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

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PAPERS.
Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.
The People's Paper, Concord, N. C.
The People's Paper, Wadesboro, N. C.
The People's Paper, Salisbury, 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 do so will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

Raspberries produce good crops in the same soil for years, while strawberries produce their best crops the first year they come into full bearing. Grapes grown in a clayey soil are darker and more glossy than when grown on gravelly land; but the sweetest and richest tasted grapes are grown on gravelly soil. Bermuda grass is the best for grazing which can be found in the South. It is not as good as clover for milk and butter, but for fattening purposes it has no superior. The removing of the old canes in the thrifty growing plants is about all of the pruning needed with currants, and it serves to keep the plants in a good fruiting condition generally. There is excellent food for stock in wheat, cut green, while the grain is soft and at recent prices pays better for milk cows and other cattle, horses and sheep than to thresh the grain. Those who have their doubts about intensive cultivation, extra manuring, etc., are the men who are never tempted to practice them. One should never be ready to condemn a thing without some trial. It is not to the farmer that hard times often come, and bankruptcy is a rare visitor. Statistics show that agriculture is safer than banking, rail waying or manufacturing, taking all things into account. Sow a small corner of the corn field to rye, oats or barley for pasture for pigs. The pigs can be run for a few weeks this fall without the least damage to the corn crop, and to the great advantage of the pigs. If one desires a clean, long-lived, prolific meadow, all stock should be kept off, and then mowed twice a year, if necessary. A good timothy meadow may be easily ruined by tramping and grazing after harvest. It is estimated that the ration which makes one pound of steer meat beef will also make one pound of butter or two of cheese. This is a thought worthy of consideration by those farmers who are anxious to get a better profit out of their live stock.

AIDS TO IMPROVED COTTON CULTURE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. In my last article I referred to the importance of leguminous crops in the restoration of our land so as to make the maximum crops possible, and spoke of the importance of the Southern cow pea in starting this improvement. Within the past five years another crop has been introduced to the notice of our farmers that promises to be the greatest aid and ally of the cow pea for the Southern farmer that has yet been tested. This is the annual winter growing clover now known as crimson clover. There is no plant that fits in so well with the cow pea as a forage crop for the South or as a renovating crop. I have been urging the merits of this clover upon the cotton farmers of the South for several years and not only on the cotton farmers but on all of our farmers alike. Mr. R. P. McAnally, of Saxon, N. C., writes that he tried crimson clover three years ago, but it grew only nine inches high and he discarded it. But recently he was induced to give it another trial with the help of 800 pounds of kainit per acre harrowed in with the seed and now he reports a wonderful growth "as thick as the hair on a dog's back." This shows that his soil needs the help of the potash in the kainit to enable it to gather nitrogen for him. The great advantage to the cotton farmer in the crimson clover crop is that he can sow it all through his cotton field after the cultivation is over in August and will have a green pasture all winter in place of a bare soil washing away all through the winter rains and will have a growth to plow under for corn in the spring that will insure him a good crop. Then as I have said, it fits in well with the cow pea crop, for as soon as the peas are cut for hay, he can sow the clover seed on the land after stirring it with a cutaway harrow, and can pasture it till time to put the land in order for cotton. Mr. Wm. Choice, of Spartanburg, S. C., writes that he had an outlying farm that he tried to sell, as he had more land than he needed, but failing to do so, he asked my advice how to treat it, as the land had been badly run down under the old one crop planting system. I advised him to use liberally potash salts and dissolved phosphatic rock, and sow it down in crimson clover. He prepared in August a large field and did as directed. The results have been, he says, more than satisfactory. "In April following the clover was in full bloom, and made a large crop of hay, which was off in time to plant cotton. Planted on the clover sod, without any other manure, and the young cotton now shows that rich, rank growth which is a fair harbinger of a good crop. This goes to show that a proper rotation, with crimson clover as the basis of recuperation, will make the farm rich and at the same time give paying crops." Here, then, we see the effect of one well fertilized crop of crimson clover, the hay from which fully paid all the expense of the fertilizer, in giving the promise of a good crop without further fertilization. No bills for complete fertilizers at a high price to be paid for out of that cotton. This shows what I have for years been insisting upon, that the true way to fertilize for our sale crops is to use the cheaper forms of mineral plant food to grow a heavy crop of the plants that are going to capture for us the nitrogen that costs so much in a complete fertilizer and thus not only get a heavy forage crop to feed for the making of a profit out of stock, and to make our manure pile larger, but thus fix nitrogen in the land for the succeeding crop of cotton or corn. This is in effect not only getting the fertilizer free for the cotton crop, but the making of a profit in doing so and at the same time have the satisfaction to know that our soil is actually being improved by the process. It has been well said that "the coming farmer of the South will be a legume farmer." Cow peas and crimson clover, with a liberal use of the cheap potash and phosphate, lie at the very foundation of all rational farm improvement in the South. By their aid, the land need never, either in summer or winter, be left to the wasting of rains and sun by lying bare, but between every hoed crop may be covered with a growth to yield profit while it gathers fertility for the land and sod for the sale crops. But it must not be assumed that these crops will bring all the elements of fertility to a soil that has been exhausted by long tillage and exposure to the leaching effects of rain and sun: If you want the best results from the action of the

leguminous crops, you must feed them. They will gather nitrogen for you free, but they cannot get the potash and phosphoric acid that the crops of former years have taken away from the soil, and without these are given them, they cannot get the nitrogen they would with a well developed growth, and you will not only lose the hay crop they would give, but the effect on the soil for subsequent crops. Nothing from nothing and nothing remains. It will pay far better to put a liberal dressing of the cheap mineral fertilizers on the pea and clover crops, than to put the same money value in a high grade fertilizer on the cotton crop direct, and not only pay better in the cotton crop, but in the permanent improvement of the soil. Having these two crops then as sheet anchors in our efforts to grow cotton cheaply, we will take up in our next the various rotations of crops that may be practiced with cotton as the money crop, or in other words, the way in which we will change from planting to farming. W. F. MASSEY.

It is well to always mix a little chopped hay, straw or corn fodder with ground feed. This gives the finer food proper bulk, and keeps it from packing in the animal's stomach. It also adds variety to the ration.

THE CURING OF TOBACCO.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK] Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. The heating of the barn to 110 degrees to 115 degrees in the first stages of curing has been practiced for many years in all this section, but be sure before you undertake it that the tobacco is not nearer than six feet of the flue; and be sure not to run the heat high enough or long enough to coddle the tobacco, and be sure to let the barn cool off for at least six hours before the steaming process should commence. It is worse than useless to undertake to cure tobacco that has ripened thick and green on the hill, any other than of a dark red or dark brown color. I have heard some tobacco curers assert that they could cure of a yellow color any tobacco that they could steam to a yellow. Any tobacco, however unripe or green, may be steamed until perfectly yellow, but it cannot be cured so as to retain the yellow color. All tobacco that has ripened thick and green on the hill should either be shingled down on the ground in a shady grove or hung upon a scaffold for a few days before being put into the barn. When thus treated too great a heat should not be put on or applied at first, else the tobacco will cure up bony and brittle, instead of tough and leathery, qualities always desirable in tobacco. But always guard against letting the tobacco remain until the stem and flaps swell or become destituted, and the grain is raised, before applying the heat. The swelling of the stem and fibres and the raising of the grain is caused by the fermentation of the sap and marks the decay of the plant. When 110 degrees have been reached keep the floor of the barn and the wall back of the flues dampened until 125 degrees have been reached, taking 12 hours to reach that point. Tobacco thus treated will cure up a cherry red, and will be sweet and tough. By letting tobacco thus cured remain for some days in an open barn before closing it up, or packing it down, greatly improves the uniformity of the color. Caring for tobacco after it is cured, no person can be successful without a good pack house where to store his cured tobacco. This should be built on a dry, sunny hillside, if convenient; if the site is not dry it should be made so; the house should be set on pillars or posts, so as to admit of the free passage of the wind underneath. It should have a roof that will not leak a drop, a tongue and grooved floor well put down, or a double one of thinner plank, being careful to break the joints. If a frame building, it should be tightly ceiled; if made of logs, it should be closely chinked and daubed with lime mortar and then have the eaves to project, and put a bonnet at each end to keep the mortar from washing out. The storing room should be filled with tier poles from within six feet of the floor to roof, perpendicularly one above the other, about two feet apart, with the under or lower poles or tiers moveable, so that when not in use they may be moved aside; this may be done easily by placing inside of the wall two logs for the ends of the moveable poles to rest on. These logs will be above the height of the door and out of the way. If, however, one prefers a high door, the log at the door may be cut

out the width of the door and short posts. Set under each end the moveable poles should be stout enough to sustain the weight of a man while putting up or taking down tobacco. The pack house, if built of logs and daubed, should be thoroughly dried out before using for storing purposes. It takes generally three and a half to five days to cure a barn of tobacco properly, so that leaf, stem and stalk will be thoroughly cured. However, from many causes, it is often difficult to kill out every stalk, and when a curing is removed to the pack house, a close look out should be kept for any uncured stems or stalks. When tobacco is first cured it is open like a sponge, and if the weather is rainy or the air damp, it will soon be charged with moisture, and become damp and limber, and in a short time will change to its natural color, which is amber or pale cherry red. Then I will caution you that if you have succeeded in curing a bright barn of tobacco, and the weather is rainy or very damp, see to it that you do not let your tobacco become high in order; this can be prevented by keeping a little fire in the flues. Never remove a curing to the pack house when it is misty or foggy. If the weather is suitable when the tobacco becomes just soft enough to handle without breaking the fiber, remove to the pack house. Commence in one corner of the room and shingle down across one side or end; then place down another course or layer until the bulk is too high for a man to stand on the floor and place it upon the bulk. Here it should remain in bulk until it presses out straight and flat, when it should be hoisted to the poles. Commencing at one end of the barn, place the first stick butt down, then run the course to the roof, being careful to keep the leaves straight, and if there is a stick not well killed out be sure to put it near the roof, in the top course. If placed lower down it will mould and stain any plant that may touch it. Be sure to place the butts down on all the lower tiers; this will prevent the tobacco on the lower tiers from changing color, which it is sure to do, if exposed to light and air. Be very particular in handling. Do not crush the leaf. Do not break the fibers or stem. Make it an invariable rule to never trail, bruise, crush or break tobacco. Never tread upon a leaf, either cured or uncured. Handle it at every stage (as a mother would a new born babe) from the hill to the market, and you will be richly repaid for all your trouble. In fact, no one but a patient, painstaking person will succeed well in growing fine tobacco. If a damp, warm fall follows, it is difficult to keep tobacco from becoming high in order. This can be done by keeping inside the barn a small stove, or by placing burning coal in a pot or iron vessel, in the pack house. If a stove is used, see to it that no tobacco is near the pipe, and that the piping does not set fire to the wall. Freshly cured tobacco will not catch on fire from a spark, but the older tobacco becomes the more readily it will ignite. Very old tobacco will ignite almost as readily as punk. Later in the season I will write on marketing tobacco. B. F. WHITE.

enough rain has fallen. There has been abundant sunshine. On Sunday, August 4th, a heavy washing rain occurred in the southeast corner of the State, without great damage. Light hail reported from two points. There are very few sections in this district which can be said to be seriously suffering for want of rain. Corn especially doing very well; fodder pulling has begun in the south. Tobacco crop good and curing up fine. The majority of reports indicate improvement in cotton, which with late fall may make a good crop yet. Sowing turnips, and early planted have come up well. Field-peas good. Sweet potatoes doing well, and second crop of Irish potatoes being planted. Rice doing well. Rains reported: Falkland, 2.05 inches; Richlands, 1.25; Pantego, 1.10; Point Caswell, 0.50; Mount Olive, 2.00; Trenton, 1.06; Jacksonville, 1.40; Wilmington, 2.30; Southport, 2.37.

Central District.—A very warm, on the whole favorable week. Though local showers occurred at many places, mostly in the southern portion of the district where especially needed, there has not been sufficient rain, and crops are suffering to some extent from drought. The least rain fall this week was in the central and northern portions of the district. Local storms with high winds did some damage in Stanly county (New London), Chatham county (nine miles north of Riggs bee), and in Davidson county (Lex). Tobacco is needing rain, but some report it a very fine crop. Priming and curing tobacco will be general by next week, which is about average date. Corn, except where damaged to a slight extent in the south portion of district, is growing right along; though needing rain. One good season would assure a splendid crop. One correspondent is enthusiastic enough to report corn as finest since the war. Cotton has considerably improved and bids fair to produce a good August crop. Turnips and crimson clover being planted. Fruit and vegetables very plentiful. Grapes being shipped daily. Rains reported: Saxon, 0.11 inch; Southern Pines, 1.00; Osborne, 0.85; Rockingham, 2.00; Greensboro, 0.20; Soapstone Mount, 0.55; Worthville, 0.25; Raleigh, 0.36.

Western District.—Reports from this district are very diversified. Good showers which were very beneficial to all crops occurred at a large number of places on the 6th, 7th and 8th; from these points fine growing weather is reported and the recovery of crops from damage by previous drought. Over other portions of the district crops are suffering severely for lack of rain. It has been very warm with abundant sunshine. The outlook is, however, more favorable than at the close of last week. Corn has been injured to some extent for want of rain, and is needing it everywhere. Cotton, though late, is belling fairly well, and may make a good crop with late fall. Fruit very abundant. Some turnips being planted, though ground is too dry at many places. Irish potatoes are nearly matured in west. Rains reported: Rutherford College, 0.35 inch; Mt. Pleasant, 1.16; Morganton, 0.74; Lynn, 0.82; Concord, 0.30; Charlotte, 0.74; Mocksville, 0.99; Salisbury, 1.00; Rutherfordton, 0.19; Davidson, 1.90; Startown, 1.62; Hudson, 1.00; Maiden, 1.25.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Monday, Aug 10, 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, Aug. 10, 1895, indicate a very warm, sunny week, with local showers. The temperature rose steadily during the week, with maximum temperatures on Saturday above 94 degrees, and a mean about 8 degrees above the normal. A good many very beneficial local rains occurred which greatly benefited crops, but many sections in the northern part of the Eastern, and in the Central and Western districts are suffering from drought, which is chiefly affecting gardens and corn. However, at many places where the drought was most severe last week fine showers have fallen this week. With a good season next week a splendid crop of corn will be assured. Tobacco cures are very good. Farmers are sowing turnips and beginning fodder-pulling in south.
Eastern District.—Reports from this district are nearly all favorable, and crops have made fine progress. The weather was very warm, with local showers nearly every day, except at some places, chiefly in the northern portions of the district, where not

But up to that time the older trees will have paid decidedly the best. One thing certain, as a rule the horticulturist lives a little better than the average of men, as he always has plenty of fruit and vegetables to eat. He uses 400 to 500 loads of manure annually, and his grounds show it. His soil is an excellent one naturally. The preservation of insectivorous birds and all innocuous reptiles should be insisted upon by county and town governments, and a knowledge of the principal forms of predaceous and cannibal insects disseminated through the public schools both of town and country. PEACHES IN TEXAS. Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. MARSHALL, TEXAS. I desire some information from the readers of your most valuable journal. If I can secure a partner with \$15,000 to \$25,000 cash capital, I desire to put in an orchard of 300 acres in peaches and 20 acres in blackberries. In a recent issue of the Atlanta Constitution was an article on the peach orchards of Fort Valley and Thomasville, Ga., in which \$191 per acre was given as the receipts from a peach crop. From this article, the data for which was furnished by leading peach growers of that section, I take the items of cost of trees, planting, fertilizing and cultivating, cost of land, boxes and freights are omitted from costs, as returns from crops are estimated as net. If there are any errors in these figures, particularly of putting receipts too high and expenses too low, I shall be very thankful to be corrected, either editorially or through communications or private letters, as I contemplate putting almost my all into this enterprise. The great feature of this orchard is to the fact that it will be located where the peaches will never be killed by freezing or frosts. This, no doubt, to many of your readers, sounds incredible; yet it is true, and can be proven by as reliable men as there are in Texas or elsewhere, and that certain conditions which prevail in the locality where I intend planting this orchard, operate to prevent frosts and freezing from killing peaches, can be proven by as high authority on horticulture as there is in the United States, and a certain locality in Georgia and others in Michigan and Maryland can be cited to prove this statement. I so well know the truth of this assertion that I am willing to invest \$15,000 in the enterprise and stake my investment as a guarantee of enormous profits to the other partner or partners. While only 400 acres are needed for the orchard, I include 1,000 in the estimate, to allow for increasing orchard and to prevent any one else purchasing the remainder of this most desirable tract. I estimate as follows: 1,000 acres of land \$20,000 Fencing 400 acres 300 Clearing 320 acres 1,800 Trees for 300 acres 3,000 Planting 300 acres, \$2 per acre 600 Cultivating 300 acres 4 years, at \$10 per acre 3,000 Fertilizing 300 acres, at \$2 per acre 600 Plants, planting and cultivating 20 acres in berries 4 years and other expenses 700 Total expenses 3 yrs, in 'd'g land \$30,000 RECEIPTS FOR FOUR YEARS Receipts from berries, 20 acres, 21, 3d and 4-h year, at \$20 per acre per year \$12,000 From 300 acres peaches, 31 year, 30,000 trees, at one bushel per tree and \$1 per bushel 30,000 From 300 acres 4th year at \$191 per acre, (Constitution's fig's 75,300 Enhancement of 320 acres, at \$50 per acre 16,000 Total receipts for four years \$118,000 Deduct from this expenses of \$10,000 as above, omitting cost of land, and we have \$108,000 profits in four years on an investment of \$30,000. Profits from fruit that cannot be sold, and should be canned, and from hogs raised on "pie," are not included. Above estimate is for ordinary years. In 1894 there was a general failure in the peach crop, and Texas peaches brought \$5, \$7, and even \$10 a bushel. It is a poor tree that will not yield a bushel of peaches a year. At 20 feet apart, there are 108 trees on an acre, or 32,400 on 300 acres. Call it 30,000 and we have 30,000 bushels, at \$5 per bushel, \$150,000; and there is a general failure in the peach crop at least one year in every three. A 600 acre orchard can be put in for only \$10,000 more, as the cost of the land is included in the 300 acre estimate, and the per cent. of profits be enormously greater. But, if the profits are only one third as great as above estimated, it is a splendid investment. Respectfully, R. L. JENNINGS.

HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

As shoots start up where no branches are wanted pinch them off and leave others where it is desired to have them grow. Some species of fungi have neither roots, stem, leaves, flowers nor seed and derive their nourishment through pores. In cultivating your apple trees you may raise them in the orchard for a very few years, provided you don't plant it too near the trees, and will cut it up and haul it out early in the winter, and by no means make a shock around a tree. Whether you plant yearlings or five-year-olds, they will be about the same size six or seven years after planting with the chances in favor of the younger trees being the most firmly rooted.