

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

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Hickory, N. C.
Whitakers, N. C.
Beaver Dam, N. C.
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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.

Weather up and store away all implements and tools not in use, first scrap off all dirt, and give the steel and iron work a coat of grease. In the winter they can be repaired and painted.

Let a neighborhood of farmers burn their wheat stubble in such seasons as that pest, the Hessian fly, is at troublesome. Then sow some early growing crop, and plow under the fall. One field not burned will harbor enough flies to supply a fresh mole township.

When a pine forest is cleared oaks at the spring up in their place, and vice versa; and when a gap occurs in a large it is useless to attempt to refill with a plant of the same species, but use other kind must be used. In the early of rotation of crops the farmer follows nature.

Often the side branches of farm work fail to pay because carried on idly. A dozen hives of bees would bring the farmer as much revenue as a 10 acre wheat field. The return care of his chickens would bring in more rated, and even the children are trained to a proper interest in them.

We boast that our nation feeds the world, but it does not by any means. We import products to the amount of \$2,000,000. There are brought in more of all grains; many horses and mules, eggs, cheese, butter and condensed milk; potatoes by the thousands bushels. Let us hope there will be a change some day.

Wheat should be seeded as soon as weather cools and the ground can be got ready. If we should have rain and the high temperature comes, it is to be feared that the "fly" will do much mischief. Do not be in great a hurry. Wait until there is much of frost in the air to destroy flies. The roller will be found very useful this fall in fitting land for wheat sowing. The lateness of the season does not permit of the land being allowed to consolidate slowly after plowing. The roller will do this work effectually, heavy one, and it be used as soon as the plowing is finished. The rolled should then be well harrowed and sown for the seed.

KEEPING NAILS FROM RUSTING.

Nails for outside use, where driven only part way, and subjected to air and moisture, are liable to rust. After they have begun to oxidize it is almost impossible to stop them. They should be previously prepared for the position. To make them secure against rust, mix a pint of linseed oil with two ounces of black lead, stirring until the whole is thoroughly incorporated; heat the nails red hot and steep them in the mixture. They should then be well drained and shaken up in an old nail bag until dry. The linseed oil and black lead cover them with a film of varnish which is impervious to wet. The above proportions will serve for a very large quantity. If the black lead and linseed oil are not easily obtained, heat the nails and throw them into any coarse grease. The latter process is not so effectual as the first, but will answer very well. The grease used should not contain a particle of salt.

SMUTS

The Montana Experiment Station sends out the following conclusions on smut in grains: Loose smuts attack all of the small grains, but that of the oat is most damaging. Clean seed, or that effectually treated for smut, will produce a crop free from smut, but an adjoining smutty field may contaminate this grain for next year's crop. The only safeguard is careful treatment before planting. The disease in wheat may be entirely prevented by thoroughly wetting the seed in a solution of copper sulphate, using eight ounce to a gallon of water, but this will lessen in some degree the vitality of the seed. It may also be effectually prevented, without any damage, by immersion for 15 minutes in water raised to a temperature of 131 to 135 degrees Fahrenheit. Oat smut may be completely prevented by treating the seed 15 minutes in water raised to a temperature of 132½ to 135 degrees Fahrenheit. This treatment not only removes the smut but promotes the growth and increases the yield. It may also be prevented without injury to the vitality, by immersing the seed 24 hours in a solution of potassium sulphide, made by dissolving one pound of the sulphide in 24 gallons of water. The copper sulphate treatment, used for wheat, will effectually kill the smut in oats, but will in some degree damage the germinating power of the grain.

DESTROYING CHINCH BUGS.

Prof. G. W. Johnson, of Champaign, was sent by the State to experiment in destroying chinch bugs. He worked on a piece of corn on the farm of William Quada, and kept the chinch bugs off the corn during the dry weather. He had a ditch plowed alongside of the corn. When the bugs were coming in freely he had a boy drive a horse attached to a log along the ditch, and killed the bugs by the bushel. What bugs were on the corn he killed with a spray. The material he sprayed with was coal oil, hot water and soft soap. The way he made the mixture was two gallons of hot water, one pound of soft soap and two gallons of coal oil. He took one quart of the mixture and put it into 19 quarts of water. He found that this would kill the bugs on the corn and not damage the corn any. When it rained and the dust could not be made, he used coal tar. This was trailed on the ground like a fence row, and at each point he had a row dug. When the bug would strike the tar line it would not cross, but would run along the ditch and fall in the holes. When the holes were about two thirds full they would be filled up with dirt and the dirt stamped in with a rail. Prof. Johnson gave a lecture at the school house on chinch bugs and other pests. There was a large attendance. The farmers turned out freely, glad to learn how to get rid of the chinch bugs, the greatest curse to farmers. After the lecture the farmers, almost to a man, went to work destroying the pest. These farmers who had wheat on the prairie and corn on their bottom lands did nothing in the way of destroying bugs but those who had no corn in the bottom lands did their best, and destroyed millions of bugs. If all the farmers would use the means that Prof. Johnson did, the bugs would be destroyed, and they would not have the second crop to destroy their corn later in the season. It would be a good idea for the farmers of the southern part of the State to petition the legislature to pass a law to compel farmers to kill all the chinch bugs he raises on his farm. As it is now a few farmers will try to kill bugs on their farms, while others will let them go, pray for rain, and trust to Providence.—Farmers' Voice.

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AND

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Send in Your Subscriptions at Once.

HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

Tomatoes, peas, beans and sweet corn are all evaporated.

The Chinese primrose is an excellent plant for winter flowering.

Never let the sun shine on evaporated fruit, or it will be discolored.

There is a large crop of onions this year in New England and New York.

The Columbia Valley in Washington has this year given additional evidence that it is a grand fruit country.

In Norway a law provides that no person shall be permitted to cut down a tree unless he plants three saplings in its place.

The moth miller will attack evaporated fruits unless they are kept in a dry, well ventilated room, with wire netting on doors and windows.

In drying sweet corn for seed remember that it contains much more moisture than common corn. Special care in drying is, therefore, necessary.

The value of foreign timber imported into England annually is not less than \$85,000,000, not to speak of tons of paper manufactured from wood pulp.

The lower pods of Lima beans should be saved for seed. In this way the Lima may be made to ripen earlier each season, says the American Cultivator. It is believed that some of the new varieties which claim to be much earlier than the common Lima were originated in this way. The habit of using the earliest ripening beans and sowing only those left at the end of the season, is a bad one. It makes the crop later, and it will soon get so late that much of it will not ripen in ordinary seasons.

We find this in the last issue of Gardening. Paste it in your scrap book: To destroy cabbage worms, take some fine salt, dry it perfectly dry on the stove or in the oven, then take it out with you into the garden. In the evening when the dew is on the plants take a small pinch of this dry powdered salt and dust it on each head; the dew will dissolve it and a slight rain will carry it among the leaves of the cabbage or cauliflower, and it kills every caterpillar it touches, and doesn't hurt the plants any. Do this about once a week. It is quick, simple and effectual.

PRESERVATION OF CARROTS.

The carrot does not keep well except in cool weather, and even in winter more care is requisite than with either the rutabaga or beet. It is, therefore, well to so adjust the consumption of the crop, that it be used up in season. The narrow trench method of storing beets for winter use, is emphatically the one for this root, above all others; do not trust them in a cellar, even though it be cool, nor in mounds piled two or three feet high, as was, and is still, practiced. The methodical farmer will not be alarmed at the injunction of caution; he knows it is better not to attempt anything which cannot be done well, and, having once commenced a job, the only economic course is to see it effectually finished.

HOW MULCH ACTS.

A New England writer calls attention to the fact that the value of mulch is only partially appreciated, and there is a wide field for development in using mulches of all kinds. We obtain our ideas of mulches from the prairies and forests, where nature forms her own mulch. The decaying leaves and stems soon form a mass on the surface which prevents the soil from losing much of its moisture. This leaf mold and accumulation of vegetable matter acts as a protecting covering for the soil, and it will be found around the trees in every forest and around the roots of wild grasses on every meadow. In imitating nature, as she works in the field and forest, we adopted the artificial mulch around our fruit trees, and found that it worked to their advantage. A mulch, besides retaining the moisture in the soil, also secures a more uniform temperature and adds considerable plant food to it. The nature of the mulch is an important part of the work. Flat stones may be used around trees, forming a permanent mulch, but their action is merely mechanical. It retains the moisture and temperature of the soil, but it adds nothing to it. Sawdust is but little better, but straw and new mown lawn grass form rich mulches that add plant food to the soil. The exact change which takes place in the soil when a covering is placed over the surface is not generally understood. Some chemical change takes

place, and the soil is enriched for a time. In some of the gardens of France the benefit derived from shading a portion of the soil is understood and carried out successfully. Tiles cover the strawberry beds, with holes made through them here and there for the vines to grow out of. Flower gardens are likewise covered with tiles or cement, leaving no part of the soil exposed except where the plants come through. Expert horticulturists here find this method of great advantage. In a less expensive way parchment paper can be used for covering the garden soil. Brown paper dipped in sulphuric acid should be used for this purpose, and it is then made tough and water proof. In times of drouth this mulch acts splendidly. It retains the water, accelerates the growth of the plants and keeps down the weeds. More experiments with mulches will, in time, make gardening much easier and more profitable. The parchment paper mulch, however, for small places is the simplest, cheapest and most effectual that has yet been experimented with.

PITTING TURNIPS.

The main winter and spring stock of roots are preserved in pits, not mounds, as made in some localities, narrow pits, after this fashion: Select a suitable spot, near the stables if practicable, but surely where the drainage is good, an indispensable prerequisite; dig a trench 16 inches wide, and as many or more inches in depth, the length as convenient as necessary. In this deposit the topped roots, and cover with the earth dug out of the trench, using a little more in addition as winter approaches. If cold may be expected in severity, cover all long with stable manure, or anything which will impede the entry of frost without creating warmth. Thus a writer has found roots of all descriptions—rutabagas, common turnips, carrots, beets, parsnips—to keep well. They are accessible at all times, and may be removed in larger or smaller quantity as needed or desired. Altogether, it is better than mounds, which, being elevated, are exposed to frost and require care in construction. In the pits described the writer referred to annually keeps beets and carrots far into the spring, indeed, he has fed working oxen with beets, to their great delight, up to July 1st.

QUINCE GROWING PROFITABLE.

One who has had much experience, Mr. John Baird, writes regarding quince culture as follows: The quince is in such great demand in large cities that it should stimulate farmers and fruit growers to greater efforts to succeed with the trees they set out. Quinces do best in deep cool soil, though in dryish places they will do fairly well if mulched. To have the roots cool is a great step towards success. If by themselves in rows, they can be planted about 12 feet apart. There need be no fear of over feeding the quince. They like plenty of rich food. Kitchen washings and materials like this they delight to get, and when well fed in this way and rich food is spread about the surface of the ground the borer is not at all troublesome to them. When the quince is suited in this way, and grows as it should do, it begins to bear in three years, and afterwards it never fails a crop, and 75 to 100 quinces can be had from full-grown trees. But few persons prune quinces, yet it is an important thing to do. There must be young wood or there will be no flowers and no fruit, yet how often do we see large bushes with nothing but old, stumpy-looking branches on them. If your trees are like this cut them back one half or so, to get a good stock of young wood.

BRO. SOSSAMAN IN MOORE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.
MANLY, N. C.
We are glad to report the success of the Hon. J. P. Sossaman's speech at Ingram Branch. Good attendance of both ladies and gentlemen. Every one completely captivated by the speaker's witty and truthful remarks. We think Bro. Sossaman is doing a good work for the N. C. F. S. A. He has reorganized several old lodges that had gone down in this county (Moore). He makes everything so plain by his fascinating talk that the most illiterate can comprehend everything in his speeches. We, the people of Moore county, will give Bro. Sossaman a hearty welcome any time in the future.
Yours fraternally,
A. A. McDONALD,
Sec'y Pine Ridge Sub Alliance.