

SOUTHWESTERN REFLECTIONS.

What the farmers of South-west Louisiana need imperatively at this time is a better practical knowledge of the way to go about the new agriculture. They have been producing sugar cane, cotton and rice for several generations and they know how to plow and hoe, to harvest and thresh and gird, but they do not know the way of many things entering into their work.

In corroboration of that statement we have but to point to the usually light crop of corn produced throughout Southwest Louisiana in 1914. It is entirely reasonable to say that the corn yield of this section was cut down fully 30 per cent by the last plowing. And yet, every farmer who cut the roots of his corn with a big turning plow and thereby reduced the yield of his corn, will tell you that the drought was what did the damage.

This is cited as an illustration of what the farmer needs to learn, notwithstanding he may have been farming during the lifetime of a generation.

The function of roots is to gather food for the plant in order to enable it to produce foliage and fruit. It follows that the cutting of the roots of the corn just as it is entering upon the period of fruiting must inevitably deprive the plant of necessary food and thereby shorten the yield.

It is plain that the farmer, like the business man, the banker, the lawyer and the doctor, is never too old to learn.

That is why the Agricultural College of the Louisiana State University has arranged a Farmers' Short Course at Baton Rouge, January 19th to 29th. Every farmer in Louisiana, and as many business men as possible, should be there. There will be ten days of lectures and demonstrations conducted by a number of the most eminent agricultural and live stock specialists in the United States.

No fees will be charged and special rates will prevail on all the railroads, so as to put this great privilege within reach of all. The course will be entirely practical and calculated to meet the needs of practical men and women. No one will be expected to study text-books, to recite lessons or to answer questions; but all are invited to ask questions of the lecturers and get all the instruction and help they may desire of them.

The occasion will be a profitable one, the expenses will be limited to railroad fare and board, and the pick of the land in the matter of scientific agriculturists will be at the disposal of those who attend.

Just at this time, with the foundations of our present obsolete agricultural methods being overturned, it will be an inestimable help to the farmer to go to Baton Rouge, and attend as many of these sessions as possible. If it is possible to be there only three or four days, the gain will be greatly worth while.

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The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC, drives out Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 50c

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

The aeroplanes and wireless have brought to the world one of the most difficult international problems that nations have been called upon to solve, and England is calling for the solution. Switzerland has raised the point of British violation of neutrality by flying over Switzerland to reach Zeppelin and drop bombs into that place.

Now England wants to know how high above the earth a nation's rights and possessions extend; and, if the flying over a country is violation of neutrality, is not the sending of wireless messages across a country a violation of neutrality also?—Ex.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Beware the Signature of J. C. Watson

IRISH POTATOES.

By A. C. Bernard.

(Continued from last week.)

Your potato land should already be deep-plowed, that is, it should have already received what is known as the deep Fall plowing. If it has not already been so plowed, do not wait another day, do it now, and if we should have packing rains before planting, run the harrow over the land after each rain. Plow broadcast. If you have any of your land that has been in "hoe crops" this last year or leguminous or cow pea crops, this is your best land for potatoes. After plowing with either the turning or dis plow, pulverize finely your land by use of the harrow and cold crusher. When planting time arrives draw your rows, as stated in last week's issue about two and a half to three feet apart.

You are ready for your fertilizer, that is, provided you are going to use commercial fertilizer. If so apply the fertilizer either two weeks before planting or at planting time, this really makes little difference provided the fertilizer is well incorporated in the soil at planting time. Stable manure or green manure is good in its place and time, and would make the most excellent fertilizer for potatoes if you have plowed it under at least about eight months before planting your potatoes and it is thoroughly decomposed, but do not under any circumstances apply green stable manure to your land just about planting time.

If you have thoroughly decomposed stable manure which is unleached you might plow it under now, but beware of putting any green manure. In the first place it will not decompose quickly enough to furnish available plant food for the rapidly growing plant and in the second place it is likely to injure the potato.

If you have not already fertilized, then, it is best that you use the commercial fertilizer; either buy what is known as a complete fertilizer or buy the ingredients separately and mix them yourself, the latter method while more laborious to the inexperienced, is more economical.

The three constituents necessary in a fertilizer are: Nitrogen, Phosphoric Acid and Potash.

Cotton Seed meal is one of the cheapest things to be used in the South for our Nitrogen supply, altho it takes about two weeks to become available. Tankage, raw bone meal, Dired blood and especially Nitrate of Soda (Chili Salt Peter.) Nitrate of Soda unquestionably ranks about our best as a Nitrogen source. It is immediately available, but leaches readily. Acid Phosphate is usually used for our Phosphorus supply, and this is made by applying to one ton say of the pure ground rock phosphate, one ton of sulphuric acid. The sulphuric acid is added to aid the decomposition. But when you are not in a hurry about your fertilizer, it is much cheaper and I believe you will get better results by getting the pure ground rock phosphate from the mines in Tennessee and applying to your land. If you have manure to add to it or you have land that was in cow peas or other leguminous crops you need not worry about the rock phosphate becoming available, for these things will have the effect that the sulphuric acid has.

Potash may be bought as Kainit, as the sulphate of potash or as the muriate of potash. You may make your own fertilizer for our lands about as follows: 150 pounds of cotton seed meal, 225 pounds of acid phosphate containing 14 per cent available phosphoric acid and 25 pound of muriate of potash. The muriate of potash contains about fifty per cent of potash, the kainit twelve per cent.

You can a good potato fertilizer already mixed, but whether you mix them or buy it already mixed it should contain about three or four per cent of nitrogen, six to eight per cent of phosphoric acid and eight to ten per cent of potash, preferably ten per cent, as the potato draws heavily from the potash. Plenty of potash is always advisable, as also nitrogen on account of the foliage which you will understand later.

After the plants are up a few inches about fifty pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre will be found a splendid thing to do for it is a wonderful stimulant to the plant. Have your seed ready to plant early, say between the first and fifteenth of February. If you are going to plant any ten acres,

I suggest that you plant five the first and the other five the fifteenth of February. You will understand the reason for this suggestion by what was said in last week's issue. There is no doubt that the earliest potatoes bring the best prices, so try to get them the earliest, but don't put your potatoes in the ground too early because of the risk of rotting in case of a prolonged winter. This is a condition none can foresee, hence the suggestion.

The Triumph seems to be our most popular potato, altho it is not a very prolific potato, it is very early and does well in this section. The Irish Cobbler however is also a splendid potato and while not quite so early, is more prolific than the Triumph. It is a white potato and there is a good demand for it as also the Triumph. The Burbank is another good potato, while some like the Peerless. These are all good potatoes and there are still other good varieties, but I would suggest that two kinds be planted, one an early, say the Triumph and one of the later but more prolific varieties.

Should you not care to plant too early, you might get your seed and germinate them at home, but don't let them grow long sprouts before planting—just sprout them. Then disinfect them and cut them as suggested last week. In planting them be sure that the piece of potato does not come in contact with the concentrated fertilizer. For this reason I suggest that the fertilizer be applied about two weeks before planting.

When the potatoes are about to come out, pass a harrow with teeth turned back, at right angles to the rows so as to break any crust that might exist and thus insure a much better stand. Hilling must be carefully done so as not to injure the roots and after the potatoes are some six inches high, don't bring your plow near them. Use a harrow or any other implement that will keep mulch and keep down the weeds. A Weeder will do this. In fact a spike tooth harrow and five-tooth cultivator will be found the things to use.

Diseases: There are a number of diseases that affect the potato, but we are not bothered with all of them and with precaution nearly all of them can be kept away.

There is the potato blight, Tip Burn, Dry Rot, Bacterial Wilt and Wet Rot, Scab, and then we have the awful insect pest, the Colorado Beetle or what is called in this country the Potato Bug, the Flea beetle and the potato worm. Bordeaux Mixture Paris Green or any of the Arsenicals will generally do the work of freeing the plants from diseases. Usually some arsenical and the Bordeaux Mixture are combined as also the Paris Green is used with the Bordeaux Mixture for it burns the plant when used in great quantities and alone but not when mixed with the above named mixture. Paris Green or arsenic of lead should be used at the rate of about eight ounces to fifty gallons of water. To make a Bordeaux Mixture make a 25 gallon solution of lime by using 5 pounds of lime, keeping this in one vessel. Then dissolve five pounds of copper sulphate in another vessel making 25 gallons. Mix the two by continuous stirring. This is not necessarily a poison to the beetle but is a partial deterrent and a good practice is to add arsenic of lead or paris green. Then spray the foliage both the upper and under side of the leaves.

How to Fight Tuberculosis

In a paper read last year before the Texas County Medical Society and published in part in the Louisville "Medical Progress," Dr. J. W. Carhart, of San Antonio, Texas, a physician who has devoted much time to the study of tuberculosis, said: "Since lime salts constitute three-fourths of all the mineral substances of the human body, they must be supplied in the foods or supplemented in mineral preparations, or natural starvation ensues with tuberculosis unchecked. The widespread and unchecked spread of tuberculosis and other preventable diseases is due largely to the deficiency (lime lacking) conditions of multitudes throughout the civilized world."

Thus from another authoritative medical source comes justification for the use of lime in the treatment of tuberculosis.

Since this is one of the ingredients of Eckman's Alternative, much of the success attending the widespread use of this remedy doubtless is due to the combination of this salt in such a way as to render it easily assimilable. It causes no stomach disturbance, and since it contains neither opiates, narcotics nor habit-forming drugs, it is safe to try.

Eckman's Alternative has effected remarkable results in numerous cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption) and allied chronic affections of the throat and bronchial passages. In many instances such conditions, apparently, have yielded completely to it.

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Don't wait till the pest has appeared to begin spraying for with no pest the spraying is a good stimulant and will do good whether the pest appears, yes or no.

Space does not permit to give a detailed description of all of these diseases and in view of what has already been said, I doubt that this is necessary at this time, but spraying should be practiced under any and all conditions, and if either the blight, the rot or the tip burn appears or any other symptoms, don't lose any time in controlling it and any information will be cheerfully given from the office. The tip burn is often due to plowing late in the season near the roots.

The above named preparations are efficient remedies, but there is a preparation on the market known as Pyrox which I know from experience cannot be excelled. The thing we are most likely to suffer from here with our early crop will be the appearance of the potato bug or Colorado beetle and bear in mind this is serious. In a few days after their appearance they can completely clean out a whole patch of potatoes, leaving nothing but the stems and the best time to get them is before they begin hatching. Spraying with Pyrox will absolutely cleanse your field of these beetles. This I know from personal experience, and I really believe there is nothing on the market that is superior and even in its class. This can be bought in town, and dissolved in water and then sprayed, but spray when the sun is shining and at least two hours before sunset so as to give the mist time to thoroughly dry on the leaves, and when dry it won't wash off. Besides chasing the beetles away it seems to stimulate the chlorophyll in the foliage thus increasing the capacity of the plant for taking in carbon. For remember that some of the food of the potato is gotten from the air. Carbon is this substance and this is manufactured into starch thus increasing the size of the tuber. Hence it is imperative that your foliage on your potatoes remain healthy and green as long as possible, so that as much carbon can be inhaled as possible. Therefore keep disease away and keep leaf-eating bugs away.

All these matters may appear complex, but they are not. It is simple and easily done, but unless you keep fungi, bacteria, blights, beetles, etc., away, better not try potatoes. In all potato sections, these things are in daily practice, it is a part of the work, and it is well to remember, like in animal life, it is easier to prevent than to cure. Keep the formalin and arsenic ready at all times.

When ready to dig, and you begin digging, be careful not to injure the tubers. Pick them clean and remember one of the most important things in marketing potatoes is grading them. They must be graded just as fruit is graded. Get a uniform size and put them all in one lot, putting the smaller ones in another lot. All communities beginning the truck industry in any form, experience trouble in grading satisfactory. It takes experience to grade properly, but to obtain the best results, this must be done. It pays to do it. You may prepare them for shipment in bags, or barrels or preferable crates, altho this is more expensive, but it has great advantage over the barrel or sack. The railroads will have to be notified in advance to have the necessary cars ready so as not to cause any delay. In these matters, the Chamber of Commerce will assist with all its might. But the first requisite will be that your potatoes must be graded.

The following are a few things to be remembered: Good seed is a determining factor in the production of the greatest yields. Like produces like. If seeds are weak and from unproductive plants, you may expect like results.

Discoloration in the flesh of the tuber, is a bad sign. Use seed liberally. Purity of seed stock is essential. Treat all your seed with formalin before you plant them.

The average yield of potatoes in England and Germany is over two hundred bushels per acre. In Aroostook County, Maine, some six hundred, while the average for the United States is something like ninety-eight bushels. The average for Louisiana, I do not know, but it is unbelievably small.

Do you ask me how much you should average? No man will



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answer that. Eliminating the season condition, which is of the greatest importance, there are a number of factors entering into the successful culture and making of potatoes which make it impossible for one to predict anything unless he knows that all the essential conditions are complied with. For example a man might use the right kind of soil, but not have the right seed or vice versa, and he might have both of these conditions and then neglect a third important consideration.

But with a good season, and the proper precautions and methods reasonably followed, our farmers should find it a very profitable crop indeed for this section.

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The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents. (Advertisement.)

Respectfully,
J. S. POWER,
Foreman.

Filed January 7th, 1915.
A. J. MAUMUS,
D'y Clerk of Court.

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY.

To the Honorable the Judge of the 19th Judicial District Court of Louisiana sitting in and for Iberia Parish, greeting:

We, your Grand Jurors, beg leave to submit to you this our final report for your present term of the Criminal Court.

We have carefully investigated all matters brought before us and we have finished our work in three days. It is our pleasure to report to your Honorable Court the healthy condition of criminal affairs in this Parish. It is gratifying to observe that so little crime prevails in our Parish.

We have examined the Court House and Jail and find both kept in clean sanitary condition. The prisoners are well cared for and are provided with every thing which may make them comfortable.

We must insist on the Police Jury providing the Court Room with new cloth covers for the Court House desk and with good chairs for the Attorneys and Court House attaches and for the Jurors. The chairs now in use are a shame and a disgrace.

We desire to inform your Honorable Court that your Police Jury has taken steps to have the State Highway Department to see to it that the model road leading to Jeanerette be repaired and

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