



# 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. 33.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

##### IREDELL FARMERS.

A private letter from a friend in Iredeell informs us that there are ten clubs in that county and a County Club. They propose to hold a Wheat Fair in August, and are expecting to have a Farmers' Institute as early as practicable.

The *Scotland Neck Democrat* makes a stirring appeal to the farmers of its vicinity to have a "rousing meeting and dinner" in the near future. With the zeal and energy of the *Democrat*, and the perseverance of those farmers combined, it can be made an occasion that will be talked of by their children for many a year to come. Go ahead, Bro. Kitchen, and make it a grand occasion.

The Annual Fair of the Catawba Industrial Association will open at Hickory on the 25 inst. and hold four days. Gov. Vance, Gov. Scales and L. L. Polk are announced to make speeches. A public marriage will take place and numerous bridal presents will be contributed. The program throughout is full of interest and fun, and we doubt not that President Reinhardt is correct when he says: "It will be the best fair ever held in Western North Carolina."

The farmers of Cedar Spring neighborhood met Sept. 24th, 1887, and organized a farmers' club and elected B. F. Clegg President, and D. M. McLeod Vice-President, and J. W. Cole Secretary and Treasurer. Executive Committee: A. B. Harrington, R. M. McRae and T. E. Crutchfield. The Club will be known as Cedar Spring Farmers' Club, of Ritters township, Moore county, N. C. Postoffice of President is Quiet, N. C.

J. W. Cole, Sec'y,  
Carthage, N. C.

##### MOUNTAIN CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

The motto of this Club is still "upward and onward." On the 3rd inst., at its regular meeting, the members, male and female, had a little fair. They showed cotton, corn, potatoes, squashes, beets, onions, amber cane, cabbage, turnips, &c., &c. Next year they will enlarge and do better. This is right. We have not heard much from this Club recently, but upper Richmond will ere long begin to show the impress of its energy and go-ahead progressiveness. It is made of good material.

The farmers of Pender county organized at Burgaw on the 22nd inst. by electing—

Thomas J. Armstrong, Esq.—President.

R. T. Williams, Esq.—Vice-President.

Robert I. Dunham, Esq.—Secretary.

R. N. Collins, Esq.—Assistant Secretary.

R. H. Murphy, Esq.—Treasurer.

The following gentlemen were recommended as an Executive Committee:

Grant township—Luke H. McClammy.

Holly—W. J. Player.

Holden—Pettigrew Moore.

Union—Dr. W. C. Murphy.

Columbia—A. C. Ward.

Caswell—James F. Moore.

Caintuck—D. J. Corbett.

Lincoln—James F. Bell.

Rocky Point—D. H. Armstrong.

Messrs. G. F. Walker, John R. Banerman and E. McMoore were appointed a committee to draft a constitution. Reported, and a constitution adopted.

A committee was also appointed to prepare by-laws and regulations.

Adjourned to meet at Burgaw, at 11 o'clock a. m., on Saturday, October 22, 1887.

T. J. ARMSTRONG, Pres't.  
R. I. DUNHAM, Sec'y.

It is proposed to organize in Warrenton on the 2nd Saturday in October, a club of the farmers of the county. As a matter of course they have enough intelligence and are alive enough to their own welfare and will act accordingly. It is evident to every intelligent man that the farming interests of Warren county, and as to that, the whole South, need advancing. It would be highly gratifying to see old Warren take the lead in this direction.—*Warrenton Gazette*.

##### [FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Sept. 28, '87.

A County Farmers' Alliance was organized at the court house here on the 27th of this month with the following list of members: R. B. Caldwell, J. S. Davidson, J. M. Caldwell, W. W. Rankin, S. B. Smith, S. B. Alexander, S. F. Query, W. Gibbon, R. B. Trotter, E. W. Lyles, Robt. McDonald, Chas. McDonald, W. W. Gaither and F. S. Neal.

Officers elected: N. Gibbon, of Derita, N. C., President; R. B. Caldwell, Charlotte, Vice-President; F. S. Neal, Charlotte, Secretary; Capt. E. W. Lyles, Charlotte, Treasurer; Capt. S. B. Alexander, Sactur, R. E. McDonald, Assistant Lecturer; J. M. Caldwell, Chaplain; S. B. Smith, Door Keeper; W. W. Rankin, Assistant Door Keeper.

J. M. Caldwell, R. B. Trotter and R. B. Caldwell were elected delegates to the organization of State Alliance, to be held at Rockingham, Richmond county, on the 4th of October next. W. W. Rankin, S. B. Smith and S. F. Query were elected alternates.

Moved and carried that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, of Raleigh, N. C., be adopted as the official organ of this Alliance.

Moved and carried to meet at call of President.

F. S. NEAL, Sec'y.

##### [FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Sept. 28, '87.

The delegates representing the different Farmers' Clubs of Mecklenburg county met according to appointment at the court house, in the city of Charlotte, on the 27th day of September, and organized a county club. Mr. Renfrow, of Morning Star Club, being nominated and elected temporary chairman, and F. S. Neal, of Crab Orchard Club, temporary secretary, the meeting was ready for business.

Mr. Elliott, representing the Farmers' National Alliance, being present, was introduced by the chairman to the meeting and made a very interesting and instructive talk on the organization and workings of that body.

Col. Polk, of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, of Raleigh, N. C., then addressed the meeting in the interest of farming and farmers' clubs, which was well taken by our farmers.

The following permanent officers were then elected for the term of one year: N. Gibbon, of Derita Club, President; T. J. Renfrow, of Morning Star Club, Vice-President; F. S. Neal, of Crab Orchard Club, Secretary and Treasurer. E. J. Funderburg, of Morning Star, E. W. Lyles, of Crab Orchard, S. H. McCall, of Derita, and J. E. Lemon, of Clear Creek, were placed in nomination for an executive committee and all elected.

Moved and carried to meet at Hickory Grove church, at 10 a. m., on the second Saturday in October next.

Moved and carried that a committee of three be appointed to draw up resolutions and by-laws for the County Club. C. B. Cross, F. S. Neal and J. M. Caldwell, all of Crab Orchard, were appointed.

Moved and carried that the city papers be requested to publish the prices of cotton in Charlotte and surrounding markets.

Moved and carried that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, of Raleigh, N. C., and the city papers be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

The Club then adjourned to meet as above appointed.

F. S. NEAL, Sec'y.

##### [FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

#### JOHNSON FALLING INTO LINE.

There has been four sub-alliances organized in Johnson recently, as follows:

No. 1. Penny Alliance, W. R. Long President, and R. S. Penny, Secretary.

No. 2. Leachburg Alliance, A. D. Taylor, President, and C. H. Holland, Secretary.

No. 3. Clayton Alliance, J. C. Ellington, President, and R. H. Gower, Secretary.

No. 4. Archer Lodge, J. R. Reaves, President, E. B. Christman, Secretary.

Your correspondent was appointed by Bro. J. B. Barry as organizer for Johnson county, and would like to say to the farmers through your valuable paper that I am ready to organize them whenever called upon (if it is not asking too much.) I would like to organize the county within the next thirty days. I would also like very much to see every farmer in the grand old county a member of the Alliance and a subscriber to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. By the way, it is passing strange that while almost every farmer in the county is a subscriber to one or more political papers, that so few are subscribers to the only agricultural paper in the State. In my travels and lectures through the county I shall not forget to say a word for the organ of the Alliance.

Many thanks, Bro. Polk, for your kind words and assistance at Archer Lodge.

Fraternally,

C. E. McCULLERS,

Galley's Mills, Wake Co., N. C.

Sept. 24, '87.

The average condition of the corn crop for the entire country is 72 1-3 on the basis of 100 as a full average crop. But the district which furnishes the corn of commerce promises little more than half of a full crop. This fact will leave a controlling influence on prices far out-weighting the relative high condition of the crop in 24 states of the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific coast, where the average is 91. There is very little change in wheat, and it is probable that that product will not fall more than 5 or 6 per cent below the 1886 crop; but this means a shortage sufficient to raise prices. Potatoes have the poorest prospect for yield ever noted by the Department of Agriculture, except in the South and on the Pacific coast, and on the whole it will be one of the smallest crops on record. The apple crop will be short in every section where extensively grown. Only in New England and New York has the been at any time a prospect of even a medium crop, and there its condition has seriously fallen off and now stands at 62 in Maine, Connecticut 88, New York 75, Massachusetts 86. None of the Gulf states will have any fruit for export, and some states will have to import apples for home consumption. The same is true from Ohio westward, except that Michigan has a crop but slightly under the average of non-bearing years. These facts from the September report of the Department of Agriculture should be heeded. Now is the time to keep posted. To sell crops to the best advantage is now the problem before us.—*Farm and Home*.

#### FATTEN HOGS EARLY.

Three bushels of corn will make more meat and lard fed in warm and mild weather than four bushels fed in cold, winter weather.

Hogs need a shade when the sun is hot and uncomfortable, and a warm shelter when frost bites and pinches all living flesh. Fresh water to drink with ashes and salt all they can eat, in addition to corn, peas, barley and oats, cooked, make a great deal of pork in the northern and eastern States.

Skim milk, whey and butter milk, and many vegetables are fed to swine at small expense by many farmers. Hogs require attention and should not be neglected, in regard to regularity in feeding and watering.—*Tennessee Farmer*.

#### GREEN MANURING.

##### NUMBER 6

The best information that we have been able to obtain confirms the belief that a crop grown for the purpose, and then plowed under, furnishes the cheapest and most practicable mode of manuring the land for the next crop. We have also come to the conclusion that it is not rest from producing crops that is needed by the land, but it is rest from being cultivated and from being exposed to the sun during so large a portion of the year.

A crop that can be sown broadcast, and one that will furnish a dense shade, will give the land the needed rest from the sun, also the wind and rain, for a number of months.

A crop of cow-pea vines can be grown at a cost of about one dollar and a half per acre, and will weigh in the green state from twenty-five to thirty tons and will produce enough peas to support two hogs per acre for one month, which pasturage will be worth to the farmer at least three dollars. The vines and the manure left by the hogs can then be returned to the land with a certainty of increasing the value of the succeeding crops. No farmer can afford not to grow cow-peas on his resting land. It is cheaper than to permit it to grow up in weeds, which will seldom weigh more than from ten to fifteen tons per acre, and are worth nothing for stock.

The next question, and one of very great importance is, When shall a green crop be turned under, in order to obtain the best results? Two points have been well established by many experiments. One is, that a crop should never be turned under unless another crop is made to take its place at once; there is one exception to this rule: if a crop of weeds is allowed to grow during the summer, they can partially be turned under while in blossom during the month of August; the ground should then be harrowed and a crop of grass be allowed to cover the land and protect it during the fall and winter months, and then be turned under for the crop of cotton or corn. I should prefer, however, to cut the weeds with a scythe or cotton stalk cutter in August, and let them lie on the land until ready to plow under in the spring.

The other point is, that a crop of any kind, including peas, millet, oats, wheat stubble or grass, is of great value, and it can be turned under at any season of the year, provided another crop is made to grow at once on the land.

Drought continues in southern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, rendering the soil too dry and hard for plowing, in consequence of which a diminished area will be planted to winter wheat.

#### THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

We are sometimes considerably amused at the vast amount of splendid (?) free advice given to farmers by newspaper editors and long-winded, more-gass-than-brains correspondents. It is a very easy matter to tell what the farmers ought to do, but they all fail to tell the poor farmer how to do with nothing to do with. It is splendid advice to tell him he ought, by all means, to get out of debt, and then stay out of debt. It is a very smart way of covering up a vast amount of swindling, rascality and villainy, now that the farmer has been reduced to poverty, debt and wretchedness, to tell him that he is a lazy, shiftless, spendthrift, who, on account of his own want of energy and push has brought all this poverty and distress upon himself.

The gentlemen who roll in luxury and affluence on the money of which they have virtually robbed the farmer, have frequently enough pure, unmixed cussedness in them, to set up and tell the poor, ragged, flopped-hat farmer, that he should be more economical, that he should retrench home expenses; in a word, they give him a general "rounding up," and wind up with a bushel basket full of this cheap

advice and a little "taffy," and the honest-hearted, trust-everybody farmer goes off feeling that this same cuss who has legally robbed him and then made fun of him to his face is his very best friend.

And then there are a host of fellows who perhaps never did an honest day's work in their lives, and have not one ounce of practical experience in farming, who take a great deal of pains to tell the farmer that he must, if he wishes or expects to succeed, quit raising so much grain and raise more stock; or that he ought to devote more attention to his garden and potato patch, or that he ought to build a great big barn, which would cost \$2,000, when the poor fellow hasn't money enough to buy lumber to build a good decent chicken coop.

We will quote a few samples of "advice to farmers" from some of our exchanges. "More extensive farming is what we need. One acre ought to be made to produce what it takes three or four now to do; and farming never will pay until this change is effected." Again: "Their only way out of this trouble is to turn over a new leaf and become more thinking, industrious, reading farmers. Look first to the renovation of their soils, etc." Now listen again. "We honestly think that unless farmers let up on grain growing, and give more attention to stock and grazing, they will continue on the down road of adversity." Now why don't these men who feel so much interest in the farmers tell them that they ought to organize, that they may protect themselves against this legalized wholesale robbery that is now going on? Why don't they tell the farmers that gambling on futures, combinations of money power, close corporations, and the great swarm of stemwinders, dead beats, and penny thieves, who have stationed themselves in a long line between the producer and the consumer are the farmers' worst enemies in that, that they are heaping enormous and unnecessary taxes upon him? Why don't they advise the farmers to establish their own cotton agencies, and handle their own cotton and thus save this unnecessary tax that they are now paying to others to handle it for them. Why don't they tell the farmers that they ought to organize and work to each other's interest as all others have done? Why don't they tell the farmers that the Farmers' Alliance is a move in the right direction and that every farmer ought to join it? The truth of the whole matter is that much of this silly twaddle shot out at the farmer is simply to cover up the inwardness and to make him believe that these fellows are his best friends. It may be true that farmers need a great deal of advice, but we are of the opinion that it should be given by men who know something of practical farming, and who are identified with and hence feel an interest in them.—*Southern Mercury*.

Forty-five years ago there was not a postage stamp in the United States. During the last twelve months 1,968,341,000 stamps were utilized by people of this country.

After two years and a half of continuous residence in this place, after taking repeated testimony from distinguished parties—especially those who had visited the most noted resorts in the South after spending some time here—after watching the wonderful effects of this climate upon three members of our own family, we do not hesitate to say that we believe this to be the best resort for invalids anywhere in the South. Here is a climate which is a genuine specific for throat and lung diseases; the tortures of rheumatism yield to its mild influence; even dyspepsia lays aside its terrors; puny little children grow up strong and well, and the aged and feeble have many years that are well worth living added to their allotment.—*Southern Pines Pine Knot*.

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