

Last Week's North Carolina Crop Bulletin.

Planting corn on uplands is nearing completion, but most of the bottom lands are still to be planted; late planted corn is coming up somewhat better than early seeded, but stands are not generally good; some corn is being cultivated in the south portion; cut and bud worms are injuring corn to some extent. Planting corn is about finished in the east and south, but elsewhere not more than half completed; the acreage will be large; some farmers have good stands, but chopping has not commenced; more sunshine and warmth is needed for cotton which is not doing well. Tobacco is all set in the east, where the plants need a warm rain; dry weather has checked transplanting in the north-central section, where a large amount of land is prepared, and plants are fairly plentiful; setting is now awaiting proper "seasons." The condition of winter wheat and oats is very diversified; some correspondents report excellent crops, others that both have suffered much from rust and fly; wheat is heading low and small, and the crop will be below the average. Some peanuts have been planted; also sweet potato slips. Gardens continue to improve slowly. The Irish potato crop is very promising, and shipments of new potatoes will soon begin. Shipments of truck crops and strawberries continue. The reports concerning fruit indicate favorable prospects for apples.

Agricultural Lands in Cuba.

In reply to an inquiry relative to the advisability of investment in agricultural lands in Cuba. Consul R. E. Holaday, of Santiago de Cuba, under date of April 15, 1903, writes: Considerable quantities of land have already been bought by citizens of the United States and by companies organized and capitalized in the United States. Persons desiring to buy land should either make a personal investigation or be represented by some competent person, as there is much undesirable and unproductive land on the market. The soil of Cuba is adapted to the production of coffee, sugar, tobacco, corn, potatoes, vegetables, and tropical fruits of all varieties, but there are large areas that are non-arable. Coffee and cacao are raised principally in the mountainous regions. The cacao is cultivated in connection with the coffee plant, as the latter requires shade, which is furnished by the former, at the same time yielding a profitable crop. Cacao can also be profitably grown in the lower and richer districts. The rich river valleys and plains are devoted to the cultivation of sugar cane. There are large areas of land suitable for grazing, and the raising of cattle will unquestionably become one of the profitable industries in the near future. It must not be understood that all of the land in Cuba suitable for cultivation is being culti-

vated. There is much virgin land which the future development of the means of transportation will some day make very valuable. There are also many abandoned estates, which were destroyed during the wars in Cuba, the owners of which are either too impoverished to again establish and operate them or they do not desire again to undertake planting. There is no direct land tax. The owners of real property are taxed upon the income which the property yields. Public roads are well defined, but in bad condition. In the interior of the island they are mere trails and travel is almost wholly by horseback. The construction of the new trunk-line railroad, lately completed, extending from San Luis, in this province, to Santa Clara, in the province of Santa Clara, thus establishing direct railroad communication—by connection with other lines—between this city and Havana, will be an important factor in the future development of large sections of the island which have heretofore been utilized only to a limited extent, on account of the lack of adequate and sufficiently rapid means of transporting the produce of the soil to the local markets and to the seaports for exportation. The climate is tropical and salubrious. No contagious or endemic diseases exist. With the observance of the ordinary rules of hygiene one should enjoy as good health here as he would under the same conditions in a temperate climate.

The Louisiana Purchase anniversary is much in evidence in the May Review of Reviews. The editor's interesting recapitulation of the salient facts in that "Napoleonic real estate deal," of Jefferson's part in the transaction, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and of the subsequent results of the purchase, opens the number. An important paper on "The Significance of the Louisiana Purchase," considered from the point of view of diplomacy and international politics, is contributed by Prof. F. J. Turner, of the University of Wisconsin. The plans for the great fair to be held at St. Louis next year to commemorate the event are outlined in a comprehensive illustrated article by Mr. Frederick M. Crunden, while the city of St. Louis, as it is to-day, is described by Mr. William F. Saunders. These articles are models of clearness in statement and accuracy in points of fact. They bring out, as has never before been done, the real importance of the exposition to the whole American people.

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