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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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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.

**TRAVEL NOTES.**

**To Omaha and Return**

By YE ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

The first thing needful before starting so I was told, was a health certificate, and this was especially necessary if Memphis, Tenn., was in my line of travel. Accordingly I called at the office of Raleigh's health officer. As he was at dinner, I found no one there except a grinning skeleton. I shook hands with that not very handsome or talkative gentleman and proceeded to make myself comfortable. Finally I secured the certificate and armed with that document stating that I "had been exposed to no contagious or infectious disease and should pass all quarantine stations unmolesed," I left the city about 4 p. m. Arrived at Asheville 2 a. m. Wednesday, Sept. 21st and about daybreak reached Knoxville, Tenn. The country between Morristown, Tenn., and Chattanooga, Tenn., was the prettiest farming country I saw, unless I except Southeastern Missouri. Perhaps we have as good farming country in North Carolina, but the farmers of East Tennessee are not "one crop" farmers. They also use modern improved farm machinery, and know the value of meadows and improved live stock of all kinds. Hence they seem to be more prosperous than our Tar Heel farmers. Their land is well watered and well drained; gullies are very rare; clover and peavines are found on nearly every farm; the many cattle are sleek and evidently not "scrub stock," and nearly every farm has a number of haystacks. The chief products of the farm are: corn, wheat, oats, peas, cane and live stock. Little cotton is raised. In Mississippi, Alabama and West Tennessee, I found immense fields of cotton. At Memphis, which I reached about 8 p. m., man's free agency is now interfered with. One Heber Jones, M. D., President of the Board of Health, seems to be lord and master of the town. He has but to say to one "go" and he goes; unto another "do this" and he doeth it.

There had been even at that time several cases of yellow fever in Mississippi and Louisiana, and as several thousand people died in a yellow fever epidemic in Memphis several years ago, she is making every effort to "stave it off" this year. For several weeks at the time of the epidemic referred to the daily death rate was about 150. Now Memphis has quarantined against the world and no one can enter the town without permission of Dr. Heber Jones. Accordingly I and several other passengers were hustled off the train about five miles this side of Memphis, and put on a special car under police guard. This to me was a new experience, and the idea of being locked up under guard of a big burly policeman with club and pistol was not especially pleasing. I confess I felt rather like a criminal. The car stopped near the banks of the Mississippi, and there I waited very impatiently about an hour. The passenger train for St. Louis had left and so our car was finally "hitched on" to a local freight train, the policeman jumped off, and we "pulled out." Crossing the Father of Waters over a mammoth bridge, we entered Arkansas.

This was the fifth State I had been in that day, the other four being North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

The News and Observer recently insinuated that some of our fusionist friends in an effort to destroy its influence had lied about its character. Now our candid opinion is that the News and Observer is very sadly mistaken. The man who lies about it is its friend, while the man who tells the truth about it is making a desperate effort to destroy its character. Let it bear this in mind.

Several Democratic papers are sending out supplements giving pictures of "Negro Rule in Eastern North Carolina." We notice in one letter two flagrant falsehoods. One refers to Dr. Mayo, and in our last issue Dr. Mayo himself branded the statement as a lie out of whole cloth. The other is a libel upon Hon. W. E. Fountain, and so disgusted were the Democrats of Tarboro with the effort of the infamous mud slinger to besmirch the character of Mr. Fountain, a thorough gentleman, that they sent the Observer the following statement denouncing Bryant's libel as a lie without foundation:

To the Editor of the Observer:

We, citizens of the town of Tarboro, N. C., who are Democrats in politics, have read the article published in the Charlotte Observer of date of September 20th, '98, and signed by H. E. C. Bryant, in which the states of W. E. Fountain as follows: "The most unprincipled, mean white man in this section of the State. The decent white people here look upon him as they would a midnight house burner, and should a riot ever occur, he would be the first man to suffer. He has made

in my case, at least, a way of the Arkansas traveler, that of the transgressor, is hereby... While the care were backed, and together, and jerked about... ing suddenly peculiar to a local freight... I considered myself lucky if I managed to keep from butting the next seat or being tumbled off on the floor. I managed nevertheless to get considerable sleep, and reached Bald Knob, Ark., about 8 a. m. Thursday, Sept. 23. Here I boarded the Iron Mountain passenger train for St. Louis—Western trains are better equipped than those of our State. Free reclining chairs, for instance, are found on nearly every train.

The most uninviting region I found was Northeastern Arkansas with its swamps and mud. Just over the line in Missouri, however, I found some lovely country. Here instead of swamps, is a picturesque slightly mountainous country much resembling East Tennessee. Here, indeed, is a modern Arcadia: the country is mountainous and picturesque and the inhabitants are, or should be, distinguished for contentment and rural happiness.

On Friday, I reached the real prairies and travelled for about 100 miles through what might be considered as one immense corn field. Here and there some wheat had been sown. I did not see as much as five acres of forest in one tract. All the trees have been set out, and of course wood is too scarce for fences or fuel. Coal is used for fuel and the fences are of wire. Before the trees were set out the sunflower was the largest plant. Even now an uncultivated field there is covered each year by a growth of sunflower plants, just as an "old field" in this section soon has a growth of pines. Every farm has its windmill to pump water.

Kansas is a paradise for speculators. I heard, for instance, of one man who bought thousands of bushels of corn a few years ago at 12 cents per bushel. He held it awhile, and as the next corn crop was short, he sold it for 50 cents a bushel and made a fortune. Another man held thousands of bushels for a still higher price and, I think, had to sell for less than purchasing price and cost of storing. There are hundreds of similar ones.

Land in that portion of Kansas through which I traveled sells for about \$25 an acre. There is very little uncultivated land, but when a man does find a new ground, he has no trouble with stumps—unless they are sunflower stumps. Kansas is called the Sunflower State, and there were many Kansas people at the Omaha Exposition wearing a sunflower badge.

In another article I will say something of the Exposition. In this one I have not used the editorial pronoun "we," because I intended this for a private letter, and not for publication.

ballot and a fair count to vote with us. If there is any party in the world that loves pie it is the Democratic "negro howlers." They say to us, "come back and vote with us." We have not forgotten the ways of rotten eggs yet; but I suppose the eggs have given out and now they have nothing to throw but the negro.

We know these fellows don't mean what they say, for when pag-leg Williams was carrying those terrible negroes away from Craven county, did not some of these same fellows who are trying to save the State from negro rule, charter a train at Newbern and follow him to a station about seven miles west of Newbern where he was stopping, and threatened his life if they ever caught him here again? And did not the next legislature, which was Democratic, put a fine on every one carrying them out of the State? It was not the masses of the people that wanted them to stay, but it was such men as are in the lead of the great "negro howling" party, now they say they have drawn the color line, but it is not visible after the going down of the curtain. Let Populists go to work as they never worked before, and in November next victory will be ours.

Yours, N. F. W.

**AGRICULTURE.**

**BUSINESS AGENT PARKER TALKS WITH HIS BROTHER FARMERS.**

An Interesting Letter Which Should be Heeded

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Reckless or ship shod farming in the face of existing low prices is suicidal and will drive any man who persists in it to the wall. The only way to compete with low prices is with low cost of production.

How to attain that is the question that confronts every farmer who is worthy of the name. It can't be done by further reduction of wages; for farm laborers are the poorest paid of any class of laborers known.

Another result of this necessity thousands annually are quitting the farms and entering other pursuits that will pay better, thus affording them better opportunities to educate their children and fit them for positions of usefulness in life of a higher plane than their fathers and mothers occupy.

We must admit that farming has not kept pace with other industries in their spirit of progress. There must be a cause for our lack of the enterprise that characterizes the cotton mill man and the manufacturers of various kinds. We need to find the cause, then apply the remedy.

It is possible that we have not put the thought into our business that they have into theirs—that we have not applied the business principles that they have; that we do not look after the details as we should. The up to date manufacturer is making money; but he who is using machinery and methods of 20 years ago is behind in the race. Let us draw lessons from their experience. Are we up to date with the implements we use, with our methods of preparation? Do we sow the best seeds obtainable and put the land in the best condition favorable to their germination and the full development of the plant? Or are we content to farm just as our fathers farmed?

They may have been good farmers in their day; but we should be better ones, from the fact that we have the advantage of their experience and instructions and have our own experience added, together with that of the spirit of progress that is to be found with our most prosperous farmers.

The stage coach of a few years ago that carried its dozen passengers has been supplanted by the railway cars that carry hundreds; the messenger gives place to the telegraph and telephone; the spinning wheel and loom of our grandmothers to the gigantic cotton mills which by the use of ma-

chine enables one to do the work formerly requiring scores to perform. Go into the harvest field and watch the "binder" as it clips the grain, binds it in bundles and tosses it out with the deftness of an expert and the rapidity of machinery and compare that with the sickle of former years and you must admit that great is the genius of man. As farmers are we in the front ranks with the most progressive, or are we content with the appliances of yore? These are questions of vital importance, as they all bear on the one great subject: How to reduce cost of production.

In the discussion of these and kindred questions at our Alliance meetings much good might be accomplished and an interest and freshness given to the meetings that will largely increase the attendance.

These are legitimate questions that can be discussed with profit and will repay for the time, research and thought given them. At each meeting select a timely subject for discussion at the next. Appoint one or more to lead the discussion, invite the ladies and see that the young attend. The nights are growing longer and it is possible that meetings at night would be better attended than in the afternoon. But don't forget the fraternal and social feature. In this way much good might be accomplished.

Now is the time for sowing oats and rye, and soon will be time to sow wheat. How have you prepared your land? how will you put in your grain and what kind of seed will you use?

Your crop at harvest may answer these questions for you. You cannot afford to sow poor seed. It will pay far better to pay a good price for good seed than to sow poor seed even if they were given to you. Use good implements, good seed and prepare your land thoroughly and you have made a long stride toward a good crop.

This Agency is ready at all times to aid you in the purchasing of the best and will gladly assist you whenever it can. In every way try to make the best crop at the least expense. It costs but little more to put in a crop in a thorough manner than in a ship shod way. It costs but little more to cut an acre of good grain than it does a poor one. If this is so, the progressive farmer will try to harvest good crops and let his less enterprising neighbor reap the lesser. This is a magnificent field for discussion as well as action, and I hope the Alliance will take advantage of it.

In this connection I wish again to call the attention of farmers to our brands of fertilizers: N. C. Farmers' Alliance Official Guano and Acid Phosphate and Progressive Farmer Guano. These goods have been tried all over the State and have stood the test that time alone can apply. If there is no agency near, you send your orders direct to this office and they will have prompt attention.

Fraternally,  
T. B. PARKER, S. B. A.

**STATUTE OF NORTH CAROLINA,**

**Edgecombe county.**

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the statement, with the signatures, held by W. E. Fountain, the same having been by me read and compared with the original.

Witness my hand and official seal at office in Tarboro, N. C., this 27th day September, 1898.

ED PENNINGTON,  
Clerk Superior Court.

The News and Observer recently contained a cartoon showing its ill almost swallowed up by an ocean of "lies" and "abuse." It had a few rocks "truth and facts," but they were tottering and it was evident that the News and Observer, which was then putting another ocean on top of the ocean that then existed, would soon be submerged in its own foul products. The Observer's confession was a sad one. Truly, "what a man soweth that also shall he reap."

The following letter, clipped from the Caucasian, is from a citizen of Craven county. Craven county, you remember, is held up by hypocritical orators as the most horrible example of the 'terrors of negro rule' extant. We recently published an essay from the pen of a lady of Bertie county, another county of the East over which demagogues are accustomed to weep crocodile tears. In it she appealed to the voters of the State not to be fooled by these negro libelers howlers. Having read it, I now read this by a citizen of Craven county, and ask yourself which you will believe: the hirings of Democratic newspapers who go down there to write yarns, or the citizens and voters of the East and their wives themselves!

TUSCARORA, N. C., Sept. 27, 1898

As I happen to live in the county of Craven, where you hear such a shout from the Democrats about negro rule, I thought I write something about now things went on before the much despised Populist party tore up their evil scheme of throwing away our votes. I also saw some of the cartoons about negro road overseers; we have one negro overseer less in my township than when the Democrats had control. All this fuss about the negro is a scheme to frighten the Populists back into the Democratic ranks.

I hope the Populists in the West will not listen to these "negro howlers" for it is only to get control again of the State. They say that we vote with the negro now, but we had rather vote with them than to have to stand out doors with them and neither be allowed to vote. We know how we were treated when the Democrats were in power. Can the leopard change its spots or the Ethiopian his skin? No, let every Populist come to the front and get everybody who is in favor of a free



AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, OMAHA EXPOSITION.

keeping farm accounts. What Method Have You Found by Experience to be the Most Simple and Accurate One for Keeping Farm Accounts? (From Practical Farmer.)

Every farmer should keep some account of his business so that he may know at any time as well as at the close of the year whether he is farming at a profit or loss. The simplest way of doing this as follows: Procure a good-sized blank book; on a left hand page at top write 'Expenses for the year 189-' On the right hand page opposite 'Sales for the year 189-' Each and every cent should be set down daily, stating what for, under the head of 'expenses.' Likewise every cent coming in from sales of produce should be credited under the head of 'sales.' Begin with the year, marking January on the margin of each page. When January is passed add up and set down the amounts for the month under each head, and write February on the next line, beginning a new month, at end of which amounts should be added to those of January, and so on for the other months. By this means it is but the work of a few seconds to compare accounts at any time throughout the year. Or if desired to find what any item of expenditures or sales has amounted to—butter for instance—it will occupy but a trifle of time to run over the few pages, adding together the sales under that head. We append one month's account, illustrating the idea:

Page 1

EXPENSES FOR YEAR 1898		
Jan. Clothing, \$25 70; pr. shoes,		
\$3; hat, \$2 75		\$31 45
100 lbs sugar, \$4 75; garden seeds, \$5 80		10 55
5 tons acid, \$75; papers, \$4.25		79 25
Salt, 65¢; washing, \$2; compost, \$6 80		8 95
Cording wood, \$3.20; bands \$8 50		11 70
		\$141 90
Feb. 1,000 lbs. bran, \$10; repairs to wagon, .85		10 85
Cording wood, \$12 40; animal's horse, \$1		13 40

Page 2

SALES FOR YEAR 1898		
Jan 16 lbs butter, \$3 20; 40 bu corn, \$24		\$27 20
4 hogs, \$20; 1,500 lbs hay, \$15		35 00
3 bu. corn, \$1 80; 18 lbs. butter, \$3 60		5 40
70 bu. yams, \$2 50; 1 hog, \$4 50		57 00
6 bu. onions, \$8; 16 lbs. butter, \$3 20		12 20
6 dc. eggs, 90¢; 75 bu. corn, \$45		45 90
40 bu. yams, \$80; 12 lbs. butter, \$2 40		32 40
		\$215 10
Profit		\$73 20

Athens, Ga.  
H. B. MITCHELL.

When I began farming I also began keeping farm accounts. The plan that I use now is simpler and more satisfactory than the one that I used when I first began. Besides my small memorandum book I only use one account book. The pages are numbered and the front part is used as an index to enable me to turn at once to any particular account which I wish to find. The following abridged page from my account book will explain my method of keeping accounts, and also the way my book is ruled:

	CORN CROP 1897.		
	DR	CR	
May 1	Use of 40 acres of land		\$160 00
May 15	Planting, harrowing and plowing		75 00
July 10	Cultivating and cutting weeds		55 00
Dec. 1	Husking and marketing 1 600 bushels		30 00
	Use of tools		5 00
	Total cost crop		\$325 00
	Value crop 22:		\$352 00
	Profit least cost production		\$27 00

In crop accounts like the above, notes are made as to the condition of weather, time and manner of planting, cultivating, etc. Separate accounts are kept for each kind of crop, stock, poultry, vegetables and fruits, also accounts with farm hands, merchants and neighbors. These accounts are accurately kept, so that there can be no question of their correctness. In this way we place the farm operations on a business footing and avoid all trouble with men with whom we deal. One part of the book for an inventory or invoice of property, which is made

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]