



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 20.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

The farmers of Robeson county propose to have a grand mass meeting and picnic sometime during the summer, due notice of which will appear in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

GRAND MASS MEETING AND PIC NIC.

We are requested by the Trustees of Cana High School, Davie county, to announce that the farmers of that county will hold a Grand Mass Meeting and Pic Nic at Cana, on Friday, the 29th of July. The editor of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER will deliver an address in the forenoon, on "The Defects of our Agricultural System." In the afternoon Rev. L. P. Gwaltney, of Alexander county, will deliver an address on "Education." Good music, ice cream, lemonade and other attractions will be on hand. The people of Cana and the speakers earnestly request all the Farmers' Clubs of Davie county be present. Everybody is invited to come and bring the whole family, and a well filled basket. They expect a large crowd and a good time. Let everybody go and spend one day together.

A kind letter from a prominent farmer of Robeson enclosing money for our paper, says: "I am taking several papers, among them two agricultural papers, but I want to encourage our home paper and the formation of farmers' organizations. They must be organized, and I am anxious to see the alliance, the clubs and other organizations all united in one National body. Send me extra copies of the paper for distribution, as I wish to aid you in the work of organizing the farmers of our State."

This is the proper spirit, and this is the way for the farmers to feel and act. If we had one such working friend in every township in North Carolina, it would not be long before THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would be a recognized power among our people. Reader, will you not do like him—give us some help in sending our paper to the farmers of the State? See our published rates to clubs. It is the cheapest paper ever offered to our people. Get us up a club.

A COUNTY ALLIANCE ORGANIZED.

Thus far Mr. Sealy, of the Farmers' Alliance, has organized six sub-alliances, one each at Laurinburg, Smyrna church, Laurel Hill church, Spring Hill, Brownsville and Zion church, in this county, all of which have about 150 members. With representatives of these different sub-alliances he met here last Saturday and organized a County Alliance, the officers of which were elected are: Peter McRae, President; W. C. Cole, Vice-President; D. D. McIntyre, Secretary; T. D. Wright, Treasurer; T. H. Walters, Chaplain; Dr. Daniel Shaw, Lecturer; S. M. Wall, Assistant Lecturer; H. McLean, Door Keeper; John O'Bryan, Assistant Door Keeper; A. A. Malloy, I. G. Whitlock and J. A. Covington, Finance Committee; D. Z. Hardin, A. F. Bizzell and J. W. Snead, Executive Committee.

Mr. Sealy is in Robeson county this week finishing up two townships down there, and will visit the townships in the upper part of this county next week for the purpose of organizing sub-alliances therein, and will go thence into Anson county.

We hope this organization will prove a means whereby the farmers can and will pull together for their permanent benefit.—Laurinburg Exchange.

Ink stain may be removed from white goods by saturating the spot with water and then covering with pounded salts of lemon. Put in the sun for five minutes, wash with soap and rinse. A paste of chloride of lime and water well rubbed in will take ink stains from silver or plated ware. Wash and wipe as usual.

THE CHINCH BUG.

The Way to Destroy It.

We gave, last week, the remedy, and the testimony of Maj. R. S. Tucker, of this city, as to its efficacy, having saved a forty acre field of corn with it. And from a special Bulletin of the Agricultural Department we see that Prof. Atkinson, of the University, has tried it with equally happy results. He says:

"Mr. William F. Stroud, of Chapel Hill, had a field of wheat, which was infested with the Chinch Bugs. When the wheat was harvested, they immediately betook themselves to the corn, which was adjacent. Some of the corn stalks, for a foot or eighteen inches above ground, were literally black with the mass of insects, and sometimes, when they could not be seen outside, they were found in great numbers between the sheath of the blade and the stalk."

We repeat the remedy, and ask our readers to try it and report results to the PROGRESSIVE FARMER:

Dissolve one-half pound common soap in one gallon of water. Boil it, and while boiling hot, pour it into two gallons of kerosene oil. Churn it and stir and beat it until thoroughly mixed. It should be thoroughly mixed. Put one part of this to six parts of cold water and sprinkle or spray the bugs by using a common tin water sprinker, which you can get at any tin shop. Try it at once. Cut this out and keep it where you can see it, when needed.

ORGANIZE.

Farmers should organize for their common good. These organizations are the best means for the discussion of topics appertaining to agriculture, as well as the dissemination of information relative to the most approved methods in all kinds of farm work, such as the culture of special crops, making composts and saving stable manures. Let the farmers of the various counties organize, hold institutes and, if possible, add cattle and butter fairs, and exhibits of grain and grasses in the sheaf. These are inexpensive, but interesting and valuable in stimulating local effort, and much good results.

The revised laws governing the Department of Agriculture limit its expenditures to the minimum, which prevents extending financial aid, but provides that the Commissioner, or other officer, "shall co-operate and aid in the formation of farmers' institutes in all the counties of the State."—Bulletin.

BEST BREEDS.

"The most profitable breed of poultry is the most popular one. No matter how large or handsome, or what grand egg records they have made, if they are not the fowl that is on the top wave of popularity it will be impossible to realize the greatest profits from them. It was not the innate excellence of a trio of Plymouth Rocks that made them bring one hundred dollars, nor the intrinsic value of a sitting of eggs from Partridge Cochins that made them sell for twenty-five dollars, but their popularity. No doubt the purchasers of these fancy-priced birds and eggs made money by their investments, but it was not by selling eggs at six cents per dozen nor chicks at a 'bit' apiece. They struck while the iron was hot, and while the craze ran in that particular channel. We cannot all be fancy breeders, however, and the next best thing to do is to do the best we can. Have a specialty and stick to it. If it be eggs, get the best egg-producers the country affords; if broilers, the earliest maturing birds, or if dressed poultry be the aim, get some of the large breeds. The one point we insist upon is, keep nothing but pure-bred fowls, let the breed be what it may. Select only the best for breeders. Let your standard of excellence be high and breed to it. One with a pen of pure birds can always sell a few, at least, at fancy prices; besides there is no advantage whatever in keeping up a flock of mongrels.

LATE SUMMER CROPS.

In addition to peas there are a few other crops whose planting may still continue, success being dependent more upon seasons. It should be remembered that late-planted crops require rich soil and deep preparation. Forage crops of corn, millet, sorghum, etc., may still be made, but will not amount to much without good ground, good preparation and reasonable seasons. If such plantings be made and the plants started off in July, the August rains are frequently sufficient to mature fine yields. We have had fine success with cat-tail millet shown even so late as August 1st. The best potatoes for keeping, as well as for planting next spring, are made from vines set out in well-plowed, good soil throughout the month of July. Those planted early in the month often making as large tubers as may be desired, and the later, sufficiently large for ordinary use and for seed. There is no doubt of the fact that later plantings produce better keepers, and they are much cheaper, as they make with much less labor. Plantings of cuttings on wheat, barley or rye lots are almost certain of a good yield of smooth, fair-sized potatoes at very small expense of labor. Very late plantings should be in closer rows and the beds not thrown up so high.—Southern Cultivator.

SELECTING A STALLION.

When selecting a stallion look first carefully at his head. The nostrils should be large; see that the eyes are full and bright, good breadth between the eyes, ears short and tapering, these indicate a gentle disposition. In a horse of this kind with proper training you can mould and bring every muscle under your control. The loin should be strong, the back well coupled, quarters long from point to point of hips. He should also be sound in wind and limb. A horse that is driven about and hurried from place to place, perhaps over-heated and made to cover from four to six mares a day should be regarded as unsafe. The colt will lack vitality. I have often heard persons speak of tending a stallion as being a low business. This is a mistake, for the man who will give his time and energy to the self-sacrificing business of improving the stock of horses in any of its branches deserves the respect of the intelligent people. There is no vocation in which man is engaged but what this animal is used to further his purpose.—N. M. ALEXANDER, in Farm and Home.

SWARD-BOUND MEADOWS.

The complaint of meadows in this condition is a very common one and comes oftenest from neglect. Let all stock be kept off the meadows in the fall and spring. Economize manures closely to spread all that can be spared from other crops on this profitable portion of the farm at all seasons of the year, unless it is liable to overflow and thus have the fertilizing elements wasted.

I bed all stock thoroughly, add plaster liberally—say two tons to 100 loads of manure—and spread the compost in winter on the poorest places, or spots, familiarly termed "hide bound" or moss covered. These spots are harrowed thoroughly. I like the Acme harrow for this business. It is surprising to watch the results, and the increase of the manure pile from year to year where this method is in practice. One thing my experience has brought to profitable use is the point that money spent on concentrated feed is more profitably invested than in commercial fertilizers. Besides increasing the milk and butter and keeping the stock in slick condition, the value of the manure pile and fertility of meadow are greatly increased, and the farmer receives credit for being a successful worker.—S. J. A., Litchfield county, Ct., in Home and Farm.

ELEVATING FARM LIFE.

A very important element in the work of elevating and broadening farm-life is in connection with the boys and girls of the farm. The difficulty of keeping them in the country has been a favorite topic of farm journalism. It is plain that it can only be accomplished by making a rural career attractive. How? The distaste for it has been acquired from the hardships and limited range of mental and social experience hinted at in the foregoing paragraphs. It can only be cured by the avoidance of them. The advance in popular intelligence and general culture, mental and aesthetic, is felt by the young people of the farm, and the fullness of opportunity for social experience enjoyed in the city is coveted. Compensating advantages, similar in tenor and effect, must be given them, and an opportunity for the development of individuality and a proper sense of independence. The perpetual grind of routine labor is peculiarly irksome to the young, and the necessity for judicious frequent relief all the greater. A program of recreation would cause no diminution of the results of labor, but would be attended with greater willingness, diligence and intelligence. The boy of the farm should understand that the dolt of the family is no longer considered the most eligible candidate for succession to the management of the farm. It is now appreciated that a calling in which all science, varied culture, business aptitudes and social graces have an appropriate and helpful place, stands on a par in dignity and desirability with any other in which a bread-winner can gain a living. There are now graduates from our highest institutions of learning, who have chosen the farm as the theater of their future career. Nor are they lost to the world of culture or of society by their choice. When the physical, mental, and social capabilities of boys of the farm have adequate and equal opportunity for development there will be no complaint of their distaste for agriculture.

It would be quite impracticable, in a brief article, to indicate the myriad forms which the idea of rural recreation might suggest. The opportunities are limitless; any view of them must be kaleidoscopic. In the winter, the season of comparative leisure, the young people are at no loss for amusement, with sleighrides, skating parties, singing schools and social gatherings under various conditions. There should be a due admixture of instruction with amusements during the long wintry season, else recreation might degenerate into dissipation, two ideas which are essentially opposites in any true analysis. Reading clubs, literary or dramatic societies, lectures, would be in order, in some of which old and young might participate. It is very desirable that the elders should be aroused from the lethargy of a sometimes stupid quietude, and the entire household, the whole community, feel the effects of a social and intellectual awakening. Farmers' Friend.

THE ALLIANCE, POLITICS, AND PARTISANSHIP.

The South West has received several communications recently in reference to the discussion of political questions in the alliance and the attitude of the order to politics in general. It would appear that such confusion still exists in the minds of many even of the members on those questions. The South West cannot see why any misapprehension should arise in regard to them. The cause of all this trouble, feeling, contention and distrust is in confounding politics with partisanship; confounding political questions as abstract principle with partisan measures for party policy. Partisan idolatry has so long held such supreme sway over the masses of men, and partisan prejudice born of party hate so distorted their views that many cannot discuss an economic issue or public question without associating it in their minds with their party position there-

on or with partisan politics in general. It is time that the members of the order at least should learn to discriminate in this, and avoid that blunder. It is time that they grasped the facts that the Alliance is a political organization; political, as is every organization that makes legislative demands. But it is not a partisan organization. It has nothing to do with any party. It is organized for special purposes, and one of these, and the principal one, is to instruct its membership in the science of government; to instruct them on political questions. But when they are so instructed, or think they are, they must go entirely outside the order to find means to carry their views into practical effect. Within the organization there is no political question that can not be discussed; and the more thoroughly and earnestly they are discussed and studied the better. Men of all parties are there, and they are there not as partisans, but as men and workers pledged in the search after truth in an unprejudiced, unpartisan, fraternal spirit. All acknowledge that something is wrong, that many things are wrong; they are there to find if possible the remedies. They are there to study political economy. They are there to study alike their duties and rights as citizens, as workers, as men. It will take time to accomplish all this. The results of years of apathy and inaction cannot be overcome in a few months of desultory effort.

But some in their zeal to correct the current and glaring abuses, and impatient at the apparently slight progress made, ask: "Why the workers in the industrial organizations do not vote united and by united action secure legislative relief."

They will vote united when they believe alike through the thorough understanding of true principles. This will follow as naturally and inevitably as effect follows cause. Teach the truth, disseminate correct principles, and the results will take care of themselves. This is the work in which the Alliance and kindred organizations are engaged. This is why these educational organizations are superior to parties. This is how they are distinct and should be kept distinct from parties.

If the members will by a little momentum of mental effort grasp the real objects of those orders there need be no trouble over political parties. There is no occasion, no excuse for introducing party, or partisanship in the order. Neither is there any excuse for any man in failing to vote his convictions or in failing to make the proper effort to vote aright. When the people understand the questions they are now studying and rise to the plane of intelligent manhood no party can live which will not rise to the same height.—South West.

PROCLAMATION.

To the Members of the Farmers Alliance in the State of Mississippi.

GREETING:

WHEREAS, Official information has been received that there is now organized and chartered by The National Farmers' Alliance and Co-Operative Union of America, more than three County Alliances in the State of Mississippi, and formal application has been made in behalf of said County Alliances for a State Alliance in the said State of Mississippi;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C. W. MACUNE, President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-Operative Union of America, hereby issue this my official PROCLAMATION, calling upon each County Farmers' Alliance in the State of Mississippi to elect and send three delegates to assemble in the City of Jackson, in said State, on

Wednesday, 24th day of Aug., A. D. '87,

at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of organizing a Farmers' State Alliance for the said State of Mississippi, and to formulate and adopt a Constitution and suitable By-Laws for such State Alliance, and to elect officers for such State Alliance for the first term, and to make such appropriations and laws as in their wisdom may seem necessary to the more perfect working and advancement of the Order in the said State of Mississippi.

The said proposed State Alliance, if organized in conformity with the laws of the Order, will be granted a Charter by the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-Operative Union of America, making it a branch of that body, under its act of incorporation as a National Trade Union, with authority to grant Charters to subordinate bodies, and exercise exclusive original jurisdiction within that State.

Given under my hand, in the City of Waco, and State of Texas, this, the 30th day of June, A. D. '87.

[SEAL]

C. W. MACUNE,
Pres't N. F. A. and C. U. of A.

ATTEST:
E. B. WARREN,
Sec'y N. F. A. and C. U. of A.