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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian, Hickory, N. C.
Mercury, Raleigh, N. C.
Raidier, Raleigh, N. C.
Our Home, Raleigh, N. C.
The Populist, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C.
The Vestibule, Raleigh, N. C.
The Plow-boy, Raleigh, N. C.
Carolina Watchman, Raleigh, 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 advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

It may be possible to keep sheep very cheaply through the winter, but it is not policy to do so. A flock wintered through the cold weather on straw will show a pretty poor fleece.

Good feed fed to good stock will increase many fold, but in no circumstance can food fed to poor stock bring any profit. Consider it wholly wasted, but thus some men manage all their lives.

A Fargo (N. D.) paper says that notwithstanding excessive heat, frosts, hot winds, smut, drouths, deluges, chinchbugs, Hessian flies and liars, the yield of wheat in that State will average fifteen bushels per acre.

While apples are reported a good crop in a number of States, yet in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan and Wisconsin the official returns for August 1st show only percentages ranging from 28 in Michigan to 49 in Vermont.

There is no doubt, if there was some sort of a farm study in the country schools and even a flower bed agriculture practiced in the school house yards, that there would be a great gain made in the direction of a better love for farm life.

An excellent fertilizer for grape vines is to break bones into pieces and mix them with unbleached wood ashes, keeping the mixture damp with soapuds. Dig around the vines and use the mixture liberally. The bones alone, buried around the vines, are excellent.

Our Southern California friends plume themselves a good deal, says the California Fruit Grower, on the alleged fact that the Walnut Growers' Convention, held in Los Angeles on August 19, was the first convention of that kind held in the United States—possibly in the world.

Whether the raising of horses becomes profitable or not, the horses most serviceable to the farmer are those he raises on the farm, provided he breeds for the kind he prefers. Disposition, constitution, capacity and perfection in any degree can be best secured by breeding for those qualities.

FAILURES AND SUCCESS IN SOUTHERN FARMING.

The great majority of Southern farmers who are laboring in poverty and under the weight of mortgages, are those who have never yet been able to recover fully from the effects of war and negro emancipation. Most of the men who have achieved success, in any undertaking in the South, within the past twenty-five years, are those who readily abandoned old sentiments and old practices, and who went to work in earnestness and with judicial economy directly after the war. There are thousands of men all over the South who have achieved great success in farming, and there is no difficulty whatever in the way of success in farming here to men who will work with judgment and zeal. The South has every condition of soil and climate necessary to agricultural success. She has a rainfall that has always been—except at rare intervals—a reasonable guarantee against drouths of long duration. Furthermore, the seasons usually are so long that if a spring drouth does occur, there is always ample time afterward for the grain crops. Drouths very rarely affect the cotton plant.

Large fortunes are seldom the direct outgrowth of farming in any country; but as an example of successful farming I might give instances coming under my own observation. One of my neighbors made a single acre of ground yield the sum of \$273, about \$200 of which was net profit. His crop was the Ribbon sugar cane converted into syrup. In another instance a single acre planted to corn and rye produced crops worth \$172; the first year the sales were \$82, the second \$90. In addition to these amounts, the land covered with a heavy growth of rye sown in the early fall yielded pasturage for six head of cattle and other live stock, running upon it for three months in the winter—this pasturage itself equaling in dollars and cents the outlay in cultivation. Hence, outside of the expenses of home made fertilizers, estimated at \$40, the average profit was nearly \$45 a year.

A special advantage the South possesses is that, in nearly every part of her broad area, the soil and the climate allow two crops annually in everything except sugar cane, cotton and tobacco—agricultural products which have often brought bankruptcy and ruin to their growers—M. V. Moore, Alabama, in American Agriculturist.

CHEAPER COTTONSEED MEAL.

While the price of cotton is going steadily up, the price of cottonseed is on the decline. The price per ton has dropped from \$9 to \$8 for railroad seed and from \$8 to \$7 for river seed. The outlook for better prices is at present not flattering, according to the idea of those who are in the business. It may seem a trifle strange to the uninitiated that two products, borne by the same stalk, should not be allied in the market so far as price is concerned, but the fact is that there may be a good price for cotton and a poor price for seed at the same time. This is explained by the surrounding conditions. Not alone the status of supply but the status of demand has a large share in fixing both prices. With a poor cotton crop and a big demand for the staple owing to other causes than the decrease in the crop, the big price is legitimate.

The cottonseed market is partially dependent upon the supply of corn and other feedstuffs. For instance, cottonseed oil is used largely in the manufacture of an article of commerce which sells for lard, and which has largely superseded the use of the real article. As a matter of necessity the price of the vegetable lard is dependent to a large degree upon the price of the animal article. The corn crop this year is immense. The hog crop, if there can be such a thing as a "hog crop," is dependent upon the corn crop. Plenty of corn gives plenty of food to fatten hogs, and when hogs can be fattened at small cost, they can be marketed at small cost. This condition of affairs has its influence on lard, and of course the price of seed products used for the manufacture of "lard" falls off. Again, with plenty of corn and other grain to feed cattle, there is not so much need

for cottonseed meal or hulls. These are reasons advanced by the mill men for the low price of seed and the poor outlook for a better one.

Last year, at this time, cottonseed oil was worth in the market 27 1/2 cents per gallon. This year it is worth only 18 cents. This makes a difference of \$4 75 in the value of a 50-gallon barrel of cottonseed oil. Last year at this time the value of cottonseed meal at Memphis was \$17 50 per ton. This year cottonseed hulls are quoted at the same figures which prevailed last year, \$2 per ton. The low price of cottonseed affects the farmer more than one thinks. For each bale of cotton is marketed there is in the neighborhood of 1,200 pounds, or over half a ton of seed for sale. The price of seed is far from satisfactory, and many Southern farmers who are able to do so will hold their seed for a better market.

Memphis is perhaps the largest cottonseed market in the world, and the condition of affairs which prevails here is prevalent elsewhere. The mills, and there are six of them in operation at the present time, are working in harmony and there is little probability that the enormous prices which characterized the war between them a year or more since, when cottonseed sold on the river as high as \$17 per ton, will be seen in Memphis this winter. The difference of \$1 per ton in the value of railroad and river seed is easily explained. Seed can be shipped by rail in bulk. It has to be sacked when it is shipped on the river. Mills must furnish river seed with sacks, and besides the cost of the sacks themselves there is the cost of labor in sacking and un-sacking the product. A fact about cottonseed that is not generally known is that river cottonseed produces much more oil to the ton than does railroad seed. This is because river seed comes from the bottoms and railroad seed from the hills.

We shall print next week or in the following issue thereafter, an elaborate article comparing the feeding and manurial value of cottonseed meal with other by products. At current prices, it is one of the cheapest feeds, and certainly the very cheapest (and one of the best) of fertilizers.—American Agriculturist.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

The average farmers' institute is a splendid school for the farmer. While it is true that some of them are little better than useless, the system of holding institutes has been pretty generally perfected to a marked degree. The institute must be practical, or it is nothing. It is no place for the airing of political doctrines or the advancing of untried theories. Every word spoken ought to mean something of valuable import to the practical farmer. In many sections the talent can be secured at home, or near home, to make the proceedings of great interest. Yet it is advisable to secure men, when possible, from a distance, for the methods of prominent farmers in a community are apt to be pretty well understood by all the most intelligent farmers of that neighborhood. The directors of some of our experiment stations are valuable on the program of an institute. If they are really practical men they have opportunities for demonstrating facts that no farmer can have. Intelligent specialists can impart much information. Still these men coming from a distance, unless they are exceedingly careful and explicit, may mislead, for their experiments and achievements have been under materially different conditions from those existing in the county where is held the institute that they address. The method that may do in Wisconsin might not do at all in Southern Illinois. Farmers who usually attend the institutes understand themselves and their business pretty thoroughly. It requires exceptional ability and a broad experience to teach such men in the science of general farming. Yet they attend the institute to learn something new, and are disappointed unless they do. The boys should be encouraged to attend these meetings. We know of no other place where a boy can learn so much, in the same length of time, as he can at a practical farmers' institute. He will learn things here often more readily than he will at home, even though his father could and in the long run would teach him these very things. Where the dairy receives special attention, the institute is of special attention to the boys.—Farmers' Voice.

Send us what you owe us, or write us you haven't got it. Be business-like.

HORTICULTURE.

HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

Salt and pure manure are what the asparagus beds need in the fall.

Heeled in trees that are covered with straw will likely be injured by mice.

Never order plants and seeds recklessly. Study the character of varieties and your conditions.

It is best, having settled upon the varieties you want, to place your order with the nurseryman and plant grower early.

The Ben Davis apple originally came from North Carolina, and gets its name from a man of that name who took it to Kentucky.

If your choice plants were killed by the frost, whose fault was it? Frosts come pretty regularly about such a time and there is no reason why we should be caught napping.—Farmers' Voice.

NEVER ENOUGH REALLY FINE FRUIT.

Editor Farmers' Voice:—The fruit interest of the country has assumed enormous proportions. The total product must be something stupendous. What is still more remarkable the demand has kept pace with the supply. And it is right that it should. Good, wholesome fruit has a beneficial effect not only on the health, but also on the morals of a community. Much of the thirst for drink and tendency to vice is but the morbid craving of ill nourished or wrongly nourished bodies suffering from ailments which plenty of fruit could cure. It is surely to the interest of the fruit grower to see that this demand is not only supplied, but also fostered, encouraged and increased. But the consumers of fruit are far more discriminating now than formerly, and are yearly becoming more choice as to the quality they buy. The result is that as the quantity of fruit increases the poor and inferior offerings become more and more a drug on the market. Only good size, well matured and neatly handled fruit of any kind can be counted on to yield a profit. I began shipping peaches as far back as 1875. For the past 11 years I have shipped yearly large quantities of small fruit, mostly strawberries. Like most growers of long experience, I have sold some good fruit and some bad, and on markets begging for berries at 50 cents a quart; on markets that did not want them at three; and on markets in all conditions between these extremes. I have sold some poor berries that paid, but vastly more that did not pay. But I have never yet shipped a crate of large, attractive, well-handled berries which did not yield me a profit, unless delay of express trains put them on the market very late in the day. Something that does not occur with me one day in a season on an average. Good berries nor good fruits of any kind do not come of their own accord. It is the result of high manuring and high cultivation, controlled always, of course, by good judgment. The result of this is a threefold gain—earlier fruit, finer fruit, and more of it. Either of these is a very material advantage, and either would pay alone. The question of manuring is a vital one with fruit growers. It is an indisputable fact that most of this manuring is unwisely done and much of it in a manner to do more harm than good. Stable manure has been too much depended on as all sufficient. It is undoubtedly of great value as a component part of the fertilizer used, although there is a great drawback to its use on small fruit—its never failing effect to produce weeds without end. But stable manure is too rich in ammonia and comparatively too poor in potash to be anything near a perfect food for fruit. Close and long continued observation in growing peaches, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and dewberries has fully convinced me that manures rich in potash, freely and intelligently used, will not only make large and splendid crops of these fruits, but that it will also cure or remove many of the diseases from which these crops suffer. For after all, half of the disease in the world is but the result of improper or insufficient nourishment in plants, as well as in animal. A yearly application of 600 pounds of kainit and 400 pounds muriate of potash per acre, one or both, accompanied by 600 pounds dissolved bone or acid phosphate will pay on any land I ever saw in fruit. I have tried them, and know whereof I speak. Unless the land is rich in ammonia, 200 to 400 pounds nitrate of

soda or 400 to 600 pounds cottonseed meal will also be necessary. When these fertilizers are freely used, thorough cultivation given, poor fruit will disappear from our markets and fruit growers will be, as they of a right ought to be, our most prosperous people. O. W. BLACKNALL.

Kittrell, N. C.

MAN, WOMAN VS. DOGS.

In one county in a neighboring State a man was fined \$12 for abusing his dog and in another a man was fined \$3 for whipping his wife. The case has been commented upon by the press as showing the inequality of justice. It is by no means out of the usual. A very ordinary mule gets more consideration than a man does, says the Farmers' Voice.

In times of war the government dickers with the owner of a mule for half a day before it gets the animal, but it will drive the man into the army at the point of the bayonet. Man is the cheapest commodity about. A million of silent, unthinking dollars have more influence than a million thinking, immortal men. If a great corporation loses a dollar on the floor, it will lock the door of the counting room and turn the whole office force into the work of hunting for it. If one of its men droops exhausted and dies, it simply hires another and things go on the same. Millions of lives have been sacrificed on the battlefields of the world, and no power in the universe could restore to those who lost them the most precious thing that they ever possessed. But the men who put dollars or animals into world's conflicts, were guaranteed against loss. It is a little rough when a brute can "enjoy the pleasure" of thrashing his wife for the trifling sum of \$2. It looks as if thing were sadly out of joint when such a "privilege" costs so little while it costs \$12 to abuse a dog. Both fines were too low; but considering the mighty little value that seems to be placed upon the life of muscles of the human being, there is nothing in it to cause special comment. We hear a good deal about the universal brotherhood of man—and there is a deal in it—but it is not nearly so strong as the universal brotherhood of dollars, or of what represents dollars. Steal a horse and the thief will go to the penitentiary; steal a man's living and it is considered enterprise. It is all on the same principle as fining one man \$12 for abusing a dog and another \$2 for whipping a woman.

WHY THEY ARE AGAINST SILVER.

At a recent foreign Monetary Conference a delegate said:

"Gentlemen, we must demonetize silver, for in no other possible way can we keep down the price of land and labor and farm products. It is of the highest importance that we should demonetize it. We want low prices. There is nothing in the world so hurtful to the banker as a rising scale of prices. When this is the case trade expands; everything doubles in value, and it takes a tremendous amount of capital to corner a market and make a living profit. By demonetizing silver we at one blow can cut down one-half of the capital of the world; this renders our work as bankers comparatively easy. We will have in our crusade against silver all of the college professors, and all government officers, for the purchasing power of their salaries will be greatly increased—in fact, this purchasing power will be doubled by the demonetization of silver. If we will only unite we can accomplish it, and once done it will never be undone. We can buy the public press and teach the "common people" that it is for their good and they will get so poor that they will never find out any better—in fact, we will give them such a hard time to make a living that they will have no time for socialism and political complications. The very fact that gold from its nature can never circulate as the money of the "common people" is greatly in our favor. The use of notes will be compulsory, and every banker knows the profit of issuing notes.

"Let us stand together, gentlemen; all of the Semetic race of the world are a unit in favor of gold monometalism. This is a great consideration. I cannot take my seat, gentlemen, without pointing out to you one alarming consideration. If we do not demonetize our dignity as public functionaries will be greatly decreased and lessened because the purchasing power of our salaries will be diminished. Gentlemen, I beg that you will rise equal to the occasion."

CLOSED PERMANENTLY.

A Washington dispatch brings the information that Secretary Carlisle has ordered the mints to close permanently so far as silver is concerned on the first of November. They have been practically closed for two years, but that is a formal official notice that the country may not expect more in the way of money, except gold, until the people put honest men in office. The dispatch says:

"The appropriation for loss on the recoinage of worn and uncurrent silver coin for the current fiscal year is exhausted. No further transfer of such coin can be made from the treasury to the mints for recoinage, and as it is the intention of the Secretary of the Treasury not to resume, for the present at least, the coinage of silver bullion purchased under the "Sherman act," and as the stock of gold bullion on hand at the mint in New Orleans is very limited the Secretary has decided to discontinue all coinage operations at that mint for the present. Instructions have been given for the furlough, without pay, of nearly all the employees at the New Orleans mint. About seventy employees will be furloughed until such time as coinage operations can be resumed.

The Treasury now holds of silver bullion purchased under the Sherman act 137,644,000 fine ounces, the cost of which was \$124,080,323. The coming value of this bullion in silver dollars is \$177,964,000. If this bullion were coined into silver dollars, the profit to the Government on its coinage would be nearly \$54,000,000, which sum could be paid out for the ordinary expenses of the Government, or silver certificates would be issued against it. It is not thought that the coinage of silver dollars will be resumed at the mints until there is some action by Congress on the currency question. The mints at Philadelphia and San Francisco will continue to be employed in the coinage of gold.

THE COMMERCE OF CANADA.

The Secretary of Agriculture will issue in a few days Bulletin No. 4 of the "World's Markets" series. The present one treats of Canada, which has become a great competitor of the United States in foreign market.

This bulletin shows that the total exports of our Canadian neighbor increased from \$89,000,000 in 1888 to \$118,000,000 in 1894, or 33 per cent; the imports from \$109,000,000 to \$123,000,000 to \$241,000,000, or 21 per cent, during the same period. The largest proportional annual increase was in 1892, when the value of the total trade exceeded that of the preceding year about 11 per cent. During the years 1888 to 1891, inclusive, the trade of Canada with the United States exceeded that with any other country; since the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has taken first rank, with the United States second.

An important fact is that a large share of the agricultural products going abroad from Canadian seaports are cereals and flour in transit from the United States. Of \$27,000,000 worth of such products shipped last year \$9,000,000 was American merchandise.

Of late years increased attention has been given by the Government of Canada to dairy interests, encouraging the dairy associations throughout the country and passing strict sanitary laws regulating the manufacture of cheese and butter. No adulterations can be used, and the importation, manufacture, and sale of oleomargarine and other similar substances are prohibited.

Though the quantity of butter exported decreased from 10,500,000 pounds in 1868 to 5,500,000 in 1894, nearly per cent., the value declined from \$1,700,000 to \$1,100,000, or only about 30 per cent. This indicates improvement in the quality of butter exported.

The export of cheese has increased notably. While in 1868 it was 6,141,570 pounds, valued at \$620,543, in 1894 it rose to the large figure of 154,977,480 pounds, valued at \$15,488,191.

Mention is made of the fishing industry and forest products. The value of the former in 1894 was over \$30,000,000 and of the latter for 1894 over \$80,000,000.

Of wood pulp, in 1894, the United States alone imported from the Dominion \$369,010 worth.

The bulletin contains reports from thirty of our consuls.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is still going at \$1.00 a year. Some of our subscribers seem to think we are giving it away.