THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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FARM AFFAIRS.

DR PARKER ON THE PLAN OF THE TOBACCO GROWERS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

It now really looks like the tobacco growers and independent dealers are getting in shape to help themselves. At their late meeting in Raleigh various plans and schemes to head off the trusts were presented and discussed pro and con in such a bold and daring spirit as was refreshing indeed to one who has heard so many bitter complaints about the greedy and wicked exactions of the trust without any well defined effort to right its wrongs.

However, it will take persistent and heroic work all along the line to accomplish any permanent good to the tobacco grower. The enemy has been amassing his forces for years and now commands the centre and both wings of the situation. The American market for the leaf and every line of the manufactured article has been conquered. The next move in their march of conquest is to buy up immense tracts of land in Cuba, Porto Rico and other dependencies of the United States—the tobacco trusts combining with the big sugar and fruit syndicates to have all of these products enter our ports duty free, thereby reducing prices to a still lower level than ever heard of before.

Nearly every day we see something of the anxiety exhibited in Cabinet meetings, in Senate committee meetings, about the necessity of free trade, to prevent wide spread business disaster in Porto Rico. These big syndicates no doubt are lending a hand in this "intense anxiety" business as they are always anxious to extend their dominion and make doubly secure their strongholds. They are now reaching out for the markets of the entire commercial world so that they can control prices to producer and consumer the world over.

Notwithstanding all of this array of hard work and lavish expenditure of money on the part of the trusts, the farmer seems to think that an occasional meeting, with these occasional spasms of indignation and impotent sputterings, will demolish Gen Duke and all of his cohorts in the first engagement. "Vanity! Vanity!! sayeth the preacher.

The farmer, poor fellow, wants to wait for somebody else to represent him and his interests before Cabinet and Congressional meetings. He may wait and insinuate and formulate; he may hesitate and speculate; he may cultivate and execrate; he may meditate and procrastinate; he may insinuate and criminate; he may vociferate and gesticulate; he may expostulate and even phosphate until doom's day without avail; unless he too, enters into a combine to force a fair distribution of the proceeds to all who grow, handle, or manufacture the raw material.

Will the tobacco growers of North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina and Tennessee longer delay the day of their deliverance? Surely they have suffered enough in the last ten years to fully convince them that any further delay is suicidal and ruinous in the extreme.

At the very first opportunity, let every tobacco grower, whether big or little, sign the agreement for a five years' campaign against the American Tobacco Company. He cannot be worsted—no danger of that. Begin now with the best plan that could be devised, by the combined wisdom and experience of the leading tobacco growers and independent dealers in the State and as time and experience shall develop conditions, all the necessary changes and amendments can be incorporated into the present plan.

No tiller of the soil should hesitate for a single moment to sign the most binding agreement to be loyal to the requirements of the association. For one, I am now ready to swear by the shining summits of Mount Sinai, or by the vasty deeps of the solemn sea, or by the broad expanse of the starry skies, or by the unmeasured towers of infinite space, to never again grow a single plant of tobacco or handle a single leaf of the same in any way whatever that will aid and abet the American Tobacco Company. So help me, high Heaven.

D REID PARKER.

Randolph Co., N C.

CANNING FACTORIES.

Towards the end of each berry season most of our truckers begin to realize the need of canning factories. We are glad to find that at least one paper has not waited till too late to advise the establishment of such enterprises. Now is the time to start the movement. Read this from the Chadbourn Messenger:

The berry season is drawing near and the outlook is indeed bright for the growers. But we cannot say whether the whole crop can be shipped at a profit or not, and to our way of thinking it would be a good idea to contrive some plan to utilize that part of the crop that will not be shipped.

Last season one of our truckers canned a number of quarts and sold a lot of them to a wholesale grocer in Wilmington at 25 cents per quart.

Would it not be a good idea, then, to establish a canning factory and save all the crop that is not shipped? It seems as if it would be a paying enterprise if such prices as the above could be realized.

The cost of the outfit would be small and the expense of operating would not amount to much; and we are inclined to think that Chadbourn ought to have a canning factory anyway.

On almost every farm there is enough vegetables and fruits that go to waste every season to more than supply the family the year round if the same could be preserved.

Why not go to work and get a factory here, and save that which would be wasted the coming season?

THE ACREAGE AND VALUE OF CROPS LAST YEAR.

The Statistician of the Department of Agriculture has made public his final estimates of the acreage, production and value of the crops of 1899. The values are based on the average farm prices on December 1st, in accordance with the practice of the Department.

The wheat acreage was 44 592 516, the production 547 303 846 bushels, and the value $319 545 259, the average yield per acre being 12 3 bushels and the average farm price per bushel on December 1st 58 4 cents.

The corn acreage was 82 108 587, the production 2 078 143 933 bushels, and the value $629 210 110, the average yield per acre being 25 3 bushels and the average farm price per bushel on December 1 was 30 3 cents.

The acreage in oats was 26 341 380, the production 796 177 713 bushels and the value $198,167 975, the average yield per acre being 30 2 bushels and the average farm price per bushel on December 1st 24 9 cents.

The barley crop is estimated at 73 381 563 bushels, the rye crop at 23 961 741 bushels; the buckwheat crop at 11 094 473 bushels, the potato crop at 228 783 232 bushels and the hay crop at 56, 655 756 tons.

Prof. Robinson, the Director of the Experiment Station at Southern Pines, stated in a talk to the State Horticultural Society recently held there, that he grew 7½ tons of Delaware grapes to the acre last year. He also reported that he grew from eight to twelve tons of artichokes to the acre, and all the way from 40 to 360 bushels of sweet potatoes to the acre. In the growth of sweet potatoes the yield, he said, depended almost entirely upon the amount of fertilizers used.

A TIMELY QUERY—WHAT'S IN THE FERTILIZER BAG.

The law in many States compels manufacturers to put the analysis of their goods in plain figures on the bags. And yet there are many users to whom these words and figures convey no intelligent ideas.

It should be remembered that the three substances farmers want to buy in a mixed fertilizer are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, and that these are not obtainable in their pure state, but are contained in certain fertilizer ingredients that are articles of commerce, says the Farm Journal.

A bag of fertilizer weighing 200 pounds, contains, therefore, much beside the three fertilizing elements named above. This waste matter, as we may call it, may be disregarded when we come to figure out the value of the contents of the bag. But it may be said in passing that this so called waste may have agricultural value. With this introduction, let us look into a bag of goods such as we find offered for sale.

A State experiment station bulletin before us will aid us in this work. Here is a bag of the more than three hundred brands analyzed by the Station Chemist. Marked on the side is this analysis:

	Per Cent.
Ammonia	3 50 to 4 00
Phosphoric acid, (available)	7 00 to 8 00
Total phosphoric acid	9 00 to 10 00
Potash (actual)	7 00 to 8 00

This is a plain, straightforward statement, and comparatively easy to understand. As we have before stated in these articles, the nitrogen we want is contained in the ammonia mentioned in this analysis. Of 17 parts of ammonia only 14 parts are nitrogen. To get the proper figures, in place of 3 50 and 4 00 we must divide each by 17 and multiply by 14, or, which is the same thing, multiply by 82. We will, therefore, change the figures to read: Nitrogen.....2 87 to 3 28 per cent.

Now we are ready to figure on the contents of the bag, always remembering that the higher figures given by the manufacturer are really of no importance, for he does not guarantee to give anything more than his lowest figures indicate. We, therefore, disregard them.

If 2 87 per cent. of the contents of the bag is nitrogen, this means that in each 100 pounds, 2 87 pounds are nitrogen, and hence, in the 200 pound bag there are 5 74 pounds of nitrogen. In the same way we figure there are 14 pounds of available phosphoric acid, and a total of 18 pounds of available and insoluble phosphoric acid. The extra 4 pounds in these last figures means, of course, that 4 pounds of the phosphoric acid is insoluble. It would have been better to say, "Phosphoric acid (insoluble) 2 00 per cent.," but to say "total phosphoric acid, 9 00 per cent," while it means the same, is more imposing! Of actual potash the analysis guarantees 14 pounds.

Now, adding up our figures, 5 64 pounds of nitrogen, 18 pounds of phosphoric acid and 14 pounds of potash we have a total of 37 74 pounds. The rest of the contents of the bag, 162 26 pounds, we have no particular use for, and need not count in reckoning the value.

Let us try to learn the commercial value of the 37 74 pounds of plant food. The average of trade values adopted in 1899 by several of the experiment stations, rates nitrogen in mixed fertilizers at 14 cents per pound, phosphoric acid, (available) at 4 5 cents, insoluble phosphoric acid at 2 cents and potash, from muriate of potash, (generally used) at 4 25 cents. Multiplying the ascertained contents severally by the appropriate figures, the nitrogen is worth 80 cents; the phosphoric acid, 71 cents; the potash, 60 cents, or a total of $2 11 for the entire contents. As ten bags make a ton, a ton is worth $21 10.

The station figures we have quoted are intended to represent the retail cash cost per pound of the fertilizer ingredients contained in the raw materials before they have been mixed. It is important to notice this point. Of course the manufacturer buys at wholesale rates. But he has to mix, bag and deliver to agents' or consumers' station, and perhaps, wait six months or a year for his pay. So if he adds from $5 to $10 per ton to our figures and makes the selling price $25 or $30 per ton, he only does what others do. At the lower figures, $25 this brand may be regarded as a bargain, as fertilizers are usually sold.

As a matter of fact the bulletin from which we select this brand we have been considering, and the prices we have quoted, gives the brand a higher valuation than we have calculated from the lower figures on the bag. The station chemist found by his chemical analysis the brand contained more than the lower figures guaranteed. There was an excess of phosphoric acid and of potash, while the nitrogen was fully up to guarantee.

The consumer, it will be seen, has two ways of learning what the bag contains, the figures on the bag itself and the analysis of his State chemist given in his State station bulletins.

BROOM CORN.

A Missouri farmer, writing in the Journal of Agriculture, says:

The broom corn crop of 1899 is now in the hands of the trust, who will hold it for an enormously high price, about $250 per ton, before the new crop can be put on the market. This high price will cause many farmers to plant half their land to broom corn. I predict this year that many tons of broom corn will be sold by the farmer at $50 per ton. Most farmers will sell as soon as it is ready to sell; others will have to sell as they will not be able to hold it for advanced price if it should come within twelve months. Were I farming in Texas or Louisiana, I would plant broom corn early—early varieties, and put on the market early about six weeks before it would come in competition with the Middle and Western States; but as I live in Missouri I will not plant any.

GOOD FARMING.

Mr W. R Baugham, of Rich Square, experimented with peanuts last year with good results. He planted two acres in peanuts of land that would produce about one thousand pounds of seed cotton per acre. On one acre he used one thousand pounds of lime and 250 pounds of plaster. On the other he used the same quantity of plaster but no lime. The two acres produced 4 700 pounds of fine peanuts. He has already realized from the sale of peanuts from the two acres, $73 net, and has $30 worth on hand at present prices.

Mr. Baugham estimates that the acre on which he used lime in addition to plaster produced 3 000 pounds, and the acre without lime about 1 700 pounds. The 1 000 pounds of lime cost, delivered at Rich Square, $2 50.

It requires no fertilizer, now controlled by a robber trust, to produce peanuts. We have talked with a number of farmers on the subject of the relative value of cotton and peanuts as a money crop and all agree that more money can be made raising peanuts at two cents per pound than cotton at eight cents per pounds.—Roanoke Chowan Times.

Sales of tonnage tax tags at the N. C. Agricultural Department are rather smaller that at this date last year, but the rush has not yet begun, and they may be as heavy or heavier.

NOTES FROM MY TRUCK GARDEN

Money Crops for the Market Garden

In my experience in market gardening I have found there are some crops that are safer to depend upon as money crops than others. The market gardener should grow a variety of fruits and vegetables, but he should plant more largely of the crops that are the most marketable. For several years I have hired a man to drive a market wagon for me in the villages that are near me, and in this time I have learned what to supply my customers, and what I have realized the most money from. To the amateur gardener who is hesitating as to what crops to grow the most of, to supply a village market, my experience may be of use.

I have found a greater demand for the small fruits than for the most of the vegetables, and among the small fruits, I am able to sell more strawberries than any of the others, and strawberries are now one of my main money crops. They come the earliest in the season, and the people want them, and I have nothing else that puts as much cash in my pocket as the first few pickings of strawberries. If the berries are nice, I am able to sell them the first week for $3 to $4 per bushel, and from my acre of plants I have sometimes picked 30 to 40 bushels in one day.

After the first week, because of a surplus in the market, the price will sometimes drop to $1 50 per bushel for a day or two at a time, and at this price they sell readily for canning. I am usually able to maintain a fair price for large and well colored berries through the season, and seldom am obliged to take less than 8 cents per quart, and the last week of the strawberry season, when they are scarce the price will advance again to ten or twelve cents per quart.

I grow the most of the other small fruits in smaller quantities, and I think that next to strawberries the blackberries have been the most profitable and in larger demand; then would come raspberries, grapes, currants and gooseberries. I do not grow plums and cherries for market, only a few for family use.

Coming now to the vegetables that are grown in the market garden, I would say that the most salable of these are early potatoes—the gardener seldom grows late potatoes for market—and onions. In any large village the gardener is generally sure to find market for considerable quantities of these. Other vegetables that are generally in good demand are green peas, sweet corn, Hubbard squashes, celery and cabbages and cauliflowers.

Perhaps we may class celery and cauliflowers among the luxuries in the vegetables, as every one does not buy them. But these two vegetables have made more money for me than any of the others. I have found a sufficient number of rich and fashionable people that were willing to pay good prices for fine celery, to make its culture profitable to me, and then special conditions of soil, moisture, and fertility are needed to grow marketable celery, and as these are not found in every garden, the supply of good celery is not usually large in the villages. I would advise the amateur to go slow on celery until he has learned more about its culture.

Another vegetable that some people as already intimated, are willing to pay a fancy price for, if they are fine enough, is cauliflowers. There is a good profit in growing them if the conditions are right, but with the culture that is often given them they are not a reliable crop. There is usually a good demand for cauliflowers in September and October, when people are making pickles, but at other times they are not in as good demand, unless you have wealthy and fashionable people among your customers. To get their trade you must grow fine heads. The large pure white curds, with the leaves trimmed nicely around them, attract the eye, and people buy them because they "look nice." In most large villages there are enough people who want them to make a market for a few thousand heads.

Another vegetable that one should plan to have a good supply of during the pickling time in the fall is onions. There is a time when nearly all of my customers want onions for their pickles. For this purpose one should grow a rather small onion that will mature early in September. The Yellow Globe Danvers if sown early in the spring is as good as any for pickles. The onions that are sold at this time usually bring one dollar per bushel, but later the price is lower until late in the winter, when there is a small supply, and they sell again for a higher price. All through their season there is usually some demand for onions and they are one of the staples that the gardener can depend upon as being marketable.

I have found the market for cabbages somewhat uncertain. Some years I have been able to sell them in the field for a good price, and in other years the price was so low that it did not pay me to hire a man to pedoe them. We grow a small plot of Hubbard squashes, and these pay well if one can get a good crop, which is not always easy to do, because of the insect enemies that attack and destroy the vines when they are small. Asparagus is a paying crop, but it takes three or four years to get it well established so that there is much profit in it.

The other vegetables, as tomatoes, turnips, beets, beans, lettuce, radishes, carrots, parsnips, etc, I have found less profit in growing, but it is a good plan to grow these in smaller quantities, if one drives a market wagon, so as to have a variety to supply your customers. My experience has been confined to growing truck for some large villages, not for the city market.—W. H. Jenkins, in Ohio Farmer.

VALUABLE BULLETINS.

We wish to call the attention of all cotton and tobacco farmers to four very valuable Farmers' Bulletins issued by the National Department of Agriculture. These can be studied with profit by most North Carolina farmers. They are:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 16: "Leguminous Plants for Green Manuring and Feeding."

Farmers' Bulletin No. 44: "Commercial Fertilizers,"

Farmers' Bulletin No. 48: "The Manuring of Cotton."

Farmers' Bulletin No. 82: "The Culture of Tobacco."

A postal card request, addressed to the "Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D C.," will secure for you, free of charge, one or more, or even all four, of these valuable documents. We believe that all farmers that study them will thereby derive much benefit.

A writer in the Practical Farmer rather deplores the influence Farmers' Institutes have had on the Grange, declaring that they have served to keep farmers in line with the two great political parties. The Institute workers are paid for their services, and being selected by one or the other of the political parties, are always loyal to the party; hence we see the Institute is the product of the machine. This fact of itself is evidence that there will be no discussion of the economic side of farming, and any one who has attended the various Institutes will have observed that any attempts to enter upon a discussion of the questions appertaining to our foreign markets, transportation, etc., is always promptly suppressed. If the Institute management was in the hands of the farmers this would not be the case. The redeeming feature is the social aspect of the Institute. Our sons and daughters come out, and with songs and recitations contribute the principal interest of the occasion. And the writer asks if it is not about time that farmers slip their muzzles and discuss other questions than the mere details of soil cultivation. A little farm politics will not [illegible].—Farm Journal.

FARMERS' QUESTION BOX.

GOOSE BREEDING AND PASTURE.

EDITORS PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—I have four acres of land that has been turned out for pasture ten years. Am now having it plowed and expect to make a good pasture out of it. What would be best to seed it down with? Could I raise 300 geese on the four acres? The land is in fairly good condition and would make about five barrels of corn per acre.

Yours truly,

W. R SAWYER.

Pamlico Co., N. C.

(Answer by Corresponding Editor Emery, M. S)

With land in good condition and expecting to get the maximum of pasturage off from this four acres, we would advise sowing a variety of forage plants and to replow and sow over the early ones so as to get a double crop on a part, at least, of the four acres.

Suppose the land lays so it can be easily worked in half acre strips and these are seeded about as follows:

1 Orchard grass, 2 bushels; white clover, 1½ pounds.

2. Spring oats, ½ bushel; Canada field peas 1 bushel.

3 Italian rye grass, 2½ bushels.

4 Early Dwarf Essex rape in drills 15 or 18 inches apart; 6 pounds of seed. (Rape can be again planted in early fall and this amount of seed will do for two plantings).

5 Sweet corn.

6 Cabbage.

7. Awnless brome grass, 2 bushels.

8. Sorghum; any variety will be good; 3 pounds seed.

Follow up peas and oats, rape, sweet corn and sorghum with teosinte, turnips, cowpeas; and in fall, vetches and oats, rye, or wheat. Fence the grazing lots for goslings to not more than one eighth acre and make the fences movable. When, for example, you start on rye grass, graze this eighth what it will bear and move the hurdles to the next and so continue until the half acre is eaten off; while it is growing up another piece is being grazed. If sorghum grows up cut the stalks and feed to the breeding stock or cure for hay. Immidiately after the annual

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