



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 17.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

OLD GUILFORD TO THE FRONT

From a private letter we learn that a farmers' club was organized at Sumnerfield with 60 members, and that the farmers are taking hold of the work with great enthusiasm. We shall expect to hear of good work by that conservative and sterling community. We hope to hear from the secretary in a few days.

PIKEVILLE NEWS.

The farmers of this section met to organize a "Farmers' Club." Mr. J. H. Edgerton was appointed temporary chairman and Dr. J. E. Person, Secretary.

A committee was also appointed to prepare suitable by-laws.

After an interesting talk from Mr. Edgerton, the meeting adjourned to convene again on the 2nd Saturday in June, when a large attendance is expected.—*Messenger*.

Euto Farmers' Club, New Salem Township, Union county, N. C., was formed April 9th, 1887, and elected W. H. Austin President, John M. Austin Vice-President, Joseph M. Austin Secretary, Ashly Baucom Treasurer. Executive Committee: J. B. Brantly, W. H. Baucom and W. A. Tarlton. The Club numbers 30 members and meets twice a month. Question for discussion for June 4th is, What course shall we pursue to better our condition? There are two other clubs in our township, one numbering 30, the other 35 members. We are all young soldiers in the field, and need the counsel of others of more experience in the grand work of organization and consolidation.

JOSEPH M. AUSTIN, Sec'y.

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

An enthusiastic meeting of farmers was held in the court house at noon on Tuesday, pursuant to the notice published in the DISPATCH last week. Prof. I. L. Wright being called to the chair, explained the object of the meeting. W. R. McCuiston, Esq., was chosen secretary.

The first and most important question to decide was: "Shall we have a farmers' institute?" Dr. W. B. Mears made an excellent talk in favor of the institute. Other prominent farmers also spoke favorably, and, on the vote being taken, it was unanimously decided to hold the institute on the 18th and 19th of August.

The following committee was appointed on program or work for the institute: H. L. Clodfelter, II, J. Palmer, George Kinney, K. D. Snider, J. H. Swicegood, W. A. Beck, David Smith, Dr. J. F. Beal, B. F. Beckerdite, C. L. Badgett, By resolution Prof. I. L. Wright was added to the committee.—*Dispatch*.

FARMERS' MEETING AT HILLSBORO.

The Farmers' Club at Oaks adopted the following resolution at their last regular meeting:

Resolved, That we recommend and earnestly request the farmers of Orange county to meet in Hillsboro on the 30th day of July next to organize a county farmers' club and institute.

In the great movement now made in this and in all the Southern States to unite the farmers in the protection of their own interests and the promotion of the great industrial interests of the South, we appeal to our brother farmers in Orange county not to stand aloof or be indifferent. Let us organize and pull together.

ALEX. McIVER, President.
S. S. WEBB, Secretary.

PROGRESS.

One hundred and twenty-three new Granges have been organized in the United States so far this year, against ninety-one for all of last year.

(For THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.) CEDAR GROVE CLUB.

WINSTON, June 6, 1887.

The club met in regular meeting last Saturday, and held a very interesting session. The topic under discussion, which was handled in an informal way, was what is the best way to earn a living on the farm? which called for remarks from a number of the members present, the conclusion arrived at being that the best way was to make the farm self-sustaining, to raise our home supplies, what we eat ourselves, and feed for our stock—our own beef, pork and mutton, wheat, corn, oats, grass, &c., and thus be independent of our own masters.

The proposed farmers' meeting was considered favorably and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"We, the members of Cedar Grove Club, favor the proposed farmers' mass-meeting and dinner at Clinard's Stand on the last Saturday in July, and that the farmers of Forsyth and adjoining counties be invited to participate, and we request an expression of opinion from all the other subordinate clubs in the county through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER."

It was thrown out as a suggestion that every member of a club, or Forsyth farmer bring a basket with a supply of eatables sufficient for his family and two or more besides, to insure an abundance of substantial and delicacies for all that may come.

J. J. CRAFT, Sec'y.

A MODEL HAY BARN.

Dr. H. T. Bahnson has erected a novel hay barn upon his Sedge Field Dairy Farm below town. It is about 18x20 feet and has four corner posts some 20 or 30 feet high in which holes have been made at regular intervals and in which pins are inserted to support the roof. The roof can be raised or lowered by the pins. The sides are open and the barn can readily be removed from one place to another and is a decided improvement over the common stacking system.

THE PROSPEROUS FARMER.

The prosperous farmer, like every other business man, is he who takes advantages of circumstances to get the most he honestly can out of what he has to sell. Not all business men follow the golden rule to do unto others what would be desired of them. Not all farmers do this, yet the golden rule is best in the long run. Why? A man's probity in dealing not only insures respect, but enables him to get better prices than he who does not strictly regard his word.

The man honorable in his dealings may be a man as keen in his bargains or in getting prices as he who does not strictly regard his word. He is more apt to figure closely in personal expenses, while at the same time being liberal in all things. He is apt to feed closely and at the same time fully. He saves by attending closely to the comfort of his stock. No depreciation is allowed to take place in buildings and sheds. His farm machines, wagons and implements never suffer from undue contact with the weather. Everything has a place, and all labor is performed at the proper time. He does not undertake work out of season, but in season he drives his work; it never drives him. He hires only the best help, treats his workmen courteously, and hence always gets the best—and keeps it. His workmen may advise, but never dictate to him.

When a crop is ready for the market it is promptly sold if the price suits. If not, it is held until the price is satisfactory. A crop, however, or animals, are not held for speculative prices. He well knows the cost of holding a crop, and the loss on animals from feeding, while holding from the market when fat.

The prosperous farmer is a reading man. He keeps himself posted on his business through journals devoted to his profession. He may not get rich suddenly, but he does not fail, except from some unavoidable disaster. Are

there any of our readers who have been pursuing the slack way of doing business? If so, there is no better time to institute reform than now.

A DINNER.

The Farmers Club which was recently organized at Nobles' Mills, on Saturday 18th will give a dinner. Gen. W. R. Cox and others have been invited to attend and address the club. The club will meet at eleven o'clock sharp.—*Tarboro Southerner*.

CANNING FACTORY.

Mr. L. C. Heynes will shortly start in Lexington a factory for the purpose of canning fruits, vegetables, etc. Mr. Heynes is one of Lexington's most enterprising citizens, and we predict success for him in his business. With our splendid native fruits and vegetables there is no reason why home institutions should not supply our home markets with these goods at an advantage to the retailer as well as to the canner.—*Charlotte Observer*.

WISCONSIN FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Wisconsin may be called the banner State, in the successful carrying out of Farmers' institutes. With the month of December they are fairly under way, and from that time on these popular gatherings of the farmers are being carried forward in the various districts of the State.

These Institutes are under the patronage of the State, and complete programs of places, dates and speakers are issued. They have become fully popularized in the State, and other States may well profit by the means there used for this practical manner of disseminating the theory and practice of agriculture. The *Western Farmer* says 30,000 farmers attended these meetings last winter. The coming winter it is expected that 50,000 will avail themselves of these benefits.—*Farm Field and Stockman*.

BUSINESS SENSE IN FARMING.

Major. J. H. Dent's "Thoughts about Farming," published in *The Cultivator* for April, are timely observations, yet he has forgotten to mention one more quality a really successful farmer must have, and that is a clear business head. I have known farmers, well educated practically and theoretically, intelligent men who had good thoughts of their own and could carry them through practically, yet were only successful when they were working under a business man's control. By "under a business man" I do not simply mean a man who has made money in a certain kind of business, but one who in every position is full of resources—one who when he does fall does it like a cat, always lands on his feet, never on his back. Such a man may fail, but he will recuperate; he may miss in his calculations, yet he always will make the best of it. Such people are rare; still, in whatever business they start, they will be finally successful. We see plenty of large farms here and in Europe, admirably managed, with splendid results in every point except the financial one; yet they are managed by men who not only have good theories and views, and know how to have them executed, but can if necessary pick up the implements themselves and do the work to perfection; however, the business part is not in them. They have also learned how to make up their accounts, but there is never a balance left; or, if so, it is on the side one does not like to see it. The world has many good soldiers, but only a few great generals; there are many students of medicine, practical and theoretical, yet very few really good doctors, and even they may not be successful in a financial point of view; and still there may be people of generally spoken limited intellect, limited theoretical knowledge and no practical experience, still having the business sense in them, and

they make a success of their pursuits.

Twenty-two years ago I lived in Australia, and there made the acquaintance of a German Jew—illiterate, with little knowledge about practically working a ranch or farm, yet he was one of the most successful ranchmen there. He had the sense of seeing where a dollar was to be gained, and knew how to pick the right man for the right place and had the faculty to discover, quick as a flash, whenever a person did not come up to his expectations. Before he was a ranchman, he carried on a general merchandise there, which he sold out on account of health, and bought a ranch with over 30,000 sheep and a large number of cattle and horses. Though he never had had anything to do with a ranch or farm, he saw within a few weeks that the old manager was no good, so he discharged him and picked out one who knew his business. Thus he made a success of his ranch from the very beginning, not because he had a good practical or theoretical knowledge of ranching, but because he had a "practical business head."—*G. A. Hoerle in Southern Cultivator for June*.

FARMERS OF THE FUTURE.

Farming in the year 1887, and every year hereafter, will be depending for success more and more upon the knowledge, training and skill of the farmers.

The child of the family, who is of the clearest mind, most ready to study, most given to observation of cause and effect, quickest of apprehension, best adapted to the use of tools and machinery, who loves horses and cattle—this child should be trained for the farmer.

The men, such as these children will make, are to be the successful farmers of the future.

It is useless to expect the lazy, shirking, indifferent boy and man will do well on the farm, or make his mark in that direction. Such may make passable men in other pursuits, but the farmers hereafter must be wide awake, cultivated men, with a knowledge of the principles which lie at the foundation of their profession.

It is on this account that the farmers of today should take the necessary means to secure a thorough agricultural education for those who are expected to take their places. They should take the measures necessary to make the colleges, established by the United States, practical agricultural schools for their children.

This depends wholly upon the farmers themselves, who by a determined spirit can accomplish wonders in this direction.

The failures in crops often result from the superficial knowledge of those who have them in charge. They expect nature to supply all their own deficiencies, and when she does not, they lay their ill success upon the season.

The farmer of the future must leave as little for nature to supply as possible, must be able to forestall all the deficiencies of the season. It can be done; but only when the farmer is a thoroughly educated, trained and capable man, in his department of life.—*New Farm*.

LAZY FARMERS.

I used to get mad and cuss like a trooper when the Yankees said that Southern people were lazy. But I have had to acknowledge the fact. 'Tis true it is not real pleasant to think so, but facts are stubborn things to get around. And for twenty years stubborn facts have been accumulating that from beyond a doubt that we, as a people, are lazy and thoughtless.

Now, here are some of the facts. Since 1865 the people of the cotton States have sent to the North for meat, bread, vegetables, horses, and mules—\$300,000,000 for just such things that, had they been as energetic as people should be, would have been raised at home. The State of Georgia alone has sent \$100,000,000 to pay

for meat which could easily have been raised at home.

Now, if every farmer in the cotton States had raised all he needed, and then enough to sell the people in the cities, all this money would have been kept at home, and what cotton we made would have brought double the money. Had this been done, my brothers, do you think that there would have been a cry all over the land about the merchant charging too much?

I have said that every man who farms can raise all his family consumes. For the renter, who moves from place to place, this may be difficult, but for the man who owns his land there is no earthly excuse for not having plenty of sweet and Irish potatoes, peas, beans, carrots, parsnips, salsify, turnips, and dried fruits; and during summer he can and should have as many vegetables as his family can consume, besides enough to feed one pig for each member in his family, and then raise plenty of corn to feed all his stock.—*Correspondent Home and Farm*.

REARING AND TRAINING TOMATOES.

I read with interest the various methods employed by others to accomplish the same end, and not yet having seen my very simple device mentioned, I send it to your readers with the hope that its very simplicity will recommend it to some. Early in January, having secured the variety of seed desired, I plant it in shallow seed boxes, wooden soap boxes sawed in two sections being my first choice, using light, rich, friable soil. These boxes I place in my glass pit, which I heat only with oil stoves, and when up three inches I pot off the plants into thumb pots, continuing the shifting as often as needed until warm weather is at hand, generally by April 15. By that time the plants are in full flower, and often fruit formed. I prepare my beds by extra deep spading, never allowing any other implement in breaking up the soil. These beds I fertilize only every four or five years, having proved to my entire satisfaction that rich soil is the main, if not sole, cause of the tomato rotting so badly. Since I have pursued this plan I obtain an abundance of perfect fruit, whereas, before, when I manured heavily, I got magnificent plants crowded to breaking with extra-sized tomatoes, while in almost every specimen, even before coloring began, the rot made its disgusting appearance.

Now I plant in a single row 2 1/2 feet apart, close to a plank fence which commands the full sunshine nearly all day. In this narrow bed I drive rough stakes front and back of bed, opposite each other. On each pair of these stakes I nail three horizontal courses of lath across the bed, at one, two and three feet from the ground, the upper course being at the top of the stakes. The space between each pair of stakes is generally four or five feet, and on these cross lathings I place about three long, pliable poles the size of a man's wrist, and this gives me a three-storied structure. As soon as the tomatoes have reached the first course of slats, I give the plants a gentle pull over it to act as a support, and then vigorously pinch them in, believing that to stop the top growth advances the fruit already formed and forming.

I never set more than fifty plants in the garden, as I sow seed out in open ground for later crop. I never allow my fruit to ripen on the vine; each morning I go in person, with my basket, and select the finest and best for self, and if, perchance, any have begun to rot, plucking and throwing away. In this way I have far more than I can use, and with us they are used in great quantities in a raw state, being a well-relished breakfast dish, with great lumps of ice placed on top just after peeling and slicing and just before serving.—*Mrs. J. S. R. T., in Vick's Magazine*.

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