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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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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

"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 15th, 1890.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Some Democratic papers are now patting the negro editor of the Wilmington Record on the head because he has now attacked the Republican Executive Committee of his county. Of course.

After several weeks of publicity and severe comment in many newspapers, there is an effort being made to discredit the report concerning Judge Adams' charge to the grand jury at the Superior Court of Columbus county. It is passing strange that if the judge was misquoted in so grave a matter that he and his friends did not take prompt steps to set the matter right. However badly he was misquoted or misinterpreted, it will be hard to change the popular verdict after waiting so long.—Greensboro Telegram.

Certainly it will, if all Democratic papers do as the Telegram has done and refuse to correct the false statements they have made. We do not believe, however, that all Democratic papers are of this class.

The people of the State want good government—they know that liars never give good government. Our Home, of Marshville, says:

The Monroe Enquirer says a reliable citizen of Marshville informs that all Populists in Marshville township who were formerly Democrats, except two, have returned to the Democratic party. This report from the alleged reliable (?) citizen is a slander to the truth and honesty of our citizens. Even Democrats were made to blush with disgust when they read the "report." So far as our knowledge goes (and we understand conditions here better than anywhere else) not a single Populist in the township has returned to the Democratic party. Marshville township will roll up about 100 majority for the Pop. ticket as usual.

It is reported that Mr. Wetmore, Republican candidate for Solicitor, was drunk and made an exhibition of himself at Monroe, recently. We do not know how much truth there is in the statement, but if it is true, he should reform or withdraw. Since the present State administration came into power, drunken incompetents no longer sit in places of authority in the Capital, and regardless of the abuse that may be heaped upon the present administration by Hypocritical or so called non-partisan papers, the people want only capable, sober men in office and do not desire such Democratic good (?) government as we once had when some of the most important officers of our State government were drunkards, who kept no books, wasted the people's money, and lived in such a manner as to make all true Tar Heels blush with shame.

We have received a copy of the premium list of the State Fair to be held in Raleigh, Oct. 24-29 inclusive. We are especially pleased to notice that the managers have arranged to give small farmers a better opportunity to secure premiums than in previous years. For instance, we note this under head "Department A, Field and Garden crops, F. E. Emery, Director:" "B The individual making the largest and best display of agricultural products, garden vegetables, fruits and home industries, from a two horse farm, first prize, \$30; second \$15. "Open only to those who have not

used more than two horses on their farm for the year 1898)

"C The individual making the largest and best display of agricultural products, garden vegetables, fruits and home industries, from a one-horse farm, first, \$20; second \$10.

"Open only to those who have not used more than one horse on their farm for the year 1898."

We publish elsewhere the proceedings of the so called middle of the road Populists in Cincinnati. The Associated Press managers devote columns to this farce, while if it were a real Populist convention they would attempt to ignore it as much as possible. The nomination of candidates for President and Vice President at this time is unadulterated nonsense. We trust that the Hon. Tom Watson will have good sense to repudiate the thing.

We were awhile in sympathy with these so called middle of the road Populists, but since they have cast reason aside we wash our hands of the whole business. Besides, since Chairman Butler has announced his determination to call the National Populist convention in 1900 to meet before either of the old parties hold their conventions, and will allow the people themselves at that time to settle the question of fusion, we see no reason for this convention.

To an onlooker it seems that the convention did all in its power to disrupt the Populist party. It appears to us that if they were employed by the monopolists to disrupt the party they could hardly serve their masters better.

But this convention may do good. All the "cranky" Populists seem to have gotten together. Now that they are out of the way, the regular old guard Populists, tried and true, may march on victory.

The old saying, "When in peace prepare for war," is illustrated by the fact that although the war with Spain is over, the Navy Department will open bids for the construction of a dozen torpedo boats and of sixteen "destroyers" of the most improved order. The torpedo boats will be what might be termed the Porter improved. They



OUR LATEST TORPEDO CRAFT

will cost about \$175,000, and will have a speed of at least twenty-six knots an hour. The torpedo boat destroyers are exceptionally fine boats; they may really be said to be the Spanish "destroyers" bettered. They will cost about \$295,000. R G Skerrett, who gives the details of the plans in Harper's Weekly for August 27, thinks that competition will be lively, and that every shipyard on both coasts is apt to take an active part.

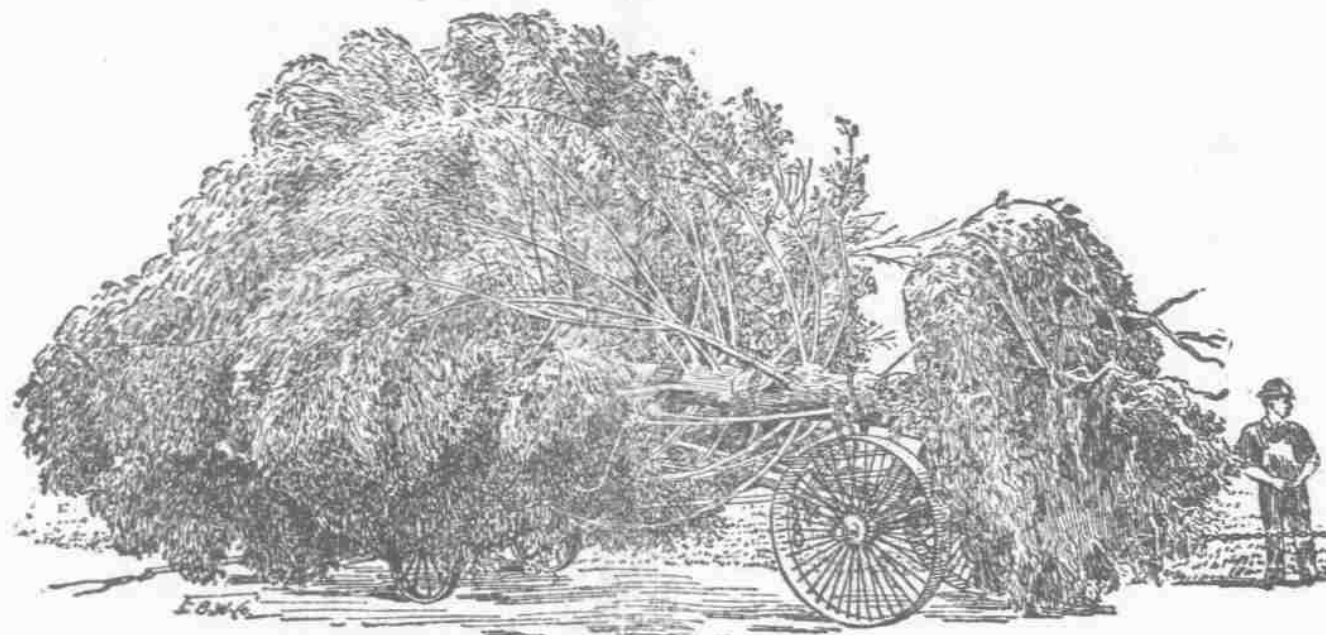
In a recent issue, we printed a speech on the election of United States Senators. Probably no reform placed before the people by the Alliance is more rapidly growing in popularity than this demand, the purpose of which is to put more power into the hands of the great common people.

This reform has many enemies, but they do not dare to oppose it openly because to do so is to acknowledge a dislike for the republican form of government.

It would be difficult to strengthen the arguments made by Mr. Todd. The question that, like Banquo's ghost, will not down, is: If the people are trusted to choose the members of Congress, why can they they not be trusted to choose the Senators also? Why retain longer on the statute books this relic of the days when few dared question the divine authority of kings, and fewer still believed the people capable of self government?

When the Constitution was adopted there was then in existence no great nation governed by the people. Many good people looked upon the democratic, or republican, form of government as a rather doubtful experiment. This element was not without representation in that band of noble, yet mortal, men who framed our Constitution. They insisted that it was best to "go slow;" that the people should

MOVING A FOREST.



It may seem like a bold statement to some of our readers to declare that a man may have a forest made to order with trees already grown if he only has money enough to pay for it. While this may not be literally true, it is true that parks are being planted in some sections of the country with trees that have attained their full growth. This taking up, removing and transplanting of mature trees of large size may seem an impossibility to the uninitiated, but in reality it is not a very difficult task. The above cut which is a reproduction of a photograph taken on the spot, shows how trees are being moved from one part of Mr. Rockefeller's Pocantico Hills, N Y, estate to another.

In modern landscape gardening when the engineer desires a tree or a group of trees at any particular spot, or place, he simply puts them there. Often, too, when a new owner acquires a country place he wishes to make changes in the distribution of the trees, and he may follow the above plan with perfect assurance of success. The only precautions necessary to observe are to see that the largest possible mass of roots and adhering soil are taken up with the tree. This of course makes the operation a heavy one and it is necessary to use the strongest trucks procurable. Those used in the above cut were made for this special purpose by the Electric Wheel Co., of Quincy, Ill. By the way, these people also make a low down Handy Wagon which is easy to load and unusually strong. They supply steel wheels to fit any farm wagon and for almost any other purpose. Write them for literature

not be given all the power until they demonstrated to the satisfaction of all that they were able to govern themselves. The counsels of this element prevailed, and this is why the President, Vice President, Federal Judges and United States Senators are not now elected directly by the people.

But the Constitution of the United States has now been in operation more than a century; the republican form of government is no longer an experiment, but an acknowledged success; there is no longer an honest man who fears to trust the people, for while kingdoms and empires have decayed and are now but a memory, the people in free America have built up a great and glorious nation.

So surprising was the growth of the American republic that we doubt not that were the framers of the Constitution alive today they would be among the most earnest advocates of election of all officers by direct vote of the people.

The world moves and we must move with it. Time has, to use a homely expression, "knocked out the props" from under the theory that the people are incapable of self government and the spirit of progress demands an amendment to the Constitution providing for the election of President, Senators and Federal Judges by popular vote. To show that this reform is gaining ground, it is only necessary to say that on the 11th of May, last, the following joint resolution on the subject was passed by the House of Representatives:

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (Two thirds of each House concurring therein) That the following amendments be proposed to the legislatures of the several States, which when ratified by three fourths of said legislatures, shall become and be a part of the Constitution, namely: In lieu of the first and second paragraphs of section three of article one of the Constitution of the United States of America, the following shall be proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the States:

"Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen for six years, and each Senator shall have one vote. The United States Senators shall be elected at large by direct vote of the people; a plurality shall elect, and the electors shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislature.

"When vacancies happen, by resignation or otherwise, in the representation of any State in the Senate, the same shall be filled for the unexpired term thereof in the same manner as is provided for the election of Senators in paragraph one: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the next general election, in accordance with the statutes or Constitution of such State."

"This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or

term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as a part of the Constitution."

It is probable that by the time Congress again convenes the war will be over, and we hope that the supporters of this bill will insist that it be given due consideration. Let those supposed servants of the people, who proclaim that they do not fear to trust them be given an opportunity to prove their faith by their works. The Senator who refuses to support this bill virtually acknowledges that he is not the choice of the people and therefore fears he would not be re-elected were the bill to become law.

AGRICULTURE.

POTATOES AS A FARM CROP.

The Main Secret of Successful Growing is Promptness.

The trouble with most potato growing is that it is done spasmodically, the high prices of one year inducing nearly all farmers raising a large acreage after a year of scarcity, as the present one has been. The result always is that the high prices of one year are succeeded by those ruinously low the next. The seesaw has been so long in operation that it is no wonder that many shrewd farmers reckon on it as a matter of course, and adopt the old time policy in the play, "Simon says thumbs up, or Simon says thumbs down," and doing exactly the opposite of what they are told to do, and what they see nearly everybody else doing.

Who do not believe this policy will so generally prevail hereafter. Though there was only a slight reduction of potato acreage in many places last year, the wet weather in spring, followed by severe drought at the time potatoes were forming, made potatoes nearly everywhere a poor crop of inferior quality. In the localities which are least adapted to potatoes, where the farmers are only slightly acquainted with the business, there were thousands of acres of potatoes, which not even the high prices that prevailed ever since last fall have prevented from proving a loss. Yet in most cases there were even in the same neighborhood crops of potatoes grown by farmers who know the ins and outs of the business that were large in yield and excellent in quality. This simply proves that the modern growing of potatoes, including fighting not merely against droughts, but also equally against potato beetles and fungus diseases, has become a science, which only those who are partially acquainted with the crop can safely undertake.

The main secret of successful potato growing is promptness. Thirty or more years ago only one thing was needed to be done promptly. That was to keep down weeds at all times. Now bugs have to be destroyed as fast as they hatch, and fungicides used promptly to prevent entirely or check the spread of the fungus diseases, blight and rot. Something more is also needed, and that is rich clover sod on which to grow potatoes, so that little or no stable manure will be required. On a clover sod the returned soil can be kept much moister all through the growing season. There are some who

think that closer sod promotes blight and rot. The idea comes from using stable manure and clover sod together. We have often grown potatoes on clover sod without manure, and always had them entirely free from rot, while the rot was prevalent in the same neighborhood on manured land.

One of the secrets of successful potato growing is to plant the seed pretty deep. Cultivate the whole surface once or twice before the potatoes are up, and thereafter keep the potatoes clear of the weeds by shallow cultivation only between the rows. In this way uncounted millions of weeds destroyed that have simply germinated and are buried before the first shoot has reached the surface. It is in this way, we think, that the potato crop excels all others as a preparation for oats or barley, to be sown in the following spring. If late in the season the ground is covered with weeds going to seed, the land is in worse condition for spring grain than after a well cared for field of corn. Neither of these crops is very exhaustive. The potato is so largely water that it probably removes less of value from the soil than any other crop that will bring so much money per acre. This is the great advantage of shallow cultivation between the rows. It can be continued, despite the old notion that cultivation must stop when the tubers began to form. If it were deep cultivation this would be the fact, for, if the cultivator disturbed the roots in even the least degree, the set of tubers already formed on them would be stopped by their growth, and a new set formed, making a crop of small potatoes worth little except for feeding.

It is comparatively easy, except for fighting bugs to grow early potatoes. They mature so early that even on heavily manured land they do not often rot unless they are left long after ripening before they are dug. These early potatoes usually after a season of scarcity bring high prices. But as dealers are chary about buying them, because they are liable to rot during weather after they are stored, the bulk of marketing of the early crop has to be done at retail. As a result, most of the large growers plant chiefly of the late ripening potatoes, which can be sold at all the railroad stations by the wagon load. They do not bring so high prices as the early potatoes do. Possibly the best way for most potato growers who are near a city or large village is to grow what early potatoes they can sell at retail, and plant the rest of their crop for late marketing at wholesale prices.—American Cultivator.

J. M. E. of Talbot county, Md., says: "I have a low bodied, broad tired wagon, which I have used on the farm and road for over a year, and am greatly pleased with both its ease of draft and its results on farm roads. It is a road improver, whereas the old narrow-tired wagons are road spoilers. One great advantage I claim for its steel wheels is that they never roll the mud so the narrow tires. In deep mud it has the advantage."

TESTING SEEDS.

We would strongly recommend to every farmer and gardener who desires to plant the very best variety of seeds that, in addition to obtaining what knowledge he can from his seeds man and experiment station concerning his seeds, he set apart a small corner in his garden or field for experimental purposes, and there carefully test each variety. Such a trial would furnish him and his family a great deal of information which could be obtained in no other way. In this small patch of ground some of the "novelties" advertised by seedsmen could be tested with special reference to one's own climate and soil. Owing to the natural conservatism of the farmer, there is a tendency in many communities to grow the same varieties and strains of vegetables that have grown in that locality for years. Introductions of new and valuable things occur largely by chance, if at all; whereas, were each farmer to conduct a small trial ground as here recommended, there would soon be in many cases a marked improvement in the varieties and strains of cereals and vegetables planted in his locality. Careful observations, including measurements, should be frequently made on the plants growing in this trial ground, and these should be noted. This work might be done in many cases by the farmer's wife or older children.—Western Plowman.

WHEAT.

Bulletin 71, of the Kansas Station, thus summarizes seventeen years of wheat experiments at that station:

1. Wheat grown continuously without manure on a measured acre for seventeen years in succession has produced an average yearly yield of 19 57 bushels. The crop was completely winter killed during three of these years, so that only fourteen crops were harvested, and two of them were partly winter killed. The average yield of the fourteen crops harvested is 23 76 bushels.

2. Subsoiling for wheat has not benefited the yield. It has on the contrary apparently reduced the yield over that on surface-plowed ground in nearly every instance it has been tried.

3. As to the time of seeding wheat, the results of the past season's experiments confirm those of former years. The best yields were obtained from seedlings made about the third week in September.

4. The rotation experiments are just beginning to give results, though they have not run long enough as yet to warrant definite conclusions. They do show, however, that a yearly application of twenty tons of barnyard manure to the acre is decidedly detrimental, in that it causes an excessive growth of straw and a failure to develop kernel.

5. The rotation experiments in which wheat is followed by some leguminous catch crop, sown as soon as the wheat is harvested and removed or plowed under in time to again sow the ground to wheat that same fall, have only just been begun, the past year being the only season in which wheat has been grown on this plan. The wheat seeded on soy bean stubble gave the best yields.

6. The test of varieties is of special interest the present year, in that it shows the comparative hardiness of some fifty leading varieties grown at the station for several years. Out of the whole number, only the Turkey, Tasmanian Red and Crimean withstood the severe freeze in November so as to yield at the rate of ten bushels or more per acre.

BROAD TIRES FOR FARM USE.

Broad tires on farm vehicles are coming slowly into use, and but for the "conservatism" of the average farmer their use would be much more common than now. So far as yet appears, nothing is to be said against them, the only objection being the cost of the change. But the cost cannot be great, while the advantages are so many that it seems strange how little attention is given to the matter.

Among the advantages are an easier draft for the team and less wear and tear to the tire and the road bed. Narrow tires have a less supporting surface by which to uphold the load, and that makes them cut into the ground with more force, and especially when it is soft. Suppose the tire to be shaped like the capital V, every one can see that it would cut into the road, hence the narrower it is the greater is this tendency. From this constant wear we have an alternation of dust, mud when it rains and ruts in spring and fall, in addition to the wear and tear of the team, harness, wagon, and the odds and ends of time lost for repairs to everything in use. When all the items of cost are posted, the sum will be found a very serious one to those to whom economy is important.

In hauling loads over the farm where there are no beaten roads, or only apologies for them, the waste is greatest. In farm operations it is often necessary to drive over freshly plowed ground, or only once or twice harrowed, and narrow tires make anything but a light load impossible to stir except for a rod or two at a time. The usual load drawn on a well beaten road will, on plowed ground, "wind" the team in a few seconds, or sink it to a depth impossible to stir. The ox cart with its broad tires is much more serviceable on such land, and that fact should teach farmers that the farm wagon should also be equipped with broad tires. The farm wagon cannot be dispensed with, but the ox cart, with its slow-moving team, is going out of use, and some fine day in the future will disappear, except in sections where it is inconvenient or dangerous to use horses.

It is evidently a common idea that to use broad tires requires broad rimmed wheels—in other words, new wheels to match the width of the tires;

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]