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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.
Caucasian,	Raleigh, N. C.
Mercury,	Hickory, N. C.
Rattler,	Whitakers, N. C.
Our Home,	Beaver Dam, N. C.
The Populist,	Lumberton, N. C.
The People's Paper,	Charlotte, N. C.
The Vestibule,	Concord, N. C.
The Plow-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.

It is no easy job to pick up a herd of good cows at random. The safest plan is to get a few good ones and then buy a registered bull and breed up.

The American apple is just now enjoying unbounded popularity in England, and it is expected that the exports will reach the 2,000 000 barrel mark before the winter is over, which is double last year's exports.

If there is any profit in dairying it is from those cows that are well bred and well fed. If the demand for good butter and cheese continues and other farm products rule at a low figure, we must devote more time to dairying.

The cow stables should be thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed before winter, and the floors, mangers and gutters made tight. Put in windows for plenty of light and sunshine, and make the stables snug and warm, so that it will be a comfortable place for the cows.

While the weather is mild it is well to "take time by the forelock" and make needed repairs and improvements to such buildings as need them for the protection of farm animals from the rigors of winter. Warm, comfortable quarters for stock during winter are not only a humane requirement, but an economical provision. There is profit in it, as every intelligent farmer knows.

Much of the attractiveness of country scenery, and with it the farms and country places it includes, depends on having well cared for roadsides. This subject is getting more thought from farmers than it used to do. Because the roadsides do not have to be tilled it is often thought they are the fair receptacle of whatever stumps, stones or other material is unwelcome elsewhere. Whenever a farm has to be sold whose owner takes this view of things he is apt to discover his mistake. A row of maple trees far enough from the road side fence to allow a path for walking or bicycling is a paying investment for any farmer to make. If he lives 10 or 15 years these trees may be tapped, and having plenty of sunlight they will yield more and better sap than he can get from trees of equal size in the woods.

THE USE AND ABUSE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Passing a certain farm house not long ago, says B., in Cable, a striking example was presented to me of the use and abuse of implements. Around the house and barn, in various places by the side of fences, under apple trees, and in other conspicuous nooks and corners, were two or three wagons, a mowing machine, and some smaller farm implements, all exposed to the weather.

This man had a small fortune invested in machinery, made for the purpose of lightening labor on the farm. No doubt the farmer had economized in many ways in order to save money necessary for the purchase of so many good implements. But I could not help thinking what a waste was going on while that man slept. Every drop of water, every spray of dew, every ray of sunshine, all these were unceasingly at work to destroy these tools. No matter how well the manufacturer may have done his work, the weather will speedily undo it if given a chance. Rust will corrode, paint will wear and wash off, wood will crack, and the sun, dew, and rain will soon spoil the most costly machine.

What shall we do about it? We had better do with fewer implements for a while, and protect what we have. In fact, the surest way to save money enough to buy tools and otherwise improve the farm is to keep such implements as we have securely sheltered from the elements. When done using them for the season, ploughs, cultivators, and such tools should be carefully wiped off and put under cover. Wagons should never be allowed to stand out where dew and rain will come upon them.

Money laid out in lumber to build shed room to cover tools is well expended. No better friends to the farmer can be found than these silent helpers. Still, I some times think some men have too many of them, for if they really appreciated their value they would treat them better.

All I have said above applies equally to the smaller implements of the farm. Take in the hoes, axes, spades, wheelbarrows, ladders, hammers, and saws at night, after using them, and always before a storm comes on. "A penny saved is twopence earned."

UTILIZING CARCASSES.

A cheap lot of manure may be made of an old carcass of a horse or cow, etc., which is often drawn away to the woods to pollute the atmosphere. Do not do this, but put down four or five loads of muck or sod, roll the carcass over it and sprinkle it over with quick lime, covering over immediately with sod or mold sufficient to make, with that already beneath, twenty good sized wagon loads, and you will have $25 worth of the best fertilizer in less than a year, and no fears need be felt in applying to any crop. One beauty of this crop is, the animals need not be moved far away, there not being the least stench. All animals which you are unfortunate enough to lose can be utilized in this way, and be made to go a great way towards replacing them. Smaller animals, such as sheep, calves, cats and dogs, can be treated in the same manner, with about the average amount of sod or muck, proportionate to their size. When possible, place three or four in one pile, as the labor of covering would be proportionately less; but it is not much work to make a heap of any animal, however large or small.

GINSENG CULTURE.

The ginseng plant thrives best in loamy soils, such as are usually found in sugar maple and oak forests at the North. Shade is also essential. Select a piece of land at the edge of some forest where the plants are found growing wild. Clear all underbush and small trees during spring or summer, then break up the soil two or three inches deep, removing all weeds, grasses and their roots. The bed thus prepared will be ready for the reception of seeds and small, unsalable roots, as collected in the autumn, the season of ripening depending somewhat upon latitude. Ginseng berries are of crimson color when ripe, each containing two seeds, produced in small clusters at the top of a central peduncle elevated above the principal leaves. When gathering the seed, the roots may also be dug, and all small and unsalable ones preserved and replanted in the prepared bed. The seed should be rubbed from the pulp very carefully with the hand, and then sown, or better, pressed into the ground with the finger about half an inch deep, and one every six inches along the row. The rows should be from one to two feet apart for convenience in removing weeds, should any appear. Both seeds and plants should be in the ground before hard frosts occur in autumn, for when they come, the leaves of the large trees will fall on the bed and give the natural protection required. The following season no cultivation will be needed, if the bed is thinly covered with leaves, except to cut out sprouts and remove any large coarse weeds which may spring up from seeds or roots left in the soil. At the end of the third season, the roots will have reached a marketable size, and may then be dug and the same bed worked over and re stocked with seeds or small plants.—American Agriculturist.

Unless it is intended to fatten the dry cow, care should be taken not to feed any fattening food. If she is to have a calf with a month or two, some succulent food that will keep her digestion good is best. In such case, too, the milking should be continued as long as possible, if for no other reason than to prevent the cow from becoming to fat. Yet the opposite evil, of having the cow too thin, must decrease her value as a milker all the following season.

SELECTING AND BUYING FARMS

It is a common remark of farmers in looking over their life experience that their greatest mistake in farming was in the choice of farm and home that they originally made. In most cases when the land was bought money was scarce, and a little saving in price, though offset by such manifest inconveniences as great distance from market, or inferiority of soil, seemed to be the most important consideration. No doubt this in many cases was true. It was a question of buying the only land that the purchasers' money or credit enabled him to buy. Yet in most cases, if not at all, the land sold at the lowest price was in proportional value dearest of all. In fact, there is a very considerable portion even of the best farming sections unfitted by location or natural quality for high tillage, and whose best use must be found in growing grass for pasturage or left to grow up in timber, as most land naturally will when left in a state of nature and protected from fires.

It is not merely the original purchasers of old farms who are deceived in this way. Every year many wealthy men in cities go into the country to buy rural homes for the summer. In a majority of cases these wealthy city men have an idea that with the improvements in stock, in farm implements and in farm methods they could make farming a success. As a matter of course they fail. In many cases their failure is made more complete than it need be by lack of good judgment in selecting the farm to make their experiments on. In most cases it is the farm where the owner is already making money, and which pays a profit above cost of running it, that is really the cheapest to buy. But such farms are not often for sale, except when the owner dies and the estate has to be disposed of. It is not the buildings nor the fencing of the farm that count most in making it worth purchasing to work with profit. In very many cases the fine buildings have been built with money that should have gone to maintain fertility or that is needed for underdraining.

The first point in selecting a farm should be nearness and accessibility to good markets. Even one or two miles' difference from the selling place, or a piece of bad road, due to an intervening hill, makes an extra cost for every load drawn to or from the farm for all time. In a level farming country the loss by hills is not so much considered, though even there bad pieces of road make an obstruction to freedom of marketing that cannot safely be disregarded. In most parts of New England the distance from and accessibility to markets is the most important of all factors in deciding the value of land for either farming or gardening purposes. For market gardens some place near the city and easily reached is absolutely essential to success. Very often we have seen successful market gardeners three or four miles from the city, selling out and buying smaller places at higher prices per acre so as to get nearer their market.

The original quality of land as regards fertility is an important matter in plain farming. For the market gardener, who uses so much manure that he almost makes the soil he grows his crops on, this original quality of soil is less important. But the farmer who grows ordinary crops cannot safely purchase land that at some time has not been fertile. Sandy soils are not originally very fertile. But wherever there is some clay in the soil it is reasonable to expect that a part of its original fertility remains. It is true such farms often require expensive underdraining to make them profitable, yet, as a rule, they are safer purchases for farmers who can and will underdrain them, than the lighter and more easily worked soils that require no underdraining. In no way does the farmer so badly cheat himself, as in trying to buy land that will not require much labor to work it. He will probably do more work drawing manure, besides spending more money in buying fertilizers, than will be required to keep the heavy soil in first class condition.

Of course in buying old farms there are many incidental advantages, as well as disadvantages, which the farmer accustomed to farm life and the capabilities of the farm will quickly perceive. Quite often where the land has been in the same hands for many years we have known farms sold for less than what the standing timber on them would sell for within a year or two after purchased. In other cases old neglected orchards have with proper care been made to repay the original cost of a farm, though before the change of ownership they had not paid anything for years. In each locality there are chances for farmers who understand farming to purchase desirable farms, that can in some way be made almost immediately a source of profit. It is just such work as this that needs to be done at the present time. Whoever takes an unproductive farm and makes it profitable, or who increases the profits from land that had before paid something, is a public benefactor. In benefiting himself he shows how other farmers may if they will do the same thing. Teaching by example rather than precept is always best, and in nothing is this superiority more plainly demonstrated than in farming. It has been the world over a time of agricultural depression. This country has been tested as never before in its capity to produce agricultural products so cheaply as to command the world's market. All honor belongs to those who have been able to keep their farming profitable, and thus prove that a good living and something more can be made by farming under the least favorable circumstances. American farmers have ever experienced.—American Cultivator.

THE DAIRY.

THE BUSINESS DAIRYMAN.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

The farmer must be a business man as well as a raiser of herds and flocks and a producer of crops. This is especially true of the dairy farmer.

While business methods should be applied to farming in all its branches, and to all factors of each branch, they are especially needed when marketing products of the farm; again this is especially true of the dairy farm products.

Take butter for an illustration: Assuming for the sake of argument it is a good article. Then comes the question of disposing of it. When the farmer has decided where he will seek a market and to what class of purchasers he will attempt to sell his butter, he will be prepared to decide the shape or package he will put it in. If he decides to sell direct to the producer, small crocks to be returned, or butter boxes not to be returned can be used, or he can, if preferred, print his product in small cakes, say of one half or one pound size.

If small crocks are used the top of the butter should be covered with parchment paper circles, which should be wet in pure cold water before applied. If small boxes are used—either those made of wood veneers or sheet wood pulp—those holding from three to ten pounds are preferred. About four times out of five the five pound size will be preferred.

If instead of selling direct to consumers it is decided to sell to a retail dealer who caters to the trade of a good class of families, the same ways of preparing the butter for market as above suggested can be observed.

An enterprising dairyman, Leslie Fuller, Braman's Corners, Schenectady county, New York, who is engaged in the production of fine dairy butter has gone one step further than any other farmer that the writer knows of. He sells his entire production to a dealer—a grocery man—and in addition to putting it in small packages, labels it. He has a neatly printed label three inches by 5¼ inches with a neat border about one quarter inch from the edges, all around. At the top of the label in plain but attractive capital letters is printed "Gilt Edge Farm Dairy Butter." These words make one line the length of the label inside the border. Below at the left hand is a picture or cut, 1 inch by 1¼ inches, of the portable creamery he uses. Below the balance of the head line, and at the right of the cut, is stated that the butter was made from cream raised in a certain portable creamery—the one shown. Below it is stated that it is from the farm of Leslie Fuller, Braman's Corners, N. Y. Below that it is stated that it was made expressly for J. H. Waterstreet, Dealer in Choice Family Groceries, 35 Market street, Amsterdam, N. Y. At the left of this announcement, and just below the cut, are two dotted lines, one below the other; at the left of the upper line is the word "Weight," and at the left of the lower line the word "For." The upper one is where the weight of butter in the package is set down and the lower the name of the dealer's customer to whom it is to be delivered.

There is something so business-like in Mr. Fuller's methods that I thought a description of them would be of interest to your readers and have therefore given them. Doubtless Mr. Fuller would favor those asking for it with one of his labels, which are really models of good taste and neatness.

F. W. MOSELEY.

Clinton, Iowa.

A CALIFORNIA DAIRY.

In 1868 my father, R. G. Sneath, purchased 110 acres of good land near Menlo Park, Cal., 30 miles from San Francisco, for a country residence, and and secured seven Devon heifers and one Devon bull, from the most reputable herd here. They were beautiful looking animals, dark red in color, finely formed, but rather undersized. They had the best care and abundant food, but failed at the pail and were too small for first-class beef, writes Geo. R. Sneath, in the Country Gentleman.

In 1871 he secured a carload of registered Jersey cows of good size and one large Jersey bull, all from good families, young and vigorous. These multiplied rapidly for about five years, were kept pure and in good health, furnished many fine milkers and were considered about the largest and best herd in the State. In 1875 my father purchased about 3,000 acres of fine pasture land about six miles south of the southern boundary of this city and removed the Jersey herd thereto, when the place was named "Jersey Farm Dairy," with the purpose of supplying San Francisco with milk and cream.

At this time several old dairy herds were purchased, together with their city trade, in order to stock the farm and obtain a market for our milk. These cows were termed common stock, but were largely Short-Horns which had been culled and selected for several years, and proved to be fairly good animals. They were crossed with our Jersey bulls and we obtained many fine milkers.

Within the next five years, however, say in 1880, we discovered that the animals being raised were deficient in size and vitality, notwithstanding the fact that the Jersey bulls were large and vigorous, and as an experiment we purchased seven young Short Horn bulls of the best milk strains here, to place among a portion of our herd, to see if we could not increase the size and vitality of our cows. The bulls were found to be deficient in size as they reached maturity and their offspring were not as good as the Jersey crosses.

About 1885 we secured a few registered Holsteins, with bulls and cows from good families, and crossed a portion of this common stock with Holstein bulls. The result, from their first calf dropped, seemed to show a decided improvement, which encouraged us to continue in that line; and we then secured from time to time all the Holsteins we could in this market that were of good pedigree, size, vitality and of good milking quality.

As soon as we could, we disposed of the Jersey and other bulls and confined the business to Holsteins, and with these crossed all the cows on the place thereafter. We have enough registered Holsteins to raise all the bulls we require, without retaining any deficient in any respect, nor do we register any doubtful animals. We do not raise animals for sale or keep poor ones on the place long.

The cross between the pure Holstein and the Jersey cow is generally a mongrel, or mixed in an utter confusion of colors, and wooly to a great degree. The eye and deer like head of the Jersey can be detected at times, while their form is smoother, more plump and less bony than either the Holstein or Jersey, and their size is between the two. The first cross between the Holstein and common stock is uniformly black and white, while about one sixth of the second cross goes back in color to the dam of the first cross, and the crosses thereafter prove true to the Holsteins in color.

Our present grade-Holsteins give about twice as much milk as the grade-Jersey did ten years ago, while their milk stands on an average at about 4 per cent. butter fat by the Babcock test, which is about the same as that from the Jersey grades. Our herd numbers on an average about 800 and our two milking barns hold about 500, which number we aim to keep good, in good milkers. The present herd shows larger animals, with more vigor and productiveness than at any time heretofore, and we feel that there will be a constant improvement through our method of breeding and selection that will in time bring up our herd to a standard in which we may take pride and profit, and which may yet remain a public benefaction.

We have some 2,000 out of 3,000 acres seeded to rye and orchard grass now in fine condition, although some of it has been seeded for twenty years. Beside this feed, we purchase annually about 1,000 tons of mill and other feed, and about 1,500 tons of hay. We feed mostly barley and bran, but for economical reasons, we have fed large quantities of wheat, corn, beans, peas, beets, carrots, squash, oil cake, etc. We grind our grain on the farm, that we may be sure that it is sound and wholesome.

All our fields have springs of pure water running by gravitation into large troughs—not a well or a pump on the place. The land is rolling and well sodded, and cattle are never in the mud in the worst of weather. We only stable our animals about six hours daily, during feeding and milking, as our winters are mild and the grass is then at its best. Each milker milks and cares for a string of 30 cows, and does little else, at $30 per month and board.

We have had to purchase many cows every year to keep the milking barns full, because we have not the land to raise enough calves, and herein has been our greatest difficulty. Most of our milk dairymen raise but few calves. The remaining milk goes to the hogs at an early date. They cannot sell them to the stock-raisers, because they are not suitable for beef, while the stock raiser is interested in beef alone and cannot furnish good cows to the dairymen, and thus the two are widely separated and of no use to each other, for economical reasons, they think.

There is opportunity for both. Some of the largest stock-raisers here have been of late following the course we have pursued, and now there is in the market quite an increased number of cows of the first and second Holstein cross. These cows bring from $40 to $50 each, while the common cow brings from $20 to $35. Some of our largest stock raisers now keep dairy herds more for the purpose of breaking in heifers and raising better bulls than for dairy products, as they can sell a good three year old cow for twice as much as a steer of the same age and weight, and good young bulls for much more. They find that young stock must be well cared for in their youth in order to secure weight and vitality in their maturity.

The Holstein seems to be the only breed, at present, that will produce, through crossing with other breeds, a general purpose cow profitable for both meat and milk. Such is the experience on this coast so far as I know, and it is a great satisfaction to think and believe that the appalling waste in the destruction of young animals, because there was no place for them through the methods of men, will be in the future to some extent stopped, and that their lives will soon be worth the saving.

Dairying is one of the most important industries in North Carolina.