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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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No. 35

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.
 Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
 Association, Raleigh, N. C.
 Security, Hickory, N. C.
 Whittaker, N. C.
 Beecher, N. C.
 Beaver Dam, N. C.
 Lumberton, N. C.
 Charlotte, N. C.
 Concord, N. C.
 Wadesboro, N. C.
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Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on 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 wished in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The article on "How to Pick Apples," by the famous seed grower, J. J. H. Gregory, is a very timely one. This is the season of year at which most North Carolina apples are gathered, and we think no farmer that raises apples will regret time spent in reading the article and in carrying out its instructions.

Wet weather seems to have been as great a trouble to Northern farmers as dry weather has been to those of the South this season. We learn that crops of all kinds through the Northern States are generally late, owing to frequent rains. The effect of rainfall in making soil cooler, by the evaporation from the surface which goes on when soil is wet, is not appreciated as it should be. This has, undoubtedly, injured both the corn and potato crops. The small grains were too far advanced when rains began to be injured, except by wet weather in harvest time. A late crop is generally a poor crop, and more liable to injuries of all sorts than an early crop.

"What to do with a balky horse" is the problem the Horse World claims to have solved. It says: "When a horse balks, no matter how badly he sulks, or how ugly he is, do not beat him; don't throw sand in his ears, don't use a rope on his front legs or even burn straw under him; quietly go out and pat him on the head a moment, take a hammer, or even pick up a stone out of the street, tell the driver to sit still, take his lines, hold them quietly while you lift up either front foot, give each nail a light tap and a good smart tap on the frog. Drop his foot quickly, and then chirp for him to go. In ninety nine cases out of a hundred the horse will go right along about his business, but the driver must keep his lines taut and not jerk or pull him back. The secret of this little trick is simply diversion."

OPPOSE THE USE OF GUANO.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.
 The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by Smith Creek Alliance, No. 351, of Warren Co., N. C., on the 18th of September, 1897.

WHEREAS, Another year has more thoroughly developed the fact that the use of fertilizers are deceptive and the drain upon the crops to pay for the same is alarming. And whereas, it is all important that the farmers should be made known some of the evils existing in the manipulation as well as in the use of fertilizers. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as farmers, are disgusted with the shrinkage in the grade of fertilizers from year to year, causing the use of from five hundred to one thousand pounds per acre, thereby adding double freight to the cost, without value in comparison with the grade ten years ago, when half the quantity would make better crops.

2. That the price has not lowered in proportion to the grade leaving out the additional freight and expense of hauling.

3. That the entire cost of fertilizers when the seasons are bad, is a total loss to the farmer while under favorable seasons the profits will not justify the risk.

4. That the next legislature should enact that no fertilizers shall be sold in the State at a commercial value of less than thirty dollars per ton.

5. That we will commence now to think and make plans to dispense with the use of fertilizers at present prices and grade as much as possible and improve our lands by other methods more permanent and profitable, for we have failed to realize either by the use of fertilizers. But on the other hand its use, as a market crop food, we are impoverishing our land trying to pay for it.

6. That these resolutions be published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and News Reporter.

W. F. BISH P, Sec'y.

TO KEEP SWEET POTATOES.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.
 Three points are essential.

1. The potatoes should be ripe when dug.

2. They should be put away at the right time.

3. They should be put away in the right way.

If the above three points be properly observed potatoes can easily be kept in good condition through two winters.

(1) To ascertain when ripe, remove a few potatoes, break in two pieces and throw down on the ridge. If ripe, the milk that runs out, when dry, will be white; if not ripe it will be dark. In the former case the potatoes may be relied on to keep; in the latter case there is doubt, but with care may keep well.

Potatoes should be planted sufficient early to ripen before they are dug.

WHEN TO DIG
 Potatoes should be dug soon after the frost kills the vines. Some, however, advise that they be left until the weather turns cool. But when thus left, if the weather be warm, they are apt to sprout in the ground. The farmer must decide between the two plans according to his own experience. It may be well to try some by each plan until he is convinced. I prefer early digging—soon after the vines are killed.

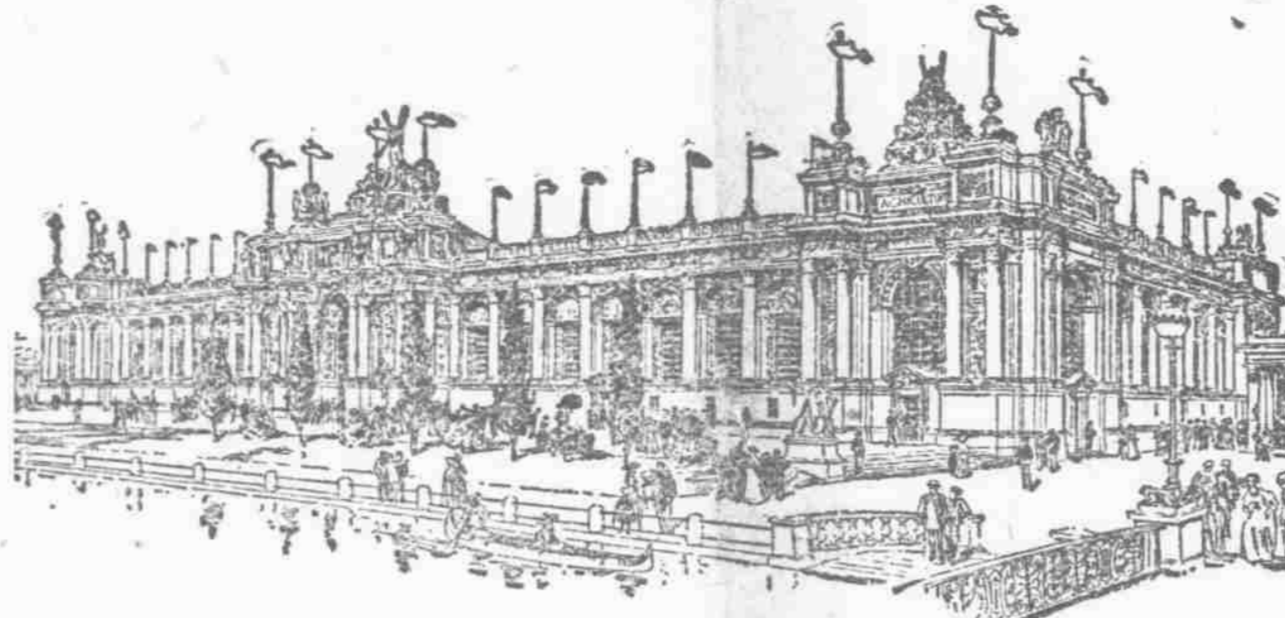
AIRING THE POTATOES.
 This may be done in several ways. If aired in the patch, poles or rails should be placed on the ground with proper spaces intervening. The potatoes should be placed thereon and covered with straw or other litter to protect from frost, in case there be any. Let the potatoes remain thus for about nine days, or until the first white frost thereafter; they will then be in proper condition to put away.

If preferable, the poles or rails may be placed on a floor and the potatoes piled thereon in the way described. This plan will cause the air to get under the potatoes and, as it ascends, (the potatoes will be warmed sufficiently by bulking to cause this) all portions of the bulk will be evenly cured.

PUTTING THE POTATOES AWAY
 After the potatoes have been properly cured there is only one safe way to put them away, and especially if it be desirable to keep them a long time—the air must be excluded. To exclude the air, dry sand or road dust must be employed. The potatoes may be placed in a potato house, a cellar, a large box or a hill, and dry sand then powdered over them, which will flow and fill every crevice. If dust be used, it will be necessary to place alternately a layer of potatoes and a layer of dust,

AGRICULTURE BUILDING.

At Trans Mississippi and International Exposition to be Held at Omaha, June 1st to November 1st, 1898



Through the courtesy of the managers, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is enabled to give its readers a splendid picture of the Agriculture Building at next year's great Exposition, as it will appear when completed. This building will cost, we understand, about \$100,000. Agriculture and live stock will be made prominent features of the Exposition.

Architects who stand pre eminent in their profession are now perfecting the plans of the main buildings—Agriculture, Art, Electricity and Machinery, Mines and Mining, Manufactures and Liberal Arts and Spectatorium.

On either side of the Administration building stands "Mines" and "Agriculture," twins in size and general form, and the largest of the Exposition's main buildings. The Agricultural building is located just west of the Twentieth Street axis of the Kountze tract, and faces south on the lagoon. Its architecture is free Renaissance, with details conventional in proportion and arrangement but natural in subject and all indicative of the purpose of the building. There will be capitals of corn and wheat, festoons and cornucopias of vegetables, fruits and flowers. The strutting turkey cock with spreading tail very successfully replaces the anthemion in one of the most important friezes.

The fitness which marks the choice of motives throughout will extend to color decoration. The mass will conform to the general old ivory tint of all the buildings, while in the ornament the colors of nature will be adhered to. The yellow of corn, purple of grapes, red of apples and green of foliage will predominate. The effect will be enhanced by focussing. Thus the central niche will blaze with color and

land are unsuitable for cultivation because of their smallness, or because inconveniently situated, are left in this wild condition, and mar the effect of an otherwise well kept farm or beautiful home.

In a recent report on "Experimental Farms," issued by the Canadian Government, W. T. Macoun, foreman of forestry, makes many suggestions as to how these unsightly spots may be made attractive and productive. Mr. Macoun says: "No matter how small the plot of ground or how situated, there is no reason why it should be an eye sore. It is this utilization of every nook, corner and cranny, and the making of two blades of grass to grow where a weed grew before, that has made rural England so beautiful to the eye and so pleasing to the æsthetic sense. The agricultural and pastoral landscapes in England, where the little farms are 'green to the very door,' have been described as 'jewel scenery.' There seems to be no good reason why the rural districts of New Jersey, New York and of other States could not be made equally attractive and fruitful."

Mr. Macoun has utilized all of the waste places about the office and buildings of the Forestry Department at Central Experimental Farm. In his report he thus writes of the improvement of these odd corners:

"The land adjacent to the office and other buildings, which has been devoted to the cultivation of ornamental trees and shrubs, looked better this year than ever before. As the trees increase in size from year to year, the landscape becomes more beautiful; the effects, also, of the grouping are more apparent, and show pleasing combinations and contrasts of color and form. A number of the species are also beginning to bear freely their white, yellow, red, scarlet, purple and black fruits, which still further heighten the effect. The flower borders and beds were a mass of bloom from early in the summer to late in the autumn, cannas, gladioli and asters being particularly fine. More hedges have been planted, and some small additional areas seeded down. The trees and shrubs planted during the last two seasons now add very much to the attractiveness of this section of the farm."

The foreman also calls attention to a large number of the trees and shrubs suitable for hedges and ornamental purposes. He now has hedges of seventy five different species. Among the ornamental trees, Mr. Macoun mentions several beautiful varieties from Japan and China, such as the syringa, the katsura tree, the Japanese quince, and the exquisitely beautiful maiden hair tree, or ginkgo biloba.

The director, writing of the result of this utilizing of all small plots, says: "The number of specimens which have been planted along the roads from the entrance gates to and about the building is 2,742, and the number of species and varieties among these is about 40. With so many different types of beauty spread out on every hand the visitor finds objects of interest to claim his attention at every point."

In many places on the farm the fruit trees could be used so that they would be at once objects of beauty and profit. Even in the smallest plots and corners the weeds and stones could be replaced by flowers, to the æsthetic delight and mental improvement of those who pass their lives on the farm.—New York Times

HORTICULTURE
 HOW TO PICK APPLES.

There are three ways of securing the apple crop—by shaking the fruit from the trees, by gathering it by hand and then dropping the apples into the basket, which may be hanging on the ladder two or three feet below our reach, and the third way of gathering the fruit by hand and carefully laying each apple in the basket. The tremendous crop of last season here in eastern Massachusetts affords the opportunity to test the comparative merits of each of these three plans when carried out on a large scale.

The argument of those who practice the first named plan was that the apples were so plenty and consequently cheap, that it would not pay to hand pick them, and the shaking of them off on the second crop of grass growing beneath the trees would bruise but a small per cent of the fruit. An Atlantic cyclone, which descended on us soon after we had begun apple-picking, gave me, to my exceeding regret, an opportunity to test the merits of this system of apple-gathering. All the

fruit lying on the grass under the trees was carefully gathered up and piled before we began hand picking.

I gave the gathering up my personal supervision, to see to it that the fruit was carefully laid in baskets, and that these were carefully emptied on the piles. At convenient intervals these piles were sorted over, the small and bruised fruit being carried to the cider mill and the apparently sound put in barrels. These barrels were protected from rain and carried from time to time to the shed, where the fruit was again carefully examined under my supervision, and only such as appeared to be perfectly sound were put in barrels, headed and transferred to the dark, cool cellar. The remainder of the crop was hand picked as carefully as I could get it done by my regular farm hands, all under careful supervision.

As these men were not hired to pick by the barrel, they had no motive to slight their work. These apples also were headed up in barrels and put in the cellar, side by side with the first lot. Two months later I took from the two lots about forty barrels to market, and, unheading, picked them over, and made the following memoranda of the results, which I copy from note book: I found that windfall apples, taken from the grass ground, and apparently all sound, at the time of packing, have rotted nearly a third within two months from the time they were barreled, while those carefully hand picked from the trees have rotted about one-fourth. On February 10th, another lot of these sorted windfalls averaged about half-sound to the barrel, while the hand-picked of the same variety (Red Russets) gave about a couple of quarts of unsound ones to the barrel.

The dollar-and-cent inference from this investigation is that the best sort of windfalls are a pretty ticklish sort of an investment, and that in seasons when apples are cheap and labor high as of average years, it is decidedly cheaper to send all this quality of fruit directly to the cider mill rather than be at the care of gathering it together, and making two careful sortings of it, to have a third rot on your hands before marketing; for the rotting is not only so much direct loss, but also the loss of much time in overhauling and wiping the sound fruit that remains, so as to make it decently presentable.

Now, a remark or two on the practice quite general of hand picking the fruit and then dropping it into instead of carefully laying it in the basket. I had recently occasion to examine two large lots of apples which had been gathered by the two different methods. Each lot was kept the same way, in large bins and in cellars. In one, the carefully handed, I could hardly find at this date (February 22), a rotten apple; indeed, on looking carefully over a surface that would make several barrels, I saw but a single decayed fruit, while on the lot picked by dropping process, from one fifth to one-quarter of the fruit was unsound. In the first instance, the owner had gathered his apples with his own hands, and in the other three there had been boys employed.

Consider now the loss which is the result of careless handling of the fruit. One man boasted to me that he had picked twenty barrels a day; I felt that I could not afford to employ him; another could pick with care from eight to ten barrels per day. Apples picked by the first man would have cost me directly about ten cents a barrel; those by the second about seventeen cents, a difference of seven cents on a barrel for picking.

Now let us consider the indirect, and yet just as real cost. At this season of the year Baldwin's are usually worth from \$2 upward per barrel. Assuming that the carelessly picked fruit loses one fifth by rotting, and the carefully gathered one fortieth, then the loss on the fruit of the first is thirty five cents per barrel more than on that picked by the careful man; and adding this indirect to the direct cost of his work, his fruit picking has really cost me forty-five cents a barrel, while the work of the careful man has cost but seventeen cents.

The remark of the wise man made last fall, that the profits of the apple crop in the season of unprecedented plenty would ultimately be found in the pockets of the careful picker, is abundantly demonstrated by the comparative condition of the fruit in the cellars of hundreds of farmers at this date. We cannot afford to employ these careless fast pickers. We would make more money in the end by hiring them at \$5 a day to let the apples alone and eat roast turkey and plum pudding at our expense.—J. J. H. Gregory, in the Farmers' Guide.