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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 day. 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. Folk, July 14, 1890

## PRACTICAL FARM NOTES.

Written for The Progressive Farmer by the Editors and Prof. Guy E. Mitchell

A suggestion worthy of being teated has recently been made by R. W. Cloughier, of the Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas, and is, in substance, as follows: In the middle of the field of corn plant two or three rows with seed corn of a variety different from that planted in the rest of the field. Pull out the tassels of the corn in these rows before they develop pollen, so that the ears will be fertilized with the pollen of the other corn. Select the seed for next year's planting from these rows. It is claimed that by this method an increased yield of at least ten bushels per acre has been obtained.

A thoroughly practical and useful bulletin is about to be issued by the Department of Agriculture on diseases of potatoes and their treatment. It is short and to the point, being not over 10 pages of straightforward statements which can be easily grasped by any farmer, without requiring hours of time in searching through voluminous chapters. Some five diseases are described, including Early Blight, Late Blight or Rot, Brown Rot, Scab and Leaf Burn or Scale.

If you desire a copy of this work, send a postal to the "Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.," asking for Farmers' Bulletin No. 91, and it will be mailed you free.

Secretary Wilson states that the Department of Agriculture will likely spend \$10,000 during the next two years in buying date palms for the Southwest. One of the expert vegetable pathologists of the Department, W. T. Swingle, is now in Morocco making a close study of the African date and selecting the very finest varieties and those supposed to be best adapted to this country. It has been found that date palms, under irrigation, will grow as well in Arizona as in Arabia. Early Mormon settlers in the Territories proved this many years ago; but the trees were not of the best varieties and date growing never developed as an industry. The Department, as Secretary Wilson indicates, is prepared to push the experiment on an extensive scale. Each date palm will be shipped in its own tub and should arrive at its destination without material if any injury.

The farm's best crop is its crop of boys and girls—the future men and women of the State, and some one has well said that anything which dwarfs their lives or teaches them bad habits or gives them wrong views of life or wrong habits of business or which leads in any way to dwarf their manhood or womanhood is very bad farming, because it defers the very end of all farming. The man who makes money teaching his boy dishonesty or complicity or in any other way either diverting or dwarfing their natures

is a bad farmer no matter how rich his land, how large his crops, or how fine his stock. Farmers' sons and daughters are not exposed to many of the temptations which beset the paths of the men who live in the city, but the farmer, nevertheless, affords splendid opportunities for strengthening the moral fibre and building strong characters. This calls to mind an exclamation once made by an old farmer:

"What a row the farmer would make if some one planted poison ivy in his garden. Yet he often puts a hired man with a poisonous mind right in with his children!"

A prominent agricultural writer very truthfully says: "When one is very much rushed with work it is a good idea to adopt the plan of one of the most successful farmers I ever knew. When he found work crowding him he would jot down in a small memorandum each task to be done, then number them, beginning with the most pressing. He kept two hired men, and after his memorandum was completed he would read it to them, so that they would understand his plans, and when one job was done they could pass to the next without a moment's delay. If any materials of any sort were needed to enable him to complete any job he would jot them down and procure them the first time he went to town. It seems that everything on his farm moves as easily and steadily as a clock. The hired men know just what to do next, and a vast amount of work is accomplished with no apparent hurry or worry."

More than ordinary attention has been devoted this year to the Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture. The present Secretary from the first has impressed upon his employees the importance of producing simple, practical articles which every farmer can understand and profit by, rather than abstruse, scientific articles, unintelligible to nine-tenths of the population of the country. One of the many popular articles which the Yearbook will contain is entitled "Improvement of Plants by Selection." It is quite simple, yet instructive. It shows that improvement in this line is as simple and important as is improvement in the dairy herd. For instance, in selecting Indian corn for seed, it is the common practice to select the best ears at the time of husking, the main object being to secure ears of good size, shape, and having large, well formed kernels and a proper proportion of cob and kernel. This, while good as far as it goes, does not take the vigor of the plant into account, and hence does not accomplish all that is intended. The largest ears may grow on comparative ly unproductive and weak stalks; therefore to obtain the best results, seed should be selected in the field.

By patient selection, year by year, although the improvement each year may be slight, entirely new varieties of plants are evolved. The article concludes with "Common methods of selection are simple and inexpensive and should become general practices in agriculture. Every farmer and horticulturist should devise for each crop a systematic method of selection so that the general crop may be grown continually from selected pedigree stock. The common agricultural crops respond readily to successive selection and in every case valuable results will doubtless reward the agriculturist's attention to this principle."

New trusts which propose to prey directly upon the farmer are now being organized. Recent Chicago dispatches say that a gigantic trust, to include all the large farm machinery factories of the United States, is in process of formation. Articles of incorporation under the laws of New Jersey are expected to be filed within a few days. The capital is to be \$50,000,000, of which \$15,000,000 has already been subscribed.

It is the purpose of the promoters to consolidate under one management all the factories for the production of reapers, harvesters, threshers, traction engines and other important machines used in the great agricultural industry. The Deering, McCormick, David Bradley & Co., and Walter A. Wood factories of Chicago, are said to be included in the plans, and in Wisconsin the J. I. Case plant at Racine, and the W. A. Stevens plant at Marietta.

The trust, it is said, will maintain prices, curtail the product and will, as far as possible, deal direct with the consumer in order to put a stop to

large commissions and the exchange of old machinery. The consummation of the plan will probably throw out of employment a large number of men who act as middlemen for the manufacturers under the present system.

Dispatches from New York say that a peanut trust also is about to be effected. The promoters of the consolidation several months ago secured options from many of the peanut growers. Some of the larger ones declined to give options, but it is said that now since the plan of consolidation is known, most of them are willing to sell and take stock in the company. The options expire on May 15th and the promoters express confidence that the new company, which is to be called the American Peanut Company, will be incorporated before then.

The main offices and warehouses of the company are to be in Norfolk, Va., and shipments will be made from that point to the large cities of the country, instead of being distributed from New York, as has been the custom of the past. The value of the peanut crop of the United States annually is estimated at between \$6,000,000 and \$9,000,000. One of the plans of the consolidation is to increase the product and export part of it. The peanut crop of the United States is raised almost entirely in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

By the way, an interesting article on "Peanut culture" will appear in next week's Progressive Farmer.

## AGRICULTURE.

### JUST A FEW HINTS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. I am at times disposed to give my tests and observations of land preparation for the various crops and also to prevent land waste and failure to yield bountiful supplies. The high fillings on our railroad beds through some of the poorest lands, are, to my observation soon grown up in briars, poke, rich weeds and the various grasses. Why this fertility? It is not in all cases caused by deposits of manure along the line.

Land should not be turned deeper than the soil, but you cannot cut the under strata too deep with a long old fashioned coultter made of a strong bar of iron with a flattened point. Let it down two feet if you wish and cut fine below and your soil is on top, where it should be. The land wants air below, and such preparation gives air and moisture. Cultivate shallow and open after every rain or oftener. Let your hillside ditches carry all the water and prevent water from standing on any place that is to be cultivated.

Greenboro, N. C. R. R. MOORE.

### VALUE OF SOUTHERN SOIL FOR HEMP CULTURE.

In a letter to the Southern Farm Magazine Mr. B. Adams writes: "Having seen in your March number a letter by Sydney Smythe Boyce in regard to the raising of hemp, and having studied hemp culture in France, I made up my mind that I would investigate the Southern lands and see if the true hemp could be found there. I have done so, and this letter is to let the great mass of people who are interested in the South and its development know my opinion of the matter. I found all along the bottom lands of the Meherrin river, which runs through Greeneville county, Virginia, fine bodies of first-class hemp land that would bring from 1200 to 1800 pounds of hemp per acre. This means a net profit of about \$75 per acre. The great advantages of hemp are that there is always a good market for it, and that seeing it only takes ninety days to develop the crop for market you soon have your money out of it ready to be invested again. It will grow any time from April to December; it helps to build up the soil; the cost of raising the crop is about \$25 an acre, while a fair crop will bring from \$100 to \$120 an acre. The proper way to start in the business would be to form a stock company, buy a suitable body of land and put it into this cultivation. This would demonstrate the value of the lands for the business, and, at the same time show to the country at large that a new and paying industry could be carried on in this section of the South. There is no doubt in my mind that more than 100 per cent. could be made in this business upon the capital in hand." It will be remembered that Prof. Emery wrote The Progressive Farmer a short time ago that hemp could be profitably grown in this State if a market could be secured.

### "CHEAP" HANDS THE DEAREST.

The farm hand of to day, that is the cheap man, is a shiftless fellow, who works on the farm because there is the only place a man of his habits and ability can get a job. He cares little for his employer's interests, does nothing he can avoid, his sole object in life seeming to be to do as little as he can to hold his job and draw his pay, and he seems to enjoy being on the perilous brink. Nothing gives him more satisfaction than cheating the "old man" out of an hour's work, says the National Stockman.

He would count it almost a disgrace to take the lead and do an honest day's work without the eye of his employer on him. He never sees anything to do until it is pointed out to him. He has the sagacity of the Indian when it comes to telling the noon hour and quitting time. It is a point of honor with him to break a pitchfork handle. Ax helms too must suffer. Tools are misused and lost. The farmer does not dare trust him to look after the stock.

The money paid for such help is worse than lost, and sooner or later the farmer must be brought to recognize that fact. He will be forced to limit his business to a scale corresponding to his own working ability, or in the end find himself worse off for his folly.

The cause of all this lies with the farmer himself. Through a mistaken idea of economy he will not materially recognize the value of the good man over the poor one. There are other more lucrative positions for honest, trusty men, and they cannot afford to work as a farm laborer. A poor hand gets the same wages a good man is paid so there is little inducement held out to a man to put forth an effort.

"But we cannot afford to pay high wages," farmers say. That may be. We do not debate the point. We do maintain, however, that if it pays to hire at all it pays to add a few dollars paid to the cheap hand and secure a good man. Cheap labor is not cheap in the long run. For an illustration:

A few years ago two young men came to a farmer here to hire out. One set his price and the other underbid, and after half an hour's dickering, took service at \$3 less per month than the other young man, who stuck to his price, saying he felt he could earn that much. At the end of the first two weeks an account kept with the "cheap" hand would have stood something like this:

Two weeks' wages.....	\$7 50
Pitchfork handle and axe helve..	1 25
Broken whiff tree.....	3 00
Broken pump handle.....	.75
Saw sharpened, hammer bought 1.50	
Total.....	\$14 00

Besides the financial part of the story the team had been spoiled for the spring and summer work by allowing their shoulders to get sore, the milk cows had become almost unmanageable and the feed for cattle, horses and hogs wasted. Did it pay? Let facts speak for themselves.

The remedy is, don't hire cheap labor. If it is necessary to economize by hiring a cheap man, dispose of your stock, keeping only what can see to yourself. If your farm is more than you can manage rent a part of it, seed it down or let it rest, but don't try to make it with a cheap man.

There are other causes of failure than the hired man, but this is one of the greatest leaks. Labor should be purchased with the same forethought as to worth as are the other requisites. Any man who is making his life a burden by worrying himself with a "cheap" man, will do well to take an idle hour and think as to whether it pays. Should he be unable to solve the problem let him silence his economical scruples for once and get a good hand for next season, just as an experiment. He will never regret the price of the venture.

### THE SOY BEAN.

Bulletin 24 of the Kansas Experiment Station, gives the following valuable information relative to the Soy bean, which, as a drought resisting crop, might become valuable to some Tar Heel farmers: The Kansas Experiment Station has been growing the Soy bean for the past ten years, starting with a small patch, and increasing the area until last year 35 acres were grown. It is a good drought resister, is not touched by chinch bugs, and the beans are richer in protein than linseed meal. With suffi-

cient moisture to germinate them, a crop can be grown after wheat and oats are harvested. In 1896 the yield on ground after wheat was eight bushels per acre, in 1898 six and one quarter bushels. With linseed meal at \$25 per ton, these crops after wheat would be worth \$6 00 and \$4 68 per acre. When planted earlier in the season, the yield of Soy beans is from 10 to 20 bushels per acre. The Soy bean not only furnishes a crop rich in protein, but at the same time enriches the soil. Henry Rogier, one of our graduates, reports an increase in large fields of five bushels of wheat per acre on land where Soy beans had previously been grown, over land that had not been in Soy beans.

With dairy cows, Soy bean meal takes the place of linseed meal, being somewhat richer in protein, a laxative feed, and softening the butter fat. Not over three pounds per day should be fed to a cow, and the softening effect on the butter may be overcome by giving feeds having the opposite tendency such as corn, Kaffir corn and cotton seed meal.

We believe the Soy bean is worthy of a trial in all parts of this State, and that the trial should not be made on less than an acre; five acres would be better. Hundreds of people have tried planting a quart of seed, with the result that grasshoppers and rabbits harvested these small patches.

### FARMERS AND POLITICS.

In order to be an up to date politician one must oppose everything the opposite party does, whether it be wrong or right, writes Fred Grundy, in Farmers' Voice.

If one be a Democrat and a Republican administration finds it necessary to thrash the Filipinos into submission he must denounce it in unmeasured terms. If the administration declares that Aguinaldo is a patriot for revenue only, he must be upheld as a daring hero who has sacrificed his all to lead his little army against the oppressor and spoiler. That he sold out his former insurrection to Spain for \$100,000, and now has raised his figure into the millions for the same sort of a deal with the United States should not be mentioned.

To be an up to date politician one must never positively state matters as facts. He must say: "It is reported, and the report is generally believed," or, "The statement has been made," or, "There is a rumor current, and it is not denied." Then follow this with the harrowing details of what might have occurred, or may occur.

If such rumor or report is emphatically denied by the injured party, that fact must not be mentioned. Simply drop it and proceed to distract him with something else of the same sort. The up to date politician does not care for facts; he deals in dolorous rumors, woeful hearsays, scandalous gossip and calamitous suppositions. If he be a Democrat he must bewail the disappearance of true Jeffersonian simplicity and constitution loving patriotism. If a Republican he must denounce everything the Democratic party does as being disastrous to the best interests of the people and wholly bad. Whichever party he belongs to he must labor without ceasing and talk everlastingly to discredit his political opponents.

Before me lies a county paper. In a recent issue it said: "We aim to publish the brightest, cleanest, newsiest paper in the county, and people are learning that fact and our subscription list is increasing rapidly." In its latest issue it says: "This is a straight Democratic paper. If we have ever published anything that Republicans can find any comfort in we would like to have somebody point it out."

This paper, like thousands of others, is not a newspaper for the whole people, but a lopsided, partisan sheet that makes it a rule to publish only abuse of one party and praise of the other. Does it represent the plain people? Not a bit of it. It represents only the officeholders and office seekers of one party; yet large numbers of people read it only, and thereby become lopsided partisans, instead of broad-minded patriotic citizens. There are lots of Republican papers engaged in the same business—creating bigoted, narrow minded partisans, instead of candid, impartial citizens.

Isn't it about time that the farmer learned that this partisan twaddle is all in the interest of officeholders and office seekers? That the leading parties, as at present constituted, are

simply the upper and nether millstones between which he is ground to powder? That so long as he allows himself to be tied hand and foot to party, and votes as party bosses dictate, irrespective of his own interests, so long will he be the hewer of wood and drawer of water for a horde of officeholders and office seekers.

It is claimed that a tariff is the father of trusts. The biggest trust in the world is Standard oil. Yet there is no tariff on oil. I think that most practical business men will admit that a tariff is a good thing to aid an infant industry in getting on its feet; but when it is fairly established why should that tariff be continued? I think every unprejudiced farmer who raises sheep is satisfied that a tariff on wool is helpful to him; but can any fair-minded man point out who a tariff on lumber benefits, other than the few millionaires who control the remaining small area of pine forests in this country?

Farmers must get rid of this political dogmatism—this narrow-minded partisanship, and shake off the shackles of the "bosses." So long as farmers allow one-sided politicians to dictate their political action so long will they be the mere tools of professional officeholders and office seekers.

### THE COMING FARMER.

The farmer of the immediate future will attend to details much more carefully than his forerunner did. Some of the new generation may be found and each year brings more of them into line, says an exchange.

The greatest fault with farmers is, and always has been, in this country at least, their spirit of wastefulness. They have been above attending to the petty details, but have lived in the large spirit of their broad acres, and by so doing have wasted much of their substance.

They have generously allowed their manure to lie in piles under the eaves of the barn until the rains have leached about all the water soluble constituents out of them, and later allowed the remainder to fire fang until it was a useless pile of rubbish not worth the cost of hauling to the field. They have looked upon the pruning of the orchard as a work that could be neglected until the superfluous branches were large enough to need the services of an axe and saw to lop them off. They could not see the benefit of wasting their time on a pitiful little berry patch for the sake of having a few quarts of berries for the use of the family. Machinery and tools have been left to the sun and rains and the tooth of time has eaten them up faster than continuous use would have done. The cow or horse that dies because it was not convenient to call in a veterinary surgeon has been hauled out to rot and pollute the air for a mile around instead of being burned or buried in the compost heap. The little drain has not been dug and an acre of land has been lying waste all these years; the board has not been nailed on the fence, the loose shingle on the barn replaced and many other of the details have been neglected all to become a source of positive loss.

This has been the case to such an extent that it may be said to have been the rule. Better things are now to be observed. Better farming is more attention to details, the closing of the little leaks, the picking up and saving of the unconsidered trifles. From these little things comes the model farm.

### HE QUIT DRINKING LAND.

A farmer interviewed by the Greenville (S. C.) News explained his success by stating that he read the newspapers; that he watched everything closely, finding that he could do something on his sixty acres of land every hour of the year, and by watching leaks. One statement of his was of unusual significance. He said:

"I like whiskey, but I am land hungry; I want more land. I figured out years ago that with very moderate drinking I'd drink an acre of good land every year. So I quit. At the end of a year I tell myself I'm just an acre ahead at \$25 an acre by not drinking. I find when I put it to my neighbors that way it makes them think. You tell farmers to think about land every time they start to buy whiskey, and calculate how much real estate they are drinking or giving away."

A farmer who is about thirty years old, with a wife and four children, is thus described by the News:

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]