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

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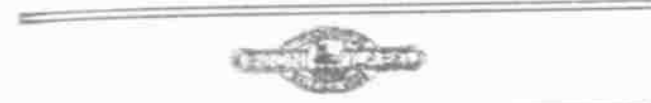
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We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, news, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

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 14, 1890.

PRACTICAL FARM NOTES.

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

A correspondent writes us for the name and address of some one who breeds Big Guinea swine; another subscriber wants the address of some breeder of Cotswold sheep. Persons having improved live stock of any kind for sale can find a ready market by putting an ad. in The Progressive Farmer. And our rates are low. If you have good stock to sell, write us.

Our readers who are interested in silos—and all enterprising farmers should be—can secure a very valuable bulletin on this subject free by sending postal card request for "Bulletin 167, The Construction of a Stave Silo" to Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y. The bulletin contains 18 pages and is illustrated. North Carolina needs more silos.

A Post Washington correspondent says that there are fair prospects that free rural mail delivery will be established in several counties in Western North Carolina. Rowan county already has it, and it works well. Senator Pritchard has stated that it also be established in Madison, McDowell and Cherokee counties.

Nothing could possibly do more than free delivery to bring the rural sections in closer touch with the business and political world. As an educator, it would therefore be of vast benefit. We are glad to see that the system is to be given a trial in this State and hope that results will be satisfactory.

Preliminary reports of the spring wheat acreage indicate a reduction of about 470,000 acres, or 25 per cent. Of the twenty States reporting 10,000 acres or upward in spring wheat, six report an increase aggregating about 245,000 acres and fourteen a decrease amounting to about 715,000 acres. There is a reduction of 7 per cent. in North Dakota, of 5 in Minnesota, 8 in Iowa, 3 in Wisconsin, 1 in Nebraska and 6 in Oregon. On the other hand there is an increase of 4 per cent. in South Dakota and of 6 in Washington. The average condition of spring wheat on June 1st was 91.4 as compared with 100.9 at the corresponding date last year, 89.6 on June 1st, 1897, and 83.2 the mean of the June average for the last fifteen years.

Secretary Wilson states that he has heard from Professor Curtiss, of the Iowa Agricultural College, who has been travelling in England and incidentally looking into the question of a British market for American horses of the hunter type. Mr. Curtiss states that he finds plenty of American hunters in England, contrary to expectation, but they are not known as such. They are horses which have been imported into Ireland from America, there trained and then shipped to England as Irish hunters. The Secretary

has just made a trip through Kentucky and Tennessee. He thinks there is no question but that the blue grass region can raise a hunter which will command a very high price in England. Such a horse, he says, must have considerable thoroughbred blood—this will give him courage—but to carry a beefy 15 or 16 stone (210 to 224 pound) Englishman, he must have three or four hundred pounds' weight than has the thoroughbred. Professor Curtiss also reported incidentally that fine American bacon is being shipped to Ireland, then stamped and reshipped to Britain as Irish bacon, which has the highest reputation in the world. Secretary Wilson himself states that he knows bacon men in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who came over from Ireland, bringing their methods and skill, and even their own brine in casks which had been used for years, and they are now making out of the Iowa hog the finest sugar cured bacon known.

An experiment is reported from Canada in wintering bees in which the hives were placed six inches from the floor and protected with a piece of old woolen carpet placed under the wooden cover. When placed in the cellar each colony had 30 pounds of honey, which proved more than sufficient for the winter, and all the hives wintered successfully. The temperature of the cellar, shown by a self-registering thermometer, remained steadily between 40 and 50 degrees F.

In 1896 some difficulty was experienced with persistent swarming of the bees, resulting in the weakening of the colonies, and in the following year most of the brood frames were filled with bees and a large upper story filled with wire foundations was added and the frames extracted as required. This gave an abundance of room and no swarming whatever occurred and all the colonies became strong before fall. An average of 45 pounds of extracted honey was taken from each hive.

The Biblical Recorder of last week says: "There is hope for the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, if its trustees will resist the faculty clique who are running it and making life a burden for their fellow teachers; there is hope if the trustees will make of the institution somewhat of that which its founders desired. There is no need for it and no future for it as a literary institution. To endeavor to make one of it is to argue that the University of the State has failed and that the denominational colleges are inadequate. To make a literary institution of it can benefit no one save the professors who conduct its departments." The Recorder asserts that in the College up to this time the "kid glove idea" has predominated. We do not think this statement correct, but it is true that the "kid glove idea" has of late threatened its future. We do not think, however, that it is now a serious menace. The little scheme of the Reorganization Committee to give less attention to agriculture by consolidating that department with the horticultural division was very properly nipped in the bud by the Board of Trustees at the recent session of the Board. And in so doing the Trustees rightly judged the temper of the people. They were not in a mood to be trifled with.

It is reported that testimony was taken before Senator Mason's pure food investigating committee, purporting to represent the butter interests of the country in which it was stated that butter could not be successfully canned or packed for export from the United States without the use of boric acid or some other preservative. This statement, if reported correctly, is vigorously contested by the Department of Agriculture. Not only do the best exporters of butter from the United States use no preservatives, but the Department itself for more than a year has exported butter to Great Britain, which has successfully competed with the best butter of that country, Denmark, and Australia and not a particle of boric acid or other preservative has been used. The Danish butter enjoys the very highest reputation and is sent to all parts of the world no preservatives being used. Most of the Australian butter is chemically preserved both for canning and refrigerating, but Australian creamerymen are divided among themselves as to what is the best method. The French and Germans do not hesitate to freely use chemicals when butter is being prepared for export. Major Alford, the chief of the dairy

division of the Department, states it as his belief that the use of preservatives is entirely unnecessary for exporting good butter; the best exporters using nothing of the kind, and yet furnishing butter to the United States Navy, guaranteeing it to keep for two years in any part of the world, and that preservatives are only needed to bolster up some poor, inferior article. "It is claimed," he said, "that a little boric acid does not injure the stomach; but where is the line to be drawn? It has been the position of this department that it was entirely practicable to export butter to any part of the world without the use of any chemical preservative and so far we have been working very successfully on these lines. We have shipped butter to England and Germany with good results and lately have shipped canned butter to the Orient. Results are not yet apparent, but I do not doubt that they will be encouraging to our dairymen."

A sharp advance in the price of farming implements is expected soon. A meeting of manufacturers was held in Chicago recently, at which the following firms were represented: Hawthorn's Manufacturing Company, Decatur, Ill.; George W. Brown & Co., Galesburg, Ill.; Mulford Heater Co., Galva, Ill.; J. E. Porter Co., Ottawa, Ill.; Keystone Manufacturing Co. and Sterling Manufacturing Co., Sterling, Ill.; Janney Manufacturing Co., Ottumwa, Ill.; Ohio Rake Co., Dayton, O.; Standard Manufacturing Co., Dayton, O.; O. H. P. Deuser Co., Hamilton, O.; McSherry Manufacturing Co., Middletown, O.; A. C. Evans Manufacturing Co., Springfield, O.; Abram Elwood Manufacturing Co., DeKalb, Ill.; King and Hamilton Co., Ottawa, Ill.; Luthy & Co., Peoria, Ill.; Sears Manufacturing Co., Plano, Ill.; Rude Bros. Manufacturing Co., Liberty, Ind.; Ohio Cultivator Co., Belleville, O.; T. P. Maer & Co., Springfield, O.; American Harrow Co., Detroit; E. Bement's Sons, Lansing, Mich.; D. M. Osborne & Co., Auburn, N. Y.; Taomas Manufacturing Co., Springfield, O.; D.ere Manufacturing Co., Moline, Ill.; Janesville Machine Co., Janesville, Wis.

A general advance in prices was advocated by those present, and committees were appointed to prepare a schedule for the various kinds of implements. These committees will attempt to make out their price list during the summer months and will report to a meeting of the Northwestern Plow Association, to be called this fall. It is thought a general increase of from 15 to 25 per cent. will be made out and agreed to. It is claimed that material from which farming implements are manufactured has increased in value to a corresponding amount.

AGRICULTURE.

COTTON RAISERS' TRUSTS.

How to Form and Make Successful. Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Co operation is becoming the watch word of the age. All classes must cooperate to escape sharp and increasing competition the result of increase of labor-saving machinery in countries having cheaper labor.

Our farmers must fence against this cheaper labor. The farmers must do as the manufacturers are doing—form trusts, cooperate and fix maximum prices.

HOW TO DO IT

Let the cotton raisers call a meeting at some central point and organize a Cotton Raisers' Trust and incorporate it. Organize every State and county where cotton is raised. Appoint a board whose duty it shall be to grade cotton and fix maximum prices on each grade, rent warehouse, send out circulars giving the price of cotton and teams; borrow money of the banks and forward to depositors of cotton, hold and sell as there is a demand at prices fixed.

To get maximum prices you must be able to advance the price beyond the world's market price, which is the maximum fixed by competition with capital employing cheaper labor in Egypt and India, which works for one-fifth to one-eighth required to pay American labor. You cannot do this and compete with this cheaper labor. You will have to place a tariff on raw cotton that will stop competition. You will have to send some of your ablest men to Washington to look after your interests as other trusts do. It is not essential to the success of the trust that all the cotton raisers join the trust. A few live, progressive planters in

each county will make the trust a success.

Can money be borrowed on cotton? Money is borrowed every day on cotton by speculators and others who hold it. Can money be borrowed on plantations to tide the planters over until they can realize on their cotton? Money can be borrowed on city property. Why? It is so managed as to make it pay. The planters cannot make their plantations pay because they are forced to sell at home at the world's market price fixed by competition with cheaper labor, which forces prices down below the paying point.

The banks do not want to loan money on the lands and be forced to take them. They want their interest and principal when due. Fix maximum prices on your cotton and it will be a paying crop and your plantations will have value and the banks will be pleased to loan money on this kind of property. The trust is the only power that can extricate the planter from the dilemma of low prices of cotton. What the manufacturers are doing the cotton planters and every other class can do. The manufacturing trusts are blazing the way and the farmers must follow suit.

Before India and Egypt are fully equipped with labor saving machinery competition will have ruined the cotton planters in the South. When all classes have formed trusts, the home consumption of cotton will have increased three fold and we will consume the largest crop ever produced. You must be able to command the dollars to distribute all that we have the facilities to produce. Cooperate, fix maximum prices and you can command the dollars to distribute all produced. This is a feasible plan by which the money can be secured to buy supplies to tide the planters over until they can realize on their cotton and save them from the high prices paid for supplies on credit. We have made an exhaustive study of trusts, their effects on this and other countries and are prepared to answer all questions germane. JAMES MURDOCK.

EX SOLICITOR LEARY WRITES

Contracts Farming in Ante Bellum Days With Present Day Methods and Points Out a Remedy. Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

EDENTON, N. C., June 10, 1899.

I have just received and read with a good deal of interest Prof. W. F. Massey's pamphlet on "Farming in North Carolina," and I consider it a very valuable paper. The station is doing a good work, and work that will be of great value to our farmers if they will take and read the bulletins as they are issued. It is to be regretted that our farmers as a class do not read more of the great interests entrusted to their keeping. It is to be hoped that the A. & M. College will by its labors place here and there all over the State scientific farmers from whom neighboring farmers may imbibes some of this learning, and in this way arouse general interest, and seeking after the most improved methods of farming. A capable scientific farmer is a godsend to any community of farmers; for the rusts our fathers followed in the good old times will not do now when economy and the best results are required and sought after. No State is blessed with better lands for general purposes than our own, for our lands are as good as any in the world, when properly cultivated and cared for. Lands, however, are like stock; they need constant attention one way or another if they are expected to be a source of profit.

Before the war in this county (Chowan) the lands lying to the east of Edenton and north of the Albemarle Sound were considered to be among the best in the State and the wealth of their owners was considerable and great prosperity abounded. It was indeed the land of hospitality and good cheer. No people were happier, or more contented. With my earliest recollections I recall the happy scenes that then existed amidst these lands of plenty and the planters who owned them. It was a great pleasure to drive through them and behold on every hand the evidences of thrift and plenty.

The scene has changed with the system introduced after the war. The old planter has disappeared, and the tenant has followed in his wake with the carelessness and slipshod methods which no lands can stand. Prof. Massey has given a fair statement of these lands, for only a few days ago I was talking with a practical

farmer of the better class, who stated that on one of these plantations in the second year he increased the productivity one hundred per cent. by draining and a proper course of husbandry. This is only an evidence of what can be done on other lands.

Now I am satisfied if we could add science to the practical judgment of our farmers, I believe these lands would again blossom as the rose. I am quite sure when the most improved methods are adopted in this section we shall again have one of the fairest portions of the commonwealth. We would be glad to welcome a sturdy set of farmers, who will bring with them new ideas, advanced methods and trained judgment. We need them sadly. Our experiment stations are doing much good by giving such valuable information to our farmers.

It has been urged with considerable force and reason that it is important that the elementary principles of agriculture be made a part of the course in our public schools, and why not? There is certainly no industry which merits any more consideration than this, and for one, I cannot see why we should not commence with the boy and let him learn the mysteries of his future calling. Let him have the key to unlock the bosom of nature from which he is to reap his future livelihood. It is important that we shall do our duty by the boys, in every way possible, for the development of the future manhood of the State.

WM. J. LEARY, SR.

PEAS AS FERTILIZERS AND FOOD

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

There is at present a very general interest in the culture of peas, particularly in the Southern States. They are considered to be one of the most important elements in the renovation of worn out fields and farms. They gather nitrogen from the air, and store it in the soil. The roots penetrate the compacted subsoil and open up the way for the circulation of the earth water. The mechanical condition of the soil is very greatly improved by the decaying not only of the roots in the soil, but also of the vines on the surface. No other crop except clover does this double work so well. Hence, we find that the fields improve more rapidly when planted in peas than under any other crop. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this feature of the pea crop.

PEAS AS HAY PRODUCERS.

While the pea is thus improving and enriching the soil, it is also paying its way and yielding a surplus revenue.

The vines when cut and cured for hay furnish one of the most nourishing and perhaps the most digestible of all the hay feeds. Animals fed on good pea vine hay produce manure of the finest quality, rich in nearly all the elements of plant food; mixing with acid phosphate and potash renders it a complete fertilizer. Cattle fed on pea vine hay keep in fine flesh, making choice beef; and milk cows give large yields of rich milk and choice butter. It is particularly suited to young animals. If cut when the peas are just about grown in the pods, it furnishes the needed elements for bone, muscle and fat.

We believe from our experience that the following method of dealing with peas will give good results. As soon as the dew, if any, is off, cut with the mower as many as you are prepared to handle thoroughly in half a day. Let these lie until the following afternoon. The next day cut again. In the afternoon rake up in windrows. Next day cut again, but not so many. Afternoon rake up as before, and also put in good round heaps those cut first day. Let these remain a few days, according to the weather. Then haul to the barn and mix wheat straw, oat straw or any dry grass hay you have, putting a layer of straw and a layer of pea vine each about one foot deep. If you have no straw, scatter the heaps of pea hay as much as you can. If the leaves shatter off, you have lost very little. The vines and pods are the valuable part.

PEAS AS HUMAN FOOD

Very little has been said about the value of peas as human diet. You see the white varieties offered at almost every grocery stand in the cities. With many families they are a standard dish. The Southern Lady Pea and the various Crowders are fully equal to the celebrated "Boston Beans," and are quite as nourishing. When well prepared and rightly seasoned, they are very pleasant to the taste. So

powerful is the tyranny of fashion, however, that very many think that the white peas are the only ones fit to be eaten. This is a very great mistake, for several of the colored varieties are better; they have more sugar and gluten and less starch than the white varieties. They are more nourishing and easier of digestion. This is true of the speckled peas generally.

Perhaps no single article of food gives to the laboring man more strength and power of endurance. Many millions of people live almost exclusively upon rice, while many others make Irish potatoes the chief diet. Peas surpass both of these in amount of nourishment, as is shown by the physical superiority of the laborers who use them for food.

So far, we have spoken of dried peas, but many farmers know that one of the most acceptable dishes ever placed before the hungry laborer is the green pea, taken when fully grown in size, though still green and tender. This is one of the luxuries of country life unknown to many city tables. Roasted in the hull, these green peas are indeed a treat. When good, strong common sense shall have conquered the prejudice against the colored peas, both in the green and dry state, they will become generally very highly esteemed as a table dish. The green peas will necessarily be confined largely to the section in which they are grown and the season when they are growing, but by judicious planting, both as to the time and the varieties, this season can be extended from the middle of summer to late fall. The dry peas may be shipped anywhere, and kept all the year round. They will naturally be enjoyed and appreciated more during winter and spring months when vegetables are comparatively scarce.

PEA MEAL.

Peas are also valuable when made into pea meal for use as cattle food.

The pea meal for dairy rations is very valuable. When ground together with oats they stand at the head of the list. It is strange, yet true, that easy and profitable as pea growing is, this vegetable should generally be so scarce upon the market that the price puts a limit upon the use. So we say again to our farmer friends: Plant largely of peas. Manure them with phosphate and kainit or muriate of potash. This will greatly increase the yield, and at the same time help to improve the land rapidly. The heavier the crop of peas, the greater will be the permanent improvement to the soil.

JAMES B. HUNNICUTT.

ROUND BALE PROCESS.

About two years ago periodicals devoted to trade and manufacturing began urging an improvement in the process of baling cotton for market. At this bidding, and perhaps long before this inventive minds went to work endeavoring to conceive the desired process, which led to the new and improved round bale system that is spoken of so much through farm and manufacturing periodicals.

It is fully well conceded that this new process is far superior to the old from several points of utility; the new process giving a more compact bale that is easier shipped, easily handled, the fabric better protected, put in better shape for the factory, and the cost from the field to factory generally lessened.

But the inventor of this has secured the patent from the government, and by this, is guaranteed protection of his right, while he goes in a combine and the concern proceeds to work a hardship that uses the process.

The combine conceives an omnivorous scheme of gobbling the entire cotton ginning and compressing business of the South; which, if perfected, would prove most disastrous to the several business interests in connection with the same.

What vantage would the combine prefer to a monopoly of this business? What millions would they turn out of this handicap? It is well enough said that the concern has succeeded but little, so far, and the prospect is that it will never do great damage. But in the meantime the world is without the benefit of this invention. The combine will not sell presses, so we are totally without its use, and what benefit is the invention? This scheme of the combine must be broken before the round bale process will be introduced. No attempt at its use should be allowed under the terms now desired by the combine. It would prove more of a hard-

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]