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

Vol. 11.

RALEIGH, N. C., SEPTEMBER 8, 1896.

No. 31

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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North Carolina Reform Press Association.

Officers—J. L. Ramsey, President; Marion Butler, Vice-President; W. S. Barnes, Secretary.

PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C. Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C. Mercury, Hickory, N. C. Whittaker, N. C. Weaver Daily, N. C. Lumberton, N. C. The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C. The Vestibule, Concord, N. C. The Flow-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C. Carolina Watchman, 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 advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The harvest season is the time when the busy man wishes he had hustled more during spring and summer.

The early fall months are the best time to dig wells, as water seldom fails in a well dug when the earth is dry.

How to co-operate to a practical purpose is what farmers most need to learn as a means of general progress.

Some people are always able to console themselves for poor crops by talking of the great yield they will get next year.

The only time that experience is not a high-priced teacher is when one has the sense to profit by some other man's blunders.

The office of fiber investigation of the United States Department of Agriculture is conducting experiments in flax raising in the Puget Sound region. The flax is said to be fine.

Barley is among the most ancient of cultivated plants. The common or four-rowed barley, as also the six-rowed kind, probably originated from the two-rowed, which appears to have been the kind earliest cultivated. It is a native of western Asia.

Remember when you think of spraying that Paris green and London purple are for the destruction of insects that chew, while Bordeaux mixture is a fungicide or a substance which destroys fungus diseases, such as scab, leaf blight, rust, and the like.

On most farms where the hens have a free range, they will do very well in the summer without grain food, the growing grasses and ripening seeds and the insects they pick up, supplying a well-balanced ration. Of course, if they are confined, the case is different.

A man is swindling farmers in the neighborhood of Kittanning, Pa., by means of a double end fountain pen, one end of which he uses in drawing up contracts for harvesting machinery, and the other he presents for the farmers to use in putting their signatures to the documents. The ink of the contract fades and a promissory note is written in over the signature.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Saturday, Aug 29, 1896.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C. This week ending Saturday, August 29, 1896, produced no material change in the crop conditions. The weather continued quite warm the first few days, but following the rain on the 24th, cooler weather set in, and Saturday was the coolest day of August. The rain fall was poorly distributed; more occurred on the 24th than any other date; but over large portions of the State the drought really continues unabated.

EASTERN DISTRICT.—Rains occurred at a good many points on the 24th, and in south portion also on the 25th and 27th, which benefited potatoes, peas, rice and peanuts. The northern portion is dry, and rain is needed at many other points. A cool wave prevailed the latter part of the week. Old corn is fine and will soon be ready to gather. Cotton practically past improvement, is about half open and being picked rapidly. Where rains occurred many turnips were planted. Much flooded ground on Roanoke has been planted in peas for hay. Haying is progressing with favorable weather.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—Good rains occurred at many points on the 24th, but large portions of the district are still suffering from drought. Cooler weather last of week very agreeable. The rain and wind storm did some damage to cotton in portions of Richmond, Rockingham and Anson counties. Where rain occurred late corn revived some what, and potatoes and peas improved, and some farmers were enabled to plant turnip seed. Little or no improvement in cotton, which looks dry and is no longer growing. Picking is progressing in earnest. Fodder is nearly all pulled, earliest ever known. Tobacco cures thin, and what is left of that crop seems very poor. Pea vine hay being cut. Ground too dry for fall plowing.

WESTERN DISTRICT.—The weather continued warm until the latter part of the week; drought still prevails, though some favorable showers occurred on the 24th, benefiting late corn in the west. Cotton picking has progressed uninterrupted; much shrinking in size of bolls as well as shedding occurred, but some late cotton is reported as blooming nicely. Fodder pulling is still going on, and hay-making under way. Considerable tobacco is still to be cured. Sweet potatoes and field peas fairly good; poor stand of turnips. Ground to dry at present to do fall plowing.

PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE.

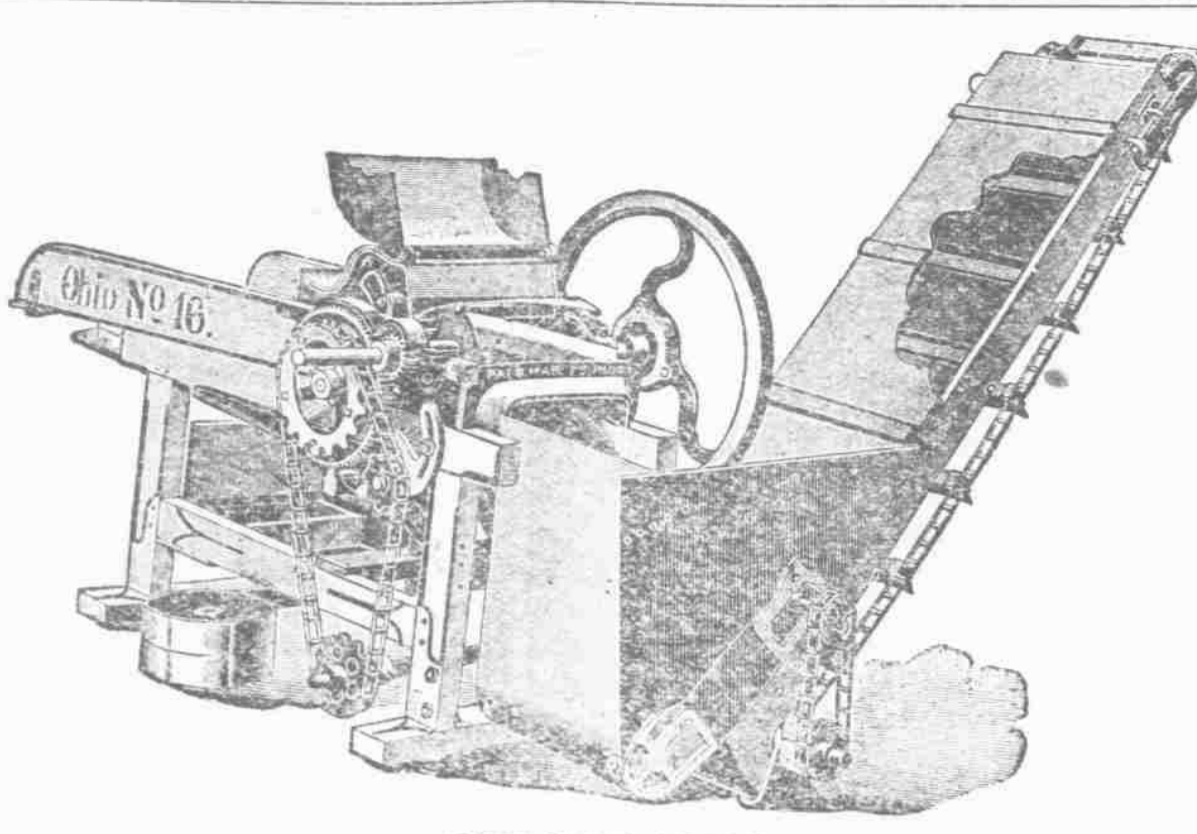
So accustomed have we become to consider the progress of the mechanical arts, the development of electrical science, and the work of the inventor, that we have failed to observe the wonderful advance the farmer has made during the last half century. The following appreciative editorial which recently appeared in the Philadelphia Record suggests something of the results of the intelligent agriculturist's efforts, and will be read with interest and pleasure by every lover of the farm:

While inventors and scientists have done much for agriculture, yet the farm itself has been a source from which has come much that is wonderful. Looking over the work done during the past century, it may safely be asserted that the animals of the farm have been entirely changed in appearance and characteristics. It seems as though man can control even the living creatures and adapt them to his purposes. The horses have been divided and classified to that extent as to render them dissimilar in many respects. The thorough-bred (runner), heavy draught (Percheron and Clydesdale), and the pony are adapted to special purposes. Placed side by side, the most inexperienced can notice the diversity of forms. On the race course the Clydesdale could make no competition with the thorough bred, and for heavy hauling on the roads the trotter cannot compare with the Percheron. Yet nearly all these breeds trace in their pedigrees back to the Arabian, but careful selection has carried them into different channels, altering their forms and endowing them with certain desirable traits.

Among cattle are found the Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey, which have been bred as producers of butter, the former also standing high as milkers, along with the Ayrshires, with the Short-horns, the Angus, Galloways and Here-

ford as beef breeds. Even the horns have been bred away from the Angus and Galloway. The Merino sheep is from the bottom, on which to place the breed to excel in prolificacy and the Cotswold, Lincoln and Leicester yield large fleeces of combing wool, the mutton breeds being set off as "downs," including the Southdown, Hampshire, Oxford and Shropshire. The Berkshire, among swine, with its white spot on the forehead and four white feet (badges of purity) excels for its hams with its black and spotted rivals—Essex and Poland China—possessing merits for their side meats, the white breeds—Chesters, Cheshires, Suffolks and Yorkshires—also being favorites in the sections where they are best adapted. The farmer has also produced mammoth geese and turkeys and classified poultry into ornamental, sitters, non-sitters, prolific layers and table fowls. There are other breeds of animals that could be named, but the above number is sufficient, and demonstrates that what has been accomplished is not the result of mere chance, but of deliberate purpose to secure special objects sought.

It would require much space to enumerate what has been done in fruits and plants. The tomato has been one of the grandest acquisitions of the century, and the strawberry now nearly rivals the plum and peach in size. New varieties of all kinds of fruits is grown for some special merit. The Bartlett pear and Concord grape should not be overlooked in mention, and the garden vegetables are now almost entirely changed from those of even thirty years ago. The Lima bean is being taken away from poles (as was done for



THE SILAGE AGAIN

So much has appeared from time to time in these columns concerning the many advantages of the adoption of the silage system to our modern agriculture, that we have come to the conclusion that either the special purpose or the general purpose farmer who does not possess a silo is not living up to his full privilege. We have published the reports of the various State experimental stations, together with the actual practice and experience of many of our readers, and in nearly every case the preponderance of testimony has been in favor of the silo and the silage system as a measure of economy and profit. It therefore occasions surprise in looking the country over that there should be found so few silos upon the farms. Certainly the advantages, taking into account the meagre cost, are sufficient to bring about their use everywhere. If any of our readers have thought of building a silo this season let us assure you that in the light of the experience of others, the decision is a wise one, and may be expected to add very materially to their profit, be they general farmers, stock breeders, sheep or swine breeders or dairy men. If you hasten with your operations, it will not be too late to build after reading this article, and if you have kept the files of this paper you will have all the necessary instruction for the correct method of procedure. In many localities, the hay crop was a light if not positively short one, and the proper preservation of the corn crop will afford the greatest, and in many instances, the only measure of relief. This can undoubtedly be done to best advantage by calling into requisition the silo, and the silage system has so much to recommend it that we feel assured that the man who once adopts it will not willingly turn from it.

We cannot, probably, do better at this time than to enumerate some of the advantages accruing from this system as they occur to us from what has already appeared in these columns and from observation and experience. The silo will enable a farmer or dairy man to preserve a greater quantity of the food materials of the original fodder, be it either corn, clover, sorghum, rye, oats, or other grasses—all of which may be ensiled with complete success—for the feeding of animals, than is possible by any other system of preservation now known. When the entire corn crop is in the silo, there can be no possible bleaching or consequent loss of nutrition by the rains of fall or the snows of winter. It will take very much less room to store the ensilage from a given area than the hay from the same area. Hay, as it is ordinarily placed in the mow, will occupy slightly three times as much room as the same quantity of food material when stored in the silo. Then think of all the extra labor required to store this extra bulk, of the labor required to feed it, and the immense expenditure of vital forces required of the animal economy to extract the same amount of nutrition from it. Then, too, an acre of corn can be placed in the silo at a less cost than is required to store the same as dry fodder.

Silage will not burn, is not combustible, and in addition to cheaper insurance for this reason, in the event of fire, which might destroy all your buildings, the ensilage would remain intact, and your winter supply of food would be saved. Too much credit cannot be given to the succulence of ensilage, which means its greenness and freshness, which makes it highly digestible and greatly appreciated by stock in the dead of winter. The silo affords an even supply of nutritious food during the whole winter. A positive advantage to dairy cows, which are quite susceptible to change in the food rations.

While every kind of farming that has to do with the maintenance of live stock may be greatly benefited by the use of the silo, the profits to be derived from its use are perhaps greater when employed in dairy farming. The experience of many dairymen the country over places the gain in milk and butter from the use of silage during the winter months at 25 to 30 per cent over the feeding of dry feed. When one stops to consider that the price of butter in winter is frequently double what it is in the summer, a still further advantage may be attributed to the use of the silage. It is a generally accepted fact that 50 per cent more stock can be kept upon a given area of land by the aid of the silo. At this juncture, it may be well to call attention to a good machine for the preparation of the ensilage. One of the very best on the market to day is the Ohio No. 16 illustrated above, which is manufactured by our advertising patrons, the Silver Manufacturing Co., of Salem, O. Space forbids an enumeration of its many good qualities, but just let us sum it all up by saying that it is a perfect machine for the use for which it is intended. This machine has been greatly improved this season, an entire new arrangement being attached at the bottom of the carrier which greatly facilitates the delivery of the silage from the machine.

As beef breeds Even the horns have been bred away from the Angus and Galloway. The Merino sheep is from the bottom, on which to place the breed to excel in prolificacy and the Cotswold, Lincoln and Leicester yield large fleeces of combing wool, the mutton breeds being set off as "downs," including the Southdown, Hampshire, Oxford and Shropshire. The Berkshire, among swine, with its white spot on the forehead and four white feet (badges of purity) excels for its hams with its black and spotted rivals—Essex and Poland China—possessing merits for their side meats, the white breeds—Chesters, Cheshires, Suffolks and Yorkshires—also being favorites in the sections where they are best adapted. The farmer has also produced mammoth geese and turkeys and classified poultry into ornamental, sitters, non-sitters, prolific layers and table fowls. There are other breeds of animals that could be named, but the above number is sufficient, and demonstrates that what has been accomplished is not the result of mere chance, but of deliberate purpose to secure special objects sought.

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Every time the cultivator stirs the surface soil it introduces more air into it and hastens the decomposition of the manure. There is therefore sound reason for the common practice of applying manures liberally to the crops that require the greatest amount of cultivation. There is another way also in which the manure helps and that is by increasing weeds so as to make frequent cultivation necessary. If the soil could

HORTICULTURE REASONS FOR SPRAYING.

In bulletin No. 4 of the West Virginia Experiment Station, which is devoted to spraying, the reasons why spraying should be done are epitomized as follows: It is claimed that fruits formerly needed none of the doctoring that seems to be necessary now a days, yet no one contends that wormy apples are of recent origin; apple scab, too, has been marring these fruits for many years. While these enemies have existed for years, remedies for them are comparatively recent. As long as there were no means of preventing their ravages, the fruit grower was compelled to divide his profits with them, but now that cheap and efficient remedies are at our command, why should we longer have the profits reduced? Spray them and increase the income from the fruit plantation.

Besides the increase in the quantity of a crop as a result of the use of the spray, the quality of the product is also enhanced. Even if the quantity was not materially increased, more of it will go in as number one, and consequently a greater return will be realized. A third and important consideration to be kept in mind when spraying, is the degree to which future deprecations are being reduced. Each insect killed might, if left alive, produce many hundred descendants in the course of the season. The rate of increase of some of these destructive insects is almost beyond comprehension. By preventing the growth and development of this myriad of hungry insects the plant is relieved of a heavy draught upon its vital powers. The energy which would have been used up in maintaining itself against these enemies can be used to extend its own organism and to prepare itself more perfectly to carry a profitable crop of fruit.

FARMS AND FARMERS

Milk stations are found at various places in the cities of Chili. A cow is tethered on a platform, and when a person wants a drink of milk the cow is milked to order. The cost is a trifle, and brandy is at hand if he prefers a milk punch.

A Des Moines county farmer, who shot several quail and had his wife cook them, says their craws were stuffed with chinch bugs, over 400 in the craw of one quail. He put up and his gun and don't shoot any more of the bug and worm destroyers.

A farmer from Pennsylvania tells how easily he put his potatoes to good use last winter. He was in Buffalo in the fall and caught the sheep market when it was down, and bought 400 good Canada sheep at 65 cents a head. He had 900 bushels of potatoes, which he fed to the sheep, and they came out in fine shape in the spring. He sent 211 to Pittsburgh and they netted him \$4.26 per head, clear of all expense of freight, commission, etc.

Last week The Farmers' Voice published a description of the smallest horse in the world—Ruth, which weighs thirty five pounds. Now a New York exchange says that the smallest living equine in the world was born in Canada last week. The colt weighed only eight and one-half pounds. The little animal stands only eleven inches high and measured eighteen inches from tip of nose to the end of its tail. The mother of the colt is an Iceland pony and belongs to Walter L. Main's circus.

Every year as the threshing or ginning season begins we hear of engines exploding or of other accidents, showing lack of care on the part of the engineer. Too much care cannot be taken to secure men who are thoroughly competent, men who will understand when the engine becomes too old to be longer safe, which more often than anything else is the cause of explosions. Many steam engines rust out rather than wear out, but are even more dangerous on that account.

NORTHERN POTATOES FOR SEED.

There is a general and justifiable belief among potato growers that potatoes grown far to the North are the best for seed. They have usually a short season to grow and ripen in, and when cold weather comes, it has so little intermission that there is no chance for the potatoes to sprout and waste their vitality before being planted. To realize these conditions as best he may with potatoes grown on his own farm should be the aim of the potato grower who does not wish every year to buy Northern-grown seed potatoes. By planting very late his potatoes may die in fall without having been dried out in the ground after the vines have been killed by frost. If these potatoes are then buried in pits, in contact with the soil, there will be little evaporation from them until they are uncovered. If the potatoes are first covered with straw, this keeps an air space next to the potatoes, and they are proportionably dried out. That the straw covering is important to keep out frost is very true, but the straw should be applied after a slight covering of earth, and then more soil should be piled over the straw, with perhaps one or more alternate layers of soil and straw if the winter is a very severe one. Potatoes thus pitted will make nearly or quite as good seed as that procured from the North.

Small beginnings make better endings in the poultry business.

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