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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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### PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Dark, Unfathomable Dreams of Morton  
Full many a wheel is formed to whirl unseen  
And waste its feeble strength in J. Sterling's hair.  
(Great laughter and applause.)

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.

The production and management of manure deserves as careful attention as the production of any other farm product.

Get everything that can be converted into manure cheaply be added to the manure heap designed for use in the spring.

There are not some work that can be done during the winter that will render the home place more inviting and attractive!

A farm without an orchard will not do. For selling the farm a thrifty young orchard will be found as good as a real estate agent.

The hard times act like a tonic on the thinking faculties, especially if it happens to be a plow-holder instead of a bond holder.

The farmer's garden is the most valuable piece of ground on the farm, not only produces all kinds of garden crops for the family.

Vegetables, when kept in cellars, could be kept cool, else they are liable to shrivel or start into growth; but be careful and guard against frost.

In all our farming operations let us aim at practical results. These, and these only, will avail us in the hard times that we are now experiencing.

Do not keep healthy and diseased animals together. They should be separated as soon as disease is recognized. Their diseases are due to germs, and cannot exist without germs being present. They are taken into the body with food, water and air, and the nearer hogs come in contact, the greater the danger of spreading.

Under the old methods of tapping trees enough were killed by the severe frosts made to keep the fires supplied as are needed to boil the sap. But most places coal is quite as cheap as a wood, especially if thrifty maple trees have to be cut down to feed the fires. A wood flame is sure to be uneven, not furnishing the steady regulated heat which is needed to make the product.

## POWELL'S HIGH FARMING.

George May Powell says of one of a series of experiments he has made at his home in Newfield, N. J., to help develop intensive farming: "The point of these experiments is to aid in showing how farming can be made so attractive and profitable that people need not leave rural life and endanger the nation by crowding into cities and towns. In this case a single tomato plant was made to grow over one hundred feet of vine, and supply more fruit than an average garden furnishes. Also, to yield near two months after such fruit is gone in most gardens. A hole eighteen inches square and twelve inches deep was dug, the top soil land on one side and the lower soil on the other. A half bushel of good manure was put in, and the top soil on that. A tomato plant in bloom, with a spadeful of earth on its roots, was set in this, and the lower soil put in a circle around, making the plant to stand in the bottom of a cup, to hold soils and water, daily put in. As the plant grew it was 'esplanaded' over a frame with a southerly slope. Of course, the same plan can be made to help anyone of tens of thousands of poor families in any of our large cities. A back yard or a roof or window and a box or a barrel of earth, with a tomato or cucumber, or winter squash plant, would so furnish healthful and profitable sustenance."

Oats and peas sown on ground from which early vegetables have been gathered will yield an excellent green feed for the fall months and leave the soil in fine condition for the spring planting.

## TOBACCO MANURES.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

There are two general types of tobacco, and in dealing with the manure question the difference between them must be taken into consideration. Cigar and smoking tobacco generally require a light leaf with fine texture; for cigar wrappers and binders, this quality must be of the highest. For plug tobacco and heavy leaf for fortifying the lighter tobaccos in making mixtures as practiced in Europe, a heavy rank growth is more desirable.

As a rule the fine textured tobaccos are grown best on light soils; sandy loams, for example, with comparatively little humus. The water supply in all cases should be uniform, and in locations subject to severe drought, irrigation pays handsomely. Too much available ammonia in the manure will lessen the quality though it may increase the crop, especially if the supply of available potash and phosphoric acid is deficient. Moodie indicates the following formula for cigar and smoking tobacco:

Cottonseed meal, 1500 lbs. per acre  
Sulphate of potash, 400 " " "  
Acid phosphate, 800 " " "

This is no doubt a very good mixture for what are sometimes called "fortifying" tobaccos, but contain too much ammonia for wrapper tobacco. One third of the cottonseed meal, or better, perhaps, 160 pounds of nitrate of soda, would more properly balance the manure for high grade tobacco. Tobacco has little power of foraging for manure. It must have its food near at hand and in a readily available condition. A wide spreading root system made necessary by scanty or slowly available plant food, will be accompanied with a leaf system equally meagre.

In many soils the availability of the manure is kept high by constant tillage, clover or cow peas in rotation, and an extensive use of farmyard manure. Farm manure will not grow high grade tobacco of itself as its ammonia is not only in excess in proportion to the potash and phosphoric acid, but it is also too quickly available usually in a tobacco climate. If well rotted and corrected with about 200 pounds of sulphate of potash per ton, it will answer very well for the better grades of tobacco.

The following is a very successful formula for use in the cultivation of high grades:

Dried blood, 500 lbs. per acre  
Sulphate of potash, 250 " " "  
Acid phosphate, 200 " " "

To form some idea of the actual requirement of the crop, a yield of 1500 pounds of leaf takes from the soil about 115 pounds of potash and 20 pounds of phosphoric acid. There is always considerable loss of fertilizing ingredients in all forms of manuring, and one-half to three-fifths is a high amount to actually realize in the shape of tobacco. From the nature of the root system of this crop, it can do little or nothing to

wards rendering available the natural stores of plant food in the soil.

For heavy plug tobacco a deep rich soil is best. A heavy rank growth must be promoted, but something more than a free supply of ammonia is needed. A deep muck soil, if well decomposed, will supply the ammonia but lime and phosphates are necessary to manure the crop. In this connection, it is generally acknowledged that for smoking tobacco, chlorine has an injurious effect, and as heavy tobacco is frequently used in smoking mixtures, it is possible that kaint or muriate of potash might prove injurious to some extent if applied near the planting period. If the application is made some weeks before planting, and with a soil properly limed, no danger may be feared from chlorine.

The manure formula for heavy tobacco is much the same as for light as the soil is supposed to be naturally high in available ammonia. With deep and well decomposed muck soils, ammonia may be much reduced or in extreme cases left out altogether. Potash and phosphates are apt to be deficient in muck soils as they are in very light soils. The yield of heavy tobacco per acre is much greater than in the case of light tobacco, and the minerals used should be increased rather than decreased. The commercial fertilizer formula for heavy tobacco is:

Ammonia, 3 per cent.  
Potash, 10 " "  
Phosphoric acid available, 6 " "

The fertilizers usually offered for sale by dealers are low in potash, and the proper formula should be demanded. With deficient minerals, not only will the yield suffer, but the crop will be more susceptible to the attacks of insects and fungi.

## S PEACOCK

If the owner feels that he must use the young orchard for some productive crop, it should be a hoed crop, which needs clean cultivation. Corn answers well, the part shade being of some advantage. Pear trees will not stand forcing, and should have no manure, as blight sets in when they grow rapidly.

## STATISTICS OF FARM ANIMALS.

The returns for January upon comparative numbers and values of farm animals, as given out by the Department of Agriculture, show as the total number of horses, 14,435,000, mules 2,216,000, milch cows 15,942,000, oxen and other cattle 30,108,000, sheep 36,815,000, swine 40,600,000. The average farm prices per head are estimated for horses \$31.45, mules \$41.70, milch cows \$23.16, oxen and other cattle \$16.45, sheep \$1.83, swine \$4.12. The aggregate values are for horses \$451,800,000, mules \$92,400,000, milch cows \$369,300,000, oxen and other cattle \$504,500,000, sheep \$67,500,000, swine \$167,400,000; grand total, \$1,652,900,000. In number there appears to be a decrease of five per cent. in horses, 2.3 per cent. in mules, one per cent. in milch cows, 4.9 per cent. in oxen and other cattle, 3.9 per cent. in sheep and 5.2 per cent. in swine during the year. Horses and mules are increasing in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, but decreasing generally elsewhere. Milch cows are increasing in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific States, while nearly stationary elsewhere. Several Rocky Mountain States show an increase in other cattle, also in sheep. The same region, as well as the South Atlantic, reports an increase in swine.

The great Central States show a decrease in all stock, so that the movement in number reported a year ago still continues. The destruction of sheep by dogs was large in the South. The percentage in the whole country, including the Rocky Mountain ranges was 1.1 per cent., or about 250,000 in all. In average price there is a falling off of five to eight per cent. shown by horses, mules and swine, and a further increase of three to seven per cent. by cattle and sheep. In total value horses, mules and swine declined 10 per cent. each, and oxen and other cattle one per cent., while milch cows have increased one per cent. and sheep three per cent. since January, 1896. Decrease in grand total, four per cent., about \$75,000,000.

Grapes can be grown almost everywhere, and every farm, garden and village lot should have its vines. Perfection requires high, well drained, strong soil, well fed. Let the trellises run north and south, and be open to the sun. Currants and gooseberries can be grown between the rows if land is scarce.

## ROADS MUST BE ROADS.

There appears to be a growing impression that a road is a place of passage from one point to another, and that if it is anything short of that, the ones accountable for its condition may be held responsible for the trouble that may be occasioned by its faultiness.

Passengers injured in a railroad accident, occasioned by a defective road bed or an imperfect rail, are very sure to sue for damages and to recover liberally.

Any one injured by a defective sidewalk can usually make a town or an individual pay smartly for it.

The spirit of the law seems to be that a railroad must be a railroad and in a condition to properly carry on its work in a business like manner.

A sidewalk must be kept in a safe condition for people to walk over it.

Now, what about a road over which persons in vehicles must travel? says Good Roads. Must it be a real road? Oh, no! Most any old thing will answer. It differs from a sidewalk and a railroad. They have to be what they pretend to be, but a wagon road may be simply a streak of mud or stones or anything else. No one appears to be responsible for the condition of the public road. It is supposed to just run wild and look out for itself. If anyone is injured or his vehicle broken, it is the result of his own folly in presuming to use a road for travelling purposes.

But the times change and we are changing with them. Folks are beginning to apply the same rules to county governments they do to city governments and private corporations. Accidents on public roads and bridges caused by defective conditions of the same have to be paid for the county. It is just.

Good roads are cheapest in the long run. The reign of King Mud should be cut short.

While stable manure is lying in heaps it is a good plan to add to the pile slops from the chamber, together with such mineral fertility as the manure is most in need of. The German potash salts are particularly valuable for this purpose, as they will unite with the ammonia as given off by the fermenting heap, and thus prevent waste of its most valuable ingredient.

## SECRETARY MORTON AGAIN

It is gratifying to know that Secretary of Agriculture Morton, who is a goldbug lawyer, will soon be displaced by a real farmer, Mr. Wilson, of Iowa. Wilson may not be any better as a man, but he is the leading farmer in his State, while Morton is a legal quack, an unmitigated nuisance, who has from time to time advocated anything and everything detrimental to the American farmer, though holding the highest position as the representative of the farmer.

Recently Mr. De Armord, Dem. Congressman from Missouri, gave Morton a genuine rasping in the House.

It already had been noised about that the Missouri member intended to make an attack on the Secretary, and the members eagerly crowded about to hear him.

With biting sarcasm and rasping irony, he scored the Secretary of Agriculture, taking as his text a recent publication issued by the Secretary and sent out over the country under a frank entitled, "The Farmers' Interest in Finance."

The pamphlet reviewed the silver agitation to show that poverty and illiteracy characterized the States which had been foremost in the demand for the restoration of silver.

Mr. DeArmord asserted that the demand for silver came chiefly from the farmers, whose interests the Secretary of Agriculture was supposed to look after, and asked contemptuously what excuse there was for issuing to them "this slander, this travesty on facts."

"The Republican party is not responsible for him," interposed Mr. W. A. Stone, of Pennsylvania.

"Assuredly not," agreed Mr. De Armord, "and I can understand how grateful you are that you are relieved of responsibility." [Laughter.] He went on to say that there were facts which some men lost sight of that were known to all others, and one of them was that the illiterate colored vote represented McKinley's majority in most of the States which he carried. But, he said, no one took Secretary Morton seriously nowadays. The world was no longer interested in his views on finance, although it might look

with expectation for any observations he might make on the wood chuck, the hedge hog or the eye of the potato.

"It was once said of an eminent statesman," he continued, "that the Secretary stood alone, that modern degeneracy had not reached him."

"It could be said of Morton, the Secretary stood alone, modern degeneracy had not passed him."

Addressing the Republican side, he appealed to them to recognize Secretary Morton's service, even though they refused to accept responsibility for him.

"Of course," said he, you will not keep him in his present position, but you might put him in the National museum."

"We will put him in a better place," again interrupted Mr. Stone, of Pennsylvania. "We will send him back to Nebraska."

"Why should you desire to punish Nebraska?" shouted Mr. Kim (Pop.) of Nebraska amid shouts of laughter.

"You intimated that I took unfair advantage of Governor Altgeld," put in Mr. Grosvenor, "why do you attack Secretary Morton here, where he has no opportunity to reply?"

"Because," retorted Mr. DeArmord, after a pause, "I know the gentleman from Ohio contracted a habit of speaking here at least once a day, and I felt that he could speak for him, if necessary." (Renewed laughter.)

In conclusion, Mr. DeArmord again commended to the prayerful consideration of the Republicans, "the curiosity of modern political life," whose peculiarity was that he talked when he was not writing, and wrote when he was not talking, and did both when he was not thinking.

Full many a whim of purest ray serene  
The dark, unfathomable dreams of Morton  
Full many a wheel is formed to whirl unseen  
And waste its feeble strength in J. Sterling's hair.  
(Great laughter and applause.)

## FARM FIGURES FOR BOYS.

Every boy around the farm of suitable age should be taught how to figure out the number of bushels of wheat and oats in the bin and how much the wagon box will hold. A wagon box ten feet long, three feet wide and twenty five inches deep will hold 27.8 bushels of ear corn or 50.2 bushels of shelled corn. A crib ten feet wide, ten feet high and sixteen feet long will hold 711 bushels of ear corn. Of ear corn one bushel is contained in two and a quarter cubic feet. In figuring shelled corn or grain the same space will hold one and four fifths times as much grain as it will of ear corn. A crib that will hold 800 bushels of ear corn will hold of shelled corn or other grain 1,440 bushels.—Stockman and Farmer.

The orchard becomes useless not so much from old age as from neglect. Trees may be healthy and productive at 25 or 30 years of age. They will bear every year if there be constant heavy manuring. As they grow older they need heavier manuring and mulching to keep up the requisite vitality.

## POULTRY YARD PRODUCING PROLIFIC LAYERS

Experiments have been made to see if the number of rows of corn on a cob could not be increased with success. The same method which was pursued with corn is applicable to poultry-breeding. For example, one starts with fowls which lay one hundred and twenty eggs each in a year. Among their descendants are some which lay one hundred and fifty eggs per year, and these are selected for breeding. From these some are produced which lay one hundred and seventy five eggs per year, and from these, perhaps, the two hundred egg per year hen is produced. The problem is not quite as easy with fowls as with corn, for it is necessary to breed the males, as well as the females, year after year, from prolific layers, in order to succeed. If one looks after the breeding of the females only, he may introduce on the male side blood which is lacking in prolificacy, and thus check every attempt at progress. It becomes necessary, therefore, to breed the males from hens which are varying in the desired direction, and which show a cumulated variability in that direction. It is just as essential that the male should be from a hen which laid one hundred and seventy five eggs and whose mother laid one hundred and fifty eggs, if the two hundred egg bird is to be produced. Improvers of laying fowls are too apt to forget this and introduce males with little regard to their breeding, and then wonder why the prolificacy of the flock does not increase.

## THE DAIRY.

### READ AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

There are a great many things that perhaps the average farmer knows, yet does not always remember them at the right time. Then again there are some things that may never come to the attention of some farmers. In dairying as in all branches of farming, an interchange of thought and ideas is what is needed. One person may know one thing about dairying that his neighbor may not know and his neighbor may know something he does not know, and what each knows may be of value to the other. Now if these two neighbors should happen to get into conversation across the division fence of their farms and exchange their bits of knowledge, both would be benefited. But there are farmers, the writer is sorry to say, who, while they have found an interchange of ideas of benefit, when made across a line fence, are so opposed to "book farming," as they call it, that they do not believe any good can come to them through an agricultural paper, hence they do not take even one of that class of journals. But right here let me say that farmers are not the only people that are so "pig-headed" on the subject of "book farming." The writer knows of business men who entertain about the same opinion of agricultural papers. This class of business men, or many of them, began life on a farm and had fathers who did not believe in taking agricultural papers, and their sons inherited from them their peculiar views.

The writer of this has an acquaintance, a very successful man, who, though strange as it may seem, has no faith in agricultural papers; does not believe any information of real benefit to a farmer can be found in them. A few years ago he and some other business men of the same city in some way induced to invest ten thousand dollars in celery raising, which resulted in the loss of the entire amount invested. They depended on their superintendent entirely for a knowledge of the business of raising the crop and he, while he had had some experience in the business, had never sought for information outside of what his own personal observation and experience would furnish. The writer suggested to his friend that it would be well to subscribe for some agricultural papers, or at least get some issues that contained articles on celery culture. The writer's friend thought that so long as they had a "practical man" for superintendent that was all that was needed and took special pains to again express himself as entirely opposed to "book farming." Later the writer was able to show him some printed articles on celery culture that he was forced to admit would have been a great benefit to his company had it been known in time.

Now this is hardly a letter on dairying, but the application can be made to that branch of farming.

If you can get a good idea across a line fence from one of your neighbors, why can't you get an equally good one from a farmer a hundred or more miles distant and get it out of an agricultural paper?

F. W. MOSELEY.

Clinton, Iowa.

## SELF-SUCKING COWS.

A bulletin on the subject of self sucking cows has been issued by the North Carolina Experiment Station. Two remedies are proposed: Boil a handful of quassa chips (can be got at any drug store) for several hours in about one gallon of water. Wash the cow's teats in this after every milking for ten days. Always wash every time before milking, using a gallon of clean water in which a spoonful of pearline has been dissolved. If the milk tastes of quassa, feed it to the pigs. The bitterness of the quassa remains in the cow's memory and prevents further trials at sucking after the ten days.

The other method consists in slitting the tongue near the point used to draw up round the teat in the act of sucking. Fasten the cow securely, and drawing out the tongue sit to one side of the middle one and one half to two inches out toward the front and near the point. Then feed on soft bran mash for a few days until the wound heals, and it will be impossible for the cow to suck after that. One correspondent tried chair frames and side bars until tired out and desperate, when the mutilated tongue cured the habit.