HILLY COUNTY OF BLAND GREAT FOR BLUE GRASS

Stock, Cattle and Sheep Raising the Leading Industry—Beef Buyers Flock There in Season.

LIMITED RAILWAY FACILITIES

Forests of Valuable Timber Untouched—Little Coal Mined—Iron, Copper and Other Mineral Deposits Await Steam Locomotive.

The County of Bland is next to the youngest county in the State, and is no baby at that, having been formed from Giles, Wythe and Tazewell Counties in 1861, just at the breaking out of the War Between the States. It is yet, as compared with its neighbors, a thinly settled county, the population being not much if any over 6,000, and its territory is not large, it having an area of only 352 square miles. However, its citizens claim that every inch of this land is rich and capable of producing everything necessary to supply the wants of man. The surface is mountainous and broken to a large extent, but the hills and mountains are all rich and very valuable for grazing purposes, while the valley lands in between the hills are as rich as any to be found anywhere in Virginia or anywhere else in this country. The soil is of black loam and reddish clay, and is very productive in all parts of the county, and well adapted to all the farm products of that part of the State, such as corn, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, potatoes and the grasses.

LAND OF GOOD CATTLE AND FINE SHEEP

Bland is one of the blue grass counties of Virginia, this cattle maker being indigenous to the soil. Therefore, it goes without saying that stock, cattle and sheep raising constitutes the principal, certainly the most profitable and most extensively engaged in industry of the county. In this line cattle and sheep are the specialties. Large numbers of the very finest quality are raised and driven on foot to the far-away shipping stations on the Norfolk and Western and other roads, and thence shipped all over the country. Every year at the proper seasons many cattle and sheep dealers and butchers come from other parts of Virginia and from other States to buy up cattle and sheep and drive them on foot to the railways for shipment to their stockyards in distant towns and cities. This industry has been growing for several years, and when more railway lines penetrate the county it will become something tremendous.

In no county in Virginia are the lands any better adapted to fruit growing than are those of Bland. Apples, peaches and in fact all of the fruits grow and mature to perfection, and if the county had sufficient railway facilities apple and peach growing would vie with the cattle and sheep-raising industry for supremacy.

GREAT FUTURE OPENING FOR LUMBER INDUSTRY

The timbers in the vast forests of the county are practically untouched and here another industry awaits the building of railways. The timbers found in abundance are walnut, poplar, pine, oak, ash, hemlock, hickory and beech, and all of these are not only to be found in any imaginable quantity, but of the very finest quality.

The coming of the railways to the south and central parts of the county, and they will come some time in the future, will also lead to the development of the mineral resources which are great and valuable. The minerals known to be beneath the hills are iron, lead, zinc, copper, slate, manganese, mica and barites. These never have been developed except that a little iron for home consumption has been mined, and once a little piece of railroad has been built to extend into a small strip of the eastern part of the county, a little more has been done out of the ground for adjacent and sale.

The New River, Holston and Western Railway touches just a little of the northwest part of the county, and since its construction numerous small industries have sprung up along the line—at Rocky Gap and other bustling villages. The southern, central and western parts of the county are far removed from other railway facilities, the county seat being twenty miles from the nearest station on the Norfolk and Western Railway. However, the county has good highways, and now that the automobile has found its way to the back country, travel is fairly convenient, but the roads can't ship cattle, timber and the products of mines by automobile, and they are determined to get the steam locomotive to whistling around the hills at no distant day. Then the outside world will hear something great of Bland County.

EXHILARATING AIR, PURE WATER, HUNTSMAN'S DELIGHT

Mineral springs are numerous in the county, and some of them have hotel accommodations for summer visitors and entertain not a few. No more beautiful country is on the map of Virginia than Bland County, and the air is excelled, climate, its abundance of pure water, its exhilarating air all combine to make it a health resort if it were not so hard to reach. And then, too, as some other writer has truthfully said, it is an Eldorado for the sportsman with its abundance of game and streams abounding in fish among them the noted mountain trout.

Bland, the county seat, is a small village located near the center of the county, easily reached from all sections over the good roads that radiate from it north, east, south and west, by owners of automobiles and fairly good teams. The village has a flouring mill and two or three small industries of the small village, and it has churches and a good public school. The telephone wires extend from the county seat to all parts of the county and to the outer world.

Pennsylvania Money in Wilmington.

WILMINGTON, N. C., April 21.—It is announced that the Tidewater Power Company, of this city, has been purchased by Brooks & Co. of Scranton, Pa. This company operates the street railways of Wilmington and an interurban to Wrightsville Beach, ten miles distant. It also conducts an electric light and gas business. The total railway tracks operated by the company is thirty-one and a half miles. The company owns 1,500 acres of suburban real estate. At present Hugh McRae, of this city, is the president of the company.

VIEWS AND NEAR-VIEWS, HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

About Hogs and Cattle—"Potato Pingree's" Methods Come in Handy. Hints to Ad Writers.

According to a report issued last week from the United States Department of Agriculture, the number of breeding sows in the country on April 1 is estimated to be 2.9 per cent less than a year ago, and 1.3 per cent less than two years ago, while the country's population is about 3 to 4 per cent greater than it was two years ago. The winter wheat crop is estimated on present conditions as to yield nearly 250,000,000 bushels less than the crop of 1915, and 43,000,000 bushels less than the disastrously small crop of last year. After pondering over these facts, or estimates, the editor of the Manufacturers' Record breaks out with the following suggestions:

Raise more foodstuffs, raise everything that can supply man or beast with food, raise more fowl, more hogs, more cattle, more vegetables, more corn should be the insistent cry in every community. It should be preached from every country pulpit, it should be taught in every school, it should be ceaselessly advocated in every gathering of men and women in every village and town and on every farm in the country. This doctrine becomes a religious duty which the minister of the Gospel can well afford to proclaim. No time is to be lost; preach it now, teach it now, practice it now!

If the Mayors of all the cities, Richmond included, would emulate the efforts of "Potato Pingree," some eighteen years ago, when, as Mayor of Detroit, he commandeered the vacant lots and stirred up the boys to cultivate them, hunger strikes will not bother our city officials very much next winter. Conditions of to-day point to a continuance of very high prices in common foodstuffs for a year to come at least, but this situation can be greatly relieved by the co-operative effort of the city and town garden committees which are now at work in all parts of the country. It will pay to put every backyard that gets good sunshine into service for the raising of the staple vegetables of the home.

These are some wise hints in the following, clipped from a Western exchange:

"A highly colored pamphlet was dropped at our door advertising a business, but at no place on it appeared its location. The other day we read a whole page advertisement in a newspaper, but the name of the proprietor was not printed anywhere. We wanted to go to a show and looked up the advertisement for the price of admission, but that intelligence did not appear; so we didn't go. In another show advertisement the time was omitted. It only shows how careless people are about writing advertisements, and how prone they are to leave out the most important information. In show advertisements the prices are so often omitted that one is led to think there is some design in it. The time, too, a very important matter, is much neglected."

Illustrative of the increased interest in live stock, it is stated that in Mississippi cattle shipments to St. Louis have increased from 3,000 head in 1906 to 100,000 head in 1916, while hog shipments last year were 500 per cent greater than for the year previous. In Georgia, the Moultrie packing plant killed 50,000 hogs, against 30,000 the year previous, and this despite the fact that other packing plants were drawing on the same territory. Virginia is doing some wise stunts in increasing live stock production, and while this state is raising more cattle and hogs than at any time since long before the War Between the States there is yet much room for great improvement. There never was a time when this industry was as profitable as now.

Have all garden paths with some plants of fragrance growing alongside. In some gardens of larger size special fragrant pathways are built where they appear to pass through thickets redolent with pleasant odors. But every path may easily have enough fragrance to keep the mind unconsciously in the garden spirit.

FACTS AS TO RAILROADS

South Is Growing Much Faster Than Its Railways—More Track Needs to Be Laid.

"It remains a fact that the South is growing faster than its railroads are growing," said President Fairfax Harrison, of the Southern Railway Company, in his recent statement before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Continuing, Mr. Harrison said:

"I do not suppose there is any part of the country that needs growth in its railroads more than the South. They all need it. It has been demonstrated again and again that they all need it. While fortunately we have had no such congestion this winter as in other parts of the country, it remains a fact that the South is growing faster than its railroads are growing. Since I have had a prime responsibility in the last three years I have managed one way or another to spend $52,000,000 in improvements and betterments on the Southern Railway proper. On the other lines for which I am responsible we have in the same three years spent more than $16,000,000 for additions and betterments, divided about half and half between new capital and income ploughed in. Thus we have spent in three years for improvements of our lines in the South upwards of $68,000,000. It is only a beginning of what is necessary to be done. Our problem, then, is one of credit, or better credit, to enable us to secure the capital necessary to make this railroad a bigger and better instrument to serve the South."

These are facts worth thinking about.

GOING FOR FOOD CROPS

Farmers in the Lynchburg Section Have Heard the Call of the Hour.

LYNCHBURG, VA., April 21.—Farmers in this section are making splendid progress now with preparation for summer crops. The work is greatly delayed by reason of the late spring and continued rainy season. Immense crops are to be put out this spring, the acreage only being limited by the ability of the farmer to secure farm help to plant and cultivate. Everywhere they are giving more than the usual attention to food crops.

Fourteen Miles of Macadam.

BEDFORD CITY, VA., April 21.—The Board of Supervisors of Bedford County will receive bids on Monday next for the construction of three sections of macadam road in Forest District. The entire length of the work will be fourteen miles. Quite a number of sealed bids are in hand, and there is no doubt the contracts will be awarded Monday.

Louisa County's Association.

MINERAL, VA., April 21.—The Federal Farm Loan Association of Louisa County has reorganized, with M. B. Quisenberry, president; W. W. Morrow, vice-president; E. C. Tillotson, secretary-treasurer, and in addition to these the following compose the board of directors: D. E. McPherson, W. W. Spicer, and A. C. Marshall, Bibb and Rhodes, attorneys.

FARMERS TO THE RESCUE; CALL IS FOR FOOD CROPS

As Never Before, the Nation Depends This Year Upon the Man Behind the Plow.

FARMERS' JOURNAL APPEALS

Big Grain and Hay Crops, With Gardens Twice the Usual Size, Are Urged to Meet the Present Crisis.

The Progressive Farmer, one of the most widely circulated agricultural papers of the South, and indeed of the whole country, makes one of the most touching appeals to the farmers of the entire South that has yet come forth in these trying times of war and threatened food scarcity.

"A great war authority," says this paper, "has said 'every nation fights on its belly,' that is to say, no army can fight unless it is fed. It is strong in proportion to its food supply. And the truth of this statement finds emphatic illustration in present international conditions. The supreme test of endurance alike for Germany and England is concerned, not with men and munitions, but with food.

"With war declared, therefore, and a war in behalf of the sacred principles of liberty and democracy to which America is dedicated, every man who rightly tills our soil may feel himself as surely a defender of the nation as if he were fighting with musket, cannon or battleship. But remember that we say, provided this farmer rightly tills the soil. The cry of America to-day is for food and feed and plenty of it. In all the other fighting countries of the earth there is a deficiency of food, and with untold thousands of men going to war from our American farms, American capacity for production will decline, and both the demand for and the prices of food are likely to exceed anything we have yet known.

PATRIOTISM AND SELF-INTEREST HAND IN HAND

"Patriotism and self-interest alike, therefore, should prevent overplanting of cotton and tobacco and encourage the heaviest possible production of food crops in every Southern State. Soldiers can put up with worn or ragged clothes, but they die without food. As some one has said, 'You cannot darn your breakfast, mend your dinner, or patch your supper.' Food and feed crops must, therefore, continue relatively higher than cotton.

"We are fortunate in that war comes while there is yet time to change our plans so as to make acreage conditions fit the plain mandates of the market and of patriotism. No one knows how much it will cost to buy war-priced corn, meat and flour with which to make cotton, and the only safe policy is to make the farm first feed itself. We must have ample food and feed crops and gardens twice the usual size.

"Upon this paramount duty all else yields. Conditions justify the heaviest use of fertilizers the South has ever known. With the exception of potash, prices of fertilizers have not advanced so much as prices of the food crops they help produce; they are, therefore, relatively cheaper than usual. The aim of every farmer should be to make a maximum crop on every acre, and to do this heavy fertilization is necessary. Labor, too, will probably be higher priced than ever before in Southern history, and we cannot afford to waste it on low-yielding acres. It takes about as much labor to cultivate an acre making fifteen bushels of corn as to cultivate one making fifty. And because of high-priced labor there will be more urgent need than ever before for using modern labor-saving machinery, owned either individually or co-operatively.

AS ALL THIS APPLIES TO DARK TOBACCO

"Let every Southern farmer aim at food and feed crops, bigger gardens, heavy fertilization and ample use of modern and labor-saving tools and machinery."

All of this timely advice is particularly applicable to the tobacco growers of Virginia, especially those in the belts where the dark shipping tobaccos are grown. The dark tobacco grower is at sea this year. Certainly if the war shall be of long duration, that is, lasts as much as a year, the prices for the shipping tobaccos will go down below the profit-making point. Of course, if the war shall come to an end and all of the means of transportation across the seas get back to normal by the time this year's tobacco crop is ready for market, there will be big profits in dark tobaccos, but in the meantime there will be even bigger profits in foodstuffs, and these profits are not dependent upon the length of the war, for they will necessarily prevail, be the troubles of long or short duration. In any event, it is absolutely safe to make the foodstuffs, and it is not so with tobacco.

FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION

First in Orange County Organized, and Started the Good Work at Gordonsville.

GORDONSVILLE, VA., April 21.—A Gordonsville Farmers' Loan Association has been organized recently by Orange County Agent Kirby, with T. J. McGrath as president; E. V. Breeden, vice-president; R. A. Cowherd, secretary-treasurer. T. J. McGrath, G. T. Cowherd, E. V. Breeden, F. P. Estes and J. H. Reid were the five directors elected. The association will begin with eighteen charter members. This is the first organization of its kind in Orange County, and, while it will include members from Louisa and Albemarle Counties, it will be a help locally, as this is one of the ways farmers can make themselves more able to combat the food situation.

Mountain Timber Development.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., April 21.—It is understood that the Moltz Lumber Company, of Williamsport, Pa., which has recently purchased 6,000 acres of splendid timber land on Mount Toxaway, will start right away with the development of the purchase. About seven miles of railway are to be constructed, and a band sawmill built and put in operation. The cost of the work mapped out will be about $250,000.

Still Another Hosiery Mill.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 21.—The Charlotte Knitting Company has been organized with $125,000 capital stock, R. J. Walker, the president, announces that this corporation will at once install in its new brick factory a $40,000 equipment, consisting of 100 knitting machines and other necessary machinery, all to be run with electric drive. The daily capacity of the mills will be 600 dozen pairs of hose.

RESOURCES OF THE SOUTH SHOULD GO ON EXHIBITION

Forthcoming National Exposition of Chemical Industries Will Afford Opportunity for the States.

F. H. La Baume, agricultural and industrial agent of the Norfolk and Western Railway, is much interested in the forthcoming National Exposition of Chemical Industries to be held in New York in September next, and he is trying to get all of the other roads in the South, not already taking a hand, to become interested. He thinks this will be a fine opportunity for the South to make its wonderful resources known. In writing to a number of leading railroad officials, Mr. La Baume says:

"We believe this National Exposition of Chemical Industries offers a most excellent opportunity of the South to present its facilities in the furnishing of raw materials. For this reason we have taken space in this exposition, and are arranging through this department and with the co-operation of our chief chemist to install an attractive display. The more Southern exhibitors we have at this exposition the greater will be the cumulative effect."

This is a clear statement of the situation, and Mr. La Baume has made a wise move in sending a copy of this letter, which was originally written in response to an inquiry made of him, to a large number of railroad officials throughout the South, that all may realize what this opportunity really means.

At the last exposition, in September, 1916, there were 80,000 visitors, mainly composed of the foremost financiers, manufacturers, chemists, chemical engineers and other specialists in the entire country. These men gathered there for the purpose of studying the resources of the different sections and the various chemical developments that had been made in all lines of industry. It was a great gathering and accomplished large results. The South should use the opportunity of the coming exposition to a far greater extent than it did last year. Fortunately the South has already engaged far more space than it had last year, and many railroads which were not represented then will be represented this year, but there is still room for other.

Just what Virginia expects to do, if anything, has not yet been made public, but North Carolina will, through its Geological Survey, make an interesting exhibit of the resources of that State. Some other Southern States are figuring on doing the same, but as yet comparatively little has been done by States in preparing to make official exhibits, whereas every State in the South should be represented through its Geological Survey at this Exposition of Chemical Industries. If the railroads which have not yet arranged for exhibiting the resources of the country tributary to them and the States and large corporations will take hold of this matter vigorously, it will be possible to make a display worthy of the South and its resources.

SOUTH IS ONLY SALVATION: NATION LOOKS TO DIXIE

Necessary Things That Used to Come From Across the Waters Plentiful Down This Way.

The total imports of pyrite for sulphuric acid production for the calendar year 1916 were 1,244,519 tons. The total production of pyrite in this country for 1915 was 394,124 tons, of which 145,050 tons were produced in Virginia.

After commenting on the above figures, the Manufacturers' Record says:

The statement of the National Fertilizer Association that the importations from Spain have been cut off by the submarine warfare, and that fertilizer plants are being changed in order to burn brimstone or native sulphur, should bring into active development every available pyrite property in the country in order to meet the demand for sulphuric acid.

Under existing conditions the pressure upon the sulphur deposits of Louisiana and Texas might become greater than the possible output of those two properties, which are now producing more than 98 per cent. of the native sulphur of the United States.

Dependent as the entire country is for sulphur upon these two plants in the South, and to so large an extent upon Southern pyrites, the question may well be asked:

Will the nation ever quite realize that in its pyrites, its sulphur, its phosphate rock, its coal, its oil and many other things the South is its only salvation? Without these Southern resources the country would be almost helpless in this supreme hour of the nation's life.

DATE FOR FAIR FIXED

Rappahannock Valley Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Society Names Three Early October Days.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., April 21.—At a meeting of the board of directors of the Rappahannock Valley Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Society dates for the next annual fair were fixed for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 2, 3 and 4. Night exhibitions will be given on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Captain R. C. Vance, president of the fair society, appointed the following executive committee: Captain R. C. Vance (chairman), Captain M. B. Rowe, C. H. Hurkamp, F. C. Baldwin, A. P. Rowe, J. M. Goldsmith, W. J. Ford, W. S. Embrey, H. F. Crismond. In addition to other prizes, it was determined to offer a set of substantial prizes for fat cattle, which will be made a specialty. It was also decided to give prizes for vegetables and collections of the same raised in the town gardens by children of the public schools. E. C. Nathan, a new member of the board, offers a silver cup, to be known as the "Little Falls Cup," to be awarded at the next fair for the cleanest quart of milk exhibited, the milk to be examined and analyzed by a chemist.

The Seaboard's Savannah Extension.

It is announced that the track on the extension of the Seaboard Air Line railway from Charleston to Savannah, eighty-five miles, has been completed by the putting in place of the last section of the bridge over Broad River, but some time must necessarily elapse before the extension can be put in full use because some of the track requires surfacing and the roadbed needs to be thoroughly seasoned before express trains can be operated. Meanwhile, local trains will be operated as soon as the track can be placed in satisfactory shape.

To Meet Government Demand.

WILMINGTON, N. C., April 21.—The Wilmington Hosiery Mills will install additional new machinery costing $10,000. This company is adding this equipment in order to increase its daily capacity of 470 dozen pairs of half-hose in connection with a government contract it has received for 10,000 dozen pairs.

Huntington's New Coal Company.

HUNTINGTON, W. VA., April 21.—The Cora Coal and Coke Company has been incorporated here with $250,000 capital stock. W. E. Donnans is the president of the company. Coal properties and a complete mining outfit on Main Island Creek have been acquired by the company, and they will start to work at once, their plant having a daily capacity of 1,500 tons.

VIRGINIA MANGANESE SUPPLIES COUNTRY

Rich Deposits in This State Make Steel Men and Others Independent of Foreign Mines.

HISTORY OF CRIMORA WORKS

Developments Show Rich Deposits in Piedmont Section and Other Parts of Virginia—Source of Wealth Brought Into Prominence by War.

Dr. E. A. Schubert, mineralogist of the Norfolk and Western Railway, has written a most interesting and informing letter on manganese production in Virginia and the possibilities in the matter of increased production in the near future. He tells us that in the early eighties this State produced all the manganese then mined and necessary for the maintenance of the steel industry of the United States. Not only did Virginia mines produce sufficient for steel requirements, but enough for all other purposes for which manganese is used, and pretty much all of this ore came from one mine, that of Crimora, in Augusta County. However, after this mine was in operation some four or five years under the supervision of the Carnegie Steel Company litigation ensued, which for more than twenty years made Crimora practically a nonproducer. Consequently, what manganese was mined during this period came from the smaller operations in the valley foothills of the Blue Ridge, between the Potomac and the James River. For a great many years nearly all the manganese required for chemical purposes was recovered from the several small mines throughout the valley. Some of these operations made the owners a great deal of money.

It is only within the past four years that interest has centered around the manganese deposits of the Old Dominion, bringing them again into prominence, due to the conditions prevailing in the manganese market, which, with its subsequent consequences, raised the price of manganese ore to a point where most mines can be operated at a very satisfactory profit.

THE MANGANESE OF PIEDMONT SECTION IS VALUABLE

The opinion prevails that the manganese deposits of Virginia are confined to the area indicated above. This is not correct. There are a series of manganese leads paralleling the Blue Ridge Mountains in what may be termed Piedmont Virginia, and extending from the North Carolina line on the south to Albemarle County on the north, the principal development centering around the present operation of the Consolidated Manganese Company, situated in Campbell County.

There are other deposits flanking the foothills of the Alleghany Mountains in North Shenandoah Valley as well as leases and pockets of manganese ore in nearly every county of Southwest Virginia.

The quality of the Virginia ore compares very favorably with that recovered from the mines of Russia, India and Brazil, provided care is taken in the grading of the product. The quantity of the ore available within the areas indicated is very large. It is impossible to even guess at the tonnage, for the reason that nearly all of the deposits, particularly in the Blue Ridge district, are embedded in clay, the enrichment area of which is very irregular.

THE CRIMORA MINES AT THE PRESENT TIME

As indicative of what may be done in the way of development of other manganese properties in Virginia, it is of interest to know what has taken place at the old Crimora property. Purchased and reorganized by New York and Boston capitalists, it is now operating under a charter granted to the Crimora Manganese Corporation. The acreage owned by this company is about 1,200, but it should not be understood that all of it is manganese bearing. On the contrary, the manganese area is confined to a basin lying between the foothills and the main Blue Ridge Mountain.

During the time that this property was under lease to the Carnegie Steel Corporation washers were erected and the ore was recovered by open cut and tunnelling over an area of seven or eight acres and to a depth ranging from ten to seventy-five feet. No effort was made to recover the fines or the lean ore, the entire effort being made to recover as much of the large bowlders and stratified ore as possibly could be taken out. As a result, after the expiration of some four or five years of this character of mining, several hundred thousand tons of clay, impregnated with a small percentage of manganese, surrounded the workings and the mine was left in exceedingly bad condition. This method of operation continued throughout the litigation and up to the year 1914, when the new corporation took charge.

The first thing undertaken by the new management was to arrive at some definite conclusion relative to the tonnage that still was in place within the basin. Finding the deposits and leavings practically inexhaustible, at least for a long time to come, the new company installed costly machinery, and a great deal of it, and went at the business right.

EQUIPMENT THAT COST BIG PILE OF MONEY

The main milling plant consists of buildings and bins, in three sections, 66x150 feet, in which the ore-bearing material is received at a 11-foot elevation. The entire equipment is of the most modern and substantial character, all automatic and with individual electrical drives. In the power-house there has been installed 500-horse-power boiler capacity, Corliss engine, generator, dynamos and auxiliary machinery. This is housed in a building 35x100 feet. In addition, there has been equipped a modern machine shop, 30x60 feet, and other buildings.

A reservoir has been erected in the mountains having a storage capacity of 27,000,000 gallons of water. The water from this reservoir is conducted to the mill through a 6,000-foot flume line under a 140-foot head. In addition, another reservoir is now under construction with a capacity for impounding about 17,000,000 gallons of water. The mill as designed and when operating full capacity requires about 1,000,000 gallons of water per day, which, if no recovery of water were made, would insure maximum operations for nearly two months; this would extend through the most prolonged period of drouth ever experienced in that section.

The refuse from the mill is conducted to the sedimentation basin, which receives the mill run-off and can handle 1,500,000 gallons of water per day.

The entire equipment involves an investment of some $200,000, which, of course, does not represent the initial purchase price of the property.

The same company recently acquired control of a mine in Kentucky, but of much less capacity. Here equipment similar to that at Crimora has been installed, and, coupling the two operations, the company has developed mines with a capacity that makes them an important factor in the manganese markets of the future.

The company is planning other developments which, if carried out, will go a long way toward making the American iron and steel industry independent of foreign manganese ore. What is being accomplished at Crimora in due time will be realized by other manganese companies of Virginia and those in process of development and operation. Virginia is rich in manganese, and this wealth is being well developed.

GROW LESS TOBACCO NOW

National Business Agent of Farmers' Co-Operative Union Advises Farmers of Dark Belt to Curtail.

LYNCHBURG, VA., April 21.—After an exhaustive correspondence with tobacco manufacturers throughout the country, A. B. Thornhill, national business agent of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union, who has headquarters here, is advising farmers throughout the section which grows dark shipping tobacco to curtail the tobacco crop if they do not entirely eliminate its production this year.

Mr. Thornhill is advising the planters that the buyers will offer no promises as to prospects for prices next winter, and he strenuously urges the planters to at least curtail their tobacco crop heavily, if not dispense with it entirely, putting their best energies in the production of grains and foodstuffs.

There is little doubt that many farmers in the dark belts in Virginia will follow the suggestion of the officer and that there will be a greatly reduced tobacco acreage in Central Virginia this year.

Apple Supply Is Short.

The Agricultural Department at Washington estimates that the stock of apples on hand is shorter than was the case a year ago. Reports from 549 storages show that their rooms contain 752,942 barrels and 1,297,788 boxes of apples on April 1, 1917. The information received indicates that there were 42.5 per cent less apples in storage than on April 1, 1916, while the amount held April 1, 1916, was 43.9 per cent more than on April 1, 1915. The barreled apple holdings of April 1, 1917, show a decrease of 52.6 per cent from those of April 1, 1916, while the boxed apple holdings show a decrease of 5.2 per cent from those of April 1, 1916. On April 1, 1916, there were 68.9 per cent more barrels and 6.4 per cent less boxes in storage than on April 1, 1915.

How Ladies Improve Looks!

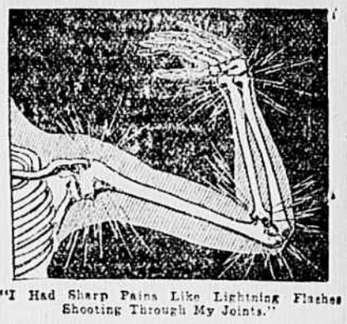
"Many ladies, old and young, suffer a round of torture with their nerves, and many are so frail, thin and bloodless that their splendid features are lost sight of, while a vain attempt to conceal the angularity of the figure deceives no one but themselves and really excites the pity or ridicule of the world," said a well-known largely employed practicing physician, in a recent lecture at a young ladies' college. "I do not mind exposing a little secret of mine to all such, as it can do no harm and may result in much happiness and health. It is simply this: Any thin, bloodless, nerve-tortured man or woman can become as fit as the fittest by taking regularly for several months an easily obtained pharmaceutical product known by the profession and pharmacists as three-grain hypo-nuclane tablets, put up in sealed packages with directions for home use."—Adv.

Rheumatism

Remarkable Home Cure Given by One Who Had It—He Wants Every Sufferer to Benefit.

Send No Money—Just Your Address.

Years of awful suffering and misery have taught this man, Mark H. Jackson of Syracuse, New York, how terrible an enemy to human happiness rheumatism is, and have given him sympathy with all unfortunates who are within its grasp. He wants every rheumatic victim to know how he was cured. Read what he says:



"I Had Sharp Pains Like Lightning Flashes Shooting Through My Joints."

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I want every sufferer from any form of rheumatic trouble to try this marvelous healing power. Don't send a cent; simply send your name and address and I will send it free to try. After you have used it and it has proven itself to be that long-looked-for means of curing your Rheumatism, you may send the price of it, one dollar, but, understand, I do not want your money unless you are perfectly satisfied to send it. Isn't that fair? Why suffer any longer when positive relief is thus offered you free? Don't delay. Write today. MARK H. JACKSON, No. 860 Gurney Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y."

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