



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 43.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

FORSYTH COUNTY FARMER'S CLUB

The club was called to order by the Vice President, A. W. Bevel. On motion J. H. Cox was made Secretary *pro tem*. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A call for reports from the subordinate clubs, was responded to by the following delegates: Cedar Grove, A. W. Bevel; Sandy Ridge, J. H. Reich; Mt. Tabor, F. W. Pfaff; Spanish Grove, A. E. Pfaff; Kernersville, Geo. Elliott; Harmon Grove, D. A. Binkley; Pleasant Ridge, A. D. Hulín; Rural Hall, R. L. Cox. The reports showed encouraging progress all along the line. Sandy Ridge reported an accession of thirteen new members at its last meeting and now claims to be the banner club of the county. F. W. Pfaff offered the following resolution which after some discussion was unanimously adopted:

Resolved: That a committee consisting of one member from each subordinate club here represented, be appointed to consider the expediency of holding a mass convention of the farmers of this State at an early day and report to this convention.

In pursuance of the resolution the President appointed the following as the committee: G. Conrad, Cedar Grove; M. H. Ogburn, Sandy Ridge; A. D. Hulín, Pleasant Ridge; G. W. Elliott, Kernersville; J. F. Conrad, Spanish Grove; F. W. Pfaff, Mt. Tabor; D. A. Binkley, Harmon Grove, and R. L. Cox, Rural Hall. X During the absence of the committee, on motion of A. E. Pfaff, the club, by a unanimous vote elected L. L. Polk an honorary member of the Forsyth County Farmers' Club. Pertinent remarks, touching the importance of having the reports submitted by the clubs more elaborate and in more interesting form were made by members when the committee returned to the Hall and reported as follows:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Your committee to whom was referred the matter of a mass convention of the farmers of North Carolina beg respectfully to submit the following:

WHEREAS, the suggestion of a mass convention of the farmers of this state, made in an address issued by this club at its first regular meeting seems to have met the approval of many of the leading farmers of the State, therefore

Resolved: That the Forsyth County Farmers' Club, believing that the sooner action is taken in this matter the better, favors the calling of a mass convention of the farmers of the State at Greensboro, N. C., on Wednesday, the 19th day of January, 1887, where a full and free discussion may be had of such matters as affect the interests of the farmers of North Carolina.

Resolved: That this club expresses the earnest desire to see a plan devised by the mass convention by which a regular organization of the farmers of the State may be effected and through which we may have the benefit of an annual meeting of the farmers of the State.

Resolved: That we respectfully suggest to all farmers in the State who concur in our views, that they hold a county meeting on Saturday the 8th day of January, or sooner, and appoint delegates to the proposed convention.

G. Conrad was highly in favor of the report for if we are ever to be improved in our methods we must organize and organize thoroughly. Representing as we do, the most important element in the great industries of our country, I feel that we should have a voice in all that relates directly to our interests. We have been sitting carelessly and indifferent long enough. The proposed convention will aid us greatly in consolidating our efforts to better our condition. He hoped the report would be adopted.

Geo. Elliott. Though nearly fifty years of age I have never before attempted to say a word in a deliberative body. But I belong to that class who clothe and feed the world, who pay over half the taxes of the

country and must we forever remain hewers of wood and drawers of water for the balance of mankind? Among other things we want a better method of keeping up the public highways. We want a better system of education and we who are so directly interested in the matter know its effects and feel them. Let us do like all other classes—look after our own interests, and to do this properly we must act together.

F. W. Pfaff. Thought in the matter of legislation we could procure many things that would greatly benefit the country, and by having a State organization we can have that unity of thought and action so essential to our progress and development. We should have had a convention long years ago. If we ever accomplish anything it must be alone by standing together.

Several speeches were made—all strongly in favor of the report and on motion it was unanimously adopted.

The meeting having been opened at an unavoidably late hour and the discussion of the various subjects brought before it, having been somewhat protracted, the consideration of the question presented at the last meeting was postponed.

On motion the meeting adjourned to Saturday the 8th of January, 1887, at 12 a. m.

A. W. BEVEL, Pres't.
J. H. COX, Sec'y.
Nov. 27, 1886.

CEDAR GROVE CLUB.

There was a called meeting of Cedar Grove Club, November 19th, at which the attendance was large. Several members actively participated in the discussion, which was how to make farm life more attractive to the young people. The President, A. W. Bevel, said: I can say how it was when I was a boy. The farm had few attractions. The boys do not always have fair play. Sometimes they are given an old blind horse to work with, the dullest hoes to hoe with, &c., &c. In harvest time when the other hands are at rest the boy is not unfrequently required to carry water and be a sort of an errand boy for the others. Give the boys good tools, and make their work as easy and as pleasant as possible for them. Let them visit the towns and the shops and see for themselves how men who work for wages under bosses, have to labor. He illustrated the mistaken ideas that people have about the attractions of other occupations by telling of seeing a stage driver, when he was a young man, mounted on his stage, driving a team of four spirited horses and how he envied that stage driver. He would rather be that stage driver than President of the United States. He spoke of once visiting one of the finest farms in Davie county, where every comfort was within reach. The owner had a son with whom he proposed to divide the farm, but the young man, carried away with the delusion of city life, went to town and hired out to work in some humble occupation for wages.

Our children must be taught that the occupation of the farmer is a noble one, and, as compared with the occupations of those who work for wages in cities, a happy and an independent one.

Len Ketner preferred the life of a farmer because it was an independent one, he was his own boss and had not to go nor to come at the bidding of any master. He had been a farmer for thirty years and had never bought a pound of bacon.

Samuel Alspaugh said the way to make the farm attractive to the young was to set them good examples and to make home pleasant for them and thus they would grow up good men and good women and be content, and make good farmers. Have good houses, good stock, good gardens, good fences, and have everything neat and as attractive as possible. Look to the future not the

past, and live within your means. And let us live as near to God as possible. Let parents be kind to their children and children obedient to their parents. We cannot accomplish everything at once, but we can keep moving in the way of progress.

J. I. Craft paid a tribute to the life of the farmer, and said that while other honest occupations were entitled to respect and honorable, the most thoroughly independent, happiest and noblest of all is the life of the farmer, who is the only really independent man after all.

J. I. CRAFT.

MOUNT TABOR CLUB.

One of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings yet held by our club was the one of the 26th inst. Quite a crowd was present and the discussions showed that our membership is becoming more impressed with the importance of our organization. J. A. Petree, F. A. Fulk, Isaac Petree and E. M. Thompson were appointed delegates to the County club. The following were elected our executive committee: J. R. Petree, J. W. Bullard and J. L. Pratt. One new member was added to our number and several young men were received as honorary members. The question of the necessity for having a State convention of our farmers was discussed and it met with the general approval of the club. We adjourned to meet again on the night of the 10th of December. Respectfully,

THOS. RING, Sec'y.

FARMERS' CLUB IN HARNETT.

On the 20th inst., a farmers' club was organized at the residence of J. B. Churchill, to be known as the club of the Upper Little River township. Thirteen members were enrolled and the following gentlemen were elected as officers: President, W. D. Patterson; Vice-President, J. B. Churchill; Secretary, Jas. B. Patterson; Treasurer, N. A. Patterson. We had very interesting speeches by the President, J. L. A. Brown, M. H. Brown and others. We meet again on Saturday the 4th day of December when we hope to add quite a number to our list.

J. B. PATTERSON, Sec'y,
Broadway, N. C.

The farmers of Upper River township in Harnett county are arranging for the organization of a club. Another club is about to be organized at Hookerton, Greene county.

The work of organizing clubs is progressing. Every mail brings the PROGRESSIVE FARMER requests for forms of the constitution and by-laws, which are promptly forwarded.

FROM A FARMER BOY.

MORGANTON, N. C.,
November, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER—The corn crop is about housed. While the yield is considerably short there is more than enough for home consumption. The crop is estimated at about one third less than last year. Some of the farmers have their old crop on hand yet.

The last wheat crop was almost a failure here, and at present the prospect for the coming crop is not at all flattering.

Neither was the apple crop as large as it was last year, but I think the farmers can keep the Sheriff off, notwithstanding the bad crops. Some of our farmers are giving more attention to making their own manure, which we all find to be the cheapest and most profitable way of farming. Success to the PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

FARMER BOY.

—The pecan crop has yielded well this year. The trees in Judge Albertson's and E. F. Lamb's yards have shed their fruit which is rich and abundant. Take Bro. Creecy's advice and plant pecans.—*Elizabeth City Economist.*

THE GOOD CLUBS DO.

The *Elizabeth City Economist* speaks as follows on the benefits to be derived by farmers from the organization of farmer's clubs:

"The often quoted remark of Dean Swift is that 'he who makes two blades of grass or two ears of corn to grow where but one grew before deserves better of his country and is more entitled to the gratitude of the people than the whole race of politicians put together.' This is a noble tribute to the industrious and thoughtful tiller of the soil. If one blade of grass or one ear of corn entitles one man to the gratitude of mankind, how much more is that man or that body of men entitled to the gratitude that causes fifty blades of grass or fifty ears of corn to grow where but one grew before? The farmer's club of Pasquotank county, if properly sustained, will do that. It will give new life to the farmer's occupation in all this section. It will give every one the benefit of every other one's experience. It will give every member the benefit of prices obtained by every other member. It will be a weekly museum of products. It will be a farmer's home and headquarters, where he can learn the news and how the crops are getting along. We confess to some enthusiasm about the Farmer's club. It has been our pet and hobby for fifteen years. How well we remember how hard we struggled to keep it up fourteen years ago. But it died. It was the parent of our old Agricultural Fair and as we predicted then, the child devoured the parent. A fair is more interesting and attractive than a farmer's club, but a well sustained farmer's club is worth a farmer ten times what a fair is. A fair is expensive and requires a stock company to sustain it; a farmer's club requires nothing but punctuality and a little time. We would sooner contribute to raise a monument to the man who builds and sustains a farmer's club than to the man who builds up and sustains a fair. A farmer's club is purely agricultural and benefits farmers alone. A farmer's club room, with weekly specimens of growing crops, with all the agricultural periodicals and other publications on file, and with paintings of agricultural scenes and portraits of distinguished farmers on the walls, we should regard as the greatest blessing to the farmers of Albemarle. It would at once throw new life into the farmer's life and business and would be worth to every farmer more than fifty times the value of the time he gives to it. Then do attend the meeting at the courthouse on Saturday evening at 3 o'clock sharp and lend a hand to revive and reorganize the 'Albemarle Farmer's Club.'"

State Items.

—H. W. Lindsey, of Kernersville, killed two hogs, on last Friday, weighing 372 and 349; J. W. Beard, two weighing 416 and 372; M. C. Crews, one weighing 390.—*Salem Press.*

—The State auditor has completed the work of making out and mailing the vouchers issued for pensions this year and applicants may call at their respective offices to receive them. There are now 2,127 pensioners, each of whom receive \$14.10 from the annual appropriation of \$30,000.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

—We regret to learn that Mr. S. G. Hall was bitten on the neck this morning by a venomous spider and for a time his condition was critical indeed. His physician was sent for, and every means known to medical skill were resorted to before the unfortunate man was relieved from distress and absolute danger. The bite came very near proving fatal and Mr. Hall's sufferings were intense for a considerable time.—*Wilmington Review.*

—Judging from the large droves of horses and mules that are being received by stock dealers in this city, it would seem that a lively trade is anticipated in that line hereabouts.—The renowned rice mills of Messrs. J. Strauss & Co., of this city, are now under full headway for the season, running night and day, and are turning out some of the finest rice ever put upon the market. The rice crop this year is of unusually fine quality.—*Goldboro Argus.*

—There are upwards of 5000 inhabitants in this county between the ages of 6 and 21.—The corn crop in Stokes is not so good as it was thought before it was gathered.

—Fifty more convicts have been added to the force now at work on the Mt. Airy end of the railroad.—Capt. Sterling J. Adams, a prominent citizen of this county, State Senator from this district in 1870 and for sometime superintendent of the late Major Hairston's plantations in this county, died at his home near Walnut Cove, Friday night, November 19th, and was buried Sunday with Masonic honors.—*Danbury Reporter.*

THE FARMER IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Col. A. K. McLure, editor of the *Philadelphia Times*, runs an independent newspaper and sometimes he runs an independent tongue, as will be seen from his speech made before the National Grange in Philadelphia and reported by the *Farmer's Friend*:

He alluded to the husbandry of the land as the largest and most important interest of the country, and said he heard complaints from every direction that the husbandry of the land was oppressed; that it is interrupted in reaching the markets of the land; that it is trodden down by organized capital, and this is true, but it is the fault of the farmers only. They hold in their hands the power to vindicate their rights and do not use it. They have been forgetful of their duties and faithless to themselves. He said: "With the power in your hands you ought not to come to Philadelphia whimpering about wrongs you have the power to cure. Physician heal thyself! Do you ask me how to do it? It is as plain as noonday. Don't get a lot of political demagogues to lead your columns but when you have a member of Congress who fails in his duty strike him to the earth. If there is a legislator who works in the interest of organized capital and against the rights of the farmers stamp on him as you would a viper. If you do this it won't be a year before you have all the political parties on their knees to you, asking you who you will have."

UTILIZING PEA VINES.

In place of ploughing under pea vines send a heavy roller over them which will break them near the surface of the ground. The vine, above the point of fracture, will decay while new shoots will be sent out below the fracture and another crop will be grown which can be similarly treated. If this method shall prove successful, the principal difference in the use of green fertilizers will be obviated; and we consider the question one of the greatest importance to farmers. It is evident that a very heavy roller would be required, but cutting knives might be used to assist in breaking the stems. It is probable that the age of the vines would materially affect the facility with which the stems are broken. If the roller is used at the proper time, when the vines are in blood, breakage could be effected more easily than if the vines are maturing. We hope to learn more of the matter, and if we succeed in getting any positive information as to experiments made, our readers will hear of it.—*The Spring.*