

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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Winston, N. C.

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THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

See our offer to give THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year and the Patch Corn Shelter for four dollars. This is the best shelter for the money in America. It is guaranteed and will give entire satisfaction. Send in your orders at once.

Read our advertisements. And you will do us a great favor when you speak or write of them, to mention THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

—It costs \$30,000,000 a year to replace the decayed ties on railroads in the United States.

—The probabilities are that there will be a lively legal squabble over the will of Samuel J. Tilden.

—The salary of Grand Master Workman Powderly has been raised from \$1,500 to \$5,000 a year.

—At some of the political meetings held this fall there are more candidates than voters present.

—Nine of the crooked New York Aldermen have been re-arrested and their bail raised to \$40,000 each.

Up to October 1st the losses by fire in this country amounted to \$83,000,000 against \$70,000,000 the previous year.

—The National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, holds its annual meeting in Philadelphia on the 19th of November.

—Dr. Douglas charged \$7,000 for attending Gen. Grant which Fred Grant, who paid it, says was an extortionate charge.

—The New Orleans Times-Democrat says that the man who invents a successful sugar cane cutter has a large fortune within his grasp.

—A trial of the Mason cotton harvester was made in a field near Sumpter, S. C., last week. It did fairly good work but is not yet perfected.

—Gen. Grant's widow has already received \$350,000 from her husband's book and the publisher says she will realize \$500,000 from it.

—There are now 310 Southern cotton mills in operation against 161 six years ago. Production has increased from \$16,388,568 to \$30,726,150.

—The town of Sabine Pass, in Texas, was totally destroyed on the night of the 13th inst., by the overflowing of Sabine river, and sixty-five lives were lost.

—The average pay of the 300,000 school teachers in the United States is \$200 a year. The average pay of the professional baseball player is about \$2,000.

—An exchange says that if Jay Gould lives ten years longer and meets with no mishaps his wealth will reach \$2,000,000,000. The writer meant \$200,000,000, but the printer didn't think that adding a cipher or two made much difference.

—Eight hundred thousand dollars in silver certificates have been issued since the 1st of October.

—There are a number of women practicing medicine in Northern cities. In Philadelphia the incomes of some of these from their profession range from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

—Abram S. Hewitt has been nominated by the Tammany Hall Democrats for Mayor of New York. He accepted on condition that the balance of the ticket be satisfactory.

—Some politicians on the stump are fashioned after the earthquake style. They make a clatter and noise, but you know as little about them after it is all over as you did before.

—Messrs. Louis Bagger & Co., solicitors of patents, Washington, D. C., inform us that there were granted to citizens of Southern States, thirty-two patents bearing the date of Oct 12, 1886.

—Of the 46,000,000 hogs in the country last year nearly 6,000,000 died of disease. The percentage in the South was from 12 to 22. In the five great corn States of the West—Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, the percentage was 13 to 18.

—We understand that Col. J. M. Winstead, of Greensboro is a candidate for Congress in this district on the Prohibition ticket. "You pays your money and takes your choice"—Reid, Democrat—Brower, Republican—Winston, Greenbacker, and Winstead, Prohibitionist.

—The experiments in tobacco culture in Mecklenburg, Union and Cleveland counties have been so successful this year that the probabilities are a large area will be planted in these counties next year. The tobacco raised has been of fine grade and the planters have been successful in properly curing it.

—We learn that Prof. J. A. W. Thompson will remove his school from Oakdale to Siler, a flourishing village on the C. F. & Y. V. R. R., and that a large and commodious building will be ready for him by the first of January next. We congratulate the Professor and the community of Siler, for he will build up an excellent school at this point.

—There seems to be a considerable amount of "skinning" done on the stump these days, if we can believe the papers, and from the frequency of the skinning operation some of the candidates must have been furnished with a multiplicity of skins to start with. Skinning may be funny for the skinner if not for the skinned, but how much better informed are the people who go to hear the issues of the day discussed after these skinnings than they were before?

—The *Cornucopia*, published in Norfolk, Va., prints a notice of George A. Wilson, an Eastern Virginia farmer, who began after the war with little or nothing and is now the owner of 8,000 acres of good land. His corn crop the present season will reach 50,000 bushels of shelled corn. His oat crop threshed out 2,500 bushels, and he put up 300 tons of clover and timothy. He has increased his grass acreage to yield him 600 tons next year. He raised 25 acres of potatoes from which he realized \$2,460, and sold 175 lambs and 200 fat sheep which brought him \$4 a head for the lambs and \$5 for the sheep. In addition to this he sold \$3,000 worth of beef cattle. This fall he will cure 10,000 pounds of pork. Mr. Wilson is evidently one of the farmers who farms with his brains.

SELECT YOUR SEED.

The selection of seed corn is a matter which should be attended to with care. It is not well to wait until the corn is gathered and husked and then when planting time comes go out to the crib and take what is wanted, as many do. The best time to select seed corn is when the corn is standing in the field, for then not only the best ears can be chosen but they can be picked from stalks presenting the best joints. One of the objects should be to secure the most corn to the least stalk as well as to the least ground. Corn carefully selected from the field, properly handled and cared for makes better and more reliable seed than that taken hap-hazard from the crib.

—The Republican committee has placed Judge R. P. Buxton on the ticket for Chief Justice in the place of Judge Bynum, who declined, and nominated V. S. Lusk, of Asheville, as Associate Justice in the place of Buxton.

THE "JUMBO" BARBECUE.

It is said that the largest assemblage of persons ever seen in Moore county, was at Jonesboro on last Friday. It was the occasion of the opening of the "Golden Leaf 'Jumbo' Warehouse," by Messrs. Buchanan & Beryman. To give some idea of the magnitude of the affair, we quote the following as a part of "Jumbo" bill of fare, taken from the record of the *cuisine*: Twenty-five beeves, thirty-five sheep, fifteen pigs, three hundred chickens, ten barrels flour, one dozen cases bread, besides cakes, &c., in great profusion.

Speeches were made by Mr. D. H. McLean, of Lillington, and the Editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. By the late arrival of the train we were deprived of the pleasure of hearing the speech of Mr. McLean, and as we expected of him, we were made to regret it more and more, the more we heard of it.

Early in the evening the large building was brilliantly illuminated, and until late in the night was a scene of festive enjoyment. Two excellent bands were in attendance and hundreds of young people "whirled in the mazes of the dance."

Messrs. Buchanan & Beryman, the proprietors, Mr. Baptist, the manager of the warehouse, and all the gentlemen composing the committees were active, vigilant and faithful in the work of looking after the comfort and pleasure of the thousands who came and went—and they performed their laborious duties handsomely. The occasion was unanimously voted a grand success from beginning to end.

The warehouse is constructed of wood in the most substantial manner, 90x150 feet, with full size basement and we do not hesitate to say is the best and most perfect wooden warehouse, in all its appointments, we have ever seen. Such energy and enterprise as is manifested by these gentlemen merit success and we doubt not they will enjoy it.

Situated on the old red sandstone belt which traverses the State north and south, and along which the world-renowned "golden leaf" is grown to such proportion, we trust that such efforts as are made by these gentlemen may induce the people of that section to give some attention to tobacco. Anything to loosen the shackles with which the tyrant "King" Cotton has held them so long. We note these invasions of his domain with peculiar pleasure.

SHEEP BREEDING.

Sheep breeding could be made a profitable industry in North Carolina if it were not for the dogs that destroy them. There is not a county in the State where they could not be raised to profit were it not for this. The ranges are ample, the pasturage good, the summer not too warm, and the winters so mild that little or no housing is necessary. Some efforts have been made at breeding sheep of improved breeds which have been brought into the State at considerable cost to the breeders, and they have met with some success notwithstanding the dogs, because they watch their sheep and protect them, but hundreds of fine sheep that cost much money have been destroyed, involving not only loss to their owners but discouraging others who feared to venture when the chances were so much against them. Attempts have been made year after year by those interested in sheep culture to secure some kind of legislation that would protect their flocks from prowling curs, but so far without success, for the average legislator seems to have a horror of tackling the dog question in any shape, and the result is that between the dog and the sheep the dog always wins. The consequence is more dogs than sheep; the dogs multiply, while the sheep diminish, and the legislative candidate continues to cherish the belief that the dog controls more votes than the sheep. This is the only reasonable way of accounting for the legislative deference that is paid to the dog. Judging from the past unless the farmers take this matter in hand the dog will still continue to reign, and the sheep to supply him with mutton. But perhaps if the farmers' clubs take the matter in hand and intimate to the legislators that the sheep has some rights that the dog ought to respect, it might have some effect. In the meantime if the farmers were to resolve to shoot on sight every dog they find prowling the country without an

owner; it would have a better and more immediate effect. This would be about the simplest and speediest solution of the dog question that we can think of just now. One of the farmers in Guilford county who invested in some fine sheep and was making considerable progress until the dogs entered the field against him adopted the method of poisoning carcasses of sheep that had been killed by dogs and leaving them where killed for the dogs to feed upon when they made the second call. The plan was a success, and it thinned out the curs considerably. The only dogs that suffered were those that helped themselves to sheep meat that they had no right to. If farmers all over the State did likewise the dog census would be perceptibly reduced by the time the next one is taken. But, seriously, this an important question for the consideration of clubs.

SUGGESTIVE ITEMS.

Here are two suggestive items clipped from two of our State exchanges, the first from the *Durham Tobacco Plant*, the other from the *Monroe Enquirer*:

"On the bulletin board in front of the court house are posted twenty-one chattel mortgages and two warrants of attachment. This looks like hard times."

"Yesterday an old gentleman who lives 5 miles from town, drove in with a bale of cotton on his wagon, and a gentleman remarked that he would carry every cent of the money his cotton brought home with him. Another one remarked that he never came to town without bringing with him enough produce of some kind to pay for all that he bought and then have some left to carry home. He is an old time gentleman and he follows the old time system. It is needless to remark that he lives at home and has money out at interest. Many of his neighbors, who follow the new system and work as hard as he does, are mortgaged up to the very hilt and can't pay their doctor's bills or for their paper. We need a return to the old landmarks in some other things as well as religion."

At this season of the year the chattel mortgage figures very conspicuously in certain portions of North Carolina. It would be safe to venture the assertion that the givers of the twenty-one chattel mortgages referred to by the *Tobacco Plant*, gave these mortgages for money and supplies to raise tobacco, depending on that, and that alone to redeem these mortgages when the obligations matured. They now have to dance to music they don't like and to pay the piper his price besides. And so it is year after year throughout the tobacco and cotton belt; planters borrow to raise a crop, pay enormous interest, manacle themselves with mortgages, and take the chances of good or bad crops to free themselves. If crops be good they may come out and have a little left for their year's labor, if the crop fail ruin is their lot, unless they throw themselves upon the mercy of their creditors, and the creditors prove merciful. There is not so much of this borrowing done as there has been in years past, and it is growing less every year, but there is still ten times as much of it as there should be, for there should be none. No farmer can afford to borrow money to raise crops, especially if he confine himself to one crop. And no farmer who expects to prosper can afford to cultivate one crop and depend upon that to pay his obligations and purchase the necessaries of life. It is only the farmer who raises these at home, enough of them to supply his wants and pay his current expenses, who is traveling the right road to success. The farmer in Union county, to whom the *Enquirer* refers furnishes an illustration of this, for while he raises cotton he has the good sense not to depend upon cotton alone, but raises enough of other things to supply him with the cash he needs, leaving his cotton to add to his bank account. He may not raise much cotton but whether he raises little or much he is still an example that all cotton or tobacco planters should follow.

—Mr. R. W. Rankin, of Jonesboro, a tobacco buyer, raised a crop of tobacco this summer. He planted and has cured fifteen acres at a cost of \$637. A few days since he was offered \$2,500 for his crop, as it was in the barns.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR ASHES?

We are requested to re-publish the following article which appeared in our issue of July 21st.

The great value of wood ashes as a fertilizer is not appreciated by a large majority of our farmers. As a rule they are thrown aside—deposited in some out-of-the-way place to leach and wash and waste throughout the year. Why not save them? It can be done easily and profitably. Now that the regular work in the crops will soon be over for a season, it will be a good time to arrange for it. Go to the woods and cut nice, straight poles—enough to build a pen six feet high, eight by ten feet square. Locate the pen at the point most convenient to your fire-places. Haul trash and vegetable matter, and deposit it near the pen. Fill the pen about 18 inches to begin with. On this put a layer of ashes two inches thick. Alternate in this way, saving all the weeds and grass which may be gathered around the premises. Throw in all the refuse soap-suds. By giving only a half hour per week to this matter you will be pleased, if not surprised at the number of wagon loads of finely pulverized and valuable manure you can make in one year. Let the ash-pen be a fixed institution on your premises.

FENCES.

One of the leading issues in the political canvass in Buncombe county seems to be the fence question, public sentiment seeming to be undecided as to whether there should or should not be fences around farms in that county. A no-fence act was passed by the last legislature which met with so much opposition that it practically became a nullity. A similar act was passed for Wake and Orange counties, where there is also considerable dissatisfaction. The mistake was in passing this law without giving the people full and ample opportunity to hear it discussed and decide its merits for themselves. It is one of those new departures which it takes time to educate the people up to, or to get them, so to speak, out of the old ruts. In the counties where the no-fence law has had a fair trial, and the advantages have been tested, public sentiment would be solid against re-placing the fences if it were suggested. Doing away with the fences does away a cause of immense cost to the farmer, and much trouble and expense annually in keeping the fences up. There is no reason in being compelled to put up hundreds of dollars of fence to keep out a few dollars worth of stock; better reverse it and put up a few dollars worth of fence to keep in a few hundred dollars worth of stock, stock of the right kind that will pay for the trouble of fencing and for what they eat.

NEW COUNTIES.

A movement has been started to form a new county out of portions of Wake, Johnston, Franklin and Nash. There may be some advantage in small counties, but they are costly. There are about twice as many counties in North Carolina as there ought to be. If there were fewer the cost to the people would be less, and the public business quite as well attended to. With fewer counties there would be fewer court houses to build, fewer officers to pay and the taxes of the people would, in consequence be very largely reduced. But the tendency is to small counties and we suppose the work of cutting off and forming new ones will go on regardless of cost.

FORSYTH COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

This body will meet in Winston on next Saturday, the 23d inst. We hope to see a full delegation from each subordinate club in the county. Some interesting reports will be made from these clubs and matters of importance will be discussed. Let there be a full meeting.

CHEVIOT SHEEP.

We will be obliged to our readers throughout the State if they will furnish us with the names and addresses of farmers in the State who are engaged in breeding the Cheviot sheep, with particulars as to success, and points of superiority, if any, over other breeds.