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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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 sun. Behind me are the shadows of the past, 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, 1899.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Two pests to keep constantly in mind in connection with the flock are lice and rats. The rats may work quicker but they are no more deadly.

Old and young stock never thrive so well when housed together. The poultry house should have at least three compartments, one for the old stock, one for the pullets and one for the cockerels.

During the warm fall days the crimson clover is growing right along. It will continue to grow off and on all through the winter in the warmer sections of the country and will be the first legume to shoot forth in the spring. By corn planting time it will be a crop.

It is undoubtedly a fact that more manurial benefit is obtained on the farm in feeding leguminous crops, such as clover and cow peas, rather than plowing them under, but the cost of hauling them both ways, to and from the barn, must be considered. When plowed under green, they are already evenly "spread" over the land. This does not take into consideration the dairy question or stock feeding. That is another story.

This is a good time to cut away all diseased canes of the grapes and all dried up branches, which were affected with mildew; they can readily be seen hanging on the vines. Gather them together and burn them. Then remember to spray with fresh Bordeaux mixture in the spring when the buds are swelling. Old Bordeaux should never be used. If kept over from year to year, or even month to month, it loses most of its efficacy.

One of Hobson's men, Osborn Deignan, returned to his home in Stuart, Iowa, a few days ago. "At the depot," we are told, "eighteen or twenty club girls surrounded him and attempted to kiss him, but he pushed all back, saying there were handsomer men in the crowd than he." Deignan's act is contrasted with that of Hobson, who, it will be remembered, kissed Miss Arnold, of St. Louis. But even Hobson would doubtless have refused to kiss the microbes off the lips of more than a dozen girls.

The figures of the Agricultural Department show that the yield of hay per acre has been excellent on an average during the year, probably 10 per cent greater than that of last year, in fact the average yield per acre is the largest on record, and the total crop is probably the largest ever gathered. The estimated average yield of Irish potatoes is about 75 bushels per acre as compared with 64 bushels last year and 86 bushels in 1896. The potato crop has proven somewhat better than was at first expected.

What is the meaning of all these mowing machines, reapers, horse rakes and other farm implements being left out in the weather? Have they just been taken out temporarily for some reason? No, not much. They have been left to stand where last used, and if we mistake not they will stand there in the fields, or in the fence corners until wanted again. What kind of a way is this to do and expect to keep the balance on the proper side of the ledger? Wet and sun will spoil the

best iron or steel and the best wood. This sort of practice don't happen in isolated cases by any means. Why not take the parlor chairs out on the open porch and leave them there through the fall and winter?

The question of raising American sugar from beets has lost none of its interest. Not so much has been heard about it this year as last, because last year the project was fairly launched upon the country, but as a matter of fact nearly double the number of farmers have been experimenting with plots this year, with a view to determining whether their land is suitable to the production of high grade beets. The samples are coming into the chemical division of the Department of Agriculture for analysis much more freshly than they did last year, running from one to two hundred samples each day.

The fifteenth annual convention of the Association of official agricultural chemists was held in Washington last week (commencing Nov. 11). The results were rather technical for ordinary non-chemical mortals to understand thoroughly, but they dealt largely with experiments which have been made during the year with various kinds of fertilizers and fertilizer constituents; also with food adulteration. The members of the association are men of high standing; Dr. H. W. Wiley is its secretary and he reports that the association is doing excellent work, which when completed, can in each case be reduced to practical benefit to the farmer and fertilizer user, as well as the consumer.

Less than a year ago the Executive Committee of the Democratic party met in this city and decided that the campaign this year must be fought out upon the Chicago platform—that free silver must be the issue. This was not at all pleasing to the goldbugs and corporation lawyers. How and why it was decided to abandon this policy may be learned from the following paragraph from the Charlotte Observer of Nov. 11th. Coming as it does from Democratic authority, we do not fear to pass it on. Says the Observer:

"The first suggestion The Observer ever heard—it must have been a year ago—as to the policy of the Democratic party for the campaign of 1898, was from Heriot Clarkson, Esq., one of the Representatives elect from this county to the next legislature, and it was that the fight should be made on the color line. Mr. Clarkson, a member of the Democratic State Executive Committee, proposed this policy to the committee at a meeting in the early spring of this year, and it went through by a majority of only two. It has proved to be a winning policy, and in common justice and fairness we make public Mr. Clarkson's record on it."

While it is not probable that labor conditions will ever be such in this country as to enable us to compete with China in the production of cheap teas, there certainly is a field for the high grade article. It is well known that we can grow the tea plant to perfection in the Southern States; it is also a recognized fact that the best teas that we can import from China are not the best teas produced, which are kept for home consumption. Several tea plantations have been started in the South for the production of high grade tea, and it is stated that one located at Summerville, South Carolina is proving a success. The cost of raising the tea is something less than 30 cents per pound, with a prospect of still further reduction, while it is said that none of the tea has brought less than \$1. Great care is taken in the curing and rolling, with the idea of placing on the market nothing but tea of the very finest grade and flavor. So, in South Carolina tea growers have met with considerable success. Our North Carolina Station a few years ago attempted to encourage its growth in this State, but seems to have failed to awaken much interest in the matter.

We print the following item from Farmer's Voice not because we endorse all the sentiments therein expressed, but because it contains a few sturdy facts which we had as well face now as in the future. Says the Voice:

"The results indicate two things: 1, silver is no longer the issue, the issues, greater and more fundamental questions having driven it into comparative obscurity; and, 2 the Populist party, with its innumerable factions, its petty jangles and the evident desire of its

leaders to "reform" things by getting possession of all the offices, thereby putting themselves on the low levels of partisanship which have so disgusted honest citizenship with the Democratic and Republican parties, has driven out a large and respectable element. This election ought to clear the atmosphere; it should arouse the people to a comprehension of the fact that as long as they strive selfishly after the material gains of political life they may not hope to secure reforms all honest friends of the plain people so earnestly desire. Populism had its origin in a sincere purpose to correct existing evils. The very magnitude of the movement attracted to it political self-seekers who have come to dominate it in their own selfish interests. Hence the selection of secondary questions as issues; hence the interminable factional quarrels; hence the overwhelming defeat of Tuesday. We believe that millions of our people are ready to follow the lead of capable and honest men, who, disregarding personal interests, are prepared to do battle for those true principles of government through whose adoption and practice justice may be secured, and may be secured by no other means."

### AGRICULTURE.

#### IS YOUR CELLAR WELL STORED?

Do not think, because you had a profitable crop of early peas, beans, lettuce and radishes, or potatoes for that matter, that your garden is no longer in debt. On the contrary it owed you for the plant food given, delicious vegetables from May until December, and sufficient stored away for winter use. It is your fault and not that of the garden if you do not have them; most vegetables that will mature in six weeks from sowing time, will mature as well in August and September as in May and June, while many, such as turnips, celery and cabbage, make their best growth in October. Keep up a succession; the moment one crop is out of the way, replace it with another. If your vegetable cellar is empty now, this is a good time to lay by for next season.

#### EXPERIMENT STATION REPORT.

Our North Carolina Experiment Station has just issued its report of 44 pages, covering the work for the year 1897 and for the first half of 1898. The volume consists of the report of the Director, together with the chiefs of the different divisions of the Station, and is accompanied by an index to the report and to the bulletins of the Station issued during the period referred to.

An examination of the report shows that 16 regular bulletins of the Station were issued, relating to fertilizer analyses, compost making, compost peddler, orchard, garden and field crops and their diseases, the housing and feeding of stock, birds and medicinal plants. There were also various special press and information bulletins, and other publications, amounting in all to fifty, containing 783 pages. The Station has kept up with its rather heavy correspondence, its work at Southern Pines, the study of poultry keeping, the analyses of the commercial fertilizers on sale in the State, the study of the digestibility of the common feed ing stuffs, as well as other lines of work referred to in previous reports, and the importance of which to the people of the State is probably well known and highly appreciated.

In addition, the Station has aided in securing the enactment of a law providing for inspection of the nursery stock sold in the State, and which is liable to contain the San Jose scale and other dangerous crop pests. At the time of the enactment of this law, there were laws in other States, and since the enactment of this law many other States have realized the importance of such legislation and have secured it.

During 1897, the Station discovered the presence of tuberculosis in its herd of cattle, and in consequence, some of the animals were slaughtered. The wide publicity given the matter has served to call the attention of the people of the State to the danger of tuberculosis, and the result will doubtless prove very beneficial.

The first edition of the bulletin on Trucking in the South was so popular that it became exhausted, and it was necessary to reprint it.

The bulletin on the Ornithology of North Carolina and the bulletin on the Medicinal Plants of the State, should prove particularly valuable as records. There was a considerable increase in

the number of samples of fertilizers sent for analysis, and attention is called to the fact that during the year about 208,000 tons of commercial fertilizers were consumed in the State, and that one brand out of four fell below its guarantee in some single constituent.

An investigation has been begun as to the nature and extent of food adulteration. The consumption of food in North Carolina, annually, amounts to probably one hundred millions of dollars, and it will be interesting to know the extent to which our people are imposed upon by adulteration or misbranding, or by some other means. Many States have a Food Control similar to our own Fertilizer Control, and it may be advisable, at some time, for our State to endeavor to protect her citizens from fraud by the same means.

The report and index will be sent to any one, free of charge, who will make application the Director of the Experiment Station at Raleigh.

### SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE.

An Interesting and Valuable Contribution to the Subject.

In the superb volume, "The Empire of the South," published by and prepared under the supervision of the Southern Railway, appears a most interesting chapter upon agriculture in the South. Mr. Frank Presbury, the author of the book, is a recognized authority on such matters, and the volume, which is to have a large distribution, will be productive of much good to the South. We quote from the article the following:

To the man of limited means no section holds forth such favorable inducements as the South. Lands are low in price and transportation facilities are of the best. All the grain and vegetable products that will grow in the West grow much more abundantly in the South, and there is a wide range of products that are indigenous to the South that can only be raised there and cannot be transplanted to the higher latitudes. Rates of living are cheaper than in any other section, because of the mild climate, requiring less fuel, and the greater variety of products available for supplying the necessities of the family. Of the families owning farms, the percentage owning subject to incumbrance, the average incumbrance and the average interest charge are shown in the following table for the whole country and for several Southern States:

FARMS OCCUPIED BY THEIR OWNERS, WHICH ARE INCUMBERED.	Average	
	Per cent.	Average incumbrance.
United States	22.22	\$1,224.87
Alabama	4.33	609.54
Georgia	3.38	681.57
Kentucky	4.66	1,069.71
Mississippi	7.70	619.61
N. Carolina	4.88	722.57
S. Carolina	8.00	930.80
Tennessee	3.21	667.41
Virginia	3.16	1,308.79

The logic of the agricultural situation is, therefore, that as a class the Southern farmer has the better end of the financial proposition. The man now living on a rented farm in the overcrowded portions of the North or West has great difficulty in getting a "farm of his own," while if he goes South it is within the power of almost every one to secure a place and be in position to build up and enjoy a home, leaving something for his children to inherit. This is emphasized by the official figures, which show that in the nine seaboard Northern States, with a population of 105 to the square mile, and with 51.81 per cent. of the population urban, there is one pauper for every 559 inhabitants. In the eight seaboard Southern States, with a density of 33, and with 16.03 per cent. of the population urban, there is one pauper for every 1,093.

The vast movements in industrial and mining operations in the South have to a great extent overshadowed the quieter agricultural pursuits, but, nevertheless, tremendous strides were made, as will be seen by the following comparative figures:

Farms	1,726,480	2,562,127
Acres under crops	54,679,145	93,611,017
Value farm products	\$611,699,145	\$1,006,476,800
No. livestock	39,448,360	53,211,613
Value	\$360,066,883	\$516,872,714

It is little understood among emigrants that the South presents advan-

tages far superior to those of the great West. The climate is much better; the number of towns springing up all over the South bring in their train nearer markets and better prices; the soil and seasons are so admirable that crop failures are rare; the farmer can raise a greater variety of products with the certainty that he can find profitable and convenient markets for them. The small farmer in the South is immensely better situated than one of similar circumstances in the West, and the possibilities in grain-growing in the South were illustrated recently when a South Carolina farmer won the prize offered by the American Agriculturist for the largest yield of corn per acre, in competition with the most progressive farmers in every section of nearly every State in the Union.

The Manufacturers' Record, of Baltimore, has shown that the South's population supporting power has scarcely been touched upon. According to the figures, it is possible for the Southern States alone to support a population of upward of 88,000,000 of souls, basing the estimate upon conditions existing in Pennsylvania to day. The latest census statistics, however, show that not one of the Southern States, with the exception of Maryland, is populated to the extent of one fifth of the density of Massachusetts or Rhode Island. Under the circumstances, it will at once be perceived that the fear of overcrowding the South is groundless. The South can stand an immense tide of immigration and yet its power of absorption will remain comparatively unimpaired. The farmer will participate most largely in the prosperity that will follow. Already he is finding out the value of the "intensive system" of farming, which by high manuring produces more on a single acre than he formerly got from four, and he has also begun to feel the beneficial effects of the great industrial population which he is called upon to supply with the products of his farm. As that class increases in numbers the demands made for farm products will increase accordingly, and thus prosperity of the one will react upon the other, and the whole section will be benefited.

All the advantages which make in favor of agriculture in the South apply with equal force to its allied industry, the dairy and stock raising business. Nearly every portion of the Southland is well watered and produces nutritious grasses in abundance. Certain sections, as in Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia, have long been famous for the quality of the cattle and horses produced, but as a whole the stock raising interests of the South are still undeveloped and offer the greatest opportunity of capital and enterprise.

In nearly every garden there are numerous vegetables left in the ground that could be easily stored for winter use, thereby adding to the profits of the garden as well as to the luxuries of the table, as no meal is worthy the name unless vegetables form a prominent part. It is astonishing to see how much there is, or may be, in the garden upon the approach of winter that is usually neglected; vegetables that are difficult to obtain when wanted. There are always plenty of carrots, an indispensable vegetable for soups, and a small quantity of which are sufficient for winter use. A few beets are desirable, and usually there are sufficient allowed to spoil in the ground to make good dishes.

### LETTER TO THE BRIGHT BOY ON THE FARM.

No 3  
[From Wallace's Farmer.]

I have asked you in previous articles to help me to demonstrate the correctness or incorrectness of certain theories that I hold with reference to taking care of the cows and the pigs on the farm. You are, or should be, however, a great deal more than a grower of live stock, honorable as that vocation is, and now I ask you to help me test some theories I have entertained for many years with reference to the education of farm boys by trying my theories on yourself. You no doubt have the idea that being a farm boy and having access at the present to nothing but the country schools it will be impossible for you to secure a first-class education without leaving home. Now, I have a theory that the right kind of a farm boy can get a better education at a reasonably good country school than the ordinary town boy actually gets in his high school. I do not say that you can get a better prac-

tical education in the country school than the town boy can get, if he has a mind to, in the high school. What I mean is that you can get, if you wish, a more practical education than the majority of town boys actually secure. If you will conduct the experiment for me in the way that I will suggest, it certainly can do you no harm. I am absolutely certain that it will do you a great deal of good.

The greatest good that schools and teachers ever do anybody is first to wake the boy up thoroughly, to fill him with ambition, to imbue him with a noble purpose, and the second is to practice him in the use of whatever degree of intellect he may possess. These are the only two things that any school can do for a boy. The rest he must do for himself. Schools are not knowledge factories, or at least should not be. The French have a noted and high-priced dish called p<sup>ate</sup> de foie-gras, which in plain English is goose liver. In order to produce livers of enormous size, because diseased, the geese are fastened to the floor and are stuffed to their utmos capacity with food that creates this abnormal and diseased liver which our frog-eating friends across the water regard as such a great luxury. Sometimes I think that the boys in our schools are treated like these geese, stuffed with facts, knowledge, rules, definitions, etc., to overloading and are much like a fatted horse. The boy gets the notion that the object of his going to school is to acquire knowledge. He is mistaken. The object in going to school is to come in contact with superior minds in the persons of the teachers and the brightest pupils and get thoroughly waked up, and furthermore to exercise his body in football and other games; in other words, to develop the mind and stimulate it and fill it with noble ambition is the main object in going school. The acquisition of facts, knowledge, rules, etc., is merely incidental.

I had a call last week from an old schoolmate whom I had not seen for forty nine years. I was greatly interested in him. He left school when he was fifteen years of age and I was thirteen. He has never had any opportunity of education and yet he is a very well informed and intelligent man. He has acquired large wealth by legitimate methods and in acquiring wealth he has acquired an education of more practical value than many college graduates. You can do the same. You can, however, never do it unless you resolve at the start that you will never undertake a study, be it grammar, arithmetic, geography, or what not, without the determination to master it thoroughly and know everything there is to be known about it in the book or from the teacher. If you will cultivate this habit of thoroughness, it will be worth thousands of dollars to you in after life.

You have some advantages which the town boy has not. Your father has work for you from the time you can pick up chips or coals. You are trained to habits of industry, if your parents have done their duty by you. You have plenty of exercise going to and from school, and you have, if your father does his duty, plenty of good books to read. I advise you not to read many books and only of the best and read them over and over again until they become like the iron in your blood. Books skimmed over do the boy no good. Avoid novels as a rule, but read the best. Begin from the very first to put your thoughts into writing. Write imaginary letters; write real ones. Study how to express yourself in plain, simple English. That in itself is an education which many college graduates never get. Remember that neither Shakespeare, our greatest dramatist, nor Burns, the poet of universal humanity, nor Abraham Lincoln ever had any education beyond a common school—not to mention great names nearer home. You can get an education if you but will without leaving home. Read article in this paper carefully three or four times over, then lay the paper aside and without looking at it try to express the same thoughts in your own language without using the same phrase. My theory is that if you will do as I have suggested you will get a better education than the majority of boys get at high school or than some of them get at college. I do not say that you should not go to high school. If you are to be a farmer you should go to the agricultural college, but it will be a waste of time and money for you to go until you are thoroughly waked up and get all you can out of the common school. It won't hurt you to act on this theory of mine. It will help you immensely and you will be a living demonstration of its correctness or its falsity.—Uncle Henry.