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THE



PROGRESSIVE



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

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS. Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C. Carolinaian, Raleigh, N. C. Farmer, Raleigh, N. C. Rattler, Raleigh, N. C. Our Home, Raleigh, N. C. The Populist, Raleigh, N. C. The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C. The Vestibule, Raleigh, N. C. The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C. Carolina Watchman, Raleigh, 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 does not make much difference whether a good farmer buys a rich or poor farm. He will get the poor farm cheap and will bring it into proper condition all right.

A leading object of every farmer's ambition should be to provide for an old age of only moderate labor, so that he may secure a fair living without overwork and by the aid of hired help. Begin to plan now.

There is no more important work on the fruit farm or garden than winter protection, and there is no work more generally neglected. Let it be done thoroughly, after the frosts have come, and before winter sets in.

If we acquire an interest in the agricultural journal, such a journal will become invaluable to us. Let us not neglect it because we are busy. There are hints therein, which reading to day we will find use for to-morrow.

An agricultural paper tells farmers that they must remember that they have a living anyhow. So do tramps. It would seem that a man who works hard from fourteen to sixteen hours a day, a part of the year, ought to have more than that.

Make the farm work as light and pleasant as possible to the young folks, remembering that they cannot see from the same point as do their elders. Routine work is tiresome to young or old in any calling. In many ways can the monotony be avoided.

The proper time to divide lily of the valley roots is in the fall. When planted in the spring they must be handled without much disturbance or they will not bloom; but they are not tender, and if the flowers are not considered, the division of the clumps may be made at any time.

Efforts will be made to establish beet sugar factories at many points in the United States. We hope North Carolina will get the advantage of one or more, for beets grow well here. Sugar is one of the few products of which the consumption far exceeds the production in this country, much of it coming from abroad. We certainly have the soil for the beets.

THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

We certainly owe a large per cent. of our improvement in methods to the influence of the agricultural press. He who reads and profits by the information given from time to time in good farm papers, whether he owns a garden spot or hundreds of acres, is sure to be benefited thereby. It is not only the immediate profit, but the inspiration and pleasure that adds value to the paper.

Agricultural periodicals will not, in the widest sense, teach one how to farm. Farming is so varied in different localities that very few methods are universally applicable. For instance, in my native county the quality and condition of farm lands is so varied that what would suit one man would often be entirely unfit for his neighbor. More than this, the capacity and inclination of the individual needs consideration. One man may be a huge success at what his neighbor could but fail. If a man fancies horses, let him raise horses for success; if he fancies swine, let him raise swine for success. No one will ever be a real success in a line for which he is not suited. We have known scores of men whom we believe have made flat failures, not because of indolence or general incapacity, but because they did not reach the line for which they were especially suited.

However, let our line of farming be what it may, we cannot fail to be benefited by the visits of good agricultural papers. One or two will be sufficient, if the right kind. We have often noticed that a man who reads one or two papers carefully is informed better than one who receives half a dozen and reads none carefully. Read and learn what others are doing then win now the chaff from the straw, and finally, after due consideration, act according to your judgment.

One will get an occasional receipt or suggestion for treatment of a sick animal that will much more than repay the cost of papers. Some perplexing question arises. We are at a loss to know what to do. Pen a postal to publisher, stating want, and in a few days question is before tens of thousands of persons. These are only a few of the helps that the paper affords.

We might mention among other things of value the market reports, and that of the "scrap" correspondence, and, most valuable of all, special departments for each branch of rural effort.

We make it a point to preserve our papers, filing them away carefully, each publication to itself. Most publishers supply an index once or twice a year. These indexes are very valuable, as by them any information that has been read once and forgotten can be readily traced up when wanted. Again, by their use one can find all that has been said on a given subject for years past. We think it very essential to thus preserve papers, as their value is by no means spent when once read and thrown aside. H. E. TWEEDE, Brown county, Ohio.

There is more than one reason why we should strive to procure a large percentage of lean in our pork; perhaps the most important is that we may increase the consumption of our pork, while one almost as important is that it enables us to increase the vigor and stamina of our herds.

BURNING CORN IN NEBRASKA.

We frequently read in the political papers that farmers in Kansas and Nebraska are using good corn for fuel in place of coal. A friend in Lincoln, Nebraska, sends us the following note concerning this practice. We shall be glad to hear from other readers concerning it:

"Little, if any corn is being burned in this part of the State. It seems to me very evident, however, that there must be many locations where it would be economy to burn it. Corn is selling here in Lincoln for about 13 cents for 75 pounds of ears, some times as low as 11 cents. At 13 cents this would be about \$8.50 per ton of ears. Pennsylvania hard coal now sells at \$8.50 per ton, while there are some very cheap soft coals that can be got at, perhaps, \$3.50 to \$5 per ton. Farther west in then State the corn is worth less, probably not over 10 cents in some places, while eastern coal, at least, must be higher. Now the problem depends upon the heating value of corn, and that I don't know, neither have I found any satisfactory answer, though I have talked with those who have burned it

to a limited extent. I suspect that little, if any, corn will be burned near the railroads, but suppose that you were 10 miles away from the place to sell your corn and to buy your coal, and had to make two or three trips to effect the exchange! I am inclined to think that it would be only the part of wisdom to burn the corn.

"For my part, I see no reason why there should be any more hesitancy in using for fuel a material which the consumer can replace at will, than in using a decreasing supply of one that cannot be replaced. It appears to me merely a business problem.

"Farmers get one cent less for shelled corn than for unshelled. Cobs form the staple for kindling wood and light fuel of this section, and are sold by the elevators. Loads of them stand on the street corners every day in the year, I suppose. We usually pay \$1.50 per double box load for them delivered."—Rural New Yorker.

Go a little out of the way this fall to overhaul your machinery in general; see that it is well cleaned and well oiled where needed. If not put away in proper shape it cannot be expected to do service year after year. In this regard "line upon line, precept upon precept" seems necessary.

FARM NEWSPAPERS.

Hon. J. H. Bingham, Master of the National Grange, says in a recent article:

"There are many journals in circulation among the farmers, which are especially devoted to the agricultural interests. We should make use of these important agencies to aid us in advancing to a higher plane those who till the soil. Extend their circulation. Farmers should use their columns for the purpose of forming a closer acquaintance with each other and give and receive help in their work. We can thus bring the problems we wish to have solved to the attention of thousands of intelligent farmers of wide experience on the farm and in the home. We can talk with our brother farmers of questions which interest us as tax-payers and citizens. These discussions should be carried on for the purpose of receiving and imparting instruction. Inexperienced writers and undisciplined thinkers may some times feel inclined to reflect upon those who do not agree with them upon public questions, but time and discussion will give experience. And when the discovery is made that there are depths which have not been sounded by the superficial thinker and writer, he will become more guarded in expression, and will soon learn to respect the opinions of others. The editors of these papers may usually be relied upon to exercise a wise supervision over the matter that finds a place in their columns, and thus prevent proper discussion from sinking into unfraternal wrangling, to the injury of the writers. A fraternal spirit and a wise forbearance will strengthen our cause and hasten the time when all shall know the truth."

KEEP THE BOYS ON THE FARM. We will venture to assert that if each boy is given a flock of fowls, if only Bantams, and be alone have the management, and the receipts—a very important adjunct the flock of fowls will cause the boy to take an interest in farming from the start. Let him become accustomed to the breed and he will soon learn the points of all breeds. And he will not stop there. He will aim to know the breeds of cattle, sheep, horses and hogs. He will look forward to the exhibitions of the country fairs, and strive to win prizes. He will have a love for the farm bred in him from the start, and when he is a man he will yearn for the happy days spent on the farm, and will get back to it if he can, should he be induced away. When one becomes interested in poultry on the farm, he comes educated to an interest in everything else. As soon as your boy can manage them, give him a few Bantams, and after he is older start him with some pure breed of standard size. It is the best plan for teaching the boy to remain on the farm.

So important has the potato become in all parts of the world that its great commercial value has developed the highest skill of the experimenter and grower in the improvement of the varieties and in the culture, together with labor-saving potato machinery. Varieties, soil, planting, manuring, cultivation, disease, digging, are each a study.

"FARM BUILDING."

There is always something "new under the sun." We are informed that Mr. D. L. Risley, of Philadelphia, who has sold some three hundred New Jersey farms a month for several years past, and who was the projector and builder of the Jersey towns of Pleasantville, Milmay, Estelle and McKee, has purchased 20,000 acres of land at Reigate, Brunswick county, Va., and will immediately build it up as a farming city after the plans successfully carried out by him in New Jersey. These plans—which Mr. Risley intends to follow in various portions of the South—are to purchase tracts ranging from 10,000 to 40,000 acres, thus enabling him to lay out five, ten, twenty and forty acre farms, with paved roads and all conveniences, as a town boomer would lay out lots. In fact his communities in New Jersey are virtually towns where every inhabitant has a five acre yard and every family near neighbors.

Reigate, Va., where Mr. Risley will commence his Southern operations, is known as an unusually good farming country. It already has stores, schools, churches, etc. Mr. Risley expects to assemble there within the next sixty days, a population of 5,000 people. Excursions are to be run from the North and West, every week, the first leaving New York, November 18th, by the Old Dominion line of steamers. The farms will be sold at \$15 an acre in installments of \$1 a week. Mr. Risley's offices are at 211 S. 10th St., Philadelphia, 150 Nassau St., New York, and 63 Chauncery Lane, London.

There are some pastures, or portions of them, that should never have been cleared of timber, and where practicable it would be better for such places to grow up again to woods as a means of renovation or of future income. What robbers we have been of our virgin forests.

APPLYING MANURE.

Upon the returns from the manure heap, the farmer must mainly depend for his profit. It is therefore extremely important for him to use it where it will do the most good. Not merely the present crop, but future soil fertility must be considered, else while getting large interest on his capital the farmer will find that it is insensibly disappearing. Manuring must not be applied exclusively to the crops sold from the farm. If it is, the crop is sure to take away something more than is given to the soil by the manure. It is the characteristic of manure on which its value largely depends that it makes more available the fertility of the soil in contact with it. Hence the necessity with grain crops of sowing either grass or clover which will use part of this fertility and retain it in the soil in their roots, and on the farm, in the manure from stock to which they are fed. Where clover is seeded when manure is applied it does even more than retain fertility. It increases the nitrogen in the soil by decomposition of air by its roots, and the long deep tap root of clover reaches down into the subsoil and takes the mineral plant food that no grain or vegetable crop could reach and use.—Southern Farm.

LITTLE FARMS IN JAPAN.

Japan and not France or Belgium, would appear to be the land of petite culture. According to a recent American bulletin a couple of acres is considered a large tract for farming purposes. Most of the farms are smaller, and on a little plot a surprising variety of crops is cultivated—a few square feet of wheat, barley, maize and millet; a plot of beans, perhaps 10 feet wide by 20 feet long, a similar area of potatoes and peas, and a patch of onions "about as big as a grave;" beetroot, lettuce, turnips, sweet potatoes and other crops occupy the rest of the area. The farmer examines his growing crops every morning, just as an engineer inspects his machinery, and if anything is wrong he puts it right. If a weed appears in the bean patch he pulls it up; if a hill of potatoes or anything else fails it is at once replanted. When he cuts down a tree he always plants another. As soon as one crop is harvested the soil is worked over, manured, and forthwith resown to another crop. It is estimated that nine tenths of the agricultural land of Japan is devoted to rice, and as this is a crop requiring much water, the paddy fields are banked up into terraces, one above the other, and divided off into small plots 25 feet to 30 feet square, with ridges of

earth between them to prevent the water from flowing away when they are flooded. All farming lands are irrigated by a system that is 1,000 years old. Some of the ditches are walled up with bamboo wicker work and some with tiles and stone. Nearly half the total population of Japan is engaged in agriculture. Silk and tea, the two chief exports of the country, are raised almost by the work of women.—London Times.

POSSIBILITIES OF SOUTHERN SOIL.

A farmer in Decatur county, Georgia, has sold his tobacco crop this season for \$6,000. A trucker near Plant City, Florida, this year realized \$375 from one hundred hills of pepper. O. E. Ringland, of Dooly county, Georgia, made fifty bales of cotton on fifty acres and gathered three hundred bushels of corn off of six acres. R. C. Hall, of DeLand, Fla., gathered and sold 15,800 bunches of green and ninety-six bushels of onions from one twelfth of an acre. A Mitchell county (Georgia) farmer last year made 500 bushels of sweet potatoes on one acre, and this year made forty barrels of syrup per acre. This is an object lesson, teaching that the possibilities of Southern soil are very great, and adapted to a large diversity of productions.

WINTER ON THE FARM.

There is no such thing as an end of the work on the farm. It is a round without a break. Whilst this is true, it is also true that at some seasons of the year the rush is greater than it is at others—greater in the midst of the growing than it is during the season of dormancy for vegetation in general.

On the farm during the longer nights and shorter days of winter there is great opportunity for thought and cultivation of the mind—opportunity for revision, for adding to the fund of information, for planning for the future in the light of all past experience.

Each farm is a problem by itself, the problem changing with the crop. It is a problem that has to be solved in practice, yet out of thought constantly exercised. So that from mistakes well considered often come the most marked successes. It is in the midst of such conditions that to the reading farmer the invaluable suggestion from without often appears.

So more and more the farmer is becoming a student, a reader, profiting often by what he is told of the experience of others and learning definitely of his place and relationships in the world as a producer. No one, except in empty phrase, talks any longer sneeringly of book farming, for all good farmers now look more or less to the books, and no one who is making a business of farming, and so knows that the farm, and even the field, is something to be regarded by itself and in its peculiarities, follows them to the letter or blindly.

It is only in a vague way that the wholesomeness, mentally as well as physically, of the home life on the farm is mostly viewed. The extent to which the best we have, or as good as the best we have, in all the departments of mental activity springs directly out of that life is not sufficiently realized as a truth generally.

The books in the farmer's home are not usually numerous, but they are sure to be good and wholesome and are read in the manner best calculated to make for mind strengthening—they are read often and carefully enough to be substantially mastered.

It is the memory of a country home on this order that causes many a man who has made his fortune in city pursuits to go back to the farm, and whoever has such a memory has a blessing that cannot be taken away.

The winter on the farm has, of course, its hardships. This outline picture that we have sketched is of the bright side, and it is the side to develop and make the most of—it is the side showing the time for reading, discussing, planning, tracing causes to effects or effects back to causes. It is the time for the sunshine of home to be at its brightest and best.—Home and Farm.

There is a positive must in feeding the hogs something more bulky and less concentrated than corn; if the feeder expects to keep them in a healthy condition for any great length of time. There is nothing more better or cheaper than pumpkins to feed with corn, and, when thus fed, they will fatten quicker than when upon corn only.

AN ECONOMIC QUESTION.

Under this title, John Gould writes in the Practical Farmer as follows:

While the prices of dairy products are low, the man with the farm and dairy is getting a living, and of this there is little doubt; but what is to be said of the man who is dependent upon shop or mill work, with its strikes, lock-outs and threatened collapse, or the man with small capital threatened by a receivership in sight? Of course, there is no fortune to be made now on a 100 acre farm and a stock of 20 cows, but there is living, clothes, and no fear of pinching want, as is the case on the opposite hand. Much of the distress of to-day is from the fact that money is not made as it once was, and still it is not greatly different now than from 20 years ago; the few only climb into great accumulations of wealth, but not more are made happy by these abnormal accumulations of wealth than by the more moderate gatherings that imply no rents, abundant food, a freedom to come and go that is unknown to the shopman, and so on through the list. An economist has figured out that if the actual production of the country was divided pro rata, it would only give each person less than a half dollar a day. In an able article from Mr. J. McLain Smith, in the Farmers' Home, and what he has to say in general, applies with equal force to the dairyman, that if we are not getting as much now as we once did, it is possible that we secured rather more than the average share of 45 cents per day in the past, though it is hard to admit that any dairyman ever—even in the wettest weather—obtained anything more than was by exchange his just due. To quote Mr. Smith:

"Ambition—the desire to 'get on' and excel—is well enough in its way; it is essential to progress. But the accumulation of money is not the highest ambition; and, success, to any marked degree, is only possible, even in the best of times, to a very few. The total annual production of the country is all there is to divide. It is physically impossible that the accumulations of many can be large, and the only possible way to increase them is to increase the total product, or reduce the average waste, and the average expenditure for immediate consumption. Every man whose total income exceeds 40 cents a day for each member of his family is getting now more than his proportionate share of the total product; and if this were equally divided his receipts would necessarily be cut down. How many farmers fall below this if all they get from the farm—house rent, fuel, meat, poultry, eggs, milk, butter, vegetables, etc.—was valued at the market price? Very few, I think. There are very few, therefore, who are not getting more than their proportionate share of the total product.

LIME AND CLOVER.

The New England Farmer has a dissertation upon lime and clover, from the pen of one of the staff of the Rhode Island experiment station. This writer claims truly that lime is as important as potash and phosphoric acid in "bringing in clover," and that the last two are entirely insufficient to encourage the growth of clover on some Rhode Island soils; but where lime is added clover grows as vigorously as formerly. Some farmers said clover winter killed in late years, others averred that the soil had become "clover sick," without offering any explanation as to the cause of clover sickness. It is well demonstrated, however, that in our granitic, and perhaps some other soils where clover once flourished, but will not now, the supply of lime in the soil has been exhausted, and what it needs to make it produce clover again is to apply lime. Any one who has clover sick soil can easily test the matter. Gypsum, or land plaster, was once celebrated in central New York for its beneficial action upon clover, but in late years it is of so little value that farmers have almost entirely ceased its use; but just as large crops of clover are grown as ever. The fact is, plaster is nearly all carbonate of lime, and so much of it has been used that a large surplus remains in the soil, and, of course, an addition to it is of no benefit to crops. Wood ashes are excellent to apply clover, but where there is lack of lime in the soil, the thirty-five per cent. of it in the ashes does more good than the remainder of the commodity.—Dr. Galen Wilson, in Farm and Fireside.

If you want to buy a farm, you need not go outside of North Carolina to get it. If you can't do well here, you can't do well elsewhere.