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THE



PROGRESSIVE



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

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THEIR LIPS AND TREACHERY IN THEIR HEARTS, THEY HAVE BASELY SOUGHT TO POISON THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE. See what a box these TREACHEROUS AND DESPICABLE fellows have put them selves in."

But now it uses soft soap and tells these 'treacherous, despicable' Populists, with "no honesty," and with "falsehood on their lips" that they ought not to sacrifice their "noble and righteous" principles by fusing with the Republicans.

Sane people need no glasses to see the treacherous wolf of 1892 crouching in the News and Observer's sheep's clothing of 1898

Hon. Geo. E. Boggs, of Waynesville, has, as our readers know, always opposed fusion in any form. But like many others he realizes that this year the Populists have a choice of two evils—Hypocritical rule or fusion. They have wisely chosen the lesser of these evils—fusion.

In the following extract from a letter of Mr. Boggs to our associate editor he voices the sentiments of many. He says:

"I have always opposed, and do still oppose fusion with any party, but I do not think this the proper time to discuss this question. The People's party offered to co-operate with the Democrats, but they, under the lead of goldbugs and railroad monopolists, slapped the Populists in the face and are now trying with slander, falsehoods and appeals to passion and prejudice to destroy the People's party. I believe it is the first duty of Populists to fight such grossly unjust treatment to the last man and the last ditch. Let fusion be settled later on and all unite as one man in opposition to such treatment. It is unwise to try to swap horses when crossing the stream."

We have been shown the following article set double column with scare head in the News and Observer:

"WHAT FUSION DOES. 'A negro who had been in Political Accord With Populists Skipped. (H. E. C. Bryant, in Charlotte Observer.)"

"TARBORO, N. C., Sept. 18—(Special)—The following story is told me: Dr. Mayo, one of the leading Populists of Edgecombe county, had on his place a negro politician by the name of Henry Dancy. Of late Dr. Mayo, has been, as it were, bootlicking Dancy. He has treated the negro as though he was his equal. As a result, Dancy became uppish. He took the little negro house boy off to one side the other day and told him that he would give him a dollar if he would tell him which room Miss Mayo, Dr. Mayo's grown daughter, occupied. The negro boy told the cock; the cock told Mrs. Mayo, and the result is that impudent Dancy has skipped to parts more distant. The affair is the talk of the neighborhood."

In this connection the following letter makes interesting reading:

EPWORTH, N. C., Sept. 30, '98. Editors The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.:

The article enclosed, "What Fusion Does," I brand as an infamous and slanderous lie, and his informant a calumniator and coward. I live in No. 6 township, near Epworth, in Edgecombe county.

Respectfully,

W. T. MAYO.

Is this hot enough for you, Mr. Alphabet?

AGRICULTURE.

THE MEADOW IN THE FALL.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

I am one of the number who believes thoroughly in keeping stock off the meadow in the fall. I will tell you why.

Self-defense is the first law of nature. I am not on the farm altogether "for the fun of it," nor am I working "for my board." I wish to make farming profitable as well as pleasant. This may seem selfish, but this is a bread and butter world, make the best of it we may.

Now, I am satisfied that it costs me many times more to pasture my meadows after haying than the little extra milk I would get would bring. So I do not follow that plan. I know there is a great temptation when pastures are short in the fall, and the milk supply is getting short, to turn the cows into the rank after feed which has grown up since haying. We are apt to think that all increase of milk thus gained is so much clear profit.

But let us see. In what condition are the grass roots left after a season of this close pasturing? If we examine

them we shall find that many of the roots are bare and easily yield to the sharp frosts of early winter when no snow lies on the ground to protect them. Next spring the grass plants will be fewer in number, and those which have survived are weaker than they would have been had the cows been kept off.

Then, too, when the ground is moist and soft, the hoofs of the cows drive many of the plants down and kill them, leaving the surface rough and uneven for the mower.

I have noticed that meadows thus treated grow poorer and poorer, and make very unsatisfactory returns in haying.

So that I prefer to feed my cows oats and peas or corn in the fall when pastures begin to fall off than to turn them into the meadow. It seems to me that we must guard against losses in this direction as well as others. I know there are hosts of men who do pasture their meadows after haying. I venture the prediction that if those men will try keeping the herd off a few years and note the result, they will go back to the old way.

E. L. VINCENT.

Broome Co., New York.

FALL SOWN CROPS.

For fall sown crops the soil requires different treatment from that given in spring. Having grown a crop during the summer it is pretty well loosened to a considerable depth, and seldom requires plowing in fall to a depth of eight or ten inches unless manure is turned under for the purpose of lightening the soil. Work on the surface is what is mainly required, letting the clover crop do the real sub soil work. A outaway or disk harrow run over the ground after the summer-harvested crops, followed later by a shallow plowing will put soil in first class condition for the fall sown crop. The real labor required to prepare soil for fall sown crops is so light that there is hardly any excuse for permitting ground to remain bare—Selected.

DO NOT PASTURE MEADOWS IN AUTUMN.

There is no time of the year when we farmers should be more careful of our next year's hay crop than just now. It is an old practice and a bad one which some of us have followed for generations, of turning stock into the meadow just as soon as the hay is well secured. I have found from repeated trials that it causes a loss in the long run and no longer sanction such methods. Of course, every dry year pasture gets short in July, August and September, so when the farmer sees a good living for his stock in his newly mown meadow it is a great temptation to turn them in, and in nine cases out ten in goes the stock.

How much better would it be if farmers would only get into the habit of sowing plenty of fodder corn early in the spring and summer, having it to use at this time of year when it is so much needed and so well liked by the stock. No doubt in some sections nearly all farmers been taught the result of pasturing meadows in the fall from experience, but in parts of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana I have observed that farmers are pasturing their meadows. The ground is so bare when winter sets in that much damage is done to the unprotected plant roots.

The best crop of mixed hay I ever saw was on a new seeding. After the wheat was cut several showers brought forth the seeding to such an extent that several neighbors warned me that if I did not cut and remove this second growth from the field it would smother out the plant life and ruin the crop for the coming season. From what I had read on the subject I was led to believe that no damage would result from letting it remain, but on the other hand, great and lasting results would be accomplished toward the rebuilding of soil fertility. Had this surplus crop been harvested it would have made two tons of hay per acre; so you can see that it was a large amount of green stuff to let go back on the ground. In the spring I rolled down the clover and what other grasses there were (it should have been cut in the fall) and got the best crop in my experience.

This was not the end, however, of so great a nourishing crop. To day this some field produces the best crops on my farm, and American Agriculturist readers may be sure that hereafter what growth comes after the first cutting (June clover excepted), either from wheat, oats or hay it will remain on the ground for two purposes—one, the rebuilding of the soil and the other, winter protection.—Elias F. Brown, Michigan.

FALL OATS AT THE SOUTH FOLLOVED BY COW PEAS OR GRASS.

A Timely Talk by a Practical Georgia Farmer.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

There is a saying here in Georgia that farmers spend the first six months of the year killing grass and the other six in buying Northern baled hay. There is no doubt but that this is to a certain extent true. I have seen many a crop where the grass was worth more than the crop planted, if it could have been gathered at the right time and properly cured. The South is naturally a grass country, and there would be no need to import a pound of forage into this or any other Southern State, if the farmers would turn their attention to the natural advantages they have over the North in making hay out of our natural grasses such as crab grass and cow foot. Pea vines, properly cured and housed, are far more nutritious than any hay that we get from the North. But the farmers' time is so absorbed over that moneyless cotton crop that they don't have time to attend to anything else.

Oats are one of our surest grain and forage that we can raise if planted early enough to get well rooted before freezing weather sets in. From my own experience I prefer sowing in the first days of October. Land for all small grain should be plowed deep and thoroughly firmed; the general plan here is to plow in the seed, but I think the best way is to plow your land first, and then work your seed in with an Acme harrow, rolling the soil afterwards to firm it as well as to leave the land smooth for cutting. Oats will grow on almost any kind of land that is not too wet. A well-drained lowland that is rich in all of the different plant foods is the proper land for this country, on account of the spring drouths with which we are sometimes afflicted. Oats require considerable nitrogen, but not to excess.

It is necessary for farmers to know what each crop requires, and also the needs of his soil. If oat lands are poor in nitrogen, an application of 200 pounds to the acre of cotton seed meal at time of sowing will be sufficient to start the crop off. Oats have a reputation of being exhausting to the soil. An analysis of the plant shows that it does not require so much potash and phosphoric acid as some other plants. A proper fertilizer for oats should contain, besides the nitrogen, from 10 to 12 per cent. of phosphoric acid and from 5 to 6 per cent. of potash, the amount to be regulated by the needs of the soil. An application of 50 pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre in the spring would be very beneficial, as it is the most soluble of all kinds of nitrogenous fertilizers and the most easily taken up and assimilated by plants. There are times when plants require some special element to force more vigorous growth, and thus the solubility becomes a matter for due consideration in their use.

The soil is generally deficient in some one or more special requisites for the largest yield of any crop. There is what is known as dominant plant food, that is, one in particular that appears to be most useful to some special crop. Thus oats and the other small grains seem to desire and need nitrogen most'y. But nitrogen is the least available of all kinds of plant foods that exist naturally in the soil, and at the same time is the most easily lost from the soil by drainage. Thus it is explained why in the spring an application of nitrate of soda would be a benefit, and how if we use cow peas in our rotation of farm crops, (or, in other words, precede the oat crop with cow peas in order to furnish the nitrogen) and buy only the cheaper chemical manures, we could by that means save the most expensive part of the fertilizer bill. If we have fertilized our land as we should do for the oat crop, we should have, left in the soil, sufficient plant food to produce a heavy crop of peas or grass.

I have a field that has been alternated in oats and peas for five years, and it now has a crop of peas about ready to cut for forage. The oats were cut the last of May and made a heavy crop, and owing to a severe drouth the peas were not planted until the first week in July. The oat ground was plowed and harrowed down smooth and rows marked out three feet apart and planted 18 inches, using about a dozen peas to the hill of the Unknown variety. The crop received only one cultivation. They now stand at least from three to four feet high and cover the entire

ground, and are loaded with pods; a fair estimate of the crop is from 3 1/2 to 4 tons to the acre. Ten years ago this field was so poor in fertility that the common speckled cow pea would not grow without fertilizers. The change has been made by using the cow peas as a base, for humus and nitrogen, and using phosphoric acid and potash. The field has had no other manure for ten years; part of the time I have cut the peas for forage, and some years have plowed in the entire crop, after it had been picked of the pea pods and the foliage dried down. This field will now produce any kind of a crop.

The low price of cotton must eventually lead Southern farmers to adopt some other crop besides cotton to furnish the necessary money to pay farm expenses, and I see no reason why hay should not be one crop in the rotation, at least to produce enough to supply our own markets. That the growing of grass and cow peas for forage and as a money crop is on the increase, there can be no doubt. Every progressive farmer must see the need of studying the fertilizer question so as to save buying the expensive part of that which these crops require.

C. W. MORRILL.

THOROUGH PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

A few years ago the Rev. W. R. Brown, of Empire, N. C., informed me that upon a certain occasion a tenant commenced laying off for corn, being as I understood it the first or leading row through the field. The row was crooked and Mr. B. informed him that he would straighten it if he had to run a half dozen times. He accordingly ran a number of times, cutting first from one side of the furrow and then from the other until he finally got it sufficiently straight to answer. No person appeared to have the most remote idea that this extra plowing would result in any advantage, other than straightening the row, but Mr. B. says that the corn of this row was twice as good as that of any of the other rows.

The above shows the effect of thorough preparation. A loose bed from 12 to 16 inches deep and of a proper width should be made before planting the corn. In cultivating, said bed can be gradually widened until all the ground between the rows be broken deep. This deep tillage will exert an immense influence in time of drouth. More than this, the corn in the drill can be twice as thick as shallow plowing will admit of, and will then ear better and be better every way than the shallow plowed. When the people come to understand this matter properly they will see that they cannot afford to cultivate their land shallow.

It would, however, be better for the land to be subsoiled in the fall or early winter, but when inconvenient to do this, it may be plowed deep, as aforesaid, in early spring, provided that it is done with a narrow plow of proper construction that will not throw the subsoil out of the furrow and expose it to the air. It is advisable to expose the subsoil to the air if done at the proper time, but not after the winter passes.

If the people would cultivate less and fertilize more they would, as a general thing, succeed far better. They could then retain command of their crops and as a result would not lose all in time of extreme drouth, as is now frequently the case. Nine times out of ten when a farmer fails in his crop it is his fault rather than that of the season.

The soil must not only be kept up, but the fertility thereof generally increased over what it now is. It will be an easy matter to do this when we work in accordance with God's natural laws.

Clover and cow peas, in connection with proper fertilizers, are the great levers that are destined to revolutionize the agriculture of this country. The corn rows are preferably wide, say 7 to 8 feet. The corn should be planted in the drill sufficiently close to make from 50 bushels per acre up, according to the richness. The cow peas are preferably drilled midway between the corn rows. An excellent fertilizer for corn is a good dose of stable manure to which about 200 pounds each of acid phosphate and kainit per acre have been added. Stable manure contains an excess of nitrogen and it is necessary to add these elements in order to correct said feature. About 300 pounds each of acid phosphate and kainit may be applied to the peas, in both cases in the drill and well mixed with the soil,

preferably several weeks before planting. The peas at most need but little nitrogen in the soil; they draw it from the air, far cheaper than buying in the market. By reason of this fact, in connection with certain chemical changes that will take place after the corn stalks and pea vines are turned under, the farmer will be exceedingly well compensated for his outlay. The above quantity of fertilizer may seem large, but it will prove economy in the end. Follow with wheat and clover, applying 1 1/2 bushels and 15 pounds per acre, respectively.

BRYAN TYSON.

Long Leaf, N. C.

CARE OF CORN FODDER.

Every man of experience knows that the value of corn fodder as a stock food depends very largely upon storing it away in good condition. There is no other product of the farm that suffers more or deteriorates more rapidly from being wet—rained upon than corn fodder. It therefore becomes a necessity to handle fodder with great speed and promptness when it is in condition to stack or mow away.

The wise farmer will leave the shucked corn lie upon the ground for days at a time, knowing that ripened grain will suffer but little if indeed at all, while he immediately hauls in the fodder and stores it away when it is in good condition, thus avoiding the time and expense of re-shocking it, to say nothing of probable later loss in food value. Anything that will facilitate in this labor is of positive advantage to the farmer. The Electric Handy Wagon, manufactured by the Electric Wheel Co., of Quincy, Ill., would help out amazingly. In the first place it is so low and so easy to load that a load of fodder may be placed upon it from the ground; in the second place the whole operation may be performed by one man, thus saving the expense of another man. Their book, "Farm Savings," illustrates how it may be done and tells all about this and other things you should know. Send for a copy before you begin to haul in your corn fodder.

POINTERS FROM ABROAD.

Mr. John E. Kehl, United States Consul at Stettin, in writing of the German farmer, says that in order to compete with American modern labor-saving machinery and large tracts of lands he farms in an intensive way and generally produces full crops. This, however, would not enable him to fight against competition if he did not receive State aid and had not quite a perfect system of co-operation. "Co-operation is the farmer's stronghold and bulwark," say the Germans. There are co-operative credit banks, dairies, steam plows, and there is also co-operation in drainage and irrigation. As a rule, the farms are devoid of small undergrowth, stumps, stones and creeping vines, and timber is very well cared for.

An illustration of the thoughtfulness for small things in Germany is given in the attempt to retain or increase the arable surface of lands about two miles east of Mannheim. At that point the valley of the Rhine is about twenty miles wide, the lower or river terrace consisting of agricultural lands exceeding rich in loam and old river deposits, while two miles east of the river the second terrace rises to a height of about forty feet, most of which consists entirely of fine sand covered at various places by a thin film of loam and now used for the training of pines. Passing through several miles of artificial forest one emerges upon better soil and ordinary farm lands used for growing wheat, oats, potatoes and carrots. The removal of the edge of this sand terrace was begun early in the spring, the material being transported by cars over a temporary track. The sand is removed by means of specially constructed dredges, writes Mr. Walter J. Hoffman, United States Consul at Mannheim, and already about six acres have been exposed, reducing the surface to the level of the farm lands on the lower or river terrace. The top crust of loam has been carefully removed from the sand terrace and carried down to the newly exposed surface of sterile river gravel to form new acreage, and there distributed, having a depth of six or eight inches. Over a great portion of this new surface young cabbage plants are growing, and other crops will be started as rapidly as the loam has been leveled.

This example of the rigid economy

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]