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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Has the largest circulation of any family agricultural or political paper published between Richmond and Atlanta

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

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## AGRICULTURE.

### THE FARMER'S LETTER BOX.

We hope every one of our subscribers will contribute a brief letter to this department. Keep us informed as to what is happening among the farmers of your neighborhood. If you have either by experiment or by any other method discovered anything which you think can be of interest to North Carolina farmers, tell them of it through our columns. Don't think "I'll wait until others start the ball rolling," but jump in and help us yourself. Let us hear from you before next week. Henceforth we hope to make this a permanent feature of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Always give your real name and address, even though you wish some other name signed to your letter.

PENDLETON, N. C.  
A few days ago Mr. A. J. Britton, of Conway, Northampton Co., N. C., killed a hog that weighed 666 pounds after he was cleaned, and 757 pounds dressed.—W. M. Martin.

After a careful study of the fence question, I am fully convinced that the "Page" manufactured by the Page Woven Wire Fence Co., Adrian, Mich., is the lead, and is growing in favor every year. Others that are claimed to be "as good as the Page" don't stand the test of frost and heat, lacking the elasticity.—Very truly yours, W. T. Stevens.

From my experience in growing buckwheat it is a bad crop to precede corn, as not only does the buckwheat come up thick as a weed, but the land seems unfavorably affected for the crop. I was growing buckwheat, I would always seed if possible to clover with the buckwheat, and I would sow both crimson and common clover, so as to have two chances for a stand.—Waldo Brown.

A great deal has been written about the increase in the number of cotton factories in the South, and North Carolina seems to be in the lead in the number of her spindles. As we ride by these factories we feel a kind of State pride in their growth, and it makes us of our old time free traders feel after all turn about is only fair play, and that the Yankee slogan of "protection will prove to them something, and that having made the States rich, that we, too, will share some of their prosperity. For their splendid climate, our magnificent water power, together with our cotton fields so near that the cost of transportation is practically nothing,

we feel that if the farmer can only share in the profits, and legislation can be made in the interest of all, giving us an increased volume of currency, we may indeed hope for a prosperity that is lasting.—J. T. B. Hoover, Hillsboro, N. C.

The agriculturist must not ask his lands to give him crops year by year, without rendering to it a return for its bounty. If you want your soil to be liberal, you must make it "fat." The farmer, in his dealings with the fertile acres, cannot always be simply beneficiary; he must all the while be a benefactor also. The product of the soil must in some measure be returned to the soil if its fruitfulness is to continue. There are farmers who "skin" their land by constant cropping and no fertitizing; but it is ruinous economy for the owner, and a grave wrong to the community; for whoever reduces the wealth of the nation's soil and the sources of supply of sustenance is guilty of unsocial conduct.—Washington Gladden.

Farmers should take and read agricultural papers. Book farming is cried down, but I expect the onward progress of farmers to day is owing more to the information they get out of books than to any other thing. Farmers should, too, take the newspapers to keep posted on the current events of the day.

Then I think farmers' meetings—and we have it in the shape of an Alliance—are great educators. Farm topics are discussed, different views are interchanged, &c., and they learn a great deal more than they knew before.

Farmers must be educated. It is scarcely necessary for me to tell you what kind of education was necessary. You can judge for yourselves when you take into consideration that right now the farmers need farmer financiers, representatives, governors; and why may not the presidential campaign be graced by a farmer as in the days of Washington and Jefferson?

Farmers are beginning to be a power. This is a farmer's country, and farmers must be prepared to meet the great issues of the day; then let them do all that they can to elevate themselves, and so act that they can demand the respect they deserve.—L. Shurley.

The following article, which I find in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of October 16th, 1888, is so good that I hope you will publish it again. Almost ten years have passed since it was written, but each one of these years has only served to bring the truth of the article more forcibly to the minds of every Southern farmer. "Uncle Steve holds a meeting and adopts a resolution," is the title of the article. It reads as follows:

"Uncle Steve had sold his two bales of cotton and seated himself to figure out his profits on a piece of white pine board. After finishing he fixed his eye on the ground with a vacant stare and for several minutes seemed absorbed in serious thought. Grasping his pencil, he penned the following on the board: "WHEREAS, I raise cotton and sell it at a price that does not pay the cost of its production and buy from year to year my bread, meat, hay guano, wagons, harness, hoeses, plows and all my clothes for myself and family; and whereas, I buy all this on credit and give a mortgage to secure the payment for the same, thereby giving from thirty to one hundred per cent. profit to enrich others; and whereas, I see no peace of mind and my family of children are growing up in ignorance and my wife is broken down in health and in spirit; and whereas, I am growing poorer and poorer every day of my life; therefore be it  
'Resolved, THAT I AM A FOOL!'—A. Farmer, Spring Hope, N. C.

CHALK LEVEL, N. C.

I have, from time to time, seen in your valuable paper the experience of farmers from different sections. Just here I would like to give my experience on goat raising and the profits arising therefrom. About six or seven years ago I bought four goats and began raising goats on a small scale. I have killed as many as fifty for mutton, have sold twenty five or thirty, lost as many as fifty or sixty kids from extreme cold and rains weather, and now I own one hundred and twelve. In one more year I expect to have at least two hundred, and all this from four, to begin with a few years ago. If you will keep the goat pen well littered and pen one hundred goats nights and bad weather, the manure raised there will be equal to two tons of guano. I have not bought any guano in two years, and I make

near twice the amount of cotton that I did when I used guano. Goats cost but little to keep; they will eat almost anything. It has been said that one peck of bran will winter one goat, but whether that is so or not, I do know that it does not cost much to winter them. Besides, they will come home or to their pen every night, or in bad weather and that alone is a great advantage over sheep, and then dogs are not so destructive among goats as sheep and goats make just as good mutton as sheep, if not better. Now let us raise more goats for meat and more goat manure for manure, and buy less of the commercial stuff.—A. Matthews.

## COST OF PRODUCTION ASHLAND, N. C.

One cause of dissatisfaction which now exists among farmers is, when they compare their occupation with that of others, they have never paid proper attention to the actual cost of production. How few farmers know what the cost of a bushel of wheat or corn, or a pound of pork or beef is. There is great need of reform in this respect, and it is sure to come at no very great distant day. Without knowing the actual cost of production, we must depend entirely upon the demand for our products, which can be easily regulated by strong combinations, whose interests are against the interests of the producers. It gives capital a chance to control labor. The producer, in order to become prosperous, must have fair compensation for his labor. Those who represent the manufacturing interests receive this, or cease to manufacture until the demand exceeds the supply. They do not pursue the ruinous policy that the farmer has so long followed. The question of what is a fair compensation is to be settled by determining the actual cost of production. Let the farmer consider carefully what is necessary to carry on his business and adopt a simple form of accounts which, if faithfully kept, will enable him to determine, when each crop matures, what the actual cost has been per bushel, etc.—Senex G.

Young pigs should never be allowed to sleep on a pile of manure. In fact, these are about the worst possible places for them on account of the dust and dampness, and the foul, heated air out of which they will rush to their feed, and stand in a xero temperature till thoroughly chilled. I have seen promising herds of pigs killed just that way. Mr. T. Greiner, writing in Farm and Fireside, says that he once saw a nice bunch of fifteen pigs, averaging about 100 pounds, lying on a large heap of hot manure while the ground all about was covered with snow. They were packed closely together and shivered like they had the ague as the cold wind swept over them.

"If you don't get those pigs off that manure heap and keep them off you will lose every one of them in less than thirty days!" he called to the owner as he was passing.

"Why, that's a fine place for them," he shouted. "That manure keeps them warm. They would rather lie there than eat when the weather is cold."

"You can let them lie if you like, but in less than three weeks you will wish you had taken my advice."

One of the died in less than a week after this conversation. He took the hint, moved them to a dry shed, gave them a good bed of dry straw and saved them. He was depending upon them to pay a pressing debt, and, as he afterward said, "if he had lost them he would have been in a bad fix." "He honestly believed," says Mr. Greiner, that "the manure pile was a good place for them to sleep, and despite my warning, continued to think so until he found one of them dead."

Pigs should never be allowed to sleep under barns or outbuildings of any kind, as I have always found that they die as soon from sleeping under these as from sleeping on manure.—Saluda, Rutherfordton, N. C.

## THE SOUTHERN FARMER.

In a very thoughtful and just article on "Some Needs of Southern Agriculture," written for the Southern States Farm Magazine, by Prof. Charles W. Dabney, occurs this paragraph:

"Let me say, at the same time, that I am not one of those who believe that the Southern farmer is in any sense to blame for his present practices, however unprofitable they may be. Farming is not what it should be in our section, but no one regrets it more than the Southern farmer himself. Among

men who are classed as the leading farmers who are well-to-do; who combine buying and selling farm products with the producing of the same, and as the trade phrase goes, a "thing well bought is half sold." This policy when practiced causes the buyer to become a "bear" in the market and of course it is to his interest to have the product of other farms as low in the market as possible. There is too much selfishness, too much "want it all" disposition among us. We should stand by each other. Let every farmer make every other farmer's interest his interest, as in fact it is his interest. Other lines of organized business do this, and until we do it we will be at the mercy of every other organization, and (figuratively speaking) destroyed in detail.

The farmers of the country should combine as one man and crush out of existence all boards of trade, so-called, where farm products are used as a basis for their gambling operations. How long would these places be permitted to deal in manufactured articles? Would it not be as appropriate to trade in cotton, or woolen goods, railroad iron, farm implements and hundreds of other manufactured articles, as in the products of the farm? Yes—but—well—the manufacturer places the price on his goods himself. The farmer allows the other party to fix the price on his, and that a fictitious one in the interest of the manipulator.

Prof. Dabney is right. Discussion of the fullest, freest kind, of the problems of agriculture, is what the South and North both need. This discussion should extend to the farm laborer, as well as the farm owner. The mental concept and judgment of men must be right, before they can act right.

The South needs what the North needs, more intensive farming. The country has had enough, and too much, of extensive farming. The farms lack, not more acres, but more thinking, more good sound judgment, more and better directed labor to the acre. When that is achieved, we have struck the economic balance in farming; we have put a stop to the demon of waste,—wasted fertility, wasted labor, wasted labor, wasted product. The country needs more emigration from the farm peasantry of Europe. They have thrift, patient industry, and above all, they love the soil, take pride in being owners of it, and in surrounding themselves with the evidence of agricultural prosperity. Their sons and daughters are of the same mind. There is a farm succession from father to son, as it used to be in the old days of American agriculture. The sons of American farmers are deserting their heritage, and because of it, there follows great loss to the State, the Nation, and the cause of progressive agriculture. There are larger profits than ever to be made in farming, provided it be the farming of today, accompanied by thrift, industry and the intelligence that conserves fertility not wastes it.

To achieve this result we must have agitation, discussion, an arousing of the minds of our farmers. This was the way dairying was started and established in Wisconsin and other States. Dairying can be kept alive and prosperous among the farmers, in no other way. Discussion is life of itself. When that dies, dairying will decline. Those sections of the country are most prosperous in dairying, where there is the most agitation and discussion. It is so with every other agricultural pursuit. In this particular, the needs of the South, are the needs of the whole country.—Hoard's Dairyman, Fort Atkinson, Wis.

## THE FARMER'S OPPORTUNITY.

In an address delivered before the Farmers' Institute at Reynolds, Ill., S. W. Heath said:

It has always been advocated by the theorist and politician that all our industrial interests are closely connected, the one depends in a greater or lesser degree upon the other. This theory sounds good, but in practice it is found that the farmer always comes out at the little end of the horn.

The farmer has too many people to support; too many new institutions and inventions to maintain; and still more coming year by year. Do we realize that practically we support the whole social and industrial fabric of our country? The past summer practically all the coal mines of the country were tied up for several months, but caused scarcely a ripple in the business world, except among those directly connected with them. Tie up the farming interests for the same length of time and the business world would be paralyzed and untold suffering would be the consequence among all classes of society and every business in the country.

Brother farmers, we are not united in our efforts to better our condition. We practice a kind of "dog eat dog" policy. There are in every community

men who are classed as the leading farmers who are well-to-do; who combine buying and selling farm products with the producing of the same, and as the trade phrase goes, a "thing well bought is half sold." This policy when practiced causes the buyer to become a "bear" in the market and of course it is to his interest to have the product of other farms as low in the market as possible. There is too much selfishness, too much "want it all" disposition among us. We should stand by each other. Let every farmer make every other farmer's interest his interest, as in fact it is his interest. Other lines of organized business do this, and until we do it we will be at the mercy of every other organization, and (figuratively speaking) destroyed in detail.

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## 'SQUIRE BUNKER'S MAIL.

The postoffice is kept in one corner of the grocery in the village where 'Squire Bunker gets his mail. One day last week he dropped in to get some notions and his mail, and the postmaster and grocery owner jokingly said he would apply for a special delivery at the 'Squire's house if he subscribed for many more papers.

"I don't see how you get time for anything else, when you have so many papers to read," said Hank Lister, as the 'Squire stopped at the stove a minute before facing the cold outside. 'Squire Bunker is not in the habit of lingering long in the grocery after his business there is transacted and very rarely stays long enough to enter into the general, but not altogether informing conversation that the regular habits of the place indulge in day after day. These regular attendants at the grocery are mostly farmers who raise corn and nothing else and have nothing to do during the winter.

"I don't pretend to read all of the papers I take," said Hank Lister, in answer to Hank's remark. "I read what interests me and mother and the children do the same, and among us we get about all there is in the whole lot."

"It would break me up to pay for as many papers as you do," asserted Hank, removing the cigar he was smoking from his mouth and slowly puffing a cloud of smoke into the thick and reeking atmosphere.

The 'Squire smiled in his grim fashion. "I wouldn't think of taking a paper that cost me anything," he said.

"You're costlier than I am to get 'em give to you," said Hank, replacing his cigar.

"The publishers get their pay all right," said the 'Squire, "but the papers pay for themselves."

"How's that?" asked Hank.

"Oh, they teach me not to buy too many gold bricks, nor peach trees that are half apples and will not stand any kind of cold, and I don't take kindly to pat ent wagon tongues nor things of that sort."

Several members of the stove club winced at this, for most of them had been caught one time or another on some sharp trick of the sort named by the 'Squire.

"When I pay attention to what I find in my farm papers," said the 'Squire, after a pause, "I save enough to pay at least ten times over for all I take. I can keep track of the markets, I am reminded when it is time to do certain work, and told of any new and better ways of doing it. I am given recipes and directions for making time saving things that help in the work, and taking it by and large, I believe I am really in debt to the fellows who spend their whole time studying how to help me in my business. I have my papers to read and that keeps me from loafing around somewhere telling how the country is going to the dogs and how it might be saved if I had my way about it. I was just thinking if I would show my gratitude to some of the farm papers by giving some of you fellows a year's subscription as a holiday gift. It might convert you, though I have my fears on that point."

"But you take some women's papers too," said Hank. "I reckon you don't learn much in them papers, do you?"

"Well, not so much," admitted the 'Squire, "but mother has a lot of little handy fixings about the kitchen that I made rainy days and odd spells from directions in some of her women's papers. Molly has learned how to fix up her own gowns so they look as if they came from the city, and Kate gets more new dishes and cakes and such truck out of her paper than you could shake a stick at. I notice they feed me a good deal better than they used to before they got to reading these papers."

"If I took as many papers as you do," said Hank, "my head would bust right open with gettin' so many new ideas in it all at one time."

"I reckon," said the 'Squire, picking up his bundles, "that they'd rattle around a considerable while before they got to crowdin' each other very much." And with this parting shot he went out.—Farmers' Voice.

## THINKS DEALERS SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH TEN PER CENT.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

RICHLANDS, N. C., Jan. 4, 1898.

I saw in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of December 21st, 1897, a report from the farmers' mass meeting in Cleveland county. I think they made a step in the right direction. We ought to have a mass meeting in every county. While I endorse their preamble and resolutions, I want to comment on them. The farmers are oppressed with debt and unable to meet their obligations. One cause is the low prices of farm products. Another cause of so much poverty among our people is having to pay such enormous prices for what they buy. If he goes to a horse dealer's to buy a horse, he charges him from 60 to 100 per cent. more than he sells for. When he goes to the merchant to get supplies, he adds from 25 to 300 per cent., and that, too, must be paid in six or eight months.

Extortion! Extortion!! In Deuteronomy, xxiii: 19 we read: "Thou shalt not lend upon usury, to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of anything. Since the majority of our dealers and traders have become so heartless and unmerciful towards their fellow men and customers, we need a law to prevent their extortion.

We have the six per cent. interest law which is a good one. Now let every farmer resolve to vote for no representative at the election unless he will advocate a 10 per cent. trade and traffic law to prevent usury. The majority of farmers who have bought \$100 worth of goods this year would, if we had the 10 per cent. traffic law, when settling his bill next October, find his account \$50 or \$60 instead of \$100. We would then see the farmers, as well as the trader and persons in other occupations, begin to prosper.

Let every farmer who buys commercial fertilizers at \$12 per ton make arrangements with the agent to pay for it in cotton at 7 cents per pound. And again, if we could have a dispensary in each county and let the proceeds go to pay the county expenses, and would lessen our taxes about one-half.

J. A. TAYLOR.

I say, if we farmers are ever to make ourselves felt politically, we must adopt the plan of our enemies. There is lots of truth in the old proverb, "It is well to learn, even from an enemy." They vote for men and principles, regardless of party. We must do the same thing.—A FARMER.

During the Pullman strike in 1894 it was strenuously claimed by the officers of the American Railway Union that they were not responsible for the destruction of property in the railroad yards at Chicago. They charge that irresponsible men had been employed to act as deputy marshals, and that in order to retain these positions the set fire to railroad cars for the purpose of creating riots, and thus making their presence necessary for the restoration of peace. It has now transpired that there was good foundation for this statement. A man giving his name as William Ingles Bloom was arrested by the fire wardens of Cleveland, Ohio, a short time ago, and confessed to having set fire to about sixty freight cars in Chicago during the Pullman strike of 1894. The records show that William Bloom served as a deputy marshal during the strike, and was credited to the Chicago and Alton railroad.—Sacramento Signal.