

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C.
The Vestibule, Charlotte, N. C.
The Plow-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C.
Vassar 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.

AGRICULTURE.

The secret of success in farming, says one, is to keep the land rich and productive, cultivate no more land than one can do thoroughly, and keep an eye out for the small leaks.

There are almost 4,000 species of grasses. They are distributed over all parts of the world. Some are characteristic of the tropical regions, and some of the vicinity of perpetual snow.

There is one thing in regard to oil meal that you can be sure of, that the manufacturer has taken all out of it that he can get. Believing it would be cheaper to raise my own meal, says a farmer, I sowed several years ago a patch of flax and mixed it with corn and oats and took it to the mill and had it ground. It made excellent feed, the best I ever had.

As improved implements for cultivating the soil enable farmers to get it in better tillth, there is a constant tendency to plant too deeply. This to some extent offsets the advantage from better cultivation. Where grain is drilled the drill wheels sink more deeply into the finely-pulverized seed bed, and this lowers the tubes from which the seed is distributed. The roller to compact the surface ought to precede the drill in such cases, and even then the drill tubes should be raised as much as possible.

A really good farmer will not leave the farm poorer than he found it, even if he only rents instead of owns the land. But in this country every improvement made on rented land goes to the owner of the property, and this fact operates to prevent those from renting who know that their methods of farming make the land more productive. In European countries most of the farming is on rented land, and recently the laws have been changed so as to give the occupant who makes improvements a considerable part of their value. This is really better for both parties. It is not to the advantage of any owner of land to lease it so as to make temporary profit, but have its value constantly decrease until it becomes too poor for anybody to want to rent it.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY TRADE IN EUROPE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. PARIS, France.

If the season continues as it has begun, the demand for agricultural implements and machinery this year should be an especially good one. After a long series of bad seasons the sudden rush for implements last fall exhausted stocks in the Paris warehouses and necessitated further supplies from England, though too late in many cases to do any business, and agents are now getting over enough consignments of grass and wheat cutting machinery to be ready for any emergency. Already there is little doubt that there will be a good sale for mowers, as the first grass crop is now assured and is likely to be followed by another. As to the wheat harvest, no definite forecast can be made yet awhile, but there is every reason to hope that it will be as heavy as last year. In this class of machinery the American firms do the largest trade, chiefly on account of its cheapness, its light draught, and the care that has been taken to adapt the machinery to the exigencies of the tall and heavy crops. In the question of price, especially, the American manufacturers leave open very little chance of competition from England, for notwithstanding that the English makers are at the very doors as it were of the French market, their charges for transport are often much higher than those from New York, where the freightage rates allowed to American goods being delivered here under very favorable conditions.

The only advantage that English makers enjoy over Americans in the French market is in the differential import duty which weighs more heavily upon the Trans Atlantic manufacturers. It might have been expected that would have seriously enhanced the prices of American goods. So far, however, this is from being the case that one United States firm is introducing harvesting machinery at much lower prices than have hitherto been paid, and certainly below the figures that can be accepted by the half dozen or so of English houses who do business in this line. It is the general impression among commercial people in this city that the import duties will at some time be greatly reduced. The system of protection inaugurated by M. Meilne is too drastic to suit the interests of the vine growers and manufacturers who find that the reprisals of Italy, Spain and Switzerland have closed the three most important markets to French products and manufacturers, and that since the new differential tariff came into force, the foreign trade has decreased to such an extent as to cause serious uneasiness. Already an agitation against the present protective system is gaining ground in nearly all the industrial centers, and if a reform is instituted, it cannot fail to benefit the foreign agricultural implement and machinery makers.

The last season or two has seen quite a noticeable reduction in the prices of light implements, such as mowers, rakes and harrows. At first the English were cut out of the market by the cheap mowers imported from the United States, and now they find themselves threatened by the competition of French and German makers, who are producing rakes of exactly the same model as the English, and at a price considerably lower. These rakes are for all practical purposes as good as those of the English make, and it is really difficult to distinguish between them. One of the largest importers of foreign implements informs me that he has been unable to dispose of his stock of English rakes, and that he is obliged to supply customers with rakes of French and German manufacture, which he sells at \$15, below the figure accepted by the English firms. Now that Continental manufacturers are able to turn out exact imitation of foreign implements at much lower prices, it is becoming more and more difficult to secure large profits upon business, unless indeed the cost of manufacture can be reduced.

State encouragement has proved to be particularly efficacious to agriculture in Austria, where the government spends a great deal of money in purchasing implements and machinery and in other ways assisting agriculturists. The latest statistics that have been published—those for 1895—that during the twelve months the government distributed to one of its independent States 1,113 plows, of different kinds, 265 harrows and rollers, 71 sugar beet drills, 191 various other implements for the cultivation of beet, 32

drills, winnowing machines, thrashing machines, and 109 plum drying ovens. At the same time, a great deal of work is being done by the various agricultural societies, of which there are at least 24 in Austria-Hungary. The progress that has been made during the past few years in the cultivation of beet, cereals, and other produce leads to the hope that Austria will soon become one of the most important markets for agricultural appliances in Europe.

The beet root sugar industry is suffering from the evil of plethoric production and low prices. Assisted by the heavy bounties paid by the different governments upon exported sugar, the growers have put as much land as they possibly can under beet root and have at the same time vastly improved the saccharine yield. The consumption is consequently far in excess below the production and the stocks of sugar have become unmanageable. A remedy is being sought in Belgium for this state of affairs by increasing the scope of consumption, though for the moment it is not easy to see how this is to be done.

In France the greatest embarrassment is experienced by the government which finds that the ten million dollars paid every year to an industry that, in spite of this assistance, is passing through a crisis, is a serious drain upon the exchequer. If with these duties, and the import duty of 7 francs per 100 kilos upon foreign and colonial sugar, the native industry is unable to make headway, it is evident that the policy hitherto pursued must be fundamentally wrong, and the government is now considering the advisability of suppressing the bounties altogether.

There are many old pastures which can be much improved by harrowing with a forty-tooth drag that will cut into the surface soil. This will admit air to places covered by moss, and enable the grass to grow more vigorously. Of course some of the roots of the grass will be destroyed; but the stirring of the soil will make more grow in their place. If there is much moss on the surface it will require under draining to remove surplus water to make a permanent improvement.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN.

For the Week Ending Monday, June 11, 1895.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The reports of correspondents of the Weekly Weather Crop Bulletin, issued by the North Carolina State Weather Service, for the week ending Saturday, June 1, 1895, indicate a very favorable week; crops have all improved and much work was accomplished in cultivating and cleaning crops of grass. The week opened moderately warm and clear, the temperature becoming excessive the last few days, with maximum over 100 degrees. The bright sunshine and high temperature are beneficial, but as the entire week has been dry, light showers are beginning to be needed.

Eastern District.—Tobacco plants about all set out and plants start off very well. An improvement in all crops is noted. Cotton recently planted is coming up well. Cotton-chopping has been the order of the day with many farmers. Corn and peanuts are looking better. Rice nearly all planted. Beans and potatoes are being shipped from trucking districts. Cat-worms and potato bugs are still doing much damage, but the warm weather will no doubt check the ravages of cut-worms. Gardens greatly improved. Farmers are pushing ahead to clear crops of grass.

Central District.—All reports indicate that the past week was very favorable for farm work, and that everything is growing nicely; rain is beginning to be needed. Cotton has improved, though still small and backward with poor stand. Considerable was replanted. Chopping cotton not yet finished. Corn is growing rapidly and is being worked for the first time. Some corn is yet to be planted. Rapid progress has been made in transplanting tobacco, which is growing off nicely. The ravages of cut worms and potato bugs have been slightly diminished by the heat. Clover and hay being harvested. Fruit has fallen off considerably. Grapes are out of bloom and big crop has set. Strawberries plentiful. Farmers are in much better spirits.

Western District.—During the past very favorable week much work was accomplished by farmers in planting and in cleaning crops of grass and weeds and in preparing for transplanting tobacco, and in setting sweet potato

slips. Light showers are now beginning to be needed. Crops have all improved this week. Corn is about all planted, and though late planted is not coming up very well, what is up has greatly improved. Cotton beginning to look better, stand poor in places. A few reports of rust on wheat, but generally the crop is looking fine and is heading nicely. Clover and grass being cut. Fruit growing fast; cherries ripe. A few reports of fruit dropping off trees.

Showers are probable by Wednesday evening.

The first purpose in cultivation is to make the soil fine, so that seeds may germinate freely in it, and the roots of plants may run easily through it. But an object scarcely less important is to increase soil fertility by mixing surface and under soil together, and thus promoting their fermentation. It is for this that corn and potato ground is harrowed after the seed is planted. On moderately rich soil two such cultivations are equal to the addition of several loads of manure per acre. An incidental advantage is that such harrowing of the surface destroys all weeds as quickly as their seeds germinate.

SWEET POTATO CULTURE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Your issue of the 14th contained a valuable article on "Sweet Potato Culture," by J. A. Thomas. But said article is not so full on several points as we would like to see, and therefore beg leave to make some inquiries.

Mr. Thomas says:

"I see in Bulletin No. 112 of the N. C. Experiment Station that sweet potatoes cured in a tobacco barn would keep much better than in the sun or air."

This evidently means curing with fire, but nothing is said as to the degree of heat to be employed, nor the time necessary for curing.

"Except for very early crop, I find it much better not to draw the sprouts from the bed my tubers about 3 or 4 inches apart and let stand until vines run 3 or 4 feet, then cut vines up with three joints or leaves and set two in the ground and leave one out."

In this should the top, or tender end, be used or rejected? and if so, how much of the end should be rejected?

"In cutting vines I do not cut close to the ground the first time; the second cutting the vine may be pulled up and cut all the vine up in short cuttings."

Are we to infer from this that there are to be but two plantings from the potatoes? First, the vines are to be cut; second, the vines, or sprouts, are to be drawn. If there be more than two drawings how is the third, and other drawings, to be treated?

Will Mr. Thomas be so kind as to inform us?

BRYAN TYSON

HORTICULTURE.

HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

Clean boxes, carefully picked berries make quick sales.

Best kinds, best plants, best care. Remember the three B's.

Cultivate before the weeds get a good start. You will save in work if you do.

Mulch strawberries when fruiting. Raspberries do not need it and are better without it.

Raspberries are a sure crop and one that pays well. Plant the best and give good culture.

Don't set plants from an old bed. Set young thrifty stock, true to name and carefully handled.

May is a good month to plant the strawberry. Prepare the ground thoroughly and set plants firmly.

Gooseberries are becoming more popular than they were several years ago. Give them a partial shade and a northern slope.

Partial shade does not hurt raspberries or strawberries, hot sun cranks to the contrary. We have seen grand paying crops raised in partial shade too many times.

Frequent shallow cultivation is what gives good crops. Small fruit plants don't relish deep, coarse culture. They are not built for it. Just please remember this when you cultivate these choice plants from the nursery.

JOHN M. WISE.

Freeport, Ill.

BERRIES IN JUNE.

Mr. M. A. Thayer, Sparta, Wis., sends the following: Berry bushes should be thoroughly mulched. First, by cultivating and hoeing the surface soil; followed at once by an application of green clover, coarse manure, straw or some other coarse litter. Clover is best, being free from noxious

POULTRY IN EAST CAROLINA.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. BEAUFORT, N. C.

My experience in poultry raising is feed your poultry once a day with corn and let that be at the setting of the sun. If the poultry has no range, you can feed a little in the morning. But if they have a good place to range during the day you should feed only once a day and that should be corn. Give them all they can eat; keep your water troughs clean; scrub them out twice a week. If your poultry have mites or lice, put kerosene on a cloth and rub the perches at the time they are going to their places of rest; it will drive all vermin from them. When your hen comes out of her box with her brood take the old nest out and carry it off, if it is straw; if rags, scald them in boiling suds and dry them and then put them back, after putting a little kerosene about the box. Rags make the best nest of anything except hog hair. When the small chicks get two weeks old commence feeding with small grains of corn—they will soon learn to eat large grains. They do better fed on corn than anything else.

P. P. DICKINSON.

THE INCOME TAX DECISION.

Ex-Congressman Bryan, of Nebraska, ably discusses the income tax decision in the Omaha World Herald. He considers it one of the most important decisions that has been rendered for many years and believes the Supreme Court to be subservient tools of plutocracy. Mr. Bryan says:

"Justice Field in his separate opinion says: 'The present assault upon capital is but the beginning. It will be but the stepping stone to others larger and more sweeping until our political contests will become a war of poor against rich, a war constantly increasing in intensity and bitterness.' It is not strange that one so blinded to justice and equity in taxation as to regard an income tax as an attack upon the rich should be willing to overturn the decision of a hundred years in order to protect the class which he supposes to be attacked. Justice Field might as well say all taxation on property, and those who hold the property must pay all taxes levied against it. All property taxes exempt those from the tax who are without property. Justice Field's attack upon the motives of those who are responsible for the income tax law will justify an inquiry as to his own motives in delivering the opinion which he did.

The advocates of the law were supported by the fact that the supreme court of the United States once held the same kind of law constitutional—this was in the Springer case reported in 102 U. S. page 568. Justice Field was then a member of the court and did not dissent, why did he not then declare the income tax an attack upon the rich? The advocates of the law were supported by the opinions of such men as Senator Sherman, Senator Oliver P. Morton and Senator Howe. Senator Sherman said in opposition to the repeal of the former income tax: 'There was never so just a tax levied as the income tax.' Senator Morton said: 'The income tax is above all others the most equitable.'

The advocates of the income tax were supported by the fact that England, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Prussia and other European nations collect a much heavier income tax than the one recently proposed. Upon what does Justice Field rely in denouncing not only the tax, but the authors of it? Justice Field now denounces the exemption of incomes under \$4,000. Does he not know that all income tax laws have contained exemptions? Why did he not condemn the exemptions contained in the income tax which came before the court in the Springer case? Does Justice Field forget that nine-tenths of our federal taxes are collected by means of taxes which allow the rich to escape their just share of the burdens of the government? Why does he not reserve some of his vehemence for the condemnation of those methods of taxation which overburden the poor? If he is afraid of a future war against the rich, why does he not anathematize the war which is now being waged against the poor, and which has resulted in making the sewing women contribute by the taxation of necessities of life nearly as much of the support of the general government, in some instances, as the millionaire does? The income tax is just and must remain, unless we are prepared to declare that equality in taxation is unpatriotic."

During the coming summer see to it that the poultry has plenty of good, fresh water.

The farmer who makes liberal drafts upon his flock for table use and thus enables his family to eat less pork, is wise.

It is fun for the dog to chase a hen. But the hen does not enter into the sport with much spirit, and as long as she does not, better stop the play.

The summer calls for a cool poultry house as much as the winter calls for a warm one. If the house is hot better shut out the poultry altogether.

In a city there are always "fresh eggs" enough to sink a ship. Boys are always going around selling fresh eggs—that were laid six months ago.

THE HEROIC HEN.

A friend has lately told me the following story, say a writer in *Churchman*: In the western part of Massachusetts a man had a fine stock farm; that is, a farm for raising cows and horses. But a few weeks ago a fire broke out in the barn, and burned not only the building and the hay, but most of the animals also. After the fire, the owner walked over the ruins. It was a sad sight to see the charred bodies of his fine Jersey cows and his high spirited horses, to say nothing of the money lost with them. But at the end of the barn he saw a sight which touched him more than all the rest. There sat an old black hen. He wondered that she did not move her head to look at him as he came near her, but he thought she must be asleep. He poked her with his cane and to his surprise the wing which he touched fell into ashes. Then he knew that she had burned to death. Then out from under her wing came a faint little peep, and pushing her aside with his cane the man found, what do you think? Ten little live yellow chickens! The poor hen had sacrificed her own life to save them, and had held her place in the fire, as Casabianca held his own on the burning deck. That sight touched the man more than anything else, and he has to own that his eyes grew a little more moist than usual.