

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1909.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1868. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

The letter of Mr. F. H. McMaster, State Insurance Commissioner, which we publish today is one that the business men of Sumter should read with care and consideration. It directs their attention to a matter that is of importance and suggests a means of keeping at home a large amount of money that under present conditions is now sent out of the State. It would be neither practicable nor advisable for a mutual fire insurance company to carry all or a large part of the fire risks of a community of the size of Sumter, but it would be feasible for a mutual company to carry ten to twenty per cent of the risks at a saving to the property owners. The history of well managed mutual companies is proof that there is an inviting field for such a company in Sumter and we trust that the matter of organizing a mutual in Sumter will be undertaken at an early day.

**AT WORK BUILDING TRESTLES.**

**Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Going Ahead With Big Improvements.**

According to the latest reports received here the work on the three great trestles, which the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad is at present constructing over the Pee-Dee Santee and Savannah rivers, on its main line, is progressing rapidly, but it will be several months before the new structures are completed. These trestles, constructed of steel and concrete, will take the place of the wooden trestles now in use, and will be a great improvement over the latter in every respect.

The trestles will be able to carry an enormous weight, and to withstand almost any rising current by reason of their construction, which in bridge parlance is known as the combination structure, i. e., the piers will be constructed alternately of concrete and steel. Each pier, however, whether made of steel or concrete, will have a solid concrete foundation. In order to obtain the best results the engineers now carrying on the work of construction are driving hundreds of piles into the river beds, a work which in itself will take up considerable time. After the piles have been sunk deep enough the concrete is placed on top, and above this platform the steel or concrete pier.

A great deal depends upon the water conditions in the foundation work. A freshet like the one experienced last fall on the Santee and Pee-Dee, will, of course, retard the construction in some uncertain way. The trestles are being built near the following points: One above Florence, across the Pee-Dee River, between Pee-Dee and Winton; one over the Santee River, between Gourdin and St. Stephens; one over the Savannah River, near Hardeeville. The trestle over the Pee-Dee will be a little over one mile in length, the one over the Santee, about three miles long, and that over the Savannah, between two and three miles. It is stated that perhaps the trestles may not be opened for transportation purposes before a year from date.

Superintendent Murchison, of the Atlantic Coast Line, stated yesterday that the laying of the 55-pound rail between Charleston and Florence, in place of the lighter rail now in use, was also progressing very rapidly. Large construction crews are working at both ends of the line. The work on this and has already been completed to Mount Holly. It is as yet not known when a juncture will have been made by the two crews.—News and Courier.

**MEAT DEALER MURDERED.**

**Citizen of St. Paul Found in His Home With Crushed Skull.**

St. Paul, Minn., May 13.—Louis Arbogast, a meat dealer, was found with his skull crushed in his home early today. The police say no arrests have been made. Arbogast's eldest daughter, Louise, aged 24, and her sweet-heart, Henry Spangenberg, were taken to the central police station this afternoon, where they were closely questioned for several hours. Mrs. Arbogast, who is suffering from prostration, is being cared for in a hospital. The police claim to be confident that the murder was committed by some of the occupants of the house, as all of the doors and windows, they assert, were found the way they had been left when the family retired.

Mr. Arbogast's pocketbook and watch were found unmolested on the dresser. Neighbors stated that they thought Mr. Arbogast frequently quarreled with his family.

A newly married couple should occupy apartments in which there is no room for suspicion.

**Farmers' Union News**

—AND—

**Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers**

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President Farmers' Union of Sumter County.)

The Watchman and Southron having decided to double its service by semi-weekly publication, would improve that service by special features. The first to be inaugurated is this Department for the Farmers' Union and Practical Farmers which I have been requested to conduct. It will be my aim to give the Union news and official calls of the Union. To that end officers, and members of the Union are requested to use these columns. Also to publish such clippings from the agricultural papers and Government Bulletins as I think will be of practical benefit to our readers. Original articles by any of our readers telling of their successes or failures will be appreciated and published.

Trusting this Department will be of mutual benefit to all concerned,

THE EDITOR.

All communications for this Department should be sent to E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville, S. C.

**Some Random Thoughts.**

I wish to commend to our readers the prose poem, "The Cow Pea," and the vista of rich fields, fat stock and general thrift it pictures. I know some will say, "My land is pea sick." To all such the answer is "apply potash." Having been through "the pea sick" experience as bad or worse than I ever saw it elsewhere, and cured it by the liberal use of potash and home made manures, with rotation of crops, I think I know the remedy—and that the disease can be cured.

"Pea sick land" is land that has been pumped dry of available potash and phosphoric acid, by continual grain and pea cropping without proper fertilizers—usually two much ammoniates and too little potash and phosphoric acid.

Heavy applications of stable manure or well composted barn yard manure with cotton seed or cotton seed meal and potash, makes a wonderful difference in the pea growth the second year. Probably attributable to the filling of the soil with bacteria by the stable manure or compost.

I have not the figures where I can reproduce them, but the removal of a ton of peavines' hay from an acre takes away more potash and phosphoric acid than any farmer, except the truckers ever replaces. Corn and oats also remove large amounts of the same elements of plant food, consequently it takes only a few years on some soils of constant corn, oats, and pea growing to produce pea sickness.

It is easier to guard against this condition than to cure it when once the land is exhausted.

Of course, there may be instances where drainage is needed and liming would help, but the thoughts above apply to well drained lands and most of us know of some such that are said to be "pea sick."

**THE COWPEA.**

E. E. Miller in Progressive Farmer.

The cowpea is a child of the South, a lover of the sun, shrinking away at the first breath of winter or the slightest touch of frost, but growing green and fresh and vigorous, lifting new leaves toward the sky, sending out new tendrils in all directions through all the heat of the long, fervid summer days. And when the soil has become warm and the breezes stir lazily with their load of sunshine, how rapidly it grows and how quickly it changes the bare stretches of up-turned earth into swards of tangled verdure, dense, deep-glowing, fruitful, full of promise.

Ah, wonderfully full of promise! For the slopes over which the cowpea has grown are not only rich with the food of herds and flocks, with potential fat porkers and ripening steers, liberal-uddered cows and frolicsome colts and calves and lambs and pigs growing through all their days of rich-fed contentment into early and vigorous maturity. They yield also a stranger and more significant fruitage. Wherever the cowpea grows there follows—as if in some tale of magic from past credulous years—a soil richer and more productive for all that has been taken from it.

Those fields where the cowpea grew and spread and fruited and fed the hungry stock are, by reason of that very fact, ready to grow corn taller and greener and more heavily laden with drooping ears, harvests of ripening grain, deeper and of richer hue, cotton more bountifully covered with the snowy locks whose whiteness commerce changes into gold. It is one of nature's every-day miracles of goodness that this plant should reach into the air and gather from it the ethereal food that is to feed future harvests and through these harvests the beasts of the field, and man himself.

Truly, we of the South have despised the precious gift bestowed us—the magic-working plant which, like the fabled fountain of youth, restores

and refreshes and re-fertilizes our soils, bringing to even the aged and long-barren fields a more than virgin capacity for fruitfulness—the opulent friend that with inexhaustible liberality offers to the farmer on one hand the richness of its own productivity and on the other the more abiding wealth of an increased fertility of the soil from which its sustenance was drawn.

**SECOND APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER.**

Sometimes It May Pay; Oftener It Will Not.

Messrs. Editors: In The Progressive Farmer of April 29th, was an article headed: "Fertilize When Planting." This article did not say how the fertilizer was to be applied. If broadcasted, there might be no mistake. If applied in the drill, I think it is a mistake, as some results from Lincoln County show. There is a danger of stimulating too much stalk growth by applying all in the drill before planting. It necessarily, requires more moisture to support a very large stalk than a medium-sized stalk. When dry weather sets in, in July and August, and fertilizer is exhausted, corn will fire and fall to develop ears.

On an acre liberally supplied with stable manure in the fall of 1907, and sown to rye, was used a bag of 8-4-4, and planted to corn (after rye was cut and land turned) in the spring of 1908. This looked fine during the growing period, grew stalks as thick as a man's arm at wrist. Its yield was three guano sacks full of ears—almost an entire failure.

On another field where about 100 pounds of 8-2-2 was used at planting time, and 100 pounds of the same on part of field when corn was waist-high, as second application, the part of field where second application was given made a two-horse load from every six rows, while on the part without second application it required eight rows to make a similar load.

On another field the land was divided into 3 equal parts. On No. 1 all the fertilizer was used before planting. On No. 2, half at planting and half at knee-high stage. On No. 3, half at knee-high stage and half at shoulder-high stage. The same amount was used on each plot. No. 3 made the most corn.

I have observed that on fields where fertilizer was broadcasted with drill before planting, the corn made a steady growth, stood the drouth well and made fine corn. Possibly there is no mistake in putting in all before planting, provided we broadcast it.

From observation and experience I'm led to believe it extravagant to use it at all unless we have humus in the soil to hold the moisture.

R. B. SULLIVAN.

**Editorial Comment.**—In the first instance mentioned by Mr. Sullivan, the big stalks and little ears are to be attributed to the kind of fertilizer used rather than to the time of application. An application of 400 pounds of 8-1-4 fertilizer to land heavily manured with stable manure furnished the corn an excess of nitrogen compared with the phosphoric acid, especially if, as is very likely, the soil was naturally poor in this element.

In the second instance the only question is whether the increased yield of corn paid for the extra 100 pounds of fertilizer and the labor of applying it. In the third case it is merely a question as to whether the increased yield from three applications was large enough to pay for the extra labor of the extra applications. Sometimes two applications may pay, oftener they will not.

Mr. Sullivan, we are sure, is correct in thinking that broadcast application of fertilizers will, in most cases, be better than applications in the row; and there can be no doubt that he is right in thinking it extravagant to use fertilizers at all for corn on land not well supplied with humus. Just so long as Southern farmers depend on the fertilizer bag instead of the

soil to make their corn they will get small yields and pay a big price for each bushel they raise.—Progressive Farmer.

What are you doing about a succession of vegetables in your garden? It is an old, worn-out, foolish notion that you must make one general planting in the springtime, and then do without vegetables after that planting matures. As a matter of fact, planting in the vegetable garden should go on nearly all the year round. All your favorite vegetables that require it should have several plantings so that you will have new crops coming on as the first plantings pass the stage of greatest fruitfulness. It is too common here in the South to see the vegetable garden overgrown with weeds and grass before the summer is half gone, and at a time when frequent plantings would have it as fruitful as at the height of the season. Vegetables are not only much cheaper sources of food than meats for the summer season (and all other seasons for that matter), but very much more healthful as well.—Selected.

**IGNORANT OF THE SOUTH.**

A few months ago the Manufacturer's Record, of Baltimore, copied from another Southern publication an article written by a Northern man calling attention to the South as a profitable field for investment. Recently Mr. William R. Britton, of a New York firm, requested the Manufacturer's Record to reprint the Northerner's letter. For reasons which were proper the South's great industrial paper ignored the request, without stating that the real reason was that it would cause the Record editor to get a little rough. However, another letter from the New York firm with which Mr. Britton is connected, compels the Record in its issue of May 13th to reprint a portion of the Northerner's article. That portion is reprinted as follows:

"The war and reconstruction taught the South many bitter lessons. Bitterness, of course, was engendered against the North, and the generation which fought the war, accustomed to leisure and indolence, was unable to become adjusted to the changed conditions. But with the advent of the Spanish-American war a new era dawned in the South. North and South again were united in sentiment and on the battlefields of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines the blue and the gray mingled—were lost and forgotten—and the Stars and Stripes covered with equal glory the victor and vanquished of the old days. Moreover, a new generation of men and women now rules the South, and with the disappearance of the veterans the bitter memories of the war are fast disappearing, and with them slowly are fading the distinction between the North and South. There is another factor making for a new era in the South, and this is the rise to wealth and influence of the Hebrew population. Merchants of Semitic extraction prosper in the South and are highly respected. They are industrious, and their competition is conducive to making the younger generation of Southerners work harder than their fathers did."

Now see how our very highly esteemed Baltimore contemporary was compelled to perform a disagreeable task in order to brush away the cobwebs of ignorance that prevail to a much larger extent in the North than one would think possible. Here is the Record's reply:

"Of course, the Manufacturer's Record could reprint anything like that only for the purpose of condemning its ignorance and natural consequence. The ignorance of such writers about the South is indicated in the fact that they do not know that in 1860 the South showed 45 per cent. of the total assessed value of property in the United States; that it had 28 per cent. of the banking capital of the country; that it was producing more than one-half of the agricultural output of the entire country; that between 1859 and 1869 it built twice as many miles of railroad as the New England and Middle States combined, and that the growth of its manufacturing interests in the same decade showed a much larger percentage of increase than the rest of the country. After 49 years, during which the South has been seeking to recover from the wreck and ruin of war and reconstruction, it is just beginning to get back to the condition of business activity which prevailed before 1860. It is not yet doing as much proportionately as it was then doing. But people as ignorant of these conditions as Mr. Britton shows himself to be ought not to undertake to enlighten the public on matters of which they know nothing, however good their intent."

The incandescent gas mantle is modified into a heating radiator by Marcel Delage, a Paris engineer. A tube of asbestos thread, of open mesh, formed on the same mold as the gas mantle, and is cut to proper length and the top drawn together to form a head. Greater solidity is given by dipping into silicate of soda, then dry-

**Beautiful Spanish Dancer Gives Praise to Pe-ru-na.**

**NERVOUS** prostration is usually the result of a vocation which requires a continual strain on the nervous system. In such cases it would be wise if a change of vocation could be made. But this is not always possible and a good tonic becomes a necessity. Peruna is a tonic that invigorates without producing a drug habit.

Peruna is not a beverage nor a bitter, but an honest, straightforward tonic that increases the appetite and encourages digestion. There is a great demand for tonics during the depressing heat of summer, and especially in countries where hot weather is very prevalent. Such a demand is exactly met by Peruna.



Miss Pilar Monterde Praises Peruna as a Tonic. A letter sent to the Peruna Drug Mfg. Co., from the popular Spanish dancer, Miss Pilar Monterde, is as follows:

Teatro Principal, City of Mexico, Nov. 3, 1905. Gentlemen: Having used your justly celebrated remedy, "La Peruna," for some time, I have the pleasure of informing you that I consider it the best tonic I have ever used. It is a wonderful fortifier of the nerves after exhaustion and it increases the vitality of the whole body, and in my own case has produced the most complete and permanent restoration. It is also pleasant to the taste. I do not hesitate, therefore, to recommend this remedy to all women as the best and most pleasant tonic that they can possibly take. Yours very truly, (Miss) P. Monterde.

ing and calcining on a gas burner. It is next dipped into nitrate of cerium solution and again dried and calcined, this treatment being essential, as the great heat radiation is due to the cerium salt. The completed mantle may even be dropped on the ground without breaking. In use, it is suspended over a blue flame, six in a row in an open front stove form of radiator being an effective arrangement, and it heats quickly, making the best use of gas heat by radiating a large part of it horizontally. The bright glow of the mantles gives an attractive and cheerful appearance to the radiator.

There is good reason for believing that the moon was torn out of the earth, the Pacific ocean being possibly the remaining scar, and it appears that the strong fragments Prof. T. C. Chamberlin thinks may have been projected into space in the great cataclysm are even now returning as meteorites. Of the two chief classes of meteorites, the stony ones are found by Prof. W. H. Pickering to be all explained by this theory, while some of the iron ones seem to be associated with comets and star showers, coming from more distant regions of space, and falling with greater velocity. The meteoric stones and irons are about equally represented in museums. Many more stones are actually seen to fall, however, and as they soon decompose and are not easily recognized, they may have been more numerous in the past than now. Of the twenty-nine elements found in meteorites, all are terrestrial.

The heating of a greenhouse by the sun is usually explained by the fact that glass permits the passage of light rays, but is almost impenetrable to heat rays, so that as the light falling upon the enclosed objects is converted into heat and partially reflected, the reflected rays cannot escape through the glass. Thus the heat accumulates. To test this long established theory, Prof. R. W. Wood blackened two pasteboard boxes, and covered one with a plate of salt, which readily conducts both light and heat, and the other with glass. The salt roofed box became even warmer than the other, this being tried also when the heat was first filtered from sunshine through glass. The conclusion is that the ground and other objects are heated by incident rays, and that this heat is then spread by convection currents but, as the confined air can not mix and circulate with outer air, it concentrates a large amount of heat.

If Senator Lodge would give his whole attention to tariff revision and let charter revision for Boston alone, it would be better for him, for the country and for the city.—Boston Journal.

**HEAVY COST OF MODERN DREADNOUGHTS.**

An Expenditure That Could be so Much More Usefully Applied in Other Forms.

British newspapers are, of course, correct in declaring that the expense of laying down eight Dreadnoughts at once is small compared to what the cost of war would be. The expenditure of materials and human energy in order to keep the British navy twice as strong as any other—provided Mr. Balfour's prophecy is correct that Germany will have twenty-one ships of the Dreadnought class in 1912—is appalling enough. A capital ship of this class costs in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000. This is more than the entire endowment of Yale University, more than is spent on our department of agriculture, including the forest service and all the department's work in protecting people against impure food, insect pests, and in developing improved methods of farming. Two 12-inch guns of the type put on the United States ship Delaware, for instance, would, indeed, almost pay for the net cost of caring for our national forests for a year.

Congress refused two winters ago to appropriate \$3,000,000 for the establishment of the Appalachian and White Mountain reserves, which would save thousands of square miles of land from desolation. Every Dreadnought costs as much as some forty model tenements, or 2,000 village school houses, or all the school buildings of Baltimore and Cleveland put together, or of all the fire-fighting equipment in forty-three important American cities, or all the municipal asylums, almshouses and hospitals in all the 146 cities of from 25,000 to 300,000 people. The ingenious Mr. Chesterton suggests that the trouble between England and Germany is that they agree on the unimportant thing—ships, and disagree on the important things—beliefs. In the things of life and love they are separated, in the things of death and blood they imitate each other. Of course, as he points out, they cannot combine on mere peace; there must be some affection or creed on which to combine.

It is charged in the New York papers that State-wide prohibition in Georgia has "made walking saloons of the negroes," who quit work to make five dollars a day peddling noxious concoctions at a nickel a drink. But if Georgia likes that sort of thing who shall object? Whether the charge be true or not, the result thus described would be exactly in line with the effort to break up the resorts in the tenderloin of the big city—the disease that had been isolated and under guardianship escaped to scatter the infection throughout the community.—Jacksonville Times-Union.