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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 11.

RALEIGH, N. C., JANUARY 26, 1897.

No. 50

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### PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Caucasian, New York, N. Y.  
Banner, New York, N. Y.  
Our Home, New York, N. Y.  
The People's Paper, New York, N. Y.  
The Vestibule, New York, N. Y.  
The Plow-boy, New York, N. Y.  
Carolina Watchman, Raleigh, N. C.  
Hickory, N. C.  
Whiteoaks, N. C.  
Beaver Dam, N. C.  
Lumberton, N. C.  
Charlotte, N. C.  
Concord, N. C.  
Wadesboro, N. C.  
Salsbury, 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.

How to grow crops the cheapest is the farmer's one chief duty; how to get the largest possible price for them is the next.

The latest estimate puts the world's wheat crop this year at 160,000,000 bushels short of last year; the lightest crop since that of 1890.

There cannot be too much care taken in keeping potatoes during the winter, and at a low temperature. It is warmth and light that causes them to sprout.

Size up the situation upon your farm. Find out just where you stand at the beginning of a new year. It is worth some hard thinking to get started right again.

There is no best occupation. It is a matter of preference and adaptation. Farming is, for the right man, the best business, but for the wrong man it is one of the worst.

There should be tenfold more fruits consumed in many families than there is, and if there should be, both the health and the pocketbook would be better off than now.

Did you ever stop to think of the amount of capital you had tied up in the fences on your farm? It may be a good investment and it may not. Very few farms have too few fences.

The sanitary condition of the premises require constant attention. Cities have sanitary inspectors. The country has none. It is, therefore, the more important that a careful watch is kept in regard to these matters.

It is said that not enough popcorn is produced in this country to supply the home demand. If this is true, and we have no reason to doubt it, why would it not pay farmers to raise more popcorn.

Growing one crop not only impoverishes the soil, but dwarfs the man. To have a variety and rotation divides the labor of the year, reduces the number of teams, gives regular employment every month in the year, and develops the husbandman into a capability greater than that of mere mechanical sowing and reaping.

## HORACE GREELBY'S MISTAKE.

I was talking with a man who has had 40 years' experience in the commission business, about the condition in which a great deal of produce is sent into market. He gets many small shipments from farmers, some of whom, at least, either do not know how to assort and pack their produce properly, or else do not use the knowledge they possess. He said that, of many of the apples received, if seven barrels were sorted down to four, the shipper would have less freight, cartage and commission to pay, and would get fully as much for the four as now for the seven, and perhaps more. His father was in business when Horace Greeley began farming at Chappaqua, and sold some of the first produce the great sage ever sent to this market. Neither the editor-farmer nor his help understood the proper method of preparing produce for market, and the result was that some of the first shipments were nearly unsalable, and much of it brought hardly enough to pay expenses.—Cor. Rural New Yorker.

The enterprising farmer who wishes to benefit others by raising the standard of agriculture in his own locality, and at the same time turn an honest penny, should induce his friends and neighbors to subscribe for and read good agricultural literature.

## THE COTTON PLANT.

The 433 page bulletin on the Cotton Plant, its History, Botany, Chemistry, Culture, Enemies, and Uses, just issued by the Department of Agriculture, is probably the largest publication devoted to a single branch of agricultural industry ever issued by the Department. Cotton, as stated by Assistant Secretary Dabney in an introductory chapter devoted largely to the economics of the subject, is the principal product of eight great States and the most valuable money crop of the entire country. While it furnishes the raw material for one of our most important manufacturing industries, it constitutes at the same time from one fourth to one-third of our total exports. In view of such considerations this treatise has been prepared by the experts of the Departments, with the collaboration of various specialists connected with the agricultural colleges and experiment stations of the South, and of a practical planter (Maj. Harry Hammond, of South Carolina), whose valuable contributions to the literature of cotton production long ago brought him into prominence. These different writers discuss the subject, each from his own scientific or practical standpoint. The purpose of the bulletin is stated by Dr. A. C. True, Director of the Office of Experiment Stations, under whose supervision it has been compiled, to be the presentation of such facts as would be useful to students of agriculture, to investigators at the experiment stations, and to that increasing body of intelligent agriculturists who are interested in thoroughly acquainting themselves with the present condition of our agricultural industries, with view to discovering means for their improvement; and the researches of the chemist, the climatologist, the botanist, the entomologist, and other investigators are all made contributory to this important end.

The chapter on the botany of cotton, by Dr. Walter H. Evans, is concerned chiefly with the structure and varieties of the plant. Mr. J. B. McBryde, of Tennessee, and Mr. W. H. Beal, of the Department, joint authors of the chapter on the chemistry of cotton, discuss the composition of the plant and the demands it makes upon the soil. Prof. Milton Whitney treats of climatology and soils, using weather tables and soil analyses in explanation of the conditions most favorable to cultivation. Prof. H. H. C. White, of the Georgia State College, discusses the manuring of cotton, stating the conclusions drawn from numerous experiments. Prof. S. M. Tracy, of Mississippi, contributes a description of the principal cultivated varieties of the cotton plant, with their origin, distribution, and relative values. The diseases of cotton are discussed by Prof. G. F. Atkinson, of Cornell, and the insects which affect the cotton plant by Dr. L. O. Howard, the Department entomologist. The feeding value of cotton seed products forms the subject of an important chapter by Mr. B. W. Kilgore, of North Carolina, while 88 pages are devoted to a discussion of the culture, handling, and uses of cotton by Major Harry Hammond. Mr. R. B. Handy furnishes a chapter on

the history and statistics of the industry. Most of these articles are illustrated. The volume includes a bibliography.

The publication is not available for general distribution, as the law limits the edition to a thousand copies, but the Superintendent of Documents, Union Building, Washington, D. C., can supply a limited number of copies at 35 cents each, and "separates" of most of the articles will shortly be issued by the Department for miscellaneous distribution. It is, however, within the province of Congress to order a larger edition of the complete work, but no steps to this end have been taken as yet.

## LIME AS A FERTILIZER.

The crops which are mostly improved by the application of lime are those which contain most lime, namely, turnips, clover and grasses. When lime is first applied to land, white clover generally appears in abundance. The corn crops are slightly benefited by the application of lime—barley probably more than the other cereals. The effect of lime in liberating potash from clay soils has caused it to be used with advantage for roots requiring much potash, and also for the potato, which crop it greatly improves. Flax is said to be in no way affected by the application of lime. With regard to the frequency of the application of lime, and the quantity to be applied, it is somewhat difficult to lay down precise rules. Experience has taught that soils which require liming do so periodically, for the lime gradually sinks into the soil, and loses a great portion of its usefulness. The quantity will vary with the frequency of the application, being less the more frequently it is applied.—Western Plowman.

A new law has just been promulgated in Germany, having for its object the doing away with the evils claimed by the agriculturists and others to arise from option trading. By its provisions all time contracts in grain and mill products are forbidden, as also in mining and manufacturing shares.

## FAILURES OF 1896.

The commercial agencies are figuring up the total business failures for 1896 and place those in which the liabilities exceed the assets at 15,112—which is 55 per cent. more than last year and 65 per cent. more than 1894. These figures do not include the numerous failures of the past few weeks which will bring the list nearly if not quite to that of the panic year, '93.

The total liabilities for the year are placed at \$247,000,000. Bradstreet is responsible for the statement that the commercial death rate was, in 1896, 1.40 per cent. by which is meant that 1.40 per cent. of every 100 individuals, firms and corporations, in business last year failed. This death rate was exceeded only by that in 1893, when it was 1.51 per cent. In 1895 the commercial death rate was 1.23, and in 1894, 1.21 per cent.

The "prosperity" of the past six weeks has been such that a continuance of it would precipitate universal bankruptcy.

Of course such a financial cyclone cannot be permanent. It is bound to exhaust itself by its own violence. But every observer must realize that while the panic is equal to anything prophesied in the event of a silver victory at the polls the recuperative power of the country has none of the vigor which a policy of true bimetalism would have insured. On the contrary, every producing industry is at a low ebb, its credit strained, the demand for its products low and the market already overcrowded. While "better times" are inevitable because they could not be worse—real prosperity is far away and woefully uncertain. But hope on, spread the light and the four years more of darkness must pass like an unpleasant nightmare. When the people have found out what four more years of gold really mean, there will be a change in sentiment on the subject of the real "sound money."—Western Rural.

If it has not been done before, this is a good time to destroy the black knot on plum trees. Each specimen should be cut out, removing the limb to which it is attached, if a small one. Keep the knife wet with carbolic acid diluted while making the cuts, and apply the same to the cut surface. In this way the danger of propagating the spores by use of the knife in pruning will be prevented.

## A HOG CHOLERA CURE.

Last fall a Farmers' Voice man met Dr. Frank Baumgartner, of Peotone, Ill., and first heard of the doctor's discoveries concerning hog cholera.

Dr. Baumgartner claims that hog cholera is not an infectious disease, and brings many arguments to prove his theory. He claims that the disease is due to injudicious feeding, and that it can be cured by methods which he has discovered.

There have been so many so called cures for hog cholera brought to public notice that new ones are received with a large amount of unbelief, but Dr. Baumgartner has the courage of his convictions, and we learn that he has been conducting some very successful experiments in Iowa under the auspices of the Burlington road.

The claim that injudicious feeding is the sole cause of the hog cholera has been made before, but has never been conclusively proved. Right along this line comes a postal card from one of our subscribers, which we print as being of interest:

Publishers Farmers' Voice—\$1,000.000 worth of hogs were lost in Iowa alone with hog cholera last year. Pumpkins are a sure preventive of hog cholera. I have raised King of Mammoth pumpkins for six years and have not lost one hog, while many of my neighbors have lost all. The pumpkins weigh from sixty to ninety pounds, and often are 100 pounds. I want the farmers to try these pumpkins and will send a liberal supply of the seed to anyone sending self addressed stamped envelope, as I have saved a large quantity of seed. C. C. ASFAHL, Doran, Ia.

No doubt Mr. Asfahl's success is largely due to the fact that he has fed his hogs something besides clear corn, and thus kept them in good condition. We would be glad to hear from others along this line.—Farmers' Voice.

## HORTICULTURE.

### IT PAYS TO GROW STRAWBERRIES.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. MARION STATION, MD.

In order to have a fine crop of berries and make money, it is necessary to have the best, as no fruit pays as well as strawberries, and the first fruit to ripen; and in order to have the best, we have got to keep trying, and there are some good varieties coming to the front all the time. I have been growing berries for the past twenty-five years, and during that time I have tested many varieties of strawberries. Some varieties have not been worth ground room, but if I had stopped and not tried many varieties, I should have been left, as the first varieties that I commenced to grow for profit, I only grow them now in a small way for plants, as some customers still want them.

The strawberry season of 1896 in the great trucking section of Maryland was poor in yield because plants made poor growth in the summer and fall of 1895, and again in the spring of 1896, owing to the severe drouth, and after all, taking it all through, there was more money made from strawberries than all other trucks combined. Notwithstanding the severe drouth, I had a very good crop of berries on some varieties that brought me good prices. Many growers had not over one fourth of a crop. I grow mostly large berries that bring from 2 cents to 10 cents per quart more than small kinds. The Buback No. 5 has been one of my favorite large kinds, but in the Hall's Favorite we have something much better than Buback, which far surpasses any variety that I have grown. It is earlier and a better carrier than Buback, larger through the season, as productive, if not more so. As a grower the Buback is no comparison. I have seen the vines stand 12 to 18 inches high in ordinary land. Hall's Favorite originated five years ago at the Somerset Fruit and Plant Farm. On this farm we have a variety of soils, from very heavy to very light, and I have fruited the Favorite on all. It brought the past season in market 20 cents per quart when other kinds sold at 9 to 10 cents per quart. It is a strong stimulant and suitable polisher for pistillate varieties. It is the coming strawberry, Hall's Favorite has not fruited from home except at the Maryland and Ohio Experiment Stations. They send us flattering reports for sale for the first time. J. W. HALL.

Farm life will never be worth living without an orchard, vineyard and garden.

## POULTRY YARD.

### BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR.

No farmer can expect to be successful with poultry unless he knows what he is doing. He may be gaining or losing, according to circumstances, and if the exact condition of affairs could be known, it would largely serve to guard against mistakes or assist in increasing receipts. Every farmer and poultryman should keep an exact account of every dollar expended and received. By so doing the hens will show what they have done for every week and month in the year, and the prices will partially enable one to know what the market may be for the corresponding period of the next year. It is much easier to keep an account with hens than with the larger stock, as there are usually daily receipts of eggs, which need only be counted and entered, while the food can be measured in bulk and fed out until it is consumed. If farmers would keep strict account of fowls they would be surprised at the profit derived in proportion to the capital invested; and there is no better time to begin than when the new year is just beginning, and the accounts could be kept by one of the younger members of the family.—Farm and Fireside.

### WHERE THE FAULT LIES.

You say your hens won't lay! There is just where you are wrong; they certainly will lay if you give them the proper food and care. The trouble is not with the hens, but with your manner of managing them. It is not in lack of food, but the lack of certain kinds of food that is the cause of the trouble.

A hen is simply an egg machine, which, if properly fed, will, by the laws of nature, produce eggs; she will lay eggs because it is her nature to; you can't expect something for nothing, neither should you look for eggs until you feed the fowls on an egg producing food. Supply them with the food elements of which to make eggs. Right here let us ask "what constitutes an egg?" Fat? starch? carbon? salt? No! but albumenoids, fibrine and shell. The only foods that are directly digested are the albumens. The salts undergo no change at all. The fats and starches, after undergoing a process of fermentation in the crop, and grinding in the gizzard, finally supply the fat tissue—the energy and fuel of the hen machine. Where hens have a whole farm to range over, they know what they want and go after it, but when in confinement common sense should be used in feeding.—Farmers' Voice.

### GREEN BONES AND PROFIT.

The profit is always sure when every detail is correct. Cheap food must not be estimated by the price paid for it in the market. The cheapest food for the poultryman or farmer is that which gives him the largest proportionate number of eggs. It is the product by which we should measure and estimate.

Green bones are not used as extensively as they should be, says an exchange, because grain can be obtained with less difficulty and at a low cost, but as egg producing material, the bone is far superior to grain; nor does the bone really cost more than grain in some sections. The cutting of the bone into available sizes is now rendered an easy matter, as the bone cutter is with in reach of all. Bones fresh from the butcher have more or less meat adhering, and the more of such meat the better, as it will cost no more per pound than the bone, while the combination of both meat and bone is almost a perfect food from which to produce eggs.

If the farmer can get two extra eggs per week from each hen in winter, he will make a large profit. If the hens are consuming food and yet are producing no eggs, they will cause a loss to their owner; and this happens every winter on a large number of farms. The hens receive plenty of food, but not of the proper kind. A pound of cut green bone is sufficient for sixteen hens one day, which means that one cent will pay for the bone for that number of fowls. If one quart of grain be fed at night to sixteen hens, and one pound of bone in the morning, it should be ample for each day in winter. In summer only the bone need be given. Such a diet provides fat, starch, nitrogen, phosphates, lime and all the other substances required to enable the hens to lay eggs. The bone cutter is as necessary to

the poultryman as his feed mill. It enables him to use an excellent and cheap food, and gives him a profit where he might otherwise be compelled to suffer a loss. It is claimed that a bone cutter pays for itself in eggs, and really costs nothing. Bones are now one of the staple articles of food for poultry, and no ration should have them omitted. They are food, grit and lime all combined in one, and the hens will leave all other foods to eat the cut bone.

If cut fine, even chicks and ducklings will relish such excellent food, while turkeys grow rapidly on it.

To meet with success requires the use of the best materials, and green bone beats all other substances as food for poultry.

## THE DAIRY.

### THE FAST CHURN FAKE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. There are some questions that never remain settled—never stay down. Churning is one of them. Time and again has it been decided that rapid churning is not desirable. From twenty to forty minutes is by the most advanced dairymen considered not too long a time to churn. Yet every once in a while the three minute or five minute churn bobs up either in the hands of a patent right man or in the advertising columns of agricultural papers. It has always been that way and the writer begins to think it will always be that way.

One does not feel right to be everlastingly writing on one subject, yet there seems to be a need of it when it comes to churning.

Would it not be well for publishers to refuse advertisements that are of a fake character? The writer thinks it would, and thinks those expatiating on the merits of the three and five minute churns are within that class.

Is time so precious that a five minute churn is needed? We think not. It has been demonstrated that too rapid churning results in not getting all the butter in the cream and in butter of a poor quality than when the proper length of time is taken to churn.

Taken again the so-called five minute churns have floats or paddles inside. That class of churn was discarded by progressive dairymen twenty five years ago. Let a farmer understand this matter just as it is and he will not be a good subject for "patent churn men" to tackle. But how is the farmer to understand it unless he reads—or some one tells him—and how is he going to read unless it is printed? It has not been a long time by any means since a letter of the writer's on this same subject was printed, and it may not be long after this appears in print before another one on the same subject will be in order, written either by him or some one who can no longer keep silent.

Beware of the five minute churn and of the seller of it or a patent on it. F. W. MOSELEY, Clinton, Iowa.

## NATURE VS. ART.

Nature always adapts herself to circumstances. The animals in the Polar regions are white, so as to conform with the color of the snow, and so escape detection by their enemies; the fish in the streams in the Mammoth Cave have no eyes, for there is no use for them, and the cow that roams at will over the plains gives just enough milk for the calf, because no more is wanted. But the cow that is housed and fed and milked and has been so treated for generations is an entirely different animal from the natural cow. She is in fact an artificial cow, for every ounce of milk that she gives over and above what would be required for a calf is not in accord with nature, says the Ohio Valley Farmer.

Therefore in our treatment of her we cannot apply the same rules by which animals in their native state are governed and expect to make a success out of her. Nature never makes mistakes, it is true, but when we have an unnatural animal, as we have in the domesticated cow, we will make a mistake if we treat her as she was in her native state. Those who are inclined to poke fun at the "hot house cow" should stop a bit, for the cow that we now have is more or less a forced animal and we must recognize this fact in our treatment of her. And we should keep this fact in mind from the time she is dropped as a calf to the end of her days, that she is an artificial product and must be treated as such if success with her is desired.