

## The Progressive Farmer.

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RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 21, 1887.

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### ENDORSED BY THE CONVENTION.

The following resolution was passed by the Farmers' Mass Convention in Raleigh, January 26th, 1887:

Resolved, That THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, published by L. L. Polk, Winston, N. C., be declared the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, and that its Editor, L. L. Polk, be admitted to the privileges of the floor as an honorary member of this Convention.

We ask every Grange and Farmers' Club in the State to send us at once, the number of members in the organization, together with the name and post-office address of each officer.

### THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed, the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

### AN IMMENSE TERRITORY.

The United States bought Alaska from Russia in 1867, paying for it \$7,500,000. It was thought at the time by the people generally that Russia had decidedly the advantage in the bargain, but as the country is settled and opened up to trade it proves to have been a splendid investment. It is not that cold, perpetually frozen region it was popularly believed to be, and along the coast in the winter the climate is not colder than that of the Middle Atlantic States, while the productiveness of the soil will compare favorably with that of the Atlantic Seaboard. There are paying mines of copper and gold and inexhaustible beds of coal and iron. From the extreme east to the extreme west is as great a distance as from Washington to San Francisco, forming a territory larger than all the States east of the Mississippi River combined, drained by rivers some of which are larger than the Mississippi. With the enterprise and progressive spirit of these days it will not be many years before this vast territory will be utilized.

### HOW DO YOU KNOW?

What proportion of farmers can approximate the cost of the products of their farms? What did your corn, cotton, tobacco, oats, wheat, rye, hay, potatoes, &c., cost per pound or per bushel? Which field on the farm yielded the best profit? What crop? These are most important questions and every farmer should be able to answer each for himself.

It can be done easily. Keep a slate hanging at some convenient place, and at night, after the day's work is over, take down the transaction of the day, give your son or daughter a nice blank book—should cost but little—and let them keep it as the farmer's account book. Take two pages, debitor and creditor, for each separate field or crop. Name or number each field so they may be distinguished. On one page charge the field with each day's work, giving the date of plowing, hoeing, ditching and all manner of work stating the price per day. Charge it with

the manure, with the seed and everything done to make the crop. When the crop is harvested charge it to the cost of harvesting, charge it with a fair rental per acre. Now when the crop is harvested, enter on the credit page the amount in pounds or bushels, and its value.

The farm account kept even in this very simple manner would be of incalculable help to the average farmer. He would be able to refer to it each successive year and note the cause of failure or of success with certain fields or certain crops. At a cost of forty cents any farmer may provide to keep a record of what he is doing, and not least among the many advantages and benefits he would derive from some such system, would the interest it would implant in the child's mind who keeps the account and the great help it would be to it in acquiring a taste for and knowledge of business method and system. Try it one year and you will not abandon it.

### WILL WE BE FORCED TO DIVERSIFY?

A readjustment of international trade seems inevitable under the changes now going on in the production of the staple crops of the world. The fertile fields of Texas and Louisiana are brought into competition with India and Egypt, in the markets of Great Britain and Europe. The enlarged production of cotton in those countries, under the stimulus of governmental protection and encouragement, and at a minimum cost of labor, threatens to force the producer in the South to find new markets. The rapidly increasing acreage devoted to wheat in India and Russia, and the steady growth in the cattle trade in South America, all tend to curtail the consumption of and demand for American products in foreign markets.

Meantime, it is a question in industrial economy which the people of our State should ponder most seriously, whether we can afford with the meagre average yield per acre of cotton to contend against those States further South, which are so much better adapted to its production.

Will not a condition of things arise in the near future from the sharp and active competition between the most productive sections of our country and these new rivals which will force us to abandon the effort to make money on cotton and turn our attention to diversified industries? It is no disparagement to say that our State is not adapted peculiarly to the growth of any one crop, but it is her glory, rather, that she produces all the staple crops in fair abundance. The sooner we come to recognize the admirable adaptability of our State to a general system of diversified farming and industry, the sooner we will begin that steady growth and substantial progress which we all so much desire.

### COMMENDABLE.

Elsewhere we publish the proceedings of Mt. Pleasant Grange, Cabarrus county, and we desire to commend to the farmers of the State the action of this patriotic body of farmers. They are grangers from principle. For these long years, while Grange after Grange continued to fall, until over five hundred were stricken from the State Grange roll; they stood bravely by their colors, with a constancy and fidelity that challenges our admiration. They believe that the Grangers is the best form of organization, and believing it, they have stood faithfully by it; but with that fraternity of spirit inculcated by the teachings of their order, they extend the kindly proffer of their aid and cooperation to all farmer's organizations of whatever name. This is the proper spirit. And we believe that it is the spirit which actuates the great body of farmers throughout the country, and which will, in the near future, bind them together in one common brotherhood.

### FARMERS AND RAILROADS.

The attitude of the farmers of the country towards the railroads is truly and well defined in the following, which is found in the "Declaration of Principles" of The Patrons of Husbandry. The subject is now more prominently before the public than ever before:

"We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interests whatever. On the contrary, all our acts and all our efforts, so far as business is concerned, are not only for the benefit of the producer and consumer, but also for all other interests that tend to bring these two parties into speedy and economical contact. Hence we hold that transportation companies of every kind are necessary to our success, that their interests are intimately connected with our interests, and harmonious action is mutually advantageous, keeping in view the first sentence of our Declaration of Principles of Action, that 'Individual happiness depends upon general prosperity.' \* \* \* We are not enemies of railroads. \* \* \* Nor of any corporation that will advance our industrial interests. \* \* \* We are opposed to such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people, and rob them of their just profits. We are not enemies of capital, but we oppose the tyranny of monopolies. \* \* \* We desire proper equality, equity and fairness; protection for the weak; restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed burdens and justly distributed power. These are American ideas, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of an American Republic."

### THE WAY THEY LOOK AT IT IN JONES.

A Jones county correspondent of the New Berne Journal puts it in this way:

"Why is it that some farmers are so surprised at their failures in farming, when some of them consider that on a one-horse farm a fine Cincinnati buggy is an indispensable necessity? When I see a farmer loaded down with heavy mortgages for commercial fertilizers, and a fine top-buggy to ride in on Sundays, with a fine beaver hat on his head (purchased on time), I just set that chap down as one who has wasted \$5 on a beaver to cover five cent's worth of brains. Such a chap is always a failure—don't need a phrenologist to acquaint us of the fact, either. Yet he is sure to complain of bad luck and bad crops."

### MAINTAINING THE FLOW.

Mr. O. S. Bliss, the well-known Vermont dairyman, in article to the New York Tribune on holding the flow of milk and the time when the incoming cow will go dry, says: "There is in all animals, however well bred, a constant tendency to atavism or reversion to an earlier and more natural condition. Long milking is essentially a habit of domestication which has resulted from persistent breeding to that end. In some breeds the habit may be said to have become quite fixed, and the tendency to reversion to the habit of going dry early but rarely appears, but by far the greater number of young cows of all breeds exhibit the tendency in a more or less marked degree, and unless guarded against by continuous effort to keep up the flow, the early drying habit becomes fixed for life. Of course the evidence bearing directly upon this question is largely negative, and to be received with a grain of allowance. Many farmers assert with the utmost positiveness that a young cow once permitted to go dry two or three or four or even six months before calving will always do so, and detail individual experiences in proof of it. In a recent meeting of dairymen this subject was discussed at much length and without any dissent supported by experience."

But this evidence is all of the negative sort, though in the absence of any other known cause it may be accepted as generally sound. Formerly the opinion was widely prevalent that it was good economy to let cows go dry from three to four months, and not all farmers have been educated to attempt to feed and milk with reference to keeping up the flow as long as practicable. The result is that great numbers of short milkers come upon the markets and people who depend upon purchasing cows, either for the dairy

or family use, not infrequently suffer great disappointment when a cow with all the external appearances of a good and persistent milker dries off long before the incoming period, cutting off the milk supply two or three months earlier than is provided for. The only means of positive guarding against this inconvenience or evil, as the case may be, is for each individual to raise his own cows and train them up in the way he would have them go, which is not so difficult or expensive a matter as is generally supposed.

### TEXAS FARMERS IN EARNEST.

The following letter to the Times-Democrat from the Secretary of the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-Operative Union explains itself:  
NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE and Co-Operative Union of America,  
Waco, Tex., March 28, 1887.

To the Editor of the Times-Democrat:  
I see in the Dallas News of the 21st, copied from your paper, an editorial stating that there was a new process for manufacturing cotton-seed oil, and that the company propose building the mills and issuing to the farmers one-half of the stock for cotton seed. As the company did not pay you for an advertisement you failed to mention their address. Now will you please publish this letter? There will be a cotton congress in the City of Waco, Texas, May 4, 1887, composed of delegates from 120 counties in Texas, of Alliance members, the State Grange and State Wheel and Louisiana State Union.

Now, if a representative of that manufacturing company would come here with proper credentials he can get seven-tenths of the cotton seed in Texas, Western Louisiana and Southwestern Arkansas. The organizers under the National Alliance are receiving a flattering welcome in other States, and are reporting phenomenal success.

We expect our national meeting at Shreveport in October to represent 1,000,000 farmers and laborers.

Respectfully,  
E. B. WARREN,  
Secretary National Farmer's Alliance and Co-Operative Union.

—The Alliance Standard.  
The Day, of Waco, Texas, says that measures will be adopted by this Congress of Cotton Planters to establish three or more cotton factories at practicable points in the State. It is said that \$2,000,000 of stock will be subscribed by the order to be invested in manufactories of different kinds.

### MAKING THE HOME BEAUTIFUL.

If there is any form of extravagance that is pardonable it is that which manifests itself in the beautifying of the home. Money spent in making the home attractive, in adding to its comforts, and even to its luxuries, is money spent wisely. Such outlay does not partake of the selfishness of mere personal adornment, nor the gratification of desires and wishes that have no higher aim than one's own happiness, for the home is not for the individual, but for the family. Whatever makes the home dearer and sweeter, and more to be loved and longed for than any other place on earth, must elevate its character, and bring it nearer its heavenly ideal—the eternal home above.

And among the surroundings of the ideal home we cannot forego the love of the beautiful. In the sublime visions of the seer of Patmos we read of a city whose walls are of all manner of precious stones, its gates of pearl, and its streets of pure gold, with a river clear as crystal running through it, and its inhabitants wearing white robes and crowns upon their heads. The home that God provides for us above is beautiful, and he has given us a beautiful world to live in here.

### GOOD BUTTER YIELDS.

At a late meeting in Gloucestershire, England Chamber of Agriculture, the President, Col. Curtis Hayward, made a statement, of which we give the gist:

During twelve months he obtained 12,584 pounds of butter from an average of forty-seven cows kept during the year. During eighteen weeks, from October to February, the number of pounds of milk used to produce one pound of butter averaged only nineteen and a half, or less than sixteen pints. A cream separator was used, but the result is still remarkable, as the usual proportion is nearer to three gallons than two of milk to the pound of butter, even in winter, when milk is richer than in summer. The ratio was eleven pounds of butter to

"just over eighteen pounds" of milk. The cows in use for this experiment were thirty-one Short-horns and eleven of Channels Island breeds, chiefly Jerseys. Each had twenty-five pounds of chaff, half hay and half straw, slightly steamed; four pounds of mixed meal, composed of barley, wheat and beans, and two pounds of decorated cotton cake. No roots were given. The Short-horns were turned on to pastures for a few hours every January and were allowed to pick over the outside of a stack of silage.—Farm, Field and Stockman.

### REDUCE THE ACREAGE.

The Star used to urge upon the cotton planters to cut down the acreage. It was accustomed to say that if for three or five years they would reduce their acreage one-third that cotton would advance to 75 cents or more according to the number of years this course was pursued, until it had reached the maximum price. We notice that the Louisville Courier-Journal and Richmond State are urging that the tobacco growers shall reduce their production 40 per cent. There is now a great surplus on hand in this country and in Europe. Our Louisville contemporary says that 40 per cent. would be about 80,000,000 pounds. It says:

"There is, therefore, nothing to require a long siege of years to rectify the blunders of previous overproduction; but one year of wisdom and discretion will do it all. It will be, of course, necessary to avoid overproduction thereafter, as that mistake in any year would create anew the ruinous condition under which the market has been lately suffering. The markets are like a man in this—too much feeding, however wholesome the food, will produce indigestion."

But will the tobacco growers be wiser than the cotton planters? The latter have kept up as far as bad seasons would allow their production of the great staple. The result has been immense loss in the diminution of receipts. The prices have ruled low and thousands of planters are in financial distress with farms all plastered over with mortgages. High interest for supplies has reduced a vast army to a condition of servitude or of great embarrassment. We have no idea that the tobacco men will be wiser. In some sections not really well adapted to the growing of that crop it will be partially or entirely abandoned, but the great producing sections will grow all they can, we have no doubt, and take the chances as to prices. Of course this is not prudent or wise. If there were not more than 3,500,000 bales of cotton produced in the South for the next ten years, the price of the Southern staple would never fall below twelve and a half cents, and we believe it would average 14 or 15 cents. Tobacco would of course rule higher with less production.—Star.

### GET THEM OUT EARLY.

Upon the question of profit in fowls it is correctly held by Poultry Magnet as highly important that chicks of the large breeds be hatched early in the season. If you have a good place to rear them the earlier you can have them out of the shell the better birds you are liable to have in the fall. Light and Dark Brahmans, Buff, Black, Partridge and White Cochins and Langshans especially will do much better and bring far more satisfactory results for time and labor expended, if you will have them started early—very early—in the spring. If they are hatched late, the result will be very evident from a glance at your flock in autumn. You will have scrubs and runts and sickly birds in great plenty. But if they have an early start you will observe that your flocks will contain large, vigorous and hardy young fowls, which will bring you a worthy recompense for your toil and dollars invested! Don't procrastinate! Procrastination is not only the "thief of time," but it plays sad havoc in the "hen business." Provide warm and comfortable quarters for your chicks, and when, in early spring, some of the "old reliables" begin to appear broody furnish them with a clutch of eggs, and when the chicks appear give them proper care, and, above all, supply them with place to grow and feed in that will not make you ashamed of yourself every time you look at it. This is solid, sledgehammer gospel, every word of it, and we trust some of our readers may take the hint and act accordingly.

Fifty-six children are at the Orphanage, at Thomasville, and twenty-four more are expected to arrive shortly.