

## Professor Massey's Editorial Page.

### Second Application of Fertilizers to Cotton.

A DAILY PAPER has an article on cotton in which the statement is made that, "The more up-to-date farmers of the country have learned that it is profitable to make a second application of fertilizer to cotton as soon as it is thinned."

If an insufficient amount was used in the first place, perhaps it may pay to apply more. But, as a rule, the full amount of phosphoric acid and potash should be applied at the start. These are not going to get out of the soil till some plant takes them up. If cotton grows off slowly, it may pay to apply 5 to 100 pounds an acre of nitrate of soda along the rows, where the farmer does not farm well and has no clover or peas to furnish him nitrogen. But there is not the slightest advantage in using too little phosphoric acid and potash at the start and then having the labor of going over again with these and waiting for them to become available to the crop as they would be if all was applied at first. Nitrogen will leach from the soil rapidly when in the form of a nitrate, and nitrate of soda should not be used largely at planting, but can be used when the crop is growing to advantage, where the soil is deficient in nitrogen.



PROFESSOR MASSEY.

### The Stock Laws.

NO SECTION will ever get rid of cattle ticks so long as cattle are allowed to run at large. The public roads belong to the farms on which they pass, the title of each farm running to the middle of the road, and the use of this part of each farm has been given up solely for travel, and not for pasture. Under the common law doctrine cattle pasturing on the highway are trespassing on the property of the adjoining land-owners. Many years ago in one of the Maryland counties farmers were annoyed by cows turned on the public roads by people who had no land and no pasture. They applied to a lawyer who told them that there was no statute in that county requiring any one to fence his land, and that the common law prevailed, that no one was required to fence other people's cattle out, but only fence in their own. He advised them to leave their gates open and take up trespassing cattle. This stopped it, and now fences have practically disappeared there except around the pastures. The man quoted July 25th would be a failure with stock under any condition, and simply does not want to provide pasture for his stock. But improvement never goes backward, and this man, and others like him, will have to come to the point of providing for their own stock.

It is odd that some people imagine that they have a right to pasture everywhere but on the land they own.

### Pastures and Hay for the South.

THERE ARE FEW sections in the South where good pasture grasses of some sort do not thrive, and on most of the lands of the Piedmont and mountain country the finest sort of a permanent sod can be maintained.

The fact is, that the Southern cotton farmer has been all his life fighting grass, and he dreads nothing more than a Bermuda sod, the finest summer pasture grass in the United States in its proper climate.

It is not a good thing to have in a cotton field, of course; but I knew one of the most successful cotton farmers in South Carolina, who, when he was living, always had a permanent pasture of Bermuda grass, and had fine cattle, fine sheep and fine hogs, and grew cotton with more success than most farmers, seldom making less than a bale an acre, and often more, and he had no trouble with the grass getting into his fields.

Then in the upper Piedmont and mountain country, where Bermuda is out of its element, we grow orchard grass, Virginia or Canada bluegrass, the latter as permanent a sod as Bermuda,

and green all the year. Then in the eastern coastal and southern sections the Texas bluegrass thrives wonderfully as a winter grass, and is excellent to mix with the Bermuda, for it just begins to grow green when the Bermuda turns brown.

But to get good pastures we must treat them well. We must prepare the land and seed thickly, and then by annual top-dressing we can maintain and thicken the sod indefinitely. Therefore, I hope that all of our readers will study closely what Mr. French says about pastures.

Then as to hay. There is no part of the country which can compete with the South in the production of great crops of the best of hay from cowpeas, soy beans and velvet beans in the various localities. The Southern dairyman or stock feeder can grow all the protein he needs, while the Northern man buys it in grain. But with cottonseed meal secured in exchange for seed, legume hay that can be grown after a small grain crop, and corn silage, the Southern stock feeder has a great advantage over the stock feeder in the North.

### The Oleomargarine Fraud.

ONE OF THE arguments used by the Southern papers who have been led to think that it would be good for the oil interests in the South to let the oleo people color their product

#### MUST MAKE PROFITS TWELVE MONTHS INSTEAD OF SIX.

**UNDER the present system general farm activities cover a period of about six months—four months in preparation and cultivation, and two months in harvesting; the other six months of the year, so far as creating wealth is concerned, business is practically suspended and the farmer and his family become consumers, living off the profits of the six months' period of activity. Is it any wonder, then, that we don't go ahead? Can any business survive that practically shuts down for six months in the year?**

**That some change is necessary, and what those changes are, one only needs to study the front page of last week's Progressive Farmer and Gazette. The figures and illustrations on that page are a revelation, and prove to us that along with other changes and improvements that are being made in this country, that we must add live stock; and we will never measure up to our full possibilities as an agricultural region until we do it.—T. J. W. Broom, in Monroe Journal.**

in imitation of butter, is that cottonseed oil is more wholesome than animal products. But they overlook the fact that more animal product enters into the making of oleo than cottonseed oil. Why tallow from any sort of an animal should be more wholesome than the milk of cows, is hard to understand.

Then they call it class legislation to protect the dairyman from fraud. Every one has a right to defend his trade-mark, and the yellow color is the trade-mark of the dairyman, and no one should be allowed to imitate it with a cheaper article. In this whole contest there is the one fact to be kept in mind. That is, that the only possible reason for coloring oleomargarine is to make it look more like butter, and to make people think that it is real butter. The present law has not hurt the sale of cottonseed oil a particle, while its abolition would ruin an industry now far more important to the Southern farmer than all the oil used in oleo. The Southern farmers should let their representatives in Congress hear from them in regard to this, for some of them actually think they are serving the farmers when they are simply playing into the hands of the oleo people and the oil trust.

Let all secret processes for making butter alone, and do not pay any one to tell you how to make churnless butter. I have told you how to make that. But you can not sell it for butter.

No one who wishes to grow more corn per acre can afford to depend upon barn selection of seed.

### Notes and Comments.

MAKING A PASTURE of woodland terminates its value as a renewing forest. Down in one of our coast counties I was driving along a road and noted that the woods on both sides had been burnt over. I remarked to the driver that they had had a bad forest fire. "That was done purposely," said he. "The idea is to destroy the ticks so that cattle can range in the woods." Cattle ranging the woods will not only keep up the supply of ticks, but the burning and the cattle together will destroy the value of the forest for timber production. Hence, Mr. French is right in what he says about woodland pasturing.

Dr. Butler's advice as to crimson clover is well given, and \$500 a year will not count the profit this clover will make on any man's farm. Just now we want to advise the Southern farmers to wait till the imported seed is in in August, for the home-grown seed is now held at \$10 a bushel, and it will be easy, I think, to get the imported seed at \$6, and, perhaps, at \$5 a bushel. But whatever the price, sow it, for it is far cheaper at \$10 a bushel than 2-8-2 fertilizer at \$20 a ton. Anywhere that any clover has been commonly grown it will succeed without any inoculation. Where there are no clover bacteria in the soil, get some soil from where it has grown and scatter it over the field.

We have too much, or rather use too much, human labor in the South. So long as every mule takes a man in the field no farmer should complain of lack of labor. It is rather a lack of machinery and mules, for one man riding on a cultivator will do more and better work than two each with a mule and a single-horse plow or cultivator. The Iowa farmers have always had a lack of human labor and have been compelled to use teams and machinery, and hence one man's labor there produces far more than one man's labor does in the South. Four-legged laborers are cheaper than two-legged ones.

Keep your cows dry in the stable and sigh for the good old times when you had a free range over the country like the man quoted on the first page of the July 25 issue, and some one else may free the county from ticks. But let the cows out on the range, and you will never get rid of the ticks. Clean your own pastures and have good pastures, and read what Dr. Butler says about the ticks, and you will not want to abolish stock laws. The saving of fencing alone is reason enough for shutting stock off the range, for under such conditions every one must fence all the land he cultivates, or have his crops pastured on by other people. Down with the fences and starve the ticks out.

If you will use the basic slag or Thomas phosphate, you will not need to buy lime for your peanuts, for you will get in it 40 pounds of lime in every 100 pounds. Four hundred pounds of this and 50 pounds of muriate of potash will be what the peanuts need, for pops are not caused by lack of lime but by lack of potash, and the lime is used for releasing potash in the soil. Lime is useful to sweeten and acid soil, but it is not properly a fertilizer. You will get 200 pounds of lime free in the Thomas phosphate.

The first of this month I sowed my first spinach and curled kale and will make two more sowings for winter and early spring. Then the second week in August I will sow some lettuce seed for the fall crop. I will set these plants in the frames so as to have them where they can be protected if necessary, but I hardly expect they will need the sashes. I never monkey with cloth covers on my frames, and am even doing better, for I am now using sashes with two layers of glass five-eighths of an inch apart. With frames well banked, these sashes will keep out any frost we have, and I can head lettuce and bloom some flowers under them all winter through. I will have over thirty sashes the coming winter, and expect to increase the number by degrees. Even the double-glazed sashes, which cost nearly twice as much as the old style, are cheaper in the long run than cloth, and immensely better. Cloth covers are a very poor substitute for glass, and in a series of years, cost more than the glass.

Do not fail to reap the full fruits of your labors by depending upon barn selection of seed corn, but rather select your seed in the field this fall.