

## The Farm.

### Farming as a Business.

It takes a "smart" man to be a successful farmer. I am well aware that quite a different opinion is entertained by many. How often do we hear the expression, "He is only a farmer," or hear the business spoken of in a deprecatory manner by presumably intelligent and otherwise well informed people! This is a great mistake, and only shows lamentable ignorance. The business of farming is a strictly honorable one, and, if rightly conducted, one of the most healthy, pleasant and profitable employments that a man can engage in.

In order to be a successful farmer, however, a man must be as intelligent, and must understand his business, as he who is a successful merchant and professional man. In order to succeed in any business a man must understand it fully in all its branches, and must also attend to it. This is the great secret of good farming. All our most successful farmers—those who have made money in the business—who have built up for themselves beautiful homes—who have broad, fertile, well-tilled acres, made so by the result of their industry—who have improved breeds of cattle, hogs and sheep—these are they who understand the business, and not only understand it, but attend to it. The business is a good one, and the reason why so many farmers make a failure of it, only eking out a bare living—hardly that sometimes—and remain in debt year after year, working hard, yet having little, is because they don't understand their business. They run it by brute force instead of brains. They pattern too much by others (generally after a poor example), and do not look into the why and wherefore of raising crops. They are not able to tell how much it costs them to raise a crop, or what their profit may be, if any. They are generally "too poor" to take an agricultural paper. They used the same old and clumsy tools that their fathers did before them, and are not in favor of improvements. Is it to be wondered at that such farmers are not successful?

There are many things that may be mentioned that will be of service to those who would become better farmers. One of the most important aids is a reliable agricultural paper. Many say they "cannot afford to take one." I say they cannot afford to do without one. Such a paper has correspondents among the best farmers in all parts of the country—men of experience, who know what they are saying—and new and useful ideas on practical subjects are constantly kept before the reader. Improvements in agriculture of all kinds wherever made, are immediately brought to notice, with a thousand and one useful ideas.

Another way to improve is to watch those of your neighbors who are most successful—observe their management, the crops they raise, manner of tilling and handling. Watch closely; you can learn as much from their blunders as you can from their successes. When they make a mistake, remember it, and do not do the same. Keep an account of each crop you raise, expense of seed, culture and marketing. Find out whether it pays you or not. Discard those that are unprofitable, and adopt others that will pay. Keep an account of all your receipts and expenses. Many a dollar slips out every year on foolish expenses that would not if you made a practice of writing down all expenses. See to it that the balance is on the right side of your ledger at the end of the year. Spend your leisure hours in making improvements on the farm, or in useful reading at home, instead of sitting around in the grocery at the "corners." Try to make your home pleasant, and the most attractive place on earth. These are all helps towards becoming a good farmer.

### The Burt Oat.

#### Editor Southern Plantation:

I see in the *Plantation* that you request those who have raised this oat to give the result of their experiments. I could not get seed last spring, but I was in Mr. Burt's farm in February, while he was growing. I was sowing at the same time a very excellent variety of rust-proof oat, on much stronger land. His oats grew much taller and were ready to harvest fifteen or twenty days before mine. I think it the best oat for this country that has been introduced, and particularly for thin lands.

A. F. GOLDSMITH.  
Port Deposit, Ala.

### Hauling out Manure.

For land that is to be manured in the spring, the manure may be hauled out upon it in the winter, piled in large heaps, say a load in each, then have them put in good shape, and compacted on the sides, and then cover them up with earth lightly, just enough to prevent the manure from drying on the outside, and the escape of ammonia. When the land is to be plowed the manure can be spread, and time used in hauling it, if deferred till spring, is thus saved. Farmers must use their brains, as well as their hands, in successful farming by planning their work in advance. In winter their teams may be idle, or partially so; and their owners and hired help may be taking things easy. Now, why not haul out what manure is ready? "Time is money" we all know; and if any spring work can be done in winter it is so much clear gain.

It is customary to do all repairing of fences in the spring, but why not repair them in winter, when one can spare the time? The winds of winter may displace a board or rail here and there, but a few hours' labor will repair a mile of fences in the spring when it is put in good order in the fall. New fences may be built in the fall as well as in the spring. In brief, hundreds of dollars may be saved on farms by doing work in winter that is usually left till spring, and then but half done for the want of time.—*Farmers' Friend.*

### Corn is the Cheapest Food.

Speaking of food for poultry, the *World* says that corn is the cheapest that we can use in the main, and it is very good to fatten fowls upon—young stock especially. But when we say "feed corn" we mean that this article should be fed in the right way. "Man cannot live by bread alone," we read in the good book. So fowls cannot live upon whole corn alone, though it be never so good.

When this common grain is used, it should always be crushed, or cracked, if fed dry. If in ground meal this should usually be scalded and mixed half and half with turnips and potatoes, boiled. This is a satisfying and excellent mess for daily morning use. But to throw whole corn to the poultry twice or three times a day and turn away with the idea that you have done your duty toward your stock is a very grossly mistaken opinion.

Vary the feed. Give one-third cracked corn or meal, with two-thirds cooked vegetables, and other sound grains—as wheat, barley, oats, etc. Thus you will feed economically, judiciously and profitably, in the long run.

### Too Much Toil.

A Kansas subscriber makes the following statement and inquiry.

Having recently sent to mill a grist of clean, choice wheat—for the grinding of which I paid in cash—I received in return for each bushel sent twenty-four pounds of flour, nine pounds of bran, and five pounds of shorts, being an aggregate return of only thirty-eight pounds per bushel, and showing a shrinkage of no less than twenty-two pounds. Would you have the kindness to state what should have been the amount and proportions of the products received?

"Choice clean wheat" should weigh sixty pounds per bushel. The shrinkage should not exceed three pounds. A well-constructed mill will make forty-five pounds of good family flour out of sixty pounds of good wheat—will make three pounds of shorts and nine pounds of bran. A mill less complete in its structure should make the same, or even more, in the aggregate. Imperfect grinding or bolting will reduce the yield of flour, but will add to the shorts and bran. Colonel J. A. Stewart, of Georgia, one of the best millers in the United States, a man fifty years in the business, informs us that, in his experience with custom mills—grinding for the one-eighth part—the yield of flour per measured bushel was from thirty six to forty two pounds, depending on condition and quality of the wheat, and upon "the number and quantity of bolting-cloth, fine or coarse." He adds that "the aggregate yield from sixty pounds of choice wheat should never be less than fifty-seven pounds."

### Winter Management of Breeding Swine.

We give a few general rules for the direction of the young breeder, and regret that we have not space to assign the reason for each:

#### FOOD.

1st. Make a kettle of corn mush every day, and cover it with boards and blankets to keep it hot.

2d. Put a bushel and a half of bran or light shorts into a kerosine barrel, add four pails of hot mush,

one pint of salt and fill with well water. This is a breakfast for twenty-four large sows, or thirty-six young sows. For young sows always use the shorts.

3d. After the slop give each animal from two to four ears of dry corn, as it seems to demand.

4th. Repeat the process at 4 o'clock P. M. and, as soon as they are through put up for the night.

5th. In case of quite young pigs, cook stronger slops with the mush and feed oftener.

6th. If an animal is not inclined to exercise; feed coarser food and less of it, and, pursue the same course if the animal shows weakness in the back. If the weakness continues, give a teaspoonful of Epsom salts and ginger with a little salt petre daily.

7th. The morning meal should be fed in the building where they sleep.

8th. Never feed on the north side of the pens, nor in any place exposed to the wind.

9th. Notice how each animal eats and drinks.

#### DIVISION.

Do not allow more than six hogs to sleep in one nest; and, if possible, do not feed more than that number together.

1st. It avoids "piling up" in the nest.

2d. It enables the herdsman to give his individual attention to each animal.

3d. It secures an even condition of the whole herd.

#### PENS.

1st. The pens should be high, so as to be ventilated without admitting strong currents of air.

2d. They should be large enough to provide a place for feeding and sleeping.

3d. The nest must be kept clean and dry by cleaning and changing the straw every alternate day and by keeping out the storm.

4th. It is better to floor the nest but the wind must be kept from under.

5th. Keep the swine out of their nests during the day, unless the weather is intensely cold.

#### EXERCISE.

1st. Turn the swine out for exercise at 10 o'clock A. M.; and unless very cold or stormy, keep them out till 4 P. M.

2d. The place for exercise should be well protected on the north and the west.

3d. Do not let any hog remain at the pens without taking any exercise.

#### MALES.

1st. Breeding males should be fed the same as sows; except in place of dry corn give all the oats they will eat.

2. Give a small yard for exercise; and if he will not notice a sow, give him more exercise.

3d. Never allow the male to run with sows, nor worry with a sow.

4th. In case of a very choice animal keep some cheaper male for a trial animal.

5th. One service is sufficient.

6th. After coupling, shut the male in his pen, and see that he has a good nest.

7th. A sow, in heat, should be separated from her mates before and after coupling.

8th. Allow twenty-one days for return; and from eight to ten days less than four months, for the period of gestation.

9th. Make a careful memorandum of all important transactions.

### Driving Rats Away Without Poison.

We know of three methods: First, the old French plan: this is followed chiefly in Paris by men who make it a special business. They take a deep tub, with water on the bottom and a little elevation in the middle like an island, on which is only place for just one rat to sit on. The trap is covered and has a large balance-valve, opening downward. On the middle of this valve a piece of fried pork or cheese is placed, and when the rat walks on to it to get the cheese the valve goes down, drops the rat in the water and goes back in position. A road is made from the rat-hole to the top of the tub by means of pieces of board rubbed with cheese, so as to make the walk attractive to the rats. In the course of a night, some ten, twenty, or even more rats may go down, and if the island was not there, they would be found most all alive in the morning quietly swimming around; but the provision of the little island saves the trouble of killing them, because their egotistic instinct for preservation causes them to fight for the exclusive possession of the island, on which, in the morning, the strongest rat is found in solitary possession, all the others being killed and drowned around him.

Second, the New York plan, invented by one of the friends. The floor near the rat-hole is covered with a thin layer of a most caustic

potassa. When the rats walk on this it makes their feet sore; these they lick with their tongues, which makes their mouth sore, and the result is that they shun this locality, not alone, but appear to tell all the rats in the neighborhood about it, and eventually the house is entirely abandoned by them, notwithstanding the houses around are full of rats. Third, the Dutch method. This is said to be used successfully in Holland. We have, however, never tried it. A number of rats are left to themselves in a very large trap or cage, with no food whatever; their craving hunger will cause them to fight, and the weakest will be beaten by the strongest. After a short time the fight is renewed and the next weakest is the victim, and so it goes on till one strong rat is left. When this has eaten the last remaining of any of the others, it is set loose; the animal has now acquired such a taste for rat flesh that he is the terror of all ratdom, going about seeking what rat he may devour. In an incredibly short time the premises will be abandoned by all other rats, which will not come back before the cannibal rat has left or died.—*Manufactures.*

### Shrinkage.

Farmers are in doubt whether to take twenty cents for their corn this fall, says the *Iowa Register*, direct from the field, or rely upon getting thirty cents net spring. After corn is dry enough for cribbing it will shrink about one fifth by the next May. Unless well protected from the vermin they will destroy from five to ten per cent. The interest of the money from the sales this fall would be five per cent. These three items make thirty-five per cent. in shrinkage, deprecations and interest. The shrinkage on wheat is about seven per cent., and deprecations of vermin, three per cent.; interest five, making altogether fifteen per cent., so that eighty-five cents this fall is better than one dollar next June. The shrinkage on potatoes is light, but the loss by frost and rot are heavy, and it is better to take thirty three per cent. less in the fall than the spring.

HOG CHOLERA.—I have lost ninety Essex hog of different ages, since September first, with what is termed hog cholera. If it is contagious, I wish to ask your numerous correspondents whether my hogs could have taken the disease from hogs passing over the railroad from the great hog producing States of Indiana and Illinois, where the disease prevails to an alarming extent. My farm is located one mile from one of the main thoroughfares to the east from these States. My hogs, for the previous five months, had only clover and bluegrass pastures to live on. I know of no local cause for the disease, unless they contracted it by wallowing in strong sulphur water and muck, which they did to a great extent during July, August and September. The disease to my knowledge, has never been in the neighborhood or vicinity before, and my hogs are the only cases up to date in this country.

H. L. H.

Toledo, O.

### PROF. FAIRCHILD'S OPINION.

You ask how I like living in North Carolina? I answer very much indeed. After a five years residence here, I am fully confirmed in my previous good opinion of the State. And I do not hesitate to urge others to settle here, provided they seek a delightful climate. And wish to assist in developing a State for which Nature has done as much, as for any State in the Union. What kind of people do you want? I answer, Farmers, mechanics and teachers. Mechanics with capital to build factories, and work up the great variety of products, that we can produce from our soil and mines. We want some capital, and a great deal of energy and industry.

These qualities combined and applied, will produce results five times as apparent, and remunerative as at the North. I can speak more particularly of Farming, or rather of Gardening, as this has been my business since coming here, from Binghamton, N. Y. five years ago. I am running a truck farm, near Raleigh, and grow fruit, flowers and vegetables for the Raleigh market. We grow nearly every variety of fruit and vegetable that is named in our seed catalogues, and most varieties of flowers, attain their highest perfection here, so that their cultivation is a perfect delight.

You ask if I have been successful. I answer; Yes, and no. Not in saving money for I have made a

heavy outlay. But in improving the soil, and by experiment, finding out how much it is capable of producing, and by building up a delightful home and a pleasant business, I have been amply successful. Look at the result. I bought twenty acres of land, a part of it red clay, a part sand and sandy loam, as poor a piece of an old worn out cotton farm as could be found in the State.

The year I bought it, the owner raised and sold, only four small bales of cotton, from the 20 acres. Last year the value of my sales amounted to over eighty-four bales, and not all the land was under cultivation. And I expect to improve on this in the next five years. Of course, ordinary farming will not do this. I am speaking of trucking. Still I am satisfied that all of the ordinary crops can be grown here, as successfully, as at the North. And that the land can be brought up to a very high state of productiveness. It takes time, one year will not do it, nor two, but five or ten, and then it will compare with the best of land anywhere. But why come South? Chiefly to escape the rigor of your winters, and to find employment if you are struggling against the tide of the overcrowded industries of the North. As to climates our State can give you nearly every variety, from the high temperature at the East, the almost perfect weather of the centre to the cooler atmosphere of the elevated regions of the West. And as for delightful scenery, our mountains are unsurpassed. The healthfulness of this climate, is worthy of remark.

It is very rare that settlers coming here experience any sickness, from a change of climate, while many who come as invalids are entirely restored to health. The summer heat is not oppressive, and we can work in the field, with more comfort than we can on a hot summer day at the North. The winters vary, but the cold is never very severe. Last year in December we had quite a heavy snow, so far this year there has been no snow, we have had several cold days this month, the mercury falling one morning to 10° above zero seldom falls below 16° we never have more than three or four cold days in succession, never a week at a time that the ground cannot be plowed. And very much of the time the weather is warm and delightful.

As to political prejudice I know nothing of it. I have been treated as kindly by our people, as any one could wish. As an evidence of good feeling, I had a partner with me in business four years ago, who had been an officer in the Confederate army. And at the time was the political editor, on the leading Democratic paper of the State; while I was a republican. And had been a soldier in the Federal army. Any gentleman or lady can find as good society, and receive as kind treatment, as he is worthy to receive, in his own home circle at the North. Of course there are many things that are different, and many advantages are wanted that we are accustomed to at the North. Our school interests are improving. Our State University at Chapel Hill is well organized, with a fine corps of teachers. All the large towns, especially Raleigh, have private schools and seminaries of a high order. And we now have here at Raleigh a good system of graded schools, with several Northern teachers of experience.

Our church privileges are very pleasant. And I believe a person coming here will be sure to like it, as well as most any place to which they could go as strangers. But if you would be homesick, to move five miles from where you now live, then do not come South. If you live near a city there, be sure and settle near a city or village here. Do not make too violent a change in your condition and surroundings.

There is great pleasure in farming here, and the season being so long. All crops come to maturity. The winters are so mild that much farm work can be done, such as plowing, hauling manure, repairing and building fences etc. etc. More time in which to do the work, hence requiring a less number of hands. You will find that there is room enough for all, our State is three thousand square miles larger than New York. And while we have only a million people, New York has nearly four and a half millions. The whole State is well watered, there are thousands of springs and small streams in every section, of free stone or lime water according to locality.

As to labor here, good farm hands can be hired for eight dollars per month, and rations, which will cost three or four dollars more. The colored people are good help, provided you are with them and watch and direct them all the time. They are very docile and obedient. And more agreeable to handle than most white help.

I will conclude by saying that I have great faith in the future of the Old North State. I have cast my lot with her for life (D. V.) And I again urge those seeking new homes, to come with us, and share in the bounties that are in store for those who are industrious, and willing to work.

C. B. FAIRCHILD.  
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 14th 1878.

A physiologist estimates that there are 2,400 disorders to which the human frame is liable, and there are plenty of people who believe they have every one of them.

A Western New-York farmer is credited with the noteworthy remark that he once carefully observed the effect of the application of stable manure which had been saved under shelter till needed for use, and he concluded that one load of it was worth about as much as two loads of that exposed in the usual wasteful way; which is scarcely stating the case too strongly.

Analysis of leaves and wood shows that of earthly matter or ashes, the mature foliage of the elm contains 11 per cent.; the solid wood less than 2; the leaves of the willow more than 8 per cent., its wood only 0.4; those of the beech 6.67 per cent., the wood only 0.35; those of the European oak 4.06 per cent., the wood only 0.35; those of the pitch pine 3.13 per cent., the wood only 0.37.

Ex-President Hously, of the Kansas Horticultural Society, says he has for several years protected fruit trees against teeth of rabbits by applying with a brush to the bark, say two-and-one-half feet up from the ground, a mixture of one-third lime and two-thirds soft soap, with water enough added to thin, the whole boiled, and while boiling a little flour stirred in to make the wash adhesive like paste.

A deputy sheriff recently set out to arrest two brothers, who had farms a few miles from Waco, Texas. He found them at work in their fields picking cotton. He told them what his errand was. They stared at him, winked at each other, gently but firmly disarmed him, and ordered him to go to work in the field; and there he remained, picking cotton for dear life, until the officials in his own frontier county heard of the incident and rescued him.

Several children were feeding a pet bear with corn at Austin, Texas. An ear was dropped out of the reach of the bear, and a little girl handed it to him. The bear sportively pulled her to him, when a house dog, believing the child in danger sprang upon the bear. Brun then carried the child to the further part of the hoghead in which he slept and returned to fight the dog, under the impression that the dog would hurt the child. A party of darkies tried to protect the child from her other protectors, but the little one did not escape until her mother killed both the bear and dog with a musket.

Col. Thomas J. Conger, a Northern gentleman, thus writes to Col. Polk, in a private letter:—"I am glad to see the State is at last putting forth an effort to let the people outside of the State know of some of the great advantages North Carolina offers to immigration. I came down here from New York for my health required it, and have succeeded in farming far beyond my expectations. I have been employed by the American Bible Society at the Bible House as the salesman for a number of years. I like the State and the people. It is very strange what absurd opinions there is about the South; that life and property is unsafe etc."

The N. Y. *Tribune* says that it must be admitted that the South has many natural advantages for cotton manufacturing, which are not possessed by the north. The streams that run their spindles are never frozen, and up to this time they have never been seriously affected by the droughts of summer. The climate is peculiarly adapted for the first manipulation of the delicate raw material. In the North the air is frequently so dry that steam has to be introduced into the weaving-room to keep the threads moist and prevent them from breaking. Such an expedient is never necessary in the South; even in mid-summer the atmosphere is always sufficiently humid to allow the spinning and weaving process to go on without interruption. Further than this, the Southern mills require less gas and less fuel than their Northern rivals, and the original cost of the construction is invariably much smaller. Their owners derive still greater advantages, however, from the fact that they can buy the raw material at a reduced price, and can have it delivered at their doors fresh from the fields without any charge for freight, brokerage or commission.