THE CONCORD TIMES.

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TWO BALES OF COTTON PER ACRE

Mr. Broom Outlines the Methods by Which He is Working Toward This Result.

Progressive Farmer.

There are some grave problems confronting the cotton growers of the South, to-wit, the labor problem, the problem of maintaining a profitable price for cotton, and to the cotton growers in the eastern states the problem of so producing the cost of production that they may successfully compete with the cotton growers further west. And the sooner we set ourselves to the task of their solution the better. The time is coming—is even now at hand—when slip-shod, go-as-you-please methods will not avail, but when business sense and business methods must be applied to our farming operations.

This number of the Progressive Farmer is a Cotton Special, and its design is to help the cotton farmers in its territory to solve the problems named above. And Mr. Poe has asked us to write on the subject,—"Making Two Bales an Acre Without Hand-Chopping: The Result I Am Working Toward"—and that we relate our own experience. We suppose Mr. Poe used the phrase "without hand-chopping," because of the statement, or mis-statement rather, that he saw in a local paper that we had not put a hoe in our cotton crop in 1906. The truth is, we did do some hand-chopping, but far less than we ever did before, notwithstanding we had the wettest season to make a crop in our recollection. And as to making two bales an acre, we are glad Mr. Poe mentioned it, as "the result I'm working toward," for we have not yet made two bales an acre, but don't deny that we are working toward it. Others are doing it, why not we?

We long since decided that we at least would not grow it for half a bale an acre. So we went to studying the conditions of soil improvement. The agricultural papers and the Experiment Station Bulletins told us that—

(1) Deep ploughing, and

(2) Terracing to prevent washing;

(3) A rotation of crops, and the growing of such catch crops as peas and clover for hay, or to be turned under;

(4) The growing of winter cover crops to prevent leaching during the winter;

(5) The careful saving of home-made manure; and

(6) The judicious use of commercial fertilizers—

would tend to a steady improvement of the soil's condition. We at once began to put in practice these principles. This was seven years ago, when we gave up all other pursuits, and began to devote our whole attention to the farm.

We remember in this first year we were ploughing, along in May, in a field that had been in cotton the previous year,—in fact, every year since it had been brought into cultivation, and it was producing but little more than half what it did when fresh—when two neighbors came along and asked what we were going to plant there:

"Corn," we replied.

"Well, you will get a good crop," they said.

"That's what we want," we answered.

"But you will ruin your land," they rejoined.

"They say it improves it," we replied.

"Who says so?" they asked.

"Those fellows down at Raleigh,"—and we outlined our plans as stated above.

"You follow those fellows at Raleigh and you'll see where you land," was the parting shot. (We want to say, however, these men, who are intelligent farmers, see differently now.)

Well, let's see where we did land, taking that particular field: We gathered 25 bushels corn per acre that first year, had peas sowed in corn, and seeded to oats that fall. Made 40 bushels of oats per acre. Sowed peas and cut for hay,—two tons per acre; seeded to crimson clover and oats for hay, cut the first week in May, and planted to cotton 18th of May and made over a bale per acre. Seeded to rye as a winter cover, and planted to corn the next spring, and gathered 40 bushels per acre; peas again in corn, and seeded to oats, making 51 bushels per acre. Then seeded to peas and sorghum, and cut for hay. It is now in rye and clover and will be used for grazing when ground is dry for milch cow, brood mare and colts until middle of April, when it will be turned for cotton, and we are expecting a larger crop than we have ever grown on it.

We would not make the impression that all of our cultivated land is in so high a state of cultivation, but we usually average a bale per acre. We sometimes vary the rotation, and put wheat after cotton and then to peas, after wheat is off, followed by oats in the fall, peas again after the oats, then a winter cover,—the main purpose of the rotation being to keep the soil in such condition as would tend to the highest development of the cotton plant—the chief money crop.

But the rotation has been productive of other results. For instance, we sold last year's grain and forage crops and their concomitants, such as pork, pigs, butter, chickens and eggs, approximately $500 worth, and still have more than plenty to meet this year's crop. Besides, we have fed a brood mare and two mule colts; the increase in their value would add $100 to the above. We run a two-horse farm, have forty-five acres in cultivation, and we, with the help of our son, who is less than thirteen years of age, do all the work except as a neighbor is pressed in now and then. Our fertilizer bill has never exceeded $135 per year for all crops.

We are not boasting or bragging. Others are doing much better. We only relate this part of our experience that others may be encouraged to adopt the same methods—methods which improve the soil, increase the yield of cotton per acre, and put money into the pocket at the same time and insure plenty to eat at home, and give the cotton crop as a surplus.

Another good way of increasing the yield per acre, and a very important way it is, too, is that of improved seed selection. In fact, this is the first requisite to a maximum yield. And there is no plant that responds more quickly to the efforts to improve it, than the cotton plant. In this way, we believe, it is possible to increase the yield one-fourth, or even one-third, in a few years' time.

By the methods outlined above we are working towards two bales to the acre. We want to utter a word of caution about ploughing. Plow deep, but be sure the clay is dry. What you want is to make dust—not brick-bats. All other efforts toward improvement of the soil are useless if the land is plowed when too wet.

T. J. W. BROOM.
Union County, N. C.

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ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

A Summary of the New Laws—Mass of Miscellaneous Measures.

Cor. Charlotte Observer.

RALEIGH, March 14.—It has been the custom of The Observer correspondent for the past 30 years, that is, for fifteen sessions of the Legislature, to look over the list of the acts in order to get the ones which are most important to the people of North Carolina, and he is able now to furnish them.

THE IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

The following are the most important resolutions which were adopted:

Requesting Congress to vote for the Appalachian Forest Reserve and asking the Governor to go to Washington in the interest of that measure.

Endorsing the second Hague Peace conference.

Endorsing the Jamestown Exposition, appropriating $20,000 more to it and allowing the North Carolina building to be sold and the proceeds used by the commission.

Making a $5,000 gift to the cruiser North Carolina.

Urging Congress to improve the upper Cape Fear river.

Also urging it to prohibit polygamy.

To secure a change in the constitution so senators will be elected by a direct vote of the people.

Bills were passed eliminating whiskey from the following counties: Burke, Lincoln, Catawba, McDowell, Madison, Cherokee, Macon, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Rutherford, Northampton, Stanly, Scotland, Cumberland and Mecklenburg.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.

Thirty counties were allowed to improve their roads and very large bond issues were allowed to be voted on for this purpose in the counties of Franklin, Forsythe, Durham, Rowan, Wake, Cabarrus, Granville and Buncombe, ranging from $100,000 to $300,000.

FOR SCHOOLS.

In the way of schools and school matters, bills passed incorporating the Stonewall Jackson Training School or reformatory.

To establish a manual training school in the mountains.

To establishing a teachers training school in the East.

A school of Technology at Spray.

To aid the Elhannan Orphanage at Marion.

To allow elections to be held in townships or school districts upon the subject of compulsory education.

To require deaf mutes to attend the State school at Morganton and to limit the attendance to North Carolina children.

To require 16 weeks attendance each year of children between ages of 8 and 14 years.

To provide a safe and adequate water supply for all schools, public and private.

Creating a system of public high schools, the number for each county to be fixed by the State superintendent of public instruction to be not less than one or more than four.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

A great deal of attention was given railway matters, and the following are the important bills which passed:

To fix the maximum passenger rate at 2½ cents per mile.

To regulate freight rates and prevent unjust discrimination.

To prevent public drinking in passenger cars.

To require railways to keep passenger cars clean.

To allow conductors and station agents to arrest drunk, disorderly or boisterous persons.

To allow railways to construct belt lines at towns.

To require one director and one incorporator of all railways to be a citizen and resident of this State.

To allow the corporation commission to require union depots in towns of 2,000 persons.

To require street railways to provide separate accommodations for negroes and whites.

To prevent stealing of goods in transit, and also to prevent stealing of brasses and other railway property.

To greatly enlarge the powers of the corporation commission.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES.

Other important bills of a miscellaneous character are as follows:

To restore dentists to their former dignity as doctors.

To allow judges and magistrates to exclude all persons except those concerned in trials for felonious assault.

To allow benevolent associations to receive, buy, hold or sell real or personal estate.

To regulate sales of leaf tobacco on warehouse floors and require reports to the agricultural department.

To prevent usury and extortion.

To extend for two years the time for settling the State debt.

To promote public decency by punishing people for using indecent signs, writings and pictures in public.

To allow the Governor to appoint special police for water power, transportation and construction companies.

To provide for the care of the mentally deficient by providing special institutions for them.

To prevent the sale of adulterated or misbranded foods, drugs, medicines and liquors.

To increase the number of State challenges in all cases less than capital.

To allow the Governor traveling expenses.

To allow judges to send criminal boys under 16 to the reformatory or county home.

To extend the crime of vagrancy so as to include keepers or inmates of disorderly houses.

To prevent and punish trusts and combines.

To authorize the State board of health to provide for preventive treatment of tuberculosis by means of a hospital in Moore county.

To regulate the writing of prescriptions by physicians.

To protect electrical power transmission lines.

To require the penitentiary to pay its debt bonds of 1899, amounting to $110,000 and to pay $175,000 of its earnings into the treasury to go to the central fund.

To separate tuberculosis prisoners.

To require the commissioners of agriculture and the board of agriture to be practical farmers.

To require registration of trained nurses.

To protect makers and dealers in mineral waters.

To amend the law regarding removal of cloud on tiles.

To protect primary elections and conventions and punish frauds thereat.

To pay half fees to officers and witnesses where no true bill is found.

To extend time for obtaining land grants.

To regulate osteopathy and create a State board of examiners.

To protect hotel and boarding house keepers.

To prescribe the hours of service for railway employes operating trains.

To establish a State board of equalization for the assessment of real estate.

To regulate the hours of the labor of children in factories.

To amend the landlord and tenant law.

To so amend the general road law that county commissioners can let the working of roads by contracts by sections.

To enable the State to make proof of the possession of whiskey licenses, issued by the government in prosecuting offenders.

To limit the poll tax to $2 in cities and towns.

To provide for the display of the State flag on all court houses, schools and other public buildings.

To exclude minors under 18 from pool rooms, barrooms, etc.

To prohibit corporations from preventing public improvements by other corporations by preventing occupancy of land for right-of-way.

To place all telephone lines under the corporation commission.

To promote the oyster industry.

To punish fraud in giving worthless checks, drafts and orders.

To create the office of fish commissioner.

To require express companies to pay claim for loss or damage to property.

To secure immigration in North Carolina; appropriating $10,000, half from the State, half from the agricultural department.

To secure a statue of Zeb Vance to be placed in statuard hall at the Capitol at Weshington.

To fix the salaries of State officers and to require fees to be turned into the State Treasury.

To make general election day a legal holiday.

To make the pension appropriation $400,000, an increase of $125,000.

There were bills, of course, carrying increased appropriations for all the State institutions, some forty in number.

They Are Too Busy Otherwise.

Orangeburg Times and Democrat.

There are no printers in the Ohio penitentiary. While the printers were in the penitentiary they issued a publication, but suddenly it was discontinued and upon inquiry it was found that there was not a printer left in imprisonment. It is said that there are enough bankers there to start a clearing house, enough preachers to form a ministerial association, and brokers to operate a stock exchange. The moral is obvious, even if one does have to improve on Mark Twain to point it out. Mark said: "Be good and you'll be printers." But really this is well for the craft and we note it with pleasure. As a rule the printers are the most intelligent class of workingmen we have, and we are glad to know that when it comes to being good they are in a class to themselves.

Remarkable Occurrence.

Jefferson, S.C., Citizen.

Several years ago a farmer near Chesterfield, whose modesty forbids the publication of his name, hung his vest on the barn yard fence. A calf chewed up a pocket in the garment in which was contained a standard gold watch. Last week the animal, a staid old milch cow, was butchered for beef and the timepiece was found in such a position between the lungs of the cow that the process of respiration had kept the stem winder wound up, and the watch had lost but four minutes and two and a half ticks in seven years. It is one of the most remarkable occurences we ever heard of.

A Beautiful Verb.

At a Christmas party in upper fifth avenue the other night there was an interesting and highly amusing discussion of the Carnegie discredited spelling. A wise young blade discoursed eloquently on part of speech. A beautiful young woman asked:

"What part of a speech am I?"

He answered instantly: "Your are an abstract noun."

"I! An abstract noun, sir! Why am I not a verb?"

"Because no one has ever yet been able to conjugate you."

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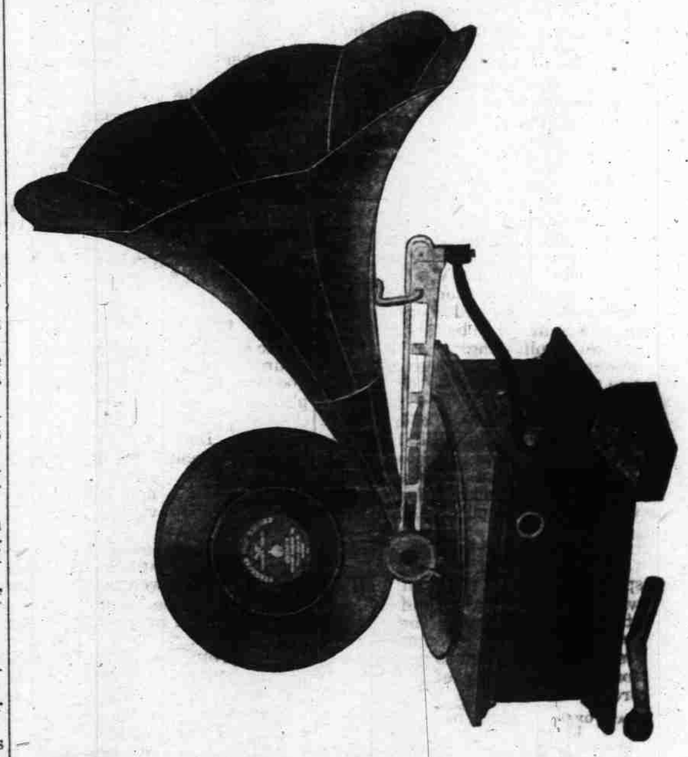

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