

FARMER AND MECHANIC

Established 1871.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1900.

Vol. XXIV. No. 6.

NOTES OF THE FARM.

By W. F. MASSEY, of A. & M. College.

It is rather funny, after the many years I have spent in trying to encourage the growth of cow peas in the South, to note that some one who is not of my name, and merely signs himself "F. B." from Buncombe county, writes to the "Country Gentleman" stating that I do not know anything about the Southern pea, because I do not agree with the aforesaid gentleman that it is necessary to sow two or three bushels per acre. This F. B. goes on to say that if I was better acquainted with the farmers of my own county I would find that they sow two or three bushels of peas per acre. The chances are that I know and am known by a hundred farmers in North Carolina to every one this F. B. knows. After a man has for eleven years been writing thousands of letters annually to the farmers of the State, traveling in every county in the State and lecturing to the farmers and talking with them by the thousands, it is exceedingly amusing to be told by a man up in the mountain country, who evidently came there from the North, that I am not acquainted with North Carolina farmers, and do not know how to sow peas. Now if there is any one in the State who wishes to sow two or three bushels of peas per acre he has a perfect right to do it, but when a man states in an agricultural paper for the information of inexperienced men that it is necessary to sow that amount per acre, it is a very different matter. One bushel per acre is commonly enough, except on very strong land where they are intended as they should be for hay, it would be better to sow a bushel on a half acre to prevent the peas getting too large and hard to sow. F. B. also wonders why I do not recommend the Black Eye pea as a forage plant, for he thinks its bushy habit an advantage. It is an advantage in cutting it, but if F. B. prefers a pea that will make a ton per acre of hay to one that will make three or four tons he has a perfect right to use it. But every farmer in North Carolina, except F. B. (if he is a farmer), knows that the Black Eye pea is not sown for forage, but planted as a table vegetable and is admirable for this purpose, but when we grow forage, we want the heaviest yield of any kind, and the Unknown, or Wonderful as it is called, will make three times as much hay per acre as the Black Eye will, and will not ripen up in Buncombe and so F. B. does not know it. F. B. is the second Northern man in the mountain country who has undertaken to enlighten the farmers of the State in regard to the pea, and what they do not know about it would bear an enormous proportion to what they do know.

But the farmers of North Carolina know me too well to pay much attention to scribblers who dodge and we look behind a set of initials, and we do not think that many of them will be inclined to waste seed peas at the suggestion of F. B. or any other anonymous scribbler. We believe in peas and a plenty of them, but we do not believe in extravagance on the farm or elsewhere. But fortunately there are some people in North Carolina who, unlike F. B., of Buncombe, do not know it all yet, and, therefore, thinking that I may know a few things, write to me for help.

From Iredell county comes an inquiry in regard to the culture of broom corn. The writer wants to know all about it, and whether it will grow well in Iredell, and on good broom land will make a good crop. There is no mystery about growing it, except one who can grow sorgum can grow broom corn. But the trouble comes in the preparation for harvesting, the harvesting, curing, and baling for shipment, and if a man has not had experience in these, and has not the needed buildings for the purpose, he had better let broom corn alone unless he wants merely to grow enough for home use, for the reason that the present high price of broom corn will be temporary, and by the time he gets fixed up for handling the crop the price will be down so low that it will wish for five cent cotton to take its place.

From Catawba county comes an inquiry as to the proper method of using sulfate of soda on strawberries. Sulfate of soda furnishes but a single element of plant food, nitrogen and this should never be applied except when the plants are in a growing state. If applied during the dormant season of the plant the nitrate will be all wasted out of the soil before the plants can use it. Nitrate of soda is a good application to strawberries which have been in complete fertilizer "until the purpose of starting them off abundantly. But it should not be applied too heavily, as it will have a tendency to make the fruit soft, and if it is to be shipped, this will be a detriment. Just as growth begins in the spring, a dressing of 50 pounds per acre will help the crop very much. It should be sprinkled alongside the rows, and care must be taken not to let it touch the leaves when wet with dew, as it will scorch them.

A Barry county lady writes that she has a constant reader of the letters I write for the press and finds them helpful. She says they were very successful this season with sweet potatoes. The ground was ploughed very deep, and

the plants were set on the level in rows three feet apart and twelve inches in the row. The land had been covered with barn yard litter the year before, and with the aid of fertilizers. We find this method of growing potatoes much superior to the old way, and will make no more ridges. We have one very rich bottom. By means of a dyke and dam across the creek we overflow about half of it during the winter and spring floods. Do you think we could grow rice on part of this land? Have never tried rice so near the mountains and know nothing about its culture. We fear that you would be wasting time and effort to try to grow rice up near the foot of the Blue Ridge. Your nights are too cool in late summer, and the crop would hardly ripen at all. But you could grow magnificent crops of celery on that land, and that would pay better than rice pays in any part of the State. Last year a grower in Buncombe wrote to me that he had raised a fine crop of celery, but the Asheville market seemed stocked, and wanted to know if he could sell it in Raleigh. I gave him the address of a dealer here, who easily sold his crop at a good price, for the celery was really finer than that which shipped here in large quantities from Michigan. Now if the people near the mountains would use their land for such crops as they are especially adapted to, they will do better than by trying the crops only suited to the warmest parts of the State. The upper country can grow better celery than the Michigan product, and if the Michigan people could make money in shipping celery all over the South, why cannot our own people do better, when their soil will produce a better product? On suitable land in your section, where you have the facilities for irrigating the crop, there is no crop that can be more profitable if well grown and properly handled in winter than celery. At the prices at which it retails here in Raleigh the returns from an acre of good celery would be so great that I would hesitate to name figures. But it is a crop that takes a great deal of labor, and is not suited to lazy people at all. No matter how rich the land, it will pay to manure it for celery, and if dry enough in the early part of the season it is necessary to set the celery, for August will be early enough for that, and the manuring should be done for the early crop so as to have the manure well mixed in the soil for the colony. A crop of early potatoes for instance could be gotten off in plenty of time for the celery.

A Mecklenburg correspondent sends a sample of muriate of potash he bought in Charlotte and wants to know if it is pure. No one can tell this without a chemical analysis. We have handed the sample to the State Chemist at the Agricultural Department. Whether he will be warranted in making an analysis of \$15 or \$20 we cannot say. But farmers should understand that no chemist can tell the quality of an article by simply looking at it, and a chemical analysis costs a good deal of money, far more than most people think.

From Rockingham county: "What grass is this?" Enclosed was a sample of Joinson grass, *Andropogon Halapense*. If this grass is still rare with you the best thing you can do is to wage war on it at once, for it will take your whole farm in a little while if you allow branches to seed on the land. Cut out every shoot, you see and keep grubbing it out as long as it has a head. That is what we have to do here. It is a great pity that the grass is so aggressive, for it is really a good hay grass and a heavy crop, but it gets to be such a nuisance in cultivated lands that every means should be taken to exterminate it on its first appearance.

From Bladen county: "I send pods of what is called 'mule bean' by the negroes. Please tell me what it is." The plant is *Casina Occidentalis*. It is the great family of leguminosae. Whether it has any value or not I am unable to say. It is not properly speaking a bean at all, as all true beans belong to different genera.

FARMERS AGAINST THE TRUSTS.

Washington, Nov. 14.—The thirty-fourth annual session of the National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, began here today with a good attendance and will continue for a week or more. The chief feature of interest today was the annual address of Worthy Master Aaron Jones, of Indiana, who said that while agricultural conditions are somewhat improved, the price are not what farmers had to buy, he said, and that compared with what they are to sell and such remedial action should be had as would cause an equitable adjustment of prices in all the leading staples. He urged opposition to the Ship Subsidy bill and spoke of the growth of the industrial combinations "until the entire country is justly alarmed." He urged an amendment to the Constitution under an amendment in its terms, empowering clear and express in its terms, and authority in Congress with the right and authority to regulate corporations. The Inter-State Commerce law, the Grand Master argued, should be amended so that all sections of the country could secure fair and equitable freight rates.

THREE DOLLARS FOR \$1.20

Farmer and Mechanic—one year,	\$1.00
North Carolinian—one year,	1.00
Farm and Home—one year,	.50
Homemade Contrivances,	.50
Total,	\$3.00



Farm and Home is one of the leading farm and family papers in the United States. It has 24 pages, issued semi-monthly, and is filled with all the latest and most reliable information and news relating to agriculture and kindred subjects. It has many departments, covering everything of interest to the entire household. Taken together with our paper, it would be of infinite value to those wishing to keep abreast of current information and affairs. We also include in this offer a copy of the following book:

How to Make Over 1000 Handy Appliances and Labor Saving Devices.

650 PAGES | Saving Devices. | 750 CUTS

Skill in the construction and use of simple labor-saving devices of that importance and value to the development of the manual dexterity is a very welcome. The volume here presented contains in valuable hints and suggestions for the best and most economical use of a large number of household conveniences within the reach of all. It contains every kind of book, from the best of the best, and contains the best ideas gathered from a score of practical men in all departments. The book is bound in a handsome cloth cover, and is a most useful and interesting volume. It is a must for every progressive farmer, and is a most valuable addition to the library of every household.

How to Make 1000 HOME MADE CONTRIVANCES

Illustrations—In Household Contrivances there are some 750 each page. This means that the number is an evidence of the practicality of the work. The illustrations are plainly drawn and easily followed.

ANY PERSON who becomes a subscriber to the Farmer and Mechanic can get the above three fine premiums FREE by sending in his subscription at once to the Farmer and Mechanic upon the following coupon.

BIG BARGAIN SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Farmer and Mechanic, Raleigh, N. C.

Enclosed please find \$1.20 Dollar for the FARMER AND MECHANIC one year. The consideration of this order is that I am to receive FREE the North Carolinian, the Farm and Home one year, and Homemade Contrivances.

NAME _____

POSTOFFICE _____

STATE _____

Fill Blank and mail to Farmer and Mechanic, with \$1.20

Farmer Cook's Success.

Correspondent of The Observer.

Concord, Nov. 10.—Now that the election is over and the people can find time to think of something else, it is refreshing to note an instance of what the practical application of intelligent labor can accomplish on land apparently worn out. This instance is just in the vicinity of town, about two miles out on the road to Mt. Pleasant, where Mr. James F. Cook, former owner and officer of The Concord Standard is giving an object lesson to the county by his superior management of a farm which he bought last year. This farm is the old Platt place, bought some years ago by Mr. Eddy Barringer and sold by him to Mr. Cook. In looking over the ground, hilly and sandy, where fields were overgrown with scrubby vines and persimmon trees through which Mr. Barringer and secured rabbits every year. Mr. Cook thought this was a year, where a small part would be better than the whole, and bought only enough for a good two-horse farm. This was in October, one year ago. He gave his new property the name of "Chuckatuck," an Indian word which means sink or swim, secured Mr. A. M. Allman for a tenant and went to work in a deliberately planned method to make the most of his bargain. Ditches were dug, thickets cleared up, fertilizers distributed, fences and buildings repaired and white-washed. People riding by wondered at the ren-

ovation and approved the sensible methods of the new owner. The first venture in wheat was only 7 1/2 bushels. It was sown on well prepared ground, and multiplied to 68 bushels. The corn was hurt by the drought, but diversity in planting assured financial success even in this dry summer. The farm produced three bales of cotton, 40 bushels of Irish potatoes, between 350 and 400 bushels of peanuts and 500 bushels of sweet potatoes. One hundred bushels of the latter have been sold in three installments, the first bringing \$1 per bushel, the second 90¢ and the third, 75 cents per bushel. Chatsoupe from 1 1/2 acre supplied the Concord market, and fruit from the orchard found its way to town, but not to any distillery. Thrifty doves of chickens and turkeys, fat swine and a fine herd of Jersey cattle have made things lively on the farm this summer and added many a dollar to the year's income. Mr. Cook will have at least 2,000 pounds of pork on the market this winter. A good average has been sown already this fall in rye, wheat and winter oats and arrangements made for a consignment of Guernsey cattle, which many consider superior to the Jersey. Mr. Cook has shown what a thinking man can do by money and labor wisely invested and well directed, and that nobody need to move away from Cabarrus because the land is too poor.

Two freight trains collided on the Savannah, Florida and Western near Thomasville yesterday, and the negro fireman on one of the engines was killed.

Bill Arp's Letter.

Arp Says He Tries to be Good to Republicans, Meets Them Wit a Smile.

The scriptures tell us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. I am trying to do it, but it is an awful strain. When I meet a McKinley man I try to smile, but it is only a sickly grin and is only skin deep. They are pretty thick around here now since the election, and so between mourning with the Bryan men and rejoicing with the Republicans my countenance has lost its normal and natural condition and it is hard to tell whether I am trying or smiling. We did not know that there were more than a dozen respectable McKinleyites in the community, but it turns out that there were scores of them. Nearly all of the plutocrats voted that way on the sound money platform. They lend money and want it paid back in gold. A good many farmers who have some cotton on hand were led to believe that it would go up again to 10 or 12 cents. Mr. McKinley is elected, but he dropped 10 points the day after election. But it is all over now, and the wheels keep rolling on. Let them roll. The millionaires and plutocrats can't eat their money or wear it out. It is obliged to go back to the toilers, the people, in some way. The Standard Oil Company declared a dividend yesterday of 40 per cent, but Rockefeller didn't hear it. He lives away a big slice to education and utilizes the rest.

After all, it is not money that brings happiness. A good living, a competency honestly earned, brings far more happiness than riches. This kind of talk is 4,000 years old, but the people don't believe it yet; everybody wants money, a big pile of money; I would like it myself; I want some for a rainy day and some to give away, but we are not in danger, and never have been, though for some years of the war and just after it we were on the ragged edge. Talk about prosperity, I saw it last week over in South Carolina. There is a nice little town over there called Prosperity, but I didn't see it. I went to the old town of Darlington. I was there eighteen years ago. It was a good old town then, but it has renewed its youth and taken on new life, and I hardly knew the place. Cotton mills and oil mills and good farming have done it. The cotton crop of that county is 20,000 bales and the tobacco crop was 6,000,000 pounds and it brought half as much money as the cotton crop. Fifteen years ago there was not a pound for sale raised in the county. They didn't know it would grow there. Now there are three large warehouses where it is auctioned off every day. I attended the auctions and it was a revelation to me. The farmers' wagons were unloading all around and their tobacco was piled up neatly in long rows and their name and the number of pounds written on a card and stuck in the split end of a little white pine stick and that was stuck in the center of the pile. For an hour or two before the auction begins the buyers from Richmond and Winston and Durham and Greensboro and other markets went all around and examined the quality of every pile and took notes. The auctioneer talked so fast I could not understand him, but the buyers did. I reckon there were two or three hundred piles in each warehouse, and the auctioneer and the crowd went from pile to pile and sold each one where it was. I heard some knocked down as low as 9 cents and some as high as 57 cents. There is one curious rule about tobacco auctions that does not apply to any other auction. The farmer can reject the highest bid and keep his tobacco. If he and his boys have resolved that their crop shall bring 20 cents a pound and it brings only 15, he turns the card down and takes his tobacco home, or maybe hauls it around to another warehouse, where the same buyers find it next day and maybe bid over 20 cents for it. This is one of the tricks of the trade. The difference between the grades was highly perceptible to my eyes, but the buyers know it. It was all a bright yellow, but some was brittle and worn out and some was soft and pliant as a kid glove. This was bought for wrappers. This evolution has come within ten years, and is increasing every year, for an acre of good tobacco will bring \$60 and it costs only a few cents to cultivate it. My friend Mr. Williamson, the banker, told me he had thirty-five acres planted this year and it netted him \$77 per acre. There is another evolution in Darlington county. Ten years ago no wheat was grown there. Now every farmer sows wheat and a large flour mill has recently been built. It was the same way in middle Georgia. Until about five years ago all the wheat was under the barn, and the farmers did not pretend to grow wheat. Now they make more wheat to the north, all around Griffin and Barnesville, than we can make in north Georgia. And so evolution and revolution are going on, but they can't give McKinley credit for it in South Carolina. It is amusing to hear them tell about the prosperous negroes over there. Between cotton and tobacco they pocket a pile of money, and spend nearly every dollar before they leave town. One man sold them thirty-seven Rock Hill bargies in one week, and Mr. Williamson told me of a ducky who drew \$27 and spent \$25 of it that day for a fine gun and a pointer dog. He will be begging his landlord for an advance before Christmas. I had a delightful time at Darlington and Bennettsville and Bishopville and last at Rock Hill. Bishopville ought to be named Sweet Auburn, the loveliest village of the plain. I found old friends and acquaintances at every place and was honored far beyond my deservings. My wife hasn't got me back into the traces yet. Near Bishopville I found an old time friend, Mrs. Reid, the sister of my schoolmates, Ned Goulding and John, and

The Peanut Crop.

The Norfolk Journal of Commerce publishes the estimates of Holmes & Dawson of the peanut crop of 1900. These peanut factors sent out questions to farmers and others, covering the peanut sections of this State and Virginia. The comparison is made with last year, when the crop was the largest ever raised. These inquiries and answers are as follows:

First, What was the average planted in peanuts in your neighborhood as compared with last year?

Replies to this question show that 40 per cent indicate the acreage to be the same, or about the same, as last season; 55 per cent say that the acreage is 80 per cent, or four-fifths of that of last year, and 5 per cent mention an average increase of 11 per cent.

Second, What proportion of an average crop will there be?

As alluded to in former reports, it is always difficult to carry in the mind the defined idea of an average crop and to draw away the thought of a comparison with the crop just preceding. Making what we conceive to be a due allowance for this fact in conjunction with our replies to this inquiry, we give it as the result of our investigations that there will be 70 per cent of an average crop.

Third, How is the quality?

There were many blasted and poppy nuts resulting from drought.

Thirty-one per cent report the quality fair; 50 per cent that it is poor, a large proportion of blasted and poppy nuts, yet from our replies it seems very poor, and 7 per cent give quality as good.

Fourth, What is your estimate of the yield per acre in bushels?

The average yield as given in reply is 28 bushels.

The reduction in acreage, they say, will be about 10 per cent.

"The crop of 1899 was the largest ever raised and more land was devoted to the culture of peanuts. In view of this and the very considerable advance in the price of cotton at planting time, it was but natural to anticipate a reduction of acreage in peanuts yet from our replies it seems that the reduction is not material, being, we would judge, something like 10 per cent.

"It is in the out-turn of the crop that the shortage occurs. Seldom in the history of the plant has it had to contend with such unfavorable weather conditions. Week after week no rain fell and the burning sun dried up and destroyed the germination and producing faculties of the vine. Peanuts require moisture, and if it is withheld, as it was to an eminent degree through the past summer, we may not look for a crop. There is great uniformity in the replies as to the quality. Their general complaint is that the nuts are blasted and poppy, a great many one-ended nuts, or kernel in one end and nothing in the other. There is no mill-mentioned and there seems to be but two qualities of nuts, the good and the poor.

"A summing up of the situation shows that the supply of peanuts this year will be less than last season; that the quality is generally poor, owing to continued drought, and that the yield is slightly under the average.

"A larger quantity of old crop peanuts than usual has been carried over into the new crop, and these, together with the new crop, will amount such a supply as will probably meet the needs of the trade at advanced but not fancy figures."

Two Killed in a Collision.

Jackson, Miss., Nov. 17.—Two men were instantly killed and three others received injuries that will probably result fatally, in a rear end collision that took place on the Alabama and Vicksburg road one mile west of this place this afternoon. The eastbound passenger train, running at forty miles an hour rate, struck the rear end of a special freight train standing on the coal chute track and several cars were completely demolished.