

On Sale Every Saturday at
RUSTIC and BULLOCK'S DRUG
STORE, Covington.
IDEAL PHARMACY, Madisonville.
Five Cents Per Copy.

The St. Tammany Farmer

\$2 is the subscription price of The Farmer. You'll get more than the worth of your money by being a subscriber. Help boost the parish.

D. H. MASON, Editor

COVINGTON, LA., SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1921.

VOL. 47 No. 29

IS REFORESTING OR DRAINAGE OUR BEST POLICY?

Two Questions Are Raised That Are Quite Pertinent To Matter.

BASED ON FIGURES U. S. GOVERNMENT

Is Cost of Clearing and Establishing Farms Prohibitive?

(By A. E. Briggs)
There are two questions quite pertinent to the question of whether drainage is the best policy for this parish. The first is whether it would not be more profitable to reforest the parish than to transform it into farming land. The second, whether the cost of clearing the land does not make the cost of establishing farms prohibitive. It will be remembered that the United States Government maintains a forestry service as well as a farm service, and its expert authority may be taken as unprejudiced and unbiased, and therefore I propose in the present article to bring forward such data as I have at hand in government publications bearing on the first of the two questions aforesaid.

Obstacles to Reforestation.

Concerning reforestation, a radical change must be made from present conditions to accomplish it. Profitable reforestation must stop the prevailing fires and it must get rid of the open range. As to injury from fire, and from livestock to trees a bulletin of the forestry service says:

"The chief essentials in keeping the trees growing are excluding fires and allowing the humus to collect on the forest floor. Fire kills the little trees and weakens full-grown trees so that they may become diseased or infested with insects. It also destroys the humus cover on leaves and twigs that ordinarily protect the trees against summer drought and heat, conserve water for the springs and streams, and enriches the soil by adding nitrogen. The loss of this natural fertilizer by burning amounts to a very large sum, entirely sufficient to warrant complete fire protection of the country's forests."

"Burning over the ground with the aim of improving grazing is an expensive mistake. Although it is possible to secure green grass for stock a week or two earlier in the spring, most of the rich leguminous plants and annual grasses are exterminated, leaving as survivors only the hardy bunch, wire, and other coarse perennial grasses." The reader will remember that was said in my last December article concerning the injury of these fires to our most valuable grass, the carpet grass.

"White fires were a reported number of fires and larger losses occurred in the Southern pine district than in any other important forest region."

"Horses and cattle eat and break down young trees and pack the ground hard. Sheep and goats destroy large numbers of small trees by eating them. Hogs root up the ground, digging up the young trees and roots and sometimes eating the roots. They also prevent young trees from starting by devouring the nuts and other seeds from which they grow."

Whether reforestation of most or all of our lands would pay better than to drain and farm them can be shown by a comparison of annual income, net profits, and the comparative influence on the land values.

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR PUTTING CEMETERY IN GOOD SHAPE

Big Lawn Party To Be Held at Bogue Falaya Park Friday, June 10.

MOTHER GOOSE AND HER FAMILY

After Entertainment Jack Carey's Band; Ethel Reider to Dance.

On next Friday, June 10th, a big lawn party will be given at the park, the gates opening at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Mother Goose and her family, composed of about fifty of Covington's beautiful children, will entertain the public, and little Miss Ethel Reider, of New Orleans, a fancy toe dancer, will give several dances. We promise a good time for everybody.

After the entertainment there will be refreshments of all kinds on sale, and get-bags, fish ponds, postoffice, and mysteries that will keep everyone guessing. The beautiful hope box will be displayed and awarded the lucky winner. At night a big dance will be given with Jack Carey's band in attendance. The prices of everything will be moderate, but we earnestly request every person in Covington to show their interest in this effort to raise money to put our cemetery in good order. The work is now going on and the committee is very anxious to carry out some big improvements.

Come, everybody. Admission only 10 cents.

MRS. J. C. BURNS, Secretary.

developed for the products, and where the cost of land, trees, and labor can be kept as low as \$16 per acre, forest planting on poor farm land is a paying venture." In other words, reforestation is hardly a paying investment on a capitalization of land and labor in a greater sum than \$16 per acre.

U. S. F. B. No. 117 gives the following exceptional example of the profits which may be derived from the farm timberlot. And incidentally it may be noted that "about one-third of all the forest land of the United States is on farms"; also that on the farm timberlot the best care is possible to make the product profitable.

"A New York farmer's woodland of 115 acres earns him a continuous profit of \$1 a day. The annual growth is 0.55 cord per acre. 115 times 0.55 equals 63 cords (most popular). He cuts an annual crop of 63 cords. His profit is \$4.86 per cord. 63 times \$4.86 equals \$306.57, or \$2.30 per acre per year.

"Two acres of white pine, near Keene, N. H., were sold three or four years ago, before the war prices, for \$2,000 on the stump. The total stand was 254 cords, which equals 170,000 board feet, or an average of 85,000 feet per acre. The trees were from 8 to 35 years old; so the growth on each acre was about 10,000 feet per annum and the gross returns about \$12.20 per acre per annum."

"White pine, which was planted on an abandoned hillside pasture of about 3 acres in New Hampshire 24 years ago, now contains about 90,000 board feet of lumber. The total outlay at the time, counting the value of the land and labor of planting, was \$35. The timber to-day (1920) is worth on the stump something over \$1,500. Assuming a land value of \$5 per acre, and a charge for taxes and oversight for the year, the operation has yielded a net return of 5 per cent on the total investment in land, labor, and annual outlay, and in addition a neat sum equivalent to a yearly profit from the start of over \$5 per acre."

This last example is very instructive because it shows that the cost of care for the timber must be then into consideration, and that usually profitable returns should not be expected without continuous protection to the forest at some cost. The next question faces us; is reforestation practicable or profitable anywhere existing in the farm timberlot, adequately fenced and given individual attention by the farmer?

THREE BOYS AND A GIRL



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Solsa, of New Haven, Conn., are the proud parents of quadruplets, which totaled a weight of twenty pounds. All four are fine, healthy, and normal children. They have been named James, Michael, Salvatore and Angeline. Picture is of father and babes.

BASEBALL TEAM INTERESTING MEETING OF COVINGTON GOING FAST MAND. LADIES

The Covington team, with its regular line-up, backed by several cars of staunch rooters, journeyed over to Franklinton last Monday and took that team in by a score of 20 to 3. The game started off for a couple of innings very close, but the heavy attack, lead by Lansing, the "Babe Ruth" of the Florida parishes, who made three three-baggers, Larro's home run, Clements' "never die" driving and back-stopping, coupled with Speck Ragan's big league pitching, striking out twelve men, completely humbled the fast Franklinton team, which to that date had not lost a game.

Every member of the team played hang-up baseball—the kind that wins games every time. The game was devoid of wrangling and witnessed by five of six hundred spectators.

Last Sunday the Covington team took the measure of the newly organized Madisonville team to the tune of 9 to 3. Covington was credited with 11 hits and 2 errors, while Madisonville chalked up 7 hits and 6 errors. Parks and Clements worked for Covington; Dendinger and Stein, for Madisonville.

Mr. Theo. Dendinger, Sr., pitched the first ball over the plate. The attendance was about 200.

WARNER—DYBLE.

The engagement has been announced of W. J. Warner, son of J. H. Warner of the Mackinac Pine Products Company, and Miss Mercedes Dyble, daughter of the general manager of the English Cables, in Cuba. The wedding will take place June 25th and Mr. Warner and his bride will visit Covington on their honeymoon trip, probably in July.

HATFIELD—SMITH.

Married in New Orleans, April 30, 1921, Merton Hatfield to Miss Gladys B. Smith, daughter of Mr. C. L. Smith of Covington.

HEALEY LEAD TIE-UP U. S. SHIPPING



Thomas B. Healey

American merchant marine shipping, the hopes of American farmers for relief through exports, received a severe jolt when the marine engineers, one of the dominating labor unions of the service, refused to accept a wage cut, thus completely tying up shipping. It was estimated that American shipping suffered a loss of \$1,000,000 a day during the strike. Thomas B. Healey, shown here, is president of the marine engineers' union.

GREATEST WOMAN OF THE AGE IN U. S. FOR GIFT



Marie Currie, even though the mother of two little girls and with home duties to take up her time, did not permit these obstacles to keep her from writing her name high in the world's hall of fame. She discovered radium, the most precious of metals. Now she is in the United States to receive from the hands of President Harding a gram of radium, valued at \$100,000, the gift of American women who admire her great scientific work. There are only 141 grams of radium in the world today. Her two girls, now 23 and 10 years old, accompanied her here from the house in France.

DR. GEORGE R. TOLSON.

In the death of Dr. George R. Tolson Covington loses a citizen who had implicit faith in its future and confidence in its remarkable healthfulness. When he built his sanitarium here he had more in mind the healthfulness of the climate and purity of the water than medicinal treatment, and perhaps still more in mind the comfort and health of his own wife, who was a sufferer from asthma. She was Miss Eleanor Morgan, of Opelousas, daughter of Judge Morgan, a prominent citizen of that place. She was finely educated and had literary inclinations that afforded her pleasure and occupation even in the days of her illness and confinement at her sanitarium home and Dr. Tolson found great pleasure in her companionship. He married her in New Orleans in 1893. Mrs. Tolson died February 25, 1919, and June 21, 1920, he married Mrs. Josephine Frederick Weaver, widow of Capt. H. T. G. Weaver, prominent citizen who ran transportation boats between Covington and New Orleans for a long number of years.

DR. DALRYMPLE SAYS THE CLUB WORK IS EDUCATIONAL.

"One of the most important existing factors for the general improvement and development for the State's rural activities is undoubtedly the various young people's clubs affiliated with L. S. U.," says Dr. W. H. Dalrymple, dean of the college of agriculture and director of experiment stations.

"The boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, so to speak, and those places they will be called upon to fill will involve a great responsibility. Will they be equal to it? We believe they will."

"The older folks have served their day and generation as best they could according to their lights. However, more will be expected of the rising generation because of the much greater educational opportunities afforded them."

"He or she who is able to add a pound to the weight of the modern hog; a bushel per acre to our present average corn crop; an improvement in the quality of our poultry; or an improvement in the living conditions of our people, may be considered benefactors to their race, and the State owes it to the different phases of club work are on the fair way to such achievement."

COLOR TRAINING SCHOOL AT SLIDELL.

Supt. Lyon announces that the contract for the building of the colored training school at Slidell has been awarded to Geo. K. Leeds, of Abbeville, for \$7,300. It will be a two-story frame building, six class rooms, Mr. Salmen has donated two squares of ground for the school and was willing to give twelve acres, if needed. The funds for the building were: \$1000 from the Slater educational fund, \$2000 from Slidell, \$2500 from the School Board, \$1500 from the Rosenwald fund, \$1000 for teachers' home and \$500 for industrial equipment.

BATHING AND DANCING.

The Sulphur Springs Amusement Company's new public appropriation in the way they managed their opening dance, and have since given entertainment in this line that was fully up to their promise of clean amusement. The bathing is fine and the resort promises to be crowded during the summer.

TAKEN TO JACKSON.

Thursday Deputy Quatreveaux took E. E. Ebenberger to the Jackson Asylum, adjudged insane.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN YOUR HOME.

Give the wonderful unexcelled New Edison Phonograph, singing the latest Broadway hits and playing the world's beautiful music. Ring 125 for Mr. C. M. Brown, demonstration manager, to see you, as only a few homes in the parish can be accommodated with a demonstration.

Opposite Covington Bank.

R. H. FERGESON MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARS FROM HOME

Leaving Ostensibly With Purpose of Returning With New Car.

LAST SEEN IN NEW ORLEANS

Business In Covington In Fair Shape. Everybody Is Puzzled.

Ralph H. Fergeson had an ideally happy home life. When he met Miss Annie Schneider, two years ago last December, it seemed to be a case of love at first sight and his ardent wooing was rewarded by Miss Schneider's consent to become his wife. Mr. Fergeson was a comparative stranger in Covington. He had opened a garage in partnership with Mr. Allison and the business prospered. Subsequently Mr. Allison left here and the business was continued by Mr. Fergeson who built it up and finally acquired the agency for the Studebaker and Dodge cars. His quarters being crowded, Mr. H. H. Smith erected a concrete building for him on Boston street next to the Covington Bank & Trust Company and he took in as a partner Mr. W. R. Thompson. It was Mr. Fergeson's boast that he would make Covington a Studebaker town. He was quite successful with his sales and took special pride in planning for the equipment of his new building, which he had leased for a term of three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Fergeson were fond of pleasure in a quiet way, were interested in church work and the social doings of Covington and were always together at dances, amusements or society doings. In fact, they were so inseparable that Mr. Fergeson seldom left her for several hours at a time without notifying her where he was going and when he would be back. A break in this happiness and contentment occurred last Monday when Mr. Fergeson left for Madisonville in a new Dodge car with the declared purpose of seeing a patron and disposing of the car. He has not been heard from since he took the boat at that point and left Mr. Lyons, a Madisonville druggist, at Canal and Rampart streets after his arrival in New Orleans.

When Mr. Fergeson left his partner, Mr. Thompson, on that Monday afternoon he took with him a handbag containing nothing but a box of cigars. He put the Dodge car in charge of Mr. Kepp and returned to Mr. Lyons' office. Mr. Lyons declared purpose of seeing a patron and disposing of the car. He has not been heard from since he took the boat at that point and left Mr. Lyons, a Madisonville druggist, at Canal and Rampart streets after his arrival in New Orleans.

Mr. and Mrs. Fergeson were fond of pleasure in a quiet way, were interested in church work and the social doings of Covington and were always together at dances, amusements or society doings. In fact, they were so inseparable that Mr. Fergeson seldom left her for several hours at a time without notifying her where he was going and when he would be back. A break in this happiness and contentment occurred last Monday when Mr. Fergeson left for Madisonville in a new Dodge car with the declared purpose of seeing a patron and disposing of the car. He has not been heard from since he took the boat at that point and left Mr. Lyons, a Madisonville druggist, at Canal and Rampart streets after his arrival in New Orleans.

Citizens of Covington felt sure that Mr. Fergeson would turn up next day with the new Studebaker and no action was taken to trace him. There was no suspicion that he had left without notifying of returning. But when several days passed without hearing from him, all sorts of rumors were circulated. Yet he had many staunch friends who refused to believe any of them and still hope that Mr. Fergeson will return and explain everything, unless he has met with foul play.

Mrs. Fergeson has warmly expressed her confidence in him. She believes something has happened that makes it impossible for him to get in touch with her. That he may be ill somewhere, that he may have met with foul play. She does not believe he has deserted her. She says Mr. Fergeson never had left her with a point on her lips. That he would not leave the house unless she smiled. She has faith in his constancy and his love for her. Early Tuesday morning she went to Madisonville to search for him and found the car and drove it home. She never lost hope until the evening train came in from New Orleans without him. Then she went to work to find out what had become of him after he reached New Orleans. Friends near to the police department of New Orleans were put in possession of the facts and detectives were soon working on the case. Detective Mooney visited Covington and is tracing out all the information he can gain. It is said he believes Mr. Fergeson has deliberately left and that it will be necessary to track him up and find out where he has gone. His advice is to swear out a charge of desertion so that officials

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED IN SLIDELL WITH DUE RESPECT

Mrs. J. A. Salmen, Mrs. L. T. Miles, Mrs. G. Fritchie, Mrs. Polk, Committee

UNDER AUSPICES PRISCILLA CLUB

Community House May Operate Picture Show. General News Items.

(By Staff Correspondent)
Early Thursday morning a fire alarm was sounded from the negro quarters. The fire originated in the residence of Will Gillum and spread to two other residences and the Colored Odd Fellows Hall. Losses were partly covered by insurance.

Memorial Day, May 30, was observed in Slidell, the Priscilla Club having appointed Mrs. J. A. Salmen, Mrs. L. T. Miles, Mrs. G. Fritchie and Mrs. J. F. Polk as a committee in charge of decoration. Tokens of remembrance were placed on the last resting place of our own boys, also those of the ones who wore the Gray and the Blue. All of them made the supreme sacrifice in the World War and in the civil strife between the North and the South. All now sleep under the same colors of the United States. Those wearing the Blue: H. J. Macey, S. E. Redden, Sr., and B. Houghton, Sr. The Gray: Wm. B. Bader, Dave Talley, Seth Decker, C. R. Cooker, Richard Johnson, J. D. Anderson, Terrance Saddle, John A. Salmen and E. J. Brakefield. Our Boys: Cecil Neumaier, died in Camp Beauregard; Ralph Rousseau, died in France; Chas. H. Richardson, died in hospital; Denver, died in hospital; Dewitt Lawler, contracted tuberculosis in camp at Charleston, S. C., and died at Pearl River, La.; Rollo Garcia, died in camp (five of the Garcia boys gave their lives in the World War); Thos. McCree, served in the army, died at Fort Arthur, Texas. The tomb of the late J. D. Grant was also decorated in remembrance of his war and peace works.

An effort will be made to have Memorial Day universally observed by all citizens in the future. Let us forget that brave men died for us—no greater love hath any man than in giving his life for others—so let us honor them.

Special thanks are due Mr. Joe Lee for making labels for the memorial trees in the cemetery.

The "Busy Bee" class of the Methodist Sunday School presented the "Preacher's Wife's New Bonnet" at the Community Hall, Thursday night. A neat sum was realized for their treasury. This class has done considerable social service work since its organization, and is now endeavoring to raise money for increasing the Sunday School building.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Carpenter entertained the "Oliver Aiken Bible Class" at their home Thursday evening, June 2. After the regular business meeting of the class a delightful social hour was spent. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Aiken, Mr. L. V. Galloway, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Baron, Mr. John Peterson, Mr. W. A. Glass, Mrs. M. E. Wakefield.

Miss Beattie Hursey has returned home for the summer months from Brookhaven, Miss., where she has been attending school.

Mrs. M. E. Brakefield has returned after a month's stay in New Orleans.

Burglars have been visiting several homes in Slidell for the past few weeks. The first was in the home of Mrs. Frank Richardson, whose daughter, on returning home from church, found the burglar just going out of the back door. A few nights later the home of Chas. Guzman was visited in the same manner. The culprit had evidently just entered the house when the family returned as nothing had been disturbed. About two weeks ago the home of Frank Canulette was entered and a gold watch and some money were stolen and it is believed that it is the same person entering all these places. Efforts are being made to catch the thief.

Mrs. Ada V. Wakefield is here on a visit to her sister, Mrs. L. F. Talley.

Mr. H. T. Day and sister have left on an extensive trip through the East. They expect to be gone for several months.

The Community House is contemplating operating a picture show. It will be their aim to put on the very best of pictures.

Mr. C. M. Liddle was a New Orleans visitor last week.

DANCE AT ABITA SPRINGS, SUNDAY, JUNE 5.

There will be another big dance at Abita Springs to-morrow night, Sunday. The same classy jazz band will be there and another good time is awaiting all.

may have something to work on.

Mrs. Fergeson has the sympathy of many friends. It is hard to believe that a man with good business prospects, a charming and loving wife, a home in which nothing had ever occurred to mar the happiness of an ideal married life, could voluntarily disappear with a sound mind.