



# 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. 35.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

The Warrenton *Gazette* says, the farmers of Warren propose to organize a club of the farmers of the county. There ought to be an agricultural society in every county, and we are glad to see that Commissioner Robinson is organizing clubs, or societies, at the Farmers' Institutes, which he attends. This is the legitimate work of the Agricultural Department. It is its duty to place itself in close relation with the farmers of the State.

The Bershavia Farmer's Club of Viena township, will hold a fair at Oak Grove, this county, on Friday, October 21. The opening address will be made by the president of the club, Mr. J. M. Long, at 10 a. m., and will be followed by addresses by Hon. Edgar Lineback, Mr. A. W. Bevil and Hon. C. B. Watson. Over forty cash premiums, on articles embracing nearly every product of the farm and household, are offered. Space will be furnished free to all who wish to make exhibits. This will be the first country fair ever held in that section, and we wish for it all the success its promoters could hope for.—*Twin-City Daily*.

#### COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

The Club met according to adjournment last Saturday. The subject for discussion was "The best mode of preparing the soil for wheat, the best fertilizers adapted to its growth, and their application." Mr. J. H. Swicegood made the opening remarks, and was followed by other speakers. The topics selected for the next meeting are "Slaughtering hogs and curing bacon," and "The making of compost and manure." It is resolved to hold the regular meetings of the Club on the first Saturday of each season in Finch's hall in Lexington. Adjourned to meet on Saturday, Dec. 3d.—*Lexington Dispatch*.

A Farmers' institute for Rockingham county will be held at Wentworth on Thursday and Friday the 3d and 4th of November next.

The following topics will be discussed: North Carolina Agricultural Department: How it protects the farming interest, by Col. John Robinson, Raleigh.

Manures, Composting and Fertilizers, Dr. C. W. Dabney, jr., Raleigh. How to restore a run-down farm, Dr. D. Reid Parker, Trinity College, Farmers' Organizations, Col. L. L. Polk, Raleigh.

Extensive and Intensive Farming, Grasses and Clover, Chemistry, as applied to Agriculture, Defects of our Agricultural System, Tobacco and Corn Culture, will be assigned to speakers in our own county. Short after-talks on the above topics.

Exercises begin at 10 o'clock a. m. T. B. LINDSAY, Chm'n.

#### [FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Oct. 7, 1887.

The Wake County Farmer's Alliance convened in the court house in this city to day, and was called to order at 11 o'clock by the President, J. D. Allen.

A committee on credentials found Sub-Alliances represented.

The quarterly reports from the Sub-Alliances were sent in to the Secretary at this meeting. The reports showed the Alliances to be in a prosperous condition.

Reports from several committees, appointed at former meeting of the Alliance consumed a part of the time of the setting of the Alliance.

Some important resolutions were offered and debated at length. Col. L. L. Polk, of THE FARMER, and one of the delegates from this county to the State Alliance at Rockingham, on the 4th of October last, gave an interesting account of the organization of that body.

After having transacted much business of importance, the Wake County

Alliance adjourned to meet in the city of Raleigh on the first Friday in January next at 11 o'clock a. m. W. G. CROWDER, Secy.

#### [FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

### ANOTHER ALLIANCE ORGANIZED IN CUMBERLAND.

There was a Farmers' Alliance organized at Godwin, Cumberland county, on the night of the 30th of September last with 30 members, viz.: President—C. C. McLellan. Vice-President—W. J. Pope. Secretary—D. G. McLellan. Treasurer—I. W. Godwin. Chaplain—Rev. Gray Culbreth. Lecturer—A. B. Yarborough. Asst. Lecturer—Angus Bain. Door Keeper—Hector McIntyre. Asst. Door Keeper—W. E. Rhodes. Postoffice of officers, Rhodes, N. C. Respectfully, D. G. McLELLAN.

#### [FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

### CAMDEN FALLS INTO LINE.

Pursuant to a notice, the farmers of Camden county met at the court house on the 24th of September, 1887, for the purpose of organizing a Farmers' Club.

On motion, M. N. Sawyer was made Chairman and P. G. Morrisett, Secretary.

T. B. Boushall was elected President, John Upton, Vice President, and Noah Burford.

The Chairman appointed a committee of three, to-wit: T. B. Boushall, M. B. Hughes and Noah Burford, for the purpose of drafting a Constitution and By-Laws for the government of the Club.

On motion, the Club will meet on each third Saturday in every month at 2 o'clock p. m., and the next meeting to be at Camden, court house.

The following query was adopted for discussion at the next meeting, to-wit: Which is the most profitable to raise in Camden county, cotton or peanuts?

M. B. Hughes and John H. Sawyer were elected to open the discussion.

On motion, the proceedings of this meeting be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and *Falcon* for publication.

On motion, the Club adjourned. M. N. SAWYER, Chm'n. P. G. MORRISSETT, Sec'y.

#### [FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

RANDLEMAN, N. C., Oct. 13, 1887.

As I have just returned from a revival meeting at Columbia factory, and have had some opportunity of talking with the farmers on Deep River, I am sure your presence and council are very much needed in that section as well as the Randleman section. There is a great deal of good farming land that needs reclaiming instead of clearing more land. I know from past experience that it is a great deal cheaper to reclaim land than to clear, and besides, it is morally wrong to destroy the timber when that timber justly belongs to our posterity. The timber of Eastern North Carolina would have now been a grand source of wealth had there never been one stick of timber cut; whereas the county has been impoverished instead of being enriched from this source. While your paper is making a change in the minds of the people, I trust that that change may be a radical change and dig up the very tap-root of old fogyism in this line. The farmers in the vicinity of the factories ought to supply the manufacturers instead of these companies supplying them, as is now the case. The bacon and flour supplied by Western markets, making both the farm and the farmer poorer, should all be made at home, no matter what the price may be, the result is the same. I know that many people say that they cannot afford to make bacon at Chicago prices, and their money goes to pay the whole saler's profit then the retail dealer's profit, and pay for a large amount of salt at 10 and 12 1-2 cents per pound, and then pay all the freight; and all this goes from our section of the country, which should all go into the

farms. It matters not from what standpoint we view this matter, we are surely growing poorer under the present system (or rather the lack of system.) It is startling to see the amount of freights alone that the farmers of this section pay, to say nothing of the cost of the articles purchased.

With the lien law and the homestead, our people never will become independent, from the fact that in the first place men are not disposed to improve their farms above the homestead; and in the second place, whenever men commence with *lien* they soon spell it *lean*, and thus continually become leaner.

I believe that we should look from the farmer down to the President of the United States instead of looking from the farmer up to the President.

Now who are to blame for all this lack of economy? Assuredly not the merchants for the farmers compel them to bring their supplies, and hence the responsibility rests with the farmers. We want educated farmers, and must have them.

There is another matter that I wish you to look into, as the *News and Observer* entirely evaded my questions in his reply. I know that there are men in Western North Carolina who have been boarding their families from North Carolina's commissary and are still boarding their children, with no vouchers for the same. The men to whom I have reference are supervisors of convict camps on the railroads in the mountain section of this State. If necessary, I can give the names of some of them and one or more witnesses. Please look into this matter and oblige.

Your friend,

A. L. MENDENHALL.

### GREEN MANURING.

#### NUMBER 8.

How to feed the land is probably the most important question for the farmer to decide. Another equally important question is how to produce and cure a large amount of cheap forage for his horses, mules, cows and hogs, for upon the successful management of these two things depend in a great measure the future crops. The old proverb, "No grass no stock, no stock no manure, no manure no crop," is as true today as when first written, making it necessary for the farmer to know how to raise crops for the land, and for his stock, and also how to cure and keep the forage for winter use.

The farmer should be able to raise forage in such abundance, and so cheaply, that he would find it to his interest to make his stock consume as much as possible. The cow pea and crab grass gives the heaviest and cheapest forage crops that can be grown at the South; it is therefore important to know how to cure and how to stack the cow pea vines. The following plan for curing and stacking this forage is one of the best that has been tried, and with ordinary care and judgment can be used by any one with success: Haul a supply of rails into your pea field, or to the most convenient place for the stacks. Make a pen as large as the rails will permit, with a rail floor about one foot above the ground, build the pen three or four feet high from the floor, and fill it with cured or partially cured pea forage. When the pen is filled lay six or eight rails across in order to form an open floor for the next pen above, which build in the same manner, and fill it with forage, repeating the operation until the stack is as high as desired; finish the stack with as sharp top as possible to allow for settling, cover it with hay and lay a rail from each corner to the centre and top, to prevent the hay from blowing off, and you will find the forage to keep perfectly until you are ready to use it.

If pea vines are fully cured before stacking the leaves will fall off. If they are put in the barn before being fully cured they will mould. By using the above plan they can usually be stacked the day after being cut.

### A CALL TO THE FARMERS.

The State Convention to be Held in Columbia, Dec. 1st. Extracts from the Address.

The following address has been issued by the Executive Committee of the Farmers' Association of the State. Capt. Tillman puts the whole matter tersely and pointedly. Let the farmers throughout the whole State organize at once where they are not already organized, let good, level-headed men be chosen as delegates to the State Convention and let there be a full convention. The ball is rolling and the farmers must work for their interests. In our judgment much good will come out of it all for the farmers of the State:

To the Farmers of South Carolina:

"The agitation known as the Farmers' movement crystallized last November into a permanent organization under the name of the Farmers' Association of South Carolina. The objects for which we then organized were clearly set forth and are as follows: The encouragement, protection and advancement of our agricultural interests, and the securing of such reforms and the passage or repeal of such laws as will compass these ends and enable us as tillers of the soil to secure at least a fair share of the profits of our labor.

"We seek to elevate and educate the farmers of the State by any and every means possible, and to bring about such changes in our system of farming as will preserve the fertility of the soil and increase the profits therefrom.

"While we deprecate political agitation, we will not hesitate to assert our rights as citizens and taxpayers; and, feeling that we have just cause of complaint, we will continue to demand a fair and proper recognition of our rights and needs, and will use our ballots to secure it.

The above extract is from the *Cotton Plant* and that paper says, editorially:

"It is important that the entire farming community take an interest in this convention. Whatever the farmers of the State have to ask or demand at the hands of the law-makers should be sought with decision, firmness and unanimity. Every farmer, no matter how humble, has an interest in this matter, and every nook and corner of the State should be represented."

### SKILLED FARM LABORERS.

No idea has done more to repress farming progress than the idea that a farm laborer need not be skilled, that brute strength is the main requisite. This never was true, and is less so now than ever before since improved machinery has to be handled. But even in handling such old-fashioned implements as the axe and the hoe efficiency depends as much upon skill as upon muscle. It is by no means the largest hired man who will do the most work in a day. And when help is hired that is entirely unused to our methods of farming, its inexperience greatly detracts from its value. The truth is that farming is a trade, that has to be learned if the workers at it would be effective. It requires knowledge and skill in a far larger number of things than most other kinds of business. In fact, it is never fully learned. The oldest and most successful farmer is generally the most ready to learn something new about his business, and it is usually this habit which he has kept up through his life that has given him his success. That farmer shows only his limited idea of his business who thinks that he cannot learn anything more. And though skill in farm help is desirable, it is sometimes better in rough work to have a green hand willing to do as he is told, and to learn, than one self-conceited with the idea that he knows everything already. Much depends upon employers. Some are themselves so conceited that few hired men are willing to try to learn from them.—*Cultivator*.

### COPY OF THE PLAN ADOPTED

By the Earmers' State Alliance of Texas, Establishing the Farmers' Alliance Exchange of Texas.

#### BY-LAWS.

This corporation shall be known as The Farmers' Alliance Exchange of Texas.

The object of this corporation is to negotiate the sale of the cotton and other products and stock and such other property, personal, real or mixed, as may be desired by the members of the Farmers' State Alliance of Texas; also, the purchase of such commodities, machinery and other things as may be desired; also to erect suitable buildings, store houses and appliances for conducting such business, and furnishing the necessary hall-room and offices for the officers of the said Farmers' State Alliance, and such other purposes as may be desired by the said order.

The capital stock of this corporation shall be \$50,000, divided into 25 shares of \$2,000 each, and one-tenth of one per cent. shall be paid on the subscription of the stock. The 25 stockholders of this corporation shall be elected by the Farmers' State Alliance of Texas, as follows: At the present August session of said State Alliance of 1887, there shall be two elected from each Congressional district in the State, and three from the State at large, and immediately after election their names shall be placed in a hat and drawn one at a time. The first nine drawn shall hold office one year, the next eight drawn shall hold office for two years, and the last eight shall hold office for three years; and the term of office for each stockholder shall hereafter be three years, and the said State Alliance shall, at each regular annual session, elect stockholders to fill all vacancies.

Each stockholder shall hold one share of stock in this Association, in trust for the benefit of the members of the Farmers' State Alliance, and shall discharge his duties as owner in trust of said stock to the best interests of his constituents, and turn over all stock and every privilege accruing therefrom to his successor in office. The stockholders of this corporation shall elect from among their number an executive board of three members who shall be the board of trustees, and who shall have the general supervision and management of all the business and shall procure such charter or charters from the State of Texas as may be necessary to carry on the work and business desired to be done. They shall be governed by such general by-laws as the stockholders may from time to time adopt.

In order to raise the capital stock above entrusted to stockholders for the benefit of the members of the Farmers' Alliance in the State of Texas is hereby called upon to vote an assessment of \$1 per member, both male and female, due and payable Oct. 15th, 1887, and \$1 per member, both male and female, due and payable Dec. 1st, 1887, and those voting in favor of said proposition shall immediately notify the State Business Agent of the fact, and the money on such assessment, when received, shall be sent to the secretary of this corporation, and a notice of the remittance sent to the secretary of the State Alliance.

It is understood that when as much as \$50,000 has been paid to the secretary, each share of stock will be credited with ten per cent. paid in, and for each subsequent payment of that amount, a like credit will be made.

Unanimously adopted at regular session, in Waco, Texas, August 12, 1887. EVAN JONES, Pres't.

H. G. MOORE, Sec'y.

He that gives good advice builds with one hand; he that gives good council and good example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other.

Virtue is the first title of nobility.—*Moliere*.