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PRACTICAL FARM NOTES.

Written for The Progressive Farmer by the Editor, and Guy E. Mitchell.

In the far eastern province of Boucastan there are a number of floating islands which are wonderful sources of production. They float about in placid lakes of fresh water, their surfaces standing only a few feet above the water, so that while the top is not soggy, perpetual moisture is found at a little depth and sub irrigation is present in its most perfect form. On these islands melons grow to the highest perfection and the melons of Boucastan are of great local fame. Irrigation brings the watermelon to the greatest excellence, as a large supply of moisture is requisite under exposure to an intense heat and light—the elements which decompose and alter the fluids of plants and construct from them sweet and deliciously flavored juices.

If not already attended to it would be a good plan to kill a few borers any time now. Both the round headed apple borer (*Sapida candida*) and the flat headed species (*S. bivitatta*) have killed many an otherwise healthy tree. The female deposits her eggs in May and June in any convenient crevice of the trunk or bark, usually near the ground. The grubs work in the inner bark and sapwood, making long channels or grooves, and if enough borers are at work upon a tree, it may be completely girdled. Every three in the orchard should be examined, whether showing signs of borers or not, at least once a year—particularly in the autumn—and when the pests are present, brown sawdust castings will be observed. In some cases only a slight discoloration of the bark—a darker coloring—will indicate their presence, but the puncturing of these streaks will disclose the sawdust beneath. Then the channel should be followed along with a sharp knife blade as far as possible and if the grub is not reached a stiff wire inserted and pushed to the end, killing it. No better method of dealing with borers than this homely one is known, as there seems to be no reliable preventive. If the bark is washed or painted with a soft-soap solution, with perhaps an addition of crude carbolic acid, some few borers may be kept off; at least the bark of the trees will be kept in a splendidly healthy and smooth condition and less cracks and crevices afforded for the deposit of eggs.

Many of the worn out farms in humid regions, says Mr. Gifford Pinchot, the government forester may be brought back to their original fertility by growing forest trees upon them for a series of years, and very many of them contain land better suited to the production of wood than any other purpose. Such land should never have been cleared. It is fortunately true that throughout the regions once wooded worn-out farm lands will usually revert to their previous condition if protected from fire and stock. This result may be very materially hastened and usually more desirable species grown if some attention be given to forest planting. To the majority of people there is nothing else so attractive about a home as trees. A well planted wood lot, in two or three years after its establishment, will provide the farmer with a supply of trees to plant along roads and for ornamental purposes about buildings and gardens. As the trees in a plantation begin to crowd each other many may be removed with material advantage to those that remain, care being taken not to interfere with the shading of the ground. The superfluous trees often pay the cost of cultivation and care for the plantation after it is once established.

Our Philippine correspondent, Mr. Randall H. Fussell, sends us a number of Manila papers, which we have read with much pleasure. From one of them, "Freedom," we extract the following article regarding bees in the Philippines, which we are sure will be read with great interest by our bee raising farmers:

"There is one race inhabiting the Philippines which should be a welcome addition to American citizenship and should receive every inducement to emigrate to the United States.

"It is the giant honey bee, known to science as Apris Dousata. Its immense capacity for making honey and wax has interested men of science here and an early effort should be made by the Department of Agriculture to introduce it into the United States.

"It is nearly one half larger than the American native honey bee, and builds a comb, heavy with wax and honey, five or six times as large as those found in American orchards and forests.

"They are found in the mountain regions all through India and have been seen busily at work at altitudes of 5 000 feet in the Philippine Islands. Their colonies are most numerous in the mountains, as the unceasing quest of the natives for their honey combs has driven them from the unprotected flatlands of the coast to the less thickly inhabited and more heavily wooded mountain regions. The Filipinos find their daily bread a rather easy proposition, but they are very fond of honey on the staff of life. There is also a large demand for the wax for use in dyeing.

"The big bees build their hives on tall forest trees or on the overhanging ledges of cliff. When undisturbed, branch swarms build near the parent colony, so that in a few years an immense bee settlement often grows up in the forest. The bees build a comb five or six feet long, four feet wide and from seven eighths to one and one half inches in thickness.

"In appearance the giant bee is a smoky, glittering, irridescent black wasp like figure, with orange bands encircling its body."

FARM AFFAIRS.

THE FARMER'S CONDITION AND THE REMEDY.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Why should not the farmers in this State unite and co operate just as others of different vocations in life? The merchants, the doctors, the lawyers, the teachers and the ministers have their conventions; why should not we? Trusts, corporations and combines are increasing every year. prices are being raised and yet their output is greater than ever in their history; they never overproduce. But our cotton crop throughout the State is short and throughout the Union, but no matter, the price does not rise A cotton factory declares a dividend of 41 per cent., pays for its existence in nine years, but a farmer has not more than met expenses and can't sell at par.

The farmer is discounted because he fails to turn his time into money, and this he cannot do because every other corporation is to his disadvantage and against him as a consumer.

Unless we shall unite our efforts, there is no other remedy against our enemies but a return to the spinning wheel and loom, the sorghum patch, pork and beans; in other words, refuse to be a consumer. And this is against nature.

Brother farmer, your happiness and prosperity depends on co-operation. Why will you spend all your money with the retail merchants, enriching them and impoverishing yourselves? Why will you not buy at wholesale and get your neighbor to unite with you? Why will you buy sewing machines at $40 when you can get the same for $20? Why pay $20 for cook stoves when you can get them for $12? Why will you patronize the sharks when you know they will bite?

For the same reason the drunkard drinks! the sensualist debauches! the sinner sins! Is that it? Then, like the sinner repent and believe. Return to your tents, oh Israel. There are "buyers' unions," "department stores" and the like that offer you all your supplies at wholesale prices. They are not wholesale prices. None of your merchants pay such prices. Even our Business Agent of the Alliance does not sell you goods at wholesale prices. They are lower than you buy at the store, but not wholesale prices. Farmer brother, get you a whole sale price list on drugs and medicines and see what profits you are paying; get one on hardware and see your sins. I once traveled with a hardware man from Richmond two days. He sold a merchant $60 worth of hardware; I sold him $150 of groceries, and my companion's profit was double mine. Everybody knows groceries are sold with a narrower margin than anything else, yet grocery men live and make money, and it will even pay the farmer to buy his sugar at wholesale.

But hear these would be friends: "Raise your pork and beans; raise your sorghum and 'taters,' your milk and butter; make all your manure at home and you will improve your situation."

Yes, yes, and your sugar and coffee and tea, your cashmere and lawns, your shoes and hats, too! Raise your machines, your wagons and carriages, your railroad tickets and hotel bills, too! But, no, you are not expected to have these, and if you happen to have sufficient to get a carriage, ride on the cars or spend a month at a summer resort, then cotton must be made lower; you are getting rich! "He's got money! Sell him a patent stove, a patent plow, or something, set your head to get that money, oh ye middlemen! The farmers are ours!"

Let us unite our forces, brethren; let us go into business; yet us own our stores, own our factories and supply ourselves, then the surplus can go to the rest of the world at our price or hold till we care to sell. S3 does the other—if it has benefited them, it will benefit us. Let the Alliance be revived everywhere as a starter. Get your Business Agent to buy all you need. Form a stock company, buy a supply, and keep it on hand for those whose means are limited. Are you your brother's keeper? Yes, you are. It will save your brother and that will save you. In all your Sub Alliances don't pay anyone a cent for doing anything. Let it be his highest pleasure to act in any way that will aid and further his neighbor's interests. If he has not that spirit, he is false to his vow; he is one of those who carried a bag when he joined to get his share. He is after the spoils.

I hope the lecturers will leave no stone unturned to push the Alliance this year. Co operation must be the battle cry. W. T. CUTCHIN.

Stanly county, N. C.

NEWS FROM GEORGIA.

Crops and the Condition of Agriculture in that State.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

If such a paper still exists, for I haven't seen a copy of it since last March. I feel sure your readers would like to hear something from the great State of Georgia, therefore I write you this letter.

I left Wilmington, N. C., the 18th of March, last, bound for Macon, Ga., and from there I went 50 miles south of that city, and remained for a time. My location was in Macon county, in a little village of 700 or 800 people on the line of the Central Railway of Georgia. There I found people growing melons, cotton and corn as their principal crops for this season.

The crops were only ordinary, when I left there and went to Macon (city) the first of June. I visited the great Fort Valley fruit farm and orchards at Fort Valley, Ga. I also visited several other large peach and apple orchards, where there were thousands of trees, but in none of these orchards was there any fruit worth mentioning—only an occasional apple or peach.

Hundreds of peach trees were killed to the body of the tree. Every line of business seemed dull.

In the city of Macon there are 42,000 souls, and every line of industry there is dull and overdone. There are hundreds of people just making board and clothes, working in stores, factories and shops.

I met several young men there from North Carolina who were working for less than they paid board, hoping to get an advance by holding their places, when the fall trade set in. On the farms around the city they pay farm laborers $13 and they board themselves and furnish their own houses and wood.

I am now out southeast 36 miles from Macon, on the Georgia Southern Railroad, to superintend the housing of a man's cotton and corn crop, where I get a salary for two months that equals six months of the price I received in Macon.

I am in Houston county, where for 79 days after cotton was planted in the spring, not one shower of rain fell.

There are acres of corn here that haven't made one bushel of corn per acre, in consequence of the drouth. The cotton crops are about one quarter of a bale per acre. It has started out since rains fell and is still bearing and growing fine.

They pay hands on the farm here $4 per month and rations of 16 pounds of meat and one bushel of meal.

Everything in the cities of Georgia is higher than in North Carolina cities.

Georgia is now feeling what North Carolina felt two or three years ago, except, if possible, it is worse. I want to warn all laborers leaving North Carolina to come to Georgia for work, to stay where they are, except, they engage before they leave home and know what they are to get. The time of high prices in Georgia for laborers is a thing of the past, in every section I have been in.

The country is full of negro laborers, willing to work for almost nothing.

The weather has been excessively hot in Georgia this year; the hottest summer I ever experienced; hotter than it was in Florida last season.

Politics are not talked in Georgia this year, if so, I have heard none of it.

Many prominent men in this State are to day lamenting the failure of the Farmers' Alliance, and are saying truthfully it was a cold day for their people when it failed. These are men, too, who opposed it and fought it when it existed.

I hear it stated that the Hon. Thos. E. Watson is out of politics for life and is going to Europe this fall or winter and will become a historical writer.

If acceptable, I will close for this time to write for your readers at some future time.

With kindest wishes for the brethren and sisters of the old Tar Heel State, I subscribe myself, APIARIAN.

WHEAT-GROWING--THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTHERN FARMERS.

Under the above heading, Prof. J. B Killebrew contributes to the September Southern Farm Magazine an article of special interest to Southern farmers just at this time. While not written specially for North Carolina, our readers in this State as well as those in other States can draw from it many valuable conclusions now that the wheat sowing season is almost upon us. Prof. Killebrew says:

The time is especially opportune for entering upon wheat culture in the South. The discovery of large phosphate beds will make commercial fertilizers cheaper than ever before in the history of the world. Guano that was discovered on the islands off the coast of Peru in 1840 brought the yield of wheat in England in twelve years from twelve bushels an acre to between twenty eight and thirty bushels. What guano did for England, the phosphates will do for the South. They will make it a great wheat-growing region. The phosphoric acid, which is the leading ingredient in the phosphate, is one of the very best, if not the very best fertilizer for wheat.

Instances ase not uncommon in Virginia and Tennessee where the yield of wheat has been increased within a few years from four or five bushels per acre to twenty or twenty-five bushels by the proper use of fertilizers on soils that were thought totally worthless for the growing of that cereal. The lands in many parts of the country that were held at small value have rapidly increased in price because of this development in the growing of wheat.

Nor is there any reason why the Southern people should not compete successfully in the growing of wheat with any part of North America. The soils are not only suited for the growth of wheat, but the climate is such as to produce the very finest grain, and of such excellence and good keeping qualities as to make the highest grades of flour—flour that may be transported without damage from the effects of climate to every quarter of the globe. The large percentage of gluten in Southern-grown wheat and its freedom from damage in tropical climates were facts recognized more than thirty years ago by that eminent political economist, Henry C. Carey, of Philadelphia. Speaking at that time of Southern wheat and its high qualities, he said:

"Even before the war a great change had commenced in regard to the sources from which supplies of cereals were to come, Tennessee and North Carolina furnishing large supplies of wheat, greatly superior in quality to that grown on Northern lands, and commanding higher prices in all our markets. The daily quotations show that Southern flour, raised in Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia, brings from three to five dollars more per barrel than the best New York Genesee flour; that of Louisiana and Texas is far superior to the former even, owing to the superior dryness and the fact that it contains more gluten and does not ferment so easily. Southern flour makes better dough and maccaroni than Northern or Western flour, it is better adapted for transportation over the sea and keeps better in the tropics. It is, therefore, the flour that is sought after for Brazil, Central America, Mexico and the West Indian markets, which are at our doors."

The suggestion made by Mr. Carey had been acted upon by the millers of Richmond, Va., who practically, for many years, controlled the trade in flour for the markets of the West Indies and South America.

The great national changes that are now taking place will open to the wheat growers of the South the largest tropical markets in the world. Not only the West Indies and South America, but the East Indies, Southern China, the islands of the Indian ocean, including the Philippines and those of Oceanica, a few years hence will be embraced in the most important trade lines of the United States, and will supply markets for Southern-grown wheat. That the Nicaragua canal will be built in the near future does not admit of a doubt. It has become a national necessity, not only for the defense of our territory, but to the commerce of the world, and especially to the commerce of the United States. No part of the United States will be so much benefited by this grand water link of two oceans as those States that are contiguous or easily accessible to the Gulf of Mexico. This land encompassed gulf will then become to the Southern States what the Mediterranean was to the Roman Empire. Through it will pass the most valuable commerce of the world, and the greatest volume of trade will originate on and find its ingress and egress through this inland sea. The Southern States may yet become the granary of the world.

In no direction can the Southern farmers look with more confidence of adding to their profitable returns than to the increased production of wheat. There is a market for all the surplus grown in the South in those States that do not make enough for home consumption This is strikingly apparent from a study of the subjoined table. In making these tables the estimate for the present population in each State is that made by the governors of the respective States. The amount of wheat required per capita is assumed to be four bushels, which is lower than the average per capita for the whole country, because a large part of the population in the South uses corn meal in place of flour. The statistics of the production of wheat of each State are taken from the eleventh census and from the year book of agriculture for 1898, with the exception of those of Florida and Louisiana for 1898, which were estimated from the reports of the eleventh census

It will be seen that in the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida and Texas wheat enough is not produced to meet the requirements of the population by 35,422,201 bushels.

On the other hand, the States of Tennessee, Kentucky, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia produce a surplus of 25,574,871 bushels, which is not enough by 9,847,330 bushels to meet the requirements of the deficiency States. This surplus finds a ready market in the South as well as in the West Indies and South America.

The following Southern States show a deficiency in production below the requirements for consumption:

	Product'n. Bushels.	Requirem't for consumption. Bushels.	Deficiency. Bushels.
Miss'p'i	30,094	5,407 400	5,337,306
Al'b'ma	519,708	6,400,000	5,880,292
Georgia	2,607,360	7,939,756	5,332,396
S. C...	1,181,700	5,500,000	4,318,300
N. C...	5,274,645	6,880,000	1,605,355
L'u's'na	500	4,900,000	4,899,500
Ark'sas	2,335,036	6,400,000	4,064,964
Florida	500	1,940,000	1,939,500
Texas	9,348,464	11,353,052	2,004,588
	21,298,007	56,720,208	35,422,201

The following Southern States show a surplus of wheat above that required for home consumption:

	Product'n. Bushels.	Req'rem't. Bushels.	Surplus. Bushels.
Tenn...	13,980,000	7,200,000	6,780,080
Kent'ky	14,465,436	8,800,000	5,665,436
Maryl'd	11,739,935	4,553,392	7,186,543
W. Va.	5,816,700	3,500,000	2,316,700
Virg'na	10,626,112	7,000,000	3,626,112
	56,628,263	31,053,392	25,574,871

Nothing is more encouraging to the progressive farmers of the South than to know that the production of wheat has increased in the Southern States from 50,436,310 bushels in 1889, to 77,996,270 bushels in 1898. This is an increase of over 50 per cent. The largest increase was made in Texas, Tennessee, Maryland, Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia. The most encouraging feature is in the greatly increased yield per acre.

The following statement shows the yield per acre reported for the States named for the years 1889 and 1898:

	1889.	1898.
Texas	12 2	14 8
Tennessee	9 4	13 2
Maryland	16	15
Kentucky	12	15 4
Alabama	5 4	12
Georgia	5.6	10

Grouping the total number of acres sown and the number of bushels produced in these six States, we find that in 1889 there were 2,875,533 acres in wheat, which produced 32,944,675 bushels, showing a yield per acre of 11 4 bushels. In 1898 the number of acres in wheat was 3 601 425, which produced 52,661,983 bushels, giving a yield per acre of 14 6 bushels, an increase of 3 2 bushels per acre in the aggregate of these Southern States.

Now, let us compare these figures with those of some of the best wheat-growing States of the Union, viz, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. In 1889 this group of States reported 8,594,602 acres in wheat, which produced 99,154,792 bushels, showing an average of 11 5 bushels per acre. In 1898 the area reported in wheat in these States was 12 459 acres, which produced 173 898,649 bushels, or fourteen bushels per acre. In this comparison two States in the South, namely, Georgia and Alabama, were included so as to get an average yield for the Southern States. Yet it appears that the group of Southern States for 1889 yielded 11 4 bushels per acre, as against 11 5 bushels for the group of Northern States at the same period. And in 1898 the group of Southern States reported a yield of 14 6 bushels per acre, as against fourteen for the group of Northern States. These figures are all taken from government reports and are presumed to be correct and impartial. They demonstrate without the shadow of a doubt that the soils of the Southern States are as well adapted to the production of wheat as those of the great Northwest.

There are various reasons why wheat-growing in the South, acre for acre, may be made more profitable than it is in the North. One of these is that the price of wheat in the South is nine months out of twelve higher than it is in the Chicago market.

1. Because there is a market at home for more than is produced.

2. Because it is nearer the seaboard.

3 Because the surplus is nearer the points of local consumption.

4 The crop is harvested earlier and is in demand by Southern mills, who pay for it Chicago prices with the freight added.

The wheat grown in the Northwest usually brings Chicago prices with the freight taken off, The writer had this forcibly illustrated while in South Dakota a few years ago, when wheat was selling in local markets at forty-two cents, in Chicago at sixty cents and in

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]