

# Modern Farm Methods As Applied in the South.

## Notes of Interest to Planter, Fruit Grower and Stockman

### How to Diversify.

The value to the farmers of the Gulf States, of the crops which are profitable other than cotton, to-wit, cane and corn, has not attracted as much attention as in all probability it would have done if the one-crop question had not gained such ground with the agricultural classes in general.

No community, State or country can long remain prosperous that depends almost solely, if not entirely, upon one crop for its money support. The chief crop of the South and upon which nearly the whole business of the country, banking included, is based on is not sufficient, no matter how many bales of the fleecy staple we stack up year after year, nor the price it fetches when marketed, to feed, clothe and do the general business of the land, that is, if progress is expected to follow. For this reason, if no other, I contend that the time has come that business demands that the farmers be encouraged to plant and grow at home more meats, milk and butter, vegetables of most sorts, fruits, poultry and eggs. Thus to become as near as possible self-sustaining and more independent than the great majority find themselves to-day.

The farmer, or a farm district, can to-day purchase a canning factory outfit from \$5 up to \$500, or more for that matter, set the factory up on the farm and do his or his neighbors' pears, peaches, tomatoes, beans, peas, corn—in a word all vegetables grown for canning purposes, at a cost much less than the same goods can be purchased from the store.

Again, permit me to ask why purchase canned sauerkraut or pickles of any sort when the same as good, if not better, can with care be made on the farm and put up in the home canner?

When we look at the matter, almost everything we eat comes to us from the North and West—potatoes, cabbage, beans, peas, corn (canned and not canned), meats, fruits, butter and cheese. In fact, nearly everything, including glucose syrup, and that, too, in our sunny land, where the juicy sugar cane grows; why not make our own pure syrup, if nothing else—to help the home cause to that extent, if no more?

I would suggest planting as a starter, one-fourth an acre of Mayo beans, known as South Carolina beans. Of course, no one here is expected to compete with the Sunset State bean raising, where from 100 to 200 acre fields are planted solid to beans and raised under irrigation. Yet, these, the Mayo bean, will thrive and do well in our soil and climate, and they are worth retail on the market eight and ten cents per pound. The bean straw makes a fair article of hay and goes into beef, milk and butter for the home and the market.

The peanut is profitable to grow, from the fact that the Pinder usually sells well and the vines when properly gathered and cured make an A1 quality of hay.

The home cannery has been tried successfully in the Sugartown district in Calcasieu parish, where there are dozens of small canneries ranging in cost from \$10 to \$500. The Sugartown home canneries have been successful and they are on the increase. They can both fruits and vegetables and nearly every Sugartown farmer has one.

In the rice belt, where enormous quantities of canned goods are consumed, the home cannery could be used to advantage. The owner of a home cannery would never be at a loss to find a market for his surplus. —Bunkie Correspondent, Baton Rouge State-Times.

### Plant to Utilize the Idle Lands.

Idle lands, like idle people, are seldom benefited by their idleness. At least, it is certain that land may be improved faster by growing some useful crop every year than by lying idle, part, or all, of the time. Moreover, we have thousands of acres that, because of insufficient drainage or lack of fertility, are not yielding profitable crops, and thousands of other acres yielding absolutely nothing. These lands represent an investment and must pay taxes, therefore by yielding nothing, they consume some of the profits of the cultivated land.

This land should bring its owner some avenue. That which will yield a fair profit in the growth of timber should be given sufficient attention and protection from fires to enable us to profit on our investment. There are thousands of acres of fertile land that have been turned out and allowed to grow up to brush and weeds that with a little attention could be made to produce good profits in the

growth of grasses for pasture or hay. These lands are along creeks and rivers and have not paid in cultivated crops because of overflows or lack of drainage. They would, however, produce good grass and save us from buying forage or from sending to the North for hay. Let us plan to utilize them. We need the forage or grazing which they will produce.

Again, there are large areas of uplands that have been turned out because of soil depletion. These lands would yield a handsome profit on their value and the expense of putting them in condition for grazing cattle and other live stock. Not only is this so, but in a few years if the brush and briars are kept down they will be in condition to again yield profitable cultivated crops.

### Poultry Notes and Comments.

A "sitting room" for hens is quite necessary. An open front to the south, screened by one-inch poultry wire, is best. If hens are peaceable nest boxes may be placed around on the ground, and when a hen becomes broody remove her at dusk to a nest; gently place her on it with a nest egg under her, and if she seems a little restless spread burlap over her till next evening. If she is contented second morning place eggs under her.

"The pullet is mother of the hen," so it is well to select the chicks which show sex earliest, and mark them for breeders, then watch which of these pullets begin to lay first, and which of the males begin to develop spurs first. Note the best layers, as pullets, and the proudest, most active cockerels, and you have selected the best for your breeders for the next season. Band them as selected. Selection must also be made with regard to standard requirements, if breeding exhibition fowls.

To insure large quantities of eggs in fall and early winter raise a large crop of pullets. It is only the early hatched chicks it pays to market as fryers, hence get a breed of good winter layers. Pullets hatched reasonably early begin to lay long before the moulted hen, and keep it up all winter. For this reason we prefer our winter layers to be pullets and our breeders yearling hens, and breeders which become broody most often are saved for the next year's sitters. Pullets to be used for breeders should have laid out one litter of eggs before being mated.—Mrs. J. C. Deaton, in the Progressive Farmer.

### Southern Soils Examined.

Dr. A. J. Bonsteel, of the Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture, has just returned to Washington from an extended tour of the South, which was for the purpose of investigating the adaptability of different types of soils for certain kinds of crops, especially winter and early spring vegetables. Dr. Bonsteel is enthusiastic over the results of his trip and is preparing a special report.

Dr. Bonsteel visited Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama, and says he is more enthusiastic than ever over the possibilities for developing the unused agricultural lands of the South, not merely for the production of staple crops with good average returns per acre, but also with regard to the development of special industries where from the production of fruits, nuts, garden vegetables and tobacco the soils may be made to aggregate from \$500 to \$2000 per acre under extensive forms of cultivation.

"In Alabama," said Dr. Bonsteel, "four soil survey parties are at present engaged and surveys are in progress in Tallapoosa, Coffee, Baldwin and Hale Counties. The work in at least three of these counties will be completed in July or early in August, and additional work will then be taken up in the north-central portion of the State. The soil surveys thus far completed in the State of Alabama have shown a wonderful diversity in the soils and the surveys are laying the foundation for an agricultural development in the State which in due time will be no less marked than the industrial development of the coal and iron fields in North-Central Alabama."—Farmers' Home Journal.

### Ashamed of Gullies.

In going about among the farmers it is gratifying to find an increasing number who are ashamed of gullies—a gully always being a public notice that a poor farmer has been handling the land. On many farms we find the rocks thrown into little dams in the washes, and this will do much to stop the land-waste; and a tenant on the writer's home farm has won our approval by piling the corn stalks wherever a wash has started. This is a vastly better plan of handling stalks than burning them and wasting their fertility.—Professor Massey.

### PERFUMES THAT ARE POPULAR.

Revival of Old Fashion—Right Place for Scent Sachets.

In the midst of so many present day fashions copied from those of a hundred years ago it is scarcely surprising that the habit of using scent in profusion should be numbered.

How they saturated themselves with sweet waters in those old, old days! We read of a very orgy of perfume in the time of Catherine de Medici and learn that the men then were as prone to its use in profusion as were the women.

One great king perfumed himself with amber from head to foot, and every article of attire was scented.

The great Napoleon used floods of eau de cologne every morning, and the Empress Josephine filled her dressing room with musk in all sorts of forms.

Today it is the scene fountain and the vaporizer that are in great request. With the vaporizer the lady's maid scents her mistress before she leaves her home in the morning and after she has taken the perfumed bath.

The excessive use of sachets attached to the costume is becoming less modish than it was; there must only be an atmosphere, a mere suggestion of scent, instead of a definite aroma about the clothes. In order to perfume them the wardrobe has its long flat sachet of scented powder to fit each shelf.

When the boots and shoes are put away little sachets are introduced into them; the lace and ribbon drawer has its sachet also, and the only ones that need be worn by day are sewn into the corset and into the dainty cap of muslin and lace in which the belle takes her early cup of tea or her basin of bread and milk the last thing at night.

When the hair is washed it is pleasant to use a scent that shall help to perfume the tresses, a permissible way of perfuming the person allowed under the regime of modern taste.

The hairdressers of Paris are now using eucalyptus leaves steeped in boiling water for the shampoo used for their customers' hair, and find that it makes the hair glossy as well as fragrant.

Every day seems to introduce new and coquettish developments of the scene craze. A famous perfumer of lingerie tempts her customers with handkerchiefs, motor veils, shoulder scarfs and lingerie threaded with ribbons the color of the scent that is her customers' choice.

Supposing the favorite violet perfume he associated with the elegant, her lingerie is threaded with violet ribbons, and she wears violet handkerchiefs, violet motor scarfs and other violet fallals.

If rose is preferred, it is a rose powder that is supplied, and to carry the idea to its utmost limit all the decorations of the belle's dressing room will be in shades of pink, while the pretty little lace boxes, gem cabinets and all her toilet table fittings, repeat her choice in brocade, crystal and china.

Her writing table is of course supplied with perfumed leather, and she scents her stationery in order that it may be impressed with her personality as made manifest by her use of one particular perfume. It is a charming idea in daintiness.—London Daily Mail.

### Boy's Fight With an Owl.

Lee Bartley, 16 years old, and a hooded owl that was the largest ever seen in this county fought a battle to the death this afternoon and the boy won.

Armed with a .22 calibre rifle, Bartley and several companions returning from school sighted the huge owl in a tree near his home. Taking aim, he fired and down came the owl. The lad picked up the supposedly dead bird, which with a lightning movement sank its claws deep into Bartley's shoulders. Covered with blood spurting in streams, the youth managed to clutch the bird by the neck and attempted to strangle it, but the owl, releasing its razor edged claws, slashed its combatant with terrible effect. Finally the lad, weakened with from loss of blood, hurled himself prostrate, crushing the bird into the earth.

As the victor staggered away several pedestrians reached the scene and he fainted in their arms. An examination showed that twenty-two cuts, ranging from half an inch to two inches in length were inflicted on the youth's body.—Menominee correspondence Detroit News.

### Another Peacen.

"My!" exclaimed the sparrow, "I never was so glad to see warm weather before as I was this year. So few people in my neighborhood sowed grass seed last winter that I almost starved to death."—Kansas City Times.

The United States in 1907 produced 139,810 short tons of talc and soap stone, worth \$1,531,047, an increase over the preceding year of 15.9 percent in quantity and 7 percent in value.

### TABLE D'HOTE ECONOMY.

Chicagoan Escapes Part of the Tax on Those Who Care Not for Wine.

The man from Chicago, conveying a party of five women relatives about New York, dropped into a restaurant for dinner. They wanted the table d'hôte dinner, which was advertised at \$1 with wine and \$1.25 without wine.

This variation in price didn't please the man from Chicago. He himself was on the water wagon and he knew that none of the women folk wanted wine. Naturally he objected to paying any \$1.50 extra for a negative quantity.

Then a plan came to him to save at least part of that \$1.50. He called for the wine card and ordered the cheapest bottle of wine on it—a claret at \$1. The waiter brought the wine, opened it and was told he needn't serve it.

The Chicago man saved 50 cents on the dinner and the waiter was in a bottle of wine. There was some talk of taking the wine away with them but the waiter's longing look at it prevailed.—New York Sun.

### A Pension Horse.

A faithful Government servant has been recognized and rewarded by Ormsby McHarg, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor. This servant is an old horse named Caleb, which for twenty-four years has devoted his energies to pulling a wagon belonging to the United States Fish Commission at Green Bay, Me. Last week, after a serious attack of boils, he showed his inability to serve the Government any further by lying in his stall and refusing to be harnessed.

The officers at Green Bay, knowing that the animal's days of usefulness were over, reported the fact to the Department of Commerce and Labor and asked for a new horse, also expressing the intention of killing Caleb. This report fell under the eyes of Secretary McHarg, and he immediately issued an order that the faithful animal be placed in the pasture until he had a natural death. This is one of the few cases on record in which a horse had been placed on the Government's pension rolls.—Chicago Tribune.

### Pastor Acts as Minstrel.

The Rev. Louis J. Richards, pastor of the Church of the Messiah, Universalist, appeared at Fort Plain, N. Y., as interlocutor in a local talent minstrel show. The performance was for the benefit of his church and was attended by a large audience. As a middle man Pastor Richards was a brilliant success. To add to the oddity of the occasion and indicating the breaking down of bigotry barriers John J. Galvin, editor of a local newspaper and one of the foremost Catholics in this region, was one of the end men.

Mr. Richards is a young and progressive pastor of liberal ideas and plans which he fearlessly executes. He is a Texan, and when a theological student won highest honors for oratory in that State. His appearance in a minstrel show caused much shaking of heads and quivering of chins among the staid and conservative Mohawk Dutch of the valley.

Germany has spent \$150,000,000 in the last twenty years in the development and improvement of inland waterways. As a result the empire has now 8,378 miles of navigable streams and canals.

### THE PENGUIN'S WINGS.

After New Feathers Start Old Are Retained as Protection Against Cold.

Ornithological puzzles are the penguins, with their curiously shaped wings and odd unbirdlike upright carriage. The peculiarities of their wings suggest that the penguins are descendants of birds which used their wings rather than legs in the pursuit of prey under water, and as the struggle intensified between the competing individuals the most expert in this sort of swimming would get the most food and out their less successful rivals. The winners gained advantage over their neighbors in proportion as their wings improved as swimming organs, and inversely and of necessity became less suited to perform the work of flight.

In all other birds the feathers though shed annually are more or less gradually displaced; but in the penguins the new feathers all start into being at the same time and thrust out the old feathers upon their tips, so that these come away in great flakes. Whereas in all birds save penguins the new feathers as they thrust their way through the skin end in pencil-like points, formed by investing sheaths, in the penguins these sheaths are open at the tips and attached by their rims to the roots of the old feathers, and hence these are held to their successors until these have attained a sufficient length to insure protection against cold.

This curious device for retaining the warmth afforded by the old feathers until the new generation can fill their places is apparently due to the fact that penguins are natives of the antarctic regions, although some now inhabit the tropical seas.—Chicago Tribune.

### Future of Aviation.

Very different are the views held by prominent aviators as to what position the science of mechanical flight will have attained five years hence. In the opinion of Captain Ferber, who is one of the keenest pioneers of aviation in France, the aeroplanes will at that time be able to carry four or five people with ease, and there will be a regular service of machines between Dover and Calais, as well as between other ports where the distance is not of great length. Closed accommodation will be provided on board these machines, which are to be of such a size that their use will be debarred where the space is limited. Other opinions are much less hopeful as regards the commercial side of the aeroplanes' possibilities, and, according to Mr. Maurice Farman, the flying machine will for a long time to come be reserved for the use of the intrepid sportsmen. The Comte de Castillon de Saint-Victor likewise thinks that the carrying capacity of the aeroplane will always be limited, but its speed will increase.—New York American.

### A String to It.

"I was walking along State street, Chicago (the windy city), when a sudden gust relieved me of my straw hat. I turned, gave chase, and after a lengthy run at full speed possessed upon it. At the same moment a stranger (also perspiring and almost breathless) took it from me and thanked me kindly. 'But it's my hat,' said I. 'No,' said he, 'yours is hanging down your back on a string.'"—London Globe.

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