



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 36.

State Items.

We learn from the *Davie Times* that the farmers of Mocksville township will meet at Jerusalem, Saturday 16th, to organize a Farmers' Club.

Steps are being taken to make application for the creation of a new county out of parts of Wilson, Johnston, Wake, Nash and Franklin.

There is complaint among farmers that the cotton crop has been considerably cut off by the continued dry weather.—*Rockingham Rocket*.

Mr. R. L. English, of Randolph, furnished us with a tobacco leaf of his own growing, which measured 22 inches wide by 32 long.—*High Point Enterprise*.

Our candidate for Sheriff, Mr. B. F. Patrick, sent us one day last week a bunch of rice that is six feet tall and some of the heads fully a foot long. This rice was grown on his farm near Greenville and he has a large crop of it.—*Eastern Reflector*.

J. F. Vance, who lives a few miles from town possesses a wonderful hen. Her eggs measured for three days in succession eight inches one way and nine inches the other, and upon the fourth day she determined to beat her own record by laying two well formed eggs.—*Kernersville Farm-News*.

The estimated loss to the tobacco crop of Guilford county by the frost on the night of the 2d of October is about \$25,000 in round numbers.—The North Carolina Spoke and Handle Works which was destroyed by fire at this place last August has been re-built and will commence operation next Saturday.—*Greensboro Patriot*.

The farmers of Alamance county report that they have the sorriest tobacco crop they have had since the "frosted crop," and some say their crops will not bring as much money as the "frosted crop." The flea bugs, cut worms, dry and wet weather did the work for them. We gathered this information while at court at Graham and we saw farmers from every section of the county.—*Durham Recorder*.

An informal meeting of several of our prominent business men was held Monday, at which meeting a committee was appointed to confer with President Bridgers of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, relative to making Durham the terminus of the Albemarle & Raleigh Railroad.—For the year ending September 30th, Durham shipped 2,444,126 pounds of smoking tobacco, worth \$1,598,197.24. 43,196 pounds of chewing tobacco, worth \$15,120. 229,166,060 cigarettes, worth \$792,000. At the warehouses last year 14,591,451 pounds of leaf tobacco were sold, worth \$1,387,179.20.—*Plant*.

We learn of considerable tobacco that was caught out by the frost. We know of one man who had 20 acres in which he had not put a knife, while numbers of others had from 10,000 to 20,000 plants in one field out.—The potato crop this year is an abundant one, and this will go far toward making both ends meet this winter. With an ample corn and potato crop people can live in this country though they have to buy everything else.—Mr. F. H. Taylor who lives near Woodworth, this county, has added another to the fine blooded stock of our section, having recently purchased a thoroughbred registered Hambletonian stallion. He is a beautiful animal, seal brown in color, of fine size, well proportioned, six years old. Mr. Taylor purchased him from Col. Alexander, proprietor of the celebrated Woodburn stock farm, of Kentucky. He is untrained and has a record of 2:37 1/2 at five years old.—*Henderson Goldleaf*.

INTERESTING FIGURES.

In discussing the tariff question the *Raleigh News and Observer* produces the following figures to show the depreciation in the value of farms in the States named as one of the results of high protective tariff:

"Take any of the older and more densely populated States—take Vermont for example. From 1850 to 1860, a period of low tariff taxation, the value of farms in that State increased from \$63,367,227 to \$94,289,045. From 1870 to 1880 the period of high taxation same valuation decreased from \$139,367,075 to \$109,346,010.

Take New York. From 1850 to 1860 the value of farms increased from \$554,546,642 to \$803,343,593; from 1870 to 1880 there was a decrease from \$1,272,857,766 to \$1,056,175,741. Take New Jersey. From '50 to '60 there was an increase from \$120,237,511 to \$180,250,338; from '70 to '80 there was a decrease from \$257,523,376 to \$190,895,833. These figures are taken from the last census report. In Delaware the same changes took place, the figures being: Value of farms in 1850, \$18,880,031; in 1860, \$31,426,357; in 1870, \$46,712,870; in 1880, \$36,789,672; in Pennsylvania there was a like falling off."

Whether this be the result of high tariff or not we will not express an opinion, but if so would these high tariff laws have been enacted if the farmers of the country had taken the course they should have taken and seen that they were represented in Congress by men identified with their interests as they should have been? In all these years of high protective tariff legislation, as now, a mere handful of men stood in the Congress of the United States as the representatives of the greatest industry of all, while others had representatives enough to carry through any measures they asked. And they did it. If the farmer had the representation in Congress that he should have, there would be a block in the way of the legislation that cost and still costs him so much. But when out of the 401 representatives in the Congress of the United States a little dozen stand there in lonely isolation and hopeless minority to speak for the industry that feeds and clothes the 60,000,000 of people in this country, the farmer cannot expect and need not expect much improvement. He must look to his own interests, if he does not others will not look after them for him.

GOOD RESULTS.

The value of good roads to a community cannot well be over estimated, while the damage inflicted by a bad road is almost incalculable. Almost every land-owner in the State could afford to subscribe one-fourth of the present value of his land to have a good road constructed through or near his premises, and make money by the operation; and if the several counties would make liberal appropriations or subscriptions for this purpose they would very soon be reimbursed for the outlay by the taxes on the enhanced value of lands. Can't something be done to arouse the people of the State to a realization of the importance of this subject?

Read the following extract from an interview with Gen. John Echols, published in the *Staunton, Va., Vindicator*, and see what good roads have accomplished for Kentucky:

"The first man that inaugurated the road improvement there was that famous old Presbyterian, Dr. Robert J. Breckenridge. He commenced by going to see his neighbors along the line of road. His plan was to ask each farmer: 'How much is your land worth?' When told he would say: 'Well how much do you think a macadamized road would increase the value of it?' Being told \$10 or \$15 an acre he

would close by saying: 'Well, suppose you subscribe to a company we are forming to build a road to the amount of, say \$4 an acre of your farm.' In this way private companies were formed. The road cost \$2,000 a mile, of which the county court of each county, after it was satisfied that the private company was composed of responsible citizens, subscribed on behalf of the county to the stock to the amount of \$1,000 a mile. The roads were built, toll gates put upon them and the stock paid the county and the stockholders a dividend. In this way Kentucky has become gridironed with metalled pikes. Now look at the result of this. Taking four counties in Kentucky, all rather small ones, Montgomery has 99 miles of macadamized pike; Clarke, the adjoining county, has 150 miles; Fayette, which joins that, has 250 miles, and Barbour, the next county to it, has 300 miles—nearly 800 miles of macadamized road in four small counties. What has been the result? Remember they are all small counties. The real estate in Montgomery is assessed at \$4,000,000; Clarke, \$6,000,000; Fayette, \$8,000,000, and Barbour, \$8,000,000—an increase in value which is the direct result of road building.—*Citizen*.

This is a pointed illustration of the position which we have taken in this paper that the State convicts should be put to work upon the country roads and kept upon them until the roads are what they should be, instead of giving them to railroads and hiring them out at a nominal price to private parties, the latter of which we are glad to learn is to be discontinued. The improvement that could be made on our country roads by the labor of the convicts would add greatly to the value of our farming lands.

THE TOBACCO CROP.

The *Baltimore Journal of Commerce* publishes a number of reports from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, on the tobacco outlook. In noting these reports it says that the crop in Virginia and Maryland, which was estimated by the United States Agricultural Department in September at not more than two-thirds of a full crop, must now be further reduced by the damage done by the recent killing frosts, and much of that saved will be of inferior quality. Its reports from North Carolina indicate a crop between one-half and two-thirds compared with last year's crop.

It concludes its comments on the reports by saying that "It seems to be generally believed that the short crop will cause an advance in prices, and some think that the money value of the crop to the farmers will, in this way, be as large as in 1885."

THE REUNION OF THE VETERANS OF THE SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA REGIMENT.

On the 19th day of Nov. prox., the veterans of the 6th N. C. Regiment will hold a reunion at Durham, N. C.

"All soldiers of the late war, on either side, are invited to be present at the reunion." Every arrangement will be made for the entertainment and pleasure of the old soldiers and it is to be hoped that all who can will be present, and especially every surviving member of that gallant old Regiment.

One by one they are falling from the ranks and their names are being stricken from the roll as they silently enter the bivouac "over the river" to rest under the shade of Jackson's trees, until the archangel shall summon them to the Grand Review on the Eternal Plains! Come together, boys, heart to heart and elbow to elbow, and renew those sacred ties of brotherhood, the strength of which "the world knows nothing of."

ANOTHER AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College at Auburn, Alabama, is another successful institution. The instruction is of a very high grade, and the manual training such as to fit the scholars for the respective callings which they may choose. There is connected with the college a farm of 226 acres where the agricultural students learn the practical part of their work, and shops of various kinds where those learning the mechanical arts receive manual training. There are now 145 young men receiving instruction in this institution, not a cheap "smattering of learning," as Dr. Battle styles it, but a good, sound education that will fit them for the vocations they select, and make them good, useful members of society and intelligent workers. We are indebted to the President, Wm. LeRoy Brown, M. A., for a catalogue and history of this college.

THE PEAR AND GRAPE.

Plant one pear tree.
Plant a Seckel pear.
Plant two trees, the Seckel and the Bartlett.
Plant three trees, the Seckel, the Bartlett and the Keiffer.
Plant four trees, the Seckel, the Bartlett, the Keiffer and the Le Conte.
Plant one grape vine.
Plant the Delaware grape.
Plant two vines, the Delaware and the Concord.
Plant three vines, the Delaware, the Concord and the Brighton.

SAVING PEA VINES.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—I notice in last week's paper in your answer to J. C. P., of Manly, your method of saving pea vines for forage. I can testify as to the plan used and can say, pea vines will keep well and if your directions are followed they will not mould, and the straw used will be eaten by stock almost as readily as the vines. For a number of years, I have used straw in same manner to keep clover hay. You can cut your clover after dew is off and put in shocks on same day it is cut, if you have sunshine, and day following you may with safety put in mow by putting a layer of clover, say 3 feet deep, and on that a like layer of straw, not packing more than is necessary to get in mow. In this way you can put up any amount of clover and never have any to mould. The straw receives a certain amount of the sap from the clover, which makes it an excellent forage of itself.

Davidson Co. R. A. W.

A NOTICE TO NORTHERN AND FOREIGN BORN LADIES IN N. C.

At the last meeting of the Wake county association of Northern and foreign-born citizens, held October 6, a resolution was unanimously adopted, inviting all ladies of Northern and foreign birth now living in the State to join this and kindred associations in helping to make our display and convention at the coming State fair, to be held in this city, October 26 to 29, inclusive, a success. All information in regard to space, &c., will be cheerfully furnished by the Secretary,

WM. C. CRAM,
Raleigh, N. C.

Danbury is elevated 836 ft. above the sea, Germanton 732, Dalton 991, Salem 884, Kernersville 1,016, Greensboro 843, Charlotte 125, Raleigh 317, Wilmington 10. The Germanton and Salem road at the distance of 4 1/2 miles from Salem 1,015 feet.—*Danbury Reporter*.

A nugget of gold, recently found by some Chinese miners in Sierra county, Cal., weighed 158 ounces and sold for \$36,000, and is said to be the third largest ever found.

CLOVER SEED.

We learn from an intelligent farmer who knows whereof he speaks that the crop of clover seed saved in Rowan this year will not fall short of from 1,000 to 1200 bushels. This is an important item. Rowan has hitherto bought her clover seed. At the rate of increased attention to the clover crop given by our farmers in the last four or five years, Rowan may yet become an exporter of clover seed, besides deriving other valuable advantages from the crop.—*Salisbury Watchman*.

THE FINEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD.

In August, 1884, the arrival of the celebrated 457-carat fine white diamond from South Africa was announced and its subsequent purchase by a syndicate of London and Paris diamond merchants. The gem was intrusted to the care of one of the most skillful cutters, who has been engaged on the stone during the past eight months, and expects to complete the work in April.

As anticipated, the stone will turn out the most wonderful "brilliant-cut" diamond on record, surpassing in weight, as also, it is believed, in color, purity and lustre, all the crown and historical brilliants of the world. The stone in its almost finished state weighs still 260 carats, but in order to give it the best possible shape and lustre, it is intended to reduce its weight to something under 200 carats. The Koh-i-noor weighs only 106 carats, the Regent of France 136 1/2 carats, the star of the South 125 carats, and the Piggott 82 1/2 carats. The Great Mogul weighs 279 carats. It is, however, a lumpy stone, only rose cut, and if cut to a properly shaped brilliant it would probably not weigh more than 140 carats.—*London Times*.

GUINEA FOWLS.

The *Magnet* calls attention to the value of Guineas on the farm for the following reasons:

"Guineas are profitable for the reason that they cost nothing to raise. They prefer to seek their own food in the fields and seldom come home for food so long as they can find a supply for themselves. As a rule they mate and it is best therefore to have the sexes equal. The hen steals her nest, but she cannot refrain from making a noise when she comes off, which betrays her to the watchful farmer. Guineas are valuable on farms where their range is wide, as they destroy insects and do not scratch up seeds. In fact, a flock of twenty Guineas will consume a number of insects so large as to appear almost incredible, as they are active and always searching. They also consume grass and young weeds, as well as the seeds of undesirable plants and grasses. The hens lay about 125 eggs a year, especially if they are taken from her before she begins to sit. The flesh of the Guinea is rather dark but juicy, and of a "gamey" flavor. They may be raised to remain near the house by placing the eggs under hens, and add a few chicks to the brood when the young Guineas are hatched. They will learn from the chicks and soon become tame and accustomed to the same habits as the chicks, growing up with them. The eggs require four weeks for incubation, and are usually hatched under hens in the poultry house."

—It is estimated that the varied machinery of Great Britain now operated by steam power is capable of performing more work and hence producing more products, than could be performed by the labor of 400,000,000 able bodied men, a greater number than all the working men on earth.