

(FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.)  
DOGS VERSUS SHEEP.

The dogs of North Carolina are better protected than any other property in the State. Exempt from taxation, at liberty to roam wherever they please—and sometimes to feast upon neighboring flocks of sheep “free of cost.” No Legislature of North Carolina will ever tax dogs or pass any law that will effect the liberty of the good dogs (every man believes that his dogs are good and naturally innocent.) If the sheep raisers desire protection, it is time they were discussing some bill, in order that they may have it perfected by the time the next Legislature meets. I submit the following as one by united action we might get the Legislature to enact:

“A Bill entitled an Act to protect Sheep Husbandry.  
The General Assembly of North Carolina do Enact:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for the owner or harbinger of any dog that kills sheep to permit said dog to go upon the land of any other person, and any plea that said owner or harbinger did not know that said dog killed sheep shall be no excuse for a violation of this act. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than twenty-five nor more than fifty dollars, or imprisoned not less than twenty nor more than thirty days.

SEC. 2. Any dog found with a recently killed sheep, or found worrying a sheep, or found pursuing a sheep, or found in a pasture field with a recently killed sheep, or sheep that has been bitten or worried, or found near by in an adjoining field, or woods shall be deemed a sheep killing dog, and any dog so found may be killed by any person.

SEC. 3. Any person violating this act who shall produce satisfactory evidence that he has killed his sheep-killing dog, and exhibit the receipt that he has paid full damages to the party injured may plead the same as a bar to further prosecution under this act.

SEC. 4. This act shall be in force from and after its passage.”

The laws of our State have always made the sheep owners “bear the brunt;” that is, the sheep owner had to see the dog actually kill his sheep before he could complain—and then the dog was killed—but the sheep owner got no pay for his sheep. The above act does the sheep owner justice and makes every man responsible for his dogs killing his neighbors' sheep. What better subject can be discussed than this?

North Carolina ought to have more than an hundred times the sheep the Auditor's report shows.

NOTES FROM ENDERLY.

(FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.)  
WHAT A UNION COUNTY BOY HAS TO SAY.

MONROE, N. C., Sept. 26, '87.  
Well, I've been wanting to write to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER ever since I have been reading it, but I haven't had the time. Pa subscribed for your paper last July and he has been a constant reader of it ever since.

Well, I think THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the best paper I ever read, and I want every farmer in North Carolina to read it. Then we can understand each other better, and every club will know what the other is doing.

We are all organized down here in Union and expect to reap the benefits of our organization in a short time. The different clubs of the county met at Watson on the 8th inst. and organized a county club, and we are ready for business now. There were thirteen clubs represented at the county meeting, and one that was not represented, and there have been two clubs formed since. Some people are not satisfied with the constitution adopted and they say we have let a “fly in the lock” all ready. However, we must be on our watch and turn the key at the right time. Nevertheless, we have got a good newspaper down here, and its clever editor, after writing a good editorial to the farmers, in conclusion says: “We offer to the county clubs and all the subordinate clubs the free use of our columns for all publications they may wish to make.”

Now the people don't know what value there is in printers' ink; if they did, they would make more publications than they do. We must have better farmers, and how must we be better? Well, we must raise our own hog and hominy at home. When we see a man that raises plenty of corn

and plenty of hogs and his flour, and cotton as a surplus, we see a man that is prosperous in his business.  
CALDWELL.

THE CONVICTS AND THE PUBLIC ROADS. (C)

Your views of the utility and good policy of the law under which criminals may be and are now being worked on the public roads meet with my entire approval. Twenty years ago one of the most level-headed as well as thoroughly honest citizens of this county representing the county in the Legislature, (I refer to John A. Rosebro) endeavored with might and main to get up a sentiment in the Legislature that would justify the introduction of a bill to do just what our last Legislature did. Public sentiment was then so much against it among the legislators of that day that it would have been a waste of time to introduce a bill and it was given up. The time has come when we have the law, and as I agreed with Mr. Rosebro then, I am an advocate of the law to-day. I have no doubt that if steadily executed it will prove much more efficient in deterring from crime than either confinement in the penitentiary or in our county jail. This last is really a premium paid by the county for the commission of crime. A majority of the class from which these convicts come would prefer living in jail and being fed, with a deck of cards for amusement, to living at large and compelled to work for a living. As proof of this fact the usual programme was to serve out the sentence, lie quietly and happily in jails for 30 days and swear out as insolvents. Working on the public roads has already demonstrated that they prefer and in many cases find means to pay up the cost at the expiration of their term of sentence to continuing for 30 days longer to work; and thus the county is saved the paying of their bills of cost and the 30 days' board preliminary to their taking the insolvent oath. The saving along this line will go largely to reduce the expenses of overseer and guard (or guards, as there has thus far been more or less of the convicts) and the few tools and extra rations needful to enable them to work. True, if Iredell county alone took advantage of the law she would labor under the disadvantage that she is feeding and clothing her own convicts and helping to feed and clothe those of other counties in the penitentiary. This she is doing now, but it is not likely to be so long if she goes steadily on in the course she has started. Mecklenburg was the first to adopt this plan, I believe, under a special law. Iredell was the first, so far as I am informed, under the general law, and I already see it stated that Rowan and Davidson have followed suit, and I have not a shadow of a doubt that in less than five years, unless there is some very bad management somewhere, that every county in the State will be working her own convicts on her own public roads and then there will be none of this paying penitentiary expenses by one county for convicts from others. And further, it will necessarily improve our public roads. For example: The first work done in Iredell was on the Taylorsville road to Statesville. Just about one month of from five to nine hands in the hot, dry weather has put this road in better condition than it has been since the war for the three miles that the convicts worked, and if the supervisors of roads see that the overseers do their duty as they (I mean the overseers) are generally disposed to do, it will remain in better condition than it has been for many years, and so more or less of other roads that have been worked by the convict labor.

I grant there is probably at present something of the element of working the roads by taxation. Iredell county is probably paying just now and will probably for a time pay out more for overseers and guard wages, tools, jail board, (extra), clothing, &c., than she is saving by the paying in of costs and the saving of 30 days ordinary jail board to enable them to swear out. Still I think she can afford to pay this very small tax to try thoroughly whether the system will not cut down her expenses by deterring from the breach of law. There is another consideration: Where these convicts have been worked there has been more or less private aid trying to better the condition of the public highways that are for everybody to travel. This will likely continue wherever they are worked and the public gains all this free of taxation, and not only that but the very men who are using or may use their private funds for the betterment of the public roads contiguous to their homes, will inevitably be assessed

for taxation at a higher value on those very homes. To illustrate: Suppose these convicts were worked steadily north from Statesville, working down all the bad hills or opening a new road where that could be more easily done until the Wilkes line is reached, does anybody suppose that the lands of New Hope township would stand on our tax books at their present valuation? Certainly not. They would be intrinsically more valuable and the honest assessors of New Hope township would put them up, and the whole county would derive benefit from this increased valuation of the lands in that township and just so of all other localities.

But I have written more than I intended and will stop for the present.  
—J. H. STEVENSON, in *The Landmark*.

THE ABUSE OF LANDS.

From the early settlement of this country, especially in Tennessee, the custom among farmers has been to select the best available lands for tillage, to get the most out of them in shortest time, and then clear others and put them through the same course. No care in the timber, nor regard for the wearing out of lands was exercised. The result is growing manifest in worn-out fields; gullied hillsides, reduced area of first-class agricultural lands, and decreasing yield per acre of the staple products of the soil. The time has come when the farming people will find it difficult to find new farm lands of most desirable kind and locality in their virgin state, and inviting to be cleared. The time is near when increasing population and increased demands for increased farm products, coupled with the decreased extent of productive lands, will call with an imperious voice for a halt in the processes of farming, and reversal of the methods of the past. Instead of abandoning fields after a few years of murderous cultivation and seeking for new grounds in the dark forest, we will have to recognize the fact that we must take care of our present farms, and by judicious tillage and good treatment restore to them life and vigor, and the fertility and productiveness which they originally possessed, and which they have so largely lost.

When our forests were limitless; when land was more abundant than people, and so cheap as to be had for the entry and occupancy; when a winter's clearing would substitute a new for a partially worn field, there was no thought of a possible end to the system; but now when tobacco growers are looking with keen eyes for eligible spots for plant beds, and the owners of the best farms in the State find rail timber exhausted and their fields, year by year, yielding less and less, the necessity is more and more apparent that our methods must be changed; and that instead of abusing our landed heritage, as in the past, we must preserve and improve it.

This cannot be done in a moment. It will be the work of time to make it universal; but those who begin first will be first to reap the fruits of the required inevitable reform. Restoration will be the watch-word of farmers in the future. We have taken from the lands so much without recompense, they demand in a voice that must be heard and heeded, a return for their liberality.—*Tennessee Farmer*.

FARMING THAT PAYS. (C)

Every farmer should aim to raise all the farm products needed for domestic use first. The independence of farm life lies right here. He grows every supply for his table, so far as his soil and climate permits, under his own eye. He is dependent on no one for the necessities of life, or even for the luxuries of his table. Every variety of fruit suited to his locality should be produced for his own use, let him live near or remote from the city. Then, let him increase the acreage of every variety that pays in the market to his ability to handle it without loss—his losses will often over-balance his profits. It is not wise for the grower to put himself at the mercy of others. If he does, he will often find their tender mercy cruel. They will let his perishable property go to waste, unless they can secure the lion's share of the profits.

Besides grain crops and stock growing as a branch of farming, every farm adapted to it should have growing on it an orchard of every variety of fruit demanded by the market at paying prices. Do not run so much to one kind of fruit that you would suffer heavy embarrassment if it fails. All kinds of fruit seldom fail in one year.  
—*New York Star*.

POULTRY DEPARTMENT.

(We are pleased to announce to the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER that we have been so fortunate as to secure the efficient services of Mr. R. H. Weathers as Editor of this Department. He is one of the best informed men on this subject in the South. He desires that all communications and questions designed for his Department be addressed: “Poultry Column, PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.” He will most cheerfully answer all questions relating to poultry through this column. Write him.—EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER.)

J. R. H., Charlotte, N. C., writes: “I desire to go into the poultry business and wish to know which is the best breed or breeds to begin with.”

In reply we would say each one has his favorites, any or all of which are good in their places, and each naturally claims his favorites to be superior to all others. We would advise you to get that breed which suits your fancy best, letting your choice, however, be somewhat biased by the object to be obtained. Each or all beginners starting with their personal choice will, ninety-nine times out of one hundred, succeed better than if they buy something they do not really fancy just because some one else has made a success of it; they will have and retain more interest in what they like than in what they are partially indifferent to, and therefore will raise better fowls, and will take better care of them, make more money and be better satisfied with the results.

At market prices for eggs, I do not think there is a great difference in production in different varieties, if they have been properly cared for and handled well. For laying qualities, the following are the most generally bred in America: Light and Dark Brahas, Plymouth Rocks, White, Black, Buff and Partridge Cochins, White and Brown Leghorns, Games, Houdans, White Face, Black Spanish, Polish Hamburgs, Wyandottes, Langshans and Javas. For number of eggs to the pound in weight, it is claimed for Houdans and Black Spanish, seven; Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks, Brahas, Cochins, Javas, Langshans, Polish Games and Wyandottes, eight to the pound; Hamburgs, nine to the pound. For quality of meat, Plymouth Rock, Game, Houdan, Brahma, Wyandotte, Java, Polish Leghorn, Langshan. For large size and weight of body, Brahas, Cochins, Langshans, Plymouth Rocks, Javas, Houdans, Games, Leghorns. For setters and mothers, Plymouth Rocks, Javas, Langshans, Wyandottes, Brahas, Cochins. For general purposes (size and laying qualities combined,) Langshans, Brahas, Plymouth Rocks, Cochins, Wyandottes and Houdans will generally produce the best results and give satisfaction, especially on the farm, where large and clean runs are at hand.

While the foregoing classification may not be absolutely correct, it is approximately so.

Make up your mind what breed you wish, then procure it and stick to it; give them proper treatment and you will not be disappointed in the results.

POINTED TRUTH SHARPLY EXPRESSED. (C)

The *Farm and Fireside* is bold in the advocacy of truth and fearless in the denunciation of wrong and here is the way in which it talks to farmers:

“Our correspondent is correct in his statement that the ballot has failed to arrest our decline in prosperity, and he also correctly states the reason for this failure: It is because the modern politician has become such an adept in controlling this ballot. It is not alone the ignorant day-laborer, the foreigner and the negro whose ballots are controlled by the wily politician; but men who rank among the most intelligent of our people, both in city and country, are today driven to the polls like sheep to the shearing, and there record the dictates of their political bosses as meekly as ever slave fell to work at the crack of the overseer's whip! Until farmers set to work with invincible determination to possess themselves of that knowledge and training which shall enable them to think for themselves and to act in harmony with the progress of the age in which they live, there can be no hope of disentangling from the network of sophistry and trickery which the modern politician has so cunningly woven about them.

But, we may be asked, how is this knowledge and training to be obtained, especially by those who are no longer young, and whose daily cares are such that they cannot give themselves up to continuous study? Our reply is, read and think! Let no man say he has no time for reading. The man who has not time to prepare himself for an intelligent exercise of the right

of suffrage has no right to vote; and the man who does not take enough interest in society to vote has no right to claim the protection which society affords himself and his business in the shape of law. In these days of cheap books and cheap journals there is no excuse for any man remaining ignorant of the principles of political economy, nor of the events of daily occurrence throughout the world by which those principles are elucidated. But let no man satisfy his conscience by the reading of a single journal, representing only his own political faith. Such a man can no more obtain a comprehensive view of the times and their necessities than can he who looks only through blue spectacles see the world in its true colors; and he is scarcely more fit to vote than the man who cannot read at all. Questions of agricultural interest, especially, are generally either ignored in political journals or treated from the standpoint of partisan politics alone; and this explains the great difference of opinion that exists among farmers in relation to the protective tariff, a difference so radical that few journals among those exclusively devoted to agriculture can treat this great question with thorough independence. The interests of agriculture are one, and the tariff is either a benefit to the farmer or a disadvantage; but if the question of its continuance or removal were to be decided by the votes of the farmers of America today it is very doubtful what the result would be, because these have been led, according to their partisan affiliations, to espouse the one side or the other of this question without taking the trouble to follow it out for themselves to its legitimate conclusions.”

BASIC SLAG FOR FERTILIZING.

An English journal states that the Thomas-Gilchrist steel process “is daily proving an increased source of wealth to the English iron making districts whose ores are of a phosphoric nature, and the employment of the waste slag produced in agricultural fertilizing is proving very successful.” The Staffordshire Steel & Ingot Iron Company, at their works at Bilston, are experiencing “such a good demand for the basic manure that they have just concluded arrangements for doubling their present grinding plant.” The company is now manufacturing 100 tons of the finest ground steel manure per week, and if its capacity were larger it might have orders in hand for 2,000 tons ahead. The fertilizer is contracted for by London artificial manure merchants, and finds its way to agriculturists at 3s. to 4s. per ton.

The manufacture of 100 tons of the finest steel manure a week is a new, if not sharp industry. Phosphorus in combination with iron doubtless extends as deep into the earth and as wide over its surface as this very abundant metal is known to extend.

Without phosphorus it is impossible to form a seed of wheat, corn, or human bone. Hence the unceasing demand and consumption of South Carolina phosphates. The time may come when Tennessee iron and steel will cost very little because “steel manure” will cover the manufacture. Cheap steel will be a cheap farm implement, farm wagons, cheap fertilizers, cheap bread and meat for the mass of mankind. The farmers need cheap iron, steel, tools, and concentrated manure at a low figure to form cheap crops.—*Tennessee Farmer*.

A KIND VOICE.

There is no power of love so hard to get and keep as a kind voice. A kind hand is deaf and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft heart and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet voice to tell what it means and feels; and it is hard to get and keep it in the right tone. One must start in youth, and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. It is often in youth that one gets a voice or a tone that is sharp, and sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill will and grief, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys of home. Watch it day by day as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in days to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is to the heart what light is to the eye. It is a light that sings as well as shines.—*Elihu Burritt*.

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