THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

'Be Just and Fear not-Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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SEED SELECTION.

The Necessity of Systematic Breeding of Field Seeds.

From the Hartsville Messenger.

(A paper read before the Darlington Agricultural Society at their annual meeting August 13th, 1907. Published by request.)

Most farmers know, and many of them practice, the essential principles of successful animal breeding. They know they must breed from the best individual animals they have or can get in order to improve their herds. They know that animals usually transmit their more prominent characteristics to their progeny and that these characteristics are more marked in some of the progeny than in

Farmers also know that there is a variation in the productive capacity of seeds, but few of them have realised the tremendous difference in the capacity of individual plants of a variety to produce both quantity and

Prof. Hopkins of the University of Illinois, speaking of corn, says: "The individuality of the seed ear becomes apparent when one field row yields 50 bushels per acre and another adpining row planted from a different seed ear, but on the same kind of soil. produces 120 bushels per acre. Such differences are not unusual in breeding plants, Similar differences ore often seen in different animals. Experime its have shown that one cow may produce 250 pounds of butter fat in a year, while another cow, even when consuming the same quantities of food, produces 180 pounds of butter

Prof. Reyser of Lincoln, Neb., says of wheat breeding: "We studied all the progeny of a few mother plants through three generations and found that they showed wide variations in yield, and composition. That some mother plants, although excellent themselves, produced uniformly very poor progeny. That some mother, plants produced uniformly good pro-

In 1902 a number of good cotton plants were selected on our plantation and the seed from each planted in a different row in 1903. The best plants were again selected that year and the same method followed every year until now. The general seed from the four best plants were tested on our farm last year and were found to vary very much in yield—the difference betwen the poorest and the best being nearly 50 per cent. This result was a great surprise, as I would have judged the two varieties to be about equally productive. This experiment is very suggestive, for if the seed from two fine plants selected for several generations turn out such a tremendous difference in yield, how much greater difference is there in the yield of average crop seed and the best pedigreed seed.

My cotton is becoming more uniform each year, but still shows varieative. I have a photo with me which shows how cotton may revert to an undesirable type.

ground and others less than four Some have a tendency to protwo ears and others only one. has produced a very poor stand and a stake with the number of the and many of the stalks are deformed. mother plant placed at the end of the

I mention these experiments to row. That fall a number of plants show that you cannot tell positively are selected on each row as formerly from the looks of the parent plant and the seed cotton from each row whether or not it will produce an picked and weighed separately in orabundance of desirable seed. Of der to test the yielding power of course, the progremy of plants or ani- each. The yield of the plants selectmals are likely to resemble their pa- ed for the next season's work, of Manning, sister of the late Gov. John some minutes had passed. Then they great mass of broken and twisted dent Smith was instructed to vote rents, but the productive power of course, should be kept separate, but L. Manning, died at her home in drew him up to find him dead. any particular plant or animal can- should each be weighed and added Camden last night and will be buried not be judged until tested

Plant breeding and animal breed- the plants of the poor yielding rows ATTACKS INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY. eral principles, and success is much of the best yielding rows should be Act Repudiaing Relief Association more quickly assured by following saved for the next year's breeding these principles in the plant depart- patch, and the general seed from best ment of nature than in the animal yielding rows can be thrown together

portant in cotton breeding to consid- in yield and quality. er the question of quality. The cotton produced in this section of the country sells. I believe, in the mark- cable to cotton. ets of the world at the lowest of any except India cotton. In the western part of the cotton belt the ordinary like. Pick ears of good size, straight to 1-8 of an inch longer than that filled at butt and tip. Take none that produced here, and the bender cottons of the river valleys of Texas and only from upright stocky stalks that Mississippi have a staple fully 3-16 have their ears set low. inch longer than ours. My experience from Alabama and Mississippi. There is no reason why we should allow this condition, so unfavorable to the

Something more than a year ago, a staple expert visited a mill which been allowed to tassel. was spinning some of the cotton faiswhere the cotton came from or who raised it, he informed the president of the mill that it was the best spinning upland cotton he had seen during an extended trip of inspection of southern mills. That crop of cotton was made from seed which were grown from 30 plants carefully selected from the field in 1902. All of these original plants showed about 1 1-8 inch staple, and the crop of 1905 from these seed showed about 1 1-6 inch staple and was strong and uniform.

to remain as it is.

I think I have said enough to convince this audience of the practical value of seed selection, and will now outline simple methods to be applied to cotton and corn.

To begin with, if you have a desirable variety of cotton, get a few of the best seed you can find. Plant these seed in checks 4x4 or 5x5 in order that each plant may have an opportunity to develop fully. not select a rich garden spot for your seed patch. You can judge results much better on ordinary land with the same treatment you give your general crop. When the bolls begin to open in September, go along the rows and select the plants which are most perfect in every respect. Select rations. It makes me believe that this only well fruited plants with large bolls, well balance limbs, healthy leaves and erect, strong stalks. Then take a small comb and pull out the seed. cotton attached, from the middle 10 each of locks. Smooth out the cotton on the and como it so that you can judge its length. If you comb a few seed on each of 100 plants you will probably find a considerable variation in the length of the staple. Some plants will probably have lint as short as 3-4 to 7-8 inch, and other plants may show a length of 1 1-8 inches. You will also notice that the lint on some seed is very short at the point and long at This spring I got together a number | the base of the seed, and that other of the best seed ears of corn that I plants will bear seed having lint of could find and planted a part of each nearly uniform length at both ends of ear separately in adjoining rows. The the seed. You will, of course, select rows from the different seed ears those productive plants which show show a great diversity of character- the best covered seeds, the longest istics. While too early to estimate and mast uniform lint and the largest the yield of the grain, the main fea- bolls, and these should be the mothtures of the plants can now (August er plants for your next year's plant 13th) be judged. Some rows have breeding plat. The best bolls of set their ears over six feet from the each of these plants should be picked separately and each package given a different number. The following Spring, the seed cotton from each largest and finest looking seed plant is planted in a separate row

ing are both based on the same gen- should be discarded. The best plants and ginned for field purposes. If In breeding field seeds, by far the these seed are separated by the gravmost important aim is large yield, ity method perfected by Dr. Webb and an increased yield is quickly ar- and Mr. Bokyin of the plant breeding rived at by a very simple system of department of the government your plane breeding. It is, however, very system will be well nigh perfect. This important to breed quality along method carried on from year to year with quantity and it is especially im- will quickly result in a big increase

> The correct method of corn breeding is even simpler than that appli-

Select 25 ears from the best field of corn you can find, of a variety you upland varieties produce a lint 1-16 rows and deep grain that are well have been attacked by weevils. Select

Plant 25 rows with these seed, usin the cotton business has proved to ing one-half to two-thirds of the seed me that it is almost impossible to sell from each ear, reserving the balance our cotton to New England mills. to use in case of disaster. Give each They sometimes take it in small seed ear and corresponding row a quantities at the first of the season number. Take note of the features because they can lay it down at their which each row displays during the doors in about one week from ship- growing season. When the tassels bement, while it requires about one gin to appear, detassel alternate month to get cotton from Texas. Af- halves of each row. Select ears for ter September I find it impossible to the next year's seed and plant from sell our ordinary upland cotton in the detasselled ends of the best rows. any quantity in New England, and This is important, as it has been provour brokers tell us that the mills pre- ed that the detasselled stalks produce for the western staple on account of much better seed-their seed being its superior length and strength. Even all cross-bred and none inbred. All the mills in the Piedmont section of are familiar with the disastrous reour own State for the same reason sults of continued inbreeding of aniget a large portion of their cotton mals, and similar results follow the inbreeding of corn. *

The Illinois experiment station in 1903 and 1904 got an average yield demand and price of our staple crop, of 12 bushels more from the seed of detasselled plants than from the seed of plants of the same variety that had

Take all the good remaining ears ed on our home farm. Without know- from the detasselled ends of the best lowing year.

> Continue to carry on this system for a few years and the results will surprise you.

> In the scope of this paper I cannot begin to cover all the features of seed breeding that are important to our farmers and would advise all those who are interested to write the United States department of agriculture for bulletins, giving full details of how to proceed with the work of selection and breeding those crops in which we are most interested.

Eevery year important problems are being worked out and proved by the department of agriculture at Washington by the State experiment stations and by our best farmers, and the progressive farmer must keep informed and use all that will benefit him. In other words, he must keep out of the ruts, and to do this, he Do must keep wide awake and watch the

The splendid reception given the Williamson plan should reassure all who have doubted the progressiveness of the southern farmer. It is to my mind the longest step forward by southern agriculture in several gene work of seed selection and breeding will soon receive the attention to which its importance entitles it.

PRITCHARD AGAINST RAILROAD

Important Decision in South Carolina Damage Suit.

Asheville, N. C., Aug. 29 .- Judge J C. Pritchard in the United States court, rendered a decision today in the case of Charles J. Morrow versus Charlotte Air Line Railway company, remanding the case back to the South Carolina State court.

Morrow sued the railway for \$10. 000 on account of personal damages sustained by him, the suit being entered in the State court of South Carolina. The railway company petitioned that the case be moved to the United States circuit court on the ground of diversity of citizenship, the railway company alleging that it was a citizen of North Carolina, while the plaintiff was a citizen of South Caro-

Judge Pritchard after hearing the argument remanded the case back to the South Carolina State court from whence it was removed on the ground that the railway company was a domestic corporation.

MISS SUSAN M. MANNING.

Sister of the Late Gov. Manning Died in Camden Sunday Night.

Camden, Sept. 2.-Miss Susan M. to the general produce of i's row. All in Columbia on Tuesday.

Contracts No Good-J.dge R. O. BRIDGE NEAR QUEBEC COLLAP-Purdy Declares Unconstitutional the Statute.

Charleston, Aug. 29.-In the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, in chambers, Judge R. O. Purdy yesterday filed a decision and decree in the case of Joseph R. Sturgess vs. the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, dismissing the complaint and declaring unconstitutional the act of March 7, 1905, in which the right of a relief association to enter into agreement and contract for relief from liability was denied. Judge Purdy hell that such an act was in violation of the Federal and State constitutions, which guaranteed personal liberty and the right to make contracts. The decree follows:

In the submission of the case to the court, the attorneys asked Judge Purily to pass on two questions, whether the act of the legislature allowing a recipient of the hospital and relief fund to recover benefits, notwithstanding his compensation for damages, is constitutional and valid, and secondly, whether the term 'disability" in the contract means a total inability to work or mere inability to perform the class of labor in which the member was engaged at the time of his injury.

After citing numerous cases involving the points of law on the first question, Judge Purdy proceeds: "In the light of these principles escape is impossible from the conclusion that the act here under consideration is an illegal interference with the freedom of contract guaranteed by the federal and State constitutions and therefore null and void. * * * Here is a contract of highly beneficial character and undoubted validity attempted to be struck down by a statute that can be referred to in a single source of authority under the police power and which is detrimental rather than beneficial to the only portion of the pubic affected. My duty to uphold the constitution in such a case by declaring the statute void seems to be clear and I feel no hesitation in probauncing it."

In passing upon the second question, the court declared that the contract speaks for itself in sufficiently clear terms: "The regulation does not say physical inability to work in the line in which he was formerly engaged and the court cannot read such a meaning into it. A party may not be physically able to follow one line of work, yet thoroughly able to follow another and more lucrative one. Plainly no such case as this was intended to be provided for by the payment of disabled benefits; hence. I hold that the disability referred to means physical inability to perform any labor."

It seems that in March, 1907, J. R. Sturgess, a carpenter employed by the Atlantic Coast Line, was injured. He was a member of the relief association of the company and when joining the same had bound himself by signature to either accept the benefits offered and provided by the association, in case of death or accident, or to sue and thus attempt to gain by litigation. The man chose to sue and recovered \$2,700 damages. He then entered suit against the relief department of the railroad and sought to obtain the sum of \$421.50. The plaintiff's attorneys brought forward an act of the South Carolina legislature, dated March 7, 1905, which forbids the making of any contract between the relief association and the members which may bar litigation. The judge reviewed the case at length and showed that the relief association gave many and generous benefits and gave the employe member a clear and fair option and election. That it was right and proper he should be allowed to choose between certain benefits of the association and the doubtful ones of litigation was brought forward. The act, Judge Purdy said, was contrary to the federal and State constitutions in that it interferes with the right of individuals to make and enter into contracts. The suit was dismissed.

KILLED AT TYBEE.

Right Fielder for Savannah Meets Sad Accident.

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 1 .- Joseph L. Briskey, right fielder for Savannah's team in the South Atlantic league, broke his neck at Tybee Island this afternoon by diving into shallow wadying on the bottom, but he had an- tle has been done in the way of renounced that he was going to make a

Briskey leaves a widow and a threeweeks-old baby in Houston, Tex.

A GREAT BRIDGE DISASTER.

SED WITH FATAL RESULTS.

Scores of workmen Precipitated Into St. Lawrence River-More Than Eighty Dead.

Quebec, Aug. 29.—The great Quebec bridge collapsed late this afternoon and now the vast mass of steel work lies a tangled wreck across the St. Lawrence channel. A careful estimate of the loss of life is 84. The bridge fell at exactly 23 minutes to 6 this evening, just as many of the workmen were preparing to leave. The accident was so terrible in its effectiveness in wiping out the lives of the men employed that very little is known as to the cause of the disaster.

Quebec, Aug. 29 .- A section of the new bridge across the St. Lawrence river, five miles below this city, collapsed late today, carrying scores of bridge workmen and machinists into the water. It is estimated that the loss of life is more than 60 and may exceed that number by 20.

The bridge was about a mile and a half in length and half of it, from the south shore to midstream, crumpled up and dropped into the water.

Ninety men were at work on this section of the structure and the whistle had just blown at 5.30 for the men to quit work for the day when there came a grinding sound from the bridge midstream. The men turned to see what had happened and an instant later the cry went up, "The bridge is falling." The men made a rush shoreward, but the distance was too great for them to escape. The artillery.

the frightened workmen as they sped vs. the Atlantic Coast Line and S. R. horeward, but only a few of them reached safety before the last piece of iron work on the south shore was dragged into the river.

bridge did not go below the surface of the water and eight workmen who remained above the water were rescued and taken to the hospital at

cleared the bridge when the first section fell. The water thrown up by the debris went clear over the bridge of the steamer. The captain boats plied backward and forward ning case is lengthy and states fully over the sunken wreckage for half an hour, but there was no sign of life. The twisted iron and steel had its victims in a terrible death grip. A few floating timbers and the broken strands of the bridge toward the north shore' were the only signs that anywas not a ripple on the smooth surface of the St. Lawrence as it swept along toward the gulf. All the men drowned were employes of the Phoenixville Bridge company and subcontractors of Quebec and Montreal.

in the hospital two are not expected range was never received from the to live throughout the night.

The Quebec bridge was begun about seven years ago and it was to be finished in 1909. Subsidies had been granted by the federal and provincial governments and the city of 90 days, and on appeal the circuit Quebec, and the estimated cost of the court affirmed the judgment. work was \$10,000,000.

of Pennsylvania had the contract for the receipt by the defendant of the the construction of the bridge and warming closet devolved upon it the were working from both sides of the

The horror of the situation is in creased by the fact that there are a number of wounded men pinned in the wreckage near the shore. Their groans and shrieks can be piainly heard by the crowds who have gathered at the water's edge, but nothing so far can be done to relieve their sufferings. There are no searchlights available and by the feeble light of lanterns it is impossible to locate some of the sufferers.

A Criminal Investigation.

Quebec, Aug. 30.-Steps to begin a criminal investigation into last night's terrible disaster, when perhaps eighty men lost their lives in the collapse of the gigantic bridge, five miles from here, has already been begun at the

The people are literally crushed by ter. Other bathers saw him as he lay the awfulness of the calamity, and litcovering the bodies. No list of the long stay under the water and they dead has been compiled and no the various county cotton growers thought nothing of the matter until steps have been taken to explore the associations held in Columbia Presie steel.

Today hundreds of workmen rush- of cotton at the meeting to be held ed by the construction company to in Jackson, Miss., Sept. 5,

the scene, commanded by skilled engineers, are exploring the wreckage and taking out the crushed and brok-

en bodies of the victims. So far as is known only ten of the 102 workmen, fall Americans, are known to have escaped. Two of these are dying today. of the other eight, four are believed to have a chance of recovery. Traffic on the St. Lawrence

FEW BODIES FOUND,

The Quebec Bridge Disaster Fully as Great as Reported.

is practically blocked today.

Quebec, Aug. 31 .- This city is mourning today for the dead who were killed in the bridge disaster. The latest estimates place the number of dead between seventy and eighty, Structural defects, are now believed by some engineers to have been responsible for the disaster. Fuorteen bodies, only, have been recovered, and it is doubtful if any more will be be found, as it is believed the bodies have been crushed to a pulp under the enormous weight of the wreckage,

AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

Supreme Court Declares a State Statute Null-Act Holding Railroads Liable for Loss or Damage to Goods Shipped Over Their own or connects ing Lines Invalid.

Columbia, Aug. 31.-The supreme court today rendered a decision . declaring unconstitutional an act of the general assembly, passed in 1903, which attempts to make a railroad liable for loss of or damage to goods shipped over its line, whether or not the loss or damage occurred on its line or a connecting line. On the ground that this act is unconstitutionfallen section of the bridge dragged al, being an interference with inothers after it, the snapping girders terstate commerce, the supreme court, and cables snapping like a crash of in an opinion written by Associate Justice Woods, reverses the lower Terror lent fleetness to the feet of courts in the cases of William Lewis Venning vs. the Atlantic Coast Line,

In the case of R. Keith Charles against the same railroad company, in an opinion written by Associate Jus-Near the shore the wreckage of the tice Jones, the supreme court sustains the constitutionality of another act passed in 1903, which imposes on railroads a penalty for failure to settle a claim in 90 days.

In view of the agitation in regard The steamer Glennmont had just to the regulation of railroads and the widespread discussion of legislation on this line, these decisions of 'the South Carolina supreme court are of special interest at this time, especially at once lowered boats. The small to shippers. The decision in the Venthe court's view on the act of 1903, The facts are about as follows:

The Belknap Hardware Company, in January, 1905, delivered to the Southern Railway at Louisville, Ky., a steel range and warming closet, consigned to the plaintiff at Manthing unusual had happened. There ning, S. C. The defendant, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, the terminal carrier, delivered to plaintiff the warming closet only, and this action was brought to recover \$21 dams ages for failure to deliver the range, and \$50 statutory penalty for failing At 10 o'clock tonight 16 bodies had to adjust and pay the claim within been picked up and of the eight men 90 days. It was testified that the Southern Railway by the Atlantic Coast Line at Columbia. The magistrate gave judgment for plaintiff in the sum of \$21 damage and \$50 for failing to adjust and pay the claim in

The supreme court, following the The Phoenixville Bridge company decision in similar cases, held that burden of showing it had never received the range. The judgment of the magistrate was not based on the disbelief of testimony on this point, but on the statute of 1903 (24 Stat. 1) under which the defendant as one of the connecting carriers would be liable without respect to whether the range was lost on its line or on that of another carrier. "The vital question, therefore," said Justice Woods, "is whether this act of 1003 must be held unconstitutional as an attempt to regulate interstate commerce." The opinion then considers fully the game stitutionality of this act, which was intended to make radical changes in the law as to the liability of carriers for losses or damage occurring on connecting lines. Decisions of the United States supreme court and other courts are cited to show that & stipulation in the bill of lading, limits ing the liability of each carrier to its own line, would be a reasonable lime

for 13 cents as the minimum price