

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Largest Circula-  
tion of any Paper  
in the South At-  
lantic States.

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 Farmer, Hickory, N. C.  
The Whittaker, Whittaker, N. C.  
The Home, Beaver Dam, N. C.  
The Populist, Lumberton, N. C.  
The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.  
The Vestal, Concord, N. C.  
The Plow-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C.  
The White Man, Salisbury, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on its 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.

Fortunate is the farmer who has a hundred rods of fence that can be easily moved and set up again. With it he can secure the pasturage of any pieces of grass or clover that will otherwise go to waste. It is much cheaper to have some moveable fence to put where it is needed than to rely on permanent fences, which so often harbor weeds by the impediment of cultivating where they stand. Comparatively few people prune to vines, mainly because it is too much trouble. The crop seldom sells at high prices, and to put much labor to it lessens the chance for profit. Recent experiments show that pruning is not a benefit, but rather a injury. It lessens the crop and does not make it earlier, as is claimed. Tomatoes needs all the leaves it has perfect its fruit. When it is injured by potato beetle larva the fruit is watery and inferior.

Farmers who grow turnips, beets, roots and other roots generally wait until the whole crop is harvested before beginning to market it. In this way they lose, for the price is then at its lowest. There is a better market for these roots early in the season, and the roots are then much sweeter and tenderer than later. Of course there will be some loss of growth in the roots marketed early, but if the roots are thinned as gathered, and only the innings sold, there will be a larger growth of what is left.

On no account should wheat be sown in cool weather has come. Not only is the wheat liable to attack by which its growth is not of the right kind to insure a good harvest. The wheat plant would have a spreading habit. This it will have if sown about the time frost comes, but by which time also rains will begin to fall. These will beat down the wheat leaves, and by covering the soil with soil will check their growth. In this way that the spreading growth which is always desired in wheat is obtained. When the soil is cold and hot and dry, the wheat roots take downward in search of moisture. Its top also spires upward and plant is easily winter killed.

## SMART ON FARMING.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

### CHAPTER I.

#### LEDGE HILL, N. C.

Perhaps it will not be out of place, in the beginning, for me to state to the public who I am, and what I propose to write about. I am Col. Alexander Smart, proprietor, general manager and tenant of Ledge Hill Farm and Experiment Station. You will learn more about me hereafter. Being, as I am, a man with a vast amount of practical and theoretical knowledge of farming in all its phases, I have been engaged by THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to give its readers the benefit of my unlimited knowledge.

I propose to fully discuss the different branches of agriculture, including horticulture, stock raising, dairying and the poultry business. I will say just here that my wife, Katharine Smart, manages the poultry department at Ledge Hill.

Also I propose to show the relation which farming and the farmer sustains to law and law making; or, in other words, what law and law making does or don't do for the farmer. And I might say also that I am well informed on questions of political economy, and if there is anything along this line that I don't know, my wife Katharine does. Therefore, Mr. Editor, your readers will have no reason to want information on the political questions of the day, for in the ensuing letters I propose to turn on the light, so that he "who runs may read."

I suppose, Mr. Editor, that everybody in the State reads THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and if there is a man who don't read it, that man, in all probability will eat his last bread in this world at the State's expense.

Then beside all these things, we are always making some new experiment here at Ledge Hill, which experiment is usually attended with some result, and these results will also be given to the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER at the same price you have been paying for the paper.

Very truly,  
C. A. S.

It is said that Australia bids fair to become the leading agricultural country of the world. We think that if the financial assessors of our industries and prosperity continue in their murderous infamy, Australia or almost any other country will be able easily enough to make this a second, third or fourth class nation in every respect.

## FARMERS' ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD.

French agriculturists have the largest agricultural society in any country, and they have their syndicates of agriculture in every province of France, and when the government is asked for protection to agriculture the request is granted promptly. Germany has the Agrarian League composed of a quarter of a million farmers, increasing at the rate of 10,000 a year. This league sent a delegation to his excellency, the Emperor, who received them cordially and encouraged their plans for relief and improvement.

England has a National Agricultural Union of several thousand members that is courted by both political parties before the elections, and then they are turned over to red tape, and the minister of agriculture hears their grievances and reports all manner of restrictions like our own Secretary of Agriculture, who has a contempt for farmers' clubs, granges and alliances. United voting could control the destinies of this country and mould legislation to proper recognition of agriculture—American Agriculturist.

## STORING POTATOES.

One of the most essential points, writes Edwin Taylor, about potato culture is to know how to preserve the crop when you have raised it. This is the more important with regard to the seed potatoes, which have to be kept from sprouting for a long period. If buried, potatoes must be covered lightly at first, so as to permit of ventilation, and the covering added from time to time, but only enough to protect the tubers from the frost. This, in my experience, is the most unsatisfactory way of storing potatoes. The next worst way is a cellar under a building. The trouble with a cellar is to give it air enough and keep it cool enough.

The most satisfactory and cheapest way that I know of is to store in a dug-out, making the roof of earth over poles and brush. In very wet weather such a roof will leak, unless covered with boards, corn stalks, straw or other covering. The best location is a slope

or bank facing the south. By leaving an alley through the center of a dug-out, with plenty of large ventilation shafts through the roof, a brisk circulation will be kept up whenever the end door is opened—particularly where the door opens on the level, as it will do if the building is dug on the side of a bank.

The dugout should be built with a bin each side of a central alley. The bottoms of the bins should be raised six inches from the ground and the sides of the bins should be clear of contact with the walls, whether stone or dirt. Both bottoms and sides are best made of fence boards, with inch spaces between. Such a building, carefully managed as to ventilation, opened up on frosty nights and kept closed during the warm days of fall and early winter, will take Early Ohio potatoes through to spring without a sprout. Early Rose, Beauty of Hebron and other such varieties may require turning over once.

## RYE FOR FALL AND SPRING PASTURE.

If any of our readers anticipate a shortage of late fall and early spring pasture, it would be well for them to consider the possibilities of rye as a substitute for tame grasses. When breaking up our farms fifteen years ago, preparatory to seeding them so tame grasses we made large use of rye, sowing it in August and September, pasturing it late in the fall and early in the spring and some times turning off in time to get half or two-thirds of a crop of grain. We do not favor the growth of rye as a crop in itself, believing that either wheat or barley will yield more money's worth, but when sown as a pasture and as a nurse crop, so called, for the tame grasses, as well as a grain crop, we believe it will pay any man who is short of grass to sow rye for pasture.

In sowing rye for this purpose we will plow the ground as soon as possible after harvest and harrow down this land as fast as it was plowed. This will settle it, prepare a better seed bed, and conserve moisture. We would sow rye in the conditions are favorable for growth; usually about the first of September, and if we intended the land for pasture would sow a peck of timothy seed at the same time. If the season be favorable this will afford a good deal of pasture in the fall for any kind of stock as well as for horses and sheep in winter.

Our lambs last winter had a picnic on the Turkish wheat that grew up in the stubble and it answered the same purpose as rye. It will afford a good deal of pasture in the spring and can be cut for grain or not, as circumstances warrant. Eight or ten pounds of clover seed should be sown in the spring either on the frozen ground, or if the season be dry, as soon as the frost is out, and covered with a smoothing harrow. Not the least advantage of this method is that it renders a stand practically sure.—Indiana Farmer.

## CAUSE AND CURE OF EARLY BLIGHT ON POTATOES.

What is the cause of the blight which strikes potatoes early in the season, when the tubers are the size of walnuts? The tops look as if fire had passed over them and soon dry away. What is the reason I have it and my neighbors do not? Is it safe to use seed grown on such a piece; that is, will tubers whose tops have been blighted, produce blight the next season if planted? You can safely recommend Maggie Murphy as proof against this kind of blight. Out of seven varieties planted this season, it was the only one that produced market tubers; they were all planted early.—C. C. Weld.

The blight referred to is probably what is known as "early blight," due to the fungus *Macrosporium Solani*. The fungus passes the winter on the ground and on the refuse of the blighted crop, whence the spores are readily carried by the wind in the spring to the young vines. The tubers themselves are not attacked by the fungus, therefore if they attain sufficient size before their further growth is checked by the blighting of the tops, they may safely be used for seed the next year. By cleaning up and safely burning the refuse of the blighted tops, and by spraying in spring and early summer with Bordeaux mixture, this blight can be readily controlled.—Wm. C. Sturgis in American Agriculturist.

Some one recommended soaking seed potatoes in a weak solution of corrosive sublimate to prevent scab. A correspondent of the American Cultivator tried it and says it is no good.

## WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN.

For the Week Ending Monday, Sept 21, 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, Sept. 21, 1895, are very unfavorable. The first two days were cool, with a few scattered showers, but the last five days were characterized by extreme heat, unusual dryness, and excessive glaring sunshine. It has unquestionably been the most abnormal week on record for September. The maximum temperature varied from 90 in the mountain section to 100 in the east, and for five days the mean temperature averaged 15 degrees per day above normal. Serious drought prevails, the deficiency in precipitation since September 1st being over 2.50 inches. All growing crops are suffering; cotton is opening prematurely and fall plowing and seeding are impossible.

A decided fall in temperature will set in on Tuesday and the coming week will be much cooler, with light showers during the middle portion. Although the fall will be only to the normal, or slightly below, it will appear decided by contrast with the excessive heat of this week.

**Eastern District.**—The first two days of the week were cool, but the temperature rose during the following five days to a very unusual point for September. There was no rain during the week. Cotton is reported to have suffered very rapidly and prematurely; young bolls are falling off in some places. It was too dry for all growing crops, such as turnips, potatoes, peas, etc. Rice is needing rain. The harvesting of rice is in progress, with fine yield. The weather has been very good for finishing fodder pulling in the north and for cutting hay. Peas are being picked. New cotton coming into market.

**Central District.**—The first two days of the week were cool, but since Tuesday the weather has been extremely hot and dry, and drought is seriously affecting everything. Turnips and potatoes are needing rain badly, and some very late corn will be cut short. Tobacco is about housed; cures are generally bright, but some correspondents say light and papery. Cotton is being much damaged by the drought and intense heat; top blossoms are falling off, and it is opening too rapidly. The crop is being picked out and gins are starting up; crop about twelve days late. The weather has been excellent for fodder pulling and making pea-vine hay, but no plowing could be done, as the ground is too hard and dry. Streams are extremely low.

**Western District.**—The week opened cool with a few light showers, but the last portion was very hot and dry, and the drought is seriously injuring growing crops and delaying fall plowing and planting. Some oats sown in August are perishing. Corn in general is a fine crop, but some late corn is cut short by drought. The cotton crop has already been much damaged by drought. It is opening too fast. The late crop has not sufficient moisture to develop the bolls, hence it is feared seeds will not be well enough matured to grow, except from crop first opened. Fodder and hay are nearly all made in eastern counties, but still in full blast in the west. Sweet potatoes, turnips and celery are being much injured by dry weather. No fall plowing or seeding can be done. Rain is very badly needed.

## HORTICULTURE.

### HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

The geranium is common, but it is too beautiful to be discarded. Can the quince be propagated from cuttings? we are asked. Yes. It is claimed that the smaller celery is best, more delicious in flavor.

It is recommended to put bulbs into the ground in September and October.

It is said that sage, when following early vegetables, is a profitable market crop.

Somebody says that we need more sweet apples. That would suit our individual palate. There is a short supply of sweet apples.

It is predicted that co-operative cold storage for preserving fruit will yet be generally adopted. It is practical for the fruit growers of a locality to build a cold storage house and operate it. So prone are sweet Williams to die

off with neck rot in summer, says Vick, that it is well to plant them in a bed or corner by themselves where they can get special attention. Indeed, the safest way is to sow the seed thinly in rows or hills where you wish to have the plants grow and bloom, and thin out the seedlings. They keep healthier in this way.

A gentleman informed a writer that he has an uncle who has conquered the potato scab by sowing one and one half bushels of coarse salt to the acre and harrowing it in. Common salt is chloride of sodium. It may be that the elements of salt are exhausted by long cultivation and can be restored by an application of this substance. The experiment is worthy of trial, costs but little and promises better than dabbling with the seed.

After sound fruit of the right varieties is obtained, the essentials for preservation are a temperature only a few degrees above the freezing point, even and not subject to change, with pure air, not too dry. These conditions are to be had rarely outside of a house built for the purpose. And one thing especially to be kept in mind: Fruits will not keep long in good condition after having been in such a room any considerable length of time.

## THE APPLE AS A TIMBER TREE.

In some sections of this country the apple tree is looked on for its product as a piece of timber as well as a fruit-producing article. For this reason the old German fruit growers in the vicinity of Philadelphia always aimed to get a nice straight trunk to an apple tree, and trim it up comparatively high before allowing it to form a head. Moderns have supposed that the chief object to be gained by this method of training was in order to facilitate plowing operations, but the ultimate end in having a good trunk for timber purposes was not forgotten. In this particular region the wood was used chiefly for shoemakers' lasts—a business which, in the earlier history of Philadelphia, did much to help the trade of that famous manufacturing center of population. The apple regions have mostly disappeared from that vicinity; but other sections of the country seem to understand the value of apple tree wood. It is stated in the Country Gentleman that a fruit grower of Cayuga sold to a well-known firm of saw makers of Philadelphia—Disston & Sons—the trunks of some of their trees, which were cut away because the trees had grown too closely together, to the value of \$500. In this case the wood was, of course, used for the handles of saws.

## A FLORIDA MAN DOES THE RIGHT THING.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

I see in your last issue you offer your valuable paper to silver clubs four months for 20 cents. I helped to organize one last Friday and succeeded in getting you eleven subscribers, for which you find enclosed \$2.20. I am only too glad to get your literature before the people, and am in hopes with it and other reform papers that the day is not far distant when we can all boast once more of our sweet land of liberty. Now, if it is not asking too much of you please send me some extra copies, so I can take them with me on the first Friday in each month. Rest assured I will get you every subscriber I can. I would be more than glad to have a few copies of your last issue. I think Henry's adieu to the Democratic party is noble and grand. Everybody ought to read it.

P. B. BLOUNT,  
Live Oak, Fla.

## A REFORM CLUB.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Young-men of North Carolina, the time has come for us to organize ourselves into a Reform Club. I have received many commendations of my suggestion for the need of such clubs, and as I feel assured that our young men will enter heartily into their work, I have determined that we shall have them. I now call upon every young man in the State who is in sympathy with the reform movement to meet in Raleigh on Friday, October 25th, and help organize a State Reform Club. We'll have to adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, elect officers and effect a general organization, and we need a good representation present. The railroads are charging low rates to the State Fair, and there is no excuse for every live young reformer in the State not being there. You will call at the Caucasian office and learn of the place of meeting, etc. Very truly,

G. ED. KESTLER,  
Concord, N. C.

## MODEL CITIES.

Glasgow Owns Its Gas Works and Street Cars.

Glasgow is the model municipality of the world, and the American Land Register thinks we may all profit by its experience and example. The city Council, which is the governing body, recognizes three duties as being laid upon it: To fulfill their trusts by economical administration of the city's finances; to improve public health, both physical and moral, and to give brightness and the possibility of happiness to civil life. This high conception of the duty of a corporation has not been carried out in full, but no one will deny that a very satisfactory and successful attempt has been established. The City Council undertakes to supply the demand for water, gas, electric lighting, parks, public baths, warehouses and street railways, street cleaning, building, police protection and various minor services.

The water supply is obtained from Loch Katrine, thirty-five miles distant, and is copious and pure. There is no better water furnished any city in the world, and Dublin is the only city that gets it cheaper. There have been nearly £12,500,000 invested in water works. In 1870 a sinking fund was established, through the medium of which nearly £750,000 have been paid off up to the present time, and it is expected that the sinking fund will pay off the whole debt by 1941, when the waterworks will be the unburdened property of the corporation. In the meanwhile the supply of water has been enormously increased, the quality improved and the price reduced 50 per cent. In addition to the supply of water for the usual purposes it is now proposed to drive machinery by a hydraulic pressure of 1,000 pounds to the square inch throughout the business area of the city.

The Glasgow corporation has long been in the field as the manufacturer of gas. In 1809 it took possession of two gas plants, which were owned by two private companies and commenced the production and sale of gas. The quality of gas was improved while its price was reduced. The city furnishes 22 candle power gas at the rate of sixty cents per 1,000 cubic feet. The street railways of Glasgow, up to June 30, 1894, were operated by a private company. Six years ago the Council endeavored to impose certain conditions on this company such as regulating the fare and limiting the hours of work for the employees.

The company refused to make any concessions, and as a result of their unwillingness to act in a fair and generous manner toward the public and the laboring classes, the Council decided not to renew their charter, but to take possession of the street railway property itself and operate it. It put on 300 new cars, 3,000 horses and 1,700 new men. The city introduced a one cent fare, hitherto unknown, and made 4 cents the maximum fare. The experiment of operating street railways by the city has proved a success. The city has made money and at the same time has improved the plant and reduced the fares. It now carries 300,000 a week for 1 cent fares, 600,000 for 2 cent fares, 95,000 for 3 cent fares and 20,000 for 4 cent fares. The next step will be to abolish all fares above 2 cents.

The distinguishable feature of Glasgow's financial management is the sinking fund. It is now applied to every municipal enterprise of the city. On examining its accounts one finds that all serious debts are on the way to be liquidated by the automatic operation of this device. The present financial condition of Glasgow seems extremely satisfactory. The liabilities are £8,000,000 and the assets \$10,000,000, with a clear balance of £2,500,000 on the right side of the account.

The ability, the honesty and the economy which have been brought to bear in the administration of the public affairs of Glasgow have been secured by the elimination of politics. The Council is composed of solid business men.

Politics are practically unknown in the meetings of the Council, nor is eloquent speech in great demand there. The success of Glasgow in municipal government has been achieved by the rigid exclusion of politics from the city and by entrusting the administration of the city to trained, capable and honest business men. There is no city in the world so well governed as Glasgow and none whose affairs are conducted so thoroughly in keeping with the principle that public officials of the city are to be regarded as the directors of a great co-operative undertaking in which every citizen is a shareholder and the dividends of which are payable in the better health, increased comfort, recreation and happiness of the whole population.