



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 1.

WINSTON, N. C., OCTOBER 6, 1886.

N. 35.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

CEDAR GROVE FARMERS' CLUB.

The club met on the 24th ult. The question for discussion was "Shall the Farmers have a Thorough Organization—Township, County and State?" In a short talk A. W. Bevel said: "It is a benefit to the farmers to organize. There is nothing carried on successfully without organization. Farmers complain about certain laws that don't suit them—one will get on a horse and start around to see his neighbors to get them to sign a petition to send to their representatives. He calls out his neighbor and asks him to sign the petition. The neighbor will say 'well that is all right. I am with you, but I don't know hardly what to do about it. You just go ahead and I'll see you again!' And so he goes on till probably he gets 25 or 30 signers and he sends the petition to Raleigh, and if our representative thinks it would be a benefit to some lawyer or banker he will notice it, but if it is to benefit the farmer he will pigeon-hole it and that will be the end of it.

"But if the farmers were organized and said they wanted certain things done, and insist upon their representatives doing them, the probabilities are they would pay some attention with the salutary fear of being left at home next time in the event they failed, for failing to listen to the voice and respect the wishes of the farmers by whose votes they were elected. By organization you can do what in your individual capacity you never can do."

A. W. BEVEL, Secretary.

OAK RIDGE FARMERS' CLUB.

This club was organized on Saturday, the 2nd inst., with fifteen members. The constitution and by-laws issued by THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER were unanimously adopted. The following are the officers-elect for the year: President, R. A. Blaylock; Vice-President, J. A. Lowery; Secretary, Charles Case. Owing to the "cold wave" a great many of our farmers were kept away to attend to their tobacco, but we hope at our next meeting to have a large attendance and to add quite a number to our list. We will keep THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER informed as to our progress.

R. A. BLAYLOCK, President.
CHAS. CASE, Secretary.
Oak Ridge Institute, Oct. 2, 1886.

IN STOKES COUNTY.

NEATMAN, STOKES CO., N. C.,
September 28, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—I write you to let you hear from this part of old Stokes. The farmers are busy cutting and curing tobacco. A few farmers in this neighborhood met and organized a Farmers' Club at Flat Shoal on Saturday, 25th of September. Eight joined the club out of eleven present. Our club is small but we hope to grow larger and more progressive in farming as we grow older. Joel Y. Allen was elected President; B. F. Pullman, Vice-President, and D. V. Carroll, Secretary. We will elect our Treasurer at our next meeting, which will be Saturday, October 9th, at 2 o'clock p. m. Our club will be known as Meadows Township Club.

D. V. CARROLL, Sec'y.

THE MOVEMENT IN PITT.

The farmers of Pitt county are moving in earnest in the matter of organizing a county club. They will meet for that purpose at the court house in Greenville next Saturday. At a primary meeting Messrs. Allen Warren, John Flanagan and Josephus Latham were appointed a committee to issue an address to the farmers of the county which we find in the Greenville

Reflector, from which we clip the following extract which shows the spirit that actuates them:

"In this age of steam and electricity, the world is moving at a rapid pace and while all other interests are ceaselessly striving to reach the acme of influence and power, the farmer should be no laggard in the race for superiority. It is only through an Agricultural Society that the importance of co-operation and concert of action in matters of business can be impressed upon the farming community. We want good farmers; it is only by comparing notes, by giving in our experience, by telling what we know, by a cordial interchange of views and ideas can we teach others, and eliminating the good from the bad, fix upon the best methods, the best plans for conducting our farming operations.

We do not wish fancy speaking and many words. Let us organize a Society in which we may meet together and study the good of all; in which there will be no selfish interest but the happiness of our families, the welfare of our county and the prosperity of all our country will be the aim and hope of every member."

Mr. Wm. W. Robinson writes us that a Farmers' Club numbering fifty members has been organized at Poplar Tent, Cabarrus county, and that many more names will be added. T. H. Morrison was elected President, C. A. Barringer, Vice-President, and Wm. W. Robinson, Secretary. The members are deeply interested and alive to the necessity of doing something to better their condition. The subject for consideration at next meeting is the relations existing between landlord and tenant, and plans for co-operation in business affairs.

A movement is on foot to organize a Farmers' Club at Huntersville, in Mecklenburg county.

PEA VINES.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—Will you kindly give me some information as to the time and manner of saving pea vines? I notice that frequently the leaves all shed off in saving them. How can this be avoided?
J. C. P.
MANLY, N. C., Sept. 25, 1886.

Mow the vines, beginning after the dew is off, and let them have a day's sunshine—put them up in piles. Haul them to your barn or shelter next day. Cover the floor first with wheat straw about six or eight inches deep, put on a layer of the vines only deep enough to conceal the straw, another layer of straw only deep enough to conceal the vines, and so on alternately until the vines are all stored. Longer exposure to the sun causes the outer skin on the vines to slip and the leaves to shed. You will find that the straw will be made very palatable to your stock by thus using it, as it absorbs much of the matter that escapes from the vines during the slight process of fermentation which they undergo.

A TREE THAT BORE TWO FRUITS.

At Newberne Mr. W. S. Stryon has in his garden a dwarf pear tree which bears both pears and quinces successively. There appears to be no limb graft and the tree is entirely pear in appearance, but when it fruits, both pears and quinces are borne. Dwarf pears are generally grafted on quince stock, but we have never before heard of the quince strain asserting itself sufficiently to produce fruit of this kind.—Elizabeth City Falcon.

—A gentleman who has been through Alamance county informs the Durham Recorder that the tobacco crop is very light and that there will be a little over half a crop made.

State Items.

—Diphtheria is prevalent in portions of Cumberland county.

—Mr. C. K. Gallagher has bought 2000 bushels of grapes. They make 7500 gallons of wine. Monday the streets were almost blocked up with carts and wagons filled with them from all parts.—Washington Gazette.

—We have heard of very few barns of tobacco being burned this season. The farmers seem to have exercised greater care in curing than heretofore, and the result has been better cured tobacco and fewer losses by fire.—Henderson Goldleaf.

—Dr. J. W. McNeill says he recently saw a spider web with the letters "M A N" distinctly woven in it, also an unfinished R immediately following the N. The web was seen on the Wilmington road in the southeastern edge of the city.—Fayetteville Sun.

—The farmers report that the cotton crop is turning out badly. One farmer yesterday told an Observer reporter that he has just picked over a four acre field and realized only 800 pounds of cotton, and this too on land that usually produced nearly a bale to the acre.—Charlotte Observer.

—We are informed that about the 1st of November next, the Bank of Hickory, to be located at this place, will commence operations. It will be carried on by Mr. D. W. Shuler, of the Bank of Johnson City, Tenn., and by parties from Grand Rapids, Michigan.—Piedmont Press.

There seems to be a widespread and fatal disease among the horses and mules. We know of quite a number of valuable animals that have died in this section of late. It is suggested that the trouble is in the grazing, but we dare say the cause is of atmospheric origin.—Goldboro Argus.

—We were shown by Mr. W. Monroe this morning a sample of sugar cane, the stalk of which was ten feet in height and large in proportion. It was raised by Mr. W. R. Collins in Pender county, and is about an average stalk in a field of two acres. Mr. Collins expects to make at least 300 gallons of molasses from the cane raised on the two acres of ground.—Wilmington Review.

—The Scotland Neck people are hauling goods in wagons from the river because of the high freights by rail.—We heard an experienced farmer say a few days ago that corn was not as likely to be hurt by frost after the fodder is pulled as it is before. Those who planted late corn should make note of this and pull fodder before frost.—Diphtheria is still raging in the Gaston section. There have been about sixty cases within the past few weeks and it is still prevailing. We regret to learn that Mr. W. H. Harrison has lost another child from this disease it being the third that has succumbed to it.—Roanoke News.

—The acorn crop is a failure this year. There are only a few scattering ones.—Jonathan Jones killed four large copperhead snakes in his meadow last Thursday. They were all of them close together.—Martin Smith, of Davidson county says that tobacco worms have been worse this year than he ever saw them any year previous. He says that there were times this year that he killed more worms in one day than he killed on his whole crop last year.—We are sorry to hear that Jonas Knaus, of Davidson county had a barn full of tobacco to burn up one day last week. He was curing two barns at the same time, and had just finished one and left a fire in the furnace of it, and gone to the other one. When he discovered the fire it was beyond control. It was full of nice tobacco. Salem Press.

—Notwithstanding what has been said concerning the failure of crops in this section, it is now generally admitted by farmers that the outlook is much better than was at one time supposed. Corn on highlands was never better, and had it not been for the heavy rains in June, this section would have been blessed with crops such as it never saw before. The rice crop is excellent and the cotton crop fair, while the sweet potato crop is abundant.—Elizabeth City Falcon.

—A mammoth brick tobacco factory is being erected near the Banner Warehouse, by J. H. Gilmer & Co.—Mr. John Jackson, while butchering a cow near here one day this week found in her maw a gold ear ring, a piece of wire and quite a number of pins.—Four miles from Greensboro in the yard of J. H. Buchanan stands a tree eight feet four inches in diameter and twenty-five feet in circumference at the trunk two feet above the ground. One branch of this tree is inhabited by bees, where they have been in successful operation for many years.—Greensboro Patriot.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

In the early part of the year there was a tobacco boom among our people and the farmers were induced to plant small crops of tobacco in order to test the adaptation of our soil and climate to its production. So far as we have been able to learn the crop itself has been a success and the great drawback to its final success has been the want of information among farmers as to the mode of curing and preparing it for market. We have heard of but two persons who have put up barns for the flue curing of tobacco. J. R. Etheridge, of Rosedale, Pasquotank county, and Dr. Woodley, of Chowan county. Some of the tobacco cured by Dr. Woodley has been examined by experts in the tobacco markets and pronounced equal to any tobacco raised in the sections devoted to tobacco culture. It is to be hoped that the farmers of our section will not abandon the culture of tobacco but will place themselves in a position to reap the benefits of the tobacco crops. Mr. Etheridge and Dr. Woodley are both men of observation and good sense and we are glad to know that tobacco culture in our section is in the hands of safe pioneers in the business who will give it a safe thorough and intelligent trial.—Elizabeth City Economist.

PRUNING TREES.

Mr. F. K. Phoenix, the veteran pomologist of Wisconsin, in relation to pruning trees says: "There are many tolerably thrifty apple trees throughout the Northwest suffering for a thorough pruning out of dead branches and spurs. It is perfectly well known that dead wood is a deadly burden to a living tree. Letting a dead limb remain only robs the live part of the needed sap and greatly injures the fruit. A lively pruner can go over several large orchard trees in a day, but if it took a half a day or more to prune thoroughly a large tree of choice fruit, it will pay the owner most richly on the very next crop of fruit."

CALIFORNIA WHEAT.

According to the San Francisco Report, California has at least 70,000,000 bushels of wheat worth at least \$54,600,000, while last year it had only \$28,000,000 worth. The barley crop of 18,000,000 cents will bring in \$16,000,000 as against \$9,000,000 last year. In these two items alone farmers will have \$72,600,000, when in 1885 they had only \$47,000,000, an increase of over \$35,000,000, or nearly double that of 1885, while the area sown was only a fraction larger. Despite low prices, say even lower than 1885, the tiller of the soil it is thought will be in a much better condition than he was a year ago.

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR 1885.

The school statistics for North Carolina for the last scholastic year were very satisfactory. This is the first time they have been published. They were as follows:

Paid teachers—white.....	\$317,142.90
" " colored.....	196,004.37
For school houses—white.....	37,427.91
" " colored.....	26,728.42
County superintendents.....	12,416.48
Teachers' institutes—white....	2,075.81
" " colored.....	1,329.08
Other purposes.....	20,974.57
Treasurers' commissions.....	16,452.48

Total.....\$630,552.12
Five counties did not report, nor does the above embrace the local taxes for graded schools, which being added, will run the amount up to \$750,000. That is what we spent last year on free schools in North Carolina.

There were 2,721 teachers in attendance on the normal schools during the year and 3,485 on the institutes. In 1877 the number of pupils enrolled was 98,764; in 1885 it was 298,166. In 1879 the value of school property was \$143,569; in 1885 it was \$565,960. In the last four years \$2,296,790 was paid for schools, excluding the local taxes for graded schools save in the instances of Raleigh and Charlotte and more than that, because a good many counties made no report.—Raleigh News and Observer.

DEFECTIVE LAWS.

It is well said, "There is nothing which requires greater skill than to pass a law that shall have the effect that was intended." People do not seem to realize this fact and as a consequence, are constantly sending men to the State and National Legislatures who are without a single necessary qualification for the work of law making. In so important a matter as the selection of men, whose duty it shall be to enact laws for the government of the entire people, great care should be exercised so that only those who are fully competent in every respect shall be allowed to use this delegated power. Voters are too careless, too unconcerned, and manifest too little interest in this matter for the good of the Commonwealth. Year after year laws are passed for certain purposes, but how many of these enactments have the effect intended? It is safe to say that the larger number of the laws passed at any one session of our State Legislature are defective in some respect and are never really enforced. The ends contemplated in their passage may have been right and proper, but they are never attained, because those to whose care the work of legislation was entrusted were not qualified for the task. Will not our citizens exercise a wise discrimination in the selection of members of the Legislature?—Farmers Friend.

FEDERAL DEBT STATEMENT.

The debt statement issued from the U. S. Treasury on the 1st inst., shows the decrease of the public debt during the month of September to be \$10,627,013.17; cash in the Treasury, \$465,365,713; gold certificates outstanding, \$84,691,807; silver certificates outstanding, \$95,387,112; certificates of deposit outstanding, \$7,705,000; refunding certificates outstanding, \$199,600; old demand notes and legal tenders outstanding, \$346,738,391; fractional currency, (not including the amount estimated as lost or destroyed,) \$7,953,702.

—There is much lively work going on in the Gold Mines around Charlotte, and also in Mecklenburg and adjoining counties. In Rowan and Cabarrus and Union the old mines are being opened and new ones worked. Many thousands of dollars are now invested in the mining section and it is said the investment pays.—Charlotte Democrat.