



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 25.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

The farmers met at Madison Saturday, July 30th, according to appointment. Organized by electing the following officers: Col. J. M. Gallaway, President; C. A. McGehee, Vice-President; Geo. W. Martin, Treasurer; and D. W. Busick, Secretary. The club organized under the name of Dan River Farmers' Club. Forty enrolled their names. Our President, on taking the chair, gave us a nice little talk. Much interest was manifested, and we anticipate a large club at this place. Subject for discussion at the next meeting, "Wheat and Wheat Sowing." Many expressed a desire to see your paper, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Respectfully,
D. W. BUSICK, Sec'y.

The Farmers' Club of Stoneville, Rockingham Co., organized on Saturday, 30th of July, with 26 members. T. B. Lindsay was elected President; Tyler King, Vice-President; P. F. Galliher, Treasurer; J. D. Meddor, Secretary. Postoffice of President and Secretary, Douglas, N. C. Subject for discussion at our next meeting is "Wheat growing, best preparation of the soil, time and manner of sowing, quantity of seed to the acre," &c. We are thinking of offering a premium to the one who will grow the largest quantity of wheat on half an acre of land. A great many take THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and are well pleased with it. Every farmer ought to join a club, and every member of a club ought to take THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

T. B. LINDSAY,
Deep Springs Farm, Aug. 1, '87.

The Wake County Farmers' Alliance convened in the city of Raleigh on Saturday, July 30th, 1887. The Alliance was called to order at 11 o'clock by the President, J. D. Allen. The Vice-President being absent, Eugene T. Jones, Esq., was chosen Vice-President pro tem. J. J. Penny, P. P. Pace and J. Wiley Jones were appointed a committee on credentials. Twenty-four Alliances were found to be represented.

Having been formally opened, the Alliance proceeded to the consideration of the interests of the order in the county, and considerable time was spent in an interesting and profitable discussion of various matters.

W. G. Allen, R. J. Buffalo and J. J. Penny were appointed as a finance committee.

By request of the Alliance, J. B. Barry, organizing officer of the National Alliance, appointed four additional organizers in different parts of the county, viz: D. P. Meacham, R. D. Weathers, W. G. T. Allen and A. M. Thompson.

The following resolution was introduced by J. M. Turner and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Alliance recommend THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER as worthy of our hearty support, and that we adopt it as the organ of The Farmers' Alliance of Wake county.

After having disposed of the business presented for its consideration, the Alliance was entertained by a very interesting address by the Lecturer, J. M. Turner. The Wake County Alliance then adjourned to meet in the court house, in the city of Raleigh, on the last Saturday in August, 1887.

W. G. CROWDER, Sec'y.

[For THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

A word in regard to the treatment of milk cows. As a rule the people of North Carolina have never learned the value of a good cow, hence the great mistake of keeping too many and not giving them the proper attention. I think that one cow properly fed and sheltered is enough for any family at one time. In cold weather the cow should be protected from the cold winds, and always from the cold rains. She should always be

as well fed as the horse, and if either has the preference it should be the cow. Let us count the cost of feeding and the value of the milk and butter produced. One hundred pounds of wheat bran and one hundred pounds of fodder will more than supply her for one month; this is worth \$2.50. With this food properly prepared, the cow will yield at least four gallons of milk per day—equal to twenty-eight gallons per week. Milk is worth forty cents per gallon (here) 28 to 40—equal to \$11.20—a neat profit of \$8.70 per week, and this is not an over estimate, for I have tested it and many others have also. For summer and fall feeding, I have found that corn produces more milk and butter and a better quality than any other food. This can be produced at a very small expense by thoroughly preparing your land in the spring and sowing the corn in rows about two feet apart. Commence sowing in March and sow a small quantity about every three weeks until the first of August. Cut about the time the tassel begins to show; you can sow same land two or three times the same year, and by so doing one acre will keep a cow for a year. I have tried clover and the grasses, but corn exceeds them all by far, both in quantity and quality of milk. I know that many people think that \$50 is a high price for a cow, but this simply by not making a proper calculation. The fact is, it is hard to tell what a good cow is worth.

More anon, M.

A "TAR HEEL" ON GRASSES.

I have made many inquiries of various persons in a circuit of forty miles around me as to seeding clover and grass together, and wanted to learn of a good mixture. Of course I have read in *The Southern Cultivator* of these mixtures of grass seed with clover, but almost every writer differed more or less, and hence I was at sea and in doubt. Last year, however, I sowed clover, and stray grass seed was mixed with the clover seed, and I determined for myself that timothy would mature with clover, information from supposed reliable parties to the contrary, nevertheless. This seeing with my own eyes is satisfactory; so I know that I can sow timothy and clover. On a trip recently I saw orchard grass and clover growing together, and was satisfied that it would mature with clover. Now, I am satisfied as to this fact, and don't want any more hair-splitting opinions upon these two points. I supposed for a year or two that the Means or Johnson grass would be a good variety to sow with clover, timothy and orchard grass, because the thickness with which the varieties would grow would necessarily make the means grass grow with a delicate or very much finer stem and by that method would be a valuable addition, its other qualities being so fine; but it matures, or perhaps outgrows the others, and I am afraid of its making too coarse a stem, if cut with the maturity of the others. I don't advise it to be sown with the others. I cut a stalk of it today (June 18) seven feet high, and this should have been cut for hay at least a month ago, or even sooner. Don't know anything about red top, but I intend to put it in my mixture to harrow into a clover sod in September or October, or February and March. Have just finished cutting fifteen acres of clover and did not have a first rate catch, yet I have filled quite a large barn full to overflowing. Kept one two-horse team busy hauling, with two women to load, from Tuesday morning until Saturday night. I will cut this field again in the fall, as soon as it is ready, and again next June, and I will then allow the autumn crop to go to seed and fall upon the ground for a new seeding. This might be harrowed or rolled during the winter or early spring so as to press the seed into the ground.—JOHN H. WILSON, in *Southern Cultivator* for August.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS. The Necessity of Them and the Good to be Accomplished by Them.

[Correspondence of The Landmark.]

Since the agricultural association was organized in Iredell county quite a number of farmers have been perplexed about joining that body. Some say they would join if Mr. — did not belong; others, that farmers will not remain organized long; others say it is not popular to belong to an organization composed only of farmers; and quite a number are waiting to see who joins. There are a number of letters on my table before me containing such questions as "What do you propose to do?" "Do you think you can benefit the farmers' condition?" Some of the writers ask me to answer them through *The Landmark* that they and also their friends may understand our object.

This is a fast age and the man or set of men, who are satisfied to follow in the paths trodden by our ancestors and make no departure from the way in which they did business, will always be behind and are unworthy of the age in which they are living.

All the professional classes are organized, and it is easy to observe that they recognize the order they have reduced their business to.

If it pays the professional man to systematize his business, why not the farmers organize and reduce all their affairs to some method?

The farming class of men do more hard manual labor and the world is more indebted to them than any other class, and yet their affairs are more neglected and more ignored by other classes, than any other line in proportion to its extent. All the professions and the different lines of manufacturing interest in the country, in short, everything but farming has laws of business, customary rules, &c., by which it is governed, except farming and selling of farm products.

If a farmer wants counsel he must fee a lawyer, which is generally from five to fifty dollars. If his family gets sick he calls in a physician; he must have from fifty cents to a dollar per mile, which he can travel in a few minutes. If his teeth decay and he calls in a D. D. S. who fills a few teeth, he charges him from five to ten dollars for work which he will do in two or three hours. If he wants farming utensils he must pay the manufacturer his price. If he wants fire-arms, jewelry, musical instruments, &c., he must pay a fixed price. If he wants goods and goes to the dealer he not only pays for the manufacturing but he finds added the merchant's per cent. Now in all this buying he finds he must pay the price asked or do without the goods.

How is it on the other hand when he has a load of produce to sell and hauls it to market? He is not asked what he will take but is told he can have so much and if he will not take it he can haul it back home. If he has tobacco to sell he hauls it to town, somebody else sells it for him and he must pay a given price for selling it whether it brings that amount or not. If he has pork to sell he must take from four to seven cents per pound. If he wants bacon in a few weeks afterward, he has to pay from ten to fifteen cents per pound. He pays the dealer more for a few pounds of salt that only cost one cent per pound and for keeping his meat a few weeks than he gets for making it.

It is easy to be seen that farmers are "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for other classes of men. The tillers of the soil in all ages have been more contented, more law-abiding and better citizens as a rule than any other class. As they generally reside in "the rural districts" this may be partly the cause of it, nevertheless this contentment has cost them a great deal. But the day has come when the farmers have begun to realize their situation, and while it does not become them to abuse other classes for looking after their interest, for that is their business, yet they see their situation will never be benefited unless they

bring about changes by their own efforts.

It is gratifying to see the interest that is manifested in several of the Southern States. While the farmers have been organized in several of the Northern States for a number of years, it has never amounted to much; but more recently it begun here in the South, and today Texas boasts of her two hundred thousand members; Louisiana fifty thousand, and every Southern State is enlisting her thousands. While we organize by townships and counties and do some good, we can never do all that is needed without a State and National organization. Such an organization will eventually be the result.

While other States have caught the spirit and are making such commendable efforts in behalf of the great issue of the day, let North Carolina do her part, and old Iredell, that is never behind in any good thing that she is called on to do, wake up. Several hundred of her farmers have enrolled; let as many more enlist.

The meeting at the court house and the township gatherings can be made interesting and profitable by discussing the manner of cultivating the different kinds of crops, when and where to seed, and in what shape to market the products of the farm.

If the farmers of North Carolina had been well organized fifteen years ago they and their farms would today be worth fifty per cent. more than they are. There is a class of farmers in north Iredell, Davie, Yadkin and Wilkes counties who have been for the last fifteen years clearing annually fields for tobacco and grain which could be grown on them for a few years without fertilizers. This class of farmers have destroyed enough valuable timber of different kinds by burning it in log piles to have paid for building a railroad from Statesville to this point if they had been convenient to a market for it. This class of farmers will have to learn to farm differently and stop such destruction of the forest.

There is another class of farmers that reminds one of the adage, "Distance lends enchantment to the view." Because they could buy fertilizers on time they made the venture and the result in many instances was that the crop would not pay the fertilizer bill. Many of these farmers own a considerable herd of cattle which is allowed to roam at large, stay in some old field at night, when if they were herded and the excrements every morning thrown in a pen kept covered, protecting it from the sun and rain, it would greatly reduce their bill for fertilizers.

We need farmers who can reclaim our barren fields and make them productive, and this with home-made fertilizers.

The farmers should organize manufacturing companies, uniting their surplus capital and manufacturing their farming utensils from our native woods. If ours would meet together and discuss all these measures and buy more good books and papers and read them, we would soon see a change. We would see more extensive farming, more stock raised and better stock. Our people would become better informed and not be so easily taken in by every dead-head swindler and peddler that comes along. And last but not least, the agriculturists, interest demands some legislation. Let the farmers discuss among themselves what laws they need to protect their interest and in a body petition our legislators for what they need and they will be sure to get them.

E. E. SMITH,

Settle, N. C., July 21, 1887.

SUICIDE OF A RECKLESS MAN.

A man who committed suicide in an Arkansas town left the following letter: "Any fellow that says I ain't in my right mind when I do this here deed don't know much about my disposition. Five weeks ago I had money and was happy, but reckless living brought me down to this. I lost sight

of the fact that I had worked hard for my money, an' went out with a passel of boys an' spent eighty-five cents. This only left me a dollar an' a quarter, an' being unable to stand the disgrace which my reduced circumstances brought about, I must die. When I came to this town I had nearly three dollars."—*Arkansaw Traveler*.

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.