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

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"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."—L. L. Polk, July 4th, 1890.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We gave last week a letter from a prominent and able man from Eastern North Carolina, Mr. H. L. Stevens in which he announces his intention of leaving the Democratic party and joining the Populists. He gives good reasons for this action.

Since Mr. Simmons has his hand in the letter-writing business, suppose he should take time to write a short letter explaining to the people what he knows about the oyster frauds, in Pamlico and Carteret counties. This would be fine reading if he just would show his disinterested patriotism and give the actual facts as he knows them from beginning to end. Let us have your version of it, Bro Simmons.

When we charge the Cubans with cruelty, we must not forget that in our Revolutionary struggle, Washington hung Tories in New York, and at the end of the war those who had remained loyal to England were treated to large doses of tar and feathers. In one town in our sister State, South Carolina, 24 of the loyalists were hung at one time and a few British prisoners met the same fate at the hands of our ancestors just after the battle of King's Mountain, in this State. Were the poet's dream a reality—could we were to see ourselves as others see us—the Cubans would receive hardly so much criticism.

Certain laws require certain funds to be collected and paid into the State Treasury by the Secretary of State. On the five principal ones of these accounts the total turned into the Treasury from January 1st, 1881, to January 12th, 1895, under the party in office durining that time, on these accounts, was $480,731 17 which shows a monthly average of $2 498 60. On the 12th day of January 1895, the present incumbent was inaugurated into the office of Secretary of State, and has since that including his collections up to July 1st, 1898, turned in on the same five accounts under the same laws, $150,690.45, which is a monthly average of $8 579.00, or, $6 080 40 more per month by Dr. Thompson than by his honored predecessors. Will the News and Observer, Mr. Simmons and others who want (?) honest and decent government tell the people why they never have one single time made decent reference to the above facts, but have persistently enneavored to cover with disgrace those who on behalf of the people are asking for the reason why these facts are true?

The Democratic Executive Committee of Harnett county has issued a manifesto to the voters of that county which proves that Baron Munchausen is a back number. Josephus Daniels in the prime of his young manhood cannot hold the Harnett county committee a light. They say that the institute for the white deaf and dumb has passed under the control of a negro politician The institute for the white deaf and dumb is located at Morganton, in Burke county. Its Principal is Prof. E. McK. Goodwin, a Wake county man, a white man and a Democrat. There is not a single negro connected in any way with the institution This committee further says that we have seen our penal and charitable institutions turned over to incompetent and corrupt politicians. This may be true, but our charitable institutions in the main are still under the control of Democrats, the ones that the present State administration found in charge when they came into power. This committee takes up two columns in the County Union with just such falsehoods as the two mentioned. And yet one of the men who signs this so called address professes to be a Christian teacher, the official head of a great religious denomination in his section.

We find the following item in a Democratic paper, which was evidently proud of it: "A Western man had three men working in a saw mill in the woods. During McKinley's campaign he went to the saw mill to see how the men were going to vote. He found that each had a different political faith. One was a Republican, one was a Populist and the other was a Democrat. A farm boy had just killed a fine wood chuck and he offered to give it to the man who would give the best reason for his political faith.

"'I'm a Republican,' said the first man, 'because my party freed the slaves, put down the rebellion, and never fired on the old flag.'

"'Good!' said he.

"'And I'm a Populist,' said the second, 'because if my party should get into power every man would have a pocket full of money.'

"'First rate!' said he. 'And now you, why are you a Democrat?'

"'Because, sir,' said the man trying to think of a good Democratic answer, 'because—because I want that wood chuck!'"

Just consider the Western man as the people, the wood-chuck as the offices, and the three men the three parties, and you will find it reads more like truth than fiction.

We believe all the Democratic papers that have either published, or commented upon Mr. Mewboorne's letter to Mr, Simmons have attributed the authorship of said letter to Governor Russell. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER does not pretend to such proficiency in judging of styles, nor to such superior insight into the minds and hearts of other men, as will enable it to know who is the author of any given piece of writing. And, not having these powers of divining the authors of letters, it may be excused, if it shall refuse to believe in the superior powers of insight claimed by its neighbors, and hold on to the old-fashioned notion, that the man whose name is signed to a letter is to be regarded as the author of it, until such time as he disclaims its authorship. J. M. Mewboorne's name is signed to the letter to Mr. Simmons, and it is Mr. Mewboorne's letter, whoever may or may not have written it.

But why is this letter attributed to the Governor? The answer is not far to seek. It is intended, by charging the authorship of the letter to the Governor, to draw the attention of the public away from the crushing facts which the letter discloses. This is the explanation of all the fog that is made about the Governor being the author of the letter. The facts disclosed by the letter are simply crushing to Mr. Simmons' former management of the Democratic party; and the Democratic papers seek to minimize the force of these facts upon the public mind, by raising clamorous cry, that Governor Russell the author of the letter. Our Democratic friends are very mad because of the Mewboorne letter. The fault seems to be grounded in the character of the information; and for the character of the information Mr. Simmons and his party are responsible.

The letter of Mr. Mewboorne is a crusher; and the brethren are making some very funny antics in trying to dodge its force. Better stand still, boys, and take the storm while it rages. It will not hurt you any worse, if you stand still and take it, than it will if you caper about in it; and then there is the advantage to you of standing still, that you will have husbanded your strength to be used in repentance and amendment when the storm is over.

It will be noticed that Mr. Simmons says that the "statements" in the letter reflecting upon the integrity of himself or political methods are "lies." This is a superb dodge. There is hardly a "statement" of that kind in Mr. Mewboorne's letter. But, be it known to all men, that the letter contains some "questions" which are "stunners" and Mr. Simmons has very prudently neglected to answer them. The people draw their own conclusions.

AGRICULTURE.

PRESERVING CORN STOVER.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Some years ago the Virginia Station issued a bulletin giving an account of the great success of a corn husker and fodder cutter used by the station. This brought so many inquiries that the station has found it necessary to issue another and more exhaustive bulletin, No. 73, fully treating of the whole subject of harvesting and preserving the fodder of the corn crop.

Chemical analyses and feeding tests at several stations have proved that only about half the nutritive value of the corn plant is stored in the ear, the other half residing in the husk, stalk and blades. The corn crop being by far the most important of all American feeding crops, the proper saving of half its value is a problem of vast importance.

Some varieties of corn mature much earlier than others, hence it is not possible to name a date for beginning the harvest of the plant; but the best time is when the ears are sufficiently hardened and the tips of the bottom blades begin to turn yellow. Then the work should be done quickly, the horse power machines, that have become so plentiful and cheap, being recommended for this work.

In the warm, damp portions of the Gulf States fodder cannot be cut and shocked in the field; it will mould and decay. In such places the blades are stripped from the standing stalks, which lets the sun in to the ground, which soon becomes covered with a fine growth of crab grass hay that is worth more than the corn fodder would be. But in all other portions of the United States the whole corn plant should be harvested by cutting near the ground and preserving in silo or shocking in the field, thence to be hauled to the barn and husked out and stored away as soon as convenient after it has sufficiently cured.

The Virginia Station finds it best to make shocks twelve hills square, putting 144 hills of two stalks each, or 288 stalks in a shock. To prevent molding it is best to cut the middle six rows and place in shocks, and then wait a few days for this to cure before cutting and adding the other six rows, three on each side. In drier climates shocks may be sixteen hills square.

As soon as the stalks as well as the blades have dried out, haul to the barn, husk out and store away.

It is a common practice with most farmers to husk the corn in the field and reshock the fodder, to be hauled out and used as required throughout the fall and winter. The bulletin says: By this means losses occur in several ways, the portions last used have been exposed to the winter's snows and winds, and when placed before the animals much of it would be trampled into the soft ground, and yet more spoiled by the excrement of the cattle being fed, while the stalks would be a nuisance for months to come. Another method, and one we have used once, is to stack the fodder as soon as husked, being careful to place the butts at all out the weather. If covered with poor hay or straw this answers very well, only open to objections of feeding, as mentioned above. In many of the Northern States stover is housed and fed in the barns, but may be so handled better there than here, as corn is more dwarf in its habits, the cold climate causing a rapid growth, but a smaller plant. In the South we should find much difficulty in handling it in barns if housed as hauled from the field, hence the many implements for reducing the size of pieces of stalk. The ordinary silage cutter has been utilized by some for this purpose, but the short pieces of hard stalk are apt to injure the animal's mouth to such an extent as to make its use unprofitable. For some years so-called shredders have been used with success, they differing from the cutter in that they first crush the stalk as it passes through the rolls, and then tear or shred it into small pieces by the action of spikes, saws, or teeth; but not knives that give a shear cut. For some years we have been using an implement of this sort, only besides shredding the stover the corn is husked by the same operation, its work having been discussed in bulletin No. 33. Since this bulletin was published in 1873 we have been using the same machine, husking all our corn—from thirty five to seventy acres—and housing the stover in barns so far as room allowed, and the balance was placed in stacks or ricks near the buildings. We were warned that, the stover would not keep either in the barn or in stack, some backing their assertions with the statement that they had "tried it."

"So far as our experience goes, we can say that not once have we had the slightest trouble in this respect, in keeping perfectly in both barn and stack."

Fodder taken from the stack March 31 was just as green and bright as when put into the stack on November 20, and was free of mold or odor. Its only protection had been a topping of straw.

The shredded fodder is often baled and thus placed upon the market or stored in small space in barn or shed.

Thus it is seen that shredded fodder possesses many advantages. It is more easily handled, more cheaply stored, more perfectly preserved, more completely consumed, and the waste makes good bedding and a fine absorbient of liquid manure.

J. L. LADD.

Bay City, Texas.

NATURE'S METHOD OF FERTILIZING.

Some Very Interesting Suggestions From the Former State Chemist of Florida.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

It is surprising how little the hints that nature gives as to the best methods of securing soil fertility are heeded by the ordinary farmer. In a general way all arable soil may be said to be the result of the growth of plants. Freshly disintegrated rock is generally quite unfertile. Kindly nature takes up the process just where sun and rain and frost have left it Some form of scanty vegetation comes, then decay, then more plant growth, more decay, until finally the broad forest with its deeply-rooted sources of nutriment, its annual leaf fall, finally turns barren rock dust into fertile soil. This is nature's method of manuring. It is thus that the available plant food from deep underlying layers of subsoil are brought to and concentrated upon the surface.

But trees and deep-rooted plants not only pump up from below a vast store of already soluble plant food, but they are directly concerned in its increase. Even the most tender rootlet, from the acids which it secretes, is able to bore its way into the disintegrating fragments of rock and thus liberate and bring to the surface nutriment, which would otherwise remain securely locked up. In this way vegetable life becomes the active instrument of its own increase. It will thus be seen that when left entirely to nature's handiwork, the tendency with all soils is to constantly improve.

The more closely we follow nature's ways in our methods of fertilization, the more certain we are to be on the right track. A soil covered with vegetation, whether growing crops or grass or even weeds, is, other things being favorable, an improving soil, while one kept barren of vegetable growth either by plowing or otherwise, is either stationary or retrograde in fertility.

The old plan of "summer fallowing" as a preparation for fall crops is therefore an essentially faulty method. The disintegrating effect, of sun, rain, and atmosphere are apparent enough and the following crop may be abundant and seemingly remunerative. But it is secured at the expense of permanent soil fertility. Humus, the most precious of all soil constituents, is to be sacrificed, while from the absence of root lets to absorb it, there is always danger that some portion of the soluble liberated food will be carried away by drainage or mechanically removed by heavy rains.

Artificial fertilizers in the hands of an intelligent planter will not be used merely to obtain a single crop. Everything should be directed with reference to permanent soil improvement. Remembering what has been already said as to the role which vegetation plays in nature's method of manuring, it will not be at all difficult to combine the two. All progressive agricultural authorities are now urging the use of clover, cow peas and other similar leguminous, heavily fertilized when necessary with potash and soluble phosphates, as the only practicable plan of securing simultaneous soil and crop improvement.

Fall fertilization is of course often advisable in the case of fruit trees, and in the lower Gulf States; where winter gardens are practicable, it is of course imperative. Indeed, the earlier these things are attended to, the better the results. If the progressive horticulturist has taken care to have his ground covered by a heavy summer growth of cow peas or some other equally effectual gatherer of nitrogen and humus, he occupies a distinct vantage ground. The problem of fertilization is greatly simplified. He can probably stop buying nitrogen and pay out his good dollars, for phosphoric acid and potash. Neither of these fertilizing elements are likely to waste and after the summer rains have ceased, the sooner he gets them incorporated with the surface soil the better. For this purpose a harrow is superior to a plow and some form of light cultivator better than either.

NORMAN ROBINSON.

FARM SLOVENLINESS.

Many farms are estimated below their true value because of slovenly appearance. Weeds higher than the fences, trees blown down and left to rot in the same place, fences out of repair, gates and barn doors off of hinges or swinging on one hinge, unsightly litter in door-yard and at the barn; these and many other such evidences of carefulness depreicate the value of any farm, says Colman's Rural World. The soil may be excellent, the water facilities all that could be asked for, and all natural advantages requisite to make a good high priced farm may exist and yet that farm scarcely makes its owner a living. It can almost pass for a truism that the farmer makes the farm. Many reason that there is no money in keeping the farm neat, no cash in carefully keeping the barn yard and that there is no time for these matters. Such reckon at random. Pleasant surroundings do very materially aid us to do better work; man succumbs to such influences unconsciously. The farmer with neat premises will have better crops, better stock and get more enjoyment out of life,

A man who justly appreciated the commercial value of a neat, well kept farm made many dollars buying farms that the owners had neglected, at low prices, making them attractive and selling them for more than were paid. The repairs were made at small cost of money, the outlay being mostly judicious labor and taste.

The great difficulty is that farmers try to care for more land than one man can possibly attend to properly, hoping thereby to increase his income. The harvest many times is disappointing and discouragement follows, but unfortunately, the difficulty is not placed on the right scale. Farming, as all other avocations, gives us returns in proportion to the kind of labor extendad. Attention given to these seemingly trivial matters will give larger returns than are anticipated, and nature will aid us to beautify the farm home and wherever the sons and daughters go this charming spot will be fondly cherished, whereas, now, too many remember the farm home as a wilderness of weeds and brush.

PREPARE WINTER PASTURAGE.

Bulletin 44 of Mississippi Station shows that it is an easy matter to provide good grazing for stock during winter and early spring, at least throughout the Southern States.

While the station has had great success with barley and with bur clover, or California clover, alfalfa has given greater satisfaction and hairy vetch and turf oats have done still better.

In the station's experiments with alfalfa better results have always followed fall seeding than spring seeding. Sow in August or September twenty pounds seed per acre. On one occasion seed sown October 31 gave two cuttings during the following summer and furnished fine grazing the next fall and winter. The land must be thoroughly prepared and finely pulverized. To avoid bloat, feed and water stock before turning them on alfalfa till they get used to it, and never turn them on when it is wet with dew or rain.

Hairy vetch also belongs to the family of legumes. Our first seed was sown in 1888 and we began distributing the seed to farmers of Mississippi in 1889, and it has constantly grown in greater favor every year and is now planted in large areas on many farms for both winter grazing and hay. While excellent crops have been grown in brown loams and stiff clays containing little lime, like clovers and most other legumes it does best on lime beds. We have not yet fully determined its adaptability to light, sandy soils. In a few instances it has given good results on these soils, but in the majority of cases vetch has proven a failure when sown on light, open sandy soils. Vetch has proven to be an excellent crop for either soiling, grazing or hay. Stock of all kinds are fond of vetch, and the hay is richer in protein than clover hay, and is more digestible.

In September, 1896, we seeded one of our pasture lots containing one acre to vetch and turf oats. This lot was grazed by both hogs and cattle from the middle of November to the 1st of May, when all stock was kept off the land. The crop was cut for hay May 17 and yielded one ton and seventy-two pounds of curled hay per acre. On the station farm we have several fields of vetch that were sown five years ago. These fields have yielded annually about ten bushels of seed per acre. The seed ripen and are gathered in June. After the seed had been gathered each year the land was plowed with two-horse plow and sown to cow peas, and we have never failed to get a large amount of excellent hay. With the first rains in the fall the vetch seed that had been shattered out on land when vetch was gathered, would come up and grow off rapidly. This plant is not injured by cold or frost. The stand of vetch on these fields is perfect and about six inches high now (March). No seed has been put on this land in five years except those wasted in harvesting the crop each year. There is no quicker or cheaper way in which to enrich our land than by growing two leguminous crops (vetch and cow peas) on it in the same season, and both of these crops utilized for stock food.

Turf oats and hairy vetch: We have gotten more and better grazing from these two plants when sown together, than from either when sown separately.

The seeding should be done in August or September, using one and a half bushels of oats and one bushel of vetch seed per acre. The preparation of land and seeding is same as for oats.

These two plants make a happy combination, both mature about the same time, and while oats is exhaustive to land, the vetch is a renovating crop, and I think will add more fertility to the soil than will be removed by the oats.

We have not found a better combination than is furnished by these plants for winter and early spring grazing. The station has now about forty acres that is furnishing excellent grazing for our stock. The college farm has over 100 acres in oats and vetch, about one-half of which is used for winter pasture and the remainder to be harvested for seed and feed.

Neither of these plants is injured by our coldest weather, and both can be grazed from the middle of November until the first of April, and if a crop of seed or hay is desired, the stock should then be taken off the field, and the crop for hay will be ready to harvest by the middle of May, or a crop of seed can be harvested by the middle of June. The college farm had, last year, fifty acres sown to turf oats and vetch. The crop was harvested in June, and the yield of seed per acre was fifty bushels. The land on which this crop was grown was a fine piece of valley. After the crop was gathered the land was broken broadcast with a two-horse plow, and planted to cow peas. One part sown broadcast and the other planted in drill. The broadcast peas were cut for hay in the fall, and those planted in the drill were cultivated and the peas gathered for seed.

During the harvesting of the oats and vetch in June, enough seed of both scattered out on the land to perfectly reseed the field, And with the first rains in the fall the seed of both oats and vetch came up, and now the land is perfectly covered with a green mat of oats and vetch to a depth of six inches, and is furnishing fine grazing for the cattle.

The oats and vetch can be sown in the cotton field at the last plowing, and after the cotton has been gathered the oats and vetch will furnish good grazing until spring.

Do not let the potatoes lie in the ground undug after they are ripe. The chances of loss from mice, pocket gophers and rot are greater than most people can afford.

Pick fruit for market as soon as it is mature. Soft, ripe fruit cannot be handled so it will reach consumers in good condition and buyers do not want it.

Pride in the American woman stopped her from using tobacco. How long will it be until men will reach that point of intelligence?