



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 2.

RALEIGH, N. C., JULY 21, 1887.

No. 22.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

CALAHAN, Davie Co., N. C., July 8, 1887.

I see a piece in your paper of the 30th of June headed "The Homestead," that voices my thoughts on the laws of mortgages and liens. We want something to restore the confidence of the people, and I do not think anything would do it like the laws modified that are in the article spoken of. I just feel so glad that you have spoken out in the interest of the poor man, that I want to say amen, and continue. Your friend,

L. B. WALKER.

CAMP CALL, Cleveland Co., N. C., July 4, 1887.

In answer to your request to send the number of members and names of officers of all farmers' clubs in the State: We have organized a farmers' club called the Union Farmers' Club, with 21 members. E. T. Champion, President; G. V. Hicks, Vice-President; S. E. Dickson, Secretary; O. P. Dickson, Treasurer, and G. V. Hicks, Corresponding Secretary. Executive Committee: E. T. Champion, S. E. Dickson and G. V. Hicks. This is a list of the officers of the Union Farmers' Club. Postoffice address, Camp Call, Cleveland county, N. C. I remain,

Yours truly,
G. V. Hicks,
Secretary U. F. C.

[For THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

I see from nearly all parts of the State that the farmers are moving on the line of intensive farming. This is a step in the right direction, and is largely due to the circulation of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, the best agricultural paper (in my way of thinking) that North Carolina has ever produced. Next to the promulgation of the gospel, the man who instructs, and becomes the motive-power in moving the farmers, is the greatest benefactor.

I am highly gratified to learn (though unable to travel much) that the farmers still continue to organize, and thus bring themselves into a position for higher education in their line. I am sorry to say that the young men of our State have heretofore considered it a disgrace to own farming as their occupation, and have shunned this noble calling to seek shelter in some small town or larger city, and sometimes behind the counter of bar rooms at low wages, and a still lower calling to prevent sun-burnt hands and faces. Ah! young men, this is a sad mistake. I trust and believe that the day is dawning when this erroneous idea will vanish like snow before a mid-day sun. Yes, I pray for the day to come when my children shall look from the farmer down to the President of the United States, for upon this foundation rests the whole fabric of our greatness. My brother, I want you to let no opportunity escape without insisting upon a radical change in our system of education. First, we need this change in our common schools, and I insist that while we are spending money (and we do not have one-quarter enough) for normal schools and teachers' institutes, that this feature should be made one of the most prominent; not only among the boys and young men, but also among the girls and young ladies. For we are expecting the present generation of young people to become the fathers and mothers of our great country. Education means development—expansion—bringing to light, not stuffing. And we surely need development on the line of agriculture. Next after the common schools have made this change, the higher schools and colleges should all wheel into line and prepare the minds of this generation for a practical agricultural college. Now I want you to look into the machinery of our common schools alike. You know that the school law requires a county superintendent, and in many cases some lawyer, who knows nothing

about our needs, is put in this place and often grants certificates to people who have no tact for teaching, and know nothing really of what education is. Again many of our committeemen have no children to send to school, and some of them cannot read, and are often appointed to subvert political ends, or to put in kins-folks.

Here lies the foundation of our future, in the common schools. We must have educated fathers and mothers, and especially mothers. Now when we get down to the solid foundation—the bed-rock—and then level that foundation, and plumb the walls—make the sills and corner-posts of sound timber and securely cover the building by teaching our children practical chemistry, how to make and apply fertilizers—when and where to *subsoil*, how to use and utilize bone and all the waste material from the kitchen and wash-tub, to turn everything to account, and to stop buying commercial fertilizers when they know not how to use them, but to apply this money (I mean money used without judgment) to home fertilizers, then will the farm and farmer grow richer. The farmer boy should be proud of his occupation and the pure, chaste daughters of the farmer be worthy of the noblest husband.

Yours truly,
M. Randleman, N. C., July 7, 1887.

THE LAND OF BOOMS.

"And they sailed away to the land of booms."
The above might be made the refrain of many a melody at this time, for we are having booms all along the line. In the East we have oil booms and railroad booms and booms of almost every kind and character. There has been no period in the world's history when there were such a marked activity in large industrial operations as just now—when there were such wonderful developments in every essential of the world's progress. Never before was the opportunity presented for the rapid amassing of large fortunes. Millionaires and multiple millionaires are as plenty now as were those 30 years ago who counted their wealth only by a few hundred thousand. Monopolies, corners and speculations of every kind are of daily occurrence at every important commercial center. Great works of engineering in the damming of streams, building of bridges, digging canals, building railroads to far-off and what were formerly considered unapproachable places. Huge leviathan ships of several thousand tons burden have taken the place of those of 500 or 600, which were considered large ships a few years ago. Tiny cockleshell yachts of a few tons burden are now built to move through the water at what was formerly considered an unattainable speed.

Gold, silver, copper and lead are now raised in quantities which would have been regarded as fabulous 40 and 50 years ago. Large sections of country are lighted up with furnace fires fed by the products of our iron and coal mines, which are now yielding their output in such immense quantities as to tax the skill and capital of both railroad and steamer to move them from pits to furnace. There is a veritable boom in every class of mining. "A New South" is just being opened up to the industry and capital of the country. That genial portion of the Union was never so alive to the sound of the ax, the hammer, the saw and the mill-wheel as now; the boom there is genuine and unprecedented. A great empire has grown up within the life of a generation in the great Northwest, and another has made almost equal progress on the Pacific Slope.

Fig Iron Bessemer said two years ago that 1887 was to witness the beginning of the biggest boom the world ever saw—his prediction is being more than verified.—*Pacific Rural Press*.

[Yes, there is a grand boom all along the lines, in all industrial operations except among those who feed and clothe the world. The farming

world hears this booming of the "booms" but it has little charm for them when they feel their pockets shrinking every day.]

CUMBERLAND AND HARNETT.

On Saturday afternoon, July 2d, a goodly number of farmers, with their wives and daughters, met in the academy at Little river and organized a lively farmers' club with W. L. Williams, President; A. B. Walker, Vice-President, and W. D. Adams, Secretary.

This is a beautiful section of country and well adapted to strictly first class farming.

The club is fortunate in securing Mr. Williams for President. He is a splendid farmer—works himself, does everything in good time and in a workman-like manner. He lives at home, makes his own bread and meat, looks jolly and no doubt feels good.

Mr. Williams killed one hog last winter that weighed 628 pounds net. While many of his neighbors complain of heavy losses from hog cholera, he never loses one. He is giving his stock ample runs on grass and pasture fields and attends to them. They tie little stick yokes on their pigs and turn them out to root hog and die.

You may expect, Mr. Editor, a good report from this club. They mean business.

There was also a club organized at Rhodes Mills on July 1st with C. C. McLellan, President; I. W. Godwin, Vice-President; Jeff D. Barnes, Secretary.

I did not see Mr. McLellan's farm, but learned from his neighbors that he need not be ashamed to stand up in meeting and urge others to a higher order of farming. He does good work on his own farm, and that is the very best kind of teaching.

I hold, Mr. Editor, that people in the main do the best they know how for themselves. These Cumberland and Harnett farmers are working hard, and the most of them are living hard, and they seem to think that the only road to kingdom come lies right through the cotton field. But just as long as they continue to haul their corn from some railroad depot, on their little bob-tailed carts, they may expect to work hard and live hard.

Very truly, &c.
J. EDOM SMITH.
Newcombs, N. C.

INFLUENCE OF THE GRANGE.

The neighborhoods where granges and farmers' clubs flourish are characterized by better farming, as well as a friendly and social spirit among the people. No one man does or can know everything about farming, any more than about other things. Each member contributes his ideas, and the stock of information about the best farm methods is largely increased. Even those who hold aloof are brought in, however unwillingly. Keen observers note the improvement they are secretly making, or if their farming shows none of these they point to it as a horrible example, and as a warning of the bad effects of neither learning themselves, nor imparting their information to others. Some farmers who have enjoyed the benefits of the grange for many years say they would not live in a neighborhood or town where no grange exists.—*American Cultivator*.

Successful farmers, whether dairy-men, fruit growers or stock raisers, are those who consult the requirements of the market rather than their own inclinations in the matter. Consumers who pay their money will always demand a voice in the style and variety of goods they purchase. Thus it is the breeders of grade draft horses meet a ready demand and good prices for all the good heavy horses as soon as they are old enough for market. The markets of this country and all Europe are eagerly calling for more good draft horses and of a heavier type. They are equally ready to pay the increased price for the extra heavy teams when they can find them, and

so of the best stock of beef and dairy cattle and hogs. The high grades and full bloods pay best.—*Unknown*.

Is it not a curious kind of statesmanship which permits a useless surplus fund to accumulate in the public treasury, while the people are groaning under oppressive taxation? Is it the best Government under the sun in which money is hoarded up in the public purse while thousands of its citizens beg for the opportunity to work? Yet this is the statesmanship of the leaders of both Democratic and Republican parties; and this Government is supposed to be the best under the sun.—*Planter and Stockman*.

Last year I commenced a series of experiments upon wheat, using dissolved bone on all but my fresh tobacco land. I have watched the growth of my crop very closely, and now feel safe in announcing my success.

I extend to the farmers' clubs of Davie county, and to as many others as feel an interest in improved agriculture, a cordial invitation to come and examine my crop for themselves, and be satisfied as to the reports that have gone out concerning it. I will say further, that I used about \$42 worth of bone, applied with a drill, and the indications are, that the cash value of my crop will be increased to double that amount, besides leaving the land somewhat improved.

I desire to say further, that any farmer, who wishes to make two bushels of wheat, with the labor that has never produced more than one, is welcome to the result of my experiments, and further I will cheerfully aid him in securing the bone, at a saving of from six to eight dollars on the ton. Come and see the wheat and satisfy yourselves as whether it will pay, and don't take my word for it.—W. J. ELLIS, in *Mocksville Times*.

Connecticut is one of the smallest States in the Union, its area being a little less than 5,000 square miles, one-eighth that of Ohio, or one-eleventh that of Illinois. The last census enumerated 44,000 persons as engaged in agriculture in Connecticut, against 397,000, or nine times as many, similarly engaged in Ohio, and 436,000, or nearly ten times as many, in Illinois. Connecticut has within her borders one of the three greatest universities of the nation, and her small share of the national endowment for industrial education was turned over to a department of this university—the Sheffield Scientific School, of Yale College. This school, as its name implies, is a scientific school; yet it teaches the applications of science to the mechanic arts in an elaborate and extensive system of shop-work instruction; the claims of agriculture on the land-grant endowment being recognized by a course of lectures on agricultural chemistry and kindred topics. In 1881 the legislature of Connecticut established, and has since maintained, an agricultural school on a farm given for that purpose by Mr. Augustus Storrs. The course of instruction in this school was limited to two years, and of this course practical farm work was made a part, each student being required to spend a portion of his time in manual labor upon the farm. Of course this labor was designed to illustrate the teachings of the classroom, as far as possible. What has been the result? The last three catalogues of this institute show that the average attendance has been 36—the full number which the school can accommodate, because of its limited dormitory capacity—and this notwithstanding the fact that the privileges of the school are confined to citizens of Connecticut. These students are all students of agriculture, and of the branches of learning related thereto, mechanics, literature and general science being provided for in other institutions. Now, the latest catalogues of the land-grant-endowed "universities" of Ohio and Illinois enumerate just 25 students of agriculture in each; those of Ohio being long to a course of the same length

as that of the Connecticut school—two years. A very little application of the old "rule of three" will show that these great universities are doing proportionately about one-thirteenth as much for agricultural education as this unpretentious, almost unheard of school in little Connecticut.—*Farm and Fireside*.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND ITS FRIENDS.

It is known that we started this paper under most disadvantageous surroundings. It is not known how we have toiled and labored "in season and out of season" day and night, to place it beyond the breakers. We confess with pride and with gratitude to our friends, that it has succeeded beyond our expectations. It has made strong and true friends. It has enjoyed the courteous kindness, if not co-operation, of the press of the State, for which it expresses its profound appreciation. Kind words of endorsement and encouragement are borne to us by almost every mail. For all this we feel gratified.

But we desire to speak a few plain, earnest words to our subscribers. Ours is an agricultural State. Our people are supporting over one hundred and fifty newspapers and journals. Over one hundred of these are political papers. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the only agricultural paper (weekly) among them all. It is devoted exclusively to the interests of industrial classes. Is it unreasonable to claim that of the one hundred and ten thousand subscribers to all our papers, a majority of whom must be farmers, that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER ought to have ten thousand subscribers? This would be an average of but a fraction over one hundred to each county in the State. Are there not twenty counties in the State that with little effort on the part of our friends would give us five hundred each by January next? Are there not fifty other counties that would give us two hundred each? Are there not twenty others that would give us from fifty to one hundred each? If our friends in these counties will kindly give us their help and will give half the number named by the first day of January next, we believe we can safely guarantee to run the list up to ten thousand by the first of June next. It would enable us first, to reduce the price of the paper to the uniform price of one dollar. Second, it would enable us to increase the size and give our readers the model agricultural weekly of the South. Third, it would enable us to employ constantly the best editorial talent in all its departments, and lastly, it would give us a paper that could and would wield a tremendous power in our State. Is not this true? If it be true, is it not worth an effort on the part of our friends to accomplish it? Who will give us their aid in securing five thousand subscribers by the first of January? Look at these rates

TO CLUBS:	
1 subscriber and under five, 1 year,	\$2.00
5 subscribers and under ten, 1 year,	1.65
10 subscribers and under fifteen, 1 year,	1.50
15 subscribers and under twenty, 1 year,	1.25
20 subscribers, or more, 1 year,	1.00

Strictly cash in advance.

Who will be the first to send us a club? Remember that for any one of the above clubs, you get the paper free for one year. Will you not make up a club in your neighborhood in your Grange, in your Club, in your Alliance? How many of our friends will join us in the effort to get the five thousand? Write to us for blank subscription list and sample copy of the paper. Who will help? If you can't do it, can you not get some one to do so? Show the paper to your neighbor—take it with you to your Club, Grange or Alliance and show it to your brethren and get them to take it. Who will write first for the blank? Join us in the work, and let us have, by the beginning of next year, the very best paper in the whole South for our farmers.