

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 15.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEBRUARY 27, 1900

No. 3

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

The date on your label tells you when your subscription expires. Receipts for money on subscription will be given in change of date on label. If not properly changed in two weeks, notify us.

DISCONTINUANCES.—If a subscriber wishes his copy of the paper discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired, and all arrears must be paid when paper is ordered stopped.

Money at our risk if sent by registered letter or money order. Please don't send stamps. Be sure to give both old and new addresses in ordering change of postoffice.

Rate of Advertising Rates: ten cents per square line. Liberal discounts for time and space.

This item is marked to remind you that you should carefully examine this sample copy and send us \$1 for a year's subscription. Will also send paper on trial 6 months for 50 cents, or 3 months for 25 cents. Or we will send your paper free for one year if you will send us \$5 in new subscriptions, or free six months for \$3 in new subscriptions, at these rates.

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

FARM AFFAIRS.

Report all county tobacco growers meetings for The Progressive Farmer.

If you planted rape last year, report results to The Progressive Farmer. We hope that thousands of North Carolina farmers who have not yet tested it, will do so this year.

We have been urging farmers to read the government Year Book, which is sent free from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. It is a large volume replete with very valuable information and tells simply what many want to know. Application for a copy of the work should be made to your Congressman.

While laying out the land for the different crops, do not neglect to set apart land upon which to raise forage crops, such as sorghum, soja beans, and co-peas, nor fail to leave a place for the sweet potatoes, late Irish potatoes, melons and canteloupes. All these crops contribute much to the comfort and well-doing of the live stock and of the household, and should not be neglected after the staple crops have been provided for and planted.—Exchange

WINTER STORED VEGETABLES.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

As now is the most profitable season for winter stored vegetables, it might be a good thing to call attention to the subject. Last fall we had some excellent winter cabbages, which, owing to the low prices offered for them then, we held in storage on the farm for a more favorable market. There were six tons of them, and they have just been sold in New York markets for prices varying between \$6 and \$9 per 100. They were not all first class when brought out of their cold storage, but by carefully grading them the highest prices were obtained for the best. If they had been shipped just as they were the lot would have been sold for only a trifle above the lowest price. These cabbages lost very little through rotting or wilting, and we made fully twenty per cent. more by keeping them.

A somewhat similar experience was had with a neighbor who kept over a lot of carrots and turnips. These netted him good prices in January, and he is now confident that there is more money in raising these winter vegetables for the market than in cultivating them for the early fall. During the height of the fall season the supply is so great that nearly every market is overcrowded. Most farmers wish to realize on their products as soon as harvested, and by so much eagerness they sacrifice a good deal. Others have no adequate storage facilities for winter vegetables, and they have to dispose of them almost as soon as raised.

This new phase of farming is coming more and more into vogue, and instead of shipping our produce to cities where merchants put them in storage for future profits the producers are learning to hold on to their goods until there is an actual demand for them. Farmers have controlled the corn situation this year more than the speculators by selling their corn gradually, and not all at once, and the cotton farmer has accomplished much in the same line. We must learn to do it in respect to everything else. We can

even do it with perishable goods if we put up ice houses on the farm where good cold storage can be had in summer or winter. As to winter vegetables I believe it is a profitable part of farming in the future. It is a poor farmer who cannot find some way to hold over a part of his winter produce until February or March if necessary, if by so doing he can increase his profits.

S. W. CHAMBERS.

LIME FOR FIELD CROPS.

The application of lime in some Alabama tests to soils devoted to corn, tomatoes, lettuce and tobacco greatly increased the yield and the quality of the crops. With the tomatoes it was noted that heavily limed plants were remarkably free from blight and other fungous diseases. The soil was limed at the rate of from 15 to 45 barrels per acre.

COTTON AND DIVERSIFIED FARMING.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Diversified farming has of recent years been held out to the farmers of the South as a panacea for all ills, and especially those incident to growing cotton at a loss. All those farmers whose locality is suited to cotton, but who have failed to make it profitable through poor management, and ignorance of the conditions necessary to the best development of the cotton plant, are supposed to be able to go into something else which they know less about than they do about cotton, and for which in many cases, their land is not as well adapted, and make money.

For instance the South Georgia farmer has been advised to plant sugarcane in competition with Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, and a movement is on foot to start a sugar refinery at Savannah, while the north Georgia farmer is encouraged to grow wheat; a crop treble as exhaustive to his soil as cotton, and one which will bring him in, if anything, less money than cotton on the same land.

Now, I do not mean by this, to give the impression that I am an advocate of the all cotton idea. A certain amount of diversification is necessary, even to the best development of the cotton crop, but I like to see this diversity come along reasonable lines, and the farmer encouraged to plant those things for which his soil and location are best adapted, and the sale of which carries with it the smallest amount of plant food off the farm. Now while the farmer should without doubt raise as much of his home supplies as he can, profitably, it does not follow that he should produce everything he needs; as he was compelled to do in earlier times. There are such things as sugar, tea, flour, clothing, etc., which he can buy very much cheaper and better than he can produce them. These commodities can safely be left to other people, while his energies are directed toward the production of those things for which his soil and location are best adapted, to exchange for them.

Among these things cotton takes first place in the Southern States, and should be supplemented by dairy products and beef cattle. History shows us that a people have always been prosperous in the possession of large herds of cattle, even as far back as Abraham. Cattle furnish the missing link to the successful production of cotton, making a place to put the forage crops which must be grown in order to establish a rotation in which cotton will do its best.

In an interesting and instructive pamphlet on "the manuring of cotton," issued by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, we find the following:

"Renovating crops, and especially the cowpea, furnish an efficient and economical method of bringing cotton lands into condition to respond most liberally and profitably to the application of concentrated manures under cotton. The most profitable plan of employing the cowpea for this purpose on cotton, is to gather the peas at maturity, cut the vines for hay, and turn under the stubble along with the manure, resulting from feeding the hay to stock and cattle."

The above remarks are derived by combining the results obtained at different experiment stations over the South, and illustrates the fact that cattle are a necessary adjunct to profitable cotton growing. I would, however, suggest that the pea vines be cut for hay as soon as well podded, for best results. With cattle and a proper

application for mineral fertilizers in the form of potash and phosphoric acid, on the renovating crops, little fear need be entertained that cotton will not continue to pay. Cattle make it possible to supply nitrogen and organic matter in its best and cheapest form and render it necessary to purchase only the cheaper chemicals to keep up the fertility of our soils. They consume our forage crop, and make it possible to utilize on the farm the valuable by products from the cotton, of meal and hulls, besides forming in themselves an additional income in which comparatively little plant food is sold off the place.

This is a form of diversification which will be profitable and should be encouraged, as there is no better place in the world for stock raising than in our Southern country.

F. J. MERRIAM

Battle Hill, Ga.

LEGUMES SHOULD BE GROWN ON POOR SOIL.

To get the best results from leguminous crops (peas, etc.) they should be grown on ground which is comparatively infertile. Tests have shown that if planted on this kind of soil they take large amounts of nitrogen from the air and store it up in available form for following crops. If planted on comparatively fertile soil, the elements are taken from the soil and not from the air, and the crop is of little comparative benefit on this kind of land.

TWENTY-FIVE DOLLAR PRIZE ESSAY ON CLOVER CULTURE.

Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*). If possible we should grow our own seed or purchase it from a well known and reliable dealer. This to avoid noxious weed seeds. In buying seed the best is the cheapest in the end. A single layer of seed that will adhere to a wet finger is convenient to test the purity and condition of seed. A hand magnifying glass is a valuable aid.

On part of our farm the rotation is corn, oats, wheat and grass; on the other corn, oats and grass two or three years. We sow a mixture of two parts timothy and one part clover, at the rate of 8 quarts per acre in the fall with the wheat, and 4 quarts of clover in the spring, if possible, when the ground is honey combed. In the last named rotation timothy and clover in about equal proportions are sown at the rate of 10 quarts per acre when the oats are sown. We have had successful stands of grass by sowing in oats 4 years out of 5, and have never had an entire failure. Our experiments show that clover can be grown successfully with potash and phosphoric acid, and that nitrogen may be injurious, especially if applied in the form of sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda. Organic nitrogen, as in dried blood, does not appear to be so injurious. As we increased the amount of nitrogen the clover decreased and the timothy increased. Lime in the form of oxide, carbonate and sulphate encouraged the growth of the clover, but not to so great an extent as phosphoric acid and potash. In trying timothy and clover with oats or barley as compared with sowing it alone, the latter gave the best results. The reason that clover does not last in some cases more than one year, is that it is crowded out by the timothy. On a plot where no timothy was sown we had a good crop of clover the second year, while the adjoining plot, on which timothy and clover were both sown, the hay was nearly clear timothy the second year. The young grass fields are clipped the latter part of August or beginning of September, before the clover or weeds go to seed. The cutter bar is run rather high to prevent injuring the heart of the clover plants. We do not pasture the farm land. The clipped material is left lying as cut. It decays and serves as a mulch, and further it keeps the weeds and stubble out of the hay. It also obviates the necessity of burning the stubble, which in many cases is a wasteful practice. Then, too, the clipping induces the clover to stool. Before we began the practice of clipping the growth in one season was sufficient to form seed. The result was a poor hay crop the next year, as red clover plants die after having matured seed. The stones are picked from the field in the fall or early spring, and the land rolled as soon as the ground is dry enough. This is done to press the plants into the ground that have been

partially thrown out by frost. If a considerable amount of heaving occurs it indicates the need of underdrainage. The crop should be cut for hay when the seed is in the milk to dough stage. If cut sooner the maximum amount of food is not secured, and if left longer, much of the nutriment of the plant has been transferred to the seed, which passes through the animal undigested. The leaves are also more likely to be lost in the curing process. When sown with timothy it has to be left a little longer in order to give the timothy more time to develop. If put in the silo it should be cut sooner by three or four days than when intended for hay. We have filed our silo in the last four years with great success.

Should the clover become too ripe it had better be cut while the dew is on, or water added in filling, to insure sufficient packing to exclude the air. For hay the clover should be cut in the morning after the dew is off, and left to dry until the middle of the afternoon when it may be put in large windrows or racks. If the weather is favorable it may be spread out the next afternoon and taken to the barn in the afternoon. It should be handled as little as possible to prevent the loss of leaves, and can be left in racks several days if proper attention is given them. The clover covers, now to be had on the market, could probably be used to good advantage by many who at present suffer a large loss in the improper curing of the hay. The prejudice against clover hay is largely due to the careless methods of curing, in which the leaves are lost and the stems insufficiently dried to prevent molding in the mow.

Crimson clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*). We have had as much as 24 tons of hay per acre where the seed was sown alone at the rate of 10 quarts per acre in the beginning of July. It matured the last week in May. For the past three years we have sown plots on July 15th, August 15th and September 1st. The July sowing was the best in every instance. Our greatest difficulty in securing a stand in the corn field has been the August drought. The seed would germinate, but the plants would die before getting a firm hold in the soil. If possible the soil should be harrowed immediately before and after the seed is sown. In 1894-5 it came through the winter very well, but part of the plants were killed in April by the sun's rays on a frosty morning. The seed does not germinate well when more than a year old, so that great care must be secured fresh seed.

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) has not proven a success with us. Our soil is a magnesium limestone clay with rather a compact subsoil, and only moderately well drained. In several instances we secured a good stand, but it was nearly all frozen out the first winter. We tried to grow it by inoculating the soil with nitrogen and soil obtained from the Geneva Experiment Station, on which a large growth had been secured the previous year. The plot treated with the Geneva soil was better than the plot receiving no treatment, but the nitrogen had little effect on the stand and growth.

Alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*) does quite well with us, especially on the damper ground, and we think it will often be used by the farmers of this State to good advantage, especially where the land is pastured. In 1896 we experimented as to the proper depth to sow the different clovers, and found that covering from one inch to one and one-half inches was better than a very light covering. The seed covered three and four inches did not come up. The crimson clover came up a little better when covered two inches than white clover, which result should be expected from the fact of the seed—E. H. HARRIS, in Practical Farmer.

BROME GRASS.

Bromus inermis is a grass which in some particulars resembles quack grass. It has root stems which creep along underground and form a dense soil. It is not the persistent pest that quack grass is, and no farmer need fear it. Our common blue grass also has underground stems the same as quack grass, and yet there is no fear of its spreading. *Bromus inermis* or Hungarian brome grass is a grass well worthy of trial by our farmers, and I strongly urge them to try it. It may not be quite so good as timothy or bluegrass, but we need more kinds of grasses—and let us experiment with *bromus*—W. A. Henry.

SHIP THE BEST.

It is impossible to estimate the loss sustained by growers through the pernicious practice of shipping inferior berries to market, but no one can deny that it must be enormous. The cull berries seldom realize much more than cost, and even while they may bring an apparent profit, yet the loading down of markets with inferior fruit must have the effect of depressing the price of prime stock, which otherwise would have sold at satisfactory figures.

Good berries have only one competitor, and that is the cull. Fancy stock never glut a market, but drops in value when an over supply of poor berries is disposed of at any old price that is offered. Ship only the best and keep the culls at home.—Mr. Olive Advertiser

TOBACCO DEPARTMENT.

In our General Correspondence department this week, our tobacco growing friends will find an interesting and well written article relating to tobacco interests from the pen of Mr. S. G. Jatterwhite.

ORGANIZATION OF WARREN COUNTY.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.
On Saturday, February 10th, a goodly number of the farmers of Warren county met in the court house and organized a permanent County Tobacco Growers' Association. The following officers were elected:
J. B. Davis, President; J. A. Dowling, Vice President; P. M. Stallings, Secretary. Executive Committee: J. L. Burchett, S. J. Pritchard, L. H. Hawks, Eugene B. Stallings and W. R. Wiggins.
Township organizations will now be pushed. You may count on old Warren. ANTI TRUST.

WARREN CO., N. C.

PITT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.
Pitt County Tobacco Growers' Association held a largely-attended and very enthusiastic meeting a few days ago, in Greenville.
J. J. Laughinghouse, President of the County Tobacco Growers' Association, called the meeting to order and made a splendid speech. Secretary A. J. Moyer read minutes of last Tobacco Growers' meeting.
The roll of township was then called and all were found represented.
The first work of the meeting after organization was to appoint a committee on resolutions, which consisted of J. S. Harris, John Flanagan, G. T. Tyson and I. H. Little.
The first resolution reported reads as follows:
"Resolved, That we, the farmers of Pitt county, do not believe that the farmers' agricultural interests of our State receive due recognition in our State Government and lawmaking powers regardless of which parties are in control of State affairs. As a partial illustration of this we invite attention to the personnel of the Penitentiary Board which has control of the State farms, and also the Board of Agriculture, both of which boards should be composed exclusively of farmers."

This was killed because, forsooth, it looked like "going into politics." Nevertheless, your correspondent would like to commend it to Progressive Farmer readers.
The following resolutions were then read and adopted. The meeting asked that they be referred to the committee on plan of action appointed by the last State meeting with the request that they be embodied with the Jordan plan. These resolutions are as follows:
Resolved, That the most practical and feasible plan of thwarting the methods of the trust is the encouragement and patronage of independent tobacco factories.

3. That we pledge ourselves to use all honorable and legal means to encourage the use of good manufactured by independent factories.

3. That the President appoint a committee of two in each township to confer with the merchants of their respective townships and take the names of all merchants who are willing, and those who are not willing, to cooperate with us in this struggle for common justice against the power of legalized tyranny, and report them to the President, who will publish them in any of the State papers that he may deem proper, and that the merchants

be requested and urged to use their influence with Northern merchants to get them to handle and sell only goods manufactured by independent factories, and to give preference in their Northern purchases to those who show a willingness to co-operate with us.

4. That we appeal to all lovers of justice, right and humanity to help and encourage us in this crusade of the weak against the strong, of justice against injustice, of humanity against inhumanity.

5. That we urge immediate and active organization throughout the tobacco growing States of the Union and invite cooperation along these lines.

6. That we ask the next State Convention of Tobacco Growers to adopt this cooperative plan as the most practical solution of this vital question to us all.

7. That we ask all papers that recognize the righteousness of our cause to give these resolutions as wide circulation as possible.

The Jordan plan was then endorsed by the convention. After this, the following additional resolutions were offered:

We, the farmers of Pitt county, recognizing the need of concert of action and of combination for our mutual benefit and protection, make this declaration of purposes and invite all the counties in North Carolina to form similar organizations, hoping this movement will extend to every State in the Union.

1. Whereas, The present depressed condition of agriculture is so great that the independent farmer is fast being reduced to dependence or actual want, and cannot at present prices of farm products give the necessary comforts of life to his family. The immense and fertile territories being now thrown open to the world for settlement and development give little hope of any permanent or appreciable rise in the price of farm produce for the future.

2. The tropical possessions that we have recently acquired by conquest offer a field for syndicate farming with peon or coolie labor and, menace the markets of the American farmer.

3. The great rise in all manufactured products is out of all character and proportion to the advance in raw materials. The great prosperity that is so widely heralded is not being enjoyed by the farmer, but it is being felt by him in that the profits of his labor must be wrung from him to pay tribute on these enormously inflated and fictitious values.

4. Great corporations, trusts, in defiance of all civil and moral law are strangling the liberties of a free people and swaying the destinies of the republic, naming its titular dignitaries and dictating national legislation.

5. With a developing and expanding market, with decreased production and with increasing prices for manufactured tobacco we find the price of leaf tobacco steadily diminishing until it has fallen to that point where it is no longer profitable.

6. All manufactured articles are rising in price as the farmer's profit from his toil grows less and less, and we call attention to the fertilizer trust which, while directly dependent on the agricultural interests of the country is gouging the farmer to the last farthing and making it even more difficult and costly for him to produce his crops. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we urge upon the farmers of this county that they reduce their money crops, cotton and tobacco, at least 25 to 30 per cent. in acreage and make an effort to raise all home supplies, pursuing an intelligent system of rotation and stock feeding, planting peas for enriching their land and making hay, and that we encourage them to hope that by an intelligent and diversified system of agriculture we may increase home comforts and to some extent alleviate distressed conditions.

2. That we unqualifiedly condemn the imperialistic and insular policy of this administration and request that the representatives in Congress from this State vigorously protest against the free admission of the products of the cheap labor of the tropics in competition with our products as such importation would be disastrous and ruinous to the Southern farmer.

3. We heartily invite capital, individual or corporate, to come among us; we will encourage in every way we can its legitimate investment, giving it

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)