THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Vol. 1. WINSTON, N. C., MARCH 3, 1886. No. 4.

Agricultural.

STATE AGRICULTURE.

ASHLAND, CASWELL CO., N. C.
February 9, 1886.

Editor Caswell News:—As I am pretty much shut in by the snow, and prevented from taking my usual exercise, I have concluded to drop you a few lines on a subject that seems to be stirring our people, as it were, from centre to circumference; and just here permit me to say I am not at all sorry that something has turned up that will in all probability cause our people to look into and become better acquainted and more interested in a subject that is of vital importance and interest to our good old North State. I mean the Department of Agriculture. You are aware, no doubt, that in some things it takes opposition to produce success. When the bill passed the Legislature establishing the Department of Agriculture it was bitterly opposed by some, on the ground that it would increase our taxes, particularly the farmers', as it taxed the fertilizers, and farmers are the persons who use the fertilizers. I think, though, that idea is pretty well exploded, as we get a cheaper and much better article since the law passed establishing the Department than we did before. So nobody is hurt but the manufacturer who adulterated his goods. If I mistake not, before the tax more than a hundred different brands of fertilizers were sold in North Carolina. After the tax, the next year if I mistake not, only a little over twenty were sold, and at no advance in price, which shows very conclusively it was a protection to the farmer without additional cost. But the great cry is, there is extravagance, a useless expenditure of money by the Department. Now you know it is very easy to spend money, particularly public money, and I don't pretend to say but that some mone money has been spent by the Department that would have been better saved. For instance, the money spent on the New Orleans Exposition, I always had my doubts; that on the Boston exhibit, grand success—money well spent. I believe the exhibit at Boston has done more to break down the sectional animosity and bring about a better feeling between the two sections than all and everything else, besides a great benefit to our material interests as a State.

Now, Mr. Editor, if we wish the Old North State to prosper, we must have a little State pride. Some States, I am free to confess, I think have a little too much, but North Carolina has always, according to my humble opinion, as far back as I have knowledge, been wanting in that commodity. Had our good old State possessed a little more State pride and fostered her institutions, and given more encouragement to her young and rising sons, who have distinguished themselves in other States, they would to-day have been in the bosom of their old mother, and she never dubbed as "Old Rip." Sir, I am glad to say, "Old Rip" is waking up, The Boston Exposition, or rather the North Carolina exhibit, a child of the Department, has in a great degree been the means of disturbing her slumbers, after so many years of deep sleep, and now some say kill it, wipe it out, it costs too much money, why continue such a humbug, our taxes are high enough now. They seem to forget that the Department of Agriculture has never cost the State one cent, and never will, properly managed, but properly and efficiently managed will be of incalculable benefit to agriculture in our State. Wipe it out, as some say, and you knock out the foundation stone of every other legitimate prosperity, for who ever saw or read of a prosperous general government with a crippled agriculture?

Unfortunately for our State, like many others, the Legislature seems to forget in a measure the farmers. If that be the case, Mr. Editor, do let us try and encourage, by all fair means, the only bill our Legislature has passed for the direct benefit of the farmer since 1822. Now, don't be scared that I shall call your attention to what transpired as far back as that. In 1822 a bill passed the Legislature of North Carolina creating a fund of $5,000 for two years, out of the money received for the entries of vacant land and the money remaining in the hands of the different clerks and sheriffs in the several counties, belonging to other persons, and which shall not be applied for by proper owners within three years from time of collection. This fund was to be distributed to such counties as shall form agricultural societies, and which shall, by subscription, raise a sum of money not exceeding the amount to which the county would be entitled according to the federal number of its population. The money is to be laid out by the society in acquiring useful information and awarding premiums to persons as may excel in agricultural improvements, thus diffusing a spirit of action, industry and enterprise highly useful to the agricultural interest of the State. Now, Mr. Editor, if a single bill for the direct benefit of the farmer has been passed by the North Carolina Legislature from 1822 up to the time when the bill passed creating the Department of Agricultnre, I am not aware of it, and shall be glad for any one to inform me of the fact.

I have said more than I intended when I set out. I am a farmer, always have been, always expect to be, and therefore a strong friend of the Department of Agriculture efficiently and economically managed, for when agriculture prospers every other legitimate business is sure to be on the rising ground, as I have yet to see the farmer (I am not speaking of the miser) with his pockets full of money that was not disposed to scatter some broadcast.

AZARIAH GRAVES.

[Mr. Graves is a member of the Board of Agriculture, and no man in the State is more earnestly devoted to the interests of the farmers. We agree with him that the Department should not be abolished but that it should be reformed, and made more useful to the farmer.—ED. FARMER.]

ENSILAGE.

[*From the American Rural Home.*]

From the fourth annual report of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station we extract experience with ensilage:

In 1884 the Station silo was partly filled, in order to test the question whether cut fodder could be placed in position slowly and at intervals, and yet keep as ensilage. The following data will aid in understanding the conditions of the result:

The silo is built of brick, is of rectangular form, twelve feet long, nine feet ten inches wide, and when opened, contained three feet two inches of material.

The filling commenced August 18, 1884, with corn and sorghum cut into average lengths of three-fourth inch pieces, and the amount weighed in was as below:

Aug.	18,	3,121 lbs. corn and sorghum, mixed.
"	19,	3,259 " " " "
"	20,	6,082 " " " "

The silo was now covered and weighted, the planks being laid upon the top of the material without the intervention of straw. On September 18th, it was opened for reception of 3,044 lbs. of sorghum, and was then covered and weighted as before.

On June 10, 1885, the silo was opened. The top was dark and musty for about six inches down, but the ensilage below the mouldy portion was in an excellent state of preservation and would be called first-class ensilage by those who are acquainted with ensilage products. By analysis it contains about one and one-half per cent. of acid, calculated as acetic.

From this experiment, it becomes evident that ensilage can be preserved when the silo is filled gradually, as the convenience of the labor on the farm dictates, and that but little precaution need be taken in filling. The upper layer, which became musty, served as a protection to the bulk of the ensilage, but the proportion of this spoilt ensilage to the whole mass is, of course, greater in a silo of little depth than in one which is deeper. The preservation was such that nine months or more keeping seemed to be no detriment, and it was very evident that it might have remained closed even longer, without suffering harm.

When we consider that this ensilage, stored in small quantities on different days, and after an interval, was equal in quality to the former product of the same silo placed in rapidly, and with the most careful precaution, it will appear that much unnecessary labor in filling the silo was employed in the past. It seems very probable that no especial pains need be taken in order to get good results, except the silo be tight, or, in other words, that the air be excluded, and that the various fillings shall follow each other before putrefactive changes can take place from the previous fillings.

In 1885, the silo was again filled, every care being taked to do the work of filling as carelessly as could be xpected even on the most ordinary farm, the experiment being to determine with how little expense a silo could be filled and the forage secured. The following amounts of forage were tumbled in, in inch pieces at the dates named:

			Lbs.
Aug.	10.	Dent fodder corn	1813
"	11.	Pop " "	3505
"	12.	Flint " "	4437
"	13.	Flint and Sweet fodder corn	4359
"	19.	Pop " "	5166

Up to August 28th, the above fodder in the silo was not even covered. At no time had it been trampled except what was necessary in order to level. August 28th, the planks were laid on. September 3rd, the planks were removed and 4,759 lbs. of Amber Cane fodder dropped in. At this time the surface of the ensilage was somewhat dry, and a little decayed in some places, especially where the planks had rested rather heavily. At the depth of eight inches the ensilage was in excellent condition, but very warm and somewhat acid. September 4, 5, 261 lbs. of Amber Cane fodder was added, leveled, and the planks laid on.

November 18, the planks were removed from a portion of the silo. The upper layer of the silage was very rotten, but no putrefactive smell, the smell being rather that from a rotten and damp stump. At four inches down the silage was in perfect condition, and but very slightly acid. At six inches down, perceptibly warm, as also at a foot depth. December 9, no change observed.

It is certainly interesting to note that silage cut and stored at intervals, and without the use of weights, should keep so well, and if this experiment is not exceptional in its results, and we know no reason why it should be, it seems to indicate that much of the expense usually attending the filling of a silo, may be escaped.

ALFALFA

For the Progressive Farmer.

In the last issue of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER some mention was made of Alfalfa or Lucerne as a forage plant. This plant is widely known, and highly appreciated on the Pacific coast, having been introduced there by the Chilians about thirty years ago. It has now spread over all the Pacific coast, States and Territories. I have seen it growing luxuriantly at the foot of the Sierras in Nevada, 6000 feet above sea level, where the winters are very severe. I have also seen it growing with equal vigor on the hot arid deserts of Arizona, where the thermometer frequently rises to 120° in the shade. California appears to be the home of this plant. Kern, Fresno, and Tulare counties raise enormous quantities, which are baled and shipped to San Francisco.

Alfalfa is nothing more than a Spanish or Chilian name for clover, and possesses all the nutritive qualities of this valuable forage plant, with this advantage, it is a perennial and requires to be planted but once. The roots penetrate to a greater depth than other plants, it is not injured by drought and does not appear to impoverish the soil. It can be cut from 4 to 6 times in a season, and produces annually from 4 to 6 tons of good hay per acre.

From what I have seen of the soil of Forsyth county it appears to be well adapted to the culture of this plant.

Henry Miller, of Califonnia, than whom there is no better authority, gives it the preference over all other grasses. Col. Ryon, Winnsboro, S. C. has cultivated Alfalfa for a number of years, and speaks of it in the highest terms. He claims the enormous yield of 40,000 pounds for one acre. Should some Progressive Farmer conclude to give it a trial we will be glad to give any information we may possess.

AGRICOLA.

THE SCHOOL BLACKBOARD.

Rev. R. S. Hall, LL. D., who recently died at Brownington, Va., at the age of 82, where he was pastor of the Congregational church for some thirty years, originated the notion of using a blackboard in schools. He first used it in Rumford, Me., in 1816, to illustrate arithmetic. The first one was made of black paper, which he marked upon with white chalk. The notion was at first ridiculed, but Mr. Hall persisted in its use, and finally met with favor. He next used it in Concord, N. H., where he taught for some years. Here it was a great novelty in the public schools, and many visited the schools to see its use; but this way of explaining arithmetic was so successful that it was adopted very soon after 1822 all through New England, and now no teacher seems to be able to get on without it.

FLOUR BARRELS.

Flour barrels are a source of great expense to the people of this country. Say there are 50,000,000 of barrels of flour consumed in this country each year, and say that there are 12,000,000 of people who buy it by the barrel, there might be saved to the people of this country $2,400,000, saying that twenty cents per barrel is saved by purchasing flour in sacks. Really it may be little more than this, especially so in muslin sacks, the muslin being valuable for further use. There is more flour than this sold in barrels, but in the larger cities the bakers sell the barrels for twenty and twenty-five cents apiece, which represents a loss of from ten to twenty cents a barrel.—*The Millstone.*

Vegetable manures are always good for any kind of land. Everything that will rot will add strength to the soil. Things that will decompose generally contain some plant food or they will help to eliminate it from the soil. These facts teach us to save all wastes and compost them to use as fertilizers. The soil has a hungry mouth, and a large stomach.—*Farm Journal.*

Keep eyes and ears open to discover what particular kind of truck and small fruit are in demand in the villages about you and plan to supply the demand.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Surely the toiling husbandman *needs*, if he does not *deserve*, as many good meals, as much good clothing and as fine a house as one that studies to acquire, not produce, the good things of this world. Nevertheless the fact is notorious that the great body of our rural population somehow contrive to work *harder* and fare a little *poorer* than any class in this community. The number that live from hand to mouth, only one step from the poor house, is increasing with fearful rapidity. If the Legislature will do as much to teach the producing class how to keep and enjoy the entire proceeds of their honest toil as it does to teach non-producers how to exchange their shadows for the farmers' substance, how much better would be the condition of *all* classes.

The subject is a *very* important one, so much so, that we feel as though our country is rapidly going to destruction. Our fields are growing up in weeds and worthless forests, our laborers are becoming paupers, and our taxes are increased to support them. A change from the present course of education must be taken. This applies to nearly all Southern States, and is therefore not out of place in the *Review*. Several efforts have been made to establish agricultural colleges in the different States; some have partially succeeded, others made a complete failure so far.

There *should be* an Agricultural College in every county in each State. We have a very large number of well endowed Medical Colleges now drawing sums from the Government. Indeed we have paid large bounties on all branches of unproductive industry, and the result is that to day no young man of honorable ambition will consent to toil and sweat and burn in the sun for $10 per month, when as a clerk in a store, a bank, a broker's office, or as a student in a doctor's or lawyer's office he can expect to soon command five dollars to one of the industrious farmer, and with one-fourth the bodily labor.

It looks as if all industrious young men would all become professional gentlemen, to prosper and thrive upon the real earnings of the producers of the substance of life. All agree that learning and science are the highways to honorable distinction and public favor, and why deny these advantages to those who do more than all others to feed and clothe the whole community.

Planters think of the education of your sons. Nothing would strengthen Southern interests so much as the more general and thorough education of those who own the soil, and gladly shall we assist in any way in our power to build up and strengthen the industrial and agricultural institutions of the South. They need more funds, more pupils and more able and earnest teachers.—*Review.*

Hogs cough for various reasons. Irritation in the lungs; stomach out of order; cold in the throat or lungs. Fever makes internal irritation, and this causes a cough as when they have the "cholera." A cough may last a year and no "cholera" follow, but in such a case consumption is pretty sure to be the trouble. There is no cure for a consumptive hog, and not much use in doctoring a sick one unless it is as stomach disorder; then doctor it as you would a sick person. The same for worms.—*Farm Journal.*

—WINNABOW, N. C.—*P. S:* I had a field of 15 acres, ordinary land, in July, '84. I planted in field peas, with acid phosphates, 200 lbs. per acre. In 1885 I planted some land in corn, with 10 bushels cotton seed and 200 lbs. phosphates, average 25 bushels per acre. Without the pea crop and phosphates the land would not have made over 8 or 10 bushels per acre. E. W. TAYLOR.