



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 2.

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No. 26.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

LIBERTY FARMERS' CLUB.

The farmers of this vicinity met on the 9th inst. and organized a club of 33 members by electing D. C. Cox, President; A. P. Brower, Vice-President; T. M. Robertson, Secretary and Treasurer. The club adopted the constitution and by-laws as published by THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Our first regular meeting will be on Saturday, the 20th inst., at 2 o'clock p. m., when we will discuss "the best methods of preparing lands for wheat."

Our club is made up of sound, substantial material, and we start out with the hope of doing and receiving good. We have faith in the farmers' movement. You readers shall hear from us. Respectfully, T. M. ROBERTSON, Sec'y.

RICHARDSON CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

This club was organized with 15 members April 16, 1887, and we now number 62. We received 16 members at our last meeting. That begins to look like business. We hold our meetings twice a month, since the busy season is over. I think the farmers are nearly all converted or convinced in union, and we are looking for them all to fall in line by and bye. The following are the officers: President—M. B. Simpson. Vice-President—James R. Griffin. Secretary—A. J. Brooks. Asst. Secretary—S. L. Mullis. Cor. Secretary—G. M. Simpson. Treasurer—B. D. Austin. Executive Committee—T. C. Griffin, James R. Gardner, H. M. Brooks, Jacob C. Griffin and F. W. Griffin.

We will hold our next meeting at Fairfield school house in New Salem township, Aug. 12th, at 1 o'clock p. m. Postoffice address, Richardson creek, Union county, N. C. A. J. Brooks, Sec'y.

AUBURN ALLIANCE.

AUBURN, N. C., Aug. 6, 1887. The farmers' alliance met here at the appointed time for the transaction of business. We had a call meeting Aug. 4th. At this meeting we initiated 9 persons. A finance committee was appointed by the chair. At this meeting (Aug. 4th) only one was initiated. This alliance is now composed of 31 members. Applications for membership are rapidly increasing. Somebody has the privilege of "riding the goat" at every meeting. At our last meeting the subject of education was discussed by several brethren.

The subject of building a lodge was also discussed and decided upon, therefore we expect in a short while to have a nice lodge erected here. We mean business!

What I have said I say again. "Let there be more communication between the different alliances of the State." Brother secretaries, let us hear from you through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER or by letter.

Respectfully yours, SELLIE M. SMITH, Sec'y.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

BAILENTINES MILLS, Wake Co. N. C., Aug. —, 1887.

I organized my twenty-fifth alliance in Wake county last night, my deputies several others, making some thirty, with over one thousand membership. Should the farmers' alliance grow in the next sixty days as in the past sixty, the farmers will take charge of Wake county by cotton planting time and run it to their own notion.

I go in Harnett county this morning and have every reason to believe that county will organize in ten days, Moore county in fifteen days, then the State will be ready to organize. Then I go home, the farmers having done all I came here to ask of them, i. e., to organize their State into a good that they can send delegates to the

National Convention of cotton planters to be held on the 15th of October at Shreveport, Louisiana.

When my old native State is organized, there will be a lecturer and organizer sent into every county in the State, which will have the State solidly organized within sixty days thereafter; and in my opinion, in twelve months the farmers, mechanics, &c., will have as complete control of North Carolina as they have in Texas and will run their State to their own notion.

J. B. BARRY, Organizer.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] FARMERS AND FINANCE.

I wish to call your attention to some facts: The editors, lawyers, bankers and politicians all say the improvement in agriculture is to begin with individual effort, and they point to some individual who has exceptionally good land or cash in hand as an example to follow. The great and rich who have to farm on ordinary land and hill-sides and buy on credit, paying 25 to 40 per cent. more for supplies, are placed at disadvantage. Now why could not the one hundred millions idle in the U. S. Treasury be loaned on mortgage at 4 to 5 per cent. to farmers? Banks will not loan to them. They loan to merchants at 10 to 12 per cent. and they sell to farmers at 20 to 40 per cent. advance. But the politicians, &c., say the farmers must not go on credit; let them operate on a cash basis. Others do not—the merchants, lawyers, editors, &c., can realize on their work in a short time, the farmer only once a year, and of all laborers the farmer should be indulged, but our sons expect the farmer to pay cash and every one else be indulged. Tax the public to educate "the colonel's boy," run the banks for the merchants and speculators and then laugh at the farmer's ignorance and poverty; and then wonder why people are so wicked as to form labor parties or anti-poverty societies.

I am not a citizen of your State, but I see you have the grit and grace to combat these errors. The men who have the intelligence and fortitude to tackle these errors and produce a reformation in time to save the country from threatened revolution, will deserve the thanks of all good people. Yours truly, FLORIDA, Cade City, July 28, '87.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] HOW TO ENRICH POOR LAND WITHOUT STABLE MANURE.

WINSTON, N. C., Aug. 5, 1887. Prepare any old poor land, plow well and cross-plow and sow down to rye in the month of August. Then about the last of May plow under nicely with a good two-horse plow level it over with a harrow and sow two bushels of peas to the acre and put them under well. Then about the 15th of August, turn your peas nicely and level the ground with a harrow again; now sow three bushels of buck-wheat to the acre and put under well. When your buckwheat is podding pretty well, turn under and harrow your ground well and cross-harrow and sow to wheat and clover and let it rest for two years, and take through the same process again. Farmers, try this; it will beat your fertilizers and is cheaper than stable manure and will bring your poor land up.

The proper depth for all seeds—four times its length and never to be planted any deeper. I mean seed, not roots; remember this. The largest yield of wheat heard from is 72 1/3 bushels per acre, by Mr. Finch, of Lexington, Davidson county. Farmers, why not make one acre bring you that amount, rather than sow 10 acres of poor land and get 50 bushels.

WHY SHOULD WHEAT BE SOWN SMALL? Some farmers say I turn my wheat under with a two-horse plow; some say I harrow it in; another one says I brushed mine in and made good wheat. We say sow your wheat not

over one inch in depth on well-prepared ground. Why? Because it comes up quickly, takes a good root and shoots come out in the fall strong and robust; the roots are so near the surface that when the hard freezes come about the first of January the whole root and mother grain is raised up all together and nothing hurt, and when the ground thaws all is packed back again as the freeze raised it. The consequence is in the spring you have a strong plant and plenty of side-shoots.

Now for deep sowing and its consequences, put under your wheat say six inches deep, as the first man suggests, and it is a hard time coming through the clods and stones, and we would think it would not more than get through before the last of December, if it come at all; but say it got through by the last of December, or first of January, you must remember, if you please, that all things have in common terms a mother. Wheat has its mother, the grain. Now when it comes up and the mother grain is rotten or decayed, it has a self-sustaining root within a half an inch of the surface. Now when you sow deep, as before stated, it is a long time getting through the clods; the mother grain has not nourished it; long enough, the freeze comes in about the first of January and breaks off the young tender wheat stalk say one or two inches below the surface, and the consequence is instead of having several strong well-rooted and well-branched stalks, you have but one sickly and spindling stalk. Remember this, farmers, and experiment, and you will be convinced we are right. Z. G. H.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] THE HOMESTEAD LAW.

It affords us much pleasure to know that there is one newspaper published in North Carolina through whose columns we can express our views on a matter that so concerns the farmers of the good Old North State as the homestead law—the law that has already done the farmers of North Carolina more harm, financially, than all other laws in existence. It is only equalled by the filching system of the government which draws such a surplus from the people that our officials do not know what to do with it.

The tendency of our laws since the late war between the States, both National and State, has been too much for centralization, for the best interest of the farmer. The farming interest especially needs no laws that will operate in favor of centralizing money and capital in any particular direction or any particular point. What we want is a general circulation among ourselves, naturally enough will flow to these central points under healthy laws for the farmer. So if we be wise, let us always love, cherish and honor those who cultivate the soil. Let no law exist that impedes the progress of that honored profession—the foundation of all other industries.

A few reasons why the homestead law ought to be modified by the farmers of North Carolina:

1. It was intended to save a home for the farmers' wives and children as well as other professions; yet it has made five homeless ones to every one it has saved.

2. There are more homesteads inumbered and have been sold for debt since the passage of the homestead law, 20 years ago, than had been inumbered and sold for debt for a hundred years previous to the passage of the law.

3. It has destroyed confidence between farmers and all other classes—created a mortgage-lien-law system, thereby complicating the business of the country.

The farmer who raises produce to sell is forced by the tendency of this law to haul his produce to market and sell for reduced prices, and often prices that will not pay the cost of production, while at the same time his neighbor needs this produce and would readily give his note at a profit to the

producer at 25 to 30 per cent. Men say well, "I never saw such hard times. Before the war I borrowed all the money I wanted at 6 per cent. on my plain note; now I can't get it unless I give a mortgage on my real estate, and after I get about one-third of its value, I am done borrowing; I am at the mercy of the mortgagee. If I can't raise the money to pay that one-third back and the 8 to 25 per cent. interest, I am charged and my land's gone."

This centralization is drawing from our farming community all its substance and replacing nothing. Farmers, let us wake up and put our shoulders together and have all laws speedily removed from our statute books which destroy confidence between ourselves and our neighbors and discourages our energy and our enterprise—laws that put our homesteads on the market in spite of us for less than one-third its value.

Farmers, let us make a big effort all together to restore that confidence which once existed between us, and when we have done that, outsiders will have more confidence in us; capital will more naturally flow more freely among us.

I believe the homestead law to be the root of our local and financial troubles, and the plan to get rid of these troubles is to take up the stump, root and all.

There are a hundred other things that could be said about the damage the homestead is doing and will do if it remains as it is. When we see the products of our labor depreciating—all of us out of money—our lands depreciating every day and our taxes as high as ever, there is something wrong, and the sooner we remove that wrong the better it will be for us. Let us look out after our interests as farmers and we may rest assured that all other interests will take care of themselves.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] DOES FARMING PAY?

No! emphatically no! if carried on in a slip shod manner—fences poor, cattle poorly especially in the spring, sheltered during the storms of winter by a four or five rail fence.

Then the ground is plowed in spring in a cut and cover style, scratched over after a fashion practiced by former ages, the seed cast in, covered with clods, and left to the tender mercies of the elements to grow or die as the case may be. The hogs in the corn, the hens in the garden.

When the crops are gathered the market is poor, but must have the money, so away it goes; the hogs are not fat, so they do not bring within one-half cent of average price.

The leaks on such a managed farm can be enumerated by the score, so for this cause a mortgage soon becomes the largest crop a crop which is continually growing until everything is swallowed up. With this picture before us, how can we say otherwise than an emphatic no to the question, Does Farming Pay?—W. B. H., in Farm, Field and Stockman.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] OUR STATE CONTEMPORARIES.

The penitentiary system was no favorite with the white people of North Carolina. The proposition made to adopt it in 1839 was so overwhelmingly voted down that no politician afterwards ever dared breathe a renewal of the project until the Republican party took the reins in its hands. Then came in the era of Northern philanthropy. The white man was never more to be degraded by the lash, nor the black again to have his back marked with the familia stripes. A Castle of Indolence was to be erected for vice where criminals might repent at leisure or lazily kick up their heels while they waited the day of liberation. The penitentiary is no pet of the Democratic party. It never would have authorized its creation. For all it would have done in the premises, the laws would have been executed in the old style of

whipping, hanging and incarceration in the county jails. But that part had no idea of treating a criminal as a guest of the State. If a criminal were adjudged to the penitentiary, he must be made to work out his board. This was a surprise and a disappointment to the Republicans. They furnish too large a portion of the boarders.—Hinc ille lachryma—Asheville Citizen.

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:

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.