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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.

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AGRICULTURE.

Now that the election is over, you don't hear so much about the rise in the price of wheat.

In some of the leading tomato growing districts of Indiana the price has been five cents per bushel this fall.

The Mark Hanna syndicate didn't expect to carry any of the cotton States, so they spent their cash, energy and deception in the grain States.

The roots of a mature apple extend both wide and deep. In applying fertilizers, spread them wide and deep, so that they will reach the entire root sys tem.

To keep the boys on the farm make farm life and the farm home attractive to the girls. If the girls don't want to marry farmers, the boys will seek some other calling.

Twenty-five years ago a Virginian paid $12,000 for 12,000 acres of land which he planted in walnuts. His income is now $15,000 per annum from the sale of walnut timber.

It has been found that a sprinkling of hops in the brine when bacon and hams are put in pickle, adds greatly to the flavor of both, and enables them to be kept an indefinite period.

Gather all tools and implements under cover and clean them thoroughly. During the winter they should be overhauled, and all defects be made good and a coat of paint be given them.

A single seed of the Asiatic pemperion planted on the grounds of the Berlin Botanical Society propagated a vine which grew as large as a man's body in nine weeks and finally grew to a total length of 900 feet and ripened over 800,000 seeds.

In looking out for young breeding sows, the farmer is too apt to overlook the sow that has borne one or two good litters of pigs, and is now worth more as a breeder than at any former time of her life. So long as the cow is herself growing she cannot do full justice to furnishing the framework of the growing litter which she carries. Hence there are always one or more runts in litters from immature sows. The pigs from an old sow will be larger framed and more vigorous in every way.

CLINGING TO OLD HABITS.

A stream of tendency is hard to establish, and old customs die slowly amongst farmers—if, indeed, they ever do entirely die. Relics of habits which are supposed to have disappeared are to be found here and there just below the surface or in some out of the way place, and—if anywhere in this country—it is in rural districts that this sort of thing holds true. If there is one characteristic more obvious than others in the typical British farmer, it is tenacity of habit and of purpose. In this he is sublime! And herein may be sought and found the reason why old customs die slowly, and why it is that there is some difficulty in finding much fault with them. And, after all, this very tenacity of purpose is one of the finest principles which the mind is capable of exercising in times of difficulty and depression, such as these through which we are passing now. The "staying power" of our farmers is phenomenally great, as everybody will admit who is in a position to form an opinion on the subject, and therefore it occurs that they cling to old customs with all the tenacity of people whose vocabulary does not contain the word capitulate. Take, for instance, the industries of cheese-making and butter making. Here we find marked and important departments of work in which old customs die slowly. Instances are not at all difficult to find where individual dairy farmers have adopted modern ideas of reform, whilst the bulk have made no change. The cream separator has been a revelation to dairyers; and many of the young ones—a few of the older ones too—have not hesitated to secure to themselves whatever advantages this beneficent instrument in the dairy was calculated to confer. In course of time, no doubt, the separator will become universal, and the old customs which preceded it will only be found as relics here and there. But the use of the separator in private or individual dairies, great improvement, as it undoubtedly is over the old time skimming dish, does not fill in the whole programme of reform in the domain of butter making, so far, at all events as the rank and file of butter-making dairyers are concerned. There are plenty of people who still cling to the idea of home dairying, and strongly advocate it, in reference to cheese as well as to butter, and, so far as the tip top private dairies are concerned, we may freely confess to a corresponding preference—just, indeed, as we would prefer the grand home brewed ale that was occasionally met with in olden times, to any other kind we have ever since tasted. But it must be admitted in the case of home made butter, as in that of home brewed beer, that first class examples of the latter were and of the former are, merely representative of small minorities, and cannot for a moment be admitted to an important numerical position. All the same, however, we shall all be reluctant to witness the extinction of all private dairying—that is to say, such portion of it as may be considered tip-top.

But a great transformation in dairying practices is now well under way, and may be said to have already accomplished very considerable results. In other countries, notably in Denmark and Germany, it has made greater progress than with us, and, indeed, has been forwarded all the time since the reform of dairying began in real earnest and on comprehensive lines. The whole sum and substance of this modern stream of tendency may be said to be inclined in the formula of "associated dairying;" and although the reforms, which are part and parcel of the tendency are not by any means necessarily incompatible with private or individual dairying, they still find their most effective expression in collective efforts. This last, indeed, is the dairy revelation of the period in which we live, and nothing like unto it has ever before transpired, or was ever before feasible. We can well afford to give all countenance to the highest examples of private dairying, though at the same time we cannot abate any part of our claim that associated dairying is the true policy for almost all others in which cheese or butter, one or both, are made. But these "others"—in any case, a large proportion of them in this country—cling to the old customs with all the tenacity that is characteristic of the race, and so it occurs that associated dairying has not made, and is not making, such rapid and general and uninterrupted progress as it ought to do, or ought to have done. The great expansion which has taken place in the country milk trade, and is still taking place, has had no little to do with the delay that has occurred in the progress of associated dairying, and things in general are, to some extent, still in a state of transition. But it is tolerably evident that the stream is becoming deeper and stronger, and that, in the end, the making of butter and cheese will, for the most part, be conducted on collective lines. This, indeed, is the last great development and perhaps may be the final one, though as to this it would be gratuitous to express, or even form an opinion.

It is an essentially natural process, that of clinging to an old habit, even when it is obviously out of date; and many men there are amongst us, especially those well stricken in years, and reasonably supposed to have taught volition by the lapse of time, who are *quasi* incapable of discerning that it is out of date. That we make butter and cheese, which on an average of quality, are inferior to what we made forty years ago, may, or may not be true (I for one do not think it is, but of course the problem is incapable of solution); but, even if it were so, this is not the only or chief reason why associated dairying is suited to the period. The mode of commerce, and the taste of our great urban populations, both of which require uniformity and regularity in quality and character in the cheese and butter they buy, and especially in the butter, supply a still more cogent reason. That our dairyers should accommodate their practices to the taste of their customers would seem to be a proposition requiring no emphasis in the way of argument; and it is plain enough to those who have eyes to see, that, in regard to the great majority of dairyers, it is idle to look for any such adequate accommodation as a result of individual efforts. The alternative, however, is there for them in this last new development, and, as it appears to me, the sooner they gravitate to it the better it will be for everybody concerned.—J. P. Sheldon, in Agricultural Gazette.

"The ranks of success in business and the professions," said Mr. Depew in a letter published last week, are not recruited from the sons of the rich, but almost entirely from the field of workers." In every city and village of this great land is some boy or girl who will make good this prophecy. Is it you?

A CHEAP FARM PAINT.

Some of our exchanges have resurrected an old recipe for a cheap farm paint with which we had long been familiar, but which does not seem to be as widely known as the merits of the paint deserve. It consists of but two ingredients, neither of which is expensive, the one being skim-milk and the other a good article of hydraulic cement. The cement is placed in a bucket and sweet skim milk is gradually added, stirring constantly, until the mixture is of about the consistency of good cream. The stirring must be very thoroughly done in order that the mixture may flow readily from the brush, but if too thin it will run when applied to the building and looked streaked. The proportions should be based upon about a gallon of the milk, as this will make a convenient quantity to mix when one person is to apply it. If too much is prepared, the cement will set and harden before it is used. To this quantity of milk add about a quart of the cement. Probably a little more than this will be required, the operator using judgment to have it thin enough to flow from the brush and yet not thin enough to run after it has been applied. A flat brush about four inches wide is a good implement with which to lay the paint on. It is to be used just as oil paint is used and can be applied to woodwork, old or new, and to brick or stone. When dry the color is a light creamy brown, or might be called a yellowish stone color. This paint has a good body, gives a smooth finish and works well. The operator can try it first upon an outhouse or fence to see how it pleases him and to learn in an experimental way how to prepare and apply it.

The draft horse is the best for the farmer for several reasons. He works more satisfactorily and at less expense and worry; he sells more readily and at better prices than any other; it costs less to raise and break him and get him ready for market because of his docility; he will pay his keep after two years old, and is fully broken when matured.

ABOUT SOME FARM TOOLS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

The excellent article on the use and abuse of farm tools, in last week's PROGRESSIVE FARMER, forcibly reminds me of some things I have seen. That many of our people are shamefully negligent in taking care of what tools they have on the farm, will be admitted by every close observer.

I remember seeing a brand new mower, worth perhaps a hundred dollars, left under a small tree in the centre of a field, where last in use. Passing along that road occasionally, I noticed that it was allowed to remain there, taking all sorts of weather, for twelve months. When the mowing season came around again I suppose that the thrifty (?) farmer wondered where his machine was, and why it did not seem to work as well as before, if he succeeded in getting it to go at all.

Let us hope that most of our people are not as careless as the one mentioned, but many of them are almost as bad in some ways. Indeed, it has been the result of many years' observation by the writer that almost all of our North Carolina farmers have no sort of fixed place or system of caring for their tools, when not in use. As a rule, the tools are left here and there, about the premises, almost anywhere, but more likely near the spot where last used.

Our average small farmer is usually very poorly supplied with tools of all sorts. How some of them manage to get along is a mystery. On one occasion, when visiting at a neighboring farm house, this was forcibly impressed on me by a little incident. The farmer seemed fairly well to do and worked four horses or mules. His wife appealed to me, asking me to tell her what was the matter with her sewing machine. Having a mechanical turn of mind, I examined it and said I could easily put it in order, and for this purpose called for a wrench or some simple tool. She was delighted with the prospect of getting her machine to sew again and urged her "old man" to scour the place for what tools he had. After a thorough search he reported that everything in the way of tools on the plantation, besides the plows and wagons, was an axe and a pair of sheep shears. These he brought in, but I could not repair the sewing machine with them and it had to be taken to town to be fixed.

For some years it was my fortune to keep the books and accounts of a neighboring blacksmith and wheelwright who did all the repairs for that neighborhood. It was no unusual thing for a farmer to break a single tree in the midst of his busiest plowing season, and then he would stop that plow and send a boy on horse-back to the shop, where he would have to wait until another one was made and get the irons transferred from the broken one. In this way he incurred the expense of from 25 to 50 cents at the shop, besides the loss of time in the work of both the horse and boy, for at least half a day and often the whole day. Other trifling breakdowns usually were repaired in this expensive manner. A handy man with a few tools, and a white oak fence rail can often save a dollar, to say nothing of time saved.

With an unoccupied shed, a bench and a few of the most inexpensive tools, the farmer might use rainy days to do all sorts of repairs and make such things as single trees, plow beams, handles and the like, to be ready when needed. Many a good machine goes to rapid destruction for the lack of a "stitch in time," so to speak.

Too many of our people have no decent sort of equipment in the way of tools for repairs. Some of them will walk a mile or more to do a few minutes' grinding on a neighbor's grind stone, with the probability that the stone will be out of order when he gets there. I knew a man who let down a set of draw-bars, on an average of twice a day, for twenty years, before he made up his mind to hang a gate there. This sort of thing is not business, neither is it common sense.

For an ordinary farmer the following tools should always be on hand and kept where they may be had at a minutes' notice: A hand saw, hatchet, drawing knife, brace and four bits, screw driver, monkey-wrench, jack-plane, square, claw hammer, three chisels, cross-cut saw, two augers, cold chisel, and a small assortment of bolts, screws and nails with some copper rivets to mend harness. A good grindstone completes the outfit. This list of tools may be bought at any good hardware store for twelve dollars and will last many years.

Begin now and fix up a place to do such work. Have a strong box or chest with lock and key, to keep the tools in. Make the rule of the farm to return each and every tool to its proper place, whether plow, wagon, or hand-saw, after using it and it will pay you, both in time and money saved. T. C. H.

Old fences and hedges are a constant menace to the orchard. They are the breeding places of insects and of fungi. A hedge is a good ornament when rightly taken care of, but when it is in near proximity to the orchard it may cost many times more than its value as an object of beauty.

THE NORTH CAROLINA FAIR.

Eds. County Gentleman:—I have attended the State Fair at Raleigh continuously since 1869-28 years. In some respects the one closing this week is the most successful I have seen. Despite the hard times with our farmers (who this year have had to contend with both low prices and short crops) the attendance has hardly ever been larger, and the proportion of the farming class seemed to me to be unusually large.

In an account of a former Fair, I had to deplore that Agricola did not spend a little more time among the stock pens and a little less where the "Coo-chee Coo chee" girls flaunt their abbreviated apparel to the sky. I might not unjustly repeat the same words in regard to his action at the Fair. But Agricola would doubtless rejoin that he was in Rome and did as he saw the Romans do.

The display of poultry was immense. The aristocracy, if not the royalty of chicken, duck, goose, turkey, pigeon and guinea kind were well and numerously represented. North Carolina has always been at the front as far as the chicken was concerned. Formerly she wore the somewhat dubious honor of rearing mains of fighting cocks against which the proudest champions of other States contended in vain. But the passing of the fighting cock was welleidenced at Raleigh this week, where the once omnipotent game took very properly a very humble place. I hear that many good sales were made of poultry, among them a peerless Brahma pullet was sold to George Vanderbilt, the Asheville millionaire, for $50.

The exhibit of cattle and swine, while not the best that I have seen on the same grounds, was good. Nearly all leading breeders were well represented. The racing, they said, was good. But I have ever held that racing is something with which the farmer in general has nothing to do; and this is one of the few things in which I find no difficulty in living fully up to my principles. Like the Oriental who, when pressed to attend the Derby races, replied that he could not see the use of going to so much trouble to prove that of which he was perfectly well aware—that one horse could run faster than another—it is to me a matter of supreme indifference which of a gang of practically useless nags can tear around a circle the quickest. I am told that racing is a necessary step in the development of good roadster blood. Owing to my ignorance, perhaps, I cannot look at it in that light. I would rather own a driving horse the progeny of a line of substantial, well trained roadsters than one whose spider-like sires and dams, back to the equine Adam had done nothing but smash records.

The exhibit of agricultural products was excellent, and effectively shown. The exhibit of Col. Carr's Occoneechee Farm was unique. Not to mention a mammoth ear of corn five feet long *made* on this farm, the utilation of a rotating Ferris wheel, whose glass cars were filled with samples of the numberless products of Occoneechee, lent a distinct feature to the whole department. Mr. Carr, industrially speaking, was for a long time almost entitled to repeat the famous phrase of Louis XIV., "*L'etat c'est moi,*"—I am the State. And he has thrown into agriculture the same progress and ingenuity that made him a king in the smoking tobacco world.

O. W. BLACKNALL

Top dressing of wheat, oats and grass land with farmyard manure should be done whenever the land is dry enough to cart on. The value of a mulch of farmyard manure to crop during winter is immense. Even though the manure may not be rich, it still serves a valuable purpose, and if rich in plant food, it is so much the more valuable.

EXPERIENCE WITH HOGS.

The hog is naturally a vegetarian, and this propensity should be taken advantage of in building his frame, enough of grain or mill feed being fed to keep him in a thrifty condition while growing, and then finish him off on grain. A hog reared in this way may not at all times please the eye so well as one heavily grain fed from start to finish, but nine times out of ten he will put more net dollars and cents into the pocketbook.

Last year was a year of frosts, worms, droughts and drawbacks. June of last year was a blue June, says W. S. Stevenson in National Stockman and Farmer. That June I had frosted meadows and pastures, numerous swine, no feed and next to no money. I had the blues. I soon found my meadows would not be worth cutting. There was not a good bit of clover in them, so I turned the hogs in. In casting about for a feed to supplement the grass I settled on o. p. oil meal. It cost me about $20 per ton, and I looked on its fertilizing elements as an item of value. I made slop of the oil meal, and those swine throve right along on that oil meal and grass diet.

On account of the scarcity of rough feed I did not like to cut off corn and throw to the hogs, and did not commence to finish them off for market as early as usual. Then came the rush of cholera hogs on the market. I felt I was stuck again. When we cut off our corn we found for 75 to 100 wagon loads of pumpkins. I fed the hogs "pumpkins" with some corn until in November, then put them in warm quarters and fed them on oil meal, middlings and corn.

In January I shipped 40 head of them to East Liberty and received the top of the market, $4.50 per cwt., for 37 head, the lot netting me $4 15 per cwt. I struck one of the best markets of last winter. By far the most profitable part of these hogs was what was made on grass, oil meal and pumpkins.

This year, in cost of production of pork we will come nearest being able to compete with the West, where they have "corn to burn" of any year in my experience. Grass has been plentiful, soft and juicy, just right for the hogs to crop. We have an immense crop of fruit of all kinds, with little or no market for it, which would have gone to waste if it had not been for the hogs. The woods contain an enormous amount of acorns. Apples and acorns combined make choice hog feed and hogs are fattening nicely without any grain. But if necessary we have a splendid crop of corn to top off with. The year when we sell our hogs cheaply we can console ourselves that we have grown them cheaply.

To a certain extent, with a little foresight, this cheap pork production might be duplicated every year. We should plant suitable crops for the hogs to harvest. Rye can be safely sown far later than wheat. Most years much of the corn can be husked in time to haul the fodder off and put the ground in rye. In the spring the rye will furnish pasture until clover is ready to turn into. If clover is sown early with the rye it will be big enough to furnish the hogs with a bite by the time the rye is ready to "hog" down. The rye straw will mulch the clover, the hogs will fertilize, and the shattered rye will grow again, and a second crop of rye and clover can be raised without any additional labor; and at the same time the land will be greatly improved.

A crop of mammoth sweet corn comes in good after the rye is done as hog feed.

My neighbor tells me that he drilled in sorghum seed with a grain drill at the rate of about a bushel to the acre. The crop has proved a complete success, and anyone who has tried sorghum knows that it makes good hog feed. Land rough and almost worthless for other purposes can be made quite profitable by raising on it sweet apples for hog feed.

There are many ways by which the production of pork can be cheapened, and it is worth dollars to us to find it out and improve our opportunities.

Botanists have divided all plants into twenty-four classes and 121 orders; and they have discovered 3,000 genera, 50,000 species, and varieties of species without number. With regard to the roots, plants are bulbous, as in onions and tulips; tuberous, as in turnips or potatoes; and fibrous, as in grasses.

If you insist upon having your rights, you will never be popular.—Atchison Globe.