



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

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No. 4.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

#### BARSHAVIA CLUB.

**EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:**—The farmers of the north western part of Vienna Township held a meeting on the evening of Feb. 22nd, for the purpose of forming a farmers' Club.

On motion, made by Mr. Peter Sprinkle, Mr. Henry Y. Hauser was made President of the meeting. After considerable discussion, nineteen of the persons present signed the club roll, adopting the constitution and by-laws published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

The meeting was harmonious throughout, all seemed to think that by working in concert that they could do more than they could single-handed.

The Club finally organized by electing Mr. Jno. Y. Long President and W. H. Goslen Secretary, term of office to hold for one year. The club also adopted the name Barshavia, as most of its members live on or near its waters.

The next meeting was appointed for Saturday evening of March the 5th. We are all young hands in the cause, but we mean business. We believe in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and hope to have an address from its Editor at no distant day when we think the entire community will join our Club. The following is the list of members:

J. W. Speas, Henry J. Hauser, Jno. M. Long, B. Hendrix, J. A. Apperson, J. D. Anderson, P. A. Sprinkle, J. W. Waller, H. C. Doub, J. P. Sprinkle, Ellis W. Hauser, P. F. Petree, P. F. Holder, J. S. Anderson, C. A. Long, J. W. Whitman, L. G. Long, George H. Hauser, W. H. Goslen.

We adjourned, after requesting the Secretary to furnish the proceedings for publication in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

W. H. GOSLEN, Sec'y.

#### CEDAR GROVE CLUB.

There was a large attendance at the last regular meeting of the club, President A. W. Bevel presided. The subject under discussion was, "How can the South-east compete with the North-west?" which was participated in by President Bevel and others. Mr. Bevel said it presented a broad field for thought and discussion. He referred to the time years back when the high price of cotton brought money in abundance to the South, and begat a spirit of lavishness and of fast living which the people have not entirely gotten over yet. Wall street now controls the price of cotton and fixes months ahead the price the planter shall receive for his growing crop. Our people are not careful in the management and disposition of their property as they should be. He illustrated by referring to the fact that many of them sell hickory timber at from three to seven dollars a cord, which is worked up into handles and sold at sixty dollars a hundred. The finest white oak is sold in the same ratio. When you sell your timber see that you get something like its value for it or keep it. It will keep and will pay for the keeping. The timber supply of the West is about exhausted and the South handlers must look to the South for their supplies. We must learn to live within our means, raise less tobacco and only fine tobacco. The farmer should do his own selling. The middleman sells tobacco at 2 cents; the cost of manufactory is 2½ cents. The price of the lowest grade manufactured is 40 cents, tax 8, leaving a profit of 27½. He spoke of the methods of farming in the West, where the lands are made to yield 1,250 bushels of turnips to the acre, while we never thought of the turnip, which would grow well here and find ready sale at 30 cents a

bushel. He made many other interesting points and suggestions.

One of the members of our club, who brought his crop of tobacco to town "which cost him fifteen cents a pound to raise" and sold it for six cents, became so disgusted that he came home and tore down his tobacco barns.

J. I. CRAFT, Secretary.

#### NEW CLUB IN MECKLENBURG.

**EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:**—A portion of the farmers of Morning Star Township, Mecklenburg county met at the Grange Hall, on Saturday, February 26th, 1887, for the purpose of permanent organization. Said Club is to be known as Morning Star Township Club. The following officers were elected:

President—T. J. Renfrow.  
Vice President—D. E. Hooks.  
Secretary and Treasurer—J. W. Hood.

A permanent committee of 5 were elected as follows:

E. J. Funderburk, J. W. Philips, E. M. Matthews, A. C. Fisher, and T. P. Pyron.

Fifty-four names were enrolled. Short addresses were made by the President and others.

The Secretary was instructed to send the proceedings to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication, when we adjourned to meet on the 2nd Saturday of March next, at 1:30 o'clock, p. m. T. J. RENFROW, J. W. HOOD, Sec'y. President.

#### NEW CLUB IN JOHNSTON.

CLAYTON, Feb. 28, 1887.

The farmers around Clayton met on Saturday, February 12th, and organized a Farmers' Club, with the following officers: President, N. G. Gulley; Vice-President, R. H. Gower; Treasurer, J. B. Smith. N. R. Poole, J. R. Harrison and W. R. Poole constitute the executive committee. The regular meetings of the club are every second Saturday at 2:30 p. m. R. H. GOWER, Secretary.

#### CATAWBA COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

The Farmers' Meeting, appointed to be held at Conover on Saturday last, was well attended notwithstanding the unfavorable weather. A County Agricultural Society was organized with John Robinson, Esq., as President, Col. H. A. Forney as Vice-President, M. J. Rowe, Recording Secretary, F. L. Herman, Corresponding Secretary and J. M. Miller, Treasurer. The Society will meet semi-annually. The subject of the Co-Operative Store was not taken into consideration, and probably will not be, as a large number of the members are opposed to the undertaking.—*Piedmont Press.*

#### AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

Mr. James Burns, a Scotch blacksmith of Verona, Pa., says the *Pittsburgh Commercial Chronicle*, has discovered the long lost process of welding copper. If correct, and there seems no doubt of it, Mr. James Burns has a fortune in his grasp. This is the class of working men the country stands in need of. With a little vial of chemicals (the combination and names of which are Mr. Burns' secret) a hot fire, an anvil and a hammer the Verona blacksmith shows how in ten minutes he can do all that overcomes the difficulties heretofore in the way. He has already welded nearly a dozen different articles in copper with as much ease as baser metals can be handled. Wherever he can get a fire and hammer he can weld copper. By the old process fourteen or fifteen heats in a furnace is required to fix copper, but by his welding process only one heat is necessary. The weld being the pounding of the pure copper together, makes it so strong that it will never give out like brazed parts,

—Our farmers are now busy planting their early truck. Prospects point to a very favorable season so they say.—*Elizabeth City Economist.*

### THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

The following is a synopsis of the bill which passed the Legislature on last Thursday, establishing the Agricultural and Mechanical College:

Section 1. That the Industrial School be denominated "The North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts," and shall be located on the lands donated by R. Stanhope Pullen, near the city of Raleigh.

Sec. 2. The leading object of this college shall be, without excluding other scientific and mechanical studies, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life.

Sec. 3. The management and control of the said college and the care and preservation of all its property shall be vested in a board of trustees to be composed of the board of agriculture of North Carolina, and five other persons who shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate, who shall have power to appoint its president, instructors and as many other officers or servants as to them shall appear necessary and proper; and shall fix their salaries and prescribe their duties: Provided, That the board of trustees shall be composed half of each political party.

Sec. 4. The certificates of indebtedness of this State for \$125,000, issued for the principal of the land scrip fund to the trustees of the University of North Carolina, shall be transferred on the 13th day of June, 1888, or as soon thereafter as it shall appear that the Agricultural and Mechanical College is ready to receive the interest on the land scrip fund, and that the principal of the fund will not in any way be compromised by such transfer to the said board of trustees for the benefit of the said North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

Sec. 5. That the directors of the North Carolina State Penitentiary shall be required to furnish free of charge all brick and stone requisite for the necessary buildings of the said college, and to furnish convict labor for the preparation of the grounds and the foundations, and the erections of the said buildings, and for such other purposes in connection with the establishment of the said college, as they may be able.

Sec. 6. That the board of agriculture shall turn over the board of trustees of the said college, as provided in this act, to be applied to the establishment, maintenance and enlargement of the said college, all funds, land, material and other property which have accumulated in their hands for the establishment of an Industrial School, under chapter 308, laws of 1885, and annually hereafter the whole residue of their funds, from licenses on fertilizers remaining over and not required to conduct the regular work of that department. The agricultural experiment and fertilizer control station, already established under the management of the said board of agriculture, shall be connected with the said college and the board of agriculture may turn over to the said trustees in whole or part, for the purposes of the said college, any buildings, lands, laboratories, museums or other property which may be in their possession, as in their judgment may be thought proper.

Sec. 7. The use of the three hundred acres of land, more or less, known as the Camp Mangum tract, belonging to the State of North Carolina, and situated one-half mile west of the state fair grounds, is hereby given to the said board of trustees for the benefit of said College of Agriculture and Mechanic

Arts, or the Experiment Station connected therewith.

Sec. 8. The board of trustees shall admit to the benefits of the said college, free of any charges for tuition, upon proper evidence of good moral character and of the inability of their parents or guardians to pay their tuition, a certain number of youths, to be determined by them, not to be less than one hundred and twenty, and shall apportion the same to the different counties applying according to their relative number of members in the House of Representatives of North Carolina. The said board are hereby empowered to make the necessary regulations for carrying this into effect and for the admission of other students.

Sec. 9. Every student in this College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, shall be required to take a course of manual training or labor, together with the other courses of study and exercise, as the board shall direct.

### RESULTS OF INTENSIVE FARMING.

We have heretofore written about the method of intensive farming practiced by some of the best farmers in Georgia following the lead of Furman, the thinker and experimenter, who demonstrated its possibilities and achieved such remarkable results. Furman, unfortunately, died before his work was well begun, but not until he had demonstrated the truth of his theories, and pointed out to his brother farmers the road to success. His theory was this: He held that the productive capacity of soil was practically unlimited, and that the acre which yielded one bale of cotton, with proper treatment and intelligent culture, could be made to yield three, five, seven or more bales. He showed his faith by his works. He took a worn out old farm which was so poor that it would hardly sprout army beans. He analyzed the cotton plant and learned its constituent elements. He then analyzed the soil of his fields and learned their constituent elements. Those elements in which they were deficient, necessary to the full and vigorous development of the cotton plant, he supplied with a compost formula of his own composition. With this he fed that hungry soil, and the result was, in a couple of years three bales of cotton to the acre where one would not have grown before. He expected to increase the yield every year, and said he would not be satisfied until he had reached seven bales per acre. Had he lived he doubtless would have done it, for others since him, following his methods, have come very near doing it. A few years ago a fertilizing company in Atlanta offered premiums for the best yield on one and five acres of corn and cotton, and about two hundred planters in Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina entered in competition for the prizes. The *Atlanta Constitution* in publishing the result of these contests gives the names of the four principal competitors and the figures each reached thus:

Name.	Post Office.	Fertilizer used lbs.	Lbs. Lint Cotton. 5 acres.
Geo. W. Truitt,	La Grange,	3 600	7 898
Daniel H. Ponder,	Hampton,	3 500	7 557
G. M. Davis & Son,	Pope's Ferry,	2 000	7 544
R. W. Terry,	Fairburn,	1 500	6 877

Total on 20 acres, 10 600 29,876  
Average per acre, 530 pounds of fertilizer, 1,498 pounds of lint cotton.

This was 66½ bales on 20 acres, an average of 3½ 450 pound bales to the acre which everybody thought marvelous and the highest notch that could be reached. But in the contest the year following four Georgia farmers made 92 bales on 20 acres as follows:

Name.	Post office.	Fertilizer used lbs.	Lbs. Lint Cotton. 5 acres.
J. C. Sims,	Hogansville,	2 000	10 887
R. G. Ray,	Palmetto,	2 000	10 879
M. C. Pyron,	Palmetto,	2 200	10 873
G. W. Truitt,	La Grange,	7 500	8 883

Total on 20 acres, 15 350 41,572  
Average per acre, 767 pounds of fertilizer, 2,088 pounds of lint cotton.

Here are 66½ bales on 20 acres in '85,

3½ bales to the acre, while one year later, from 20 acres, we hear reported 92 bales, a little less than 5 bales to the acre. There were about 200 contestants, altogether, and the average yield of these in 1885 was 732 pounds of lint, something over 1½ bales, while in 1886 it was 960 pounds, considerably over 2 bales. These may look like fancy figures and doubtless would be so regarded if they did not come supported by names and proof which leave no room for doubt. What these two hundred planters did other planters can do; what these seven planters did other planters can do, with the same methods, the same determination. They simply cultivated their land well and supplied it with the plant food necessary to give the enormous yield that they reached, which may be and will be reached by many others who see what can be done when intelligence directs and industry accompanies it.

### A NEW PROFESSION.

From all portions of the country, but especially from the South, there comes a demand for men of scientific training and practical experience to manage farms. Capitalist engaged in other branches of business are owners of farms and country seats which they have neither the leisure nor the knowledge to cultivate at a profit. Fancy farming for mere occupation, involving a wasteful expenditure of money, is at a discount. Even men of the amplest means are anxious to have their amateur agriculture prove a financial success. To realize such aspiration a class of men of specific qualifications is now called for.

To the young men now studying with proper zeal and energy in our agricultural colleges this demand opens a brilliant prospect. Those of them who have the requisite capital will, of course, own and work their own farms; but there are others, without farms and without capital, who can exercise their scientific and economic skill only in combination with the farms and capital of others. With such as these the non-professional land holders will be well satisfied to share the profit of farming enterprise.

It is a healthful sign of the times that our large estates, especially in the South, are in process of subdivision. Let the good work go on until the mass of the farming interest is in the hands of small proprietors, a true yeomanry, working their own patrimony and cherishing those ideas and habits of independent manhood which are essential to true manhood. But when this subdivision shall have attained its full legitimate development, there will be still a wide scope for farming on a large scale, requiring men of specific agricultural training for their management. The young men without capital now studying scientific agriculture, if found possessed of these qualifications, will find a noble and lucrative sphere of activity.—*American Cultivator.*

### SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

By a system of legislation granting special privileges we have seen in this country hundreds of millions of acres created during the past twenty-five years, who have been permitted to absorb the profits of agriculture, which is not only robbing the farmer of the just rewards of his labor, but the communities in which it was produced as well. And while farmers under this system, have been compelled to contribute largely toward making the rich richer, they themselves have gained but little in proportion to the wealth they produced. It is true there are many who have made reasonable additions as profits, and it is also equally true that many more have gained but little—thousands have not gained one per cent per annum on labor and capital employed.—*Mortimer Whitehead, Grange Lecturer.*