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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.

RALEIGH, N. C., NOVEMBER 23, 1897.

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AGRICULTURE.

A PLAN.

Responsibility of the Progressive Farmer.

PIONEER MILLS, N. C.

We have a plan to submit to the cotton growers of the South, and also to the merchants of the same, provided there is no overproduction. If there is an overproduction, and the law of supply and demand rules the price of cotton, I have nothing more to say. If this can't be proven beyond a doubt I will present my remedy. It is that the farmers and merchants meet on January 1st and agree that the cotton contracted for the year 1898 until August, 1899, which is the normal year of the cotton year of 1898. By so doing, the cotton will not be put on the market in three months, as it now can go on the market as the manufacturer wants it at a fine price. This plan does not meet the wants of the South to day, let some one show a plan, and give us a plan that will.

Yours for a remedy,
S. S. McWHOTER.

SOMETHING ABOUT FERTILIZERS.

We find the following in the West Virginia Farm Reporter:
This is the same old perplexing question that has come up year after year, at the end of each year many farmers, at least, wish they had tried something else. The day of prescribing fertilizers is about over with, and now we are setting down to a common sense way of looking at the matter. That is, we know that so many elements are needed by the plant, and the air furnishes a certain number, and we need not add them, and if the soil is abundantly supplied with them, then there is no use applying them, so we find what is lacking or needed by experiment, and either apply these directly or indirectly. For instance, we can make the air give up part of its nitrogen, indirectly, by growing a leguminous crop as a renovator. This crop not only returns a profit in the direct yield, but it also adds to the soil in a fertilizer, and abundantly, indirectly, by storing up nitrogenous plant food in the soil for future use. So we have here a economical means of furnishing our crops, and we are thus compelled to use but two of the essential elements added to the soil in a fertilizer; these are phosphoric acid and potash. On our Southern farms, especially on the light, sandy soils of the coast region, the system of fertilizing is almost

indispensable and in fact, I might say, all of the most progressive farmers are great advocates for the use of fertilizer in this region. In some parts of the country it is true that very little if any fertilizers are used, as people depend on stock raising and renovating crops to bring up their lands. There is no objection to this system, except that it takes too much time to bring the lands up to a high state of cultivation. In that respect we are best in the South, as we can use some quick acting fertilizer and grow our money crop in the spring and summer and sow some renovating crop like crimson clover in the fall, and the land is practically resting as far as the exhausting crop grown is concerned, and the crimson clover stores up plant food through the winter in the roots and stubble for the succeeding crop, as well as furnishing grazing on hay, for the live stock and preventing leaching through the winter months, to say nothing of leaving the soil in a nice porous condition. In fact, the land is in a perfect mechanical condition after a crop of crimson clover.

On the other hand, we can apply a fertilizer to a crop of oats, wheat or rye, planted in fall or winter, and then harvest these in plenty of time to plant another renovating crop, such as field peas, and this crop will benefit the soil in the same way that the crimson clover did, except that it does more, as it benefits by shading the soil during the hot months, and comes off in plenty of time to allow the planting of another crop in the late summer or fall. For instance, a crop of oats can be sowed here in January, harvested in May, the land sowed to peas in the same month, and pea vines cut in August or September, making from two to three tons of hay per acre, about equal in value to clover hay, then the land can be sowed to some fall crop in a better condition than it was in May, previous, or even January, when the oats were sowed.

Now the point I wish to make is simply this, here in the South we can start with poor lands and grow our money crops at a profit by using fertilizers judiciously and then store up organic matter, or humus in the soil, by these renovating crops, and at the same time improve the general conditions of our lands. In fertilizing a renovating crop, like clover or peas, as mentioned before, it is only necessary to supply two elements of plant food, phosphoric acid and potash, in the cheaper forms like muriate of potash and acid phosphate, this will cause a heavy growth of the legume which means of course the absorption of a larger quantity of nitrogen and a consequent enrichment of the soil in this ingredient.

The phosphoric acid hastens the development of the crop. The potash has a twofold benefit, as it furnishes plant food to the soil and absorbs and retains moisture.
B. IRBY.
Raleigh, N. C.

KEEP THE BOY AMBITIOUS.

Many of us have seen the discontented boy making a pretense of picking up stones or potatoes, or perhaps sulkily working his way across an onion or turnip field, and we know something of his value in the economy of a farm. And, on the other hand, we are all more or less acquainted with the resolute, energetic boy, whose limbs never seem to tire, and whose great ambition is to do the work of a man. One such boy, who is striving to do all he can, is worth a dozen of those who are striving to do as little as possible. And yet the two boys are primarily the same.
We coax the restive or refractory horse, and do not think time wasted in training him to usefulness; and yet some of us are unwilling to do as much for the boys who are being fitted for the higher and more intelligent work of the farm. We all like good stock and good land, and good seed—especially the last, for that is the secret of success. But of all seeds which yield satisfaction and prosperity, there are none so sure as the judicious sowing of reading matter and games for the long winter evenings, an occasional half-holiday during the summer, when the boy's nerves are strained and overwrought by continual hard work, and social, familiar conversation at all times. Make him feel that he has a personal interest in the farm, and is not a mere dependent, and he will come out all right.
Remember that work is well done when the laborer's heart is in it, but when the heart strays the work flags.
—Exchange.

Notice! Please Read!

We wish to call your attention to our great offer. It is this: To any one not now a subscriber to this paper, we will send THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER every week until January 1, 1899 for only One Dollar.

We want 10,000 new subscribers under the terms of this offer. We want you to help us. This offer would not be a great one were it given by a paper that lives on campaign funds or is re-hashed from patent outsiders or dailies. But for a paper of the size and character of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, it is a great offer.

It does not become us to boast. "We don't have to." Persons who know the paper know its merits. But as we are sending out numerous samples this week, we wish "to stake a few claims" as Klondykers say, and we defy any one to pull up these stakes. If you are not a subscriber, please consider well the following facts; if you are a subscriber, you know the truth of these statements, but will you kindly call your neighbor's attention to them?

The following facts show just a few reasons why you should take THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. After you have taken it for a while you can give many more reasons for saying it is the best North Carolina paper.

A Few Reasons

There is no other weekly of any size, shape, price or character in the State (except those weeklies re-hashed from dailies) that is—

- (1) As large as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (2) That gives as full and complete a record of State news as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (3) That gives as much general news as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (4) That has as large a circulation as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (5) That has firmer friends than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (6) That has fewer humbug advertisements than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (7) That gets less from campaign funds than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (8) That owes less to rings, cliques or combines than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (9) That contains more valuable farm hints than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (10) That has as complete horticultural, farm, poultry, live stock, dairy, fun and religious departments as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER; or,
- (11) That will please you, your wife and children—every member of the family—as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will.

Give us your support. We will fight for you and your interest and promise to keep the paper up to its present high standard. Send us a 'c'ub.

Yours for business,

The Progressive Farmer.

RALEIGH, N. C. NOVEMBER 16, 1897

DON'T DELAY!

"EXPERIENCE THE WAY TO SUCCESSFUL FARMING"

[A paper read before the Putnam County Farmers' Institute Society, Winfield, W. Va.]

Fifty years ago when the soil of our country was so fresh and productive that we had only to sow and plant that we might reap an abundant crop, it required a knowledge backed up by years of experience in order that one might have his efforts crowned with success. How far broader should our experience be now under the present condition of affairs. The exhausted condition of the great majority of our farms and the comparatively low prices of farm products, calls for a class of experienced, up to date farmers, in order that farming may be successful.

I do not believe much on theoretical or book farming. A certain portion of theory is good enough in the proper place and at the proper time, but plain old-fashioned experience gained from following the plow or by careful observation, is the kind of education that will fill your garner in the fall time and will enable you to keep up your fences, pay your taxes, etc. Let us consider for a minute one thing of experience is fast teaching the farmers of our country; and that is, it does not pay to cultivate poor land. Theory will tell you to use phosphates and sow grass and thereby bring up the ground; but practice tells me that it is not the remedy.

Suppose I say, sow clover which will yield a thousand pounds more per acre and which will sell for from 85 per cent. to 90 per cent. of timothy and thereby improve your land permanently and at the same time give you an income equal to or greater than that of timothy.

You say how is that? If you take more clover from the ground than you do timothy, theory will plainly teach you that it must necessarily impoverish the ground more. I don't care what theory teaches. Practice teaches me that clover is by far the cheaper and quicker way of bringing up our badly run down farms.

So let us do away with a great deal of this fashionable fancy kid glove farming and come down to practicable common sense work and then the rank of "hay-seed" will be elevated to that of noble tillers of the soil.

And then the old fields now grown up in Virginia creepers and covered with moss will disappear, and in their place you will see fields of black productive soil which will produce as in the days of our fathers. Then the idea prevails among some that a man who is lazy and unfit for anything else will

make a first rate farmer. Why not say such a man would make a good merchant, a good mechanic or a good lawyer? No; the man who goes forth to till the soil, trusting in God for the co operative help of the elements must be armed with good common sense, and above all he must have a thorough knowledge of the work which he has gained by years of practical experience and observation.

Time forbids me from going farther, but let me say in conclusion that my eyes first saw light on a Kanawha river farm, and while I do not believe much in directing how one is to be laid away, if I should make any request in my last hours, it would be to put me in plain view of a farm which has been well cultivated by an industrious practical up to date farmer.

I. P. PROFFITT.

Winfield, W. Va.

CORN BREAD IN THE SOUTH.

To the Editor:—The Dallas (Texas) News says: "In discussing the possibilities of a vast corn trade with Europe in the future, it might be well to notice that corn as a breadstuff is rapidly losing its popularity at home. Many Americans of 40 to 50 years of age and older remember when corn bread was a portion of their diet six days in the week. Especially was this true in the Southern States. The art of cooking hoe cake, corn dodger, egg bread, etc., reached a high standard of excellence, and wheat flour came in for use only once or twice a week and on Sundays. All this has changed; even the negroes have largely deserted corn bread for flour bread. And the hoe cake, the dodger and corn muffin now chiefly exist in our songs and in our literature. Not one cook in a thousand can make corn bread as in the good old days.

"While we are educating Europe, then, as to the delights of corn bread, we might learn these same lessons we have well nigh forgotten. Don't let us turn over to the poor of Europe and to our hogs and cattle all the life giving elements of the American corn crop."

The above is true and timely, and let Northern farmers as well go to work to correct the difficulty.

A few years ago it became a popular "fad" that a corn diet was not a healthy one; that corn was too strong for the average stomach. Our best hygienists now say that corn is just as healthy as wheat or rye or oats, if thoroughly cooked; that four or five hours is none too long to cook a pot of mush. We of the North can learn much of our South-

ern brothers in regard to the use of corn, and it is to be hoped they will not abandon its use.

Science and instinct often come out at the same pathway. The Southern housewife keeps her corn in the husk until it is to be used, and then she selects and husks it herself, sending only a small amount to mill. Mrs. Rorer, the great scientific cook, says unless corn meal is kiln dried it will keep only two or three weeks, until each particle becomes covered with a minute mold, and after this the meal becomes stale and flat.

There is nothing finer than a pot of nice cooked mush, made from fresh meal and eaten with milk or with molasses, and this dish can be re-warmed in the morning and softened up with a little cream. Do not fry it. Then those "mush cakes" are fine, "rye and Indian bread," "pone" etc.

Don't let the corn feature of our diet become a lost art; discuss it in your homes and in your institutes, and when Fursman and his corps go to the Paris Exposition they can talk by the card—from experience. There is more in it than you dream of.—H. K. Smith in Farmers' Voice, Putnam Co. Ill.

HOW I GREW 150 BUSHELS OF CORN PER ACRE.

I took a field of mixed timothy and clover sod putting on ten loads of stable manure per acre.

The latter part of April I plowed the land eight inches deep. After it was plowed I rolled it once with the St. Louis rotary hoe in place of the disc harrow. I then harrowed it once each way with an ordinary smoothing harrow and rolled it down.

May 11th and 12th I planted it with Maules' early Mastodon corn, checking it three feet eight inches each way, three grains to the hill.

After it came up and while small I cultivated it once each way with the St. Louis rotary hoe, and after that once each way with the ordinary cultivator with large shovels on, but going shallow and not ridging up very much.

The land is white oak soil and has been mowed for hay for the past four years.

No commercial fertilizers of any kind have ever been used on this land. The entire field of ten acres will yield same as the one acre that was husked. The cost per acre was only \$7 50, exclusive of gathering.

ED. V. BOHL.

Astoria, Illinois.

STARTING THE BOY IN LIFE.

The boy is worth as much as, if not more than, any man the farmer can hire, after he reaches his teens. It therefore follows that we ought to show our appreciation of the fact in some substantial way.

I have in mind a case which will bear recording. The farmer has a son of fifteen. For five or six years this son has had a share in the profits of the farm. At first the father gave him a lamb. This, added to one given him by his grandfather, was the beginning of his flock. As these lambs grew up and added other members to the flock, the increase was set down to the credit of the boy. From time to time, also, the father placed in his son's purse a few dollars, not as wages, but for the purpose of giving the son the satisfaction of having something he could call his own. It was interesting to note the son's interest in the sheep and other business of the farm. When the lambs were sold, the son's capital grew and now and then he bought a lamb from some other flock. When the wool was sold he had his share in that.

How did this boy spend his money? Some of it went for trifles; yes. But who of us does not sometimes indulge in such trifles and feel the happier for it? But the father led the son along in such a way that he came to look upon his money as a means toward a good end.

It seems to me, this is a good way to start a boy in life. He grows up into the business. Even if he should decide that he would prefer some other occupation, his habits of handling money and knowing how he came by it will be of untold value to him. I have seen the spirit all taken out of a boy by the father's selling some lamb or calf which had been called the boy's, and putting the money into his own pocket. That is the worst kind of wrong. Better never give the boy anything than to rob him in such a way.

E. L. VINCENT.

Pay your subscription.

SAWDUST AS FERTILIZER.

"Some of the live citizens of South Georgia have discovered regular gold mines in their old sawdust piles," said Mr. W. F. Combs, a railroad man, in the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph. "I have just seen the crops of Mr. B. H. Moody, at Bronwood, and I'll declare I never saw finer corn in my life. It is simply wonderful, and his other crops are almost as good. I was at a loss to understand what brought about these great results, and I inquired into the matter. The land was not what you would call the poorest land, but it was not the kind that a man would look for to raise such crops as I saw. In reply to my questions, Mr. Moody said that for years he had been trying to get rid of the great piles of sawdust on his place. He had been running sawmills there for years, and after the timber was gone from the land he decided to cultivate it. Of course, the only thing that suggested itself was to burn the dust. But this proved to be a Herculean task. The stuff was so abundant, and, being moist, it would take always to get it out of the way by that process. He finally abandoned the idea, and went on cultivating the ground around the piles of sawdust for years and years. Finally he discovered that the stuff had rotted until it had no body to it. He thought he would experiment with it as a fertilizer, and had some of it scattered broadcast on a piece of land lying near by. The result was so astonishing that he resolved to broadcast his entire plantation with it and to make it as thick as possible. He now considers the sawdust the best fertilizer he ever saw, and old, worn-out land will produce as much when stimulated by the sawdust as will the richest new ground."

GOOD WORK OR NONE.

It is a rule that a workman must follow his employer's orders, but no one has a right to make him do work creditable to himself. Judge——, a well known jurist living near Cincinnati, loved to tell this anecdote of a young man who understood the risk of doing a shabby job even when directed to.

He had once occasion to send to the village after a carpenter, and a sturdy young fellow appeared with his tools.

"I want this fence mended to keep out the cattle. There are some unplaned boards—use them. It is out of sight from the house, so you need not take time to make it a neat job. I will only pay you a dollar and a half."

The judge went to dinner and, coming out, found the man carefully planning each board. Supposing that he was trying to make a costly job of it, he ordered him to nail them on at once just as they were, and continued his walk. When he returned the boards were all planed and numbered ready for nailing.

"I told you this fence was to be covered with vines," he said, angrily; "I do not care how it looks."

"I do," said the carpenter, gruffly, carefully measuring his work. When it was finished there was no part of the fence as thorough in finish.

"How much do you charge?" asked the judge.

"A dollar and a half," said the man, shouldering his tools.

The judge stared. "Why did you spend all that labor on the job, if not for the money?"

"For the job, sir."

"Nobody would have seen the poor work on it."

"But I should have known it was there. No; I'll take only a dollar and a half." And he took it and went away.

Ten years afterward the judge had the contract to give for the building of several magnificent public buildings. There were many applicants among master builders, but the face of one caught his eye.

"It was my man of the fence," he said. "I know we should have only good, genuine work from him. I gave him the contract and it made a rich man of him."
It is a pity that boys were not taught in their earliest years that the highest success belongs only to the man, be he carpenter, farmer, author or artist, whose work is most sincerely and thoroughly done.—Living Age.