

## U. S. ENCOURAGING WILLOW CULTURE

### Government Now in Midst of Harvest

Washington, D. C., March 29.—The government is right in the midst of the harvest of a most unique crop at its experimental farm near Arlington, just across the Potomac from this city, where a corps of laborers in charge of trained foresters are preparing for the annual free distribution of 100,000 basket willow cuttings.

Uncle Sam is encouraging the growth of high grade willow rods in this country, and in the five years since the establishment of the holt at Arlington approximately a half million select cuttings have been distributed among farmers, with directions for planting and preparing for market. Particular attention is given to selecting the varieties and strains best suited to the soil where the plantings will be made.

#### A Growing Industry.

Willowcraft is an industry which is constantly growing in importance in this country, yet the culture of basket willow in the United States made very little progress until five, or six years ago. Even now, practically all of the best grades of basket willow are imported from Europe, chiefly from France. European manufacturers compete keenly for the best products in their countries, and until recently only the inferior rods were sent to America where they have been bought at three times the prices quoted for similar stock a few years ago. Experiments have shown that the best grades of willow can be grown in this country at a good profit, and farmers are turning their attention to this culture more and more each year.

This year's harvest began early in March. Four approved varieties are being sent out, and only the best and most thrifty rods are selected for distribution. The management of the holt and work of free distribution of cuttings is charged to the United States Forest Service. Cuttings for experimental planting and information on management of the willow holt are furnished those who make the request of the Forester at Washington.

#### Good Cuttings Necessary.

The government recognizes the importance of good cuttings, a point more commonly overlooked than the matter of cultivation. Only the best and most thrifty rods are selected for each season's distribution. To produce a desirable grade of rods it is very important to select planting stock not only from thoroughly tested varieties, but the cuttings should be taken from the tallest, perfectly straight, cylindrical, branchless, and fully mature rods. High grade basket willows can be raised only by being sure that the cuttings planted are from parent stock, above the average.

The policy of the Forest Service is to increase the number of important basket willows and determine their value under different soil and climatic conditions, and as the final tests of new varieties are completed, those proved to be valuable will be added to the distribution list.

#### Cuttings From Europe.

Cuttings of new and untried basket willows were obtained from Europe a year ago and planted in the Service's Experimental ground. Close observations will be made upon the growth of these and if the results are favorable during the first three years, cuttings from these varieties will be distributed in the United States. In case of some varieties a much longer time may elapse before their value can be established.

The Forest Service is receiving a constantly increasing number of requests for basket willow cuttings. These requests come from farmers all over the country, many of them coming through members of Congress. The Service is endeavoring to stimulate the basket willow industry in this country by distributing cuttings of the most approved varieties of willow and the four varieties tested for the last five years in the experimental holt at Arlington, Va., can be confidently distributed. The behavior of the plants has been carefully observed as to the quantity and quality of the crop, to their resistance and lack of resistance to diseases as well as other points that would affect the profitability of each variety. The observations made during the first two years were published in Circular 148 by the Forest Service. At the close of this spring's harvesting, now going on, the results of the past three years' tests will be published.

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**C. M. GIBSON, Box 55, Young's Island, S. C.**

### "MAMMY RIAH"

(Continued from Page 15.)

Mammy Riah as to the cause of the accident, and the particulars of her rescue.

"It all begun in fun and mischief, mother; the Doyles were so full of enjoyment they began to rock the boat as we sang, and while we begged them to stop, they couldn't seem to see any danger. Suddenly the boat just capsized, and I found myself struggling in the water, but a strong arm soon found me, and brought me safely to Malcomb's boat that came out to rescue us. But for Mr. Stuart, mother, your daughter Ansel would have been drowned inevitably. Oh he is so strong and has so much presence of mind. But for him, I do not believe Mr. Jackson would have been able to save Barbara. She screamed and scrambled so that it took both of them to get her ashore."

"Dat's jus' de way wid dem Doyles; de is Irish—gwyin have dere fun live er die. Den't you never git in a boat wid dem any mo chiey; you hear me?"

"I am very thankful my Ansel that you are safe, and regret that the picnic had such an abrupt ending. I will seek the earliest opportunity to thank Mr. Stuart for saving my precious child. And now I must go and tell your father all about it."

The fourth of July picnic soon disbanded after the capsizing of the boat, but many of the young people came over to Fallowfield, and an impromptu party was lengthened into "the wee sma hours." And many were the bright glances and quick heart-beats that responded to soft words spoken out in the moonlight.

Claiborne Jackson had determined to waste no time. So on this fateful night he found his opportunity, and Ansel has been compelled to answer a question she did not desire to hear.

As they walked up and down on the lawn they were talking over the events of the day. And he expressed his regret that it had not been his good fortune to save her, instead of Miss Doyle. "Not that I regret saving Miss Doyle, but—why could it not have been you? and Mr. Stuart could, and would have saved Miss Doyle. You are more to me than any other woman, and how proud I would have been in rescuing you. You know it was my purpose to do it, and now I offer you my heart and life—let the future prove my sincerity."

"I thank you Mr. Jackson with all my heart for your good intentions this afternoon, and let me say, you did the noblest thing—you did the duty nearest at hand, and saved a precious life. Had you hesitated when you saw that I was in safe hands, you might not have been able to save Barbara, and that would have been a life-long regret."

"I also appreciate your sentiment in regard to myself—for you have greatly honored me, but I must be honest, and tell you that my heart does not respond to this sentiment, and therefore I cannot give you any hope of winning what you desire."

"I am always too late, Ansel, I had thought—that so soon after your return home, and before an army of beaux should lay siege, I might be in time, but I could not foresee Mr. Stuart."

"We are not discussing Mr. Stuart now, Mr. Jackson. Suppose we go in. I want you to remember that you have always been, and ever will be, my friend, and it is no fault of mine that our relations can never be nearer."

"You are the most honest, the truest girl I ever knew Ansel, and this makes my loss all the harder to bear; but I shall always be your friend should you ever need one, and may your future be supremely happy. I shall trouble you no more."

Maxwell Stuart joined Mr. and Mrs. Beirn on the colozade after supper, leaving the young people to their own devices, for he had something to say to the old folks. With full hearts did they express their thanks for the rescue of dear Ansel. "Oh Mr. Stuart, you can never know how grateful we are," said Mrs. Beirn, "but for you, this home would have been in the deepest sorrow that could come to us, and our old age would have been ended in gloom."

Even strong old Malcomb Beirn's voice trembled as he said, "My young friend, I shall ever pray that God's richest blessings may be yours. You saved our precious daughter from an early grave! Oh, you don't know how we love her! I fear it borders on idolatry."

"My kind friends, what I have done to-day has made me very happy, for I have been instrumental in saving the life of one who is dearer to me than any one now living. I am an orphan, my father was taken from me just as

I had attained manhood, and needed his wise counsel most. My sainted mother was my companion and friend, but her sweet life was quenched suddenly, and I am alone, alone."

I met dear Ansel soon after my sad loss, and I only know that we are very good friends. I am here to ask your permission to woo her as my wife, and would only say at present, that I am able to care for her, as her station in life demands, and should give her the best—and all—of my heart and life. Ansel can tell you who are the people I know and mingle with in old Virginia."

With a deep sigh Mr. Beirn said: "I realize for the first time, Mr. Stuart, that our daughter Ansel has passed into womanhood, and is no longer the precious, tender child we have so loved and cherished. My dear wife will doubtless agree with me—that whatever may be Ansel's choice in this matter, we will approve; for we have great faith in her loving heart and sound judgment. And then, a gentle smile playing around his firm lips, Mr. Beirn continued: "Do you see that old negro woman sitting on the lower step just there? She is a member of the Beirn family, and you will have to propitiate her majesty if you would win Ansel. She has nursed that child from her infancy, and would die to save her from any danger that might threaten. Come here Riah."

The old woman arose from her lowly seat and approached the group with a deferential courtesy, saying, "Sarvent to yo all."

"Riah, said Mr. Beirn, "this gentleman you doubtless know, is Mr. Maxwell Stuart, from Virginia, and he has come to Georgia on very important business, and he wants to make your acquaintance. You might help him some."

"I'm proud to know you sir; what kin I do ter help a quality gent'man?"

"I want you to help me win a wife Mammy Riah, for I am told you are a fudge in such matters." "What sheep-fule is you gwyin to rob, Mars Stuart? De ain't but one lamb here, and she—she is de pearl of great price, set in de gote of ophir. I gwyin to inquire powerful, fore I ever lets Ansel say dat las' word, ter any man."

"Well, I am here to answer all your questions."

"Ole Riah ain't doubtin' you is a gent'man, sar, but my lamb is de light an' glory of dis ole place. What has you ter give for de love of dat chile?"

"All the love of my lonely heart, Mammy Riah. I have neither father nor mother, and all that I possess shall be her own."

"Has you got any niggers? an' if so, is you good to 'em?"

"I have only a few slaves, Mammie Riah, and they are a part of my household." "Does Miss Ansel love you? Then surely those dear people that I have known from my childhood love me—as I do them."

"You is a far-spoken gent'man, Mars Stuart, an' I shall tell Ansel to follow her heart; but dis ole nigger is gwyin ter follow Ansel. If she go to old Virginny Riah is gwyin too. So you jes hear dat fer de truth. If ole mars an' Miss 'Lizabeth ca nspar dere only lamb, de can spar me, too."

"Gladly would I take you to Virginia if Mr. and Mrs. Beirn consent, but I have yet to get the consent of your young mistress—for I would not ask her until I could do so under her own roof."

"Now dat is what I call de right kind er cotin—no stealin' a young chile's heart, an' den axin consent for what's already done. Go find my lamb, Mars Stuart. You have my blessin." And the old woman made a low courtesy and disappeared.

"You have won her confidence Mr. Stuart," said Mr. Beirn. "Had she doubted you in the least she would have given you trouble; for she has the eye of a lynx and a wonderful insight into human nature. Her word has always had great influence over my children, and Ansel loves her devotedly."

Thus the way was opened for Maxwell Stuart's final question—which found an answer in Ansel's trustful surrender of her heart and life into his keeping.

Her year at the conservatory was taken after her marriage, and during her sojourn there she found a homely part of her old Georgia home in the person of Mammy Riah—a great comfort. And Stuart always insisted that "the old atocrat" was an indispensable part of his family.

Floral Manse,

Should Associate With McGinty.  
Wilmington Star.

The fellow who started the rumor of the blowing up of the battleship Mississippi with the loss of life of all on board ought to be just where the men of the vessel would now be had the report been true.

## NEW ENTERPRISES FOR THE SOUTH

### Enlargements and Improvements Planned

(Special to News and Observer.)

Baltimore, Md., April 1.—Many industrial enterprises have been announced in the South during the past week and many established enterprises have stated their plans for enlargements and improvements. Cotton spinning continues to be especially active, and reports to the Manufacturers' Record for the first three months of the year show a total of 268,880 spindles and 5,330 looms, representing an investment of \$6,722,000, as decided on for installation.

Almost all of this machinery will be additions to the equipment of established companies, including the 50,000 spindle and 1,500 loom plant, costing \$1,000,000 of the Erwin Cotton Mills Co., West Durham, N. C., and the 50,000 spindle and 1,500 loom addition, costing \$1,000,000, of the Dan River Power and Manufacturing Co., Danville, Va. Two mills each for 25,000 spindles and 700 looms and each costing \$500,000, are being added by the Brandon Mills and the Woodside Cotton Mills, of Greenville, S. C. Other reports of the week include:

Appalachian Power Co., Hendersonville, N. C., incorporated with \$250,000 capital; Somerset Lumber Co., Princess Anne, Md., incorporated with \$100,000 capital; Roanoke Mills Manufacturing Co., Roanoke, Va., incorporated with \$50,000 capital; Big Hillsbee Power Co., Alexander City, Ala., to expend \$175,000 for water-power electric plant; Louisiana-Texas Natural Gas Co., Shreveport, La., incorporated with \$300,000 capital; Rio Grande Valley Reservoir and Irrigation Co., Moundville, Tex., organized to build plant for irrigating 150,000 acres of land; Big Vein Pocahontas Coal Co., Tazewell, Va., incorporated with \$300,000 capital to develop the coal properties recently purchased by Thos. P. Boswell, of Baltimore; B. F. Avery & Sons, Louisville, planning construction of additional plow works on a site of 35 acres; Puritan Cordage Co., Louisville, to build a mill costing \$100,000; Furst Bros., Baltimore, to build a \$100,000 addition to plant for manufacturing picture frames and moldings; Rockport Coal Co., Rockport, Ky., incorporated with \$50,000 capital to develop 700 acres of coal land; Pocatlico Oil Co., Charleston, W. Va., incorporated with \$600,000 capital; Charles R. Ball Lumber Co., Shreveport, La., incorporated with \$50,000 capital; and various others.

Business activities included the following:

Gude and Co., Atlanta, Ga., received contract for \$60,000 postoffice at Greenville, Miss.; Whitney-Central National Bank awarded contract to Geo. J. Glover, both of New Orleans, for \$1,000,000 office building; Virginian Railway awarded contract to A. N. Walkup, Richmond, for \$25,000 station at Roanoke, Va.; City of Baltimore awarded contract to Davis Peoples & Co., of that city, for construction of \$100,000 school; J. J. Simmons awarded contract to W. R. Hatcher Construction Co., both of Dallas, Texas, for construction of \$100,000 warehouse; H. Clay Grubb awarded contract to C. R. Propst, both of Salisbury, N. C., for construction of \$125,000 office building; J. Thomas Ward and associates, of Hamilton, O., to build \$150,000 theatre at Louisville; Marion Hotel Co., Little Rock, accepted plans for \$100,000 addition to hotel.

#### Big Month's Work at Spencer.

Spencer, N. C., April 3.—The Spencer shops of the Southern Railway turned out during the month of March 68 locomotives for service on the five divisions running into Spencer, which is said to be the largest month's work in the history of the shop. Of the 68 engines leaving the shops 36 were in for heavy repairs, costing in some instances \$2,000 each. The force of employees at Spencer has been greatly increased and it is said every man worthy of work is being employed. In the boiler department the force is the largest in the history of the Spencer shops. The monthly pay roll at Spencer is said to be \$150,000.