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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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No. 1

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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.

I wish to let the farmers know how I have been cheated. I bought a sack of cotton seed meal from Durham on the 26th of January, and it is adulterated with sand. Farmers, beware of all such cheat. Can give the name of merchant if desired.—M. R. Uphurch, Elm Grove, N. C.

Old Duplin is coming. Mr. John Burnan killed a hog last week that weighed 682 pounds, and Mr. Culin Powell killed one that weighed 784 pounds. Both men live near Faison. I hope Bro. Seawell will stop at Faison and try to re-organize Grove Alliance, and also Goshan Alliance.—W. B. Hargrove, Faison, N. C.

A Sonoma correspondent of the Wayneville Courier says: J. F. Justice, one of Sonoma's most energetic young men, has sold 12,000 pounds of tobacco that he grew last year, for the neat sum of \$2,000, making an average of nearly 17 cents per pound. Wm. Moore has also sold 3500 pounds at 17 cents per pound. Within the radius of one square mile there has been more than \$4,000 worth of tobacco, of last year's crop, sold.

reported. In 68 counties labor was reported abundant, in 28 counties scarce and in 68 counties laborers could find employment all the year round. In 18 counties an improved financial condition was reported. The average price paid per month for farm labor was \$8.50 for men, 5 for women and 3 for children.

**THE TOBACCO PRODUCTION.**  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31.—The final estimates of the tobacco production in the United States for 1896, made by the Agricultural Department, place the total yield at 403,004,320 pounds, valued at \$23,258,070. The area cultivated amounted to 594,740 acres. Seven States produced a crop valued at more than a million dollars, viz: Kentucky, \$6,032,202; North Carolina, \$5,490,334; Virginia, \$3,018,986; Tennessee, \$2,464,816; Ohio, \$1,066,000; Pennsylvania, \$1,299,542; Connecticut, \$1,325,668.

**STATISTICAL CROP STATEMENT.**  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31.—The final estimates of acreage, production and value of the crops in the United States for 1897 made by the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, are as follows:  
Corn, 80,095,101 acres; 1,902,967,933 bushels; \$501,072,952 value.  
Wheat, 39,465,066 acres; 590,149,168 bushels; \$438,647,121.  
Oats, 25,730,375 acres; 698,767,809 bushels; \$147,974,719 value.  
Rye, 1,708,561 acres; 27,363,324 bushels; \$12,239,647 value.  
Barley, 2,719,116 acres; 66,685,127 bushels; \$25,142,189 value.  
Buckwheat, 717,886 acres; 14,997,451 bushels; \$6,319,188 value.  
Potatoes, 2,534,577 acres; 164,018,964 bushels; \$89,643,059 value.  
Hay, 42,426,770 acres; 60,664,876 tons; \$401,390,728 value.

Having found out an easy method in which to trap insects, I wish to teach others. It is easily done by suspending in the garden wide mouthed bottles or jars, half filled with thin molasses or very sweet water. I have tested the efficacy of the insect trap, and have found it all that can be desired for trapping the butterflies, millers and beetles of every species of insects that infect fruit trees and vines, vegetables and flowers. The worms on grape vines, worms on tobacco, on tomatoes and Irish potatoes, can readily be trapped in this way. Every fruit tree, every evergreen and deciduous tree, every berry bush and fruit-bearing vine, and every vegetable cultivated in the garden is attacked by a species of noxious insect which flourish only where their appropriate species of trees or fruit is cultivated; and strange to say, every one of these foes spring from parent insects in the form of butterflies, moth, millers, beetles or bugs, every species of which will harass much for the sake of getting a taste of the contents of the bottle. You will readily find that in this way the insect ravagers can be most successfully fought.—E. J. Rayburn, Oakeville, Miss.

Every shipper should investigate in advance of the shipping season and decide on one or two good houses in each market he expects to use. He should correspond with these houses, posting them on the character and quality of his expected crops, and he should ship to them regularly throughout the season. In this way the dealer and his customers become acquainted with the quality of the goods, and, if they come regularly, it is often possible to sell them in advance of arrival. A dealer takes an interest in a regular shipper, and will look out for his interests. It is never good policy to ship to one man to day and another to morrow, acting on the whim of the moment, or yielding to the persuasions of the last solicitor who asks for your shipments. It is equally bad policy to scatter a small shipment among half a dozen houses in the same market. Make your trade of some importance to the commission man, by sending good goods regularly, and it will be to his interest to see that you are given satisfaction. Keep your dealer posted in advance of the amount and character of your shipments and of the total shipments that are going to his market from your locality. Insist on his keeping you posted as to his market and on his making you prompt returns. Do not let him send you weekly or monthly statements, but demand account sales and check for each lot sent, on the day that it is sold. Do not be afraid to spend a few dollars in telegraphing. Send a night rate mes-

sage notifying the dealer of the amount and quality and amount of each shipment made him, and require a daily wire from each market you are using giving quotations, from actual sales. This will cost something, but no produce shipper can afford to consign his goods without this necessary information.—F. S. Earle.

### FOUR DOLLARS A TON FOR CORN STALKS.

"The despised corn stalk, which for all these years the farmers have burnt as of no account, just as the cotton planters used to throw aside the seed of that plant as valueless, at last turns out to be of such worth as to pay handsomely for marketing," said Mr. D. M. Frank, of Kentucky, at the Biggs. "Our farmers are selling it readily for \$4 a ton, and on an acre producing forty bushels of corn there will be at least two and a half tons of stalks. The use to which the stalk is being put is one of the most extraordinary agricultural discoveries of this day. At present there are but two factories in the country that are equipped for making cellulose out of this material, one of which is located at Owensboro, Ky. Cellulose is the pith of the corn stalk; its uses are varied and wonderful and it has a market value of \$400 a ton. War vessels are lined with it, and whenever a vessel so lined is punctured with shot, the contact of the water with the cellulose causes that to swell, closing the aperture and preventing the water from entering between the ship's inner and outer walls.

"Besides, the railroads have found it to be far superior to cotton waste for packing journals, as it requires less oil and obviates hot boxes. As a covering for steam pipes it is the best known substance. For making paper it is found superior to wood pulp, and from it kodak films, freecoats, and all paper machineries articles can be made. This does not begin to exhaust the list of its marvelous possibilities, and from what I have seen and heard I believe that dozens of other useful articles, as linoleum, water proof garments, patent leather finish, and the like can be produced from this simple material of the fields."—Washington Post.

### TOBACCO VS. COTTON.

Our forefathers, it is said, away back yonder, carried corn to mill in one end of the sack with a rock in the other end to balance it. After awhile they learned that they could carry corn in both ends and save the extra load. The present generation, up to the last few years, seemed to think they could raise nothing but cotton. No bacon, no corn; but all cotton! But this had its day and our farmers began to use their good common sense by raising their home supplies—"hog and hominy."

"Hog and hominy" first. Then comes into consideration what shall be raised to bring in money! Heretofore most of our farmers have depended on cotton as money crop. The immense territory that will produce cotton and the immense quantity produced has made the price of that staple low. Texas and other States further South can produce it cheaper than this section. There is no longer any profit in cotton to our farmers. If a big crop is made this year, as is likely, the price will not be over 4 or 5 cents a pound.

The culture of bright tobacco for many years has been gradually extending further east, until at last many farmers of this section have gone into tobacco culture and made money at it. Go in the old cotton counties of Edgecombe, Wilson, Green, Pitt and a number of others, and you will find the old gin houses gone down and tobacco barns erected in every direction; the farmers paying off their old cotton mortgages and moving forward with new life and vigor! The raising of fine bright tobacco is largely confined to the territory of Eastern Carolina, and the demand is much greater than we can fill. It is stated that a pound of tobacco can be made at considerably less cost than a pound of cotton. If the farmer will plant a few acres in tobacco and attend to it properly, he will probably make more on it than on a big acreage in cotton. Good tobacco will always command good prices, and even ordinary tobacco pays better than cotton. There is only loss, of course, in making poor tobacco, as there is in making a poor article of any kind. This section is well adapted to the growth of fine tobacco and we believe the farmer who fails to plant some tobacco will make a great mistake—Tobacco Culture.

### A COTTON PLANTERS' TRUST.

Letter From Fred Turnbull to the Governors of North Carolina and Florida.

The editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been shown the original of the following letters. The cotton planters of the South certainly need something like that of which Mr. Turnbull speaks, and if sound business men were placed at the head of the institution, it could doubtless be made of great value to the South. Governor Russell's delegates will doubtless do their best to promote the establishment of an institution of this kind:

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 29, '98.  
Hon. Daniel L. Russell, Raleigh, N. C.:  
DEAR SIR:—I take the liberty of enclosing you a copy of a letter which I sent to Governor W. D. Bloxham, of Florida, after having read his invitation to the Governors of the Western and Southern States, to attend a congress which is to meet at Tampa, Fla., on the 8th, 9th and 10th proximos. I think it will be to your interest, and to the interest of the State you represent, to freely discuss this matter.

Since writing the letter to Gov. Bloxham, I find that the wool men have passed a resolution, embodying the same principles for their protection, with regard to wool, and as wool is raised, more or less, in every State of the Union, you can readily understand how much more easily the cotton planters can control their product than the wool men can theirs.

I shall be glad to hear from you, if you have any questions to ask on this subject, or, if you see any difficulties in carrying out such a scheme.

Yours truly,  
FRED. TURNBULL.

No. 180 WEST WALNUT LANE,  
Germantown, Pa., Jan. 30, 1898.

The Hon. W. D. Bloxham, Tallahassee, Florida:

DEAR SIR:—I read, in to night's Evening Telegraph, a letter from you, inviting the Governors of the Southern and Western States to attend the Fifth Annual Session of the South and West Commercial Congress, to convene at Tampa, Florida, on February 8th, 9th and 10th, the object of said Congress being to consider the means to increase the interchange of all merchandise and articles, between the South and West, and to promote the movement of grain and all other products of the Western States to Southern distributing markets, and, through the Southern ports, for export. In other words, sir, I infer that it is the general desire to bring prosperity to the South, which, for many years, has known naught but destitution and poverty.

Having married into a Southern family, I am somewhat familiar with the conditions of that section of our country, and I deem this a fitting opportunity of bringing to the notice of yourself and the Congress, which shall shortly convene at Tampa, Florida, a scheme which occurs to my mind, of rehabilitating the South, causing the smile of fortune to spread itself in every direction, circulating money and making sad hearts glad. You must admit that "Cotton is King" in the Southern States; it is the staple product of that section of our country, and the price it brings in the markets here and in Liverpool, determines the prosperity or adversity of the South.

Why the Southern planters have quietly folded their arms these many years, allowing others to value their crops, while it has been in their power to place their own value thereon, is a question I cannot understand. Presuming that the cotton crop of the South last season was 10,000,000 bales, (the exact figures, I believe, are 9,250,000) and sold there at an average price to the planter of 4 cents per pound, this means that \$200,000,000 found their way into the avenues of Southern trade. Presuming, however, that the crop had netted the planters an average of 8 cents per pound, equaling \$400,000,000, and that this sum was now circulating through the avenues of Southern trade, do you think that the Southern people would not feel the difference? I understand that there are three or more grades of cotton—let the lowest grade be rated at 8 cents, and the others proportionately higher.

Now, sir, this condition of affairs can readily and easily be brought about—it would require only the services of a few shrewd business Southern gentlemen, of standing and known ability, to effect this metamorphosis. In the North, we have pools of many industries, then why not organize, (if you please so to name it), "The South-

ern Cotton Pool," which would control every bale of cotton raised in the South, fix the market prices, effect all sales and control the acreage planted with cotton from year to year.

The first thing necessary in the formation of the pool, would be money to be used in organizing it. With this end in view, a levy of say 10 cents per bale would be made, on every bale of cotton raised, and, presuming that the crop was 10,000,000 bales, (taking last season's statistics), this would produce \$1,000,000. If the levy were \$1 per bale, the resulting sum would be \$10,000,000. It is a question which could be subsequently decided; I mean the amount of the levy. Of course, the pool would require sufficient, (no more or no less), to pay its contingence expenses; namely, office and warehouse rents, clerical force's and manager's salaries, and something in the way of reimbursement to the President and Board of Directors, who would require to meet at stated periods, and also to carry through the winter months the small, impecunious planters, with advances in cash upon the cotton they may be raising, (instead of being compelled to deal with stores, as at present). Each cotton growing county in each State, warehouses would be required to be rented, or, if necessary, built, and in each such centre, the pool would require to have a representative or agent, (thoroughly competent to grade and classify cotton), whose pay would be adjusted in proportion to the number of bales that passed through his hands during the season.

The cotton crop, when harvested, would be stored in the pool warehouses, and 75 per cent. of the market price would be advanced to such as required cash, or any such percentage as may be determined upon later, the pool being empowered to raise all necessary funds from the banks, giving them a lien on the cotton in storage. The head offices of the pool might be, let us say, in Atlanta, Georgia, or in any other town considered more central. All sales of cotton would be effected through this office only, and shipments would be made from the various county warehouses. Each planter being a member of the pool, with his name appearing on the pool's ledger, would be credited with the various quantities and grades of cotton delivered, at the fixed selling price thereof and he would be debited with cash advances, and also with the fixed charges of the pool, which in this amplification, is 15 cent a pound. The books of the pool would be balanced each year, duly audited, and each member would be rendered a state ment of his account.

Now, sir, presuming that the expenses of the pool are \$10,000,000 per annum, it would leave a surplus of \$290,000,000 for the planters, or, in other words, their cotton would net them 78 10 cents per pound. If they have managed to exist all these years, getting only starvation prices for their cotton, imagine what it would mean to them, if they received 8 cents or 9 cents per pound, and what difference would it make to the ultimate consumer of cotton goods, whether the manufacturer paid 8 cents or 10 cents for his raw material? If a man bought a suit of clothes, all cotton, there would not be more than 4 or 5 pounds of cotton in the suit, and who would grudge the difference of 20 cents or 25 cents on a suit of clothes? I am alive to the fact that the mill men, the cotton brokers, the cotton merchants, etc., would oppose this scheme to the death, but what if they did, when we consider the vast boom it would be to the whole Southern section of our country?

Now, sir, I am not egotistical enough to imagine, for one moment, that I have formulated a plan to put this scheme in motion. There are, however, men peculiarly suited to carry out in detail such a scheme as I have outlined, and I believe that every business man will agree with me that there is not any insurmountable barrier in the way, to prevent its being carried to a successful issue, with its concomitant blessings, for a most deserving people. If you think of any barriers or difficulties, after reading this, I shall esteem it a great favor if you will communicate with

Yours respectfully,  
FRED. TURNBULL.

If you want to be miserable, think about yourself, about what you want, what you like, what respect people ought to pay you, and what people think of you.—Charles Kingsley.

### DOES IT PAY?

Does it pay to buy expensive machinery and tools and allow them to lay out in the field or barnyard all winter for want of a shed?

Does it pay to buy fruit trees of agents when you can obtain the same grade of stock direct from the nursery at less than one half the price the agent will charge you?

Does it pay to continue feeding dunghill fowls when you can purchase a few settings of eggs from purebred fowls at a small additional expense?

Does it pay to spend several dollars each year for political newspapers and at the same time refuse to subscribe for an agricultural or live stock paper?

Does it pay to fill your library with trashy literature because it is cheap, and not own one volume that pertains to farming?

Does it pay to allow your chickens to roost on trees and fences and do without eggs in the winter time or have none to sell when the price is high?

Does it pay to hire a teacher to instruct your children and condemn him if your children do not like him, or praise him if they do, and you not visit the school once during the term?

Does it pay to give your boy a colt or calf and sell it when it is grown and pocket the money yourself?

Does it pay to allow the manure to accumulate about your barns and sheds and cause you to wade about in the mud all winter?

Does it pay to leave your corn out in the shock all winter, to be hauled next spring after the rats and mice have worked upon it and the snow and rain have spoiled the fodder?

Does it pay to allow your fences to get out of repair, thereby causing your stock to become breachy and you to lose your temper?

Does it pay to allow the seeds of noxious weeds to ripen and seed down your place?

Does it pay to cut your wood just as you use it, thus having green wood to burn all the time?

Does it pay to buy or do without fruit and berries just because it takes some time and toil to raise them?

Does it pay to waste the long winter evenings in idleness when with a little determination you might carry out a course of reading that will aid you in your profession?

Does it pay to purchase things at public sales that you have no use for just because you can get eight or twelve months' time?

Does it pay to put off repairing your tools, greasing your harness, planning your work until next spring that can be done to a better advantage now?

Does it pay for a farmer to dabble in politics and neglect his farm work to get an office?

Does it pay to allow the briars, vines and shrubs to keep crowding you out into the field each year and cause the fence to rot?

Does it pay to purchase everything you eat, wear and use of your home merchants when you can in many cases save from 10 to 25 per cent. by purchasing direct from the manufacturer or wholesale house?

Does it pay to farm fields that are covered with stumps and stones rather than haul them off?

Does it pay to wait until time to make garden or plant your spring crops before purchasing your garden and field seeds?

Finally, does it pay to go along year after year in a slipshod manner, thereby disgracing the profession you follow?—J. C. Kimmell, in Farmers' Guide.

### A VALUABLE RECEIPT.

Warts on Horses.—A correspondent of an English agricultural journal many years ago, gave the following simple remedy for curing warts of different kinds on horses, mules and cattle: Anoint the wart three times with clean, fresh hog's lard, about two days between times. I have had warts on my horses—bleeding warts of a large size, rattling warts, and seed warts—to the number of more than one hundred on one horse's head. I have never been able to find the warts after the third application. For cuts, bruises, galls, etc., the application of fresh lard—either for man or beast—is worth more than any patent liniments in use. It will remove pain instantly, and does not irritate raw flesh, as liniments do.

How often do large fortunes ruin young men! I should like to be ruined, but I can get on very well as I am.—Artemus Ward.