

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 9.

RALEIGH, N. C., NOVEMBER 27, 1894.

No. 42

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## PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Agricultural, Goldsboro, N. C.  
Hickory, N. C.  
Whitakers, N. C.  
Hertford, N. C.  
Beaver Dam, N. C.  
The Revolution, Marion, N. C.  
Onslow Blade, Peanut, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

## EDITORIAL SUGGESTIONS.

When everything that is needed in the barn and stable is in its proper place, the work of attending to the stock is greatly lessened.

Fall calves constitute one of the chief sources of profit to the butter dairyman who has his skim milk and raises his own cows, finely bred.

Provide the means of contentment and improvement in your home and the power of temptation over yourself and your boys is much lessened.

Peanuts have always been regarded as a good food for boys and pigs. The meal is now being used to some extent for making bread or biscuit and for dairy cows.

It is claimed that irrigated fruit shrinks less than fruit that is not irrigated, the reason being that water in the soil enables the tree to take up more of the mineral elements.

We observe that a contemporary says that rotten potatoes are not worth feeding to stock. We should say not, and we had not the slightest idea that anybody could think otherwise.

The advantage of meadow or pasture grasses for cattle and sheep are that they afford a variety. Animals have preference for certain foods, and thrive best when they can select food which is most palatable and necessary for supplying their wants.

Ensilage is a healthy food for all farm animals; it has no bad influence on milk or butter; it is digestible, and the cows relish it; there is less loss in saving corn in the silo than curing in the field; it is as good six months after making as when fresh.

Poultry are plentiful in Mexico; the farmers raise them for the markets. They are also peddled around in coops on the backs of men, and now and then may be seen an Indian with perhaps two dozen tied together by the legs and thrown over his shoulders. He goes with these from house to house selling them. Eggs are sold in the markets in little piles of four to the pile, and not by dozens as we sell them. They are usually packed in corn husks for shipment.

## TRUE THEN, TRUE NOW.

Extracts From President Polk's Speech Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture in 1890 (National Watchman.)

The following is taken from an address of Bro. L. L. Polk before the Committee on Agricultural Depression in 1890. It is good reading now:

Mr. Chairman, is the agricultural interest of the country depressed? And is it due to a want of energy, of industry and of economy on the part of the farmers? All over the country he has been told for years by a certain school of political economists that indolence, inattention to business and extravagance were the prime causes of his increasing poverty. But when he comes to the capitol of the nation, venerable Senators and prominent government officials inform him that his financial ruin has been wrought through his industry and the merciful Providence of nature's God; that he is absolutely bowed to the earth under a crushing load of overproduction. Are either of his advisers correct? In answer to the first, I assert without hesitation, that no class of citizens in our country work so hard, live so hard and receive so little reward for his labor as the average American farmer. In answer to the second I ask, overproduction in what? Is it in breadstuffs? We produced 94 bushels of wheat per capita in 1888, which was worth \$1.15 per bushel. We produced in 1889 only 74 bushels per capita, and it was worth only 79 cents per bushel. Our exports of food products, under proper and just conditions, should be the true measure of our production. But is it so? The normal ration of flour, as established by our government and which has been kindly furnished me by the Secretary of War, is 14 pounds per day, or 410 pounds per year. Assuming that our population numbers 65,000,000, to give each one a normal ration would require 26,650,000,000 pounds, whereas we produced last year (deducting 56,000,000 bushels for seed) only 17,282,400,000 pounds, a deficit of 7,267,600,000 pounds. But if our population had consumed 24 ounces per day per capita more than they did consume, nothing would have remained for export. Will any sane man doubt, with our millions of people in our crowded cities, in our towns, in our mines, and all over the land, in their hovels of poverty, who are existing in a state of semi-starvation, that we could have consumed this additional pittance? And if the ruinous decline in prices be due to overproduction, why should it not be confined to those commodities for which a surplus is claimed? Why should all departments of labor share this universal depression in prices? No, Mr. Chairman, it is not overproduction, but underconsumption. There can be no overproduction in a land where the cry for bread is heard.

But we are told that we should be content and happy, that "a dollar will buy more to day than ever before. Mr. Chairman, the American farmer stands a faithful and sorrowing witness of the truth of that declaration. No man living knows better than he the pur chasing power of the dollar. He knows that its power has been so augmented that it now demands double the amount of his labor and the surrender of his profits to meet its unjust and cruel exactions. Indeed, so arbitrary and domineering has its power become, that it has forced upon the public mind the grave question, whether the citizen or the dollar is to be the sovereign in this country. But with all its power will it pay for the farmer more interest? Will it pay more on his mortgage? Will it pay more debt? Will it pay more taxes? Will it pay more physicians' and lawyers' fees? From all sections of this magnificent country comes the universal wail of hard times and distress. The farmer sows in faith, he toils in hope, but reaps in disappointment and despair. He sees a 4 per cent. U. S. bond due in 1907, selling at a premium of 28 per cent., a bond that would be valueless but for the sturdy blows of his strong arm, and yet he knows that there are few farms in all this country that could be mortgaged for one-third their value at 7 per cent. for the same length of time, which mortgage would sell for its face value. He sees centralized capital allied to irresponsible corporate power, overriding individual rights, controlling conventions, corrupting the ballot box, subsidizing the press, invading our temples of justice, intimidating official authority, fostering official corruption, robbing the many to enrich the few, destroying legitimate competition, dictating legislation, defying the Constitution and annulling the law of supply

and demand. In vain do the people plead for relief. In vain have they suffered and endured—patiently, submissively, uncomplainingly. Over one thousand years ago the old Sheikh Ilderim of Medina said to certain Romans: "Do you dream that because the prophet of Allah dwells now beyond the bridge of Al Sirat, that, therefore, he is deaf and dumb and blind? I tell you, by the splendor of God, that a tempest is brooding on his brow; there is lightning gathering in his soul for you." Do men dream that because the sovereign, oppressed people have thus suffered, thus endured that, therefore, they have become deaf and dumb and blind? But we are told that these forms of oppression are not prohibited by law. There are no people on earth who have greater reverence for law than the farmers of these United States, but they know that no tyranny is so degrading as legalized tyranny; that no injustice is so oppressive as that which stands entrenched behind the forms of law, and worthy descendants as they are of a grand old revolutionary ancestry, they may not forget that the tyrannical mandates of George the Third were accompanied by the boastful declaration that he too was the right occupant of the British throne under the forms of law.

Mr. Chairman, retrogression in American agriculture means national decline, national decay, and ultimate and inevitable ruin. The glory of our civilization cannot survive the neglect of our agriculture; the power and grandeur of this great country cannot survive the degradation of the American farmer.

Struggle, toil and suffer as he may, each recurring year has brought to him smaller reward for his labor until to day, surrounded by the most wonderful progress and development the world has ever witnessed, he is confronted and appalled with impending bankruptcy and ruin. Crops may fail, disaster may come and sweep away his earnings as by a breath, prices may go below the cost of production, but the inevitable tax-collector never fails to call upon him with increased demands. Is it any wonder that these struggling and oppressed millions are organizing for relief and protection?

**THE CAUSES.**  
We protest, and with all reverence, that it is not God's fault. We protest that it is not the farmers' fault. We believe, and so charge, solemnly and deliberately, that it is the fault of the financial system of the government—a system that has placed on agriculture an undue, unjust and intolerable proportion of the burdens of taxation, while it makes that great interest the helpless victim of the rapacious greed and tyrannical power of gold. A system through which despite the admonitions of history and the experience of all countries in all ages; despite the teachings and warnings of the ablest men in the science of political economy in this and in all countries, our currency has been contracted to a volume totally inadequate to the necessities of the people and the demands of trade, and with the natural and inevitable result—high-priced money and low priced products.

The dairy brings a revenue which is always cash and always continuous. It helps maintain the fertility of the farm; its product, if good, has seldom to seek a buyer; it exhibits more vitality in times of depression than almost any other product that the farmer sells.

**BRO. DAVIS WRITES.**  
He Favors Freedom of Speech, But Others Must Not be Granted The Same Privileges.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer  
We are under the impression that what we buy and pay for is ours. We buy and pay for THE "PROGRESSIVE FARMER." Your explanation for the publishing of Mr. Peele's letter the week before the election is not at all satisfactory. We do not think such a traitorous "light" ought to have been "turned on" at so critical a time. We consider Mr. Peele's letter a grand insult to our candidate for Congress, and to every good Peoples party man in our District. Mr. Peele, can vote as he pleases, but he will please not have it published the week before the election.

But thank God, the traitorous Democratic party is gone "where the woodbine twined" with nothing left behind but the scent of "brimstone and Wall Street" and we think, from the flavor of his published vote, that Mr. Peele has gone with it.  
Now let us sing the long meter Doxology. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."  
W. H. DAVIS.

## MAKING ORCHARD TREES MORE FRUITFUL AND LONG-LIVED.

R. H. Price, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Tree growth in the South is different from tree growth in the North. In the northern part of the United States there is one well defined period of tree growth. The principle taught there, to cease cultivating late in summer, so that tree growth may cease and the wood ripen well before winter, is often necessary where freezes are sudden and severe. In nearly all the extreme Southern States there are practically two periods of growth in one year. Tree growth begins the first of March, and goes on till about the 15th of July, when dry weather usually checks it. Fruit buds form, and the trees rest till the last of September, when the fall rains start tree growth again, and frequently many fruit buds are forced out, which of course are killed. The fruit crop for the next year is then ruined. However, if they are killed very early in the fall a second crop of fruit buds will form, and this is decidedly weakening to trees. If the fruit buds do not start in the fall the sap is kept so active after this period of rest that they are easily forced out during warm spells in February or March.

In noticing the appearance of pear blight for several years, after the bloom has been killed by an early spring freeze the blight is almost sure to follow. I know of a large Kieffer pear orchard, by the side of a large Le Conte orchard, which blooms about two weeks later than the Le Conte, and usually escapes the freezes and the blight, but the Le Conte has been hurt twice severely by the freezes when in full bloom, and now the blight has almost killed it. Prof. Burrill in 1888 discovered the cause of the pear blight to be due to a germ disease known as *micrococcus amylovorus*. My observation leads me to believe that it is much more apt to attack a pear orchard after the bloom has been killed by a freeze than otherwise, which fact has led some to attribute the injury to frozen sap. It would seem best to have one season of growth, and to keep the growth up all summer and late into the fall by cultivation or by irrigation, so that the period of rest would throw the trees late into spring before blooming.

An important circumstance which seems to confirm this theory took place on the horticultural grounds here last year. Near the machine shops stand two rows of dwarf pear trees, comprising about 40 trees of Bartlett, Howell, Duchess, and other varieties. For want of a better place, the warm water drained off from the boilers between these two rows of trees. Consequently strong, healthy foliage was kept on the trees till it was killed by a sudden freeze the 23d of January. As a result the foliage fell off and the trees went to rest that late in winter, so that they bloomed late in spring and set a heavy crop, while the bloom on other trees was all killed. It would seem if the tree growth could be kept up all summer and fall by cultivation, or by irrigation, that it would throw the resting period entirely in the winter, and the trees would bloom so late as to escape the early freezes, and possibly the blight. The freezes in Southern Texas are seldom severe enough to endanger the life of a tree, even if the sap is not really dormant.

Queen Victoria has presented the Third battalion, Welsh regiment, with a fine white goat from the Windsor farm to be trained to march at the head of the regiment. Each of the three battalions has now its own goat and there is great rejoicing over the fact.

## OLD FIELDS OF THE SOUTH.

It is commonly supposed that the old fields, as the unused land covered with brush, sage brush, coarse grasses and weeds, is called, are totally worn out and exhausted. This is a great mistake. The land has been cultivated in one crop possibly for years until it will yield no more of it worth the labor expended on it, but there is no system of rotation of crops in the South, and so when one special crop has taken all it can from the ill cultivated land, the land is left idle to slowly gather fertility again. This it does, and in a few years after, it is again plowed and yields a few more crops. This is a very wasteful process and is discouraging to a stranger who visits the South in pursuit of a new home among its cheap lands.

The general experience of these old fields has been that by any other sys-

tem of cultivation the land might have been made sufficiently productive, and instead of deteriorating in fertility, really increasing in productiveness. The barren appearance of an old field is the result of the worst kind of usage. The land has never been plowed, it has been scratched and no more. The surface only has been stirred and this not more than two or three inches in depth. Under this the bottom is hard and impervious to air and water. Thus when the heavy rains come the soft surface is changed into semi-liquid mud, which slips down the slope, and leaves the subsoil bare. In time gullies form, and month after month every shower washes out a little more of the soil until the land is cut up and deeply washed out. And this alternation of gullies and narrow banks, is characteristic of the old field of the South, along with the sparsely scattered bunches of sedge, and patches of Japan clover.

Yet the soil all over the South is naturally of excellent character. It is made up of the washings of the mountains to the west, carried down the general slopes, for no one can tell how many ages the turbulent ocean covered the whole land except the highest ridges. The soil is thus all alluvium of the richest kind, down to the bed rock. There are no great gravel and sand beds, as in the North, where ice once covered the surface and ground out the gravel and sand which were then washed by the floods at the melting of the ice and deposited as we now find them, in what are called the beds of drift, or in the half rock which is termed hard pan, and on which the real soil rests. All that the Southern old fields want is the plow held by a skillful hand, put down 8 or 10 inches below any former work, and the seed and grass and clover, and then the manure following these, to yield crops as good as on the best farmed lands of the North or the rich soils of the West. There is no infertile subsoil in these lands. It is soil all the way down. But the rich organic matter once they possessed has been wasted and now they want the dead grass roots, clover, the remains of other crops, or some good compost only, to make them flourish as they did at first. To repeat the old saying, it is not in the land, but the men, that these old fields look so sorry.

If our farms are producing more every year it may be stated that the population is also increasing, and the demand will keep pace with the supply. When there is a plenty there is also greater consumption, as more food is used by each individual as well as greater variety.

## POULTRY POINTS.

Tukeys and guineas are great foragers for insects.

Extra large or odd-shaped eggs should not be used for hatching.

The secret of success in the poultry yard is not in the hatching but in the feeding.

It is important that there should be no overcrowding in the roosts. Have plenty of roost room.

Ducks do not have the cholera, roup or gapes, and hawks do not bother them; they will lay more eggs and the eggs will hatch better than hen eggs.

On the farm, under average conditions, it does not cost any more to raise a pound of turkey than it does to raise a pound of pork, and the turkey brings the best price.

Poultry will not pay while roosting on the limbs of trees, and we submit that it is not very profitable to have them roost on the carriage or the harvester or mowing machine.

The orchard is a splendid place for the young chicks or fowls. The trees are benefited and the insects are beneficial to poultry. By keeping fowls on the same land with fruit trees you get two crops and the land is not worn out by the process.

If any of us are determined not to provide a comfortable house for Winter and to feed so as to produce eggs, would it not be business sense to keep only such a sized flock as will furnish what poultry we want through the Winter? We do not believe in keeping anything over, among the flocks or herds, simply for the purpose of having it on hand in the Spring, when it costs as much in care and feed as it would to stock up afresh.

A good chin, viewed in profile, shows a marked depression above it and below the under lip, and an equally marked prominence beneath.

## THE SALT RIVER BOAT.

Officered and Manned by a Capable Crew—The Entertainment Provided for the Passengers.

[Greensboro Record.]  
The following has just been issued by Settle, Holton, Glenn & Co., headed, "Ho! For Salt River."

The fast sailing steamer Free Trade, newly constructed for the White Line Navigation Company, under the supervision of the well-known and affectionate jobbing firm of Ransom and Jarvis, from specifications furnished by Messrs. Gorman and Hill, will sail from the office of the *News and Observer*, Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 7th, 1895, on the assembling of the Legislature. The steamer will be manned by the following officers, each of whom is peculiarly fitted for the position:

Captain—Jim Pou, dressed in his "yellow jacket" and "three eyed peacock feather"

First officer—Joseph P. Caldwell.

Second officer—Lee S. Overman.

Third officer—Fernold M. Simmons.

Fourth officer—Melville E. Carter.

Chief engineer—Samuel McDowell Tate.

Asst. engineer—Henry G. Connor.

Fireman—Wm. M. Robbins.

Stewards—Dr. G. W. Blackhall and Juli Ann Carr O'lina.

Purser—Jas. E. O'Hara.

Inspector of boilers—"Just" Bob Glenn.

Chaplains—C. W. Tillett and Sam'l L. Adams.

Exhorters—Walter R. Henry and Octavious Cuke.

Surgeons—Dr. Faison and assistants.

Chief gunner—Joseph Daniels.

Pilot—Kope Elias.

Cooks—Clement Manly, Ed. Chambers Smith, E. B. Jones and Jno. L. King.

Bar tenders—Frank Winston and Thos. W. Strange.

Cox swain—J. C. Buxton.

Boat swain—Jim Morehead.

Deck swabbers—W. W. Barber and Hort Bower.

Spittoon cleaners—John B. Webster and M. H. Pinnix.

Chambermaid—General Rufus Barringer.

As this expedition has been prescribed by the people for the general health of all on board, the managers have prepared an elaborate programme for the entertainment of the passengers and crew, the principal features of which will be:

The celebrated "trick mule," Cyrus B. Watson. This mule has travelled this circuit for the past 30 years and needs no introduction. It is confidently expected that his present performances will eclipse all previous efforts. One silver dollar of the mintage of 1894 will be given to any colored Populist who will ride him three times around the ring.

Col. R. F. Armfield will read a paper entitled, "He Who Hesitates is Lost." This, it is feared, may be a drag, but it is expected that this great singer will capture the audience when he throws his soul into the pathetic "Denny, dear Benny, come home with me now."

Deck swabber Hort Bower will render with suitable feeling the song, "See That My Grave's Kept Green."

Ex Senator Ransom, in faultless attire, will captivate the audience when he gives, in his inimitable style, the last rendition of "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

"Old Jim," a former slave of would-be Senator Jarvis, will sing "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground."

Augustus W. Graham will call the roll of the 53d Congress and will exhibit one pair of old pants, stuffed with straw.

Fabius H. Busbee will be there "In all capacities."

Under direction of Pilot Kope Elias the steamer will sail punctually at noon and will stop up at Greensboro to take on "The Baby," Col. Thos. B. Keogh.

\*Also at Greensboro "Jimmy" Boyd, whose wonderful "oratorical efforts" were missing in the campaign, will be welcomed on board, as will Tyre Glenn, who "forgot," a la Jot Causey, to cast his vote.

When abreast of Salisbury all lights on board will be extinguished and the vessel will glide silently by, owing to the death of Hon. John S. Henderson.

\*This was said to have been in the original copy but was expunged on account of fear of the consequences.

Leprosy has greatly increased during the last half a century and is now prevalent in many places where it was formerly unknown.