

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL NOTES

If The Progressive Farmer is a good paper for you, it is a good paper for your neighbor. Have you asked him to subscribe? You can surely induce him to give it a three months' test, costing but a quarter. Try it.

The article on Tobacco Growing on page 1 is not "by an experienced author," as the headline states, but "by an experienced author"—it is on tobacco matters. A practical farmer, not a mere man of letters, is the author of the article.

It is perhaps none of our business, but we do not think that a party that originated as a protest against ring rule should allow a committee of nine or one hundred to dictate its policy on questions regarding which there has been no official expression of opinion.

The educators of the State—and all good citizens as well—will learn with joy that State Treasurer Worth has decided to pay immediately the \$100,000 which the last legislature wisely appropriated to the public schools. In settling his State taxes the sheriff of each county will deduct the portion of the appropriation due his county and turn it over to the school fund.

The January number of the Bulletin issued by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, devoted exclusively to the subject of fertilizers, is one of the most valuable and instructive ever issued by the Department and should be read by every person that spends a dollar for fertilizers. If you do not receive the bulletin regularly write for this special number. We congratulate State Chemist Kilgore upon his masterly treatment of the subject in hand.

Did you not a few weeks ago send us the names and addresses of some of your acquaintances and state that you would endeavor to secure the subscriptions of these acquaintances? If so, were you successful in your efforts? Whether you were successful or unsuccessful we trust you will forward us at once, or as soon as you have called upon all whose names you sent, a report of your work. If you secured subscriptions, forward them; if you secured none, inform us of the fact and the cause of the failure. A report from you as soon as convenient will be appreciated by us.

We cannot forbear quoting—for the benefit of members of all political parties—the following very timely sentiments from a letter from Mr. D. L. Gore to the North Carolina Baptist: "This is an election year. I hope that no man will think his neighbor a murderer, a thief or robber because he does not vote as he does. It is queer that we may have all confidence in our neighbor's honor, honesty and other good qualities, but as soon as he begins to think for himself in politics—in other words, don't gallop with the gang—he becomes a very mean man." All of which is, alas! too true.

We are glad to find that so many of our farmer readers are availing themselves of the opportunities offered by our "Question Box" department for obtaining information on agricultural and kindred subjects. It is the aim of The Progressive Farmer to be of service and practical value to its thousands of readers and it is a positive pleasure to find that we are enlarging our field of usefulness, and that our friends are calling upon the paper for the information of which they stand in need. We are also glad to note a growing disposition on the part of farmers to report experiences and discuss agricultural matters through the columns of the paper. We want each farmer to feel that The Progressive Farmer is his paper; that it is here to serve him and to fight for his interests, and that he should use it to promote thought, education, and the welfare of the agricultural and industrial classes.

EXIT ROBERTS

Representative elect Roberts, the Union polygamist whose case has attracted so much attention, has been excluded from a seat in the House of Representatives. This fact is creditable to Congress and to the country at large. Roberts had broken the laws of the land as well as a great moral law, and his admission as one of the lawmakers of a Christian nation would have disgraced the country. Nevertheless, we consider the mode of ousting Roberts adopted by the House in defensible. It was not in strict accord with the powers granted by the Constitution. The minority report of the committee which had the case under consideration and which recommended that Roberts be first sworn in and then expelled was in accord with the Constitution and should, in our opinion, have been adopted. In doing this the House would have set no dangerous precedent, as we fear it has done by the course it has taken. But at any rate we rejoice that Roberts has been excluded.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

The latest dispatches from the Transvaal bring news of another crushing defeat for the British. This defeat is all the more depressing as it comes just after a seeming victory, which the British expected would turn the tide in their favor.

This seeming victory, reported in Friday's dispatches, was the capture of Spion Kop. (Kop means hill) an important Boer defense, by General Warren. This small victory wonderfully revived the drooping spirits of the British. But their rejoicing was short lived. Saturday's dispatches stated that Warren was on Friday forced from the captured position with heavy loss. Indeed, it became quite clear that he had been entrapped; that the Boers had, with only a half-hearted fight, abandoned Spion Kop for the purpose of getting Warren within range of their artillery. And Warren walked into the Boer trap, just as England's shrewdest and boldest Generals have been doing since the war began. He held the position but one day. The Boer runners had the range to an inch. They unmasked their guns which had been hidden for five days and began, as the dispatches put it, "a tremendous trench warfare of shell and shrapnel," mowing down the British by hundreds. And so, with weakened forces and blasted hopes, the English abandoned the position. The week's warfare has cost the British almost a thousand men and as yet they have gained no advantage.

The remarkable military ability of the Boer leaders has surprised the world. Thought to be an ignorant people, the Boers have in every instance outwitted England's shrewdest and most experienced soldiers. And so it has become evident that the plain farmers of the Transvaal, without pomp or glitter, are by no means lacking in courage or ability. Such a people are capable, not only of managing their own affairs, but of benefitting the world at large. In their brave struggle for independence they have the best wishes of The Progressive Farmer and, we believe, a large majority of the American people.

THE ELECTION LAW.

Men of all parties admit that the State's new election law is manifestly crooked, unjust and unfair. It should be changed in many particulars and it is to be hoped that some of these changes will be made by the legislature at its June session. One section which gives extraordinary power to election officers is quoted below: "Section 74 That the registrar and judges of election in each ward or precinct, the board of county canvassers of each county, and the board of State canvassers shall respectively possess full power and authority to maintain order, and to enforce obedience to their lawful commands during their session, respectively, and shall be constituted inferior courts for that purpose; and if any person shall refuse to obey the lawful command of any such registrar, or judge of election, or board of county canvassers, or board of State canvassers, or by disorderly conduct in their hearing or presence, shall interrupt or disturb their proceedings, they may by an order in writing, signed by their chairman, and attested by their clerk, commit the person so offending to the common jail of the county for a period not exceeding thirty days, and such order shall be executed by any sheriff or constable to whom the same shall be delivered, or if a sheriff or constable shall not be present, or shall refuse to act, by any other person who shall be deputed by such township or precinct board of elec-ed, or board of county canvassers, or board of State canvassers, in writing, and the keeper of such jail shall receive the person so committed, and safely keep him for such time as shall be mentioned in the commitment."

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society, held at Southern Pines recently, was quite successful both in interest and in attendance. Several very valuable papers were read. The annual election of officers resulted as follows:

- President—J. V. Lindley of Greensboro.
Vice President—Prof. W. F. Massey of Raleigh.
Secretary—T. L. Brown.
Executive Committee—President V. Lindley, Dr. George T. Winston and Prof. W. F. Massey.

A TIMELY CALL.

A number of the intelligent and progressive farmers of Pitt county have issued the following call:

"Considering the advances in the prices of fertilizers and the low prices of the products with which fertilizers have to be paid for and considering concert of action by farmers the only hope of fighting successfully any trust or combine and seeing the necessity of doing something at once in regard to the increase of prices of fertilizers we ask every farmer in the county to meet at the principal voting place in his township on Saturday, February 3rd, 1900, at 2 o'clock p. m., to consult together, formulate some plan of action and select representatives or delegates to a county meeting to be held in the court house at Greenville on the 10th of February, 1900 to organize and form some plan of fighting the fertilizer trusts."

We think such meetings should be held in every county. Nothing will be lost if those attending the meeting do nothing more than talk over the situation and discuss the advantages of intelligent organization and cooperation.

YOUR VIEWS DESIRED.

Webster's Weekly of last week contains a long editorial attack upon the J. Jordan plan for combatting the tobacco trust, attacking it chiefly upon the score of impracticability. Among other things it says:

"Mr. Jordan sits back of his dignity and says in effect: 'When you gentlemen get ready to take stock in my syndicate and have persuaded 90 per cent. of the tobacco growers to accept the terms laid down, you can let me know and I will then be ready to arrange details and give you the name of my backers.' Grant that he means well, what assurance have the farmers that the capitalists they are asked to go into partnership with would tolerate? Have there not been instances in the history of the country where the big fish swallowed the little ones? And then if these capitalists should decide to sell their stock, who knows but that the little fellows would awake some morning to find themselves tied up in business with the Duke?"

"We do not believe that this plan will command the endorsement of the farmers."

The Progressive Farmer will not at this time go into a detailed discussion of the plan. We, do however, earnestly request the views of all tobacco growers. If any one has objections to the Jordan plan, he should save them as once so that they may, if possible, be corrected; if a better plan can be found, it should be given at once so that it may be duly considered. This is a matter of so much importance, affecting the welfare of so many people, that we are especially anxious for a free, full and untrammelled discussion, for which the columns of The Progressive Farmer are open to its readers. If you are a tobacco grower, write us, briefly, stating your views.

HOW TO USE COMMERCIAL MANURES.

Whether one formula will give as good results as another with which it may be compared depends on the physical condition of the samples, the sources from which their ingredients were drawn, and on whether the land on which they are used has within itself a lack of an element in which one may be weak and another strong, or which contains enough to produce a full crop with the additions therein offered.

In other words the commercial manure can only benefit the crop by supplementing what the land in question does not contain of plant food required by that soil to produce a full yield of the crop desired. Just what formula will do best for any given soil must be tried, to find by results what aid it can give. The chemist tells what a commercial manure contains, and every farmer ought to ask of his soil by means of special manures what it needs, in order to be able to receive the benefit of the chemist's information when it is received. Then no losses will occur paying for what is not needed.

There are seven conditions, or questions, by which the information sought from the soil may be obtained. These conditions or questions relate to the exhaustible elements of plant food contained in the soil. By exhaustible elements we mean only those essential to plant growth which experience has shown to be sometimes lacking, or to have been reduced in the form in which plants can use them so that they are of no further use. Other things being favorable an addition of one element thus exhausted will increase the yield of crop on the exhausted soil.

The elements which are essential and which may be exhausted are nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. These are taken up as nitrate or nitrite; and as potassium oxide or potash; while the phosphorus is used by plants as phosphoric acid.

The seven questions which may be asked of the soil relate to these three taken singly, to the three combined two by two, and lastly where all three may be lacking. To put the question to the soil plants are planned and laid off in the field where it is desired to obtain information of the needs for full plant growth, and moderate amounts of chemical manures containing only the one ingredient for which the test is being made are secured and these are applied in regular order; observing to leave two or three equal plots with no manure to show the effect of the applications on the manure plots.

A good form of plot is to use one, two, or three rows across a field. Let the unmanured plots be one on each end and one or two in the middle. Then the exact area of each plot should be determined by measure. All should be of the same area and shape. The same treatment and number of plants should be given each plot. Thus every comparable condition should be alike for all plots except the chemical manures applied.

These are called soil tests. We give an order which may be observed in testing any given soil:

- 1st plot. No manure.
2d plot. Potash. Either as sulphate or as muriate, or a mixture of these in kaint.
3d plot. Phosphoric acid in acid phosphate or bone black.
4th plot. Nitrogen in sodium nitrate or sulphate of ammonia.
5th plot. No manure.
6th plot. Potash, acid phosphate and sodium nitrate.
7th plot. Potash and acid phosphate.
8th plot. Acid phosphate and nitrogen.
9th plot. Potash and nitrogen.
10th plot. No manure.

Some times calcium is lacking and may be applied but it is rather regarded as a stimulating application than as a necessarily lacking constituent of the plants food.

While the crop is growing on these plots the farmer examines the growth of the crop and notes the development to find if any differences of growth occur and where, in order to secure an intelligent answer to his queries and to be able to draw his conclusions out of the work for his future use. The crop should be carefully harvested by plots so the final result in mature crop may be known.

If now it is found one element is lacking in the soil the query then becomes, Which form of this element is needed? and how much can the soil use to advantage? If potash has been the dominant element muriate, sulphate, and kaint; or if wood ashes are available, these can be used in different amounts to find out the best form and the amount which will pay best. A series of plots may be laid off on which the applications may be the same, half as much, and double as much as was used on the first series. These plots have also two or three as before with no manure for comparisons and the

THE THINKERS.

SAFEGUARDING THE PEOPLE.

The late Democratic convention in Massachusetts placed in its platform demands for the election of United States Senators and United States Judges by the people, and for giving the latter a term of years instead of the present life tenure. It also endorsed the Initiative and Referendum. The Democratic convention in Ohio also endorsed election of United States Senators by the people and the Initiative and Referendum. The steady encroachment of corporate power in legislation and in the election of United States Senators by State Legislatures is forcing forward these measures intended to strengthen the power of the people—Rich Square Patron and G.aner.

CANADA FIELD PEAS; CULTIVATOR.

Several letters this week ask about Canada Field Peas and Oats. Canada peas will do well anywhere in North Carolina if sown on good land and at a reasonable time. These peas are like but a little harder than the English garden pea. They should be given good land in order to push growth enough for a profitable crop. In the Eastern and Southern part of the State it may not be too early to start these peas for forage in January. They should be sown in February at all events; and if there is occasion to expect severe weather the peas may be plowed in rather shallow, the oats sown and harrowed in. We look for a heavy yield on land already rich or especially manured for this crop. Sow two bushels of peas to one of good oats per acre. It is heavy seeding, but needed to give the crop desired.

In the mountain section a little later sowing will do but the crop should be put in early enough to be ready for hay before weather becomes very warm and dry.

CULTIVATORS.

Cultivators to haul a row at a time most commonly are made for two horses. There are a number of good machines on the market. We were to recommend some we have used readers must find some difficulty in finding same with local dealers or expensive to secure wearing parts on account of express charges. Try to find a good machine with local dealer. One of the best is the Breed's Weeder in its earliest form. It has been adopted and is made now by many manufacturers. We have a Weard that has given satisfaction. These are light one horse broadcast weeders. They can be run lengthwise or across the rows often and can take the place of at least half the usual cultivating or plowing of the crop in the usual way. We have thus used a Thomas' broadcast harrow two or three times before the corn was too tall to go over with the low head; then one or two shallow cultivations will suffice if you do have to keep stirring the soil to hold back the water for your crop; this may be worth more to your crop than the commercial manure purchased for it.

This one horse broadcast weeder is an invaluable help. A horse and man can do one and one-fourth acres in little more than an hour. At this rate the corn and cotton fields, potatoes and other crops can be brushed over often for weeds and to conserve moisture and when thus treated you will be surprised to see how little other work will be needed.

THE PHILIPPINES AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

Those who think our war against the Philippines as indefensible as England's attack on the Boers, or that the Filipinos are as worthy of independence as the Boers, are, in our opinion, very seriously mistaken. In the first place, the Boers have all along had an established and stable government that has managed affairs quite ably; the Filipinos are without organization or regular government, either civil or military. Again the Boer as a man is incomparably superior to the savage Filipino. Take, for instance, the fighting qualities of each: England loses more men in a single battle with the Boers than America loses in a year's warfare with the natives of the Philippines. Our war, even if indefensible, certainly has far more palliating features than has England's war upon the courageous people of the Transvaal.

One subscriber sent us a list of 12 three months' subscribers last week. Almost any subscriber by a little effort can make up a list of this size. Why not get up a club?

Within the year the year the beautiful love story of Mr. and Mrs. Brown has become public property and endeared these two poets to all who believe in the uplifting power of human affection. America, too, has had in the literary world a similarly beautiful story, of which but little is known and practically nothing has been published. The life of Nathaniel Hawthorne and his wife was most pure and devoted in all its relations. This hitherto unpublished romance is delicately treated in the February number of The Delineator, under the title "A R. man's Love Story." It is illustrated with Mrs. Hawthorne's picture, reproduced by permission from a family portrait. The aspect of this delightful woman is almost unknown to American women. (Butterick Pub. Co., N. Y. \$1 per year.)

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The encroachment of corporate power is growing and going forward a good deal faster than the measures intended to strengthen the power of the people. The Democrats of Ohio put the Initiative and Referendum into their platform to catch labor votes, and were then too cowardly to fight for the plank. In this they followed the example of the Illinois and California Democrats in 1898. In these States the Democrats deserved all the licking they got.

Though the Initiative and Referendum is 648 years old, there are some who dispose of it by saying: "It's Populism"—which is considered a good argument when one has no argument. There are others who would rather see the country owned by the corporations than get out of the old rut.—Asheville Citizen, (Dem.)

EQUAL TAXATION IN MICHIGAN.

In view of the decision of the Supreme Court of Michigan against the constitutionality of last year's act providing that railroad property should be taxed upon its market value in the same manner as real estate, Governor Pingree has called the Legislature together to submit a constitutional amendment authorizing the equal taxation of all property. In the House the amendment has already passed by a vote of 86 to 8, but the disposition of the railroads to fight to the end for their exemptions was shown by the action of one of their defenders, who voted for the bill and immediately gave notice of a motion to reconsider. At two days are allowed for presenting such a motion, these tactics delayed by just so much the sending of the bill to the Senate. It is there that the real fight is expected, for the friends of railway privileges and the personal enemies of Governor Pingree are especially strong in that body. Governor Pingree has been asked to submit to special session the question of the general revision of the State Constitution, but although he favors such revision, he has prudently declined to lay the matter before the Legislature until the equal taxation amendment has passed both houses. The only apparent danger to this amendment is that the time allowed for the special sessions may be frittered away, on one pretext and another, without definite action. Even Governor Pingree's critic, the Detroit "Tribune," admits that public opinion in Michigan is overwhelmingly in favor of the Governor's simple plan "for the removal of those rising inequalities of the burden of taxation which have been so frequently, so definitely, and so convincingly pointed out."—The Outlook.

Never let yourself be beaten, never fall down and say, "Oh, it's all over with me." If you are beaten in one instance, up, and again resume the struggle. Fight as long as you live. Fight dying even, and it may be that your death will be a victory. Even if you lay down your life for duty it will show the world that you are a conqueror. Whenever you are tempted to be cruel, whenever you are tempted to be dishonest, whenever you are tempted to be foul and licentious, then fight against temptation.—Bishop Brooks.

It would not surprise us if the monopolists should turn their attention before long to agriculture. A trust can buy up millions of acres of the richest land and farm it by cheap labor, obtain special terms from the railroad companies, control the markets, and drive millions of small farmers out of business. It is only a question of time before the attempt will be made.—Farm Journal.

He alone is trustworthy who stands by his work, ready to acknowledge his failures or wear the laurels of success with the beautiful composure of an honest man who has done his best.—Thomas K. Beecher.

There is no virtue in subordinating oneself; but there is virtue in descending and in recognizing anything above us which is beneath us.—Goethe.