

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1910.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. 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 seizure of whiskey, ordered for personal use, is regarded as an outrage by those who believe in statutory prohibition, but have a constitutional aversion to total abstinence.

Greenville county which was one of the first to vote out the dispensary under the provisions of the Brice law will, in the approaching primary vote on the question of re-establishing the county dispensary. More than 2,500 citizens of the county signed the petition ordering the election. The Greenville election will be watched with great interest by the people of other counties and the result will have considerable effect upon the policy to be pursued in other counties where statutory prohibition has not been the success hoped for. If Greenville re-establishes the county dispensary system, we predict that other counties will follow suit at the first opportunity.

Road plows and scrapers may be valuable in road construction, but the unanimous verdict of road engineers and the government experts is that the split-log drag is the best implement ever devised for maintaining a dirt or sand-clay road. In the opinion of many road experts the use of a road scraper on a well established roadway does more harm than good. We believe that it would be a good idea to give the split-log drag a fair test on the streets of this city and on the roads of the county for the purpose of comparing the results obtained with results from the use of the road scraper. The drag could do no harm to the roads while there is reason to believe that the results would be beneficial, if the experience of others count for anything.

We take it for granted that the candidates for the legislature are acquainted with the basic principles of the Torrens system of land registration, but if they are not we trust they will take the little trouble necessary to inform themselves between now and the opening of the county campaign. If they will devote more of their time to the discussion of the Torrens system and less to the never ending liquor question the campaign will be more interesting and of some educational value.

ON CELERY GROWING.

Methods of Cultivating Delightful Relish—Blanching Process.

Prof. C. C. Newman, State horticulturist at the Clemson experiment station, has issued the following bulletin:

Celery is ordinarily grown for its large fleshy leaf stalks, which are eaten raw, with salt, and also used for seasoning salads. The seed is also extensively used for seasoning purposes. Celeraic, or turnip-rooted celery, is grown for its large roots, which are used for seasoning salads.

It is a gross feeder, and though the soil selected be reasonably fertile, eight or ten tons of barnyard manure should be applied per acre and thoroughly incorporated with the soil before planting. On land that will produce forty bushels of corn per acre not less than 1,000 pounds of fertilizer, containing 7 per cent available phosphoric acid, 6 per cent nitrogen and 8 per cent potash, should be applied per acre.

Celery seed are planted in frames in March. The rows are marked off six inches apart and about one-half inch deep. Ten to fifteen seed are sown to every inch of row and covered lightly with sifted soil. After the seed are planted the bed should be sprinkled lightly and then shaded with bags or burlap until the young plants begin to appear. Then the bags or burlap should be removed and a lath screen used in its place.

After the seed have been sown the surface of the soil in the plant bed should be allowed to become dry until the plants have become well established. The use of the lath screen may gradually be discontinued after the plants have formed the fourth or fifth leaf.

When the plants are about three inches high they should be thinned to one inch apart in the row. The plants removed may be transplanted to other beds, and will produce as good, if not better, plants than those not transplanted. Celery is transplanted to the field during the summer months, when it is very hot and the soil unusually dry. It is, therefore, necessary to water the plants as they are set out. The tops of the plants should be clipped back to about half their length about two weeks before transplanting to the field and watered sparingly the last week before trans-

planting. An hour before the plants are removed from the beds they should be watered freely.

If the celery is to be blanched by earth, the rows should be marked off five feet wide and the plants set five inches apart in the row. If the double row system is used, each set of double rows should be six feet wide and the plants set six inches apart each way.

It is very important to have stocky plants to transplant to the field, as it is very difficult to get the small ones to live, and they never grow off as rapidly as plants of larger size. Plants that have been given ample distance in the seed bed will be from six to eight inches tall and very stocky at transplanting time.

The amateur grower frequently makes the mistake of setting the plants too deep in the soil. The plants should not be set deeper in the field than they stood in the plant bed. If the plants are set in the bottom of a furrow, as is sometimes practiced, the bed will be covered by soil washing from the sides of the trench, and many of them will die. When the plants are set in a slight furrow made by the marker and the soil drawn about them, the bud of the plant should be on a level with the surface of the soil.

The plants should be taken from the bed with a small block of soil attached to the roots if possible. To do this a heavy knife with a blade about six inches long is passed along each side of the rows one and one-half inches from the plants, cutting about three or four inches deep. It is then passed between the plants in the rows, cutting the same depth. The plants are then removed with the block of soil and roots attached, pressed lightly in the hand to prevent the soil from being shaken off in handling. The plants are then covered with wet bags or burlap, and when thus protected will remain perfectly fresh for several hours. The ideal way for setting the plants is to place the plant in the hole immediately after the water has been poured in; fill the hole with soil and press lightly, leaving a mulch of loose dry soil around each plant.

It is very important that the soil mulch be maintained at all times during the growing season in order to prevent the loss of moisture from the soil by evaporation. Cultivate shallow after every rain in order to prevent the formation of crust on the soil and to re-establish the soil mulch.

Late celery for winter use is blanched by soil. The plants are set in the field during July and early August, and the blanching is begun about the last of September. Celery is usually ready for use by the 20th of November, but will continue to grow rapidly during December and will need no protection until the last of that month, when it may be covered entirely with soil or straw, or it may be stored in a suitable frame or trench.

The first process in blanching celery with soil is called "handling." This consists in gathering all the leaves in one hand and holding them in an erect position, while the soil is banked around slightly packed around them to about one-half their length. When this is done the soil is heaped around the plants with either the plough or "celery hiller."

Instead of "handling" the plants as described below, they are sometimes wrapped with paper string to hold them erect until the soil can be banked about them. The string is fastened to the first plant in the row, and is then tied once around each succeeding plant and at last fastened securely at the end of the row. As the string is covered with soil it soon decays and does not injure the plants. The soil is then banked about the plants with the "hiller" or plough. As the plants grow the soil is heaped higher and after a few weeks the banks will be so high that the hoe and shovel will have to be used in addition to the hiller.

The following varieties are especially recommended, Fin de Ciele, Giant Pascal, Winter Green and Golden Self-Blanching.

For further information concerning celery culture see Bulletin No. 144, of the South Carolina Experiment Station.

Rice Flour.

Car fresh rice flour direct from mills, best and cheapest all round feed for horses, cows, hogs and chickens we have ever used. Booth-Harby Live Stock Co. 7-15-5t.

Proceedings of Court.

No business of any consequence was transacted in court Friday, after the noon recess, a few unimportant appeals from the magistrate's court being heard.

The entire session, on Saturday was taken up with the signing of orders, court adjourning at 11 o'clock.

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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, Mayeville, S. C.

Some Random Thoughts.

The article about grower and buyer getting together, but still further endorses the produce exchange idea. I have labored for this, the last two years. I wonder when we will learn the lesson that consumer and producer must come to closer trade relations for their mutual good? Why should the middle man grow rich while both producer and consumer skim and save to make ends meet? Supply Bro. Brogdon with the produce and wait results. E. W. D.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

We Must Learn That the Health of the Child is Worth as Much as What He Learns From His Books. Must See That He is Made Comfortable and That He is Not Exposed to Contagious Diseases. (Mrs. F. L. Stevens, West Raleigh, N. C.)

A Bible and a newspaper in every home, a good school in every district, all studied and appreciated as they merit, are the principal support of virtue, morality and civil liberty," said Benjamin Franklin.

Today a study and appreciation of the school involves more than it did a few years ago. Then only one question was thought pertinent—"How is Johnny getting on in his books?" Today it is not only, "Does Johnny read in the school reader?" "Does he know fractions?" but these other questions also are to the point: "Is he well?" "Does he play fairly?" "Will he help or impose on the weak?" In short, "Is he learning to live and does he enjoy living rightly?"

We are confronted with the fact that the educational need which presses hardest upon us, is the necessity of realizing that the education which develops the intellect is not all of education, but only one phase of it.

The school in its real sense must train boys and girls into right attitudes, into ways of right living. To fulfill this broader mission, the school environment of the country must be revolutionized. The school house and grounds, first of all, must be clean, wholesome and as beautiful as it is in the power of the teacher and patrons to make them. With teachers, mothers, citizens all working to this end we shall have put the emphasis in the right place and incidentally the other things, the fractions and reading, will not come hard.

In Germany and Sweden children are not admitted to the schools with eye, ear, throat, or contagious disease. In these countries we should not see the spectacle that is likely to greet us in our American schools, of a child with St. Vitus dance or eczema, or boils, or sore mouth, sitting alongside a perfectly healthy child. Because our American children are not so safeguarded is a very special reason why our school conditions should be kept under rigid inspection.

A few years ago when a wave of sentiment for the improvement of the rural schools spread over the South it found its first expression in buying pictures to hang upon the school room walls, walls laden with an accumulation of dust and disease as old as the school house itself. A pitiful attempt to beautify an ill-kept, poorly heated, badly ventilated school room, was it not? Now we know that while pictures are important there are numbers of other things that must be looked after at the same time. First, the school house must be a clean place inside and out. This means that soap, water, whitewash and stove polish must be used freely throughout the school session, with a general cleaning up during the vacation period. The school room must be supplied with properly adjusted desks, being sure that every child is so seated that his feet may rest comfortably upon the floor. Repeatedly have I noted little tots so seated in the school room that their feet must swing for hours and at the same time have had Johnny and Mary pointed out as "such restless, unruly child-

ren," when all Mary and Johnny wanted was a place to rest their feet. I heard of a school not long ago located at no great distance from the capital of one of our Southern States that was seated with rough board benches, and when the pupils wished to write their exercises they were obliged to kneel in front of these benches using them for writing tables as well. Is your school house like that? If it is, have you done your very best to improve those conditions?

In a previous article I have referred to the spread of disease through the ever-present water bucket and dipper and what we should gain in health capital by the use of the water tank and the individual drinking cup. After the "cleaning up" the banishment of the water bucket must be the next step in the movement for better rural schools. I know a teacher who used the proceeds from a school entertainment to establish a healthful water supply for her school room. It consisted of a porcelain-lined water tank, with a faucet, and a supply of tin drinking cups, one for each child, each cup supplied with wall space and a hook. She reported that the entire outfit cost less than nine dollars. She reported also that during an entire term no epidemic of contagious disease appeared in her school. This same teacher always keeps on hand in her school room a bottle of listerine for use in case of a suspicious sore throat, and a bottle of creolin, that she may promptly attend to wounds or sores as they appear from time to time among her pupils. This teacher is an exceptional woman and we wish there were more of her kind in our country schools; but really this kind of attention should not be left to the already over-worked teacher. It is distinctively the duty of the school patrons, particularly the duty of the mothers of the school neighborhood, to look after the health needs of the school.

The school grounds reflect the spirit of interest and efficiency of a school neighborhood. Fortunately, as a people we are fast disproving the old-time belief that the most barren, forsaken, unusable spot of ground in the neighborhood is "good enough for the school." But we have a long road still to travel before we shall have come up to standards of what is beautiful and healthful in our school environment.

Probably the greatest need of our country schools today is the provision of decent and properly located out-buildings and proper attention to these buildings to see that they are kept clean and wholesome. It is astounding, when one's attention is directed to it, to see how apparently prosperous, intelligent neighborhoods have neglected this important matter. Where there has been provision of this kind made, the buildings are frequently so neglected and filthy that they are a constant menace to the health of the entire school. When we realize that two of our dread diseases, typhoid fever and hookworm, are the direct result of soil pollution we are impressed with the great danger to the health of the community a neglected school out-building may become. Here, then, is a distinct and definite work for school patrons during the vacation period, to see to it that two well constructed, properly located out-buildings are placed upon the school grounds and that they are protected by latticed screens. If the school house is already provided with these conveniences, they should be thoroughly cleaned, the refuse buried and a vault thoroughly protected from the visits of flies or stray animals constructed, the whole place treated generously to lime and a barrel of lime and sand left on the premises for future use.

The preservation of the children through the improvement of their bodies in view as their souls is the duty that confronts us. This means the moral and physical saving of the child when it is most needed. They, if rightly cared for, are to improve world conditions far beyond those which we today enjoy.—Progressive Farmer.

Annual Meeting.
The annual meeting of the Sumter Agricultural Society will be held at the G. S. M. Academy on the 13th day of August, next. The following speakers will be with us:
Messrs. A. J. A. Perritt, Ira W. Williams, O. B. Martin and Bradford Knapp.
All are invited to attend.
A. K. SANDERS, Pres.
J. E. REMBERT, Secty.

Breeding of Corn.
This is the season when farmers should begin the improvement of their corn. If you have a special seed lot, or if you have set apart an acre in your field for seed, first go through and pull out all the tassels of imperfect or barren stalks. The pollen of such stalks should not fall on the stalks of the productive ones. The next thing is to go carefully over the same lot with a string that may be easily seen and select best stalks which taper up from the ground and the shoots of which stand out in the right way. Tie a string around 50 to 100 of such best stalks.

It is claimed by corn breeders that cross breeding is apt to produce better seed than when all the tassels remain. After all the budy shaped and barren stalks are detasseled then take out the tassels of every third row in the seed lot, so that the ears of these rows may be fertilized by pollen from other rows. That is what is called cross breeding.

When the corn is ripe and dry go through and gather the ears marked with strings. From the best of them select the seed for the next seed patch.

By pursuing that plan several years barren stalks may be eliminated entirely. We ask farmers to go through their best lots of corn and closely observe and count 100 stalks. Then count those which make no ears, or very small ones. It will be found that about one-tenth of the stalks are unproductive or nearly so.

In the improvement of corn, the best variety should be selected to begin with. Of course, one may select a few ears from a dozen varieties and mix them and make a fair crop of corn. Red, yellow, blue, white and strawberry may all be mixed and the result will be corn, but it will not be satisfactory.

A white variety is considered the best here in the South. The ears should be 7 to 10 inches long and there should be 16 to 22 rows, with 45 to 55 grains to the row. The rows should be straight and the ends of the cob should be well covered by corn.

The cobs should be small and solid and the corn firmly set, so that it will not shatter off in handling. But once started, it should be very easy to shell.

The grains should never fall under

half an inch in length. A broad grain that is nearly square is objectionable. The grain should taper so that there will be no vacant spaces near the cob or on the surface of the ear.

When the corn is well dried in the crib, 100 pounds in the ear should give 84 to 88 pounds of shelled corn. Seventy pounds in the ear is sold for a bushel. In a best variety 70 pounds should shell out 61 to 63 pounds of corn. So there is a clear loss when one sells 70 pounds in the ear for a bushel.

There is no more interesting work on the farm than the improvement of seeds and plants and young farmers should take special interest in this improvement of corn.

In one of the States, Kentucky, perhaps, a farmer has been working for large single ears and last year he found that 45 ears made a bushel, or weighed 70 pounds. But sometimes it is not the largest ears that are best.

Among the samples sent to this office during the winter there was a large yellow variety but it was a very poor corn, for the grain was short, the cob very large and the corn hard to shell.

We have never seen a prolific corn which would shell out well. The grains are too short and small.

The Miles is an excellent early field corn, coming in about 20 days ahead of common field corn, but the cob is too large. If that could be bred up until the grains were five-eighths to three-quarters of an inch long, it would be a most desirable variety.

Sumter took the third game from Cartersville Friday afternoon, winning by the score of 7 to 2. There were no features to the game, both teams playing fairly good ball. The Collegians will probably go to St. Matthews for three games this week.

One of the heaviest rains of the year fell Sunday night about 8 o'clock, but the downpour was not general. During the rainstorm lightning struck three pine trees in the yard of Mr. H. L. Tisdale, on Salem Ave.

A number of curious onlookers were crowded along South Main street on Friday to catch a glimpse of Prof. Goodwin, as he passed by on his way to have his picture taken at Winburn's studio. The "professor" was not at all pleased at this mark of attention shown him by the authorities here, but his objections to having his picture made were of no avail.

Prof. Goodwin has not, as yet made any move towards giving bond, and it is expected that he will be the guest of this county for some little time longer.

The court house grounds have been much improved lately, and the grass and shrubbery is growing very nicely.

O'Donnell & Co.

Special Summer Clearance Sale
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
Big Bargains for One and All

O'Donnell & Co.