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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.
Castan, Raleigh, N. C.
Cory, Hickory, N. C.
Deer, Whiteakers, N. C.
Eggs, Beaver Dam, N. C.
Fountain, Lumberton, N. C.
People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.
Vestibule, Concord, N. C.
Plow-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C.
Salina Watchman, Salisbury, N. C.

AGRICULTURE.

Don't be in too much of a hurry to get the cows on the grass. If they are turned out too soon they eat the grass so close that it seems to get disengaged.

In many farms it will be found a plan to plant a patch of sweet corn especially for feeding to the cows during the latter part of summer and early fall.

Usually the man has the best herd that raises his calves. He knows the best as they are at home they will be best when taken good care of, especially do good cows suffer from put in strange herds.

Don't be in a hurry to get the cows out of the pasture at night, don't go at them with a dog, unless it is a well bred shepherd dog that knows his business and knows the cows, and the cows know him.

In condition of the cream when it is churned the churn has much to do with the quality of the butter. Just as the milk begins to get thick is the best time to make the best quality of butter with the last churning.

Do not expect too much of a general purpose animal; generally if milk production is wanted it will be secured at the expense of so much beef qualification. What the cow excels in one particular she will lose in another. She will hardly excel both for beef and for dairy.

"GO SOUTH, YOUNG MAN."

One of the most sensible schemes yet proposed to the Texas coast country by farmers, artisans and others who are disatisfied at the "Go South and East." Go south or South seems to have superseded the former advice, "Go West, young man."

Some folks simply need the change of opportunities offered by a new country to get on their feet. They are a chance to help themselves, and their chance will be better in that region.—Farm and Home.

THE VALUE OF LITTLE THINGS.

Repeated reference has been made in these columns to the new uses to which the corn stalk was being put, and the gain which must accrue to the farmer in consequence, but the value placed by thinking men upon the scientific demonstration that corn stalks may be used for so many manufacturing purposes has received new evidence recently of a most substantial nature. One Eastern money lender has notified his representative at Omaha that whereas a few months ago he would place no loans on Nebraska farms, he considered that the demonstrations referred to had added from \$6 to \$10 to every acre of corn land, and that he would be glad to loan on Nebraska farm mortgages to the limit of at least \$1,000,000 a year in consequence.

Not the least important lesson to be learned from this incident is the fact that it is the little things that are important in agriculture as in every other line of business. The bonanza farmer, in times of high prices for his wheat or corn, is apt to treat with indifference the countless avenues for profit open to him on the acre that they are too small to given attention. But the shrewd money lender in Philadelphia sees in the utilization of the corn stalk, heretofore left to rot upon thousands of Western farms, a safe basis for loaning millions of money?

And one of the encouraging facts mentioned in the dispatch which forms the text for these observations is that the farmers are not borrowing, but are adopting what John Randolph, of Roanoke declared to be the real philosopher's stone—the "pay as you go" rule. The offer of loans Nebraska farmers are quoted as saying: "We have stopped borrowing money and propose to run on the cash basis in future." Which means that prosperity and content will be theirs, and fear of the mortgage fiend will be forever set at rest.—Farmers' Voice.

FARMING WITH DYNAMITE.

Parsons (Kan.) Eclipse: A man at Mulvane, Kansas, has been making some agricultural experiments with dynamite. He says: "It was discovered that four ounces sunk two feet and four inches deep, loosened the ground all around to the distance of from twelve to fourteen feet. It made the ground so loose that a common spade could be easily pushed down the entire length of the spade and handle. The test was made on upland, where the soil is as hard as any to be found in Kansas. A quarter of a pound of dynamite fired at a depth of thirty inches will loosen four square rods so that moisture will soak out all around and wet the subsoil. A shot of that kind costs a little less than eight cents, forty shots will put an acre of ground in good condition to hold all the moisture that falls on it. Forty shots at eight cents each will cost \$3.20. An acre of upland with the subsoil broken thirty inches deep will yield on an average more than twice as much as an adjoining acre plowed in the ordinary way. It will pay to fire a shot right where you want to plant a tree.

IMPROVING LAND.

A new comer into the State from Indiana who has bought a 350 acre farm in the Tidewater section, and who is out of debt and has money in hand, wants to know how to improve his place. He says: "I wish to farm this land, not butcher and not rob it. I want to sow twenty five acres of red clover, and ten to fifteen acres of winter oats and some rye this fall. I want to keep the kind of crops on my land that will constantly improve it, and to use enough of the proper kind of fertilizer necessary to grow fertilizing crops."

We are glad to have so clear headed a new comer amongst us. He evidently intends to try to start right. Doing so, he will succeed. At the outset, we would caution him not to try to do too much at once. His land, like nearly all the land in the particular section of Tidewater where he is located, is no doubt much run down. It wants vegetable matter or humus into it. The way to get this is to grow it as far as possible and supplement with farm yard manure. We would advise him to apply 300 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of kainit to the acre to all land which he may seed in German clover, and we would suggest that instead of sowing German clover alone, he sow ten pounds of German clover and three fourths of a bushel of rye to

the acre. He will be much more certain to secure a crop the first year in this way. This crop he can cut off and make into hay and thus secure some feed for his stock, or turn down, if he can afford to do so. Follow this with cow peas, to be cut off or turned down in the fall early. Then seed to German clover again, and he will have laid the foundation for a fertile piece of land. We would not advise seeding either red clover or grass this fall, unless upon land in much better condition than the average of land in his section. The probabilities are against red clover or grass being a success until the land has been improved. Sow winter oats and rye and use cotton seed meal, acid phosphate and kainit as a fertilizer—say 300 pounds cotton seed meal, 200 pounds acid phosphate, and 150 pounds of kainit to the acre. Land intended for corn next year should be plowed in the fall as early as possible, and be seeded with rye to prevent washing and to supply vegetable matter to the soil.—Southern Planter.

GRASS PASTURES.

A word of caution is perhaps always in order when the question of sowing grass seed, clover or alfalfa is the theme for discussion. The great point to be gained here is in the preparation of the seed bed. An intelligent preparation of the seed bed means that the farmer has been doing some thinking upon the subject. For a long number of years farmers believed that the tame grasses and clovers were not adapted to Western soils simply because they did not know how to prepare the soil for receiving the seed. Now that this trick has been learned there is no good reason why every farm should not have its tame pasture. Indeed it is come to play a most important part in the crop rotation of the farm. To be sure of a full stand, and this is a most important matter, it is necessary to make a well fined seed bed that the particles of soil may be brought into close and actual contact with the seed. Where there is neglect to do this properly a large proportion of the seed sown never gets through the soil to the light if it germinates at all. When the bed is compact the seed all germinates promptly and comes through the surface soil with sufficient vigor to fight a winning battle with all weed comers. It is more than idle to go carelessly about the matter of sowing grass, clover or alfalfa seed.—Nebraska Farmer.

TRICKSTERS AT AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

Wherever large numbers of people gather, a class of persons is usually found who make a living by deceiving the public. They have schemes and tricks innumerable that appear to be easy and simple; but in reality they are quite difficult and in some cases impossible to successfully perform. They have wheels and machines that are doctored to turn as the proprietor may wish to make them. They have coconut headed negro dodgers to arouse the brutality in men and boys. They have tented shows which are disgusting in coarseness and vulgarity. Among the throngs at agricultural fairs these leeches are out of place. They contribute nothing helpful or good. They do not add to the attraction of the fair. They do not bring desirable patrons. They do not swell the gate receipts. They are not patronized by intelligent patrons of the fair. They are not wanted by honest farmers. They are shunned with fear by thoughtful parents. Because of their presence, even the fair is not patronized by many of our best citizens' families. The harm accomplished by these self invited fakirs would doubtless surprise us, were it possible to gather and trace back to their door all the results of their work. They distract the thought, they divert the attention, they destroy the interest in the real work of the fair. The competitive exhibitions, the meritorious displays, the awarding of prizes are all robbed of the undivided interest that belongs to them, and which the proprietors have labored day and night to develop. The morals of the country suffer seriously, we believe, from actions and words that, without warning, are sprung upon inquisitive audiences in the tent shows. We are glad to see that a strong effort is being put forth this season to keep these objectionable features out of the grounds, and the attitude of managers is encouraging.—E. B., in Massachusetts Plowman.

THE VINES OF NORTH CAROLINA

When the first Raleigh expedition anchored off Roanoke Island the captain and crew were charmed with the perfumes wafted by the winds from its shores, and when they landed and found that it came from the native grapes that fairly burdened the vines, and that were as delicious to their palates as the fragrance was to their nostrils, the report of the same was entered on the ship's log as one of the most interesting and important of all the discoveries these first British voyagers made, notes a writer in The Southern States. Since then, besides the Scuppernon, the Isabella, and the Catawba that were found in North Carolina have been favorites in the United States, the first as a family table grape, the second for that and as a wine producer, and while many new varieties of American and foreign origin have in later years become better known and more popular in the markets, yet these have lost none of their excellences, and flourish as they did in the years that followed their introduction to the public and their very general cultivation.—N. Y. Times.

WORK OF THE EARTH WORM.

It was the patient investigations of Charles Darwin which resulted in the discovery of the importance of earth worms as producers and maintainers of living layers of vegetable mold; he established the fact and raised it to the rank of a scientific discovery, says an exchange.

Darwin showed that earth worms act upon the soil in three ways. In the first place they open up and loosen the ground for the roots to penetrate, more perfect aeration of the soil being thus obtained. The acids they secrete also act chemically upon the layer of rocks beneath in a way that assists the disintegration of the latter. In the second place, they crush in their gizzards small fragments of stone and liberate their component elements. In the third place they drag down into their burrows countless numbers of leaves, which they eat, and carry up the refuse to the surface. It is computed that no fewer than 53,000 worms inhabit an acre of garden soil. These worms pass through their bodies ten tons of material in a year, and throw it up as mold at the rate of one inch in depth every five years. The greater part of this mold is composed of a refuse of vegetable matter, and is teeming with myriads of bacteria. Even after allowing for other co operating causes, earth worms are responsible for the formation and renewal of this layer of vegetable mold.—Farmers' Voice.

MAKING HEADWAY SLOWLY.

The Southern States' Magazine, Baltimore, and the Manufacturers Record, both under the same management, enjoy quite a little monopoly in defending the American Cotton Company. However, the fact remains that it has all the appearances of a trust, and the President of the American Cotton Company is Secretary-Treasurer of the Sugar Trust, the biggest trust in the world outside of the money trust. The last issue of the Southern States' Magazine has the following in defense of the Company, but it doesn't hide the cloven foot at all:

When announcement was made of the formation of the American Cotton Company, interested in the improvement in handling cotton known as the round bale system, the editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER immediately sent up his warning flag. In spite of the wide publicity which has since been given to the company's purposes and its methods of operation, the flag seems to be still floating, and to offer a reason for it the editor seems to have conjured up some sort of an intangible bogey. He is apparently not satisfied with waving his flag in the columns of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, for in the last bulletin of the North Carolina Agricultural Department, and also in the contemporaneous issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is identically the same editorial dealing again with the American Cotton Company. After alluding to the 'quiet and seemingly deep laid plans of the American Cotton Company, a vast combination claiming ownership of a new process for ginning, baling and marketing cotton,' which is rather odd, in view of several months' widespread publicity, and after announcing that there is no objection to the company's going 'on with the manufacture of the machinery' and selling 'it in the usual way, allowing

superiority, if it is indeed superior, to win public favor," the editorial says: "But the persons interested should see that the company keeps within proper bounds, and steps ought to be taken to discover just how much or how little danger there is to be apprehended from the combination."

The recent statement of the President of the company, that its purpose is to operate the new machines upon a co-operative basis ought to allay any fears about "seemingly deep laid plans," but in that connection it might also be well to read the statement made by Mr. Jerome Hill, the general agent of the company. Referring in the Natchez (Miss.) Democrat to the endorsement of leading citizens of Jackson, Tenn., of the workings of the first cylindrical bale press erected east of the Mississippi river, Mr. Hill wrote:

"It is simply an organization who own many valuable patents, obtained after much expense and costly experiment for the economical handling and baling of cotton. The company proposes to introduce this press in the South in a manner to give themselves a fair reward for enterprise and heavy investments that will be more than repaid by the producers by great economical savings and increased value of their cotton crops. We are making no war or fight upon anyone. We take the compresses to the cotton field, instead of as now the cotton field to the compresses. We make every station or inland town where one of these compresses is erected a compress town, that gives them a right to request and expect of the transportation companies the same liberal treatment that is now meted to the central compress station. Our system obviates bagging and ties. It stops any useless and extravagant system of sampling and re-sampling, of weighing and re-weighing. It does the work of both the old box press at home and the press in the cities. It is an unqualified success, as it saves in every way in the handling of cotton from the field to the loom. I ask of the good people of my native State (Mississippi) a thorough investigation of this new system, that I know is now revolutionizing the cotton industry of our country—a necessary reform long needed. I have spent the major portion of my life as a cotton producer, a cotton factor, and have been interested for years in the compressing of cotton under the old system, and at this time have in operation three of these round bale presses, and I assure your readers that they are doing all that has ever been claimed for them in economical savings."

HORTICULTURE

CULTIVATING ORCHARDS

The fact that cultivating crops of all kinds is of material assistance to them is well known to every tiller of the soil. How greatly it benefits them is not fully realized by all, says Joseph Mohan in the Practical Farmer. The farmer's boy, in many cases, takes to the hoe harrow as a something belonging to the summer routine, without giving much thought as to the reason for it. It must be partly from this lack of thinking that so many inquiries come to this department in regard to the utility of cultivating orchards, otherwise it would occur to those who ask that growth is governed by the same laws, be it connected with a crop of corn or an orchard of apple trees. The one who continually cultivates his farm crops will obtain better results than he who does not. Many years ago I was interested enough in the matter to bet the loss from an experiment in this line. I say loss, for I was sure it would be a loss, but I wanted the proof. There were several rows of potatoes running the length of the vegetable garden. Two of these rows were left uncultivated the whole season, the other rows were hoe harrowed and hand hoed several times throughout the season. Early in the summer, judging by the tops and general appearance of the plants, it was easy to foretell the result. There was not nearly the thrifty look to the unhoeed ones that the others displayed. I have forgotten the exact amount of tubers obtained, but I will never forget what a poor showing the uncultivated ones made, and what a valuable lesson it was to me. The farm crop does the best that receives constant attention, the soil being loosened up constantly. It is just the same with trees. The successful nurseryman is the one who sets the hoe harrows working early in the season and stops only when growth is perfected in the late summer.

Coming to orchard trees, there is nothing different required in their treatment. As soon as planted, keep the cultivator going, at least as far as the roots extend. Young trees have not much spread of branches or roots for some years. A tolerably safe rule is to assume that the roots extend as far as the branches, and cultivation should cover this ground. Until trees are so large that it may be inferred the whole ground is covered by them, there is no reason why the intervening spaces should not be utilized for other crops. A space down the centre of a line of trees may as well have some crop in it as not, but in every case where a crop is taken from the ground, see to it that what it takes out as food is returned to it in the shape of manure. Without advocating it, it is likely that a full farm crop should be taken from a young orchard for a few years, if the crop was provided with its own food. The trees must not be robbed. Instead, they would be better fed every year by the applying of the mulching of manure in the fall. While urging the necessity of cultivation and manuring, there is, I think, a time when this may stop. When a tree reaches a good bearing size, I have not found that constant cultivation was of any use to it. Instead of stirring up the soil continually, it is better to let it be in grass. Let it be a pasture field where the grass will be kept low all the time, and the trees will thrive well enough. Fruit trees are often on lawns where grass is mowed continually, and they do very well without cultivation, making a fair growth, though not a fast one. Trees well manured and cultivated have more vitality than those not so treated. Go to a nursery and buy fifty trees that have been in uncultivated ground for several years, get fifty more that have been cultivated for the same period, and make a note of results. The cultivated lot will do ever so much the better.

WHAT ONE POTATO DID.

A man in Tolland, Conn., found a very small potato in one of his pockets when he came in from his work.

"Here," said he, laughingly to a boy twelve years old who lived with him, "plant that and you shall have all you can raise from it till you are of age."

The bright little boy cut the potato into as many pieces as there were "eyes" in it and planted it. In the autumn he dug and laid by the increase of it, and planted that in the following spring. Next year he planted the larger crop gathered the previous autumn. The potatoes grew healthily and did well, and his fourth year's harvest amounted to four hundred bushels. The farmer asked to be released from his bargain, for he saw the boy's planting would cover all his land.

And yet it is quite common to despise "the day of small things."—Northwestern Christian Advocate.

GLEANINGS FOR GARDENERS.

Sometimes one will find in the tomato field a vine of exceptional good quality, either in the amount of yield, the vigor of the vines or in the size and form of the fruit. We would like to have a field of vines like that, but we know that the chances of perpetuating by saving the fruit of that vine for seed would be but small. Tomatoes from seed will be very nearly like the parent fruit when the plant is isolated from all others, or when all near it are of the same type, but with others of another sort near by there would be but a small part of the product that would retain all the characteristics of the parent plant.

Most gardeners know that the tomato can be propagated from slips, but not many know that the slip will take root almost as easily and surely as a geranium or coleus cutting. Yet this is true, and a few slips from a choice vine can be rooted and carried through the winter in the house, and before spring dozens of plants can be secured, stout, stocky plants, if not given too much heat or too rich a soil, each of which will be worth much more than the ordinary seedling plant. These plants set in a bed by themselves, away from other varieties, would probably produce seed that would result in plants nearly all like the original plant. It would require but the requisite number of two inch or three-inch pots, and a little care and labor.

The possible gain is this: While a peck to the vine of ripened fruit is a fair yield in a large field, individual vines often yield more than a bushel each. The qualities of early ripening, smooth and firm fruit, can be fixed as well as the prolific yield, and perhaps easier. It is worth trying.—American Cultivator.