

# The Copian Signal,

Hazlehurst, April 7 1882

## Watermelon Culture

The following article on watermelon culture was read before the Georgia State Agricultural Society at their late meeting, by Mr. T. Little, of Richmond county Georgia:

"To the person wedded to the all cotton system of planting, the culture of watermelons, no doubt, seems to be of very slight consideration; but when it is known that hundreds of thousands of melons grown in Richmond county alone, are annually shipped from the city of Augusta, besides the large number grown in Florida and other portions of Georgia, a faint idea of the value of that crop can be formed. It is a crop that matures and is marketed at a time when money is scarce with the average farmer, and is very valuable on that account alone, without taking into consideration the question of great profit when well grown. Of course, like other crops, the price obtained is regulated by the supply and demand, probably to much greater extent than crops that are less perishable. I propose with the permission of the convention to give the mode of cultivation that prevails in Richmond county so long and justly celebrated for the large size and fine quality of its melons.

In my opinion the best land for a watermelon patch is a sandy loam, and if possible, select a piece that has been "lying out," and has grown up in broom-ssedge or young pines. Plow it thoroughly during the winter, having first burned off the grass, as the ashes of the grass seem to correct the acidity of the soil. Lay it on twelve feet one way, and ten or twelve the other. Dig a hole about eighteen inches or two feet in diameter, and about ten or twelve inches deep, drawing the top soil out on one side of the hole, and the subsoil out on the other side. All this operation can be done in the winter or early in the spring. As early as possible, in the winter prepare a compost of about three-fourths stable manure and one-fourth cotton seed, to be used as a fertilizer for the melons. About the last of March put two shovelfuls of this compost, together with a small hand-full of some good ammoniated superphosphate in the hole already prepared and mix it all thoroughly together with a hoe. Then draw in the top soil thrown out when digging the hole, and make the hill up in shape of a cone. Throw two furrows each side of the hill with a turn plow, lapping the dirt around the base of the cone to prevent water settling around the hill and thereby leaching away the manure. The patch is now ready to plant, and as soon as all danger of frost is passed, take a hoe or rake and knock off the top of the cone, leveling the hill down about two or three inches above the surrounding surface of the land. This is done in order to have a fresh bill and kill any weeds or grass that may have started. Plant about six seed in a hill the first time, and in about a week go over the patch again and put in three or four more, pressing them in with the finger. This is done in order to insure a stand and to provide against any late frost, as melons are injured by cold weather, and it would be better to dig up and plant over, any that may have been so checked in their growth. As soon as the plants are large enough to admit of stirring the ground around them, hoe the hill thoroughly and thin out to two, and as soon as they have formed four or five leaves, thin down to one plant to the hill, which, if you are growing for market, it is absolutely necessary to have.

About this time it will be necessary to plow out the middles thoroughly with a turn-plow or shovel plow, running as deep as possible. Keep the hill free from grass by the frequent use of the hoe, and each working of the middles must be done in the opposite direction. Be particularly never to plow the ground when very wet or disturb the vines when the dew is on them, but always work when the ground is dry. In "laying by" a melon patch it is customary in Richmond county, when the vines have nearly met or have commenced to set their fruit, to carefully set the vines upside down out of each alternate middle, and then plow them out with sweeps, running next to the hill as shallow as possible and dropping two rows of cow peas about eighteen inches apart in the centre to be covered by the last furrow of the sweep in the middle. Turn the vines back into their former places as soon as possible in order to prevent the sun from twisting them and thereby causing trouble in handling.

It is better to have two sets of hands for this business; one set to turn the vines out and another set to turn them back. Having worked out each alternate middle in this way, turn back and work out the balance in the same manner. It would probably be better to allow two or three days to elapse in order to let the vines catch hold of the ground again, as a storm might cause considerable damage to the patch, if both sides of the hill had been turned up at one time. To a person unaccustomed to seeing this plan of "laying by" a melon patch, it would seem as though it had been completely ruined, but in a few days, the vines grow up with increased vigor and soon completely cover the ground, in a short time the senses are gladdened with that luxury of luxuries—ripe watermelons; and now it is only left with the consumer and producer to say "to what profit." There are two varieties that are very popular in Augusta at present, viz: the old "Rattle snake" and the new "scaly bark." The former oblong in shape with light and dark green stripes, and the latter more round in shape and of solid dark green color. Both have bright red crisp flesh, are very sweet, and grow to immense sizes when properly cultivated. I have known melons to have been sold in Augusta, that weighed over seventy pounds. These always command fancy prices.

## American Taxation.

Mr. Turner, of Kentucky, in a recent speech in Congress, drew the following picture of the customs and duties of America. These duties by excluding foreign competition maintain high prices of goods produced at home:

Is it just? Is it right, that the agriculturists of this country shall be discriminated against in this manner? Where is the protection given our labor? There is none. The honest farmer asks none; but he does demand equality under the law, and he has a right to it. Sir, I have been a farmer all my life, and I have felt and understood the burdens under which we labor and the injustice done the farmers of the country, and the doctors, lawyers, artisans and laborers of the land.

Here is a statement showing a few of the burdens of the farmers under this tariff—"he rises in the morning, puts on his common flannel shirt, taxed ninety-five per cent.; his coat, taxed fifty-seven per cent.; shoes, taxed thirty-five per cent.; and hat, taxed ninety-two per cent.; takes the wafer from a bucket, taxed thirty-five per cent., and washes his face and hands in a tin bowl taxed thirty-five per cent.; dries them on a cheap cotton towel taxed forty-five per cent. He sits down to his humble meal and eats from a plate taxed fifty per cent.; drinks his coffee with sugar taxed sixty-eight per cent.; seasons his food with salt taxed sixty-nine per cent.; pepper, taxed with sixty-one per cent. He looks round on his wife and children all taxed in the same way; takes a chew of tobacco, taxed 199 per cent. And even the sunlight from heaven that pours into his humble dwelling must come through window-glass taxed fifty-nine per cent.; and yet he thinks he lives in the freest government under the sun. Then he starts to work; puts a bridle taxed thirty-five, on his horse that has been shod—the nails used in shoeing being taxed fifty-nine per cent.; driven by a hammer taxed twenty per cent., and hitches him to a plow taxed forty-five per cent., with chains taxed fifty-eight per cent., and after the day's labor is closed and his family are all gathered around he reads a chapter from his Bible taxed twenty-five per cent., and kneels to God on an humble carpet taxed fifty-one per cent., and then he rests his weary limbs on a sheet taxed forty-five per cent., and covers himself with a blanket that has paid one hundred and four per cent.

Nor do grasping manufacturers stop here, but even the broom with which his good wife sweeps the floor is taxed thirty-five per cent., and the cooking vessels, are taxed forty-two per cent., and the soda used to lighten his bread taxed fifty-nine per cent. She sits down to her sewing with a needle taxed twenty-five per cent., and a spool of thread taxed seventy-four per cent., to make a calico dress taxed fifty-eight per cent.; and thus daily and hourly must the hard earnings of the laborer go to satisfy the manufacturer and add to his ill-gotten wealth. [Great applause.]

I have taken these notes from the statistics furnished by the bureau of statistics. Look, for example, at the bill to put trace-chains on the free list. Upon trace-chains there is a duty of fifty-eight per cent., which

amounts almost to a prohibition, for the whole amount of revenue collected upon trace-chains, as shown by the report of the commissioners of Revenue, is only \$1,500 in a year. Yet is an article used by every farmer in the land and every teamster, and by virtue of this tariff, millions go in to the pockets of the manufacturers of chains every year as a bonus. Can any man doubt that, if we could get a vote on the bill to put trace chains on the free list it would not be done by a large majority in this House? Would any member representing an agricultural district face his constituents on the record and vote against that bill which would give the farmers cheap trace-chains? it would do the treasury no harm, because the revenue is a mere pittance—\$1,500.—Christain Observer.

## Concentrated vs. Green Manures.

Concentrated fertilizers pay best upon land where there is plenty of vegetable mould. Weed and grass land turned under in the winter or fall, will give better results than land that has been in cultivation for several years. It is absolutely essential that land be not deficient in vegetable matter to insure the best results with commercial fertilizers. In using this kind of fertilizer with success, year by year, requires good judgment. But as we have said time and again, barn yard manure will give the most permanent results in enriching the soil. Concentrated fertilizers should be composted with barn yard manure, leaves and straw mixed in well, and the whole allowed sufficient time to rot and inter-mix. But upon most farms, animal manure comparatively scarce. The main dependence then must be green crops plowed under, or the land allowed to rest and recuperate by seeding down a few years to clover and grass.—Field peas are decidedly the most preferable crop to plow under in the Gulf States, as they are suited more generally to all the varied soils.—They will grow and make good size vines on very poor land. The roots which are dense and penetrate to a great depth in the soil, will furnish good manure, and the vines can be saved for hay, as better forage it is hard to find. Pea vine hay possesses fine fattening properties and is an extremely healthy diet. Peas should be sown every year in the corn at the last working. In this way the fertility of the land can be maintained and good crops produced annually. Enough peas should be picked, to seed the following year.

The pea crop is not sufficiently appreciated by our farmers or they would be more generally grown. To grow them requires but little labor and the land need not be rich.—Live Stock Journal.

## The Tragic End of a Life of Toil.

All his life he had toiled and scraped and pulled every string that had a dollar at the end of it.—And now all his hard earned wealth was gone, and a great, hateful, interest eating mortgage spread its black wings over all that he owned and loved on earth. He sank into a chair, and, folding his arms upon the table before him, bowed his gray head upon them and groaned great groans. His heart seemed breaking.

"Did you mortgage the farm?" asked his wife anxiously; stealing softly to his side.

"Yes," he growled, "both farms, and sold the wood lot over on Big Island."

"And did you mortgage the town house, too?" she asked, with quivering lips and glistening eyes.

"Oh, yes!" said the man, in hollow tones. "Oh, yes! and sold my stock in the northern and hypotheated what I had in the Sixth street bridge."

"And was it enough?" she asked, trembling with eagerness. "Was it enough?"

"Not quite," he growled, and then, as he saw the ghastly pallor of deathly disappointment spread over her face, he added, "but the milliner let me have it on ninety days' time for balance at 8 per cent."

"And you've brought my new hat home, then," she cooed joyously.—"Oh, Philip, you dear old duck!"

"Well, no, not all of it," he said. "I bought the plane and one of the bows down with me in the express, but the hat itself is coming down from Chicago on a flat car."

And the next week after that eleven dark-browed man who sat behind Philip's wife at church waylaid the wretched man on his way home, hauled him off down Front street, rolled him up in a wad, and stopped up the new calvert with him.

We will furnish the Signal and N. O. Times-Democrat for one year for two dollars and fifty cents.

**Smith Was Out.**  
A Griswold street lawyer was sitting in his office the other week when a stranger appeared at the door and said:  
'Beg pardon, but can you tell me where Smith's office is?'  
'Yes, sir—next door.'  
The stranger uttered his thanks and passed to the next door, which was locked. Returning to the lawyer he said:  
'Smith seems to be out?'  
'Of course he is. If you had asked the question in the first place I should have answered it by telling you so.'

The visitor had a troubled look on his face as he passed out of the building, but that look was gone when he returned the next day and inquired of the lawyer:  
'How much will you charge me for a verbal opinion in a little matter?'  
'Oh, about \$5.'  
The case was stated and the opinion given, and the stranger was moving away when the lawyer said:  
'My fee, please.'  
'I haven't a cent to pay you.'  
'Of course not. If you had asked me that question in the first place I should have answered by telling you so. Good morning, sir.'—Detroit Free Press.

**Dangerous Vaccination.**  
Mrs. Peter Matthews, residing on Totowa avenue, Patterson, N. J., is the mother of two boys, aged six and eight years, and a girl aged three years. About a week ago she concluded to have the children vaccinated to protect them against smallpox, but finally determined to perform the operation herself and save \$1.50. She accordingly procured the scab from the arm of a child in the neighborhood, and scratching the arms of the children with a needle rubbed the scab on it. The arms soon swelled up to a very large size and a physician was called in. He has so far been unable to check the increasing inflammation and swelling, and yesterday morning informed the parents that the only way to save the lives of the children would be by amputating the affected arms. The parents declared that they would permit of no such action, as they would rather have the children dead than maimed for life. Other physicians have been called in, but express little hope of the recovery of the sufferers.—New York Herald.

**H. PENN.**  
Still in the corner Brick Shop, in the Undertaker's Business. You can get any and all kinds of BURLAP GASKETS, suited in price and quality to all classes. Call on me.  
H. PENN.  
**CITY BARBER**  
JAMES EINGLAR.  
Hazlehurst, Miss.  
Shaving Hair Cutting and Shampooing done as cheap as anyone can do it.  
Satisfaction Guaranteed.  
J. J. Walks. J. J. Wood.  
**WALLS & WOOD.**  
Manufacturers of Buggies, Wagons and Plows. In the corner Brick Shop. Terms to suit the times. Orders solicited. All work guaranteed.  
**BARNES & WILKINSON**  
CORNER GREGORY and RAILROAD AVENUE.  
Crystal Springs, - - Mississippi  
Have always on hand a full stock of DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, HARDWARE, SADDLERY, AND GENERAL SUPPLIES, which will be sold on the smallest possible margin of profit for cash.  
BARNES & WILKINSON  
**F. E. HEIWAY,**  
Hazlehurst, - - Mississippi  
MAKES AND REPAIRS  
Wagons, Buggies, Plows, and all Farming Tools generally.  
Repairs Gin Stands,  
Cleans Rice,  
Grinds Corn every Saturday and all other work done in a first county shop.  
ORDERS SOLICITED—TERMS REASONABLE.

**THE**  
**COPIAH**  
**SIGNAL**

**WILL BE PUBLISHED IN**  
**HAZLEHURST,**  
**EVERY WEEK,**  
**FOR \$2 00**  
**Per Annum.**

Any one desiring a good County Local Paper, can secure one by becoming a subscriber to the Signal.

**THE SIGNAL**  
**JOB OFFICE**

is under the superintendance of an experienced printer, and [we are] **NOW PREPARED**

To execute all kinds of plain and fancy Job Printing, in **THE NEATEST AND MOST ARTISTIC MANNER.**

We are prepared to furnish, also, at the shortest notice, **BILL HEADS, LETTER AND NOTE HEADS, CIRCULARS, STATEMENTS, ENVELOPES, CARD, TAGS, BLANKS** OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, and, in fact, Everything in the of **JOB PRINTING.** Call and see us before sending your orders away from HOME. GIVE US A FAIR TRIAL.

**CHEAPEST CASH STORE IN HAZLEHURST.**  
Goods sold At Auction Prices At **L. L. FATHERREE'S CHEAP CASH STORE.**  
Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Groceries, Confectionaries, Fruits, Vegetables, Etc., Etc.  
Coffee, at 12 1/2 cents per pound, Sugar at 10 cents, Calico, at 5 cts., Ladies' Hose, 10 cts per pr.  
Everything sold at bottom figures for CASH ONLY.  
The public will benefit themselves by giving me a call before purchasing elsewhere.  
**L. L. FATHERREE,**  
Hazlehurst, Miss.

**THE MOST POPULAR OF ALL LIGHT-RUNNING SEWING MACHINES**

**NEW HOME**  
BEST MADE  
SIMPLE STRONG SWIFT SURE  
HAS NO EQUAL  
ALWAYS IN ORDER  
A LIFETIME  
SURPASSES OTHERS  
NEW HOME Sewing Machine  
30 UNION SQ. NEW YORK  
CHICAGO ILL.  
ORANGE MASS.

**THE LIVER AND ITS FUNCTIONS.**

PRICKLY ASH BITTERS  
GROVER'S KIDNEY'S STOMACH AND BOWELS  
ALL DRUGGISTS

**TUTT'S PILLS**

SYMPTOMS OF A **TORPID LIVER.**  
Loss of Appetite, Borels coctive, Pain in the back part, Pain under the shoulder blade, fullness after eating, with a disposition to eructate, or belch up, Irritability of temper, Low spirits, with a feeling of having neglected some duty, Headache, Dizziness, Fluttering at the Heart, Dots before the eyes, Yellow Skin, Headache generally over the right eye, Heaviness, with dull dreams, highly colored Urine, and **CONSTIPATION.**

TUTT'S PILLS are especially adapted to such cases, one dose effects such a change of feeling as to astonish the sufferer. They Enrich the Appetite, and cause the body to Take on Flesh, thus the system is nourished, and by their Tonic Action on the Digestive Organs, Bile and Stool are regular. Price 25 cents. J. C. Parry & Co., N. Y.

**TUTT'S HAIR DYE.**  
GRAY HAIR OR WHISKERS changed to Glossy Black by a single application of this Dye. It imparts a natural color, and restores the hair to its original color, or any shade desired. Sold by Druggists, or sent by express on receipt of \$1. OFFICE, 25 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK.