Agriculture --- Florida's Opportunity

Conducted by W. E. Pabor

FOREIGN NOTES OF INTEREST.

Mushroom culture in England is quite a feature and is the source of great profit to those who raise them. It is said that this season's crop is so large and abundant that scythes had to be used to mow them down, and so save the cost and labor of hand-picking.

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It is said that the failure of the grain crop in Russia will cause great suffering in more than a dozen provinces. The government has already three million dollars to aid the destitute and to supply seed for planting.

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There is a regular business in Italy of making little wire cages for grasshoppers. The insect is regarded as lucky and if one can be kept alive in the cage for a month it is believed the year will be prosperous.

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Highest of all trees in the world is a specimen of the eucalyptus colosses in Dandenong Mountains, near Melbourne, Australia. It has a height of 494 feet, exceeding by 25 feet the highest of the big trees in California.

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From June 21 to 26, 1906, a large agricultural exposition is to be held at Berlin, which will also comprise a special division for preserved food articles, such as products of the dairy, dough, potatoes, fruits, wines and extracts, meats, beer, etc. Money prizes, diplomas and medals will be awarded. In order to test the preserving capacity of these exhibits they will be sent to the tropics.

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Some experiments made in France to ascertain the value of dead leaves as compared with ordinary manure, show that the oak leads in per cent of nitrogen contained in its leaves after their fall, and that 66 pounds are equal to 100 pounds of stable manure. It might be suggested that the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture could secure data along this line, and that an interesting and valuable table might be established, showing the fertilizing value of the various leaves from American trees, particularly when it is considered that in the United States such leaves are easily obtainable by the farmers, who are generally owners of some woodland where the leaves might be gathered at will, which is not the case in Europe, where forests are generally either the property of the state or of some individual park preserves.

A recent windstorm in Southern California ruined at least ten per cent of the orange crop about Los Angeles, and no doubt adjacent sections were more or less damaged. It was called by the San Diego Union "a windstorm that in localities approached the magnitude of a hurricane." The queer part of it was that there was no sign of the gentle disturbance of the balmy atmosphere at Los Angeles, but Riverside, Corona got the full benefit of the gale.

Apropos to a recent paragraph on Frog Farming, appearing in this department, the following is not without interest. It appeared in an Idaho rural journal: "Miss Ethel Stege, on her farm of 115 acres four miles from Berkeley, Cal., has paid for it by the sale of frogs from three ponds on her tract. The frogs bring from $3.50 to $8.00 a dozen, and she ships to various parts of the United States. Recently she shipped 800 to Hilo, one of the Hawaiian Islands."

ThTe Florida milch cow will have to give way to the Colorado critter, sure, in the matter of lacteal fluid. In six months a cow, half Jersey—other half not stated, gave 3,150 quarts, or 78 1-2 gallons. At milk dealers' rates out there —14 quarts for a dollar—this yield was worth $225. Expenses for feed, etc., were $43, leaving the handsome net profit of $181.40, or about $1 per day for the six months. Is there a Florida cow that has ever come up to this record? She was fed on bran and cornmeal three times a day, given all the lawn grass she could eat, with an occasional feed of dry alfalfa; never given cold water to drink, nor her mess mixed with it; a burlap blanket kept the flies from disturbing her ladyship and in extreme cold weather a warm woolen wrap was added. The owner never talked or allowed any one else to talk to him at milking time. Wonderful cow. Wonderful country is Colorado.

Occasionally an inquiry comes from some doubting Thomas of a correspondent in the North or West as to whether we really raise truck in Florida, other than mosquitoes, rattlesnakes, alligators, sandflies, etc. Of course such ignorance is deplorable, owing to lack of definite information on the subject. To such who may see this paragraph we submit the following statement clipped from the Advocate of Wauchula, De Soto County, as a bit if evidence worthy of consideration: "Our farmers and truckers are coming in with loaded wagons and the local markets show some of their products. The passers on our streets can see displayed much of these products, among which are the following: Turnips, beets, green snap beans, wax beans, two kinds of squashes, egg-plants, cabbage, onions, English peas, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, lettuce, sweet peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, green corn, grapefruit, oranges, pineapples and watermelons. These, together with chickens, turkeys and eggs and trains of wagons loaded with oranges, combine to make an air of plenty that is pleasing to the observer." This, too, in December. And there can be two such crops of stuff raised in one year. Come South, young man, or old one, for that matter. Come to Florida.

CONCENTRATED OR MIXED STOCK FEEDS.

North Carolina has a law upon its statute books regulating the sale and inspection of concentrated commercial feeding stuffs. A good law, if its provisions are faithfully carried out. It provides that every bag of feed, whether pure products or mixed feeds, must have a guaranteed analysis along with the name and address of the manufacturer. One section prohibits the adulteration or mixing of any feeding stuffs with ground rice, chaff, ground corn-cobs, ground peanut shells, or ground oat hulls. Violations of any of the several provisions of the act are punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

This is only one of several laws upon the statute books of North Carolina that might well be adopted by our own and other Southern States. An immense amount of mixed feeding stuffs come into Florida every year, and the amount is increasing. The consumer has as much right to such protection as is given him in the laws regulating fertilizers.

Another law of importance is known as the Pure Food Law, designed to protect the public against the adulteration of articles intended for human consumption.

During the last year over five hundred samples have been analyzed in the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and but few have come up fully to the standard set for them as to per cent in protein. Full reports of these occupy a number of pages of a bulletin recently issued by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

THE SETTLER AND THE STOCK FENCE STATUTE.

The Tavares Herald, commenting on a meeting of the citizens of Winter Park, Maitland and other towns in Orange County, who have gone to work to rid themselves of the hog nuisance, says it was resolved at the meeting "to make this an issue in the next legislative campaign." Other counties should follow along the same lines, for there is nothing so hurtful to the property of the State as a policy that is preventive of security on the part of new settlers who, asuming that they are coming into a community of law and order, find themselves where they will not be able to raise produce—without having to build a Chinese wall around their premises. The seven-strand fence wire law,

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Some Thinks by the Brethren

The Jacksonville Metropolis will have to plank down a cool $2,000 for printing a spicy little romance about a lady from the West. That "telegram" came rather high.—Lake Butler Star.

Live Oak is to have a cotton warehouse. Lake City will follow suit, and it will be run by the farmers—not politicians, nor in their interest. The planter is out for business from now on. He's not dealing in "gush."—Lake City Index. And while you are enumerating Brother Appleyard, just add that Madison expects to have a cotton warehouse in operation in time to handle the next season's crop, and it will also be run by the farmers in their own interest.—New Enterprise.

Jacksonville, Tampa, Pensacola and Miami are destined to become four of the finest cities in the South. Each will be deep water harbors, with ocean traffic and in all of them the spirit of enterprise is well grounded and the developments have been almost startling in the past few years. The whole State of Florida is on the highway of prosperity and the rapidity with which it is progressing is astonishing its neighboring States.—Fort Pierce News.

There are those who talk of gubernatorial candidates. Well, let them talk, for they know not what they say. However, it might be suggested to this particular brand of idiots that the primary this year is sure to be a slate "buster" of the first order, and the candidate who enters the race now for Governor will be winded, at least, financially, before the real race for Governor begins. Better wait, boys, until after the primary this year. Can't tell what'll happen in a primary you know.—Manatee Record.

State Superintendent Holloway is entitled to high commendation for the stand he has taken, demanding a high standard of scholarship for the principals of high schools. We are glad to know that the expectation of certain parties that he would lower the standard of scholarship required for teachers, for the purpose of gaining popularity with the unlearned, has not been realized. He is firmly maintaining the high standard of scholarship and working for increasing the facilities of the public schools.—Southern Argus.

General Edward B. Bailey, of Jefferson County, has announced through the columns of his home paper that he will be a candidate in the coming primary for Railroad Commissioner. He promises to issue, within the next thirty days, an address to the Democracy of Florida, setting forth his platform and qualifications for the position.—New Enterprise.

BE SURE OF YOUR SKY LINE.

"Do not leave the sky out of your landscape," says Emerson. A Florida scene is two-thirds sky, because there are no hills to break the line. The sky line of the people living here should be as broad and expansive as in the landscape. Bitterness, sour natures, and pessimism should not exist in such a clime.—Orlando Reporter.

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