



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 1.

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No. 32.

State Items.

—A friend tells us that while in the country the other day he saw a lady 87 years of age gathering chinquapins. She seemed to be having a good time.—*Hillsboro Observer*.

—Thomasville farmers are making some good tobacco in spite of the unfavorable weather. A few days ago, in Mr. D. T. Lambeth's store, the editor saw some very fine specimens of the gold leaf.—*Davidson Dispatch*.

—The farmers are busy cutting and curing tobacco. We learn that there has been a great come out in the weed on the hills, and we may expect a very good crop for the incoming year.—*Reidsville Times*.

—The news from Eagle Mills—the largest-tobacco growing township in the county—is that the crop is developing finely and that cutting and curing will soon begin.—*Statesville Landmark*.

—Mr. Elliott Whitehurst brought us on Wednesday a sample stalk of tobacco of his experiment. It was large-leaved and of delicate fibre and looked good enough to eat.—*Elizabeth City Economist*.

—Mr. J. W. Smith, of Chicod, tells us of an ear of corn gathered on his place the other day, the cob of which measured 5½ inches in length, 5½ inches in circumference and contained 941 grains. It is a peculiarity all around.—*Greenville Reflector*.

—Hog cholera is prevailing Currituck, Hyde county. Tolomon North has lost 40 hogs.—A cannon ball of 27 pounds, shot from the river by the yankees, was found on the farm of M. Alligood recently by a negro grubbing.—*Washington Gazette*.

—In the burning of Sheriff Leonard's stables, Davidson county, on the 1st instant, Jerry, the beautiful black stallion owned recently by Pfohl & Stockton of this city, perished in the flames.—*Winston Republican*.

—Mrs. Sallie Forster, of this county committed suicide by shooting herself through the head with a revolver. She had been suffering with fever which had affected her brain. She leaves a husband and five children.—*Danbury Reporter*.

—A man at Gold Hill was 700 feet down in the mine, he says that he did not feel the earthquake. A squad 400 feet down said there was a terrible racket where they were, and they called to be drawn up.—*Concord Times*.

—The work on the C. F. & Y. V. R. R. bridges and Stokesburg is being pushed with all rapidity.—There are twenty odd carpenters and workmen busy at work on six new buildings north of the bridge.—*Town Fork News*.

—A report reaches us that a Miss Wall, of the Lilesville neighborhood was so terrified on the night of the recent earthquake that she was stricken speechless and has not yet recovered the power of articulation.—*Wadesboro Intelligencer*.

—Mr. P. A. Coulter, who lives about 4 miles south of Hickory, has recently cut the second crop of clover from a four acre patch, which yielded 12½ bushels of clean clover seed. The first cutting was cured for hay, and is worth more than the crop of seed. The latter at the current price are worth \$75. Estimating the crop at \$160, the yield was \$40 per acre.—*Hickory Press*.

—There was a colored man in town this week from Laurel Hill township, asking aid from the county, who is said to be 110 years old. And "aunt Ritter Covington," colored, is said to have been born four years before the Declaration of Independence, which, if true, makes her now 114 years old.—*Rockingham, Spirit of the South*.

—The Shuttle-Block factory at our place is now in operation. The buzzing of the saws and the shrill whistle of the engine and the echoing response from the engine at Moore's mills, are waking up these old hills to new life and enterprise.—*Chatham News*.

—At a meeting of the Fayetteville Tobacco Warehouse company, held on Monday afternoon last, Capt. A. B. Williams was elected President and Mr. E. T. McKethan, Secretary and Treasurer. The company is fast getting ready for active business, and will soon be prepared to handle all the tobacco the farmers can bring to Fayetteville.—*Fayetteville Observer*.

—There is a place on the farm of D. J. Broadhurst, Esq., in this county large enough to let a buggy down into it, that was sunk by the recent earthquake some 4 or 5 feet deep. The place had been planted in corn, and was on a level with the rest of the field. There is a slight fissure in shape of a circle around the pit so suddenly left by the shock, otherwise the ground is not disturbed anywhere in the neighborhood.—*Goldsboro messenger*.

—Several flocks of wild geese passing south have been reported.

—Mr. F. M. Danner, of Yadkin county, has a son 13 years old that weighs 227 pounds.—The earthquake Tuesday night cracked the walls of the jail in two places, and the large brick house of Mr. R. M. Austin was cracked in three places.

—Some of our oldest citizens say that they remember the earthquake shock of 1811, and that the shock was as severe as that of Tuesday night, August 31. They also say that shocks were felt from December until April.—*Davie Times*.

—The big Harriss-Corliss engine at the factory consumes \$5,000 worth of wood every year.—The spoke and handle factory is in operation now. A good many of our farmers are utilizing their spare days hauling in and selling their timber. One farmer told us that he sold a single persimmon tree for \$9.25.—In Montgomery county near Wadeville, we learn from a reliable source, a woman, Mrs. Harris, was so badly frightened by the earthquake that she has become completely paralyzed, having not spoken or moved since.—*Concord Times*.

—Tobacco ripens better than was expected a while back and in most cases the cures are very successful. Farmers tell us they have not known tobacco cured so easily as this year's crop, as far as they have gone. There is no trouble about putting the color on it.—Mrs. Patsey Floyd, an old lady about eighty years of age, left Mr. Thomas Fuller's on the 21 of August to go to Mr. George Davis, not far distant. She was not missed until the 26th when her dead body was found lying in an old field about three hundred yards from the house. She had been partially demented for some time and it is supposed that she got lost and died from exposure and starvation. This happened in this county.—*Henderson Goldleaf*.

RAILROADS IN THE SOUTH.

At the close of the fiscal year of 1885, according to Poor's latest statistics, just issued, Virginia has 3,536 miles of railroad track, of which 2,331 miles is of steel rails and 1,205 miles is iron rails. North Carolina a total of 1,756 miles—639 steel rails, 1,116 iron. South Carolina a total of 1,843 miles—926 steel and 916 iron. Georgia 3,432 miles—2,130 miles steel and 1,301 iron. Florida 1,498 miles—1,293 steel and 199 iron. Alabama 2,255 miles—789 steel and 1,374 iron. Mississippi 573 miles—270 steel and 301 iron. Tennessee 3,202 miles—1,870 steel and 1,332 iron. Louisiana 1,859 miles—1,422 steel and 436 iron.—*The Manufacturer and Tradesman*.

THE STATE AS A PUBLISHER.

We clip the following from the *Franklinton Weekly*, referring to the strictures of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and the *N. C. Farmer* on the *State Bulletin*:

"As we understand it, the function of government is to enforce justice and order, and within certain bounds, State development—not competitive traffic against the citizen. What is the opinion of the press?"

We heartily concur with the FARMER. The State has no right to come into competition with any branch of business. The *Bulletin* is published at a nominal subscription price and thus evades U. S. postal laws while the cost of publication is sustained chiefly by taxation. Of course the analysis of the department, together with its other work ought to be printed and circulated. But the *Bulletin* has stepped beyond its proper sphere.

The State ought always to use its power to protect and foster the private industries within its borders, not attempt to crush them under the iron heel of competition. Along this line lies the greatest objection to building railroads, public public buildings, &c., by convict labor, it interferes with the rights of free labor.

We will have more to say in the future as to what the State ought to do to avoid coming in conflict with the rights of its citizens.

AN INCORRECT THEORY.

The generally accepted theory that a cow should "look well" to be worth much has often received merited criticism from the best judges of what necessarily constitutes a good cow. Another severe blow has been administered to this incorrect theory, as generally applied, from the pen of Professor Long, who says "there are in every herd cows that are mere manure-makers or pick-pockets. They have the same feed that the rest get and yet they will not give one half the milk. The cows are in the herd, yet the trouble is to pick them out. They are generally frauds in the fact that they are the best looking cows of all. They give a good mess of milk for a short time and then they drop almost out" of the ranks of milk producers. Very often the case is met with of a person who places what seems to be a fictitious value on an animal, and investigation proves it to be worth the sum asked whilst appearance would place its value at half the sum.—*Dakota Farmer*.

BEST BREED OF CATTLE.

The question, which is the best breed? is a question always likely to suggest itself to a man who proposes to turn over a new leaf and hereafter breed only pure-blood stock and the answers to his question will usually vary just in proportion to the number of breeders of the various breeds he may address. The truth is, it would be nearer the truth, as well as much easier to answer that they were all best, as to tell him this or that breed is the best. The rational way for a man to put this question would be, "Which is the best breed for me?" Putting the question in this way means that he himself must partly answer the question. But this is just what he must do in reference, for instance, to every principle in agriculture which depends for its value on the wisdom with which it is applied by each farmer according to his surroundings, involving means, soil, climate, market means of transit, etc. So in the matter of breed, each must look to what will suit him and his customers, and bring him the best and surest return for the keep he has at command. Too much stress must not be laid on the past history of any breed. While the records of the past may be interesting, and to a certain extent instructive, they are nevertheless of

little weight under the changed conditions of to-day, unless, indeed the actual representatives of the breed under consideration can trace close descent from distinguished animals of former generations, thus affording probable evidence of an inheritance of their merits. A knowledge of what has been done by fair representatives of the various breeds, together with evidence of the condition as to keep, furnished by accurate records as to kind and quantity of food consumed, is what is wanted by the man who seeks to decide which is the best breed for him. As to what his circumstances demand, as we have already shown, he must be the judge of that himself. If he is unable to properly appreciate his own conditions and surroundings, and intelligently estimate his needs, he lacks the first essential qualification of a good farmer.—*National Live Stock Journal*.

EGGS IN EGG COUNTRIES.

The statistics of the imports of eggs to England tell a significant story. During the summer months from fifty to eighty tons are landed every twenty-four hours on the quays of Harwich. These come almost exclusively from North Italy, by way of St. Gothard Tunnel. The daily cargoes occasionally amount to as much as 130 tons, representing about 2,000,000 eggs, of which London is almost the sole destination. Besides these, from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 of eggs are sent into England every month from Denmark, Germany, Belgium and France. The last country does a thriving export trade after supplying the egg loving Parisians with the 40,000,000 dozen which is their annual consumption. It may be instructive to note some of the points on the English coast at which this foreign produce is discharged. Weymouth receives from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 eggs per month; Newhaven and Southampton over 8,000,000 each; London, 5,000,000; Hartlepool, 8,000,000; Grimsby and Newcastle, 5,000,000 each; Leith, 2,000,000.

In the United States the annual production of eggs was valued in 1878 at no less than \$180,000,000, and of poultry sold at \$70,000,000, giving us a total of \$350,000,000 a year. But it is shown that if each person in the United States did but eat an egg per day—which from the numbers used in cooking might be taken as a fair average—this would amount to an aggregate of over \$350,000,000 per annum for eggs alone. The value of poultry consumed has gone up now to \$121,500,000. The value of stock carried over each year is placed at \$27,000,000, and the sale of fancy fowls and eggs at \$5,000,000. This gives a total of something like \$545,000,000 as the annual value of the poultry production of America in a year. This sum is no less than \$30,000,000 more than the value of an entire year's corn crop, and of \$185,000,000 more than the year's value of a wheat crop.

BALD MOUNTAIN.

We are informed that while old Bald behaved herself very nicely during the recent disturbance, since then very large fissures have appeared in the side opposite from those made by the convulsions some years ago. If this fissure performance continues, the Bald, or the greater part thereof will certainly fall or sink in. That it is hollow or partly so, has been proven by parties penetrating a long distance into the mountain, and never reaching the end of the vacuum. We may look out, some of these days, for a sudden if not very important change in the topography of that immediate locality.—*Asheville Citizen*.

—A little 13 months old boy of Geo. T. Baily, of Lancaster county, S. C., was bitten nine times by a rattlesnake and died in five hours.

SOUTHERN PROGRESS.

We gather the following figures from the *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, which keeps a close eye on the progress of the South:

"In 1879 the wealth of the twelve Southern States was placed at \$2,184,208,505, while in 1886 it is given as \$3,117,312,602, an increase of \$933,104,097, or over 42 per cent. The most gratifying fact in this showing is that the growth has been symmetrical and not in one line alone. It is as apparent in the better cultivation of the soil, the greater diversification of crops and the superior organization of labor as in the increase of manufactures. The result is shown in the return of crops and manufactured products. For the two seasons of 1879-80, the twelve States of the South produced crops valued at \$612,278,318, while in the two seasons of 1884-85 the value of the crops in the same States reached \$745,050,600, a gain of \$132,772,378. One of the most satisfactory evidences of progress is the increased value in live stock, the total having risen in six years from \$326,378,414 to \$573,704,762; and another evidence is the decrease in the practice of raising crops on the credit system, which entailed so much loss on the planter and the laborer. The forest products of the South have advanced from \$48,319,962 in 1870 to \$70,902,000 in 1886. Its iron furnaces, which turned out 270,722 tons six years ago, now produce 898,000 tons. The production of the 161 cotton mills in the twelve Southern States was valued at \$16,387,598 in 1879, while the 310 mills now in existence produced \$30,726,250 worth of goods the past year. The amount of cotton seed oil and the output of minerals have each increased threefold and the other productions have advanced in proportion."

THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

There are 4,000,000 dead letters received annually at the dead letter office.

Three hundred thousand without stamps.

Fifty thousand partly addressed.

Six thousand no address.

One and a half millions of money orders and drafts of money value.

Forty-five thousand packages containing property.

Forty thousand dollars in money, nine tenths of which is returned, the balance remaining in the treasury, subject to application for four years.

Fifteen thousand photographs.

One quarter of a million European letters are returned unopened.

One-tenth of all letters received contain property.

Ten thousand applicants for letters reported lost; the greater proportion found and delivered.

SELF-SUCKING COWS.

Considerable trouble is experienced by stock owners from cows sucking themselves. A resident of Butler county, Ohio, claims to have hit upon a means which will effectually put a stop to the practice. He splits the cow's tongue for about an inch. This seems a cruel procedure, but he asserts that his cows thus treated neither lost feed nor shrank in milk during the few days the tongue was healing, and that henceforth he will split the tongue of every animal that acquires the troublesome habit.

THE CHINESE PEAR.

Mr. Mish has brought us one of the handsomest bunches of pears seen anywhere. It is called the Chinese pear. It was brought from New York by his father before the war, and is almost unknown to nurserymen. It often blooms in January and ripens in September. It is especially good for preserving and jelly making. This bunch was 12 inches in length and had on it 36 very large pears. He has an excellent crop.—*Washington Gazette*.