



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. 45.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

MT. TABOR CLUB.

Minutes of Meeting No. 2.—Held December 10, 1886.

The meeting was called to order by the President at the usual hour.

Mr. Pfaff, the President, proposed a competitive trial on five thousand hills of tobacco, and David Endsley offered a like proposition on one acre of oats. The President appointed Isaac Petree, J. L. Pratt and J. T. Ziglar a committee to devise a plan for and specify the conditions of said trial and report at the next meeting.

The President presented the subject of discussion: The making and applying of manure to the best advantage.

David Endsley advocated sheltering the manure. When cleaning out stables he uses woodmold and rich earth. To every 2000 pounds of this mixture he adds \$1.50 worth of saltpetre and \$1.50 worth of potash. Regards this as good for tobacco or vegetables if enough be put on to do good. Plow land deep and subsoil.

F. W. Pfaff asked if the above will drill.

Mr. Endsley. It will, and I can say this: If it is not as good as \$14 worth of chemicals I will pay the \$14 myself.

Mr. Flavius Pfaff endorsed his statements, saying he had used the above with satisfactory results.

J. L. Pratt would use a different plan from the above, would shelter manure. When stables are cleaned out he would put dirt in stables to absorb liquids. Put a layer of rich dirt and a layer of manure on a rick under shelter and so on until complete and allow to rot. Lost large amount of manure by exposure to drenching rains. Cleaning out stables and sheltering manure will retain all the ammonia that would otherwise be lost by exposure to rain and sun.

Mr. Endsley explained that the addition of salt and potash with dry earth renders the heap fine enough for drilling and that whenever lumps are found they can be removed for broadcasting.

F. W. Pfaff advised saving all ashes to mix other ingredients. Expects to try this. Advocated practicing what we preach.—We must try these experiences as well as talk about them.

A. J. Burrus did not expect to be called on so soon. He felt like the negro boy who, when asked to lead in prayer, said, "O Lord thou knowest that I am so frightened that I do not know what to say." He recalled his work on his father's farm of gathering into pens all manure of any fertilizing value. Favors use of pine straw mixed with potash and lime.

W. H. Conley differed from Messrs. Burrus and Pfaff in use of ashes and lime. Would not mix these with a compost heap as they liberate the gases to farmers' loss. He favors the free use of home-made compost with as little of the chemicals as possible. Would apply the above two separately from the manure itself.

J. T. Zigler thought we all talked a good deal and knew better than we do. We must now go and do some of these things we talk about.

Isaac Petree had listened to so much scientific talk on the subject that he would give some practical ideas. He believes in shelter from the sun and rain and advised judgement in spreading to economical advantage. He thinks the error of many is that they do not apply enough. Hence its strength gives out after the first crop.

Subject for discussion at the next meeting is "Winter work on the farm." The club adjourned to meet again on Jan. 7, 1887.

THOMAS RING, Sec'y.

KERNERSVILLE CLUB.

A called meeting by the farmers of this township was held at Bluff school house on the 3rd of December 1886. About thirty or forty young and old were present and the following question was suggested and discussed: What shall we do to make farm life more desirable? The discussion was opened by the President, G. W. Elliott, followed by several others. They showed forth that the chief ways and methods by which farm life might become more desirable are as follows: We as farmers should cultivate fewer acres and a better soil which only can be obtained by a more scientific system. Deep plowing, followed by clover, grasses and rest with domestic fertilizers is all that is necessary to build the soil, after which we find farm life more independent and pleasant than almost any other. Instead of clinging to the old scrub stock, let us exert every effort in procuring as fine as there is in the country, which cost no more to feed and produce four times the profit. Home industries should be patronized. We should have better school houses and better methods of teaching. Our churches are inferior and too far apart. We want a better system of working the public roads; there are too many bosses getting big pay who are principally paid by the farming class. Had we all these things which can be obtained after a little time and all pulling steadily at the same end of the rope, we would then have fewer young men flocking to the city.

F. C. HASTEN, Sec'y.

THE WORK IN HARNETT.

BROADWAY, N. C. Dec. 10, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—The farmers of this vicinity have met and organized a club to be known as Upper Little River Township Club, No. 2, of Harnett county. Fifteen names were placed on the roll of members, and the following officers elected: President, Sandy Douglass; Vice-President, Thos. Cameron; Secretary, A. L. McKay; Treasurer, Glasco McLean. An Executive Committee was chosen, composed as follows: Thomas McKay, Sandy McLean, and John Brunington.

There were interesting speeches delivered by the President, Thomas Cameron, Hon. R. A. Dobbin, G. McLean, John Brunington, Thomas McKay, John McKay, S. McLean, S. F. McNeill, N. Minter, Albert Bethea, Albert McKay, and others. Among the visitors was Hon. G. W. Womack.

The next meeting is appointed for the 27th inst., when we hope to considerably increase our membership. With best wishes for the progress of our club and the good work in which it and other clubs are engaged in the effort to improve the condition of the farmer and benefit the coming generation, I am Respectfully,

A. L. MCKAY, Sec.

ORGANIZING IN MOORE COUNTY.

POCKET, Moore Co., N. C., December 10, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—I thought perhaps a few lines from this section would be of interest. We were disappointed by Col. L. L. Polk not being with us as appointed, December 9. We organized a Farmer's Club with twenty-four members. Elected the following officers:

President—Evander McGilvary.

1st. Vice-President—J. D. Henley.

2d. Vice-President—T. C. Campbell.

Secretary—J. F. Gilliam.

Treasurer—D. M. Underwood.

Will meet again December 30, at 2 o'clock p. m. Would be pleased for Col. L. L. Polk to be with us at that time, if convenient.

EVANDER MCGILVARY, President.

J. F. GILLIAM, Secretary.

[Will be there, if we can.]

Mr. G. T. Ormond writes us from Hookerton, Green county, that a

farmers' club has been organized at that place, with the following officers: President, J. A. Edwards; Vice President, J. T. Frizzle; Secretary, G. T. Ormond; Treasurer, J. J. Ormond. The editor of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER acknowledges a pressing invitation to address the farmers of that county.

State Items.

—As an evidence of the stringency of the money market, a whole barn of tobacco brought \$2.50 at a mortgage sale Tuesday.—*Leaksville Echo*.

—The Carolina Central has crossed Broad River Iron bridge and began again moving dirt in its onward march toward Rutherfordton.—*Shelby Aurora*.

—The Willow Brook cotton mills at High Point are to be rebuilt and will be in operation next year. These mills were burned more than two years ago.—*Asheboro Courier*.

—Mr. T. F. Williamson has slaughtered the boss members of the swine tribe of the season, weighing 435, 405 and 380, making a total for the three of 1220 pounds.—*Winston Daily*.

—Joseph Powell, colored, who was to have been hung next Friday for burglary and rape has had his sentence commuted by the Governor to imprisonment for life.—*Battleboro Headlight*.

—The new board of commissioners have cut the Gordian knot and on the first day resolved to sign the \$75,000 bonds to the Rutherford Railway Construction company.—*Shelby Aurora*.

—Tobacco is now coming into market in good earnest, and is selling remarkably well. Warehousemen are smiling and the farmers are well pleased at prices received.—*Henderson Goldleaf*.

—Mr. John Wadsworth yesterday killed eight hogs, the total weight of which, dressed, cut up and packed away was 3,700. The largest hog in the lot netted 622 pounds. The hogs were of the Red Jersey breed.—*Charlotte Observer*.

—The new Baptist church at Ansonville is nearing completion. It will be an imposing structure when finished.—*Rocky and Pedee Rivers* swarm with wild geese which are very tame at this season.—*Wadesboro Intelligencer*.

—Mr. Geo. B. Hanna, of the Assay office in Charlotte, gives the following data of deposits at the various North Carolina mints from their organization to December 31st, 1885: Gold, \$10,975,835.53, silver, \$42,282.51. Total \$11,017,885.64.

—The new crop of tobacco thus far received on this market is of exceedingly poor quality and as a consequence there has been very small demand for it. Good tobacco is in great demand and it will bring fine prices here.—*Statesville Landmark*.

—The fire bugs have been at work in Perquimans. On the night of the 29th ult., three barns on Haskins farm were burned. They were filled with the crops of tenants of Mr. Winslow, and the loss falls heavily upon them.—*Elizabeth City Falcon*.

—Durham shipped last week 66,631 pounds of smoking tobacco worth \$19,434.20; 3,013 pounds of chewing tobacco worth \$1,009.30; 5,747,000 cigarettes, worth \$18,773.40; 9,500 cigars worth \$324.50. At the warehouses last week 358,021 pounds of leaf tobacco was sold for \$32,787.55.—*Durham Plant*.

—The family of Mr. W. B. Traylor was poisoned this week by eating molasses, that through mistake had been drawn in a measure that was used for some kind of poisonous oil. This came very near ending fatal and clerks should be particular about using measures where such things are kept.—*Tar River Talker*.

—We have reason to hope that two new enterprises of great importance will soon be set on foot in Hickory. A man from Ohio is thinking of putting into operation a spoke and handle factory, and two men from Va. contemplate the establishment of shops for the manufacture of agricultural implements.—*Hickory Press*.

—A parochial school is now open at Walnut Cove in connection with the Episcopal congregation there. Miss Letitia Davis is the teacher.

—Speese who was tried here at the last court for killing James, when the jury did not agree to a verdict, was released from custody last Tuesday on his father going security.—*Danbury Reporter*.

—Messrs. W. J. and J. M. Wadsworth have shown us some of their Texas storm proof cotton. They raised 1800 pounds of fine long staple cotton of this kind on two acres of old field. This cotton is the friend of poor land and will grow and yield surprisingly upon it. These gentlemen will soon offer their seed to the cotton planters.—*Sanford Express*.

—Several large hogs have been butchered in Kernersville within the last few weeks. The following are among the number: one by J. H. Leak, weighing 501 pounds, W. H. Leak, 479, J. N. Leak, 422, R. Harmon, 477, J. W. Beard, 417 and one by M. C. Crews, weighing 413. There are several others yet to be killed that will probably raise the average.—*Kernersville News and Farm*.

—Samuel A. Hege killed two hogs 9 months old, weighing 232 and 224 pounds. W. A. Lemly killed two hogs weighing 390 and 440 pounds. A. S. Jones killed two hogs 8½ months old weighing 308 and 310 pounds. John Foltz killed two hogs weighing 412 pounds. Jacob Foltz killed three hogs, weighing 232, 252, and 225 pounds. A. N. Reich killed two hogs weighing 400 and 440 pounds.—*Salem Press*.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of the State of Iowa, has 300 students, most of them sons and daughters of farmers and mechanics, who are receiving tuition free. The interest and rentals on the land grant made by Congress in 1862 amounts to \$45,000. With this money the salaries of teachers and the running expenses of the institution are paid. The President is W. I. Chamberlain, a farmer. We find a letter from him in one of our agricultural exchanges which contains some points, which apply with much force to North Carolina. Speaking of the way the land scrip fund has been applied in certain States, he says:

"I think the agricultural colleges of Michigan, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Mississippi and some other States have been true to the idea of the Congressional grants. In some other States the managers have attached the agricultural college as a department of an already existing university, or have tried to build up a full university on the basis of the land grants. To me this has always seemed a perversion of the trust, or at least a diversion of the funds. It has also seemed to me that it could never have taken place if the farmers had themselves been wide-awake."

North Carolina, we are sorry to say, is one of those "other States" where "the managers have tried to build up a full university on the basis of the land grants," not by "attaching the agricultural college as a department to an already existing university," but by attaching a fictitious agricultural college, which never did and has not now an existence anywhere save in print between the covers of the University catalogue. A name only, and nothing more. We have taken the position in this paper that this was a violation of the agreement entered into by the State when it accepted the land grant made by Congress, with the conditions accompanying it. Mr. Chamberlain considers it a "perversion of the trust, or at least a diver-

sion of the funds." And so will say other disinterested persons who give the subject a moment's thought. "This could never have taken place," he remarks, "if the farmers themselves had been wide awake." This is true, for in some States where an effort was made to gobble up this fund for the benefit of others, and not farmers, the farmers were wide awake, demanded it and got it. Had the farmers of North Carolina been awake and stood up for their own as they should have done the 270,000 acres of land donated by Congress would not have been lost to them, nor scrip for these 270,000 acres representing at least \$270,000, have been converted through nefarious legislation into worthless special tax bonds. A succeeding legislature was considerate enough to undo the wrong to the extent of putting \$125,000 valuation on \$270,000 worth of property, on which six per cent. annual interest is paid by the State, amounting to \$7,500, which has gone for the past eleven years to the University which until recently did not make even the pretense of having an agricultural college in any way connected with it. During these eleven years the farmers of the State, as they are now doing, paid most of the taxes out of which this \$7,500 came, and got in return not one dollar's worth of benefit. During all this time the farmers of the State were silent, no voice was raised in protest against it. They lost the land scrip, but said nothing, and have gone on for eleven years and paid into the treasury the largest portion of \$82,500 for which they have received nothing in return, and said nothing. But they are beginning to wake, and ask why is this? And they mean to have an answer when they put the question. They have learned the history of this land scrip business, and many of them, very many of them are doing some very vigorous thinking about it, and not a few think aloud, their thoughts taking the shape of resolutions demanding that the legislature take steps to prevent the further "perversion of the trust" or "diversion of the funds."

VALUE OF RED CLOVER.

We have always been a firm believer in the value of red clover; every person who has given the matter careful attention will coincide. It is one of the most valuable of plants as a means of improving the fertility of the soil, as it is for a forage plant, wherever the soil and climate is natural to it, and this is generally the case up to the 100th meridian and from 36° of latitude up to and beyond the limits of the United States. Prof. S. L. Knapp, in a letter to the *Iowa Homestead*, says that the composition of red clover is similar to cow's milk. As to its power of absorbing manure, its feeding value, etc., it is presented as follows:

Clover is a wonderful feeder; it greedily devours barn-yard manure and ashes and has a special liking for gypsum. As a grain food it is not necessary to find a better. Placing a bunch of red clover when about seven or eight inches tall, beside a similar bunch of alfalfa, orchard grass, Italian grass, etc., and allowing cow, sheep and pig to decide the question of relative palatability, in every case the pig and sheep took the clover first and in most cases the cow did the same. An acre of good clover will produce in one season twelve tons or more of green food. Red clover when young has a nutritive ratio of one to two, which shows that it is nearly equal to oil-meal for growing young animals. As the plant approaches maturity the water, the ash, the fats and the albuminoids decrease, and the carbohydrates and crude fibre increase till in full the nutritive ratio is one to three—excellent food as hay, but not so strong in flesh forming material as earlier.