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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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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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AGRICULTURE.

NORTH CAROLINA REOURCES.

Ool. Frederick Annanias Olds has written a very interesting letter to the Wilmington Messenger regarding the report of the Commissioner of Labor. He says:

"In the chapter on fruit growing in Western North Carolina, which is to appear in this year's report of the State Labor Commissioner, it is stated that fourteen counties ship 90,000 barrels; Haywood and Swain 15,000 each; Caldwell and Wilkes, 10,000; Yancey, Clay, Jackson and Surry, 8,000. There are many localities in this section where peaches are seldom killed, and especially in this case in the thermal region. Apples are kept all winter in ordinary cellars. It is destined to be the greatest apple growing region in America. There have so far been few attempts to grow apples in a systematic manner, and an absence of system as to planting, picking and shipping. These North Carolina apples have this year taken prizes at New York exhibitions. The greatest size of many of the trees attracted attention; as it is not uncommon to find them three feet in diameter.

TANNERIES.

"The tannery industry is much larger in this State than is generally known. A very large proportion of the hides produced are tanned in the State. The abundance of oak and hemlock bark would enable the State to tan all the leather used within its limits. A large part of the leather now produced in the State is made into harness and collars. The greater part of these go to Baltimore, Richmond and Atlanta, and successfully compete with the product of other States. A list of 122 tanneries is given, with postoffice addresses and owners. Chatham county leads with 8.

COPPER MINING.

"The copper ores of this State usually occur in two forms—gold bearing and non-gold bearing. The ores in Person and Granville, with a high percentage of copper, have never received the attention they deserve. One of the mines, the Ore Knob, in Ashe, has been worked on an immense extent and to a depth of 400 feet. The discovery of a vast deposit on the extreme western boundary of the State has led to mining on a great scale, and over 100 persons are employed. This last discovered deposit is probably on the Georgia side of the line. A list of 14 mines is given from which copper alone is taken, and of 23 from which considerable quantities of

copper have been taken in connection with the gold mined.

MARBLE. "Marble is found in Catawba, in the north extension of the King's Mountain limestones, in McDowell, Swain and Cherokee, but the Cherokee quarries are the most important of all. These are now quite extensively worked. Marble of various colors and of high grade is being shipped from that county in large quantities, Georgia and Tennessee get the credit of producing a large quantity of marble which is really the product of Western North Carolina. The peculiar situation of Cherokee makes the markets of these States much nearer than those of this State. It is declared that a lot of marble used in building the new congressional library and known as "Georgia" and "Tennessee" marble, was taken from Cherokee quarries. A list of 8 quarries is given, 6 of these being in Cherokee.

MARLS AND PHOSPHATES. "In the majority of the counties of the coastal plain region, marls are found near enough to the surface to render it practical to mine them. They contain from 50 to 90 per cent. of carbonate of lime, but so cheap has lime been in recent years that the farmers say they can buy it cheaper than they can mine and haul the marl. Deposits of phosphate have been found in Duplin, Sampson, Pender, Onslow, Brunswick and New Hanover. In the last the Castle Haynes mine is in operation and is the only one in the State. Most of it has been shipped by the private owners to fertilizer companies at Wilmington, Norfolk and Baltimore in the crude state. A Wilmington firm now proposes to take all the product from the State (which this year bought the mine), up to 20,000 tons a year. In Sampson and Duplin the phosphate is found in beds ranging from a few inches to two feet in thickness, highly water worn and overlaid by from 6 to 10 feet of sand.

BUILDING STONES.

"Three of the geological belts in the State carry most of the stone used for building purposes; the brownstone of Anson, Chatham, Wake, Durham, Guilford, Orange, Rockingham and Stokes; the granites in two eastern, five middle, twelve piedmont and four mountain counties. One of the largest and most remarkable formations of granite occurs in Wilkes and is known as Stone Mountain, which furnishes stone of a fair quality and is soon to be developed. The best known granite quarry is that at Mt. Airy, and is extensively worked. It is of regular grain and texture and is exposed over an area of more than 40 acres. In Davie there is a beautiful stone known as "orbicular" granite. The figures as to production of quarries are not recent, those for 1894 being the last. There is a list of 11 brownstone, 25 granite and 2 sandstone quarries."

MR. McWHIRTER'S PLAN.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. PIONEER MILLS, N. C., Nov. 18, 97. I gave you my plan as a remedy for five cent cotton to change the date of payment of all debts contracted in 1898 to August, 1899. Now I ask space to discuss the details.

First, under the present system, the cotton is marketed on the commencement of the manufacturer's cotton year, which compels the manufacturer to build warehouses to protect his cotton from eight to eleven months, in order that he may have cotton enough to run his mills through the year.

Secondly, to save him the expense of insuring such an enormous amount of cotton, which is a very heavy expense, and also save interest on the same, which might be left in the pockets of the planter under my plan. I believe that the law of supply and demand under this system would rule beyond a doubt, because the cotton would commence going on the market in October, as usual, without being forced, as the manufacturers demand it, which would leave it in the planter's hands until the demand brought it out.

Thirdly, the planter, at a very small cost, could put up sheds to protect his cotton on his own farm, and also insure it under the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, into which most of the States, if not all in the South, are organized, which is actually no cost after the issue of the policy, until there is some actual loss by fire or storm, since for a policy in this company there is no annual or monthly premium to be paid.

Now, in consideration of this plan, I earnestly ask the co-operation of the manufacturers, merchants and plant-

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 awhile 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 club.

Yours for business, The Progressive Farmer.

RALEIGH, N. C. NOVEMBER 16, 1897. DON'T DELAY!

ers of the South in helping to bring this plan into operation. But if this plan does not meet the wishes of all concerned, I ask them to show cause why not, and give us a better plan.

Mr. Editor, I ask you to give the original plan in full in your next issue with the above details. I ask all who are opposed to this plan, with those who favor it, to discuss it thoroughly. Respectfully, S. S. McWHIRTER.

Mr. McWhirter's plan is this: that the farmers and merchants meet on January 1st and agree that the debts contracted for the year 1898 run until August, 1899, which is the end of the cotton year of 1898. By so doing, the cotton will not be put on the market in three months, as it now is, but can go on the market as the manufacturer wants it at a fine price.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. WARREN CO., N. C., Nov. 15, 1897. Agricultural Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C.

Q.—As you are willing to give the farmers such information as they need, I would like to ask a favor of you. I have a young cow, partly Jersey; she had on May 1st, 1897, the second calf; on the 25th of June she was bred again; she is well fed, getting morning and evening cotton seed and corn meal and fodder, more than any other cow in the neighborhood; besides, she is in pasture and has a pure spring of water, which she always had. Formerly she gave a good supply of milk, but now she gives scarcely a quart a day. Could you give me any information about what could be wrong with her, I would be very thankful. I feed and milk her myself, so I know she gets her feed and everything right. Once a week she gets salt, and every few weeks a little sulphur.

I would like to ask another favor: Thieves stole my best chickens. I wrote to several parties about Wyan dotte eggs or a set of young chickens. Could you sell me a set of young Wyan dotties or a set—13 or 26 eggs? I have two hens that want to hatch. I am willing to pay a good price and will send the money as soon as it is required. You would do me a great favor if you would sell me eggs or a rooster and a hen or two; no matter how young they are.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, Yours,

The above consigned communication was recently received at the Experiment Station. We should be glad to

get the writer's name in order to suggest that the cow be watched a few days and locked up at night tied in a position so she cannot suck herself. It is not impossible, although improbable that this cow has fallen off from having reached a certain stage of gestation. It is much more probable that, 1st, she sucks herself, or 2nd, some thief is stealing her milk; hence the above advice.

As to chickens, this Station has some for sale and can doubtless furnish our correspondent eggs or a pair, a trio, or a single bird which will satisfy him if his name can be learned; therefore, if he sees these lines and will write again, we will quote prices to him on eggs and chickens and hope he will report further as to the cost. FRANK E. EMERY.

FORTY PER CENT. AT FARMING.

Mr. Henry Parker, who, with his brother, owns a 90 acre farm near Eufula, Ala., has told the Times, of that place, how he has succeeded at farming. "We made," said he, "last year 40 per cent. profit on the place. And it is of considerable value because we have unusually good accommodations on the place, among other things an exceedingly nice country house, with outhouses, etc. We get money from cows. We have five Jersey cows, from which we sell the butter and the increase. We sell 200 head of hogs a year, many of them as pigs, others when grown. We make fodder and hay, and last year got good money from 300 bushels of peanuts. We raise great quantities of sweet potatoes. And do you know that you can't buy a sweet potato in Barbour county now, and they are worth 90 cents a bushel? It is true. I am shipping potatoes from Nashville. The farmer gets impatient and will not hold any part of his crop for a rise. Think what a magnificent thing it would be now to have several hundred bushels of potatoes! We have sold already \$23 worth of new Irish potatoes. We get good returns from sugar cane, and \$9 in the last month or two from cattail millet seed. We raise field peas and all kinds of vegetables. Of course, we raise oats and corn, but only to feed our own stock. We made last year over 40 per cent on our farm alone. And some people will say that our store helped us out. And so it did. We sold the product of the farm largely through the store, but the store got a profit. The net proceeds to the farm, after deducting the value of our services as storekeeper from the amount, gave us a profit on our farm of over 40 per cent. on its entire cost to us."—Farm Magazine.

CROP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. Washington, D. C.

CROP CONDITIONS.

The following estimates, based upon the November returns, are merely preliminary, and are subject to revision in the final report.

Corn.—The returns indicate an average yield of 23.7 bushels per acre, as compared with the preliminary estimate of 17.3 bushels in November last, and of 26.2 bushels in November, 1895. The average indicated yield in bushels per acre in some of the principal corn producing States is as follows: New York, 32.5; Pennsylvania, 36; Tennessee, 21; Kentucky, 23; Ohio, 32.5; Indiana, 28; Illinois, 31.5; Iowa, 29; Missouri, 25; Kansas, 19, and Nebraska, 29. The average as to quality is 86.3 per cent., as compared with 88.4 per cent. in November last, and 92.3 per cent. in the previous year.

Irish Potatoes.—The indicated average yield per acre of Irish potatoes is 64.6 bushels against 86.8 bushels in November last, 100.7 bushels in the preceding year, and 76.9 bushels the average for the last fifteen years.

Tobacco.—The indicated average yield of tobacco per acre is 645.9 pounds, as compared with 678.9 in November last, and 712.5 pounds as the average for the last fifteen years. The Department is now making a careful revision of its figures of the acreage devoted to this crop and while the foregoing estimate of the average yield per acre may be accepted as an approximately correct indication of such average yield, it should not be applied to any figures of acreage that the Department has published in the past. The Kentucky crop is reported as the smallest in many years, and on the other hand that of Wisconsin shows a larger acreage, a larger yield per acre, and a higher average quality than for a decade. In Florida tobacco growing is said to have been greatly stimulated by the condition of affairs in Cuba.

Hay.—There is every indication that the hay crop will prove to be the largest on record, the indicated average yield being 1.42 tons per acre, or 0.06 ton per acre above the high average of last year, and 0.21 ton per acre above the average for the last fifteen years.

Cotton.—The average indicated yield of lint cotton per acre is 181.9 pounds. The principal State averages are as follows: North Carolina 184; Texas 165; South Carolina 189; Arkansas 215; Georgia 178; Tennessee 132; Alabama 155; Oklahoma 225; Mississippi 224; Indian Territory 300; Louisiana 245; Florida 110.

In the main the crop has been picked in excellent condition, the weather having been highly favorable. There is not the slightest apparent disposition on the part of the Department's large corps of correspondents to overestimate the effect of unfavorable conditions during the growing season or to conceal or minimize the importance of such conditions as have been favorable, and while the figures now published are subject to revision in the final report they are believed to approximately represent the actual condition of the crop.

Sugar Cane.—The returns regarding this product are exceedingly meager, and do not afford a sufficient basis for even a rough estimate.

Sorghum.—The reports concerning this product also are meager and generally unsatisfactory.

Fruit.—The returns on grapes, apples, and pears indicate production as compared with a full crop, and have been largely foreshadowed in preceding reports.

ARTICHOKEs.

In a recent issue of the Practical Farmer, an Indiana man writes as follows: "I have tried the white Jerusalem artichoke and am well pleased with the result. We have a two acre lot, one end of which is partitioned off into small pens and provided with houses suitable for one sow; the balance of the lot is planted in artichokes. The soil is a deep, rich, black, sandy soil. Artichokes do exceedingly well on it, producing several hundred bushels each year. In suitable weather, when the ground is not frozen, we turn the sows and pigs in and let them root. About the first of April we take the hogs out and run the plow through the patch, throwing it up in ridges, which leaves it in good condition for the hogs to harvest the next crop. The hogs always leave enough the ground to seed the patch. We never dig any of them, but if we had a root cellar I would

know more of them or some other kind of roots for our stock. In Farmers' Bulletin No. 22 issued by the Department of Agriculture, is given the composition of artichokes and other roots, and by comparing them I find the artichoke to be as rich in food elements as the other roots. They cost but little to grow them and the brood sows do the harvesting. Brood sows and growing pigs need some kind of roots or green food to keep them in a healthy condition, and as a large majority of the farmers in the corn belt are not provided with suitable tools to cultivate root crops, their hogs are fed on grain the entire winter. I would not advise anyone to plant them on high priced land; and where one is prepared to cultivate and store other root crops it might not be profitable to grow them. I am experimenting a little with mangel wurzels and sugar beets, and if they prove to be cheaper and better I will discard the artichokes, but in the meantime they are worth more to me than any other crop I could raise on the same ground. An objection usually made to them is that they are bad to spread, but I have not found them so. The seed does not grow, and I have no fear of being unable to get rid of them should I ever want to."

SEED CORN IN THE SOUTH.

Professor Massey, of the A. & M. College, Raleigh, has been consulted as to the advisability of procuring seed corn from the North to plant in the South. Home and Farm publishes his letter. He says:

"We do not think it advisable to get seed corn from the North for Southern planting. It will take some time to fully acclimatize it, and you can get better corn suited to your climate by a careful selection at home from what you already have. If the corn in your section is 'all run out,' it is the fault of the cultivator and not of the climate. The way in which seed corn is usually selected in the South is enough to run out anything. The proper way to improve corn for seed is to make the selection in the field. Have a section of the field planted in the kind of corn you wish to save for seed and give it the best of care and maturing, deep preparation, but shallow and level cultivation. As soon as the tassels begin to show go through the piece and cut out the tassels from every stalk that does not show an ear coming. Select for seed vigorous stalks that set two ears and mark them to stand until perfectly matured. Save only the ear next to the ground for seed. It will not probably be the finest looking ear, but save it only even if it is a nubbin. If you continually save the top ears for seed, you increase the tendency to produce the ear farther and farther from the ground, and also increase the tendency to bear but one ear. By continuous saving of the bottom ear you get the corn in the habit of producing its crop near the ground and the habit of bearing two ears.

"Plant this selected corn the next year and plant the seed patch with the same and pursue the same course of selection. It will take years to produce striking results, but if you persevere you will finally get a race of corn that will put money in your pocket for seed purposes. Do not in your latitude select corn for earliness. You have plenty of time to mature the biggest, and the largest late maturing corn will always bring you the heaviest crop. Northward corn has been selected with a view for earliness. Corn, more than any other grain we know of dislikes to be removed far North or South of its native locality, and thought it adapts itself to the changed conditions, it takes time to do it, and you will do better to select from your own stock.

Get the best corn you can find in your section to start with, and, my word for it, if you follow up the plan proposed you will find that we are right."

When bees are wintered in the cellar many bee keepers raise the hives about 2 inches from the bottom board; others remove the bottom board entirely. This allows plenty of ventilation, but little escape of heat, and all dead bees and rubbish drop down away from the cluster, where they dry instead of becoming moldy and rotten from contact with the warmth and moisture of the cluster. This raising of the hives gives mice access to them. The most practical plan to prevent this is to trap or poison the mice; to do so, mix equal parts of flour, sugar and arsenic and place in shallow dishes in different parts of the cellar.—Ex.