

"The Progressive Farmer is a good paper—far above the average—and possibly the best advertising medium in N. C." Printers' Ink.



# 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., FEBRUARY 2, 1897.

No. 51

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## PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.  
Mercury, Hoke, N. C.  
The Populist, Whiteakers, N. C.  
Our Home, Beaver Dam, N. C.  
The People's Paper, Lumberton, N. C.  
The Vestibule, Charlotte, N. C.  
The Plow-Boy, Concord, N. C.  
Carolina Watchman, Wadesboro, N. C.  
Salem, 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.

Sunlight is a great tonic and health giver. No stable should be without a window on the sunny side.

How to cooperate to a practical purpose is what farmers most need to learn as a means of general progress.

The crop department of the State of Iowa reports a loss of over 30 per cent. of all the hogs in Iowa by cholera. The money loss is stated to be \$15,000,000.

Do not plan this winter to plant any one kind of a fruit tree in a solid block; be sure and mix the varieties. Otherwise the orchard will never bear as it should.

When it is time for any sort of work to be done push it along as fast as possible. Never let it push you. It costs no more to hire ten men one day than one man ten days.

The number of farms in the United States, according to the census of 1890, was 5,594,641, of which 2,269,728 were cultivated by their owners. Total area in farms, 622,218,619 acres.

There is one thing to be remembered in farming—that deep and thorough plowing is fertilizer to the land and much of the cultivation already done before the crop is planted.

Hedges are out of date. Many division lines need no barrier, and miles of fence and wall might better be taken down. But there is no excuse for wasting rods of good land to grow a straggly, stubby hedge.

Have a warm workshop on the farm. Such a place is the proper resort for three days. Do not wait until the busy season before doing your mending and repairing. Brace up the harnesses and old tools and wagons now.

The German potash salts are not caustic potash, hence they do not dissipate ammonia by hastening fermentation when applied to manure. In stead, they form a compound with the ammonia, thus helping to keep it from washing. The nitrate of potash thus formed is the most powerful fertilizer known, and it is one that can be applied to nearly every kind of crop or fruit with benefit.

## THE FARMER'S CREED.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

We believe in small well tilled farms; that the soil must be fed as well as the owner, so that the crops shall make the farm and the farmer richer.

We believe in thorough drainage, in deep plowing, and in labor-saving implements.

We believe in good fences, barns conveniently arranged, good orchards and gardens, and plenty of home raised hog and hominy.

We believe in raising purebred stock; or in grading up the best to be gotten until they equal the thoroughbreds.

We believe in growing the best varieties of farm crops, and saving the choicest for seed.

We believe in fertilizing the brain with phosphorus as well as applying it to the soil.

We believe in the proper care and application of the barnyard manure.

We believe that the best fertilizers are of little value, unless accompanied by industry, enterprise and intelligence.

We believe in rotation, diversification and thorough cultivation of crops.

We believe that every farm should own a good farmer, and that every good farmer will eventually own a good farm.

B IRBY,  
Prof. of Agriculture, A. & M. College, Raleigh, N. C.

## PEANUTS FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

The Journal of Hygiene states that Dr. Brewer has a new idea concerning food for consumptives. His treatment consists of inhaling the fumes of vinegar and the eating of peanuts. He gives his patients as many peanuts as they can eat without injuring their digestive organs. Two young ladies, who had been the rounds of doctors till they were nearly dead, were put on this treatment and recovered. Concerning these cases, Dr. Brewer says: "I now recommend feeding (do not laugh) peanuts. One would think this a very indigestible diet, but they crave them, and it has always been my policy to find out what my patients desire to eat, and unless it is too unreasonable I humor them. Both young ladies have become quite plump, and after a year's inhalations have ceased coughing, and I pronounced them well. The peanut was long known as an excellent fat producer, and much more agreeable than rancid shark oil that oftentimes is sold for cod liver oil. While not all can digest peanuts, a great many even with feeble digestions eat them with out discomfort. It beats the Koch lymph, and is the most satisfactory treatment I have ever tried for these diseases."

## SALES OF FARM PRODUCTS ABROAD.

In the last report of the Secretary of Agriculture, attention is called to the fact that during the last fiscal year the exported products of American farms aggregated a value of \$570,000,000. That is a gain of \$17,000,000 over the preceding year.

During the fiscal year 1896 agricultural products make up only 66 per cent. of the total exports of the United States, as against 70 per cent. in 1895, 73 per cent. in 1894, and 74 per cent. in 1893. But the reason of a relatively decreased value of 4 per cent., with an increase in the absolute valuation of agricultural products shipped in the year 1896, amounting to \$17,000,000 more than those of the preceding year, 1895, is solely due to the unprecedented sale abroad of an American manufactured goods and commodities, the exports of which from the United States jumped from a valuation of one hundred and eighty-four millions of dollars (\$184,000,000) in 1895 to two hundred and twenty-eight millions of dollars (\$228,000,000) in 1896.

It is admitted by all economists that general prosperity depends absolutely upon agricultural prosperity. The largest market for the products of agriculture and for the products of the manufacturing industries is the home market. It is, however, true, that the export trade is the regulator, the balance-wheel, for domestic trade. Therefore, it follows that the interest of the manufacturer, as well as of the farmer, is found in the most rapid possible increase of the export of farm products. By such exportations farmers and those engaged in subsidiary arts, who constitute nearly one-half of the population of the United States, and who mainly create the demands of the home market for manufactured goods, will have an increasing power to buy those goods.

On the other hand, the imported products of agriculture are limited in number. They are mainly sugar, wool, hemp, coffee, tropical fruits and nuts.

Any commercial system which will increase with celerity and extend with certainty the export of farm products from this country will be of utmost advantage to agriculture and all those interested in its profitable expansion. And that political economy which best advances the interests of the agriculturists furnishes the best impetus to the manufacturers of the United States, because when the prosperity of the American farmer is established by virtue of constantly increasing sales of his products in foreign markets, normal and legitimate protection will have been secured to the American manufacturer, for his best customers are farmers and those engaged in occupations which depend directly for profit upon the prosperity of farmers.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Experiments in Europe with wheat, oats and fertilizers showed that stable manure proved to be a much more economical fertilizer than artificial potato manure. Artificial manures applied to crops cultivated during the growing season only proved remunerative with copious irrigation.

The ash content of the sugar beet has diminished under cultivation, since a high sugar content corresponds with a low ash content. The ash content of the leaves has not been influenced. The ash and nitrogen contents stand in inverse ratio to the sugar content. The potash content of the beets and leaves was increased by an application of potash; and a corresponding effect upon the soda content was produced by an application of soda.

In connection with the duty on tobacco in England, an investigation was made by H. Miller as to the sugar content of the dried and green leaves. The presence of sugar in fresh tobacco was first ascertained by J. Nessler. At the wholesale houses, twelve samples were selected from the original packages; these were all of a pale color, and except the Virginia, Kentucky and Algerian, were known in the trade as "sun dried" tobacco. The following is a list of the varieties, with the percentages of sugar found: Algerian, none; Kentucky, none; Greek, a trace; Turkish, 2.3; Syrian, 2.8; Chinese, 3.5; Virginia leaf, three samples, 5.4, 7.2 and 9.8; Bright Virginia, three samples, 10.6, 12.5 and 15.2 per cent. A repetition of the experiment confirmed the above results.

In a series of fertilizer trials on the Burdwan Experimental Farm of 21 acres, sandy loam, in India, in which cow manure, castor cake, bone meal and nitrate of potash were used, the highest yield per acre were as follows: Winter rice, 4,673 pounds; rice straw, 6,377 pounds, from an application of bone meal and nitrate of potash; and jute, 1,721 pounds, from an application of cow manure. The largest return of sugar on six twelfth acre plots of sugar cane followed an application of bone meal. The largest yield of potatoes, 19,430 pounds per acre, grew where cow manure had been applied. The potatoes were remarkably good in quality.

## RAISING ONIONS FOR MARKET.

By a Successful York State Specialist.  
Onion growing may be divided into culture in the kitchen garden, the market garden, and on the farm. In the market garden the first thing under consideration is the soil. That best suited for the onion is a dry, sandy loam, not wet, or soggy, for if it is you will have nothing but scullions at the end of the season. Take a piece of land that has had early potatoes, and as soon as these are dug, haul on plenty of well rotted barnyard manure, spread evenly; plow, not too deep, but just deep enough to cover the manure. Then sow rye on it at the rate of six bushels per acre. Don't be afraid of sowing your rye too early in the fall. Don't plow too early in the spring, but give the rye a chance to start. By plowing it again in the spring you get all your manure on top, just where you want it for onions. The roots of onions are all near the surface. After going over it with a good smoothing barrow, the ground is ready for the seed.

Make the rows 18 inches apart; they might be nearer, but I think this near enough, because it gives a better chance to work them with a double hoe. When the onions are about 4 inches high sow on wood ashes at the rate of 100 bushels per acre broadcast. I never thin my onions, but leave them as the drills set them. Harvest as soon as the tops die, and sow rye as in the fall previous ready for another year's crop. If these directions are followed I promise you a fine crop of onions.—American Agriculturist.

## HORTICULTURE.

### A NEW INSECTICIDE.

At the annual meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists, Mr. A. H. Kirkland, of Malden, Mass., detailed the discovery of a new insecticide, the arsenate of barium, used against caterpillars. Experiments made with it upon foliage showed its burning point to be at about the rate of 20 pounds to 150 gallons of water. The foliage tests were made upon oak and apple. On hornbeam the burning was more marked, yet not sufficient to cause any great injury. In experimenting with larvae a definite number of the insects was confined by means of thin cloth bags upon foliage sprayed with a known proportion of the insecticide. In the case of larvae in the second, third and fourth molts feeding upon foliage sprayed with 3, 4 and 5 pounds to 100 gallons water, all were dead in a few days. With the fifth molt larvae from 10 to 20 pounds were necessary to kill all the insects in from six to eight days, showing, as in insecticide experiments of past years, that the resistance to poison increased with the age of the caterpillars. Duplicate experiments, tried after larvae had reached maturity, gave less satisfactory results, on account of pupation of a considerable part of the insects involved. About 200 larvae were used in these experiments, and where any were fed for four or five days upon foliage treated with the poison at the rate indicated, death ensued in nearly all cases. From results of this season's experimental work it would appear that arsenate of barium is probably the best arsenical compound yet used against the gypsy moth. A limited number of experiments upon the larvae showed that 5 pounds to 150 gallons were sufficient to destroy the caterpillars in from four to eight days.

## LIVE STOCK.

### DISCIPLINING THE COLT.

Very many stock owners unknowingly expose their colts to injury by allowing them to run beside the mare when the latter is driven on the road. That is a bad practice can be easily seen. As a rule the ordinary drive is entirely too much for the soft muscles, producing often a life-long injury by overtaxing the young animal. At the same time the colt roams over the road at will, going from one side to the other, into the ditch and out of the ditch, thus establishing a habit, and later, when put into harness to get his first lesson in driving, it will try to do the same thing to the disgust of the driver.

The running of the colt at large upon the road is a nuisance both to those driving its mother and other travelers.

If the colt must go with its dam it ought to be haltered and hitched by the side of its mother; it thus learns restraint and is early taught to keep the middle of the road; but even then a colt should not be taken on a long drive, as it may injure him permanently.

What this country needs is higher prices for farm produce. There can be no prosperity unless the farmer is making a living. Increasing the army and building new battle ships won't do it. And the little rivulets might be omitted when the river and harbor bills are log-rolled through.

## THE DAIRY.

### WORKING BUTTER.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

One of the errors in dairying that is constantly coming to the front relates to working butter. Time and again it has been demonstrated that the less butter is worked the better the butter will be, other things being equal. Working butter can under proper conditions and practice be entirely dispensed with, though it is doubtless quite as well to work it enough to get out surplus water. Yet if the granular system of churning is practiced—and no other system should ever be practiced—and ample time taken to allow the water to drain out no working will be needed; or at any rate only enough to bring the butter into solid condition.

While the above has been taught and re-taught for nearly the past quarter of a century, it is by no means an uncommon event to pick up an agricultural paper and have your eye light on an article in its dairy department in which some mention shows that the writer of the article did not know that all the butter milk should be washed out of butter while the latter is in the granu-

lar state, and if this is done, there will be none left to be worked out. If all the butter milk has not been washed out, you can set it down for certain that the attempt to wash it out will result in breaking the grain of the butter. As mentioned in a former letter, there is not much satisfaction in always pounding away on one string, but this matter of working butter—or working it too much—is one that calls for line upon line and precept upon precept, and even then there will be found plenty of people who will lock the butter milk up by mashing the butter before washing out the butter milk, and then in attempting to work out the latter spoil the former. Not only that, but persons who set themselves up as teachers will rehearse such practice in their writings for the agricultural press.

If there is any reader of this letter who is engaged in butter making that does not know how to practice the granular system of churning, let such person look into the matter at once and become familiar.

F. W. MOSLEY,  
Clinton, Iowa.

## CONTRACTING BUTTER.

### How to Secure a Good Average Price the Year Round.

There is scarcely any farm butter maker having a reputation for making a good article and living within a few miles of an ordinary western country town who cannot find a regular customer or customers who will take butter the year around at a good price which will be a good round average price for the year, says the Homestead. All that is necessary to make contracting of this kind easy is that the butter maker establish a record for having everything nice and clean, and for producing a quantity that is both good and uniform. The price that can be secured in this way is always considered better than the ordinary way of selling to the grocer or store keeper. As a practical question, it is subject to only one drawback, and that is from the side of the customer. We have known a good many town people who contracted for their butter this way and a very common complaint among them was that they always get their butter if the price to be paid was a little better than the stores and groceries were paying, but when, with the change of the season the price rose until the store keeper or grocer was paying a little above the agreed average price, the butter maker very commonly reported that the cows were failing and he did not have any butter to deliver under the contract. Of course, if one practices this species of dishonesty he will find it difficult to make contracts of this kind for regular delivery, and a reputation not only for cleanliness and good uniform quality is necessary, but also a reputation for strictly carrying out contracts as made.

## POULTRY YARD.

### YOUNG CHICKS.

Young chickens must be kept growing if the most is made out of them.

Young chickens being finished for market should be fed separate from the other kind of fowls.

Weak legs come from forced growth, high feeding and close confinement, but it is not necessarily dangerous.

Care must be taken to keep the drinking vessels of the young chickens clean, or else sickness and general unthriftiness will result.

Do not attempt to keep too many chickens in a flock; more money can be made from a small flock well kept than from a large number neglected.

If the best profit is to be realized from raising early broilers for market, it is very important that they be made ready for market in as short a time as possible. Broilers ought to average two pounds each when sent to market, and if they are kept healthy and thrifty and well fed they will weigh tails by the time they are ten weeks old. The feeding has an important bearing on this. When first hatched they should be fed every two hours; this should be kept up until they are ten days old; after this, feeding five times a day will be sufficient. It is always an item to feed liberally, to give all that they will eat up clean, but no more than this should be given, as it will only add to the cost without corresponding profit. Feed something of a variety, as this helps to keep them with a good appetite. Very little exercise is needed when they are grown especially for market. Keep clean, give pure water and wholesome food so as to maintain good health.—Southern Cultivator.

## LETTER FROM DUPLIN.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

DUPLIN CO., N. C.

The average farmer and farm laborer are too busy "fighting the wolf from the door" to take much thought of public affairs, much less have we time to write about them. But I do wish to express my approval of, and to remark about some things and doings which I see in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of January 12th; and this I will try to do with brevity.

First of all, let me say, I believe THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the best paper published in North Carolina. It is clean and truthful, fearless and faithful, exposing error and evil and earnestly defending truth and right. I have never known but one public act of the editor which I thought was wrong; that was when he vacated the editorial chair to give place to Mr. B. Cade. I thought this was a mistake, at the time it occurred, and so wrote to Col. Polk, then in Washington City; and I have in my possession a letter dictated by him, and written by Mr. H. W. Ayer, in reply to mine, which I very much prize.

I am glad to see our Duplin men (Maxwell and Warr) are right on the Senatorial question. We cannot support Mr. Pritchard for the Senate. We do not object to him because he is a Republican, but simply because he does not represent the views and true sentiments of a majority of the voters of North Carolina on one of the most important issues of the country, namely, that of the money question. Two years ago we supported him, believing that he was in sympathy with and would act in the interest of the masses. But his course since his election has been such as to convince us that party obligations are more binding upon him than obligations to the best interest of his constituents, hence how can we support him? We have been mocked and deceived by our public servants (so called statesmen), until we are unwilling to trust him who has the least suspicion of unfaithfulness. We need men who have the courage of their convictions—men of firmness and determination—incurruptible.

But why not this legislature fix freight and passenger rates on all roads in the State? The capital invested in railroads is before them (or attainable). The incomes and expenditures are also at hand. With these facts before them, they could fix freight and passenger rates that would be just to the people, and just to the railroads. I believe they can and ought to do it. If I am not mistaken, in former days, toll bridges and ferry ways were limited and regulated by the legislature; and even to this day the grist or grain mills of our country are limited and only allowed to take so much for grinding the people's grain.

I like S. Otho Wilson's suggestions about school books. The books now used in our public schools, cost about 2½ times as much as other books of same size and value. The State should publish the books and furnish them at cost.

I have already largely intruded upon your space, but I want to say something of one or more measures, that is, I do not believe a majority of the voters of North Carolina want the State to establish a reformatory for young criminals.

My first objection is, that the class (or race) that furnishes nine tenths of the young criminals pay scarcely any taxes at all. Surely, then, it is not just to lay this burden upon the people for the benefit of those who contribute so little towards defraying the expenses of the State. My second objection is that those persons whose age make them responsible to law have already undergone training (or a lack of training) which has fixed their habits and character for life, and nothing but the power of the Gospel of the Son of God can reclaim or reform them. Shall we ask the State to take up this work?

I think some of those who have been foremost in recommending the measure will find imbedded in their peculiar principles strong objections to the same. I believe the whipping post at home would be more effectual and much cheaper.

There are some who want the State to do everything until it comes to owning and operating railroads, telegraphs, etc., then they are quick to cry "paternalism." R. J. WALKER.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have heard that Senator Pritchard is re-elected. R. J. W.