

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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.
Cassell, N. C.
Hickory, N. C.
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Beaver Dam, N. C.
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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 this promptly, our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

There is money in cows—if the cows are the right kind. Test your milk and know each cow's worth.

People from the cold, bleak and barren Northwest for the past two years have been coming South in search of a warmer climate, richer soil, more equable seasons and better conditions. This movement, which began soon after the great drought in Nebraska, Kansas, the Dakotas and other States, which brought suffering and ruin to thousands, has swollen gradually from a small stream into a most formidable tide.

Where horses and cows are kept in the same stable there should be space for a free circulation of air between them. From even the cleanest horse stable there is a strong odor of ammonia, which will affect the milk if the cows are compelled to breathe it continually, and it will also contaminate the flavor of the milk after the tank is drawn. We cannot be too careful of the surroundings if we would make good butter.

Salt is an essential constituent of the blood, and because many of the common foods of cattle are lacking in it, it must be artificially supplied. The amount varies in different foods, and in those grown from different soils, and we, therefore, have a guide as to the exact quantity an animal needs, but it must be left to them. The correct way is to give them constantly the opportunity of satisfying the natural needs of the system.

Never let your passions get the better of your judgment. The following story will explain the propriety of this advice: A German farmer took a load of potatoes to the city to sell them. The potatoes weighed seven cents a bushel. The farmer had mad. So he drove down to the river front, backed his wagon into the water, pulled out the backboard and dumped the whole load into the stream. Now, while this relieved the farmer of his wrath, likewise his team of their load, and made it unnecessary to haul the potatoes back many miles to his farm, but the act of depositing vegetable matter in the river was a violation of a city ordinance. The farmer was arrested and fined \$15 and costs, and went home a wiser man.

LEGISLATION TO REGULATE FREIGHT RATES ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer, Washington, D. C., March 10.

A bill has been introduced in Congress by Representative Curtis, of Kansas, providing against unjust discrimination in freight rates on agricultural products by common carriers. The bill amends an "Act to regulate commerce," which was approved March 2, 1889, and which was in itself an amendment to an act under the same title approved Feb. 1, 1887.

The bill now before the House provides that whenever any common carrier shall violate or refuse, or neglect to obey or perform any lawful order of requirement of the Commission created by this Act in regard to rates and charges on agricultural products and other freights, not founded upon a controversy requiring a trial by jury, as provided by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States, it shall be lawful for the Commission, or for any company or person interested in such order or requirement, to apply in a summary way by petition to the Circuit Court of the United States sitting in equity in the Judicial district in which the common carrier complained of has its principal office, or where two or more carriers are jointly complained of than in the Judicial district in which any of such carriers has its principal office, or in which the violation or disobedience of such order or requirement shall happen, alleging such violation or disobedience, as the case may be; and the court shall have power to hear and determine the matter on such short notice to each common carrier complained of as the court shall deem reasonable; and such notice may be served on a common carrier, his or its officers, agents, or servants in such manner as the court shall direct; and the court proceed to hear and determine the matter as speedily as possible, giving it priority over the other business of the court, and without the formal pleadings and proceedings applicable to ordinary suits in equity, but in such manner as to do justice in the premises.

With such petition shall be filed all the pleadings, papers, exhibits and testimony (or copies thereof certified by the Secretary of the Commission) filed with or adduced before the Commission in the course of the investigation resulting in the order or requirement to enforce which the petition is filed. Such pleadings, exhibits, and testimony (or copies thereof so certified) shall be receivable in evidence, and shall constitute the record in the case on which the court shall proceed to adjudicate all matters in controversy therein, unless the court shall think it needful that additional evidence be taken or further inquiries be prosecuted to enable it to form a just judgment, in which case the court shall commit the matter to the Commission to prosecute such inquiries and to take such evidence, with and suggestion concerning the same which the court may deem suitable.

The Commission shall therefore proceed to prosecute such further inquiries and take such additional evidence, and report the same to the court as a part of the record in the case, and the Commission may, at the same time, in its discretion, rehear and reconsider any or all questions involved in or connected with its order or requirement to enforce which the petition was filed (such rehearing to be had upon all additional evidence, in connection with the whole record filed with the petition as above provided), and may thereupon make and file in the case, with the report and return of evidence taken an amended or supplemental order, which shall then be substituted for the original order or requirement of the Commission, and the case shall thereupon proceed for the enforcement of such amended or supplemental order only.

If, in any proceeding to enforce the order or requirement of the Commission under any section of this Act, including any amended or supplemental order or requirement, the court shall, upon the hearing, be of the opinion that no material error plainly prejudicial to the carrier appears in the proceedings, decision, order, or requirement of the Commission, it shall so decide, and shall thereupon enter such judgment, decree or order, or issue such writ of injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, as shall be suitable or necessary to compel compliance with such decision, order, or requirement in such manner and with in such time as may appear reasonable; and if upon such hearing the court

shall be of opinion that material error does appear plainly prejudicial to the carrier in the proceedings, decision, order or requirement of the Commission it shall so decide, and shall thereupon enter such final judgment, decree, or order as may be proper, but without prejudice to a subsequent application for the enforcement of any order made by the Commission upon a rehearing pursuant to section sixteen of this Act; and in case of any disobedience of any such writ of injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, it shall be lawful for such court to issue writs of attachments, or any other process of said court incident or applicable to writs of injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, against such common carrier, and, if a corporation, against one or more of the directors, officers, or agents of the same, or against any owner, lessee, trustee, receiver, or other person failing to obey such writ of injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise; and the court may, if it shall see fit, make an order directing a common carrier or other person so disobeying such writ of injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, to pay such sum of money, not exceeding for each carrier or person in default the sum of five hundred dollars for every day, after a day to be named in the order, that such carrier or other person shall fail to obey such injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise; and such moneys shall be payable as the court shall direct, either to the party complaining or into court, to abide the ultimate decision of the court, and payment thereof may, without prejudice to any other mode of recovering the same, be enforced by attachment or order in the nature of a writ of execution, in like manner as if same had been recovered by a final decree in personam in such court. And the court may in every such matter order the payment of such costs and court fees as shall be deemed reasonable. From the order or decree of such court upon the hearing an appeal shall be allowed to any of the parties to the Supreme Court of the United States, and shall be advanced for hearing therein as appeals in which the United States are a party; but such appeal shall not operate to stay or supersede the order of the court or the execution of any writ or process thereon.

"If the matters involved in any such decision, order, or requirement of the Commission are found upon a controversy requiring a trial by jury, as provided by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and any such common carrier shall violate or refuse or neglect to obey or perform the same, after notice is given by the Commission, it shall be lawful for any company or person interested in such decision, order, or requirement to apply in a summary way by petition to the Circuit Court of the United States sitting as a court of law in the judicial district in which the carrier complained of has its principal office, or in which the violation or disobedience of such decision, order, or requirement shall happen, alleging such violation or disobedience as the case may be; and the court shall by its order then fix a time and place for the trial of the cause, which shall not be less than twenty nor more than forty days from the time the order is made, and it shall be the duty of the Marshal of the district in which the proceeding is pending to forthwith serve a copy of the petition and of the order upon each of the defendants, and it shall be the duty of the defendants to file their answers to the petition within ten days after the service of the same upon them. At the trial the finding of facts of the Commission as set forth in this report, shall be prima facie evidence of the matters therein stated, and if either party shall demand a jury or shall omit to waive a jury the court shall, by its order, direct the Marshal forthwith to summon a jury to try the cause; but if all the parties shall waive a jury in writing then the court shall try the issues in the cause and render its judgments thereon. If the subject in dispute shall be of the value of two thousand dollars or more either party may appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States under the same regulations now provided by law in respect to security for such appeal; but such appeal may be taken within twenty days from the day of the rendition of the judgment of the Circuit Court. If the judgment of the Circuit Court shall be in favor of the party complaining he or they shall be entitled to recover a reasonable counsel or attorney's fee,

to be fixed by the court, which shall be collected as part of the costs in the case. For the purposes of this Act, excepting its penal provisions, the Circuit Courts of the United States shall be deemed to be always in session.

"It shall be the duty of the District Attorney of the United States for the Judicial district in which any proceedings in court may be had pursuant to the provisions of this Act to represent the Commission, under the direction of the Attorney General of the United States, for the purpose of having any recommendation, decision, or order of the Commission, enforced in such proceedings; and the costs and expenses incurred in this behalf shall be paid out of the appropriation for the expenses of the courts of the United States. The Commission, with the consent and approval of the Attorney General, may also employ other counsel in the proceedings to enforce its decisions, orders, or requirements, or in any investigation or proceeding instituted under this Act, whose services shall be paid for out of the appropriation for the expenses of the Commission.

"Sec. 2. That a new section be added to said Act immediately after section sixteen, to be numbered as section sixteen, as follows:

"Sec. 16a. That after a decision, order, or requirement has been made by the Commission in a proceeding, any party thereto may at any time make application for a rehearing of the same, or any matter determined therein, and it shall be lawful for the Commission, in its discretion, to grant such rehearing if sufficient reason therefor be made to appear. Applications for rehearing shall be governed by such general rules as the Commission may establish. No such application shall excuse any carrier from complying with or obeying any decision, order, or requirement of the Commission, or operate in any manner to stay or postpone the enforcement thereof, without the special order of the Commission. In case a rehearing is granted the proceedings thereupon shall conform as nearly as may be to the proceedings in an original hearing, except as the Commission may otherwise direct, and if in their judgment, after such rehearing and the consideration of all facts, including those arising since the former hearing, it shall appear that the original decision, order, or requirement is in any respect unjust or unwarranted, the Commission may reverse, change, or modify the same accordingly. Any decision, order, or requirement made after such rehearing, reversing, changing, or modifying the original determination may be enforced by the Commission or any person interested in the same manner and with the same effect in all things as though made in an original proceeding. Any order made by the Commission suspending in any respect its original determination pending a rehearing and any decision, order, or requirement made after such rehearing, reversing, changing, or modifying its original determination, shall operate to suspend, reverse, change, or modify accordingly any judgment, decree, order, or proceeding of the Circuit Court enforcing the original determination, but shall have no other effect thereon.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

HOME-MADE FERTILIZERS.

(Home and Farm.)

There is no better fertilizer than stable manure. It contains all the essential ingredients of a perfect fertilizer, viz: Nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash.

Home made fertilizers cost no money, but more or less labor and care. Most farmers can find time to bestow the labor and care, but do not always have money to spare to buy commercial fertilizers.

One of the chief troubles is that most farmers do not have enough manure to supply the demands of their farms for fertilizers. Study how to increase this amount.

One of the objects of this paper is to lend aid in this matter.

This thought may help. No particle of matter has ever been destroyed. There is the same amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash upon the earth that there has always been. Yet every crop that is taken from the farm takes away its fertility. Every head of stock that is sold from the farm bears away in his flesh, blood and bones its plant foods. These soils grow poorer. Hence Palestine no longer flows with milk and honey," but is almost a rocky

waste. Shall this be the condition of our fertile lands in a few centuries? Much indifferent, careless, not to say ignorant and wasteful, farming is rapidly traveling in that direction. But much intelligent, enterprising farming is turning about and traveling—slowly, it is true—the other end of the road.

If the crop is raised on the farm, and all the manure saved and returned to the farm there is no loss of fertility. But how much manure is allowed to go to waste on most farms?

Yet, if it is the farm that must clothe and feed the farmer's wife and children, what right has he thus to throw away its fertility? Not only ought he to save the manure which originates upon his farm, but, by every legitimate means bring to it that which originates elsewhere.

About cities and towns and manufacturing places there is constantly thrown away tons of refuse—abounding in the essential ingredients which would greatly enrich the farms of the surrounding country.

Now some suggestions about how to save manure on farms.

Hogs, for instance, must be fattened in the fall. They consume a great deal of corn. This corn contains plant foods taken from the soil; especially potash in the cob. It has impoverished your land. One half of the farmers in my neighborhood fatten their hogs on the side of a stream. The slanting banks of this stream drain all the manure from hogs and cobs into the stream, and it is washed away, and forever lost. They will leave poorer farms to their children than they inherited from their fathers.

Stock feed but little at night, but, perhaps, drop more manure than in the daytime. If this manure is dropped where it will be wasted, there is less stable, if you can; if not, gather this stock into a small enclosure—not too muddy—and throw this manure into rain pens. Throw into these pens all wood ashes, waste, salt, lime, old bones, dead fowls, and all available vegetable matter of every kind, corn stalks, tobacco stalks, wheat or other straw, leaves, green weeds, and even sod. This litter will absorb and hold the essential ingredients.

Let no animal or vegetable manure go to waste, but gather into heaps, and when sufficiently rotted, spread on the poor points.

Another source of fertilizer is the air. This source is at hand, and is inexhaustible. Nitrogen is the most important and the costliest of the three essential ingredients, but the air can supply it in unlimited quantity. Hence the farmer, guided by the scientist, puts the very air under tribute, through the medium of the leguminous plants. The plants mostly used for this purpose are the clovers and peas. These are supposed to gather nitrogen from the air. Give your tired field a year's rest under a heavy stand of clover and peas.

Damp soil is supposed to absorb ammonia (nitrogen) from the air. Hence he who pulverizes thoroughly and this process, and he who often turns the damp, pulverized soil up to the air, fertilizes as he cultivates his crop.

In my next I will try to give some practical illustrations of what I have stated in this and preceding articles.

J. W. HARRIS.

Kierston, Bourbon Co., Ky.

CARRIAGE HORSES WANTED.

The plaint of the dealers in Twenty fourth street, New York, is something that would move a stone to tears. They have a demand for something that they have at last realized it is impossible to find—High class carriage horses with beauty, action and pace. "It is not a question of money," said one of the best known dealers yesterday as he sorrowfully spoke of the opportunity that could not be seized. "The people who want these horses are all rich. Money does not count with them. What they want is the stock, and the worst of the business is that I can't get it. I wish the Hackney had been brought to this country 100 years ago and that a stallion had been stood in every town and village of the United States. The trouble is that, as a rule, the farmers are too idiotic enough to believe they can breed trotters that are 'world-beaters,' and do not see the diamonds to be had for the picking up. I ran back from a month's trip through the East, but did not get a single horse. The farmers I have persuaded to begin breeding again want to try the same old story all over—speed, speed, speed. They can't do it and I tell them so. I am thankful for one thing: Some few of them have begun to breed for beauty and conformation, and I have hopes of making others go in on the same lines." —Breeder's Gazette.

HORTICULTURE.

GRAFTING FRUIT TREES.

An experienced orchardist of the Northwest gives in the Journal of Agriculture his views on the grafting of fruit trees. He says:

Fruit grafting should be done early in the spring, before the leaves begin to start on the trees. If one is merely doing his own grafting, the cions may be selected as one wishes to graft them into the trees, if he has the kind he wishes to use; but if he wishes to make a business of it, the cions should be selected in February. Last year's growth should be chosen and put up in bunches by themselves, and marked so no mistakes will be made.

The grafting knife most commonly used, is one with a straight back and blade; but the best, and one used by an old grafter, has a rounding back and a curve in the center of the blade. The reason that the curved knife is considered the best, is because it cuts the bark ahead of the wood.

There are many receipts for making grafting wax, but all that I have seen use tallow. Boiled linseed oil gives better satisfaction to those who have tried it. Wax made of tallow will melt and run down on a hot day, but will not if made of oil, for it dries so much quicker.

Some, who do grafting to make money, will put as many grafts as in a tree. This should not be done; for when they begin to grow, they will be so thick that many of the new ones will have to be cut off. A small limb will need but one graft, but two will be better on a large one.

When about to set a graft the limb should be sawed off and split one or a half or two inches. The stub is now ready to receive the cion. These should have two buds. The cut, which forms the lower end of the cion, should be ground a little below the lower bud, and cut in the form of a wedge. The wood should be cut so that the edge opposite the bud shall be thinner than the part under it. Wax should be put on between the cions, and cover the slits at each side. Be careful not to let the wax come over the buds. If these directions are fully carried out you will be sure to be successful.

POULTRY YARD.

RAISING INCUBATORS.

While considering incubators and breeders, we would suggest the best and surest way of raising a few for next winter.

It has often been said, and in a joking way, but with much more truth than poetry, that a Cochon hen is the nearest approach to an incubator, in point of reliability and constancy, of anything else living.

We may add, that for keeping right ahead, and laying day in and day out, after once beginning, and until the clutch is laid, and she is ready to set, the Cochon hen or pullet is unexcelled. They rarely miss a day, no matter how cold the weather may be while laying. In fact, we believe from experience that the Cochon is the surest winter of all. Our choice is the Buff Cochon, and if the pullets are gotten out in March or April, they will lay their batch of twenty or thirty eggs in December and January, and go to setting, regardless of the weather. This trait puts them in the front rank as winter setters, and the breeder who has fifteen or twenty Cochon pullets, hatched in the early spring, can count on plenty of sitters in January and February.

The advantage of having having a flock of such fowls is quite manifest, as they will prove quite as reliable as an incubator, and do their own brooding. True, large and healthy fowls are considered by some as objectionable as mothers, but if they have large nests, and roomy coops, they will not injure the eggs or chickens.

Langshans and Light Brahmas are also good winter layers, but not so reliable as the Cochons when setters are wanted. The Brahmas and Langshans often lay and then rest without setting, but when the Cochon gets to the end of a litter of eggs, she takes to the nest and sits for three weeks or more, eggs or no eggs under her.

H. E. GERR.

Nashville, Tenn.

It is a fact that a first cross between Plymouth Rock and Brahma makes a cracking fine market chicken, but so does a pure Plymouth Rock, or a pure Wyandotte. The farmer who has the conveniences—yards, etc.—and the time, can make it pay him well to raise the cross above mentioned if he desires to sell his chicks early, but for the ordinary farmer, who gives his fowls the range of his farm, a single breed is by far the best.