



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 1.

WINSTON, N. C., DECEMBER 22, 1886.

No. 46.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

TRINITY CLUB.

Subject—Beneficial Reading for the Farmer.

Dr. D. Reid Parker.—Allow me, gentlemen of the club, to suggest a few primary treatises on subjects of absolute importance to the farmer. Get some good work on stock, their diseases and general management. Harris on the pig. Harris' talks on manure. How plants grow, by Johnson. Waring, on drainage. Howard's Southern grasses. Ville's lectures. How the farm pays. The chemistry of the farm. After reading these elementary works light will begin to fall on the agricultural pages and you will pass on to higher studies. Besides these standard treatises there are many very valuable weekly and monthly publications that are absolutely indispensable to the farmer.

The farmer to-day must read and think or ingloriously surrender and leave the field without any further ado about it. It is monstrous nonsense to ridicule book farmers, for I have observed that the most intelligent and successful farmers are those who read books and papers and think. You had as well deride a lawyer or a doctor for reading and call them book lawyers or doctors as to make little of the farmer for trying to keep up with the best methods in his own calling.

A farmer should be familiar with the nature and requirements of all farm animals—how to raise, feed and manage them for profit. And a man is not born into this world with this knowledge, neither does he learn it in the schools and colleges, and if he ever becomes informed on this subject he must therefore do it himself. Too many of us know just enough about the hog to imitate him in eating and living and this seems to satisfy our ambition for knowledge.

Every farmer with a family should be well informed as to all needed sanitary measures about his premises—location, pure water, etc. The comfort, energy, usefulness, the moral and religious character depend, in a great measure, upon one's digestion. And this in turn depends largely upon what a man eats and how it is prepared. The everlasting frying-pan, hog meat and soda bread are making of us a generation of thick skinned dyspeptics—heavy bread and bad cooking tend to shorten life, kill out all manly energy, crowd our pathway with blue devils, fill us with all manner of wickedness—and then we go buy patent medicine, thinking to purge away all these "dismal stains" and thereby only plunge the deeper into the "gulf of dark despair." Any farmer in North Carolina, I don't care in what section he may live, or what crops he may grow, that will mortgage his farm, crops or stock to buy Western side-meat and thereby banish peace and comfort from his home deserves to be haunted by the most hideous hobgoblins that "round about the caldron go."

Wake up, my farmer brother, and learn your duty in this matter, and then teach your wife and children how to cook and eat, and live for a noble purpose. Buy books and papers and go right to work now. It is a grand field of usefulness. The field is white for the harvest, the laborers are few and the demand is urgent—enter now and begin the good work.

In raising stock we pay some attention to the law of selection, we feed and groom with an eye to improvement; this is all right and commendable and if this be true with a blooded colt or a Jersey bull calf, how much more urgent the necessity to give our farmer boys a chance to grow up to the stature of first class men. The country boys are all the strong support of the farmers

of the State and Nation. It is folly to rely on city-bred dudes, they are too often dissipated and have not the physical or moral stamina upon which to build good citizenship. If these fellows who have been brought up in idleness and schooled to rascality all their born days be our only resource for wholesome laws and good government, then verily I say unto you our country's future is almost hopeless. The highest ambition is place and "boodle," regardless of the sufferings of the many. In the name of the noble, self sacrificing, patriotic sons of toil and our common country I cry for speedy deliverance from these insatiate vampires. The young man from the town or city or country with nothing to do but lounge around and dissipate and loaf and idle around had just about as well be bitten by a cobra and at once be put out of the way, as to the good he is ever likely to be to his father, his mother, himself or his country.

Farmers, give your boys something to do and show them *yourself* how to do it well. Don't allow them to idle away these long winter evenings, but furnish them freely with good books and papers to read and study. It will pay you, it will pay them and it will abundantly pay the State. Every one knows that there is a vast amount of disease, crime, poverty and misery emanating from idleness and dissipation, but no one knows how to prevent all this, for no one knows how to make the great mass of the people wise and contented. Nevertheless it should be the constant endeavor of every father and mother in the land to heroically meet this tidal wave of destruction ere they see engulfed in utter ruin everything they hold dear this side of Heaven. There is before the well developed country boy the grandest possibilities and I have an almost unbounded faith in him. Don't wait for the schools and colleges to make great men out of your boys—*do it yourselves*. To succeed in all this it is absolutely essential that the farmer study books and men and read every day the great volume of nature ever open before him. He must be a close student as well as a hard worker.

Of all men in the world farmers as a class are the easiest to humbug and victimize. Just let some slick tongued, well dressed chap come along with some patent canning fluid, or some county and farm right, or some self-boring auger and he will straightway gobble up the unsuspecting farmer, who does not read or think for himself. I positively would not give a bushel of leached ashes for a whole car load of these rights. I don't care what they claim for them, or promise to perform. Mature wisdom crieth in the streets and says *don't! don't!* Subscribe at once for the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, the *Southern Cultivator* or the *American Agriculturist*—take at least one of them next year and all of them if you can, and I do not know a farmer in this section who could not take them all and be profited thereby. Try it brethren for one year and if you find it does not pay you I will foot the bill. Read the many good things in these splendid papers, reflect, digest and thereby appropriate what you go over with your eyes. This kind of reading gives definite, exact knowledge which is the key to success. One hour a day thus employed will make a man well informed and intelligent. Don't say you can't for I know you can. To use the language of the immortal bard, "Ignorance is the curse of God, knowledge the wings wherewith we fly to Heaven."

D. M. Payne.—The demands for farm literature are more urgent now than they were in the earlier stages of the country. The channels through which it can be obtained have largely increased, while its cost has proportionately decreased. The laws of supply and demand are easy

and excuses for these in need of it are eliminated. That jug of whiskey costs you more than a whole year's subscription to a first class agricultural paper. The results are as different as is Hades and Paradise. The person who claims the ability and liberty to purchase the former and the inability to purchase the latter is a—well what is he? I would like for some one to classify him. He certainly claims for himself the right to spend more money for nothing than he is able to spend for something clearly beneficial to himself and family. It is evidently plain that we do not intend to advise the purchase of whiskey or any of its kindred, instead of farm literature. They are as irreconcilable as truth and error. One, if persisted in leads to destruction, the other does not.

Agricultural literature consists of all such as have a relation to that business. There are many phases to this subject. To know *when* and *how* to do everything on a farm requires study—*immense* study. We should know how to destroy as well as how to grow. We must know how to build and how to tear down. We should learn how to destroy the lives of pests and propagate such others as are adapted for food, clothing and labor. We need and use power, and therefore ought to be able to comprehend its sources, as the lever, the pulley, the screw and the incline plane. Farriery should be studied sufficient to enable one to treat the common ailments of stock. There is a multitude of literature that would be of benefit to the husbandman, and invites his perusal. They are all proper subjects for the man who engineers a farm.

He who bosses a farm should know something of the food properties of farm products, and the most saleable in order to select a leading crop. The labor and painstaking in these studies should not be considered a burden, for the enjoyment arising from it, aside from the profit, is ample satisfaction for the time and expenditure. To accomplish all this does not require an expensive library, though some books are necessary. The most of it can be had through periodicals. They come fresh and in the proper season, and generally well up with all the late improvements. Read the late ones. Don't depend on old files of them bought by father or grand father. At the same time preserve them for occasional perusal. To destroy the file is as wrong as to neglect to purchase them. There are hundreds of periodicals that are good and wholesome reading. The PROGRESSIVE FARMER is one of which and not the least at that.

How a farmer can do without something to read on agriculture is phenomenal. Without reading progress would be reduced to a snail's gait, and gullies instead of rich fields would be the attraction. The result would be as plain as these yawning caverns. Gullies are great eye-sores to a good farmer. Nothing so contemptible. If I were asked for the most disgusting sight on a farm, I would answer without the least fractional part of a moment's hesitation, *gullies*. I have such a profound dislike for them that I am almost ready to brand those who have them on their farms as cowards, too trifling to defend themselves, but then I consider that they inherited or purchased them and are in some degree excusable. In such cases they have an elephant on their hands—an enormous eater—and no use for him. With such consumers and short crops it does not require prophetic skill to divine the result. After the creation this great fiat was sent out: "Till and keep." It looks as if the greater portion failed to notice that last word *keep*. In general practice it appears as if it were understood "till and waste." *Keep* or preserve is as binding as tillage. Its neglect is as fatal as to neglect the latter.

It is even more so as the tilling can be resumed next season but waste will take many seasons to restore. I have often wondered if the negligent man ever considers the time it would take to replace the soil moved by a single freshet, that could have been prevented by a few hours spent in the construction of a water furrow or ditch. In order to properly construct them he must think, read and act at once after ploughing a field that is subject to such destruction.

It is now late in the afternoon of the nineteenth century, and there has not been enough recuperation done. Take warning. Make amends for the mistakes of the past, and try to steer clear of them in the future. As the Christmas holidays approach put on dignity and manhood and make our festivities festive, without the toddy bowl or any of its evil producing allies to mar the occasion; and when they are over be able to review them without remorse, that harrassing word that ought to be made obsolete.

Will H. Robbins then offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved: That the Trinity Agricultural Club heartily favors and endorses the calling of a Farmers' State Convention to meet in Raleigh sometime in January next and that this club will send delegates to the same.

D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

SANDY RIDGE CLUB.

As we have not had an item in your valuable paper for some time, I wish you to know what we are doing. We are holding our meetings twice a month. At our meeting before the last we added 11 new names to our list, making a total of 55. At our last meeting which was held December 18, at 7 o'clock, we had a splendid turnout. A resolution was passed, making it the duty of each member present to speak on any subject that may come before the house or excuse himself. H. T. Reich was elected assistant secretary, after which the question how to best improve our farms was taken up.

J. H. Cox.—Farming is a science and requires a great deal more study than it receives. We must sow more grass and clover seed. We are behind in that respect. We should stop clearing land and turn more attention to making manure. Haul more loads of leaves into the barnyard and fewer loads of wood to town. Plant less tobacco and make it better. Don't sell any hay but keep enough stock to consume it all and keep it on the farm.

M. H. Ogburn.—It does not pay to buy so much fertilizers. I find that there is big pay in grass and clover. One year ago I bought \$43 worth of rough food. Now I can sell that much and still have plenty to do me. Move the weeds and rich dirt out of your fence corners. Give more attention to making manure. Make more provender, keep more stock and don't be afraid to feed. Sow more wheat and clover and plant less tobacco.

J. H. Reich.—I have always made enough on the farm to do me, but we must plant less and sow less and prepare our land better. And give more attention to making manures. We must stop buying fertilizer or go under.

The subject for discussion at our next meeting is, "What is the great object of the farmers' clubs."

J. L. ARMFIELD, Sec'y.

SPANISH GROVE CLUB.

This club met on the evening of the 18th inst., and I am pleased to inform you that we had a larger attendance and more interest manifested than at any previous meeting. Six new members were added to our club which increases our number to thirty-one members. We are resolved to stand by and do anything that is honorable in support of those who will lead the farmer and mechanic to the possession of the funds

arising from the Land Scrip. Can we get the legislature to move in matter? If the present application of the Land Scrip is where it should be, why are not the farmers and mechanics of the State realizing the benefit? If it is doing us any good we would like to know it so that we could enjoy it and feel thankful.

The question for discussion at our next meeting is, "Whether it would or would not be beneficial to the farmer to use convict labor on our public roads."

We have our meetings on the first and third Saturdays of every month at 7 o'clock.

In a vote taken in our club on the Watson road law or the old system, there were 13 in favor of the new and seven in favor of the old system.

E. C. DULL, Sec'y.

THE FARMERS OF PITT.

The farmers' club of Pitt met in Greenville December 11th and discussed subjects relating to the best methods of conducting a club to make it more attractive to the farmers and obtain the best results. It was decided to change the day of meeting from Saturday to the first Tuesday in each month and have a subject for discussion at each meeting selected the meeting previous. The subject for the next meeting is "How can we find the most speedy relief from the financial depression of the present?"

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with L. L. Polk, of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and invite him to address the club on Tuesday January, 11th, 1887.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved: That the members of the farmers' club of Pitt county view with deep concern the depressed condition of the farming interests of our country and desire to join their efforts with those of their brother farmers throughout the State in working for the advancement of the cause of agriculture. That we recognize the demand now being made for a Farmers' Convention as a move in the right direction for the best interest of the State and we believe the city of Raleigh the proper place, and during the sitting of the next legislature the proper time for such convention. That we pledge ourselves to aid in the movement and work for the promotion of agriculture until it attain the prominence due to a cause of so much importance to every enterprise within our borders.

After further discussion it was Resolved: That this club appreciates the efforts of the editor of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER in behalf of the agricultural interests of the State and receives with pleasure the announcement of his coming into our midst on the 16th inst., and will welcome him to our homes.

The secretary was instructed to forward these proceedings to our county papers and to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

FRANCIS JOYNER, Sec'y
December 11, 1886.

—As work progresses on the new Baptist church we are enabled to see what a beautiful structure it will be when completed. It will not only be a credit to the denomination for whose place of worship it was intended, but will be an ornament to the town.—Mr. Joshua Lowe killed a pig thirteen months old which weighed 463 pounds. Mr. J. E. Hinson killed a pig of the same age which weighed 325.—*Monroe Express*.

—The C. F. & Y. V. railroad is now running to Pond northward from Greensboro.—In traveling over Stokes county we have seen several good long strings of fence built in part or altogether of walnut rails.—We hear little said about burning off land for tobacco beds. It seems Stokes farmers are about to make up their minds that they cannot raise tobacco at three dollars per hundred, buy corn at 75 cents per bushel and pay for hauling it from thirty to forty miles home.—*Danbury Reporter*.