



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

TRINITY CLUB.

Subject—Plant Beds and the Tobacco Crop.

W. O. Harris. I have my doubts whether it is prudent for any of us to burn beds or plant crops of tobacco, if we conclude however to plant another crop of tobacco. After maturely studying the situation it is very important to begin in time and thoroughly prepare and sow your plant bed. Select a natural loam, clear of gravel with an abundant supply of plants for your entire crop and replanting. We have been too extravagant, most of us, with wood in burning beds. To avoid this waste of wood clear off the place and dig straight down with your mattock, not reversing the soil, and then burn the brush, trash and inferior qualities of wood. If the land be fresh, as it ought to be, it will require less burning. After this re-dig and burn again. All turfs should be raked off before the last burning. Now rake finely after sowing the phosphate to incorporate it in the soil before sowing the seed. Then sow one and one-half spoonfuls to 100 square yards, of the Gooch variety. We select this variety because it is the easiest to cure yellow. We prefer a bright article to more weight. Sow any time from the first of January to the first of March, when the ground is not too wet. New ground and old pine fields are best adapted. Heavy clay lands are not suitable, making a heavy, coarse leaf that will not cure bright.

Plant fewer acres and cultivate thoroughly, beginning as soon as it will admit after setting. Don't set them when too wet. Rather than mortgage a crop for fertilizers I would hire out to work at 25 cents a day. I should have cautioned you to dig trenches around and across your plant beds so that they may be thoroughly drained in wet seasons.

J. E. Sumner. I agree with Mr. Harris in his sowing and management of the plant beds. But I am not so well satisfied about the propriety of cultivating it at all. The damage of land and the general risk overbalances the chances of gain. In this section where timbered land is valuable and scarce it is not advisable to cut down and clear up for a tobacco crop alone. The tobacco crop requires so much attention and labor that it necessarily compels us to neglect other important work on the farm, such as cultivating other crops and preparing the lands for fall seeding and the general improvements needed on a farm. Notwithstanding some of my land is well adapted to the growth of tobacco I have concluded not to plant any this year.

A. Parker. I have had but little experience in tobacco culture. Before I began it I first counted the cost and consequently did not expect big things. I rather think as yet I am damaged by it. However as I have been at the expense of building barns and other necessary preparations for this special crop, I propose trying it still further. I shall select two or three acres of my land best adapted to its growth and endeavor to make a first class article. For a two horse farm, I would think two or three acres a plenty. I would not mortgage my crop for fertilizers or supplies, but would rather borrow the money at 8 per cent and pay cash for them, and thereby save the exorbitant rate charged time buyers.

B. F. Steed. I am satisfied that we can make more money on the tobacco crop than we can growing grain crops, on the same ground. We admit that the past years have not been very favorable to the growth of tobacco, and I have known seasons when wheat and corn failed as

badly on account of the season. If I can do half so well as some of my neighbors did season before last I shall be satisfied. Mr. Reddock made on 3 1/2 acres about six hundred dollars that season on tobacco. This he could not have done with any of the ordinary crops grown here. I propose trying it a little further as I have gone to the expense of preparing for it. Cultivate well a few acres and properly handle it if you expect good prices.

J. R. Means. We should plant not less than two acres, if we plant any, in order to get a barn of uniform size and ripeness. The failures the past season should not stop us but rather nerve us up to try harder the next time. Never risk a large crop of it, if you do you will neglect other important crops. I am of the opinion that you can get from a third to a half more out of it with the same labor than you can from a grain crop. By all means get an early and even stand as it will ripen up better and give you more time to cure it.

D. Reid Parker. Don't be deceived into the ruinous idea of the one crop policy. If you do you will get so poor that your carcass would not be relished even by hungry buzzards. Make your own supplies and be self-sustaining and independent—plant what you may. We must be satisfied with slow going until we learn more about this crop, as none of us are experts in its management. Operate on a small scale and in the meantime learn. It is folly to expect to succeed in any business until we have become trained in its requirements. As we learn more we will succeed better. Don't go in debt and mortgage your crop for fertilizers or any thing else, if you do the chances are that you will come to grief. Let the warehousemen and the obliging merchants keep their fertilizers so far as you are concerned. Pay the cash for these things or go without and then you will be at liberty to sell when and where you please.

D. M. Payne. Other brethren have sufficiently discussed the subject from the seed bed to the warehouse. I want to go over unoccupied ground. In doing so I must digress in some measure from what the statement of the question would allow, claiming that the following thoughts are pertinent with those who do or contemplate tobacco culture. While the farmer's financial interest may cease at the warehouse he has a moral consideration beyond it. Tobacco is not of vital importance to a people except in the single instance claimed by Mr. Clingman for its medicinal properties. If he be correct it is only fit for the sick room and therefore would require a much less extent of growing to satisfy the demands than it now has. If the ground we have taken be a just one, we ought to plant with an eye first to other crops, such as the cereals and fruits, together with their foods, then tobacco.

It is claimed, and I think justly, that the making and vending of a deleterious article is detrimental to the community. But in this instance the bad effects are somewhat mitigated as it does not destroy in its manufacture some life sustaining article as others do. It would be doubly baneful if it had such destruction in its preparation. It occupies time and soil in its culture, which, likely, might be put to better use.

Now if it be a luxury, as Capt. Snow, who is good authority, claims then we may with some propriety, if not decency, cultivate it. As a money crop it has but few superiors if you are situated in a favorable locality for it, and have "Snow's modern tobacco barn" to cure it in. But luxuries are scarcely bearable when ruin in some form follows in their wake. A man need not be an expert in physic to see that the bad effects arising from the use of a weed of questionable utility, when it makes him sick and the better type

of animals refuse it. I am of the opinion that there are at least 50 per cent more dwarfed constitutions now than there were forty years ago and they cannot all be attributed to "soda bread and western side-meats," for these were in common use at that time—tobacco was not. Sallow faces in healthy localities are generally in proportion to the amount of tobacco used, especially if the use was begun in boyhood. Most nervous diseases have a similar origin. Destroy or impair a man's nervous system and he becomes a shaking mass of unfitness for anything—not even for family abuse, and this is another mitigating clause in favor of the weed that some other luxuries cannot honestly claim. Man is almost alone in the use of it. His only rivals are the mountain goat and the horn worm. He can with some degree of truth say that he is growing it for the benefit of these two alone.

D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

MT. TABOR CLUB.

Minutes of meeting No. 3—held Jan. 7th 1887.

Called to order by the President at the usual hour. One new member added to the roll.

The report of the Committee for a race on tobacco and oats was postponed until next meeting. J. W. Bullard, F. A. Fulk, David Endsley, F. W. Pfaff and Thos. Ring were appointed as delegates to the County Convention.

The subject for discussion was taken up and discussed by the following gentlemen, to-wit: F. W. Pfaff, Isaac Petree, A. J. Burrus and G. W. Mitchell.

F. W. Pfaff.—Gentlemen, The subject for discussion to-night is winter work on the farm. We should prepare our fire-wood for winter, look out for cattle that they have good, warm quarters, repair our buildings, haul trash and other refuse in our barn lots, &c.

Isaac Petree.—We should get up our fire wood for winter use, spend a good deal of our time in our barn lots making all the manure we can, patch the leaky roofs, turn our land for corn and oats, when weather permits, and when it snows go a rabbit hunting and enjoy ourselves and catch all the rabbits we can, for they will save the ravages on the meat tub.

A. J. Burrus.—Not being a progressive farmer, I am like the man was that wore a wooden leg. Being asked why he did, he said: "My father, grand-father, and great-grand-father wore wooden legs, and it seems to run in the family." We have what is called four seasons in the year—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. December is the first of the winter months; the wheat being sown, and corn gathered and housed, the winter work on the farm commences. The first thing is to prepare our fire-wood for the winter use, turn our corn land and get ready for the next crop, burn our plant beds. Do not cut any more timber for the sake of planting tobacco, but make manure and plant old fields, and then sow in clover and grass, and in a few years you will see our waste-places blossom like an Eden. February is the time for us to commence sowing our oat crop—try and sow all we can, for there is not a better nutriment raised on the farm than oats, for all kinds of stock.

David Endsley.—I do not favor breaking land in winter. I think it is injurious to it—causes it to run together and bake, and it does not stand the drouth as well as it does in the spring. My motto is, to break and plant, but for oats I think it best to break in winter.

G. W. Mitchell.—I break my land in the fall, before Christmas; if it is good plow-weather the land will pulverize and stand the drouth better than land broke in Spring, and the cut-worm is not so bad, and you can get a better stand of corn. I do not agree with my friend Endsley

on his theory, and will show corn with him in the fall.

THOS. RING, Sec.

SANDY RIDGE CLUB.

The club met on the 15th inst. A goodly number present. We are glad to note the regular evening meetings growing more interesting. Mr. W. W. Reich was elected to membership.

The subject for discussion was waived for consideration of other business.

J. N. Reich spoke very earnestly in favor of reorganization of the State Board of Agriculture so as to be of more practical benefit to the farmer or abolish it entirely. Also in favor of working a certain class of convicts on our public roads instead of hiring them to railroad companies. Also the abolition of the crop mortgage system for commercial fertilizers. To prevent usury as at present practiced. The fertilizing companies can get an enormous rate of 18 or 20 per cent., whereas by law (if not for this system) they could only collect 6 per cent. We not only pay a large per cent on a mortgage but pay \$5.00 more per ton when buying on time.

Isaac Reich spoke briefly on the Privilege tax on commercial fertilizers, so as to invite competition in our markets and by so doing reduce the prices.

P. A. Cox spoke favorably of abolishing the State Immigration office. Said he welcomed all good citizens who chose to come and dwell with us, whether rich or poor, but was opposed to the State Agricultural Society employing agents to encourage foreign immigration to the State and thought something should be done to prevent the destruction of our timber and prevent wealthy syndicates from acquiring large bodies of our best timbered lands for speculation.

The following resolutions were passed for the consideration of the farmers' convention on the 26:

Resolved, 1st, That the State Board of Agriculture be reorganized so as to be of more practical benefit to the farmer or be abolished.

Resolved, 2d, That we demand the institution of an agricultural college with the money arising from the Public Land Scrip.

Resolved, 3d, That the office of State Immigration Agent should be abolished.

Resolved, 4th, That we favor working convict labor on our public roads instead of hiring to Rail Road Companies.

Resolved, 5th, That we ask the legislature to amend, in its wisdom, the law in relation to cruelty to animals, so as to make it more easily enforced.

Resolved, 6th, That the crop lien or mortgage system should be abolished in regard to commercial fertilizers.

Resolved, 7th, That weighmasters in tobacco Warehouses should act under oath.

Resolved, 8th That we ask the PROGRESSIVE FARMER to publish these resolutions.

J. H. COX, Sec'y.

SPANISH GROVE FARMERS' CLUB.

On Saturday morning, the 16th inst., our club had a most interesting meeting. It was largely attended and we added two new members. Arrangements were made to send two delegates to the Farmers' Mass Convention at Raleigh on the 26th inst.

A resolution was unanimously adopted, asking the Convention to investigate the annual expenditure of the \$43,000 by our Department of Agriculture, and whether such expenditure has been made in the interest of the farmers of the State, and whether it has been done with proper economy.

E. C. DULL, Sec'y.

ORGANIZING IN MOORE COUNTY—GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP.

MOORE COUNTY, N. C. }
Jan. 8. '87. }

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—The farmers of this township met to day and organized a farmers' club, to be known as Greenwood Farmers' Club, No. 1. Owing to the cold

weather and heavy snow, the turnout was not large. We enrolled 15 members with great enthusiasm and elected the following officers: Rev. H. W. Graham, President, Dr. John L. Cox, Secretary, A. H. Spencer, Treasurer. At our next meeting, on Saturday the 15th, will complete the selection of officers.

The subject for discussion at our next meeting is "Winter Work."

We want a few copies of your valuable paper for distribution among our members. All should be subscribers to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

J. L. COX, Sec'y

A CLUB AT OAKS.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—A dozen farmers met at Oaks, in Orange county, Jan. 8th, and organized a club to promote the best interests of the farming classes. The day was very unfavorable, and only a short notice had been given, but a very general interest was felt in the objects of the meeting. The members were unanimously in favor of holding a Mass Convention of farmers in Raleigh, to permanently organize and unite the farmers, and consider what legislation, if any, can be had for the benefit of the farming classes.

Another meeting was appointed to be held January 15th, to elect delegates to the Mass Convention to be held in Raleigh.

Alex. McIver was elected President and Jesse Morrow Secretary of the club.

A. FARMER.

ROCK REST CLUB.

MONROE, N. C. }
Jan. 6, '87. }

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—The farmers of Rock Rest neighborhood, Union county, have recently organized a club to be known as the Rock Rest Farmers' Club.

The officers are: J. H. Williams, Pres., H. C. Moore, Vice Pres., B. C. Ashcraft, Sec., and T. E. Williams, Treas.

The next meeting is to be held January 14th.

Yours truly,
J. B. ASHCRAFT.

OKION SPEAKS.

Dear brother "Job," I read your letter in the PROGRESSIVE FARMER. You are right. I am with you heart and soul and there are thousands and tens of thousands of farmers all over this land who feel as we do. But I see no effective remedy for the evils that are being heaped upon us this side of the ballot box. Farming clubs and organizing is all right as far as it goes, but at last we must go to the ballot box for relief. This must be a government of the people for the people, and not of monopoly for monopoly. I for one would be glad to see the farmers' convention when it meets adopt a declaration of purposes and principles so we may crystalize the sentiment of our people and act understandingly together. There are questions of momentous importance which should be considered by that convention. Hoping to meet you in Raleigh on the 26th, I am respectfully,

OKION.

—We learn that foxes are increasing very much in portions of Davidson county. Poultry are suffering from their ravages and they are thinning out rabbits and other game considerably. Minks are also troublesome.—Salem Press.

—Stock is suffering badly this desperately bad weather. Few farmers are prepared to house them properly so as to protect them from the blasting winds and chilling rains.—The petition for a stock law to embrace Pittsboro and its vicinity having received a majority of the qualified voters in the territory was granted by the commissioners at their last meeting and the fence was ordered to be built.—Chatham Home.