



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

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## Agricultural.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

#### FARMERS' CLUB AT TRINITY.

Discussion on May 28, 1886—subject: "How shall the farmers' best interests be promoted?"

Dr. Parker.—To place the farmer in the most favorable condition for successful work he must be educated, and this means to lead out and bring out; and in order to lead out, the subject must be in or under something. That in is darkness, and the under is the thralldom of ignorance. We say, of a truth, that of all callings or professions, the farmers' is the only one that is entered into without some previous preparation or special education.

Our farmers depend too much on pure force, and in many instances it is blind force. No other occupation of man can survive under such treatment. Law, medicine, mechanics, manufacturing—and in fact every other calling of man, requires some special study and preparation before it can be prosecuted successfully. Farming, alone, is left to chance and luck. How is it that the millions of farmers and their families get a subsistence out of their calling when there is so little culture and thought brought into use? Simply because agriculture will bear more abuses, suffer longer, submit to the meanest treatment and even then smile in the face of its tormentors.

Prof. Ville, the celebrated French agricultural teacher, says that out of one hundred requisites to good farming, nature furnishes ninety-three, and the farmer has only to look after the other seven. Give me 93 miles the start and I will undertake to beat even Weston in a hundred-mile walk.

These seven factors are absolute, and take no denial. Nature is a great laboratory in which every material substance is arranged and classified—everything is governed by law and order. There is not a single drawer, box, pigeon-hole or corner in this vast establishment, where you may find stored away a single specimen of "luck," "chance," or "may-be-sos." The farmer must investigate, he must learn, he must know.

The best school is on the wisely directed and well managed farm, and the best teacher is a well educated farmer, and the best pupils are his own boys. Here the scientific and the practical are combined and worked out by the boys' own hands—here they live and grow up in an atmosphere of "science applied." Agricultural colleges, in this country, up to the present time, have been almost an entire failure, so far as practical results that reach the common farmer are concerned. They teach a great many ologies, high mathematics, lecture on bugs and beetles, exhibit a little of their wonderful knowledge of botany, show the boys how to stuff a canary bird, and not a single one of these learned gents know how to curry a cow or raise a martin pole. A great deal of their work is as ridiculous as the Pickwickian investigations of Bill Stump's work. A very learned German professor spent 17 years trying to prove that he had made a wonderful discovery, which would change the whole Hebrew philology. In his research among very ancient manuscripts he found a Hebrew character unknown to modern philologists. It somewhat resembled the letter yod, but after all his deep investigations and hard work, it finally proved to be a fly-speck.

An educated fool is the most hopeless of all fools. The farmer of today must have a practical education—he must read and think—he must have books and papers and study them closely and master their contents. Every one of you ought to

take one or more good agricultural papers and read them, and if you are too old and hard-headed to be benefited thereby, they will be of incalculable value to your children. Give them this chance; they are worthy of it.

If our farmers were better educated we would have legislation more favorable to the farming interest. The farmers then could have a voice in our law-making, but as it is they are mum, and have not a word to say. There is class legislation and discriminations, but not much in favor of the common farmer. To bring farming to the front as it should be farmers must organize and work for it. The plan outlined by THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER meets my hearty approval, and it should be put in operation right away. Let farmers confer much with one another, compare their work and their needs. Let them ascertain what crops their lands, their markets and their own capacities are best adapted to. Let them intensify, rotate, and diversify and improve their farms and farm buildings, and invest their surplus earnings in making their homes better, brighter and happier.

W. W. Andrews.—Give him light. Nothing is so much in the way of profitable and pleasant farming as want of light. Every mistake in agriculture can justly be traced to lack of knowledge. A Bible truth illustrates it thus: "The way of the transgressor is hard." The swan floats beautifully on still water; when she attempts to cross the swift current she is carried down stream. When the physical or moral law is violated the transgressor is the sufferer. If we could by the aid of light plant at the right time, and work at the right time, the way would be easy and pleasant. He that does this has a considerable job on his hands, and must read and think. Labor-saving machines are all right. If we go with nature in all her laws we will save one-half the muscle force. In the great economy of nature it is all to be consumed. Nothing can be annihilated. After an amount is digested and the food properties assimilated, enough is left, if saved, to produce the same amount again. The earth would never get poorer if God's laws were understood and correctly administered. It is contrary to divine nature to let things go to waste. He did not intend this world for the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries, but for all time. If proper economy was practiced there would be no necessity for patent medicine for a feeble soil, in the shape of commercial fertilizers. When agricultural light is turned on then we will see clearly and avoid mistakes. The ocean furnishes her part of plant food lavishly to make up for the apparent unavoidable losses. I will risk saying that with proper economy in all these sources the soil will get better instead of worse. Man was put here to till and keep it, not waste it. Get the farmer to see the importance of his calling and he will glory in it. In the line of duty there is solid happiness. Give him light to see his heaven-born calling and you have made one long stride in the right direction. I am willing to dabble with commercial fertilizers as a luxury, but for substantial and permanent good the place of the manure bank can't be supplied by any patent compound.

A. Parker.—I admit the farmer needs light. I am glad of the light that Mr. Andrews gave us, especially that of the ocean. I believe in commercial fertilizers out and out. The only plan I conceive to recuperate our worn soils is by the use of them, together with all the manure we can make. I know you may buy recklessly, by not using the necessary judgment in purchasing of known manufacturers a pure article. They appear to be a necessity in growing fine tobacco. They impart the proper texture and color and increase its value many times.

Mr. Andrews.—Did you ever know a section or set of men wholly given to the use of commercial fertilizers that prospered? A. Parker.—The cotton section has likely been damaged by their use. This I attribute to two causes: the lien system and cotton specialty. By the first you are at the mercy of the lien holder, for the prices you pay for necessities, and the prices you obtain for your products. By the latter you are forced to be a purchaser the year round, which is a financial strain on your returns of sales. In the language of David Dickson, the great Southern agricultural light: "Buy the ingredients of old and tried and honest dealers and manipulate them yourself." In this way the farmers' interest will be promoted.

T. B. F. Hayworth.—I am in favor of commercial fertilizers. Like Mr. Parker, I buy such ingredients as I want and mix them with the richest dirt I can find about the lot, stable, or under old dwellings. I commenced the plan several years ago and find I now have a surplus where I formerly had none. I experimented on a certain field. Before I commenced the above plan it produced about 60 bushels of wheat. I now get 200 bushels and it gets better each year.

D. M. Payne.—I have two suggestions to add. Join a farmers' club and attend it as punctually as you do any other calling. Study the subject and impart the light you have on it to others, and they to you, that all may be benefited. The prime object of society is to communicate and interchange ideas and experiences for each other's advancement. This narrow, conceited selfishness that causes men to stay away from such gatherings is too mean. It would smother the last lingering ray of departing truth. Attend, listen, learn and be benefitted if you do not feel capable of imparting to others. Secondly, if you are a farmer, read agricultural literature. Read it next to your Bible, and you get the needed light by it and your associations in farmers' clubs. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is published in our midst, and suits our section. It gives out a benign light that will do you good. It needs only to be read to be admired.

Ordered by the Club to be condensed and reported to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

D. M. PAYNE, Secretary.

FARMERS' CLUB AT CEDAR GROVE.

June 5, 1886.

In addition to the regular routine business, the following was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend the calling of a county convention by the farmers' clubs of Forsyth county, to meet at the Court House in Winston on Saturday, the thirty-first day of July, 1886; and that we request THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to assist us in bringing this convention about.

Subject of discussion was, the necessity of raising as much as possible of the necessities of life.

President Bevel.—Men who make their home supplies are the most independent. Raise your own meat and bread, and scarcity of money will not affect you so much. Merchants and manufacturers may be reduced to straightened circumstances, but the farmer, who raises his own supplies, never can be. Farming pays. I raised 35 bushels of wheat last year that cost \$25 to raise it and left the ground in better condition than before.

S. Alspaugh.—Raise home supplies. Keep clear of debt and live happy. Don't reach too far. Don't aspire to wealth. The middle class is the best contented. Don't depend on one crop. The man who raises tobacco alone makes others rich and himself poor. Have your corn in your own crib, your meat in your own smoke house, make your own manure and let tobacco and commercial fertilizers be things of the

past and it will be better for us, and better for coming generations.

Leonard Ketner.—Raise your own supplies by all means. The best and easiest way is to tend less land and tend it better. I make wheat enough from two bushels of seeding to supply my family.

Mr. J. M. Jarvis.—How many in family have you?

Leonard Ketner.—Four. I generally make about 50 bushels of wheat. I never bought a bushel of corn nor a pound of meat in my life. I never raise any tobacco. Let tobacco alone. Make manure. I am feeding three pigs. I will make manure enough from them to raise as much grain next year as they eat this. Feed fewer hogs; feed them better, and you will have more and cheaper meat.

J. I. Craft.—I used to raise my own supplies. I once made six bushels of wheat from 17 pints of seeding. I quit raising wheat and commenced raising tobacco, and it has nearly ruined me. Let tobacco and commercial fertilizers alone. Make your own manure and more of it.

Leonard Ketner.—To make manure, keep stock enough to eat half your forage. Use the other half for littering stalls. Grass spread over the ground is much better than if put on after being cured, though not plowed under until it dries. Hog manure is very strong. It should be spread very thinly on ground to be seeded in wheat. It will cause wheat to fall down if put on thick.

G. H. Conrad.—I have been working hard trying to make money raising tobacco. I have been raising tobacco and working from home for bread. It don't pay. Am going to quit tobacco. I think I can live easier.

J. M. Jarvis.—I have been farming four years; have always raised my own meat. The first year I killed three hogs, which weighed 554 pounds, at a cost of nine cents per pound. Last year I killed one 16 months old, same as the former, which weighed 457 pounds, which cost seven cents per pound. Keep best stock and feed well for the best results. I feed three parts corn with one of oats, ground together, with a little wheat bran added. Never feed hogs whole grain. It is a waste. Never feed crushed stuff to hogs. Tobacco is proving to be a curse to North Carolina. Nine out of every ten men who have been raising it any length of time are poorer to-day than when they began. The evils that have grown out of the culture of tobacco are too numerous to mention. Tobacco and commercial fertilizers must go. The hand writing is on the wall too plainly to be mistaken.

The Club then passed the following, without a dissenting vote:

Resolved, That we believe it is necessary for the promotion of our welfare, to raise our home supplies and less tobacco, and we pledge our efforts to the full accomplishment of this end.

J. M. JARVIS, Secretary.

SPANISH GROVE CLUB.

The Spanish Grove Club held its last regular meeting on Saturday, May 29th, when four more members were added to the roll. The proceedings of the meeting were confined to routine business. The subject of discussion at the next meeting which takes place on the 26th inst., when the subject of discussion will be, "Is the extensive use of commercial fertilizers, as now practiced, advisable, and whether it is advisable to cultivate crops under the mortgage system?"

SANDY RIDGE FARMERS' CLUB.

This Club held its second meeting at Marvin Saturday evening June 5th. We had a splendid turn out considering the good tobacco season which prevailed Friday and Saturday. The house was called to order by the President. Several new members were added to our list. Short

speeches were made by Messrs. M. H. Ogburn, S. L. Kiger and others upon the Culture of Tobacco. The greatest interest prevailed and farmers are looking forward for better times. The following, among other resolutions, was passed:

Resolved, That the Sandy Ridge Club favors the calling of a county convention at an early date for the purpose of organizing a Farmers' County Club, and asks the co-operation of other Clubs in the county.

In union there is strength, and we hope to soon see the day when there will be a Farmers' Club organized in every township in the county and in every county in the State.

J. L. ARMFIELD, Secretary.

## State Items.

—One thousand bushels of corn was shipped from our depot last week.—*Lenoir Topic*.

—Dr. J. M. Kilpatrick expects to commence shipping peaches in course of another week. The crop prospects are fine.—*Goldsboro Messenger*.

—Our market is now being supplied with as nice cabbage as we have ever seen, the solid heads being six to eight inches or over.—*Fayetteville News*.

—A barn belonging to Mr. John L. Wilson, in Troy township, was burned down one day last week. It is supposed to have been struck by lightning.—*Davidson Dispatch*.

—Upton, the man who was struck on the head by a man named Hurley on Saturday, April 17, died last Saturday close to the place where he was injured.—*Shelby New Era*.

—A negro man, 2 miles from Jonesboro, while hoeing corn a few days since found a slug of gold worth \$38.00. Moore county has rich mining land as well as fine tobacco land.—*Greensboro Patriot*.

—We have heard many farmers of late complaining that the recent rains had done much damage to plant-beds, covering them with mud which rotted the plant. Many plants that have been stuck are very small and sorry.—*Person Courier*.

—The negro girl, Jeanette Walker, who was accidentally shot while taking part in a stage play, a few weeks since, has just spit out the ball. It will be remembered that she was shot in the forehead and the ball was never found.—*Salisbury Watchman*.

—An old man named Lawrence, 72 years of age, died suddenly last Saturday night near White Cross, in about 20 minutes after eating supper. We learn that his widow and a man named John Crawford have been arrested upon suspicion of having poisoned the old man.—*Hillsboro Observer*.

—Mike Bodenhamer has had over 140 young chickens hatched out this spring, and more than 100 of them have died. It seems that the Leghorn chickens are hard to raise, and they bear the name of being desperately mean. They do treble the damage to growing vegetables that the old sort of chickens do, but they are extraordinary layers.—*Salem Press*.

—We hear that the fly is damaging tobacco that has been planted in some parts of this county.—Mr. East, of this county, informs us that he is offered five dollars per day for the use of the timber on 100 acres of land for 100 days.—We learn that Mr. Shep Adams shot Lewis Vaughn, colored, while trying to get into Dr. W. A. Lashe's corn crib last Friday night. Vaughn is now stopping at the Stokes Hotel.—We learn that the bugs have destroyed a number of fields of tobacco in this section after the plants had been set out, and that the farmers have ploughed the land and planted it in corn.—*Danbury Reporter*.