

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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EDITORIAL SUGGESTIONS.

Diversify, diversify. That is not the secret of success, but is essential when no special crops will pay, as is the case at present.

The first thing to do in the spring is apply a liberal allowance of soluble fertilizer on the asparagus bed, as asparagus comes early in the spring.

Farmers who figure on their profits should endeavor to estimate the expense incurred in loss of fertility sold the produce. This fertility must be turned to the soil or the succeeding crops will be lessened correspondingly.

If you have been selling off the fertility of your soil do not count all your proceeds profit. While you make a thing you must at least be making the farm better, or you are nothing at all ahead. Even your living must soon cease.

Potash is essential to land bearing fruits, and, therefore, ashes is a valuable fertilizer for such ground. In using them use it alone, for it has wonderful power of liberating some of the most valuable elements in nitrogenous fertilizers.

Farmers must have an ideal to which work, and not be content to go along without an aim, and this aim should be a high one and every energy bent to it at all times. This is a law of success everywhere.

As the value of the cold storage system of preserving fruits becomes better known farmers are thinking more about the value of their apple and pear orchards. We are a fruit eating people, taking oranges, bananas and figs from other countries, but none of them are better in flavor or more wholesome than the fruits that can be easily grown in the rocky hills of the South.

Notice that where the ground is packed by the horses turning at the edge of the field the strongest wheat will grow. Were it not a slovenly way, we would recommend that the cattle be turned into the field after seeding, when the ground is dry, that they may firm the ground. At least this teaches us that we cannot work nor roll our fields too much.

THE ALLIANCE IN GUILFORD.

A Thorough Lecture System and How it is Conducted.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

As I have not seen anything for some time in your valuable paper about the Alliance in Guilford, I thought that I would write you a few lines to let you know that the Alliance in old Guilford is not dead. The Alliance in Guilford is divided into five districts. This is done so we may have a more thorough lecture system. Each district has its own lecturer, and all the subs. in that district meet together as often as they please. Your correspondent lives in the first district, and on the morning of the 27th of December, when the timber was bending with a very heavy load of sleet, we drove thirteen miles to meet with the District Alliance, which met with Ocoela Sub Alliance. Ocoela Sub Alliance is the banner Sub Alliance in Guilford county. It has never lost a member since its organization, but has kept up a steady increase in its membership. If every Sub Alliance in the State were as active and as full of life and energy and enthusiasm as this Sub Alliance is, North Carolina would carry the banner of the National Alliance.

On arriving at Ocoela we found a goodly number of the brethren already on the ground, considering the inclemency of the weather; and it has never been my pleasure to meet with a more enthusiastic set of Alliance men than was there.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bro. Z. Christman. The roll was called and all the Subs. in the district answered when their names were called except one.

At those meetings we bring up different subjects for discussion. At this meeting the discussion was opened by Bro. Z. Christman, who made a short, pointed speech in behalf of the Alliance. He was followed by the Assistant Lecturer and Chaplain, both of them making very timely and appropriate speeches for the upbuilding of our noble Order.

Bro. Fields, Boone and others made short speeches on the educational feature of the Alliance. We also had very interesting talks on the cultivation and growing of wheat, cowpeas, clover, grasses and so on.

The Alliance, during the campaign of 1892, lost quite a number of its members in Guilford, but the actual strength of the organization is but little weakened. The campaign of 1892 was nothing more than a testing crucible, which separated the pure silver from the dross. The brethren who are in our organization to day are those who went into it from principle, and not for the leaves and fishes that were in it. Those who did not vote as the bosses said, had it hurled at them that the Alliance had gone into politics. Those that put party above principle, left the Alliance. We have no fight to make with them for their difference of opinion in politics. Men always have differed in their opinion in politics, and always will, as long as time lasts. We entertain the best of feeling toward them, and will at any time extend to them again the right hand of fellowship in our noble Order.

There is no better time than now to work to build up the Alliance. We have just passed through a very heated political campaign without even the smell of politics on our noble Order. Therefore it behooves every Alliance man, when he considers again the fact that there was an actual gain made of 30 per cent. all over the United States, during the last election by the political party that endorsed the demands of this organization, to bestir himself to double activity for the upbuilding of this organization.

This is an age of progress; there is no such thing as standing still. We have got to go to work to build up the Alliance, or the brethren in the Old North State who have labored so zealously in behalf of the Alliance are destined to see its destruction in the near future. It seems passing strange that the basil industry of the nation should be looked upon as of so little, and the people who till the soil as a class of little or no importance at all, even by their own class. As long as this is true what can we expect of the farmers, did they exert the power of which they are capable? They would command more respect than all other classes combined, and wield a greater influence for the good of all concerned. Now the question may be asked as to the manner by which the farmers may exercise this influence or power over the affairs of the nation. The answer must be that only by thorough organization can the

end be accomplished; organized, the farmers are a mighty power; standing alone, isolated from their fellows, they become ignorant, selfish and narrow in their nature of things, and can wield but little or no influence anywhere. By social contact in the Alliance, or any other farm organization, friendly ties are strengthened, brotherly love increased, ideas are broadened, and the power for doing good enlarged. Then why not organize to the extent of bringing into some one of the farmers' organizations every farmer and his family?
D. A. MONTGOMERY.

OUR FINANCES.

Something Wrong With our Financial System or Ourselves—Which is It?
Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

HUNTERVILLE N. C.

Need we compare the times or condition of the farmers now with the terrible crisis in the business and financial world of 1857, to see upon what the farmers are standing and the enormous burdens that weights them down? Every day places one more burden upon their tired bodies.

Has the time come when the farmers or the father from which all general business is the offspring, shall be made to toil day in and day out for daily bread and then not get it? Many, yes, hundreds of once well-to-do farmers are now bankrupt. The farmers, or I should say the general run of farmers, have not enough provision to keep them through another season. What are they to do? Mortgage the crop that is to be made? That is all that they can do. They can't mortgage their farms, they are already mortgaged, not only their farms, but in many cases, their homes, horses, cattle, wagons, farming tools and in some cases their household furniture. So they go ahead and mortgage their crops, that hasn't been planted to get provisions to do them until gathering time. Harvest comes, they pick their cotton, which costs them from five to seven cents to raise and sell it for four and five cents.

Next, with what money they derive from their product, they pay over to the merchant, who holds a mortgage for furnishing them with means to work their crops, but they soon find out that they can't pay the mortgage with all their four and five cent cotton, but leaves a balance to be carried over until another crop can be made. Well, another crop is started, without means to run it; not only that, but the balance due for their last crop is a heavy burden they will have to bear with the rest of their trials for the coming season.

In common reasoning, is there any encouragement for the farmers to be industrious or to spend money in cultivating their land. No none whatever; they are discouraged, in the broadest sense of the word, the cotton seed, which should go back on the land, to enrich it, are being sold. Yes, every conceivable thing that can be raked up on the farms, that were once used to enrich and beautify them and give comfort to the farmer's home, that will bring a little cash, to buy the necessary food and raiment to sustain them (without any comforts)

Can this last always? Something must be done to relieve the farmers.

How does the condition of the farmers effect the merchants? The products derived from the tilling of the ground is the source or head from which the merchants are supported. Therefore, if the farmers sell their product and do not get what it cost them to raise it, how are they going to spend money with the merchants?

How does it effect the cotton mill? It places cotton in their hands at an exceedingly low price, but they are deriving an enormous profit on their yarns and cloth. They also take advantage of the stringency of money and get labor very cheap.

How does it effect our national banks? Well, it is enriching them. First, the farmers have to mortgage their crops to the merchants for supplies to work their crops. Second, the merchants have to borrow money from the banks (paying an enormous per cent. interest,) so they can meet their bills, during the months the farmers are working their crops.

How does it effect the daily laborer? The best terms I can use to express their condition is: it is the next thing to starvation with them as a body. It is not necessary to explain their connection with, or how they are effected by the condition of our farmers, nor is it necessary to go on farther and show who is getting poorer and who richer by the oppression of the farmers.

There is something wrong in our financial system or ourselves—which is it?
S. E. SOBESMAN.

N. C. STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the State Horticultural Society, held at Raleigh, October 25, 1894, a committee was appointed to memorialize the Governor and legislature upon

THE WORK AND NEEDS OF THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society was founded in 1879 by a number of the most prominent citizens of North Carolina, who recognized the great natural advantages of our State for fruit and vegetable growing.

The objects of the Society, as stated at its first meeting, were to encourage the development of our vast but unappreciated horticultural resources by

1. Disseminating trustworthy information among our people as to the best varieties to plant and the best methods of caring for orchards, vineyards and gardens.
2. To secure cheaper rates and better methods of transportation to Northern markets, where the bulk of our produce is sold.
3. To endeavor to secure settlers for our idle lands from among horticulturists of less favored States by furnishing reliable information in regard to our natural resources.

All of these objects have been, in a considerable degree, attained, but not to the extent hoped for by the founders of the Society, or that might have been attained had the Society been properly supported.

The State Horticultural Society has been less successful than it should have been, because it has from the beginning suffered from a lack of funds necessary to carry on its legitimate work. Yet the present status of our horticulture is very different and very much in advance of what it was fifteen years ago. It is indisputable that much of this advancement has been brought about by the public and private teaching and influence of the State Horticultural Society.

The work of such a society is of a public nature and essentially for the public benefit. In States where horticulture is in an undeveloped condition, the work of such a society is wholly public in its scope and benefit. The active membership of a horticultural society under such circumstances is necessarily small, because the interest and knowledge required to make horticulture successful are wanting. This Society assumed the responsibility of educating our own citizens to the value of the untouched mines of wealth at their doors, and of attracting to the State settlers who have the knowledge and capital requisite for carrying on this business. The result is, in the same degree that the Society is enabled to carry on its work, the opening of new and profitable lines of work to our own citizens; the attraction of new horticultural skill and capital to the State; the increased taxable value of lands; additional work for transportation companies; more labor for men, women and children, and the general spread of refinement, always found in communities devoted to horticultural pursuits.

There is no State in the Union which has attained any prominence in commercial horticulture which has not an active State horticultural society, supported in part by funds appropriated from the public treasury. The State is the chief beneficiary of such work, and the expense of carrying on the work is too heavy for a small band of private citizens to permanently assume. The amount of funds yearly granted for this purpose varies in the different States from \$500 in such horticulturally unpromising States as New Hampshire to \$35,000 in California. The latter State has within ten years become the chief fruit growing State in the Union, in that State the lands which are adapted to fruit growing have, largely through the far-seeing liberality of the public authorities and the well organized work of its horticultural societies, risen in ten years from \$25 to \$500 and \$1,000 per acre. Yet we have here in North Carolina lands well adapted to growing deciduous fruits—apples, peaches, plums, pears, figs, etc.—as the best lands in California. But our own people, and those of less favored States who are seeking new locations, are still largely ignorant of these resources. Ohio grants to its State Horticultural Society \$1,000 a year; Illinois, \$4,000; Indiana, \$1,000; New Jersey, \$66; Rhode Island, \$1,000; Maine, \$1,000; Kansas, \$1,450; Nebraska, \$2,000; Missouri, \$2,500; Oregon, \$3,500. In addition to these sums most States print the annual report of their horticultural societies free of cost.

The North Carolina State Horticultural Society has depended hitherto on private subscriptions and the receipts of its Fair to carry on its work. Owing partly to the general depression of the agricultural and horticultural interests, and partly to the succession of three poor fruit years, the Society has wholly failed in this income, which in the most favorable years was insufficient. It now has an empty treasury, with no available funds to publish its annual report for the year just closed, or for carrying on its ordinary work for the present year.

This Society has never received aid from the public treasury, except that the Board of Agriculture donated \$500 with which to pay the premiums of the Fruit Fair, held at Fayetteville in 1886. All that has been done by this Society has been at the cost of a few men who, from State pride and love of horticulture, have freely and without price contributed their time, knowledge and money.

North Carolina is too great a State, its horticultural resources are too vast, the interests of its citizens are too closely concerned, to longer suffer the progress of this work to be hindered by lack of funds, considering that the work is of immediate usefulness, and can repay to the State more than 100 per cent. per annum on the money so invested.

The Horticultural Society asks the State to aid its work for the next two years as follows:

1. The printing at the public expense of the Society's annual report, including the report for 1894, now ready but unpublished for lack of funds.
2. The appropriation of \$500 per annum for office expenses, postage, and a small salary for the Secretary, upon whom devolves the work of editing its publications and carrying on its correspondence.

The names of the committee for the Horticultural Society is a guarantee should the aid be granted, it will be judiciously and economically administered, so as to return to the State a manifold increase. The committee are:

J. VAN LINDLEY,
President, Pomona, N. C.
GERALD MCCARTHY,
Secretary, Raleigh.
C. B. EDWARDS,
S. W. WHITING.

CREAM OF THE PRESS.

Hard Hits, Bold Sayings and Patriotic Paragraphs from Reform Papers—They are Worth the Price of One Paper a Whole Year.

The money power has the utmost confidence in John Sherman, So has the devil.—*Chicago Sentinel.*

The Havemeyers are in politics purely for business—but of course the bankers are in it for the good of the people.—*Labor Advocate.*

It is easier to keep up with the world while it is moving than it is to try and catch up with it after it has got ahead of you.—*Western Plowman.*

Funny that the greenback never did any harm till Uncle Sam began to spend \$100,000,000 a year more than his income.—*New York Voice.*

It is reported that a tooth pick factory has lately suspended owing largely to the fact that most people are living on soup these days.—*Emporia Times.*

Please overcome that political prejudice that you have been nursing. It is ruining you and your neighbors and destroying your government.—*People's Tribune.*

Should a country, where the manufacturers live in luxury, while the laborers are forced to the verge of starvation, be called a great commercial nation?—*Tulare, Cal., News.*

If the times are too hard to enable you to hoard dollars, try getting and hoarding knowledge and it will help you to get dollars when the good times come again.—*Western Plowman.*

Our domestic commerce is one hundred and twenty times the amount of foreign commerce. What should an American statesman legislate to preserve and advance?—*Brockton Diamond.*

During the past two months nearly \$35,000,000 of gold has come to Europe, and now President Cleveland is going to issue 4 per cent. bonds running thirty years to get it back.—*National Watchman.*

Stamp it in indelible letters as an immortal truth that not in all history can there be cited a case where full legal tender paper money issued by a living government ever depreciated.—*Farmer and Miner.*

Nothing would please the railway managers more than to see a fight to death between the organizations composed of railway employees. Yet there are railway employees trying to bring on just that sort of a fight.—*Holton Tribune.*

The Pullman Company declares that it lost \$1,700,000 last year, but it paid dividends, all the same. The Pullman Co. is the most fortunate unfortunate and the most delightfully prosperous budding bankrupt that we ever knew.—*Farmers' Voice.*

It is strange how much people do suffer before learning. They seem determined on becoming the slaves of the money power. We know this is not their intention, but it is what will be the result if they do not get their eyes open in time.—*Rural Banner.*

The farmers of Minnesota in convention passed the following very sensible resolution: "That the government of the United States is under the same obligation to supply the people with currency as it is to supply them with postage stamps."—*Western Watchman.*

Fertilizers are not as truly plant food as stable manure or clover. Harm has been done by teaching that they are. The chemistry is all right, but the bacteriology is an unexplored field. Those who use fertilizers do not always get their money back.

Unless you feed so well that your stock makes a constant gain, you are losing your feed, at least, and probably something more. Keep your eye open all the time to note any possible loss of appetite, as that will quickly be followed by a loss of flesh.

Clover rootlets will penetrate and loosen the subsoil, while they are furnishing a large quantity of valuable material for forage and for fertilizer. If it is desired to subsoil a field at the least possible expense, get it to producing a good crop of clover.

With good soil and under proper conditions flax should be grown in almost any latitude of our country, since at one time it was an industry of Egypt. Its culture for fibre should have a greater interest. Use the very best land, and on it do not attempt a second crop of the same. Harvest and thresh with a view to saving the straw intact.

Minister: "So you say that you saw some boys out fishing, Sunday, Bobbie? I hope you did something to discourage them." Bobbie: "Oh, yes, sir. I stole their bait."—*Harlem Life.*

Teacher: "Now, Willie, if your mamma promised you 10 cents and your papa 15 cents, how many would you have together?" Willie: "The 10 cents mamma promised me."—*Chicago Inter Ocean.*

Mrs. De Fashion: My dear, I have picked out a husband for you. Miss De Fashion—Very well, but I want to say right now, mother, that when it comes to buying the wedding dress I am going to select the materials myself.—*Harlem Life.*

Farmer: Why do you wear a blue tie?
Dude: To match my eyes.
Farmer: Then you ought to wear a soft hat to match your head.—*American Agriculturist.*

"Wimmin," said Mr. Grogan, "is mighty similar in wan way." "An' wat's that?" inquired Mr. Hogan. "No matter how many av thim you get acquainted wid, they're all alike in bein' different wan from another."—*Indianapolis Journal.*

"Name some of the qualifications for a United States senator," said a professor to a young man who was being examined for admission to college. "He must be 30 years of age, be above 16 Dutch standard, and be able to stand the polariscope," replied the applicant. He got marked 100.—*Pittsburgh Chronicle.*

"My good man," said the severe lady, "have you ever stopped to think how much money is wasted each year for tobacco and rum?" "No, mum, I hain't," answered the object; "it's takin' all my time just now to figger out how many poor families could be supported off the price of the extra cloth women puts in their sleeves."—*Harper's Bazar.*