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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 14.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 11, 1899.

No. 9

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

The Editor is not responsible for the views of Correspondents.

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 of 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 14, 1890

PRACTICAL FARM NOTES.

Written for The Progressive Farmer by the Editors and H. G. Mitchell

By the cold weather of last Tuesday (4th) some of our readers were made to appreciate the wisdom of the article (from the Western Plowman) in The Progressive Farmer of that date, "Planting Early." We advise you to give that article a second reading.

"Experiments With Cotton 1898." by J. F. Duggar, makes a valuable bulletin (No. 101). Sent out by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station at Auburn. Our readers interested in cotton growing should send for a copy. Address: "Director Experiment Station, Auburn, Ala."

The Blvidere (Ill.) Standard reports a case in which a lady who owned forty cows killed thirty eight of them because she had just that little amount of learning about dangerous insecticides.

She knew Paris green was used to kill insects on trees and reasoned that the same agent would kill lice on her cows and on the assurance of a local druggist that this was true she proceeded to sprinkle her cows with the deadly poison. The cows licked themselves as is their way, and as a result all but two of them are dead.

It is reported in Newark, N. J., that manufacturers of fertilizers are about to effect a combination. Those interested in the movement are the Lister Agricultural Chemical Company, of Newark; M. L. Shoemaker & Co., I. P. Thomas and Charles & Carpenter, of Philadelphia; Bowker & Co., of Boston; Peaton Fertilizer Co., New York; Bradley Fertilizing Co., of Philadelphia and Boston, and the Crocker Fertilizer Co., of Buffalo.

In reply to an inquiry as to the price of cotton in the future, will say that while we make no pretence to the gift of prophecy, we are sure that as long as the conditions that caused the present low price of cotton continue in force, low prices will continue. One of three things will bring about an increase in price: (1) proper change in the country's financial system; (2) a decrease in acreage great enough to cause a cotton famine; (3) thorough organization on the part of the farmers, so as to enable them to fix the prices of their own products as other industries do. This is the extent of our prophecy.

Notwithstanding all of Germany's hostility and discrimination against American products, agricultural, and others, it seems that she is the only continental country of Europe that is making any move to adjust her regulations in a manner favorable to the increased importation of these products. With England there has been no trouble. She has always appeared glad to receive our meats and other staples, and while there has been and

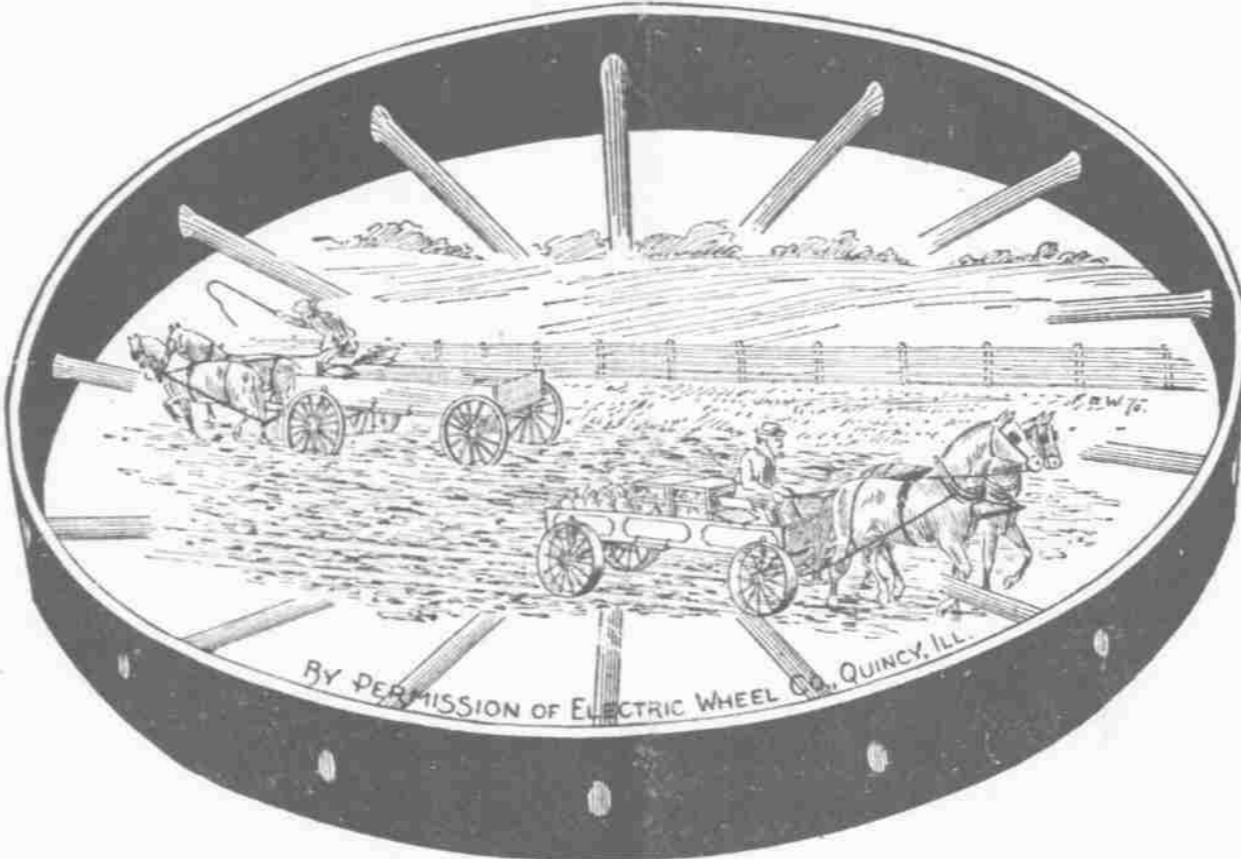
is a good deal of prejudice among Englishmen in favor of their own productions, so that the best American meats especially, have been sold as English, thus bringing better retail prices, no annoying and unjust regulations have been placed on our goods. The continental countries, on the other hand, have made every regulation in force a pretext for embarrassing or excluding American products. Under the plea of protection to health and of guarding the country from diseases, American live stock, canned and dressed meats, fruits, etc., have been excluded or ridiculously quarantined. American cattle on the hoof are excluded under the plea of disease, whereas they are the only cattle imported into European countries that are free from disease. While the land owning party in Germany is clamorous for protection and prohibition of American imports, the government itself, Secretary Wilson states, is now really making an effort to arrange matters favorable to the importation of our agricultural products. The Great mass of German consumers now see that the importation of American meats and other farm products will make living cheaper. Of all the countries of the Continent, the Secretary says, Germany is the only one which is doing anything to favor our export trade. The truth of the matter is, although the Secretary does not say so, that the power which his department now has of inspecting German or other package which comes into this country, and rejecting it if he thinks it contains matter in any way deleterious to health, it undoubtedly recognized by Germany and the fact that in case of retaliation the United States could give German trade a fearful blow, is having a salutary effect in causing her to heed American protests against her unjust discriminations.

A farm paper that fears to speak out on all the great questions affecting the farmer's welfare does not deserve the support of the farmer. With shame we confess that the Southern farm papers are as a rule much less courageous and outspoken in such matters that are the farm papers of the West. How many Southern farm papers have had a word to say regarding the constantly increasing power of organized capital? How many have published a line urging the farmers to unite for mutual protection? It is well to watch these things. Only a few weeks ago we solicited an ad. from a well known advertiser—one whose ad. appears in nearly every other Southern farm journal. After some correspondence, he wrote us: "To be perfectly frank with you, the only reason why we have never advertised in The Progressive Farmer is the stand it has taken against all organized capital," and plainly stated that unless we changed our policy he would not advertise with us. Now The Progressive Farmer has never said that capitalists should not organize; it has only contended that the farmers too should organize—should get in a position to assert their rights, just as capitalists assert theirs. And this is "our stand against organized capital!" The other farm journals had taken no such stand, and so they got the patronage of this great advertiser. We did not get the ad., but we kept our manhood, and our courage, and are determined to keep up the fight, leaving it to the farmers to decide whether or not they prefer a paper that stands with them in their contest against the San Jose scale and crab grass, but against them in their greater fight against the greed of organized capital to one that stands with them and by them in their fight against unjust laws as well as against bugs and insects.

The letter referred to also gives a good reason for patronizing those who advertise in The Progressive Farmer in preference to all others. When you patronize our advertisers you are not enriching those who are trying to browbeat and coerce the press of the country into supporting the unjust and oppressive practices of monopoly. If the time has come when monopoly can boldly say to the farm press "Unless you are blind to our sins, we will not advertise in your paper," then the time has come when the farmers should say "We will support only those papers that have the courage of their convictions, and will patronize only those who advertise in these papers."

Attorney General Walsler expresses the opinion that the anti trust bill recently passed by the General Assembly will in no way interfere with the operations of trusts in this State.

WHY THE ACT ENCOURAGING WIDE TIRES SHOULD APPLY TO ALL COUNTIES IN THE STATE.



NARROW TIRES } BAD ROADS } VS } BROAD TIRES } GOOD ROADS. A SAVING OF \$600,000,000 ENCOURAGING WIDE TIRES.

All those of our readers who are interested in any species of legislation looking toward improvement of the public highways will find food for reflection in what follows in this article. It is estimated that the public roads of the United States aggregate 1,500,000 miles in length. The somewhat conservative estimates of Gen. Roy Stone of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, places the total wagon transportation at approximately 500,000,000 tons. The average distance of haul is placed at eight miles, and the average cost of transporting one ton that distance is assumed to be \$2. This makes the total yearly cost of wagon freighting a round billion of dollars. All this is assuming that the roads of the country are in their present unimproved condition. Should the roads be put in first-class condition, and brought to something like the state of perfection in which we find them in foreign countries, it is claimed by those who are in a position to know, that this same ton of freight could be transported the same distance at a cost of only 80 cents. On this basis the enormous saving of \$600,000,000 a year in wagon transportation would result from perfect highways in every section of the country.

A better idea of the magnitude of this great saving may be drawn from the fact that the total animal value of all farm products is something like \$3,000,000,000, and that the saving above referred to would equal one fifth or twenty per cent. of that amount. The tax returns of the entire country show that we are spending \$20,000,000 a year for the maintenance of public highways. This means just the keeping of roads open and passable and does not include any permanent improvement. The maintenance and improvement of public highways therefore becomes a serious problem and one which should engage the attention of every thinking individual who is obliged to employ them in the conduct of his business.

A long step in the right direction, because it means permanent improvement, would be the general introduction of the modern broad-tired wagon wheels. This matter is appreciated in many States to that extent that the farmer who uses such wheels on his wagon has his high way tax greatly reduced in consideration of the fact. North Carolina has taken a step in this direction. Broad tires do not cut up and rut the highway, but rather firm it, and frequent passing over the same ground has the same effect as passing a heavy roller over the surface. This effect is shown in part by the accompanying illustration, which shows a wagon equipped with the broad-tired Electric Steel Wheels made by the Electric Wheel Co., of Quincy, Ill. Much more of value along this line may be gleaned from their book "Farm Saving." Send for a free copy.

Commenting on the book, "Principles of Agriculture," by Prof. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., to which we referred last week, Farmer's Voice says: "We have read this book with much pleasure. Prof. Bailey has a national reputation, and in his book has told plainly where the foundations of agriculture are laid. He explains how the elemental substances that are used by plants are changed into forms by which the plants can use them. There are no technicalities to confuse those who have had no opportunity to study technical definitions.

Those Who Use Wide-tire Vehicles to be Exempt, in Certain Counties, From a Part of Their Road Tax.

The legislature passed the following, which is designed to encourage the use of wide-tire vehicles:

"WHEREAS, The use of wide-tire vehicles on the public roads of the State, as shown by experience, will both benefit and protect roads by packing and smoothing the surface of the same

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

"Section 1. That every person in the State, who, during the year ending December 31st, 1899, and each succeeding year thereafter, owns and uses on the public roads of the State any wagon or other draft vehicle with tires as wide as the standard wide-tire wheels described in section two of this act, shall, on the presentation of proof thereof, satisfactory to the commissioners of any county in which said wide-tire vehicles are used, be paid by the county treasurer of said county, out of the road fund of the county or township in which the same is used, each and every year, for a period of five years, a sum equal to one half of his or her road tax. Provided, that in no case shall the amount so paid for any year be greater than two dollars on each vehicle, nor in any case shall the amount paid to any person, firm or corporation exceed the sum of five dollars, and provided, further, that in case any such person pays no road tax, he shall during each and every year, for a period of five years, be exempt from one-half of the labor which under the law he may otherwise be required to expend on the public roads of the county or township in which he resides.

"Section 2. For the purpose of this act the standard for wide-tire wagons and other draft vehicles shall be as follows: For a one horse vehicle with skeins 2 1/2 by 8 inches or under, or spindles 1 1/2 by 7 inches or under, two and one-half (2 1/2) inch tires; for two horse vehicles, with skeins larger than 3 1/2 by 8 inches, not over 3 by 9 inches, or with spindles more than 1 1/2 by 7 inches, and not over 1 1/2 by 10 inches, four inch tires; and for all vehicles with skeins and spindles larger than the above, six inch tires.

"Section 3. This act shall only apply to the following counties: Alamance, Buncombe, Edgecombe, Gaston, Forsyth, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Moore, Orange, (for Chapel Hill township only), New Hanover, Rowan, Wilson and Durham.

"Section 4. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification."

Do you take, or wish to take, a paper or magazine published outside of North Carolina? Then write to us for price in connection with The Progressive Farmer. We can probably give you a reduced rate and save you money

Scientific facts are treated in such a manner that anyone can understand them, and when the subject is finished the reader will be surprised to discover that he has acquired a large amount of technical information. "Principles of Agriculture" covers the whole ground in the way of treating of the principles that underlie the growth of vegetables, field crops, flowers and live stock. The book teaches principles, allowing the reader to apply them to his own particular surroundings." The Progressive Farmer will send a copy of this book to any address upon receipt of price, \$1.25.—

AGRICULTURE.

PEAS AND OTHER FARMING MATTERS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The farmer in Stanly county is somewhat behind with his work owing to continued wet weather. Scarcely any plowing has been done for the spring crop, and our roads are too bad to haul over, but the people will haul. The fertilizer bill will be as large as ever. Personally, I have been trying to reduce that bill, but it is a difficult task. It is impossible to make the manure we need on the farm where we have only work stock. If we had dairying in connection with our farming, we might, but it's very difficult to do anything at that in some sections. It is here. The best and safest method I have found is in planting as many peas as we can get in every year. The Wonderful pea is a good pea for vine and large growth for hay, but here it does not pay for seed. The large white pea is neither very prolific of vine or seed. The black does very well. The Clay about the same. The best all around for both purpose pea here is the Whippoorwill. It has a good growth of vine and produces seed very well.

Since I have been sowing peas, I have constantly improved my land and had plenty of good hay that will almost keep up mules and milk cows without additional feed. The cow pea is the farmer's friend if wisely managed. The hay is as easily saved as any hay and gives rich milk and good butter.

There is a little speckled pea here that we call the Oregon that is a very good pea, though very hard. It is extra early. I have had dry peas on the vine the 20th of June. I expect to plant several acres in peas this year and manure them well. They pay more than the same acreage in cotton. But cotton will always be our money crop here and we must raise all of that we can. We should strive to make it pay us to raise it by improving our lands. It is only on the improved lands there is any pay in it.

W. T. CUTCHIN.
Meejts Farm, Shankle, N. C.

THE SWEET POTATO CROP.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

As the time is at hand when preparation for this very important crop must be made, allow me some suggestions from a plan of setting and cultivation that has not failed for thirty years to raise a remunerative crop of this most excellent esculent. It used to be a custom to pull up high ridges with a hoe and set the sprouts on these ridges. This kind of extra work has proven worthless. I prefer land not generally rich, especially in nitrogen, and have raised an excellent crop with no ammonia applied except that in pine straw and leaves, putting the leaves in a broad furrow and putting on them three or four hundred pounds of acid phosphate and muriate of potash, three hundred pounds of the former to fifty of the latter. I throw two furrows on this preparation and am ready for setting the sprouts, leaving the middles to be torn up with cultivator ten days later, thus destroying the weeds that would otherwise start with the potato.

I cultivate almost as flat as cotton and much in the same way, plowing with cultivator right up to the plants so that all the hoe work necessary for an acre can be done easily by one hand in a day. At the last plowing I throw a little dirt to the plants so the roots may not be exposed to frost.

One important point for keeping sweet potatoes in winter is to put up for late keeping only those raised from the vine; they keep much better, are better to eat and can be raised cheaper. I try to set a patch of sprouts early in May and manure this higher so that I may get the vines earlier and by the last of June or first of July I set with vines the crop for winter use, seldom digging any set with sprouts except for early eating. Hogs dig the main crop set in sprouts, putting hogs on these early in September, thus starting hogs early and getting potatoes eaten before extreme cold weather. I set half an acre in vines last year between the 8th and 10th of July and housed from the same 100 bushels of potatoes, leaving enough in the patch for 15 hogs two weeks.

For me there is no crop I raise that pays better in proportion to cost of raising than the sweet potato. It makes good pork, good milk, and ex-

cellent food for the table. I have noticed several years that the average cost of raising sweet potatoes with me is less than ten cents per bushel. I usually raise them as a second crop, following truck peas. It is a very good succession, and I never use any more fertilizer for the potato crop after peas.

As to keeping sweet potatoes, I have very little trouble. I put them in a long bank, small and large all together, not taking time to scrap them out, and one advantage of having the potatoes hang together in bunches is, they can be piled up higher in the bank. I put on six or eight inches thick of pine straw and dirt ten inches thick at base but thinner at the top, leaving a ventilation at the top, but covering well to keep out the water. In this way we seldom lose 5 per cent. of the crop and the busy work of harvesting is not hindered in sorting out the small and large potatoes, there being more time for this later, and the small potatoes find a ready market in the cow stall or pig pen. We usually take out enough from the long bank to meet the demand for two or three weeks and do not open it in freezing weather. I do not dig potatoes after the old style, but bar off one side with a turn plow, and letting the horse walk back in that furrow, throw out the potatoes with the plow and pick them up. D. L. Bellair, N. C., April 4, 1899.

AN APPRECIATED TRIBUTE.

LIVINGSTON, N. C., April 4, 1899.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

I have been taking your paper ten years. During this time, and previous to it, I have taken quite a number of agricultural papers in addition to the sample copies of agricultural papers have been sent to me which I have carefully examined. With this opportunity for making a comparison, I do not hesitate to say that your paper is one of the very best of which I have any knowledge. No farmer in North Carolina, in my opinion, can afford to do without it; I certainly could not, although I take two other agricultural papers. Any farmer who will take it and read it carefully and carry out the many suggestions made will in the course of a year get the value of his subscription several times over, and I am glad to say further that the paper has, in my opinion, been steadily improving for some time of late.

In addition to this, your paper is an admirable channel in which the people may discuss public questions. You are ever ready to give all sides a patient hearing, which is greatly to your credit, and too rarely met with in most other papers. I have myself had occasion to differ with you pretty sharply sometimes, and you have always given me a fair showing.

I make these statements voluntarily because I think it is simply due to you that I should do so.

I greatly regret that my continued invalidism has made it impossible for me to contribute to your columns for sometime. Wishing you abundant success, I am,

Yours sincerely,
Geo E Boggs

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE UPPER SOUTH.

In Mitchell county, N. C., this past season, a farmer who farms by modern methods, made 43 2 bushels of wheat per acre over an entire field, by actual survey and measurement. Of course Mitchell county is in the mountain country, and has never been a cotton-growing section, but the lands there are very similar to a large part of the upper Piedmont, where cotton has been grown for generations on a soil, and in a climate, well adapted to the growth of the grasses and clovers, and there is no reason under the sun why over the wide rolling clay region of the Piedmont section of North Carolina the finest crops of wheat and grass should not be grown, and the old gullied and washed hillsides be covered with sod and redeemed from washing and destruction. The crop of 43 2 bushels of wheat per acre is a long way ahead of half a bale of cotton at 5 cents per pound, and the rolling hills of the Piedmont section should never have been devoted to the continual culture of cotton, which has resulted in the terrible gullies that now disfigure the country, and make some tracts almost irreclaimable except at an enormous expense.

Steep hills that nature intended to be covered with grass and to support flocks and herds have been brought

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]