# The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.


It has been practically demonstrated that timothy can be raised as successfully here as in any other portion of our country. Last fall (in November and December) Mr. Wolf, after settling on the place he purchased of Mr. T. F. Petty, four miles east of Pittsboro', began seeding down some of his land in timothy. Many of his neighbors thought that he was wasting his time, but the sequel has proven that he knew what he was doing.

There has been a general impression that clover was the surest hay crop, except the native grasses, for this section, until this demonstration of Mr. Wolf's. Mr. Wolf seeded down quite a number of acres, sowing most of it with wheat, as we generally do clover, but he sowed a small patch with no other crop. Necessarily he sowed it much later than he should have done, as it ought to have been sown about the first of October, but that was before he moved here. That that was sown by itself, grew to the height of five feet, having heads 12 inches long. Such a growth of timothy as that would yield at least two tons of fine hay per acre. That which was sowed with wheat will not give any return this year, but will be ready for cutting next July.

There are several marked differences between timothy and clover, and all are in favor of timothy. In the first place timothy will grow on land that would not produce clover and will grow on upland or bottom land. Second, it does not need reseeding in a few years, or run out, as clover does, but will last a hundred years, or more, if properly cared for. Then it is less liable to blacken or mould while curing than clover. Every farmer who has tried it knows how hard clover is to cure bright. And then it will not cause horses and mules to slobber as clover does. And where a farmer desires to turn the stubble under for the purpose of planting another crop on the land it makes nearly as good manure as clover or pea vines, and is one of the finest hay forages known.

We believe that if our Chatham farmers would pay more attention to the growing of grasses and raise more stock, especially horses and mules, and plant fewer acres of cotton than they would be more prosperous.

Every Chatham farmer knows all that is necessary about the cultivation, value, &c., of clover, but they do not seem to profit, as sensible men as they are, should by their knowledge.

As to the cultivation of timothy, let me say this, that if any of our Chatham farmers decide to add this to their other crops, that we would advise a thorough preparing of the land before sowing, for much depends upon this operation.

One bushel of seed, costing $2.25, will seed five acres, and is the only money expense connected with the investment. But we will suppose that the farmer plows his land three times before sowing, allowing him a dollar an acre for his labor, which will make $15, and we will say $5 more for plowing or harrowing it in, which will make all told $22 25 for first expenses. Then we will say, if he sows no wheat or other grain with his timothy seed, $1.25 per acre for harvesting and saving from the five acres, which is $6 25 to add to first investment of $22 25, making entire cost of first crop of five acres $28.50. Now, we wish to see what are his profits, if any. The first crop we will place at one ton per acre, or five tons. This hay sells readily at $15 per ton, or if baled and prepared for shipment $25 per ton, but we will suppose he gets $15 per ton, that would give him $75 for first crop off of five acres. Now, deduct $28.50 from $75.00 and he has $46.50, or enough to pay him $8 an acre for the five acres of land sown, pay the taxes on the same and leave him a few dollars over. The second crop will be pretty sure to yield two tons per acre as will each succeeding one. After the first year there is nothing to put in the debtor column but tax on the land and expense of harvesting, and $25 will cover that, and two tons per acre gives us ten tons, and at $15 per ton the amount is $150, or $125 clear profit from the 5 acres.

Can you beat it with cotton?

But if you feed this hay to stock there no telling where the profit will stop. Timothy hay always finds ready sale, and less expensive than cotton to get ready for market, requiring no bagging or anything of that sort—nothing but a few white oaks hoops.

Try a five acre lot this fall and we venture the assertion that you will never regret it.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

St. Paul, Minnesota,
July 16th, 1891.

It is with difficulty and reluctance that I can spare the time to write this, or even know where or how to begin. We are having so delightful a visit and enjoying it so much that I begrudge every moment and dislike to lose even these minutes in writing. And then I have seen and am seeing so much that I am somewhat bewildered with such a multitude and variety of wonderful and strange sights and scenes. It is certainly sufficient to daze and bewilder anyone, after leaving the quiet and retirement of a country village to travel so great a distance through so many States and see such large and magnificent cities teeming with countless thousands and filled with buildings and structures that denote a wealth and prosperity almost incredible. After travelling through so many States of the North and seeing their greatness in both wealth and population, I am surprised that our late war continued as long as it did, for it does indeed seem wonderful that the South could have withstood for four years such a superiority in numbers, equipment and wealth!

It would be impossible to describe in detail the sights that I have seen or even the country through which I have travelled, for it has been a long journey with every mile of it possessing something of interest to attract the eye and engage the attention. In order to reach this place I have travelled 1858 miles as follows: from Pittsboro' to Baltimore, 300 miles over Raleigh, Weldon and Portsmouth road; from Baltimore to Chicago 853 miles, via Washington, Harper's Ferry, Grafton, Wheeling and numerous other cities and then from Chicago to St. Paul, via Milwaukee, Waukesha and Madison, 345 miles—a total of 1858 miles. And I am not yet at the end of my journey, for we will go still farther North to the famous city of Duluth, in lake Superior. Many of our readers have an atlas convenient that will refresh their knowledge of Geography by examining it and tracing the route that I have above described. Such a journey seems very long, and yet it is made so quickly and pleasantly that it is by no means tiresome, and becomes entertaining. Were it great and wealth have lavished and attractions each great convenience that travelling is rendered pleasant and a long journey is ready to be undertaken. Railroad cars are so conveniently constructed that the traveller can walk from home, sleeping and eating there as comfortably as if he were at his dwelling. At night, while rushing along at the rate of 30 miles an hour, we were stopping quietly in a comfortable bed, and while we were dining from cars which were attached to the train, in which we sat down to a table and at which we had the food cooked on the train as nicely as at any hotel in the city. Indeed the meals that we ate on the train were the most appetizing that we have yet enjoyed.

The farmers readers of the Record will no doubt like to hear something about the crops that we have seen. Well, we would first say that we could see some of the best cultivated farms all along the route. The farms, the crops and the country looked so different from those in Chatham. All through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, as far as the eye could see, the farms were laid off in large fields, and every acre of land was under the highest state of cultivation. For several hundred miles not a fence or a hill to be seen, a level space stretching as smooth and even as a floor as far as the eye could see. After crossing Wisconsin the scenery was more rolling and undulating, and here the farms ceased to be so large. Another thing we noticed was that scarcely any fences (except around the farm houses) were to be seen. Why actually there seemed to be no stakes at all, not even enough for the hogs to fatten on, in the fields.

The principal crops that we have seen are wheat, corn, hay and oats, and all looked to be in good condition. The farms were all so small that is they seemed small when compared with our large farms. But these Northern farmers cultivate their land more highly than we ever do, and on one of their small farms they raise more bushels of grain than we raise on a large plantation. Their wheat crop was just ripe, most of it harvested and the wonderful boss the shocks standing so thick. All grain is harvested with machines which of course saves much manual labor. In some fields although it was Sunday we saw men and machines hard at work cutting wheat just as if it was any other day of the week. What would be thought of such scenes in the South? If any one of our Chatham farmers was guilty of such desecration of the Sabbath his neighbors would think him a veritable heathen. The oat crop was not ripe, looking quite green and small. On every farm there was a hay field, and it seemed that hay was the chief crop in many sections. And yet the soil there was not better adapted to the cultivation of the grasses than our red land in Chatham. I am more impressed than ever before with the importance, if not the necessity, of our Chatham farmers engaging more extensively in the cultivation of clover and other grasses. On every farm could be seen fat cattle and horses, a natural result of raising so much grass. Many farm houses were handsomer buildings than some of our city residences, and even the barns were better than many of our dwellings. On many farms were wind mills for raising water into cisterns.

We passed through a portion of the natural gas and oil country. It was indeed a strange sight to see, at night, towns lighted with flames of burning natural gas, which was conveyed in pipes from the bowels of the earth. It is certainly a cheap way of illuminating a town. At one place were any number of the oil wells. Tall derricks or scaffolds, about 50 feet high were thick in many fields. They are used in boring the oil wells and drawing up the oil. Most of this oil is conveyed under ground in large pipes or sewers from these wells, two or three hundred miles, to one of the Standard Oil Company's refineries. Wouldn't it be a great thing for our county if we could strike the first oil gusher?

We spent half a day in Chicago and saw some of the sights of that magical city. Fifty years ago Chicago was merely unknown, an insignificant village on the western frontier, and now its population numbers more than a million. In many respects it excels any city on this continent. In building the houses are mostly made of brick, and we were told that we would have to travel a long distance from Chicago before we could see a wooden house. Some of the buildings were really magnificent. Nothing on high could surpass them in beauty and grandeur. What do you think of a building with 17 stories and fifteen stories high? And yet there are many such in Chicago. Does it seem incredible? One immense building is now half completed that will be [illegible] high. Nothing is kept busy [illegible] Millions of dollars are [illegible] and still [illegible] is kept busy day and night erecting [illegible] Without doubt Chicago is a wonderful city, and [illegible] would not be.

We [illegible] on the proposed World's Fair which is to be held in Chicago in 1892, and [illegible] grand. [illegible] dollars already [illegible] and [illegible] a start has been made. Chicago is [illegible] boast of [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and