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THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 11.

RALEIGH, N. C., OCTOBER 6, 1896.

No. 35

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C. Raleigh, N. C. Hickory, N. C. Whitakers, N. C. Beaver Dam, N. C. Lumberton, N. C. Charlotte, N. C. Concord, N. C. Wadesboro, N. C. 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 do so will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The education of the farmer and his family is the great necessity of our day. No man can succeed as a farmer unless he is in love with the work he has to do. Too much money invested in large tracts of land means an unequal contest with undrained fields and impoverished soils. In getting your wheat ground ready for sowing don't stop the work of preparation too soon. Much depends upon thorough cultivation. There is an old Scotch saying that "time enriches the father and impoverishes the son." That is because lime draws on the reserve fertility of the soil. The father who would look out for his sons must apply plenty of vegetable matter besides the lime. The apple business seems to be demoralized by the big crop and growers give all sorts of quotations for fall and winter fruits, ranging from fifty cents to fifty dollars a barrel. Some are already shipping Baldwin to Europe, netting about one dollar a barrel. The fruit garden should be a source of pleasure, profit, inspiration, devotion. It should be one of the strong ties that bind us to home ever after. When such a garden is located on the farm, a general improvement in all agricultural surroundings quickly follows. The side or top of a moderate hill will escape frosts that will destroy the vegetation below. The reason is that as the cold slowly settles down from above, it forces the warm air in the valley up the hillsides until the valley is completely filled with cold air. If the valley be enclosed, so that there can be little wind blowing through it, the cold will continue until the sunlight sends down heat enough to cause the cold air to rise, just as it does in a chimney when a bright fire is made in the stove and chimney have been cold through the night.

BEET SUGAR.

In 1747, Marggraf announced to the Berlin Academy of Sciences, of which he was a member, that he had discovered a method of producing sugar from the beet, expressing the belief that great practical benefits would follow from it and that Europe would find in that root the basis of an immense industry. The Academy received the announcement with incredulous surprise. Being poor and without the aid of commercial or political influence, his discovery slept in undisturbed repose for half a century. In 1797, Achard, a pupil of Marggraf, announced to the Berlin Academy the results of his own improvements in the methods of producing sugar from beets. Baron D. Koppy, attracted by Achard's discoveries, devoted one of his estates in Lower Silesia to the culture of beets, and erecting in 1805 a factory for the manufacture of beet sugar, placed both estate and factory under the control of Achard. So great was Achard's confidence that he built a factory on his own estate at Cunera, and on his own account embarked in the culture of the beet as well as in the manufacture of sugar. William I, King of Prussia, exempted from taxation lands devoted to the culture of beets and factories used in making sugar. In 1779, Achard called the attention of the Institute of France at Paris to his discovery, and it was received with great satisfaction. This led to the introduction of this new industry into France. In the North American Review for September, Mr. E. Sowers shows the growth of this industry in Europe. In 1829-30, France produced 4,380 tons; in 1889-90, 750,000 tons. In 1830, the consumption of beet sugar in France was two pounds per capita; in 1890, twenty-six pounds. In 1840, Germany produced 13,445 tons of sugar and 8,955 tons of molasses from beets; in 1890, 1,213,689 tons of sugar and 240,797 tons of molasses from beets. In 1890, the people of the United States paid to the manufacturers of Germany \$16,000,000 for about 200,000 tons of beet sugar imported into the United States. The production of beet sugar in the United States in 1893 was 44,836,527 pounds. The United States spends annually about \$185,000,000 for sugar, of which more than eight-tenths goes to foreign countries. We consume one-fourth of the exported sugar product of the world. The annual consumption of sugar per capita in England is sixty pounds; in France and Switzerland, twenty-six pounds; in Germany, eighteen pounds; in the United States, forty-four pounds. These facts are very suggestive and should stimulate the farmers of the United States to make beet culture a prominent industry. If France, Germany and Austria can obtain from beets grown on their own lands and made by their own manufacturers their supply of sugar for domestic purposes, and have left beside three-fourths of a million tons for annual exportation to foreign countries, why should not the farmers and manufacturers of the United States grow the beets and make the sugar needed for domestic uses, and so save for all the wages and profits incident to such an industry? The natural conditions in the United States are as favorable for this object as they are in France, Germany and Austria; hence there is no reason in the nature of things why this industry should not flourish here, nor why this large annual expenditure for the foreign product be saved to assist in further diversifying our industries and increasing our wealth.—Southern Cultivator.

FARMERS' WAGES.

A great many writers and speakers when referring to the probable effects of financial or other legislation on the wages of the workingmen, leave the impression that they do not include the farmers among the workingmen who receive wages or salaries. The 35,000,000 people on the farms—one half the population—are as truly wage-workers as those who work in store, mine or factory; and, therefore, when discussing effects of legislation upon labor and wages, the farmers must be included. The farmer's wages or salary is the net profit on his produce. Whatever reduces the price of farm products, reduces the farmer's wages. At present, farm products as a rule, do not pay any profit, therefore the farmer is getting

THE BOY THAT STAYS ON THE FARM.

What Shall He Do?

If the man who owns his farm and is out of debt, has a hard time, what chance has the young man who has no farm, to be a farmer? There are four things he can do—rent a farm, buy a farm, hire out as a hired man, or get a position as a farm manager. The tenant of to day has a hard time, unless he has a kind hearted landlord. Just think of it! A man hires a farm, agrees to pay so much for the use of it, and goes to work. He has to support his family and pay the rent with prices where they are. He has a hard lot. He may strike something, if he reads The Rural New Yorker, which will enable him to make a good living and pay his rent. The way it ought to be, is this: If a well to do man owns a farm which he wants some one to carry on, he should hire a man to do it. Pay him enough so that he can support his family. "But," says the owner, "I cannot get the interest on my investment." What right have you to squeeze it out of a poor tenant? "But the tenant will not do well, if I hire him." Then either get one who will do well, or do something with your farm besides use it to fleece poor men, women and children. Except under certain favorable circumstances, renting farms is the poorest way to farm. If the renter moves annually, he becomes a sort of tramp with his wife and children. Five year leases, when the tenant has an opportunity of making a living besides paying the rent, and, perhaps, being able to lay up something is the only right way of renting. A farm owner ought to be satisfied with half interest, or none at all, these times. If he isn't let him carry on the farm himself. Buying a farm at present, unless you can pay down for it, is very risky business. Even the German, with his 14 children all (?) at work, finds it hard to meet his payments. I should hate to be in the clutches of a hard hearted mortgage holder now, and I would not advise any young man to venture it until prices rise, unless he has the knack and enterprise and skill to take up a paying line and push it to the end. But, all the same, it is risky putting all your capital into a farm, paying taxes on what you owe as well as on what you own, and keeping up interest and payments. The great trouble about being a hired man is the lack of cottages on farms. Most farmers want a single man, and want him to live in the family. It is vastly better to have a married man live in a neat cottage and board at home. It saves the farmer's wife lots of trouble, and it enables her to get help often times from the hired man's wife. How much better it is to hire a good, steady, industrious, married man to work on the farm, than to engage some half tramp character who happens to come along. Think of taking such men into a family where there are women and children, the farmer going away on business, etc., and leaving them with such a person, perhaps a day or two. A nice little house, not too far off, or too near the farm house, is a fine trap to catch a good hired man. When a farmer's boy becomes old enough to get married and leave home, what could be more attractive than such a cottage with steady work for himself, and occasional work for his wife? If the farmer needs more men, there should be more cottages. This is the best solution of the hired man question, and the "What shall the farmer boy do?" question. If he can get steady work, a good home, and fair wages, even if he cannot lay up much, he is well off as things now are. Of course, the best place for the farmer boy, if he cannot own a farm, is to manage a farm or estate. But this requires brains, knowledge, education; these should command a good salary. Farm superintendents and managers are wanted to take charge of large farms, and it is well for enterprising boys to fit themselves for such places.—J. W. Newton, in Rural New Yorker.

MONEY IN BEE CULTURE.

It may not be generally known that all kinds of feathers are salable. The demand is increasing, and most country merchants will take them and sell them upon commission. The fowls must be picked dry, and the feathers kept clean and in good condition. Keep separate the coarser ones as well as those of different kinds of fowls.

THE DAIRY.

ESTIMATES OF DAIRY STOCK AND FEED.

To supply the demand for milk and its products in this country, 15,000,000 cows are required. To furnish food for the cultivation of over 60,000,000 acres of land is required. In caring for the cows and their milk 100,000 men and 1,000,000 horses are needed. Cows and horses consume annually 30,000,000 tons of hay, 90,000,000 bushels of corn meal and the same amount of oat meal, 275,000,000 bushels of oats, 12,000,000 bushels of bran and 30,000,000 bushels of corn, to say nothing of the brewery and questionable feed of various kinds that is used all over the country. It costs \$400,000,000 to feed these cows and horses.—Hoard's Dairyman.

A NEW WAY OF PACKING BUTTER.

In the Australasian there is an interesting description of a new method of packing butter, a method likely to be attended with important results, revolutionizing as it inevitably must do to a certain extent the whole of the butter making and butter trading world. It has been discovered that by placing butter in boxes made of glass, of which the edges are gummed, and placing them in layers of plaster of Paris, one-fourth inch thick, butter can be conveyed to any distance, and kept any length of time without any appreciable change in its condition. The cost of the packing is about two cents a pound, and already an industry has been formed in Melbourne of boys and girls who are employed making the glass receptacles, and covering them with plaster. Butter has been sent in the way mentioned from Melbourne to Kimberly, South Africa, 700 miles from Cape Town, with perfect success.

THE PORTABLE CREAMERY.

What is a portable creamery? It is not a creamer. This is not answering the question, but it gives an opportunity to explain that there is on the market an article called a "Creamer," from which the cans must be lifted before the milk and cream can be drawn and the final separation of the cream and milk accomplished. The term "final separation" is used in contradistinction to primary separation or the separation of the cream from the milk in accordance with the law of specific gravity. To return to the original question: What is a portable creamery? It is a construction designed for the practice of the cold deep setting or Swedish system of raising, and in the practice of which there will be no lifting of cans or skimming of milk and an economical use of cooling material. The most complete construction of portable creamery includes in combination a refrigerator, which is below its ice and water tank and which can be used to store cream and butter and, if desired, other articles of food. The refrigerator is kept cool by the same cooling material—usually ice and water—used in the tank above to cool the milk and hasten the raising of the cream. The construction of an up to date portable creamery is such that many advantages will be secured. For instance a glass of milk can be drawn at any time without disturbing the cream. While proper ventilation is provided,

when the milk is first set for cream-raising, it is at the same time protected against any outside influences. The conditions of a good portable creamery as relates to inside temperature should be and can be the same as in January. In fact one with a refrigerator combined is in and of itself a complete dairy house. That is a great convenience, comfort and economy, many a farmer's wife who is to day using one will testify. As there are about a dozen different kinds of portable creameries on the market, it will be readily understood that this is not advertising any particular kind, but recommending all standard kinds. That all the cream can be obtained by a correct practice of the Swedish system of cream raising is now generally conceded by all intelligent persons who have given the matter attention. That a good portable creamery is the proper dairy utensil in which to practice that system must be apparent to any one who has or who will examine it. It will also be apparent that it fills not only one but several wants on any farm where there is any number of cows are kept. It is useful in hotels, restaurants, boarding schools and in all public boarding institutions. The introduction of the granular system of churning, Swedish system of cream raising, and the portable creamery, marks three epochs in the history of butter making. F. W. Moseley. Clinton, Iowa.

HORTICULTURE.

MARKETING APPLES.

Where spraying has eliminated most of the wormy fruit, it will pay to throw out the rest, and send only perfectly sound apples to American as well as English markets. If the trees are kept well pruned so that all the fruit has grown in the light, and if the small and wormy fruit has been left out, the grower will find no trouble in selling his fruit at top prices, and will have no complaints to make about the middleman. Such apples sell themselves, and the commission merchant is sure to do his best to keep the trade of a shipper who puts up his fruit in the best style. N. Y. Farmer.

CULTIVATION OF THE SWEET CHERRY ORCHARD.

I believe that clean culture should generally be stopped by June 15th or July 1st, so as to check growth and give the wood time to ripen. The advantages of this treatment are also pointed out in the bulletin 72, upon "The Cultivation of Orchards." Whenever the growth becomes too luxuriant, it can be checked by seeding a year with clover. A certain cherry orchard has stood in sod for fifteen years in an ideal soil and situation. The trees are making little growth and are filled with dead limbs, and while there was a heavy crop of cherries this year, the size was small, quality poor, and one half were rotting on the trees. In striking contrast was a neighboring orchard which had been plowed lightly in the early spring and had had a harrow run over it once a week up to the middle of June, and although there had been a severe drought, the trees had made a good growth and were loaded with luscious fruit of large size. The latter orchardist believes that he can produce as large cherries as the Californians can, by high cultivation and the conservation of moisture the early part of the season. As a means of holding moisture, he is putting humus in the soil by cover crops, and expects to check, too, luxuriant growth by seeding the orchard whenever it becomes necessary. While dryness is a universal maxim for the cherry, it is advantageous to conserve moisture during the development of the fruit, and the example furnished by this orchard convinces me that the fruit can be increased one-half in size by thorough light cultivation up to the middle of June.—N. Y. Farmer.

English farming is terribly depressed and the conditions are evidently worse than in this country. Lord Rosebery said in his speech at Bristol, "No man can paint the condition of agriculture blacker than it is." A prominent English farmer said in an interview, "My own belief is that a farm rented at \$2,500 to \$3,000 fifteen years ago was cheaper than it would be now rent free.