



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.

MARK'S CREEK TOWNSHIP CLUB—WAKE COUNTY.

This Club met on the 16th inst., when an interesting discussion was had on the subject:

How to Raise Manure and to Improve the Soil.

J. B. H. Knight said:

1st. Green Crops.—On our old and worn down lands, nothing is of more importance to improvement of their condition, when cost is taken into consideration, than green crops, such as field peas, rye, etc. The clean cultivation and severe washings to which most of our lands are subjected, soon destroys all the vegetable matter—humus—naturally in the soil when the land is brought into cultivation. When this humus has been exhausted, it must be supplied either by vegetable or animal manures. Mineral manures are no good without this humus in the soil to act upon. Now the best way I know to keep a supply of this humus on hand is to occasionally give to your land a pea or rye crop. Pease are far preferable. They not only give vegetable matter to the soil, but draw largely from the atmosphere. The pea foliage is very porous, and readily absorbs from the air such gases as ammonia, carbonic acid gas, sulphuretted hydrogen, etc. The grasses and clover act in the same manner, but I shall speak of them separately, further on.

2d. Grasses.—Grasses not only supply the soil with humus, but upon these we can rely largely for feed for our stock. Every farmer should have at least a portion of his farm in clover, or grass, for two seasons. 1st. With plenty of grass, feed is plenty, for during spring and summer we find it green, and during summer and fall, while the supply is more than equal to the demand, it should be cut and properly dried, and makes an excellent feed for winter use. 2d. With plenty of grass, or good hay made from it, we can safely make an outlay in stock, which properly fed and cared for, (of which I shall speak again further on) will make an abundance of manure to be used in enriching the soil. As to which grass is best for our country, there are many opinions. I have tried red clover, and know it to be a good thing. Purple top is as good annual clover as you can get. This must be sown in the fall, and may be cut for use early in April. It is purely a spring crop. The crop may be cut and fed green to all kinds of stock, or cut and cured—making an excellent hay, and the crop come off in time to plant the same land in cotton or corn. Lucerne Alfalfa, Johnston grass, Bermuda grass, and blue grass are all highly mentioned for hill lands, and Timothy for bottom lands.

As my subject is the improvement of the soil, I shall speak of the cultivation of these grasses only so far as they are directly concerned in the improvement of the soil.

3d. Stock.—As the grasses and stock are so closely allied, before going farther, I will say a few words about stock. One of the greatest inducements to the raising of grasses, is that we may have stock. The more grass, the more stock; the better the grass, the better the stock. The more stock, the more manure. The better the stock are cared for, the better the manure. It is advisable to raise pure breeds as nearly as possible, as they thrive better and always bring better prices when offered for sale. When it is not convenient to raise pure breeds, the next best thing to it is to breed from pure-bred males.

It has been ascertained that grades thrive as well as pure bloods, and with cows often milk fully as well.

4th. Rotation of Crops.—This is closely allied with what has heretofore been said, and on it much depends, not only as to the direct improvement of the soil, but the success in raising the grasses and stock, which mean, indirectly, the improvement of the soil.

No farm should be confined to one crop, but on it should be raised a variety of crops. If one crop is grown annually for a number of years on the same land, the soil becomes exhausted of certain elements necessary for the plants' growth unless properly manured, which is a very hard thing to do. To do this would require a careful analysis of the soil. A plant only takes just a certain proportion of each element composing it. One or more elements may naturally exist in abundance, in the soil, but in the absence of any one element, it makes no difference how small the amount required, the crop is a failure.

One of the best means of avoiding the exhausting of certain elements in the soil, is by rotation of crops. No two crops are composed of the same elements exactly in the same proportion. I will give a plan for the rotation of crops which I think a good one. We will suppose a variety of crops is the wish of the farmer, and his object to improve his farm and at the same time make his home comfortable, and some money by his farm. Will state in the outset, however, that no definite plan can be given, for much depends upon the land, and taste of the person concerned. Say he wishes to cultivate pease, grain (oats, wheat, etc.), cotton, corn, grass, potatoes, tobacco, etc. Of these, pease, cotton, corn, potatoes and tobacco will require constant cultivation.

As to quantity to cultivate of each of these crops, I should say let pease and grass represent about one-fifth of the farm, grain, (wheat and oats) one-fifth, or a little more, cotton one-fifth, and potatoes and other crops, one-fifth or a little less.

To begin, plant the portion allotted to pease, first preparing the land well, and manure them, if you have the spare manure, but do not slight the other crops for this one, and put in the seed pease as soon as danger from frost is over. Cultivate this crop well, and save all the pease. This crop will mature in time to harvest them before and about pulling fodder time. If convenient, the hogs may be pastured on this lot for a few days. Then turn under the vines to a good depth, but do not use a plow that completely reverses the soil. I prefer a plow that just edges over. In a few more days, or about the middle to last of October, plow this land well, again after applying its quota of manure, broadcast, and sow in wheat, and harrow in. The wheat may have a top dressing and harrowing in the spring, or not, as suits the individual. When the wheat comes off, just as soon as you possibly can plant in pease again.

This time suit your own convenience as to whether plant in drills and cultivate or sow them broadcast. The former is preferable, for then you have a chance of another good crop from this land for the same season. Always manure, every time you plant, if you have the manure, but if any of the crops are to be slighted, let it be the field-pea, unless the land be very poor, when they will need something to start them. This land after this, may be planted in cotton, the following year in corn, then in potatoes or other crops, or in grass or pease again, thus completing the rotation.

All the time plow the land well and until it is fine, but never when too wet. This is for the good of the land. Pasture lands are not included in this rotation. Now about managing the stock, etc.: Every horse and cow should have its stall, which should be warm and comfortable in winter, and so as to be ventilated in summer. Each animal should be fed in its own stall and be confined there until turned out. The stables should be kept well littered, and never suffered to become wet and foul. A good bed should be kept for the above purpose and to absorb the liquid portion of the manure, which is the most valuable part. Sawdust is a good absorbent, and might be properly used—a layer three or four inches deep in the bottom of the stall. On

and is fortunate in having good faithful officers. It is always among the foremost in good works.

THE FARMERS OF NASH.
The Nashville township club, is the largest club in the State that has been reported to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. It numbers 189 members. Its officers are:
President—Simon A. Robbins.
Vice President—Daniel A. Taylor.
Secretary—A. D. Williams.
Treasurer—Wm. G. Griffin.
Postoffice, Nashville, N. C.
This club proposes to hold its first annual meeting at Nashville on the 4th day of July, and generously invites everybody to come. A grand and good time is expected.

WAITAKER'S CLUB.
This club members 160 members and is in a most flourishing condition. Officers:
President—E. W. Sears.
Vice President—Warren Thorne.
Postoffice, Red Oak, N. C.

MOORE COUNTY FARMERS.
On the 19th instant, the farmers of Moore met in the courthouse in Carthage for the purpose of organizing a county club. Capt. Geo. Wilcox was made chairman and Daniel Underwood secretary. The chairman presented briefly and tersely the reasons why the farmers of the whole county should organize, and said that he hoped soon to see a well organized and active farmer's club in every school district in the county and all in thorough co-operation through a central or county club.

On motion of Mr. E. Cole, it was agreed that the farmers present should proceed to organize a county club. A call for the various clubs already organized in the county showed the following to be represented:
Greenwood No. 2, 26 members.
Carthage township No. 2, 15 members.
Carbonton, 23 members.
Jonesboro township No. 1—members.

Pocket No. 1, 35 members.
Crane Creek, 11 members.
Greenwood No. 1, 68 members.
Poplar Spring, 25 members.
The following were elected officers of the county club for one year:
President—Capt. Geo. Wilcox.
Vice Presidents—J. W. Scott, G. B. Cole, C. C. Hunt, Greenbury Cole and W. L. M. Harrington.
Secretary—D. P. Shields.
Assistant Secretaries—D. M. Underwood and A. G. McDonald.
Executive Committee—J. W. Scott, Elisha Cole, A. M. Wicker, J. R. Jones and H. J. Dennis.

Col. L. L. Polk, editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER was present and on motion he was invited to address the meeting. He spoke on the absolute necessity for organized co-operation among the farmers of the land, and said that he desired to see them organize by townships or school districts and these into county organizations and then to see all the States come together in one great National organization. The house was well filled and they listened with profound attention and interest to the speech, throughout. At the close of the speech Mr. Elisha Cole, suggested that the farmers present, as a mark of appreciation of the speech and of the noble and constant efforts of Col. Polk, on behalf of the farmers of the State, should at once raise a handsome list of subscribers for his excellent paper, and the suggestion was heartily seconded by the efforts of several of the farmers, which gave him a good list. We all feel that we have made a step in the right direction and that we have only to be faithful to ourselves to accomplish great good for ourselves and the country.
On motion the club adjourned to meet in Carthage on the 1st Saturday at 11 o'clock a. m.
GEO. WILCOX, President.
D. P. SHIELDS, Secretary.

CEDAR GROVE CLUB—FORSYTH COUNTY.

This enterprising club was organized on the 17th of April, 1886. It has now past the first mile post in its existence—is vigorous, healthy and hopeful. It held a lively meeting on its anniversary day in which a general review was made of its operations. It held 18 meetings during the year at all of which its faithful president presided, except one. It began with 24 members and it now numbers 61 voting and 25 honorary members. A general summing up of its work, and of the evidences of improvement among its members, and of the business transactions of the club, makes a creditable and gratifying exhibit. It is one of the most progressive clubs in the State and we confidently expect to hear of more and better work as it grows in age and numbers, for it is made of the right kind of material

An interesting meeting of Marks Creek Club was held on the 16th inst. It is necessarily a small club, but it is fully alive to the importance of organization among the farmers. A. R. Hodge President, Postoffice, Raleigh, N. C.; J. B. H. Knight, Secretary, postoffice, Eagle Rock, N. C. Regular time of meeting, Saturday before 3rd Sabbath in each month.

The farmers of Guilford county are contemplating having a farmers' county meeting in Greensboro at an early date for the purpose of organizing clubs in all the townships of the county. And thus the good work progresses. We hope before the year is gone to be able to chronicle the organization of the farmers in every county in the State.

COTTON-SEED OIL.
This journal has constantly opposed all adulterations in food. It was as against adulteration that the Oleomargarine law was favored. We never made war upon butterine or oleomargarine as such. Simply as an American manufacture it has its proper place in commerce, will command a price according to its intrinsic value, and be the basis of a legitimate business. It is only as an attempted counterfeit that the law became necessary.

The same principle applies to cotton-seed oil. Lard consumers have a right to claim protection against counterfeit lard, made from cotton-seed oil. Purchasers of olive oil rightfully complain when they are cheated by an imitation made from cotton-seed.

Cotton-seed oil is a vast product of the South. It is estimated that within a few years, when the business shall have been expanded to its full capacity, it will add \$75,000,000 annually to the productive wealth of the cotton States. But already olive-oil producing countries have taken up the cudgel, owing to the extensive counterfeiting referred to, and soon the great hog-raising industry will join in the warfare. Congress will be asked to stop the adulterations from cotton-seed oil, and it will do so.

Would it not be far better if the manufacturers and all interested would hold a convention and take measures to make their business legitimate throughout, let all the world know what they make, its uses and merits, and declare against all attempted counterfeits. In this connection we quote from the New Orleans Times-Democrat, which believes that cotton-seed oil can and should stand upon its own merits: "There is a growing sentiment against adulteration in this country, and this sentiment may find vent some day, either in a general law against adulteration or a special one directed against the use of cotton-seed oil in lard. The proper course is to meet the issue in advance; to bring the Southern product before the country on its true merits; to show its advantages, cheapness and purity, and to introduce it to the public as a pure, healthy, sweet and refined vegetable oil."

Here also, from the same source, is a warning that should be heeded as coming from a friendly quarter: "If the cotton-seed manufacturers and cotton-seed producers do not wish to be caught in the same trap as the makers of oleomargarine, let them be warned in time that no article can be profitably manufactured wholly for adulterating purposes for a long period, and must ultimately rest on its own merits."—Farm, Field and Stockman.

Furman's formula consists of 30 bushels of barnyard manure. 30 bushels of cottonseed, 400 pounds of plain acid phosphate and 200 pounds of kaint or potash salts. These may be thoroughly mixed together at first or put in alternate layers of cottonseed, phosphoric acid, kaint, and so on. The rotting down will be hastened by moistening. Work the pile over from time to time with a fork, and cover with several inches of earth, to absorb the ammonia that might otherwise escape.—Farm and Home.

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