

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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WAYNE COUNTY.

More Grain and Less Cotton and Less Commercial Fertilizer.

Bro. Polk:—As Correspondent of Wayne County Alliance, I write to say that grain crops of all kinds will this year be increased in acreage. Wheat is increased 30 per cent. in acreage and is looking very promising. Oats is increasing 40 to 50 per cent.; sown on good land, stand good, growth strong and hearty. There are only a few lots seeded to clover as an experiment. Wayne is not considered among the clover and grass counties, but I have seen some very fine clover in the county. In the matter of corn, the great bread and food crop in Eastern North Carolina, the acreage is large, beyond any former crop of this county. The greater portion of the crop is planted and coming up in fine condition. Our farmers are apused and are determined to raise head for man and food for beast, independent of the great northwest. This year's acreage of cotton will not be so large as formerly—it will be at least 20 per cent. less. There is but a small amount planted up to date; however, the last ten days of April and the first five of May are considered cotton-planting days in this section. In the matter of home-made manures this year, it is not perceptibly increased. The amount of commercial fertilizer used this year is small compared with former years—not more than one-half as much as last year. At Walter station, on the Goldsboro and Smithfield railroad, there were 280 tons delivered in the year 1888, but up to date this year only 35 tons have been delivered and a great many farmers in the vicinity are ready to plant their cotton. The amount delivered at Walter this spring will not reach 45 tons. The prospect for a large cotton crop this year in this section is not very hopeful. The old mortgage system and increase in price has waked up the country, and the matter has been talked over by fifteen hundred Alliance men in Wayne county. Old Grangers have waked up from their lethargy and showed themselves at the front, ready to fight the old mortgage and trust tyranny. Guano, like the bagging trust, operates entirely against the farmers, except when a "boycott" sets in and the tide turns, and then the recoil is at the other end of the line. And then, oh, what a sin and disgrace, that a farmer should show independence and manhood!

Trucking has become quite an interesting business around Goldsboro. There are thousands of acres planted in the various crops for Northern markets, and nearly every acre yields

profit. The trucking business has been mostly in the hands of a few city men, but at present it bids fair to spread all over the county, as more or less vegetables are planted in every part of the county. The day is not far distant when trucking will divide honors with cotton as a money crop. Peas, beans, cabbages, sweet and Irish potatoes, tomatoes, asparagus, strawberries and many others of this class are raised and shipped for market from Goldsboro. The fruit crop promises to be immense; peaches, plums and pears are well loaded; apples are just beginning to bloom.
Yours fraternally,
J. H. CALDWELL.

CANE CULTURE.

ELIZABETH CITY, April 15, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—In response to the inquiries of "Hog and Hominy," concerning the "Culture of Cane," I will say I have had a little experience in it. In answer to his first question as to how and when to plant. My time for planting is from the 20th of April to the 10th or 15th of May. Have your land well prepared; manure same as for cotton or corn; plant in drills, fifteen or twenty inches apart, ten or twelve seed in a hill. Don't understand me to say the drills must be fifteen to twenty inches apart—the hills, I mean. Rows same distance as for cotton or corn. Cultivate same as any other crop; when it needs work, work it, of course. Thin to three of four stalks on strong land, and on weak land, two to three stalks. It will yield, on land that will produce four barrels of corn to the acre, from one to two hundred gallons per acre. A gentleman in my county made 126 gallons from thirteen hundred cane hills last year. The syrup is very good. We find a ready market for all we make at 30 cents per gallon, by the barrel. It retails at 40 cents per gallon very readily. Elizabeth City buyers send out their kegs and have them filled and tell us they would rather have it than the 60-cent syrup. There are several kinds—most of our farmers prefer the Early Amber. It ripens earlier than the other varieties and gives a longer time in which to make it before freezing weather sets in. It must be made before it freezes, as that injures the taste. The seeds are said to be worth as much for hogs and poultry, as corn. In other words, the seed from an acre of cane are said to be worth as much for stock as is the corn from an acre. Our mill cost us about one hundred and ten dollars, fixed up and ready for use. We made 1,220 gallons last year. I don't think there was less than ten or fifteen thousand gallons made in our county during the year 1888.

Fraternally,
H. M. PRITCHARD.

P. S.—Since writing the above I notice C. P. Edwards' method, which is good. About the top suckers. We have been raising cane for the last twenty-five years, and I have never seen or heard tell of anyone pulling them off before. The idea may be a good one—can't say as I have never tried it. But I do not like his plan of cutting off so much top. Six inches below the seed is about as much as we generally leave. I think he is mistaken about injuring the syrup.

H. M. P.

AN APPEAL TO THE BROTHERHOOD.

Alliance No. 449 sends greetings to you and all the brethren. As you seldom hear from us, hope you will not consider this simply a begging scheme. Our lodge is in a prosperous condition—increasing in number every meeting—and we hope to accomplish a great deal, socially, as well as financially, though we are without a house to meet in. About the first of the year 1889 some miscreant, without the fear of God before him, did feloniously set fire to and burn up our hall, a nice chapel belonging to Fall Creek School and the Masonic Fraternity. Said brute of the human type was an enemy to the school trustees and the Alliance brotherhood. We, the members of Alliance No. 449, are anxious to rebuild, and ask your help and the co-operation of the Masonic Fraternity; by combining, both orders can build a nice house and not be worsted much. Please aid us through your excellent journal. Any contributions, however small, will be gratefully received.

Send to E. A. Stevens, McClammy, N. C.

The Alliance work is being pushed in Ohio. Organizing committees have been appointed and a State Alliance will be organized March 28th and 30th.

"WOOLVERINE" GETS DOWN TO "HARD-PAN."

"I knew not what I was playing,
Or what I was dreaming then,
But I struck one cord of music
Like the sound of a great 'AMEN!'"

Did I strike the "Lost Cord?" Truly a grand "Amen!" has been borne to me on the wings of the mighty South Wind from my Southern brothers; perhaps a prophecy of the golden future, when the common brotherhood of our common country, broad shouldered and strong, marching onward and upward to worship at the temple of Fraternal Love, shall hear the white-robed priesthood of purity and peace chant "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!"

Yet through all the letters run the minor cord, "We are in trouble; help us!" Only they who have suffered can truly sympathize, and this revelation that "The trail of the serpent is over all" the Eden of our sunny South is very saddening. I would that some mighty reformer and leader of men might arise and "as a Father pieth His children" aid you to achieve the ultimate purpose of being, happiness.

The cause of your woes are clearly pointed out by different ones. "The war left us impoverished." "We have struggled manfully to rebuild, but falling values and changed conditions of our laboring class have left us in debt." "Our plantations are too large." And the most pathetic wail of all is, "We want some one to do our work."

Your land tracts are too large. One man offers me 2,000 acres for about \$75,000. That is three square miles or sections. The section I live in, the one west and the one east, have about twenty-five farmers, ranging from 120 down to 20 acres, and a number of 5 and 10-acre tracts; also a village of about 400. With a bank, two elevators, three mills, eight stores, cheese factory, tile and brickyard, &c. It would take nearly a quarter of a million to buy these three sections, \$15,000 to buy his. Your lands are too cheap. If you could give away half those large tracts in 40-acre farms to a pushing population like ours, the remainder would increase in value 100 per cent. every two years until it reduces the limit of producing value. Your labor is too cheap. A man who earns and gets but 25 cents a day can buy but 25 cents worth of goods. It is no use to produce luxuries for that class. They can't pay for them. Give a laborer \$2 a day and he wants to buy everything in sight. His wife and family will buy the rest. That makes good times spin. The amount of money a laborer spends and puts in circulation is limited to his wages. "Good times" are limited by the amount of money in circulation.

Our country is racing down the road trod by all nations of the past, a crushing out of the small proprietors in all the lines of production. You are having the soul and spirit and life and liberty crushed out by the monopolists of money. So are we of the North.

Beware! the millionaire lumber barons of the North are among you. They will buy your cheap timbered land and you may live to see that timber worth \$100 per acre. After the timber is off it will be sold for taxes. That is the history of Michigan's pine lands.

Beware the wolves! They have less soul than a worn out shoe.

"Our industries are varied enough." Quite likely, though one writer says "we make about 25 per cent. on cotton and tobacco, and have to be content with that." Shades of Adam Smith! Why, the farmer who clears 8 per cent. here is a financier of the first water.

I am still ignorant of the situation down there, but there is a host of things you might try.

Will alfalfa grow on your land? California boasts of two to five crops of hay a year and one to two and a half tons at a crop. It does well in the South. Fifty acres should keep twenty-five cows all the year, and that is quite a dairy. A few such dairies could co-operate and run a creamery or cheese factory. There are three cheese factories and a creamery inside of five miles from my farm, and the cows have to be fed from November 1st to May 1st on an average. You can put creamery butter down in New York at half or two-thirds what it costs us. You pasture on cheap lands nearly the year round. If your land is worth anything as pasture you ought to clear enough money every year on each good cow to buy three acres of the land you wish to sell.

At Lansing, capital of this State, is a condensed milk factory. They coin

money. With your splendid springs and streams you ought to do well at that, and then you wouldn't ruin your land by shipping its fertility to Liverpool in cotton bale and tobacco hogshead.

About 16,000,000 dozen eggs are imported annually, mainly for the coast cities. Can't you raise eggs, poultry, spring chickens, etc., as easily, numerously and cheaply as foreigners? Up here it is a great "biz." In summer the roads are hot with peddlers and two-horse wagons loaded with crates hunting for eggs. The hen that "steals her nest" successfully must be a Napoleon of strategy, an Early in attack, a Stonewall Jackson in defense! Eggs often go to 20 and 25 cents a dozen here in winter, and roosters leading a "strike" among the hens. You ought to make quite a little wealth 365 to 366 days in a year off poultry.

An 80-acre farmer here will sell about half a ton of pork a year on an average, say \$50 worth about. His hogs must be shut up in a yard or pen most of their lives—no land for them to run on. I should think you might sell pork to the value of \$1 per acre of plantation and never notice the additional labor. If you get good breeds—Essex, Poland China, Jersey Red, Berkshire—you can raise them on clover in your climate and no great amount of grain will be necessary to fit them for block pork in May and September, say at eight months old. Lots of profit in it here. Can you raise peas? Nothing better. Turn your shoots in the field and hear the drover shout "poeg! poeg!" as soon as he sees them.

California has captured thousands of people and millions of money with her talos of climate, soil, raisins, figs, olives, walnuts, almonds, peaches and small fruits. Possibly 25 per cent. of her soil can be cultivated. You can match her climate if you brag as loud. You can raise all those fruits and nuts. Go to! Crow, advertise, brag, work and get rich. "Ouch!" Again "mine ears attend the cry, so many of our people are lazy" Are you the original "Lotus eaters?"

"They sat them down upon the yellow sand
Between the sun and moon upon the shore,
And sweet it was to dream of Fatherland,
Of child, and wife and slave; but evermore
Most weary seemed the sea, weary the oar,
Weary the wandering fields of barren foam."
"And round about the keel with faces pale,
Dark faces pale against that rosy flame
The wild-eyed, melancholy Lotus-eaters came."

Twenty years since the war! The South is waking from its Rip Van Winkle sleep. I'd like to live with you awhile. The current of migration here is setting for Washington Territory.

You have the greater advantages, I am convinced; but the people I talk to fear for health; fear your soil, your customs, your politics. I don't fear anything. I look for a good time and lots of it when I come. I'll try to help you out.

ERNEST HOLLENBECK,
Davidson, Mich.

FOREST FIRES, POOR CROPS AND SHERIFF'S SALES.

OXFORD, N. C., April 15, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Our section has been pretty generally singed lately by woods fires, and considerable damage done by burning fences and some houses, and but for the desperate efforts of the people a large number of houses would have been burned. It is doubtless a blessing to have the ticks and potato bugs thinned out, but unless we raise more meat this year than last, it is a bad plan to be burning off all the rabbits. What is the matter with the country any how? It seems that everything will happen at once: Fire burning up everything! Sheriffs selling out everything! Railroads fighting! Niggers all going away! No money in the country! and as the frog said when his tail dropped off, "The Lord only knows what will happen next."

The other day, as I looked out of my window and saw a field full of grown-up negroes playing base-ball in the middle of the week, thought, surely this is the cause of it all; but just then several spanking teams of fine horses and shining vehicles were driven by like a flash by some "young bloods," who were not only idle, but spending lots of money on themselves and the idle young ladies with them, and this called to my mind the fact that so many young men are trying to be "bloods;" and some of them so poor, and so common, and out of place in thing you call society, that perhaps the country would be better off if the white folks will work more. But we are taught in the Good Book that charity is the strongest element in Christianity, and so I felt greatly re-

lieved when I could think of something else to put the blame on than the people—and that is the exceedingly, supremely and sublimely poor crop we made last year. The next day, after having wrestled with the sheriff about one of those three things, Bro. Falls, Turner says a man never stops to think about tax and then going through the humiliating ordeal of riding out of town on a load of nasty, stinking old Western hay (and yet it is so precious). I was consoling myself with the thought that it is all because of a bad crop year, when, looking up the path, I saw my good old neighbor coming, whose besting sin is in believing that whatever he has is better than what anybody else has, and always knowing something bigger than anybody else knows. We took seats together on mother earth, and after telling awhile about the prospect for collards and snaps, I asked him if he ever knew a year when a worse crop was made than last year, and one that left the people in a worse condition. "Yes," he said, "about forty-five years ago." What caused it, said I, drought? "No," said he, "worse than that—the army worms; they eat up every grown thing upon the face of the earth—even to the broomstraw; and when they had eaten up everything else, they fell into eating one another. I took up eight in a piece of paper, and before I could get home they had eaten one, leaving only seven. I put them in a bottle, and by night they had eaten themselves all up but one; and by next morning he had eaten himself up, and there weren't nary one left." Of course I had to give up, and I feel greatly encouraged that, although there has been a "wus year than last year," "we are all here yet," or at least enough of the Farmers' Alliance are left to see that some who were members of the last Legislature can have the pleasure of staying at home next time and attending to their little family matters.

Very respectfully,
JOHN BUCK.

REPLY TO OUR MICHIGAN FARMER BY AN ORANGEITE.

CHAPEL HILL, Orange Co., N. C.,
April 16, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—I have just read your Michigan letter with interest, and as the vacancies caused by the negro exodus ought to be filled, I will endeavor to answer some of Mr. Hollenbeck's questions.

1. "Why don't you get rich off such cheap lands?" We live in such a highly favored section that it requires but little effort to make a living—hence we rely too much upon natural advantages and have formed habits of idleness. If we were to work as he says he does and had a market for our products we could soon become rich.

2. "What do you think of a man who runs in debt for nearly all of forty acres of such land (worth \$50 per acre) and pays for it from the ground in eight to ten years?" Well, we have known men to do that well in this country, notwithstanding our idleness.

3. "With your climate, why don't you get rich?" We have so little severe weather that we do not provide food nor shelter for our stock as we should. We do not realize that time is money. If we were to have snow for forty days and eight months winter and four months' steady cold weather, we would spend less time in amusements, &c., and do better.

4. "Do you work, or do you work by proxy?" We work some ourselves and employ some hired labor, rent some for cash and some for a part of the crop and furnish stock, tools, &c., for some, but in no case do we feel inclined to work as hard as you say you and your people do. Although some of our farmers work hard (for this country) and fail to succeed because they do not couple skill with their labor, while others exercise skill and succeed without performing manual labor themselves.

Our latitude only gives us fourteen hours in the longest days, hence we do not work from ten to sixteen hours a day and milk cows after dark? We have no necessity for doing that to make a comfortable living if we are temperate, economical, skillful and energetic.

No, sir. You, as a landlord, nor any man as a tenant or hired laborer, need not fear being socially ostracized in this country on account of performing manual labor. Men are respected here for their moral worth and treated accordingly.

Now, Mr. Hollenbeck, your idea of starting a private land bureau to aid

your landless neighbors in getting good homes, strikes me favorably, and I will also constitute myself into a private land bureau in order to aid my "land-poor" neighbors in disposing of their surplus lands and will state that I am authorized to offer 3,000 acres of the best farm lands in central North Carolina upon very reasonable terms.

I believe a little mixing—a little more Northern element brought South and a little more Southern element carried North would improve both sections of our common country.

W. C. COLE.

PROCLAMATION.

Call for an Important Meeting.

Whereas, the cotton planters of the Southern States were compelled to pay an extraordinary high price for jute cotton bagging during the year 1888 by a trust or combination on the part of the manufacturers of that article; and,

Whereas, it has been currently reported that some kind of a combination has been formed by dealers to again raise the price of jute bagging, in anticipation of a demand for that article to wrap the coming crop of cotton; and,

Whereas, in order to resist the evil effects of such combination, the President of the State Alliance of Georgia did wisely convene the State Alliance of that State in called session to deliberate upon the best plan of resisting or neutralizing the power of said trust; and,

Whereas, delegates from other States were invited to participate in said meeting, and did so participate, and the result of said meeting was a definite conclusion and provisions made for a plan of action; and,

Whereas, this conflict if gained by the Alliance will require the co-operation of all the cotton States, and all the cotton States desire to co-operate; and,

Whereas, if they do so co-operate and the entire cotton belt should decide to use a substitute for jute there may be some question as to the availability of a sufficient supply in time to meet so large a demand:

Now, therefore, I, C. W. Macune, President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union of America, do issue this my official call for a meeting to be held in the city of Birmingham, Ala., on the 15th day of May, at 10 o'clock a. m., said meeting to be composed as follows:

Each State Business Agent.
Each State Exchange, one delegate.
Each State Executive Committee, one delegate.

Each President of State Alliance to appoint one delegate.

The object of said meeting to be—

1st. To decide upon the necessity of all the States co-operating in the conflict with the jute bagging trust.

2d. The ability of the order in each State to assist in the conflict.

3d. To ascertain whether, in the adoption of a substitute, a sufficient supply can be secured for all sections; and, if not of one substitute, to determine how many substitutes will be necessary, and what quantity of each.

4th. To adopt measures for the guidance of the brotherhood throughout the season and select appropriate committees to carry out their plans.

For the purpose of rendering this move still more effective, and to further cement the friendly relations and prospective union with the National Agricultural Wheel: Hon. Isaac McCracken, President of that order, is hereby invited to send like delegates from the various Wheels.

For the purpose of utilizing time and assisting the work, a committee, composed of Dr. J. T. DeJarnette, of Georgia; H. P. Bone, of Alabama; T. A. Clayton, of Louisiana, is hereby appointed to collect data as to supply and cost of the different substitutes and report to the meeting as soon as convened.

Vice-President L. L. Polk is appointed a committee of one to extend an invitation to the jute bagging trust to present anything they may have to say to this meeting, if they so desire, either written or oral, and to extend the same invitation to the various jute, cotton, pine straw, or other bagging manufacturers.

Delegates are requested to post themselves thoroughly as to the condition of their constituents and the extent of their ability and willingness to co-operate.

C. W. MACUNE,
Pres't N. F. A. and C. U. of A.