sheriff Hunter. The check was drawn for \$10 and was made payable to one John Turner, who, it was found upon investigation, had forged Sheriff Hunter's name to it. The forger is said to be a very clever one, and would not have been detected so quickly had it not been for a private arrangement made between the bank and the sheriff here for mutual convenience in keeping the private and public accounts of this office separate.

Is the Novelist Born or Made.

There is an interesting symposium in The Young Man on the subject of "How to Become a Novelist," from which, however, the aspiring romancist will not derive very much encouragement. Mr. William Le Queux leads off with the expression of opinion that a wide and diffuse knowledge of the world is one of the first essentials to success in fiction. Lucas Malet is old-fashioned enough to believe that the novelist is born, not made, while Mrs. W. K. Clifford is pretty much of the same opinion, and Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler epigrammatically remarks that writing is like flirting; if you can't do it, nobody can teach you to do it.

Mr. Gilbert Parker is of opinion that fiction writing can be learned but not taught, and Mr. E. F. Benson thinks that there are only two indispensable gifts for a novelist—an eye for dramatic situation, and the power of putting down in plain English what he sees. Mr. W. W. Jacobs' contribution is characteristic. "All the advice in the world would not make novelists of some people; a similarly large quantity of advice of another kind would also fail to prevent others from attaining success in that direction."—Pall Mall Gazette.

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