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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.



THE 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.
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.
Democrat, Hickory, N. C.
Recorder, New Bern, N. C.
The Home, Beaufort, N. C.
The People's Paper, Lenoir, N. C.
The Star, Wadesboro, N. C.
The Low-Boy, Salisbury, N. C.
The 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.

Feeding and training have given value to the breed, and their value must be kept up by feeding and training.

The sod ground that is to grow corn next season will waste but little manure, however fresh it may be, that is spread on it now.

The handiest way to keep record of a new orchard is to make a little map with the trees all marked, numbered and named.

The male should always be selected in some pure breed, and not haphazard, but after a careful investigation of his antecedents.

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 registered bull and breed up.

When evergreen trees get rusty on the lower branches, cutting out the lower will cause the lower part of the tree to regain its vigor and green appearance.

Dead branches and suckers may be sawed away from the fruit trees at this season. The branches should be cut close to the trunk, clear back to the wood.

What man has done man can do. Any dairymen have succeeded in getting their herds up to an average of pounds of butter per cow per year. They should strive for it.

Very soon, if not now, farm machinery—mowers, reapers, wagons, plows, cultivators, etc., that cost millions of dollars will be buried in snow. The farmer's loss is the manufacturer's gain.

No animal is more likely to suffer from lack of water than is the hog. This is mainly because this stock is often fed milk or swill, the latter usually having more or less salt in it, and both utterly unfit to take the place of water. Fattening hogs especially should be given all the water they will drink, as it keeps them from becoming feverish, which injures the quality of their pork.

THE FUTURE OF HAY FARMING.

The desire to cultivate as much land as possible in order to get the most possible from it has led to general neglect of meadow and pasture lands. Only when it was found that the soil had lost so much fertility that it would not pay for cultivating was it seeded down or left to grow up with such herbage, both weeds and grass, as nature provided, says the American Cultivator.

The result is that most of the land now in grass is by that very fact discredited as being presumably fit for nothing else. Yet there is in all grass land a constant tendency to increase in fertility. It is so even when the land is left to grow up with weeds and bushes. These shelter the surface, hold the leaves that fall on the land from being blown away. The decomposition of these leaves gradually builds up soil, and to this must be added the excrement from animals fed on the herbage which the soil is still able to grow.

Usually when the improvement of grass land is determined upon the sod to be turned under and rot is regarded as an important part of the soils assets. Improving the land as meadow or pasture by manuring it and still keeping it unplowed is hardly ever thought of. Yet as in most cases this grass land is, even with manure, not quite rich enough for profitable cropping, the experiment is worth trying of applying to it such manure as can be had and see what the increased grass or hay product will be worth. This is done successfully in England. Why may it not be also in the older parts of this country? The demand for hay is generally good in all Eastern cities. Will it pay to fertilize grass lands so as to make the growing of hay profitable? If it will not pay to maintain fertility in grass land, the logical sequence is that all hay or grass taken from it helps to reduce fertility so that the soil will be worth nothing for the production of any kind of crop.

It is likely that in the future, as in the past, most of the hay crop in this country will be produced in the years when the rotation between cultivated crops and grass requires that the land be seeded. Our climate is not moist like that of England. Hence it cannot keep a good sod many years without plowing and seeding. This also is so much the best for cultivated land that there need be no fear that the profits of cultivated crops will go lessen the amount of land in grass that there will not be hay enough to feed with grain and coarser fodder, nor that it will fail to be supplied at reasonable prices.

TO MAKE THE FARM PAY.

At the Bloomingburg (Ohio) Farmers' Institute, Mr. John Larimer, in the course of an address, said:

One of the greatest hindrances to profitable farming is a desire to go too fast at first and to purchase things we could get along without.

The obliging agents tell you that you need not trouble about the money; your note will do just as well; but you will find that you must pay big interest for the privilege of going in debt, and you are always at a disadvantage to your creditor.

Have the money ready to pay and you can then make your half of the bargain. Take good care of your farm and your stock, and they will furnish the money for necessary outlays.

I will just say to young men who expect to make farming their occupation, that they may expect hard work and plenty of it, and will not need to join any baseball nine for exercise; but if they take care of their health and habits it will not hurt them, for I have tried it for over sixty years and am to day a well preserved man. I can truly say that with the blessing of our Heavenly Father upon the labors of myself and family I have made farming pay, and what I have done others can do.

SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE.

More and more is agriculture looking to science as the source of its salvation. It is largely because agriculture has not kept pace with the other arts in scientific development, that it finds itself at such disadvantage to day. There have been, it is true, great advances made; crops are planted with a much greater degree of certainty and are brought to maturity and converted into cash with a much less expenditure of human brawn than ever before, but compared with the advances resulting from the adoption of scientific methods in the mechanical arts, where steam and electricity are

called into service and a thousand products of human ingenuity are employed. Agriculture's advance is as nothing. The truth is that we are only beginning to have a scientific foundation upon which to stand. The whole theory of plant growth has only recently been revised and we have as yet only begun to adapt our methods to the new theories, says Farm News.

It is only twenty one years since the first agricultural experiment station was established in this country, and less than half a century since the first one in the world began its work in Leipsic, Germany. Prior to that time but little scientific attention had been given to the cultivation of the soil, so that the results accomplished in these few decades are nothing less than marvelous. And the results are all the more encouraging from the fact that in almost every department of the work they are basic; the discoveries made, the results obtained give foundation for future work along the same line.

Take for example, the work of the bacteriologists. A few years ago their work was confined almost exclusively to the study of bacteria injurious to plant and animal life; at the present time much more attention is paid to the bacteria useful to the processes of growth. Dairymen purchase in the open market a pure culture, "B 41," for use in ripening cream. And now experiments of even greater importance are under way, are indeed all but successful, in which the fertility of the soil is preserved and even created, by inoculation with a bacterial culture. This subject is treated more fully in an able article on another page in this issue.

The outcome no man can guess. But it is certain that agriculture, as well as every other occupation that employs the time and energies of man, has limitless possibilities before it. Mistakes will doubtless be made; enthusiasts will be led away by half truths and theories untried, but every year will bring us nearer perfection.

FARMING BY THE FIRESIDE.

The evenings are getting longer as winter comes on, and after the day's work is done and all is snug for the night, it is a good time to do something. The fact is the average farmer does not think half enough. Many work so hard that they do not have vital forces enough left to do a good job of thinking. They act on the principle that hard work alone will bring success, which is a fallacy. While there is no royal road to successful farming, fruit-growing or any other rural pursuit, there is a vast difference between the net profits of the average hard working but plodding tiller of the soil and of one who is wide awake.

One all important thing that a large part of the farmers, gardeners and fruit growers forget is that they must feed their crops. It is no more reasonable to shut live stock in a barren pasture field and expect them to fatten than to look for good crops in a field, orchard or garden that has not been well manured either naturally or artificially. The most fertile soil will be come poor after a few years of cropping without wise management. The exercise of wisdom in managing the soil is a considerable part of good farming, and it can be partly done by the fireside. It is often the case that an attempt is made to manure a piece of land by hauling on it a lot of coarse, bulky material that really has very little in it of actual manurial value. It is often nearly all trash and water. The value of such barn yard and city-stable manures lies chiefly in their mechanical action on the soil by loosening it, and the humus they make by decaying. These are quite necessary, and should not be left out of any plan for enriching the soil. But there are three essential elements in all true and perfect manures that cause crops to grow, within well-defined limits, in proportion to their abundance. They are nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid.

No vegetation will grow without all of them, but much depends on the kind of crop to be grown as to which should predominate. If one desires to grow forage crops, such as grass, corn, etc., or vegetables which have a large leafy growth, they call for nitrogen in excess of the other two. The cheapest source from which to obtain nitrogen is the air, four fifths of which is composed of it, and the supply is therefore inexhaustible. The only way to draw upon this supply is through the clovers, cow peas and a few other pod-bearing plants which have the peculiar

faculty of absorbing it and storing it in their structures, especially in the roots. The growing of these crops will not only save the purchase of the most expensive of the three manures, but if plowed under, will loosen the soil and add the needed humus. Other substances that are rich in nitrogen are fish scraps, tankage and animal refuse of almost almost any kind, nitrate of soda and other mineral nitrates.—Farm and Fireside.

THE MATTER OF ADVERTISING.

An Iowa paper charges that many agricultural journals in the Central West were bought during the late Presidential campaign by Mark A. Hanna, McKinley's manager.

Agricultural papers are non partisan, or should be, in the nature of things. In many of the papers the matter was given as an advertisement, the editor explaining editorially that such was its character, and that editorially the paper did not endorse the position as summed in the advertising matter. There is a wide difference between the editorial utterances of a journal and the statements made in advertisements and in communications. It would not be illegitimate for an agricultural journal to admit the positions taken by a political party as an advertisement on a par with other advertisements, but it should not have more dignity. It would be illegitimate, however, to give the weight of the editorial endorsement, and to exclude from its columns advertisements of the opposing party, in effect fully aligning the journal with the party advertising. While it would be legitimate to admit such advertisements in the columns of a purely agricultural journal, simply and solely as advertisements, with no more dignity than any other advertisements, it would be wiser to reject them, and thus avoid "the appearance of evil."

The above is from the Southern Farm, Atlanta, Ga. The matter referred to was offered to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER through a well-known advertising agency at a liberal price, but this paper did not even waste a stamp in reply. But we regret to say that it did appear in many agricultural journals of large circulation and influence, and many of them did not refer to it at all. We consider such papers unworthy of confidence.

THE DAIRY.

VALUE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. Facts, even if a little late in coming, are many times valuable. There was handed the writer of this at the World's Fair, in the Dairy Building, a little book entitled "Souvenir of the Illinois Dairy Exhibit, World's Columbian Exposition." It was very neatly gotten up and found to contain many items of interest, a few of which will be referred to here. Will first quote from its preface as follows: "In compiling this pamphlet as a souvenir of the Illinois Dairy Exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition, it is not the intention to tire the reader with a detailed statistical statement, but to give only a few figures that will approximate the magnitude of the dairy industry in Illinois. Some product of the dairy is used daily in every household in the State. In the mansion of the millionaire and the cottage of the workman it is one of the last articles of food that can be dispensed with.

"Few people stop to think of the importance of dairy products—milk, cream, butter and cheese. Milk is the most perfect food known, containing all the elements of nutrition in perfect proportion and the only one on which human life can be sustained for any considerable length of time in a healthful condition. Cream is not only one of the most inexpensive luxuries, but most healthful, possessing many medicinal qualities. People are accustomed to think of wheat or flour as being the most important article of food, but in an ordinary family it costs a small sum compared with that of butter. In fact, butter costs more than any other single article of food, with the exception of meat; combine the four dairy products—milk, cream, butter and cheese—and they exceed the cost of meat. Cheese is not used as commonly as it should be; in many instances it could be made to take the place of meat and be much more healthful and less expensive, a pound of cheese having a greater nutritive value than a pound of meat."

The above is quoted not so much because of its reference to dairying in Illinois, but because it sets forth in

such lucid manner the magnitude of the dairy interest.

For the benefit of those writers on dairy subjects, who are constantly either ignoring the private dairy interest, or making comparisons unfavorable to it with the public creamery interest, some figures in the souvenir are worthy of consideration and will be given below:

The total value of creamery butter made in Illinois in 1892 is put down at \$14,575,866 34. This seems a vast sum of money, as truly it is, and many of our readers if asked how it would compare with the value of dairy butter made in the State the same year would hardly give an answer indicating the facts as reported. Mark the figures given to indicate the value of that product, viz: dairy butter made in the State of Illinois during the year 1892. The figures given in round numbers are \$31,000,000—considerably more than double the value of the public creamery product.

Now, when it is remembered that the above refers to but one State, and that there is doubtless not a State in the Union where as great and perhaps a greater, difference does not exist in favor of the value of the farm dairy product, is not the interest of the latter entitled to a good deal of attention?

F. W. MOSELEY.

MAKING AND MARKETING GILT-EDGE DAIRY BUTTER.

I find that Jerseys are best adapted to this purpose on my farm to get best returns. Roomy stables are necessary, well lighted, with good ventilation, kept clean and free from odors. Give the cows plenty of dry bedding, keep them quiet, comfortable and contented and make them so with your presence. Feed regularly with good rations. My practice in winter is to milk the first thing in the morning, then give a ration of good hay. After breakfast, the cows are turned out for watering, and the mangers and stables thoroughly cleaned from the night's litter. Then a ration is given of about two quarts per cow of a mixture of equal parts of corn meal, wheat middlings and cottonseed meal, following with a feeding of hay and then corn stover. The cows are then left to themselves until 3 p. m., when they are turned out again for water and exercise, followed by the same course of feeding as in the morning. When at pasture, the cows get grain at night only.

Great care must be taken in milking to have everything neat, the bags clean and free from dirt and dust. Milk quickly and to the last drop. Carry immediately to the dairy room and thoroughly strain. If set in shallow pans, the milk must stand from twenty four to thirty-six hours in a temperature of about seventy degrees, by the submerged process forty degrees, or it is separated at once. Either plan makes equally as good butter. After the cream is properly ripened, it is churned, the buttermilk drawn and the granular butter is washed in briny water and again in clear water, then weighed, worked in a butter-walker with three-quarters of an ounce of salt to each pound of butter for part of the lot, while the rest is salted to suit the tastes of customers. It is then put in one-pound prints, wrapped in paper and set in a cool place for market.

Now comes the most difficult part of the business—getting your customers. Notwithstanding the fashion is largely for creamery butter, there are still many people who prefer private dairy butter and are willing to pay a better price, because they get butter that is firmer, less watery and will go farther and last longer than the butter made at the public creameries. To secure those customers requires patient, hard work. If you are near a village, large town or city, sell direct to the consumer and save all of the profit for yourself. When you have secured your customers, serve them faithfully and well, give them a good article every time, strive to please and they will stand by you. Serve them regularly so that you can be depended upon at a certain day, at nearly the same hour in the day in summer heat or winter cold, storm or sunshine, and your efforts to please will be rewarded by better prices and a constantly increasing demand for your product. It is thirty years ago that the writer started on a weekly drive of fifteen miles to market his product, taking up the business started by his father about twenty five years before, supplying many of the same families, with opportunities for new ones every year. He has rarely missed a trip and no week has passed but that the customers have been supplied, and it is very rare that any one finds fault with the product or the price.—O. B. Lyman, in American Agriculturist.

HORTICULTURE.

WINTER GARDEN.

Our fall and winter garden coming of prime importance.

The more we see of these gardens more fully we are convinced of the great profits that could be realized by those who would engage in the industry on an extensive scale.

Now, while the people in Iowa and other Northern States shivering in the wintry blasts blow around them, and are looking upon bare, brown fields and gardens unless perchance a carpet of snow hides the earth from sight, we look over green pastures, verdant forest front yards filled with beautiful flowers, and gardens teeming with the crops of delicious vegetables. On streets the vegetable vendors offer fresh, crisp radishes, mustard, onions and other varieties.

Celery is now planted in the trenches, and making a fine growth in many of our gardens; green beans are plentiful, squashes are growing nicely, and will soon be ready for using, and peas will be ready for our Christmas dinners. Those who took the trouble to plant fall potatoes will soon be eating new potatoes, as well as peas. Just think of it, ye denizens of the frozen North, the family here who will take the trouble to plant and care for the garden can have for their Christmas dinner—gathered from their own gardens Christmas day—new potatoes and green peas; squashes for baking, stewing and pies; green beans, radishes, lettuce, cabbage, and many other fine vegetables.

Surely Louisiana is the place to have fine things to eat.—Lake Charles American.

GROW BERRIES.

The farmer's berry garden should be decided upon now. Let the following months be given to reading good papers. Be prepared to adopt the valuable practical advice they are sure to give you. Mature plans for the season; select your plants; order them early; and let this be your first work in the spring.

One quarter acre of good land, set with proper varieties and well cultivated, should produce from 20 to 40 bushels of berries every season. This would give an ordinary family fresh berries every day in season and a liberal supply, canned, preserved or during the entire year.

Plants for such a garden purchased direct from a reliable grower for \$10 or \$15, and should include the following:

- 300 strawberry plants, early and late.
- 100 blackberry plants, early and late.
- 50 black raspberry plants, early and late.
- 10 red raspberry plants, early and late.
- 75 currants, red and white, early and late.
- 25 gooseberry, early and late.
- 18 grapes, three varieties.

Multiply this list by four to ten acres, or by twenty for five acres, and you have the right proportion of continuous supply of different varieties for market purposes.

Good berries may be grown on soil—sand, clay, muck, loam, gravel or a combination of each—provided the same be highly fertilized, drained and thoroughly cultivated.

Early fruits are usually most profitable, and light soils with southern exposure are best adapted for that purpose. Light soils, however, require heavy fertilizing, more mulch in summer, are more liable to injury from drouth and produce lighter crops. Soil must be well drained, is more difficult to prepare, matures later and is not so favorable for winter protection. The ideal berry ground should be first, a rich sandy loam with subsoil. Second, a dark loam or silty loam mixed slightly with clay, a clay subsoil, all having a south or eastern slope.

Any of these mixed soils will be good berry gardens by applying barnyard manure, which contains the essential elements required. Such manure cannot be obtained. Commercial fertilizers rich in nitrogen and potash should be applied.

Avoid low, flat land unless well drained; it is usually cold, late and more subject to frost.

Avoid steep hillsides as being more subject to drouth and wash of soil during severe rains.

Very few farms are without suitable soil and location for a good berry garden, and that farmer who simply waits a year after year, without a good plan, has not learned the first principle of good living.—M. A. Thayer, in Occident.