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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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AGRICULTURE.

Good compost can be made by mixing dry dirt and fresh horse manure, equal parts, keeping the mass moist with seepsoda. It will be found excellent for flower beds.

We call attention to the resolutions of the Cotton Growers' Convention, held at Galveston, Texas, August 21, 1897, which appear elsewhere in this issue. Hon. Isaac A. Sugg, of Greenville, N. C., was Secretary of the Convention and is one of the most determined of those who are engaged in fighting this monster evil—"cotton futures."

The 37th N. C. State Fair will be held in Raleigh October 18th to 23rd, 1897, and bids fair to be one of the best yet held. We have received the premium list, and find the prizes very liberal and of especial interest to farmers. Judging by the variety and liberality of the premiums, and other promised attractions, too numerous to mention in this brief space, we predict that the Fair will be largely attended and certainly there is no one within the limits of our State who cannot there find something to interest and instruct him.

Speaking of cleanliness in the dairy, the Massachusetts Plowman says some sensible things: "Slovenliness and carelessness are bad enough anywhere, remarks our contemporary; in the dairy business they are dangerous and should be considered little less than criminal. About thirty people were poisoned by a can of milk, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 19th. The symptoms were severe pains in the stomach, followed by dysentery. Investigation proved the presence of an albuminoid poison known as tyrotoxin. The can, it was found, had been left standing unwashed in the sun for four days, and then filled without scalding. Probably this man is one of the fellows who smugly at 'book learning' and don't read the papers."

RESOLUTIONS.

Adopted by the Cotton Growers' Convention Held at Galveston, Texas, August 2d, 1897.

BEACH HOTEL Galveston, Tex., Aug. 3, 1897. To Hon. J. F. Walters, Chairman of the Cotton Growers' Association:

We, your committee on resolutions, beg leave to make the following report: We find, after a careful examination of all the facts before us, that option dealing in future cotton is gambling of the most vicious nature; withdrawing at least \$2 per bale from circulation during the deal, which in nearly every case ends by forwarding the option put up by the victim in the South with a constant tendency to depress our principal money crop, by this means forcing a sale at a price less than the cost of production; robbing our farmers of their just earnings, preventing them from paying for the supplies to produce a crop at a loss; bringing much distress to our merchants; forcing our women and children to labor in the fields; throwing laboring men out of employment and thereby causing them to join the army of tramps; adding largely to our criminal classes; spreading by a tendency to gamble in "futures" contagion in the morals of our agricultural class, from which are drawn a large majority of men to fill every avocation in life. We find there can be no real prosperity unless the agricultural classes are prosperous. We find a condition surrounding the cotton producer to day not one of prosperity, but many of them cramped with debts, covered with mortgages, unable to enjoy the fruits of their labor and educate their families, largely, we think, from the dealing of option gamblers selling our products below the cost of production. For this reason we ask your adoption of the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The cotton industry of the South is a most important agricultural product of the United States, and in volume more than 65 per cent. of the world's product of cotton, and the condition of this great industry, being now depressed by speculators who control and reduce the price, in their own interest, by the following methods, among others: By offering for sale fictitious cotton called "futures," at prices uniformly less than the current spot cotton market, which sales of fictitious cotton or contracts to deliver cotton at a future time at lower prices than the actual spot cotton price, and in which speculators do not intend, and are not compelled, to deliver actual cotton but uniformly pay or receive the monetary difference in the price of futures and spot cotton at the expiration of the contract of delivery. These contracts being cheaper, induce mill men and consumers of the raw material, who heretofore competed in the spot cotton sales, to withdraw from the market, thus fostering a condition which takes from the cotton market the actual purchaser, destroys legitimate market demands and competition, and leaves the cotton product at the mercy of dictators prices. By flooding the market reports of actual sales of spot cotton with five to ten times the volume of fictitious sales at lower figures, thus producing a constant decrease in the price of real cotton. By operating a gambling enterprise known as the "New York futures board," in which fictitious cotton is offered for sale in the market at prices sufficiently reduced below spot cotton prices to invite investment, and wherein the said investments are virtually confiscated by arbitrary changes in said quotations whereby the country is drained of enormous sums of money and the cotton market fluctuated for gambling purposes to the great detriment of legitimate trade, thus producing the decline in the price of cotton as observed in our markets since the organization of the New York Cotton Exchange and its "futures board" and,

WHEREAS, The price of labor necessary to raise and market a given quantity of cotton, in comparison with the price of labor necessary to manufacture and market the same quantity of cotton, is of the ratio of two to three, and under legitimate conditions of trade, and estimates most favorable to manufacturers, raw cotton should sell for not less than 50 per cent. of the manufactured article, yet the situation is such that the price of cotton has been so depressed by speculation and market gambling until manufactured goods sell from 400 to 1400 per cent. more than the material that composes such goods, and a vast wealth that should be distributed among its producers is annually confiscated by the unbridled greed of speculators; and

WHEREAS, The history of cotton production shows that the world's demand has increased at greater ratio than the world's supply, and as measured by the surplus on hand at the end of each cotton season, the surplus has grown less for more than twenty years, proving the falsity of the cry of overproduction as proclaimed by speculators and revealing facts that under proper conditions would have made prices steady and improved during that time; and

WHEREAS, These other conditions make it necessary that legislation be contrived and enacted to relieve cotton producers from these oppressive, unjust and ruinous conditions; therefore be it

Resolved, That we urge the people of the cotton growing States, inviting the co-operation of the citizens of all other States of the Union, to insist upon and secure legislation in every possible form to prevent the existing injury to our cotton trade produced by speculation and gambling in our markets.

We commend as just and necessary the suppression of cotton "futures," and to that end we ask the co-operation of all people in securing such State and Federal legislation as shall come within the legitimate domain of Federal and State legislation. We urge legislation to suppress the operation of any system of dealing in what is correctly known as futures; that it may be made unlawful for any firm, corporation or the agents of any such to deal in the sale or purchase of cotton "futures."

It should be made unlawful for any bank or banking institution, telegraph, telephone, express or other corporation or person, their officers or agents, to take, receive or transmit any message money, bid or deposit for investment in cotton futures in our respective States, or to be transmitted by others from such States; that it be made unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to publish or print or circulate by any method the prices bid or any of the propositions of sale or purchase of futures in the States so legislating.

We urge that these and other necessary measures for the relief of the people be taken up by political conventions regardless of party lines, incorporated in their platforms and made into laws for the common good: Be it further

Resolved, That National legislation is necessary in the more complete suppression of market gambling, and we urge our fellow-citizens of every State to use all honorable means to secure such legislation as shall comply with the constitutional limitations of our Federal power; that they urge upon their representative in Congress to enact such legislation as will prevent any person, firm, or corporation, or their agents from transmitting from one State to another propositions for the sale or purchase of futures from one State to the citizens of another; that all express, telegraph, telephone or other companies or persons in an interstate capacity should be prevented from promoting future gambling between the States; that the transmission of money, messages or any communication regarding the sale or purchase of futures be excluded from the United States mails, to the end that this public evil be suppressed and the people be freed from the ruinous condition now thrust upon them by the concentrated manipulation of speculators and gamblers in trade.

We respectfully recommend to the producing classes that they earnestly memorialize Congress through their respective State legislatures to enact such laws as will protect the people from this great and growing evil known as commercial gambling in futures.

A true copy. J. F. WALTERS, Chm'n of Convention. I. A. SUGG, Secretary.

THE POTATO CROP.

At this planting it is yet too early to know what the yield of the late planted potatoes will be, and a large percent age of the potato acreage is planted late; but the early crop is a comparative failure. Virginia, Kentucky, and the southern portions of Ohio and Indiana supply northern markets to a large extent until far into September, and in this region the intense heat of the first half of July destroyed all chances for anything like a full crop. Potatoes cannot thrive when the mercury goes above ninety degrees, and for two weeks it was much higher in this early potato section. We thus see

that the extent of acreage is not the sole controlling factor in determining yields, and all the discussion last winter about the probable effect of prices upon future acreage, and about the advisability of continuing to plant as largely as usual upon the presumption that others would drop out of the business, was not very important. The man who had good soil, prepared it well and planted good seed is as well off with potatoes as any other crop, provided he has pushed them upon the market as soon as ready. The prices that prevailed for the early crop have given most careful growers some money.—Ex.

Our thanks are due the Schulte Publishing Co., 323 and 325 Dearborn St., Chicago, for a copy of "Betsy Gaskins Dimicrat," by W. J. Hood. It is a nicely bound volume of 407 pages, and is quite a marvel in the way of a mixture of fun and pathos. "Betsy Gaskins Dimicrat," is the wife of "Job Gaskins, Republican," and as you read of their struggles told in the peculiar Betsy's own inimitable style, you will find the description produces both laughter and weeping. Agents wanted. Address above.

THE FARMER'S WORST ENEMY.

The worst enemy the farmers of the wheat States have this year is the McKinley prosperity boomers, who, for political effect in Ohio and elsewhere this year have persisted in sending out exaggerated reports of the enormous crop of wheat we were having this year.

The effect, of course, was to counteract the logical rise in price caused by the shortage in other wheat-raising countries. These fake reports, inspired at Republican headquarters, were sent out from Populist States to be copied in the Eastern States to prove that prosperity had arrived on schedule time.

The effect on the wheat raiser will be from 10 to 15 cents less per bushel for his wheat than if the truth had been told.

This means to the farmers of South Dakota alone a loss of nearly half a million dollars, for which the Argus Leader, the Republican organ of this State, should be held responsible.

As a matter of fact, instead of our having a boom crop, we will have less than an average crop of wheat this year.—Dakota Ruralist.

Some one says that common seasons beans will dry if pulled and set in bunches on the grass roots up but this year it will not do to follow former methods. The most secure way is to make a loose scaffold in the barn or under some shed and pile the vines loosely until the pods are dry enough to thrash. If they must be dried in the field small stacks are better than large ones, as either will get wet all through in a storm, and the water should be dried out before mold develops.

DR. EXUM'S COTTON CROP AND OTHER TOPICS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

I had heard many reports about Dr. W. P. Exum's cotton crop, so I went to his farm on Sept. 5th to examine it. I must say that it is the finest cotton I ever saw. He has 135 acres in cotton and 63 acres last year made 85 bales averaging 512 pounds, and the Doctor says it is better this year than last year, and he thinks he will get on the 63 acres 100 bales. The cotton on the 63 acres will average as high as my shoulder, and some of the stalks were so high I could not reach the top. It is heavily loaded with bolls; indeed some stalks were so weighted down that they were flat on the ground. Notwithstanding the hot scorching weather that we have had for the last 10 days, which has cut off the crop on other lands 25 per cent. by giving it the rust, yet on his land the cotton is green and growing and in full bloom, and I did not see a dozen bolls open on the whole field. I spent two years in Texas and saw cotton on the Brazos bottoms, but I never saw any larger than this cotton. I hear that Mr. T. B. Parker, the member of the last legislature from Wayne county, and the present Business Agent for the Alliance, says it is the best cotton he ever saw.

It may interest your readers to know something about the land this cotton is grown on. Dr. Exum settled on it in 1876. It was uncleared. It was piney woods with a heavy growth of ground whortleberries, clay soil, low and flat, requiring heavy ditching to

drain it. He bought 777 acres at \$8 60 per acre. His friends said he had made a bad trade and said he would be ruined to try to work it. He cleared it and marled it, and by skillful culture has brought it up to its present state. His method of manuring on the 62 acres is as follows: 20 loads of woods mould, 15 bushels stable manure, 20 bushels cotton seed, 100 pounds phosphate, 100 pounds kainit. On 12 acres he used 200 pounds phosphate, 200 pounds kainit, 200 pounds guano in addition to the compost, and he thinks on that he will make 20 bales. This 12 acres made 19 bales last year. In 1895 a portion of the same land was in corn and made 13 1/2 barrels per acre. The day before I went to his house he gathered 50 big watermelons, and the weather being cool they tasted like they had been on ice, and had just killed a fat mutton, and I lived one day in clover notwithstanding old Grover is in retirement. He has a fine stallion colt that cost him over \$800 and keeps two carriage horses and two buggy horses, a fine herd of sheep, cows and improved breeds of hogs, and has money in bonds and at interest.

If there is a man in the State who could afford to be a goldbug, that man is Dr. Exum. But his great throbbing heart beats in sympathy with the poorer classes who are not so fortunate as he is, so in 1892 he espoused the cause of the common people and was their candidate for Governor. He defrayed the expenses of the campaign, and in 1894, when victory was won by his party, he asked for nothing, but the spoils were awarded to other men who had done nothing, while he "bore the heat and burden of the day." But he does not marmur, for he does not need an office to support him, for he can live like a lord on his vast domain. He has two children—a boy who graduated at Wake Forest a year ago, and a daughter who will graduate at Peace Institute, Raleigh, in two years.

I have written this so that your readers, who are mostly farmers, can see what is being done in farming, and it may encourage and stimulate them to renew their efforts. His farm is located ten miles from Goldsboro, in Wayne county. C. S. WOOTEN. La Grange, N. C., Sept. 6, 1897.

THE DAIRY.

FRUIT ON THE DAIRY FARM.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

I do not think dairymen value a liberal supply of fruit as they should. It certainly is a fact that fruit may be made to bring in no little income if properly managed. It often happens that the dairyman when marketing his butter can dispose of a good many apples or other fruits. I know of one man who has a few trees of Red Astrachan apples. He says he has made more money from those few trees than from all the rest of his orchard. They are prolific bearers, and the fruit matures early at a time when there is a great scarcity of good cooking apples.

Berries, also, will put many a dollar into the pocket of the dairyman. This is coming to be in many parts of New York State a valuable adjunct to the dairy. A few hundred strawberry plants or raspberry canes, well cared for will add not a few dollars to the purse of the man who has energy to set them out and cultivate them. One man I know of has sold many dollars' worth this season. When he delivers an order of butter he takes along a few baskets of berries and never fails of a sale at good prices. The present has been an excellent year with us to get such plants started. I have put out a patch to raspberries and also made a venture in the line of strawberries.

There is no reason why the dairyman, as well as the general farmer, should not have plenty of fruit in its season. Surely, nothing stands in the way except a little push and continual energy. It is not enough to set out the plants, they must be cared for right along or the response will be slight.

When I came on my present farm eight years ago I set out sixty apple trees. These I have kept trimmed and as free from borers as I could, and am now gathering some choice fruit from their branches. Last year one of these little trees bore about a bushel of beautiful fruit, and how well it kept may be known when I say that after everything else was gone this spring we had hard and juicy fruit from that little Ben Davis tree. How pretty it looked, too, last fall with its branches bending low with that choice fruit!

The sight of it almost paid me for all

the care I had taken of the tree. This year I have some nice russets growing. The yield of apples last year was wonderful, and we did not expect much this year, but in some localities the supply will exceed the home demand. Plum trees are loaded to breaking with us. It is to be hoped that the time will soon come when all dairymen will add fruit growing to their field of labor.

E. L. VINCENT. Broome Co., N. Y.

IS IT THE COW OR THE FOOD?

On page 414 in the issue of July 9th, we inserted a short paragraph at the head of the column, from Prof. Jordan, under the caption, "Is It the Cow or the Food?" says Hoard's Dairyman.

That short paragraph contains the very essence of true doctrine for the guidance of every dairy farmer in the land. It is because so many farmers do not understand this doctrine, or do not believe it, that they make so little profit. It is too bad that such a host of men waste all their lives, as they do, with cows and lie down in their graves at last with but little, if any, reward for a long life of toil and care. It is all because they are trusting their fortune to a falsehood. They put their chief reliance in the feed. They pay but little attention to the real quality of the cow. Because they pay so little attention, they are making scarcely any effort to improve the quality of their cows. Can we suppose a farmer really believes in good quality, when we see him go along for years making no sort of intelligent effort at improving the breeding of his cows? If he really believed that his profits depended mostly on the quality of his cows, would we not see him putting the best dairy bull he can find at the head of his herd? Of course we would. Would a farmer who believes this doctrine, breed from a grade bull? Of course not. Would such a farmer make no effort to test his cows year after year, when it costs so little money to purchase a Babcock test machine? Of course not. Would such a farmer who believes in this doctrine go into the market and buy poor, worthless scrub cows rather than make some effort to raise good cows from good, well established dairy blood? Hardly, we think. What is the reason that so many farmers pay no attention to this matter of improving the quality of their cows? Because they do not believe in the doctrine that it is the quality of the cow, rather than the food, which makes the profit. We judge of men by their actions. When we see a farmer put a cheap, grade bull at the head of herd, we feel certain that he don't understand the value of thoroughbred blood, and for that reason don't believe in it. We know hundreds of farmers who will feed costly food in abundance to worthless cows at a steady loss. If they knew better, would they not try to do better? If they believed in the policy of thoroughbred blood, would we not see them making some effort to buy a bull of that character? Would they go along as contented as a kitten in a warm nest, losing money, and wasting good, costly food on poor cows? To suppose this, is absurd. What then must we suppose? This and only this: That they have never educated themselves to a right understanding of a dairy cow, and how to breed her so as to improve her quality, and by that make the food they invest in the cow more and more profitable.

In this city there lives a retired dairy farmer, who ran along for years with a herd of grade Short-horn cows. He kept buying bulls of that breed, and after wasting several years in the attempt to make money in that way, he concluded that his ideas were wrong. The best he could get out of his herd was 150 pounds of butter of butter a year. He took a right about face, and bought the best Jersey bull he could get for \$200. The daughters of this bull, when they came into full production averaged over 250 pounds of butter apiece, and the granddaughters averaged over 300 pounds. That man showed that he believed that it was the cow, not the food, that determined the profit. Of course he was a liberal feeder, but only to good cows. That is the road to travel, that is the doctrine, for every man who is depending on cows, to believe in and practice. Only in this way can the improvement in our cows come. It cannot come by feeding; it must come through feeding. Registered bulls in all dairy breeds can be bought cheaply, and none other should be used by any man who wishes to improve his herd and increase his profits.