

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, value, 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.

NORTH CAROLINA FARMING.

Mr. S. B. M. Farmer, of Jackson county, writes us that the acreage of wheat there is unusually large.

The Norfolk Virginian Pilot says: One of the finest stock farms of the North Carolina section contiguous to Norfolk is Avoca, near the head of the Albemarle Sound, in Bertie county, N. C. This great estate comprises 6,000 acres of fertile well watered land and is owned by Dr. W. R. Capehart, who is known far and wide on account of his connection with the Avoca steam power fisheries and the artificial propagations of eel.

Mr. George E. Boggs, of Haywood county expects to exhibit some of his apples at the Paris Exposition. The Boone Democrat states that Mr. Moses H. Cline, of Blowing Rock, is also preparing a lot of Watauga apples for the exposition. The fruit is being carefully packed, will be shipped to New York and put in cold storage until spring, when it will be exported to France. There are few better apple-growing regions than Western North Carolina. And there the work has just begun.

Mr. D. F. St. Clair, writing (in a recent issue of the New York Outlook) of the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro says: "Another line of work which is being organized, and which will give support to a score or more of girl students, is the dairy farm. This college is most fortunate in having attached to it some one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land. This has been stocked with a piggery and some fifty head of choice Jersey cows, which are to be milked by the college girls. Twenty college dairy maids, with the genuine dairymaid's cap and milk pail, will at least add picturesque to this most democratic of colleges for women. The dairy will be not only self-sustaining, but it will bring money to the institution from the butter these young ladies will make. This butter has the college stamp on it, and already the demand for it outside of the college is greater than the supply can be." Three cheers for our dairy girls!

The Commonwealth wants Scotland Neck to establish a great peanut cleaner. Writing of the matter in its last issue, the editor says: "Scotland Neck is the largest peanut market in the world. That is to say, Scotland Neck handles more Spanish peanuts than any other market. The Commonwealth makes this statement on good authority of a number of well-posted business men of the community. Those who have studied the matter carefully have become convinced that the farmers ought to get better prices for their peanuts. One of the surest means of securing better prices for the farmers is to establish a great peanut cleaner right here at the very gates of the fields which produce them in such large quantities, so that the peanuts may be sold directly to the cleaners and thus save to the farmers the per cent. of commission that the local buyers get for handling them." A wise move.

FARM AFFAIRS.

PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR'S COTTON.

Prof. Massey Writes on an Important Subject.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.
In our travels over the State this summer attending our summer series of Farmers' Institutes we have been very much impressed with the immense increase in the cultivation of the cow pea. Fewer fields are to be seen "resting" in the old way by growing up with weeds for future brownsweatings, but instead the farmers are fast learning that the best rest for the land is to keep it in a crop that will shade and protect the soil and gather fertility for succeeding crops far faster than the natural growth. Wide areas are now in peas that bore a crop of small grain and the "Clover of the South" is covering fields that never before grew it.

Many of these fields are intended for the cotton crop of next year, and as a matter of course the owners are thinking how best to use the pea crop. If they have taken our advice so often given in the press, the peas have had a good dose of phosphoric acid and potash in some form, and where this is the case the course is plain and the cotton crop can be grown at the smallest cost if the owner simply adds the seed from this year's crop to the land.

One of the most thoughtful farmers in South Carolina wrote us that he had found that in his case, being far removed from oil mills where he could exchange the seed for meal and hulls, he found that the whole seed after being crushed to destroy germination, gave him excellent results when applied as he uses them. He found that when a mass of seed or other bulky manure was applied directly in the furrow under the cotton, there was difficulty in getting a good stand of the cotton. He found also that while the seed were a valuable fertilizer, they were slow in becoming available to the plants as food. He therefore adopted plan of opening a furrow midway between the beds for the cotton, and there burying the seed. By the time the cotton had developed to the point of making a boom and fruit it had found the seed, which by that time had decayed to an extent sufficient to enable them to yield up their plant food and he got better crops in this way.

What we most want to get at, however, is the best and most economical way to apply the purchased fertilizers to the cotton. We have said that where the pea crop of this year has been well supplied with phosphoric acid and potash there is a better chance for next year's cotton. Experience has shown that an application of the potash fertilizers especially, some months before the planting will show from them better results than from a direct application at the planting time. And not only this, but their application to the pea crop will give a heavier crop of forage. There is nothing that the cotton farmer needs more than plenty of forage and plenty of cattle to feed it to.

The use of the entire growth of peas as a manure direct will undoubtedly show a greater effect on the succeeding crop than the cutting off of the growth. But the cutting and curing of the crop as hay, and the feeding of this hay to cattle, with the careful saving of the manure will do more for the farm and the farmer than the burying of a crop worth \$20 per acre as food, three fourths of which value can be recovered in the manure made from the feeding. Another fact in connection with the using of the whole growth for the cotton crop is that it may give an excess of nitrogen and a rank and long-limbed growth, and a late crop. The true way to use the pea crop preceding a cotton crop is to cut and cure the vines as hay, feed them to stock and return to the land the manure thus made.

But what shall the man do who did not put any phosphate or potash on his peas? If he takes them off, he will certainly have taken off more of the phosphoric acid and potash of which his land was probably already deficient, and unless he applies fertilizers to his cotton, he cannot hope for an increased crop by reason of the pea growth. He may to some extent get benefit from the peas so far as the increase of nitrogen in the soil is concerned, but while the cotton may make a ranker "weed" it will fail in the fruiting. The peas will relieve him from the purchase of the most costly part of a complete fer-

tilizer, and he will not be compelled to buy nitrogen at all, especially if he uses his cotton seed as suggested.

But what shall he use and when shall he apply the fertilizer? We have already remarked that it has been found that the mineral plant food in the shape of phosphoric acid and potash give better results when applied some time previous to the planting of the crop, and we know too that a liberal broadcast application of these is better not only for the improvement of the land generally, but for the crop of cotton. The experience of our South Carolina friend points to this.

Few farmers realize the short time in which fertilizers applied directly in the furrow under the plants are available to the plant. The part of the roots of any plant which are engaged in collecting food are near the extreme tip of the small rootlets, and when these get beyond the area in which the food was applied and begin to forage in poorer soil, a deterioration in the growth and fruiting must result. Hence we have become fully satisfied that even for the cotton crop a broadcast application is best in the final results on the crop.

We would like some of our friends who have a pea stubble to go into cotton next year to try the simple experiment of applying this fall broadcast on part of the stubble all the phosphate and potash they intend for the crop. You need to buy only acid phosphate and kainit in equal proportions for the peas aided by the cotton seed from this year's crop will give you an abundant supply of nitrogen. On the rest of the field apply the fertilizers at the time of planting in the furrow. I have little fear but that you will find that the acid phosphate and potash applied this fall will give you better results in the crop next year than the spring application in the furrow. And not only this, but it will enable you to get a better stand of crimson clover sown among the cotton at laying by time next summer. If you get a stand of crimson clover in the cotton field, you will have done more for your land than in any other way, for the winter cover in worth of itself an application of fertilizer, in the prevention of the wasting of the fertility in winter, while the clover will get more nitrogen for you to turn into corn next year with the aid of your home-made manure.

Let us put a little forethought into the economical production of a cotton crop, and get down to real farming with cotton. W. F. MASSEY.

Wake Co., N. C.

AS A COTTON FARMER SEES IT.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.
When God made man he put him in the Garden of Eden and commanded him to till the soil and get his living by the sweat of his brow. So you see that forming was the first vocation God gave to man. God called it then, as it is to-day, the most important of all occupations. If it is the most important of all occupations, it should be the most honored and most lucrative. But what do we see to-day? We see the occupation trailing in the dust, the poor farmer, poor in this world's goods, and last, but not least, ignorant in knowledge.

Now, my brother farmers let us look at the other industries. We see all of them prospering, factories not only working night and day, but are building larger ones, declaring dividends of 30 to 50 cents on the dollar. All of them are dependent on the products of your labors. You are the producers. Now all of this is radically wrong. There ought to be a change. We can make a change. Will you not say there must be a change?

Those who handle the most of your products can sit in his office at Liverpool, smoke his \$1 Havana cigar, drink his Maderia wine, telegraph to the United States, have his agent here to look after the planting of your cotton, have reports sent as to culture, until it is ready for market, and the price is fixed before it is picked out. Now, my friends, to the rescue. Let us cut off our cotton and tobacco crops one third and make 8,000,000 bales of cotton, and my word for it, you will get 10 cents per pound for your 1900 crop as the supply will not be equal to the demand. If something is not done soon to advance the interest of the farmer the trusts and combinations, which have their chains wound around you will have them so tight that death alone will sever them. To the rescue, my friends, to the rescue. Respectfully,
W. H. MORRIS
Wake Co., N. C.

ANOTHER TOBACCO GROWER WRITES.

A Discussion of Warehousemen, Trusts and Combines.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.
"Agricola," of Halifax county, has been attending the sale of tobacco in a near by warehouse, and judging from his correspondence in a late issue of The Progressive Farmer, he is not very much elated with what he saw. The account of sales he copies is a fair sample of prices now paid in most inland markets. All intelligent farmers are agreed, that the auctioneering of tobacco in our warehouses has become nothing else but an empty farce, calculated to throw dust in the eyes of the unwary. The auctioneer, as a rule, is hired by the week or month for small wages, and the biggest part of the auctioneering fee charged goes with the rest into the pockets of the warehousemen.

Before the advent of the tobacco trust, when much tobacco was bought for speculation, the bidding and buying were spirited and lively. No man could tell or guess how much a pile of tobacco would bring. Then the auctioneering was pertinent and helpful to the farmers. But now, since the great bulk of the weed is bought by the American Tobacco Company, which fixes the prices to be paid for the several grades to its buyers in the various tobacco towns, all genuine competition has ceased. The buyers in turn, through their petty local boards of trade fix the price that is to be paid to the producer, leaving for themselves all the margin they possibly can.

The warehouseman (sometimes with much gusto) starts the bid, leaving enough margin for the buyers to throw in a few fractional bids simply to hide the clap net performance. If the farmers could get the prices paid by the American Tobacco Company they could still raise the weed at a profit and, as the phrase runs, "make buckie and tongue meet."

Far more hurtful than the trusts and combines a thousand or hundreds of miles away from here, is the small coterie of parasitical fellows, these little boards of trade and combining at home, who very people that send out circulars asking for the farmer's produce and patronage, signing themselves "Your friends," that devour the substance of the country. "Agricola" says they are all getting rich. Yes, they are, and why shouldn't they? They have it all their own way, weigh as they like and pay what they please. If the tobacco is forthcoming, all that remains for them to do is to help themselves. And they are no ways bashful to do so. Most all of the warehouse people had little or nothing in the beginning but cheek unmitigated and an India rubber conscience. Now they have fine houses, carriages, bicycles, elegantly furnished homes and plenty money to lend out, on chattel or real estate mortgages (for an extortionate bonus) to the very people from whom they filched all their gains.

It is no secret that the warehousemen in this and adjoining counties control the happiness of hundreds of homes and the ownership of thousands of acres of land. Some eight or ten years ago, when the Farmers' Alliance was in its heydays and the ever recurring mistakes in weighing tobacco (invariably in favor of the buyers) became unbearable, the legislature was applied to for redress, being asked to compel tobacco men to employ sworn weighers in their warehouses. Well, if there were no hidden tricks of the trade and everything conducted right, it seems reasonable to suppose that no opposition would have been made to so fair and equitable a demand. But nothing came of it. The tobacco men became furious and the citizens of the town at most without exception took sides with them. Petitions against the measure were circulated and freely signed by the town and a vast number of country people. Many of the latter were Alliance men. Able counsel was employed to appear in Raleigh before the legislative committee, make right appear wrong and help defeat the measure.

It is strange, but nevertheless true, that the average well dressed, smooth-tongued townsman exercises a peculiar charm or magnetic power over the poor unsuspecting clodhopper. The latter looks up to him as his adviser and natural superior, whose hints and suggestions must be carried out in all things, and if the town gent treats him to a drink or condescends so far as to ask him to dinner, poor rusticus is

elated, and will tell everybody about that great honor done him and at once feels himself raised 90 pounds in the social scale. "Walk in my parlor," said the spider to the fly.

Many a one, that has thus been treated has had ample time to repent—being long ago sold out of house and home by his city "friends."

Yet after all, there is no use to complain. The farmers have been, and still are, the makers of their oppressors. The railing against trusts and combines is useless. They are here to stay. They seem to be a paramount necessity for the profitable carrying on of any business. To fight trust with trust, and combine with combine, to organize and cooperate seems to be the watchword in the struggle for the survival of the fittest, and those that fail, or cannot do so from some cause or other must go to the wall and become hewers of wood and drawers of water for those that can.

JEREMIAH JENKINS.

Warren Co., N. C.

NOTES AT THE GEORGIA STATE FAIR.

[Editorial Correspondence.]

One of the most striking and varied exhibits we saw in the agricultural building was the collection from a Georgia one horse farm. The man who made the crops, gathered and brought them to the fair is no "one horse" affair you may be assured with out doubting the accuracy of our estimate when you begin to try to name the different kinds of things he had arranged in good order. There are at least three of these exhibits.

The Georgia Experiment Station had an interesting and well arranged exhibit of farm products, insects of economic importance, photographs of the farm experimental grounds and crops, stock, etc. A mounted botanical collection of grasses and plants poisonous to animals and man were placed on the wall. One feature of this exhibit showed the relative amount of each ingredient in a ton of fertilizer for crops made up according to formulas shown painted on cloth on the wall above the botanical specimens.

There are many Georgia horses but few good cattle, Georgians seeming to prefer to turn out and see the stock brought for inspection by Northern exhibitors, but this may not be a lasting condition since they buy freely of the finest stock and will soon have as good as can be brought to them, if they are not too careless on the tick, dog, and cholera questions.

These are burning issues here as well as in the Old North State. One lady we met lost only \$2,600 worth of Jersey cows in a brief month by ticks. A Georgia legislator is as certain of being relegated to oblivion by proposing a dog law as a legislator in any other State.

The poultry show is the great attraction during the last days of the fair and it is a large and fine one.

The judge possibly knows all the breeds without referring to his standard, but in going over the collection more than once we have found no one else who did. It seems as if in point of numbers and appearance the Barred Plymouth Rock and Light Brahmas are in the lead of breeds. Biltmore cattle and swine are selling fast here and if these buyers keep away cholera and ticks they will be able in a few years to give the Biltmore herd some close competition with blood now being distributed here. F. E. E.
Atlanta, Ga.

The Progressive Farmer recently reprinted from a Manila paper sent us by Mr. Fussell an article on the giant East Indian honey bee, its work and immense capacity for making honey and wax. A Western paper now states that the Department of Agriculture will make an early effort to introduce it into the United States. Secretary Wilson said in connection with the proposed importation of these bees to the United States, that a special appropriation would be asked in his coming report to Congress for the investigation of the bees of the world.

A call has been sent out by the Parks and Forestry Committee of the Asheville Board of Trade to all persons interested in forest preservation and in the establishment of a National Southern Park in the Southern Alleghany Mountains for an Inter-State Convention to be held there November 22d. The purpose of the convention is to form a permanent association, to induce Congress to establish a National Southern Park, and to influence legislation in favor of a scientific forestry.

A RECORD OF PROGRESSIVE FARMING.

Prof. Emery seems well pleased with the condition of Georgia agriculture. He sends us the following account of one Georgia farmer's progress, clipped from a recent issue of the Atlanta Constitution:

Mr. Joseph T. Anderson, of Cobb county, is one of Georgia's leading farmers. His farm of 1,650 acres, lies seven miles southwest from Marietta, four miles northeast from Austell. The drive down is over a splendid road, and easily made, and is through one of the most prosperous farming sections of Cobb county. Among the farms passed are those of Col. R. T. Nesbit, W. J. Manning, A. C. Edwards, J. P. Cheney and others. These beautiful country homes and splendid farms show every sign of prosperity, happiness and contentment, making the drive to the Anderson farm a most pleasant one. On arriving there a spacious old time farm house, with large lawn, well-shaded by fine oaks, and surrounded by commodious barns and outbuildings greets you.

His cow barn, which is the largest building on the farm, is fitted up with stocks and modern barn improvements. Here from sixty to 100 head of cattle are cared for with ease. He has his barn so arranged that he saves all manure, both solid and liquid, and says the manure furnished a cow will pay well for her feed, if no revenue was made in any other way.

He is now milking sixteen head of cows which yield an average of thirty gallons per day. This milk is carried immediately to the separator, where the cream is taken from it and the skim milk fed to hogs and calves. He is getting ninety pounds of butter per week, which is put on the market at 25 cents per pound. Mr. Anderson says it is just as easy to make good butter that will bring 25 cents, as to make an inferior quality and get less. He has about thirty beautiful heifers which promise to increase his supply for next year to more than double the present production.

His hogs are the finest the country affords. He has Berkshire pigs for which he was offered \$25 apiece at three months old. This statement will doubtless open the eyes of some of the "peas back" producers, but if they should see the pigs all doubts would be removed. There are four in one litter that at three months and seven days old, weighed 157 pounds each. Their gain in twenty seven days was fifty-three and one half pounds each. More perfect pigs were never seen, and some Georgia farmer will have to compete with these at the State Fair this fall. He has one brood sow which has yielded him an average of \$60 per year for the last three years. He thinks this sow worth more than a "cotton patch."

Mr. Anderson says sorghum is one of the best feeds for hogs he has ever tried. He also grows artichokes for them, and has raised 800 bushels per acre.

Four hundred tons or more of hay have been harvested off his place this year. Sorghum and peavines, he says, make the best hay he raises. He sowed 100 bushels of each this year. He gives two good reasons for growing them together:

1. The mixed hay is better feed than either separate.

2. Sorghum is a very exhaustive crop, and when cut, the roots put forth shoots and grow till killed by frost, and the peavine being a good fertilizer, will add to the land as much as the sorghum takes away.

Besides the 400 tons of hay he will have seventy tons of shelled corn, fodder and ear corn in abundance, and 100 tons of ensilage or green cut corn. His ensilage pit will hold 200 tons. His wheat and oats are splendid, and he is now getting 75 cents per bushel for seed of a very fine winter variety. They successfully weathered the blasts of last winter and yielded something like forty bushels per acre.

Turnips, he says, is a paying crop. "Last year I sold \$10 30 worth of that little piece of ground you see there," which was about one seventh of an acre. They are profitable for cattle feed and also for market. "I will raise several hundred bushels this year, and have raised 1,000 bushels in one year. "I have tried a small crop of broom corn this year, but not enough to test it. I think there is money in it, and will test it more thoroughly next year." Mr. Anderson has tried various grasses for pasturage, and is thoroughly satisfied that Bermuda is by far the best for this country. After another year he expects to have his farm fenced in forty acre lots and rotate crops and pastures.