



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 15.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

A farmers' club of 14, was organized at Piney Grove school house, to be known as Piney Club. Mr. W. T. Davis was elected President, and Charles Darr, Secretary. This is the third club in the county.

A Grange was organized by J. T. Eaton, General State Deputy, at La Grange, N. C., on the 20th inst. with twenty-five members, C. S. Wooten, Master, and D. M. Stanton, Secretary. This is one of the finest sections in our State, and among the most intelligent of our farmers. We expect to hear some good work from that quarter in the near future.

A subscriber of the *Dispatch* who knows how to farm, says that in order to prevent the cut-worms from destroying his cabbage plants, before he sets them he rolls well the roots in pulverized sulphur, and then after they are planted out, he dusts a little on top of the ground around the plant. Might not cucumber and melon vines be saved from the ravages of the bug by dusting with sulphur?

ROCK REST FARMERS' CLUB, UNION CO.

The Rock Rest Farmers' Club was organized December 30th, 1886, with twenty members. The officers are: J. H. Williams, President; H. C. Moore, Vice-President; B. C. Ashcraft, Secretary; T. G. Williams, Treasurer, and J. B. Ashcraft, Wm. Bivens and S. Ross Executive Committee. We now have fifty members. The Club meets on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in each month. We have very interesting meetings and discuss farm topics generally. We want 100 members by July. The members of the Club hold your excellent paper in high esteem.

Yours, etc.,
B. C. ASHCRAFT, Sec.

INDIAN TRAIL FARMERS' CLUB

Was organized April 15th, 1887. The officers are as follows: President, H. B. King; Vice-President, W. L. Poor; Secretary, J. E. Brown; Treasurer, T. C. Ritch. Executive Committee, J. M. Harkey, J. T. Starns and T. N. Lewis. Our club seems to be progressing. All we need is the *PROGRESSIVE FARMER*. At our last meeting, May 13th, we had a very good time. We heard some addresses on agriculture that were very interesting. Our regular meetings will be held monthly. We also have called meetings. It is the farmers' club of Vance township. I do not know how many clubs there are in this county.

Yours truly,
J. E. BROOM.

GUILFORD COUNTY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

During the session of the Farmers' Institute in Greensboro, that body granted, by request, one hour for the organization of a County Association. Mr. R. C. Rankin was made temporary chairman. The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws reported the form which is issued by this paper, and it was adopted. The Committee on Permanent Organization recommended the following gentlemen as officers and they were unanimously elected:

President, W. E. Benbow; Vice-President, R. C. Rankin; Secretary, David Hodgkin; Treasurer, J. Van Lindley. The Association then adjourned to meet in Greensboro on the third Saturday in August at 10 o'clock, a. m.

ANSON COUNTY FARMERS TO THE FRONT.

A private letter from a subscriber in Anson informs us that there are 15 farmers' clubs in that county, and the writer says he has recently aided in organizing seven clubs in Union and Stanly "and still the good work goes on." "I rejoice that your paper has been adopted by the farmers as their

official organ, for if we hope to accomplish anything, we must have a first-class paper to truly represent our interests and that will stand fearlessly by us. We propose to hold a grand mass-meeting on the second Wednesday in August at Brown Creek church, when all our clubs will be present. We expect also to have with us strong delegations from the Union and Stanly Clubs, and we want the *PROGRESSIVE FARMER* to be represented also. Come over. We will show you a multitude of farmers, with their wives, daughters, sons, sisters, mothers, fathers and sweethearts, and will give you a good time."

[Thanks, brother, it would give us great pleasure to meet our old friends on that occasion.—Ed.]

FARMEKS' CLUB OF CRAB ORCHARD.

The farmers of Sugar Creek, who met two weeks ago last Saturday and partly organized a farmers' club, and of which notice has already been given in *The Observer*, met according to appointment at Hickory Grove last Saturday and organized permanently.

The following officers were elected for a term of one year:
President, J. M. Caldwell.
Vice-President, E. W. Lyles.
Secretary, C. B. Cross.
Treasurer, M. F. Trotter.

Also a committee consisting of Messrs. W. W. Gaither, S. H. Farrow, N. P. Lyles, W. Harvey Taylor, R. B. Trotter, P. Berryhill and A. F. Yandle was appointed to draft by-laws.

There were twenty-two members enrolled, and the club will be known as the Farmers' Club of Crab Orchard. It will meet regularly once a month at Hickory Grove church, and the next meeting will be held at that place next Saturday week at 2 o'clock. Our farmers evidently intend to look after their interests in the future more than they have in the past. Men of all professions and callings are united and organized to look after their interests, either directly or indirectly, and why not the farmers? The farmer supports the world, and must he continue careless and indifferent forever? Certainly he will pause and think. Let all our farmers in the county organize themselves and co-operate with us. Our secretary will cheerfully furnish any one with a copy of the regulations and by-laws.

There was a feeling of disappointment that Mr. R. B. Hunter did not meet and address the club, as was expected, but his reasons were entirely satisfactory. LUPINE.

Charlotte, May 16, 1887.
—The Observer.

FROM PELHAM.

The farmers of this community met pursuant to a call on the 7th and organized a farmers' club, known as Pelham Farmers' Club, adopted a constitution and by-laws, and now have twenty-two members with more applications. They meet Saturday before the second Sunday in each month at 3 o'clock, p. m.

The officers for one year from the 14th, are:

Jas. H. Wilson, President.
J. N. Hodges, Vice-President.
Walt. C. Swann, Secretary and Treasurer.
J. H. Ferrell, J. T. M. Travis, J. A. Swann, W. A. Donaho and T. J. Hodges, Executive Committee.

The meetings have been lively and interesting. Much can be accomplished and a great deal must be done, for the pressure on the tobacco growers is very great just now. Our farmers though are pulling off from the "New South" ideas and going back to the "Old South" principles. i. e. making home supplies first, raising more stock, especially cows and hogs. We now see large fields of clover and grass where formerly tobacco grew. I suppose the tobacco crop will fall short this year at least one-third, and other things will be grown instead. Our substantial men say the "Old South" way of having plenty at home is better than the "New South" way of one

crop and buy all else. The "New South" is a myth. Give us the substantial success and independence of our daddies.

Wheat is looking well, a large crop expected; too early to say as to corn and oats. W. C. S. Pelham, N. C., May 23, '87.

ITALIAN RYE GRASS.

In your last issue I was wrongly reported as stating that the Italian rye grass is a perennial and will last many years. As this statement may mislead some of your readers, I would be pleased if you would correct it. The grass is an annual and is largely used in England, either alone or with clover or some of the more hardy grasses, as orchard grass, timothy, English rye grass, in alternate husbandry. The grass is seeded in the fall and has been cut as early as Christmas, yielding many crops through the year. The land is broken up the next fall or following spring, for the next crop in rotation. When grown alone the grass will last many years, if one crop of seed is allowed to ripen and fall each year, and in so far it is a perennial. It is also a perennial when sown with a mixture of other grasses in permanent pasture, but the English authority, Sutton, very strongly condemns the practice of introducing this grass in any mixture of grasses for this purpose. He says: "It is so gross a feeder as actually to choke and smother the Poas and finer Fescues, instead of nursing and sheltering them from scorching heat and severe frost as perennial (English) rye grass does. And when its own ephemeral course is run, it leaves the land destitute both of plants and nourishment."

Unfortunately we are not so well acquainted with the "finer Fescues," so highly prized for pastures in Europe, that we need greatly fear the introduction of this grass into our pastures or meadows.

All writers speak of the enormous crops from this grass on almost any land, especially if frequently and heavily manured throughout the year; of the ease with which a stand can be secured; of its hardy nature, enduring with impunity the severest winter, and being remarkable for the extreme earliness and lateness of the grazing or hay crop yielded. On rich moist land the growth is very rapid, yielding often from five to ten cuttings in the course of the year. Probably none of the grasses or farm crops respond so freely and pay so well for heavy and frequent manuring as this grass. Respectfully,
MILTON WHITNEY,
Supt. Experiment Farm.

TREATING WORK HORSES.

Remember that the digestive organs of horses at work are not so responsive as when idle. The occurrence of colic and other ailments incident to horses in the season of work is usually traceable to the lack of time given for digestion. The stomach is in no condition to receive food immediately after severe exertion, hence the necessity of a short season of rest before giving a horse any food. A little care in the matter of watering and feeding horses will prevent much sickness and consequent loss.

WHAT SHE FEARED.

"I understand, Mr. Softley," said Miss Muffin, "that you play the violin."
"Well yes, Miss Muffin, I—a—try to play the violin."
"That's what I heard. You see, Mr. Softley, we are going to have a little sociable at our house next Thursday evening. I wanted to invite you, but ma—she is so very anxious not to give anybody any trouble—ma was afraid that—"
"Oh, no trouble at all, I assure you, Miss Muffin," eagerly interposed Softly; "it will be a positive pleasure to me to bring my violin."
"Ye-e-s—that's what ma was afraid of."—*Drake's Magazine.*

THE DIFFERENCE.

In casual conversation said a prominent farmer of Cecil county to us:

"Last year I had fifty acres of corn planted in one field; thirty acres of one kind of seed and twenty acres of another kind—all treated with the same fertilizer and all worked the same. The thirty acres averaged seventy-five bushels to the acre; the twenty acres a little more than half as much to the acre. The difference was entirely in the seed planted by me."

In planting corn such lessons should not be forgotten.—*New Farm.*

EXAMINATION OF SEEDS.

The Michigan Agricultural College suggests that the State Botanist be authorized to examine all seeds offered for sale, or sold to farmers in the State.

This is a move in the right direction, and should be not only authorized, but it should be made a matter of lawful obligation.

1. It insures a better quality of seeds.

2. It guarantees greater freedom from weed seeds.

3. It prevents the mixing of old and worthless seeds from the fresh stock.

Where the State has an interest in the Agricultural College, as it does in our State, this obligation of seed inspection should be made upon the College. Let it become a law throughout the country; it will be a good law.—*New Farm.*

CULTIVATION OF CORN.

You cannot begin too soon to cultivate corn. No crop looks better than a field of corn well cultivated, clean from weeds, of the right colored green, and evidently pushing ahead for a success. And no crop looks worse than a field of corn neglected, full of weeds, of a sickly color, and evidently on the road to a dead failure.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have my way of cultivating corn, and I do not mind commencing at the beginning of planting it, and letting you know just how it is done.

Well, after the land is plowed and harrowed thoroughly, I mark it off with a one-horse plow one way in rows four feet apart; and then I have my load of fertilizer (super-phosphate) pass along, and a thin stream is deposited in every row all through the field. My boy follows with a very fine toothed rake about four inches wide, and drags through every row lengthwise; and the ground is then ready for the seed.

I have before this chosen my corn, and had it in soak about forty-eight hours and taken it out, and while yet wet, covered it with wood ashes. This seed is dropped two in a place, about fifteen inches apart in the rows, and is covered about an inch deep. The superphosphate gives it a quick start, and as soon as the rows are visible, I commence with plow or cultivator upon the weeds.

The next move is, I have my man pass along the rows with his hoe, and take out every weed the plow or cultivator has left, and at the same time leave only one plant every fifteen inches. If any space needs a plant, he carefully takes up one with a plenty of soil and sets it in the vacant place. After that I keep the cultivator moving whenever I can do so until the plants are too large to allow it; and I have a good crop.

If any of your readers have any cultivation better than this I call for it.—*G. R., of Hartford County, in New Farm.*

To bleach cotton cloth, take one large spoonful of sal soda and one pound of chloride of lime for thirty yards, dissolve in clean soft water; rinse the cloth thoroughly in cold soft water, so that it may not rot. This amount of cloth may be bleached in fourteen or fifteen minutes.

CALVES WITHOUT COWS.

It is not great trouble to bring up a calf by hand if one starts right. Do not allow it to suck the cow at all unless it is necessary to do so in order to reduce some inflammation of the udder, which would never be if proper care is taken before calving. Give it new milk at the natural temperature at which it is drawn from the cow, for the first week, then gradually reduce with skimmed milk, taking care to keep the temperature the same.

After the calf is hitched out and begins to nibble grass try it with a pail of cold skimmed milk at noon, having first prepared it for a change by making the breakfast a little scanty and taking a warm day. Reduce the temperature of morning and evening meal gradually and gradually, change from sweet skimmed milk to sour milk, adding a handful of meal, and at eight weeks old the calf will be found to be eating and drinking whatever is offered as well as an old cow and it will probably not have known a hungry day or a sick day, but will have kept on growing all the time.

At a recent meeting of the Bedford, N. Y., Farmers' Club, Rev. J. Y. Hoyt said: On the farm to-day poultry is king. We used to hear that cotton was king or that corn was king, but take the official report for instance. The wheat product last year was worth \$488,000,000; the cotton product, \$410,000,000; the dairy product, \$254,000,000. But the poultry product was worth \$560,000,000, almost half again as large as the cotton product, and larger than both the iron and steel product together. Still it is not half as large as it ought to be.

QUEEN VICTORIA TRAVELING.

The queen's saloons are in the centre of the train, and these commodious carriages, fitted for day and night traveling, her majesty occupies with Princess Beatrice. There are two beds in the sleeping compartment, which opens from the day saloon. The beds are simple, in green and gilt furniture and fittings, something like elaborate "cots" in shape, and generally the interior fittings of the train leave nothing to be desired. The floors are carpeted, the ceilings padded, the wide windows curtained, the lamps deeply shaded. Electric bells communicate with the attendants or the officials, and by presenting a button at the end of a long variegated cord or bell-pull the alarm is sounded in the van. A separate electric button is fixed in each side of the sleeping compartment, by which the attendants may be summoned; another button when pressed will cause the train to stop as quickly as may be.

There are the Westinghouse vacuum and ordinary brakes fitted to the train, which are worked as required by the exigencies of the locomotives of the different companies over whose lines her majesty travels, some engines being fitted with vacuum and others with the Westinghouse brakes. The usual furniture, comfortable but simple, and a lavatory, are all included in the Queen's saloons. There are hooks and racks for parcels, wraps, bird-cages and small bundles, of which her majesty and the princesses convey a goodly supply. The late John Brown used to occupy a seat in the royal day saloon, back to the engine as the train stood, and facing the door of the Queen's apartment, so as to be within call at once.

The carriages are warmed with hot water pipes. Nothing is wanted to render the journey as little irksome and as little fatiguing as possible. The carriages exteriorly are bright and clean and newly polished. The wheels are "solid"—blocks of wood taking the place of spokes; the springs are massive; the tires glide smoothly over the rails; the carriage-steps let down as in road carriages, and the wide plate glass windows permit an extensive view of the country through which the train is passing.—*Cassell's.*