

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Editorial.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The cotton outlook in Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas and Alabama is said to be unfavorable and cotton prices have risen steadily for several days.

The Progressive Farmer regrets to learn that Prof. Gerald McCarthy has resigned as State Entomologist and Botanist.

Mr. W. W. Bryan succeeds Mr. C. Ed. Taylor as editor of the Southport Standard and promises to maintain this paper's independent and conservative character.

We are no less sincere because so tardy in congratulating our contemporary, the Biblical Recorder, upon its recent increase in circulation.

The North Carolina State Board of Agriculture has received notice that it has been awarded a premium on its apple exhibit at the Paris Exposition.

There were two somewhat serious typographical errors in our last issue. In our legislative proceedings the phrase 'Mr. McNeill, of Buncombe,' was used once instead of 'Mr. McNeill, of Brunswick.'

Some interesting fertilizer figures, carefully compiled for this paper, are given this week. We note with pleasure that cost of fertilizer inspection by our Department of Agriculture during the year ending June 15, was only \$6,132.33 against \$15,794.77 for the preceding year.

Charity and Children, commenting upon the egging of Mr. H. F. Seawell at Shelby recently, correctly sizes up the perpetrators in this style: 'Of course it was the work of the baser element, and wise men there as well as elsewhere must greatly deplore it.'

We do not take any stock in the reports of the partisan press that Mr. C. B. Aycock is making incendiary speeches or that Mr. S. B. Adams is engaging in ungentlemanly conduct.

Wallace's Farmer, of Des Moines, Iowa, an authority on live stock matters, says of the Grout bill: 'One the arguments brought most prominently forward against the measure is the supposed effect it will have upon the price of beef cattle.'

As a matter of fact, it is very doubtful if the slightest effect on these prices will be noticed. The greater part of the fat used in oleomargarine is cheap lard and refuse which cannot be used in any other way.

Bro. Parker's address to tobacco growers makes good reading. Tobacco growers should go to work for their organization. See what can be done.

We have confidence in the good people of Kentucky, who have conducted themselves with calmness and good sense during a most trying period, and believe that if ex-Governor Taylor were to return and demand an investigation of the charges against him in connection with the Goebel murder that he would have a perfectly fair trial.

The Progressive Farmer has had reports of scarcity of farm hands from Wake, Northampton, Caswell, Guilford, Person, Mecklenburg, Montgomery and Warren counties. The condition evidently exists throughout the State.

One of the planks in the Progressive Farmer's State platform is: 'Lower priced school books.' See that your candidate for the legislature gets on this plank.

The Durham Herald reports that in Oxford one night last week a dade negro was shot and killed for making himself offensive and pushing a white woman that happened to be in his way off the side-walk a few hours before.

George W. Vanderbilt is to erect an \$80,000 dairy upon his famous Biltmore farms. Ground has already been broken for the foundation of the buildings and the work will be pushed to completion in five months.

THIS WEEK'S PAPER.

A paper as timely as it is valuable has the place of honor this week—Prof. J. M. Johnson's suggestion as to the best manner of bridging over the season of poor pastures.

The Progressive Farmer has had the pleasure of printing several from his pen—are thoroughly practical. We hope to hear from him oftener in the future.

Our General Correspondence columns evidence the fact that our readers are still interested in the Constitutional Amendment.

SELECT YOUR BEST MEN.

Secretary Parker is wisely urging upon Alliancemen the necessity of electing their best men as sub-officers. From a letter received from him, unavoidably crowded out of this issue, we make this extract that demands immediate attention.

'The time is rapidly approaching when the most important meetings of the year for both sub and county Alliancemen will be held. These meetings are especially important from the fact that they are the meetings at which the officers for the ensuing year are selected, and consequently largely determine the influence of the Alliance for the next twelve months.'

'The Alliance, as other organizations, will be judged by its representatives, its officers; and its influence for good will be extended or hampered in proportion to the judgment exercised in their selection. The Alliance has been undergoing a crucial test, and it has required the good judgment of its members to keep it clear of the rocks and dangers that have threatened it.'

COTTON AND TOBACCO ACREAGE.

The increase in cotton acreage in this State is not as great as was reported in the June crop bulletin published in The Progressive Farmer last week.

'The report for June placing it at 18 per cent. was given out without my knowledge, and was based on the returns made to this office without consideration of the locality from which they came.'

'Investigation, has shown, however, that nearly all the heavy increases come from counties that last year raised very small crops of cotton. The total acreage in the State will not be more than 10 per cent. over that of last.'

Conflicting reports reach us as to tobacco acreage. The State Agricultural Department puts the decrease in this State at 12 per cent.; Secretary Parker, of the Tobacco Association, says 25, while the Warrenton Record says 12 per cent. is 'away off.'

To keep posted, read The Progressive Farmer.

THE BEST USE OF STUBBLE LAND.

It doesn't pay to let the land from which you have just harvested wheat or oats lie unproductive till next spring—not unproductive, either, for it will certainly be growing a crop of noxious weeds with a heavy crop of weed seed, which means extra expense and much annoyance with the next crop planted on this land.

If your pastures are poor and a variety of soiling crops needed, read Prof. Johnson's article on page 1 and adopt the suggestions there made—grow enough peas, millet and sorghum to tide over the season of short pastures.

Wheat and oats draw heavily on the fertilizing elements in the soil, and should be followed by a leguminous crop. Furthermore, the pea crop, if cured, will be worth just about double what the oat crop was worth, and will leave the land in very much better condition in every way after the peas are cut.

To sum up: instead of leaving stubble land idle, make provision against short pastures, planting some millets or sorghum to give variety of soiling crops where needed, and put all other stubble land in cow peas. This crop, requiring less labor than almost any other crop, will—

- 1. Crowd out many weed pests that would grow on untilled land.
2. Restore much of the fertility withdrawn from the soil by wheat or oats.
3. Make an forage crop unsurpassed by many requiring heavy fertilizing and three times as much labor as the cow pea.

NORTH CAROLINA FARMING.

Crops in Hyde, according to the Washington Progress, are the finest that they have been at this season of the year for many years and the people are in high spirits.

The wheat crop in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and other northwestern States is very short and flour has recently advanced 35 cents per barrel. But this fact has no terrors for farmers that have their share of the great wheat crop just harvested in this State.

Corresponding Editor Emery writes us from Asheville: 'There have been copious rains in the last few days in all the section through which we have been. From Raleigh to Charlotte and Asheville crops are looking thrifty but cotton is late. Haying of the later cultivated grasses is now in order for the coming week in the mountains.'

From every section of the State comes news of unusually fine wheat crops which the heavy rains before the end of the harvesting and housing period, however, damaged some. The Roanoke-Chowan Times reports a good oat crop also except of rust-proof varieties killed by last winter's freezes, in its sections—oats much damaged by smut, however.

In our last issue we gave an item from a High Point newspaper correspondent saying that Guilford farmers are buying much farm machinery. Webster's Weekly of Reidsville has made the same encouraging discovery regarding Rockingham farmers.

From this issue of the 14th we get this item: 'An encouraging sign of substantial progress is the quantity of agricultural machinery the farmers are buying. They are using drills, sulky plows, disc harrows, mowers, binders, etc., in their work—i. e., the wide-awake ones are—and are thus saving money.'

GOOD PRICES FOR ANGORA GOATS.

At a sale of Angora goats at Kansas City last week a buck sold for \$200, fifteen does brought \$15 each and 100 does \$7.50 each. Next fall there will be a great show and sale at Kansas City of the pure breeds in the great herds of the country.

Great interest is now being taken in Angoras. It is little wonder, too, since the mohair, which is the goat fleece, sells for from ten or twelve to forty cents per pound, according to the fineness of the staple. The degree of fineness depends on the grade of the goat.

Taken with this the fine table quality of meat and the fact that the goats are pasture cleaners preferring the shrubs and coarse plants not relished by cattle or sheep, they are exceedingly desirable animals to breed.

THE BELGIAN HARE FRAUD.

Our readers will remember the letter of a few weeks ago on the Belgian hare. We have since the publication of that article seen several from widely various sources supporting our position on the subject.

The Northwestern Hide and Fur Company, a substantial and responsible concern of Minneapolis announces that the whole business is a fraud which it is the duty of the press to expose. Under date of May 17 the firm sends out the following letter:

'DEAR SIR:—We have received an immense number of inquiries to know what we are paying for 'Belgian hares' skins. Thousands of farmers throughout the country are being humbugged by being induced to go into the Belgian hare business and the press has been imposed upon by the shrewd manipulators of this scheme.'

They say that immense fortunes are easily made by raising the hares for market. They inform the press that the skins are worth from 50c. to \$2 each, and that the meat finds ready sale in all the leading markets of our country at 20c. per pound. There is no demand whatever for the skins, and there is no regular market in any of the cities of the country.

In a small way they may be sold, but there is a large number now raised, which is proven by the numerous inquiries we have as to what we will give for their skins, and asking us where they can find sale for the meat, with or without being dressed. There is no present market for them in New York, Philadelphia, Boston or San Francisco.

The skins have no more value in this country than the common hare of like size. The fur is only used in this country for 'hatters' stock,' and the Belgian hare skins from foreign countries can be had dressed and dried for less than one-fourth what these humbugs claim the skin is worth here. It is the poorest and cheapest of all furs, being so tender that there is no wear to it.

Our Question Box.

Inquiries regarding any farming subject fully answered by competent and experienced active Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

The word 'forage' in the inquiry of 'S.', on page 1, should be 'soiling.' 'Soiling' crops, not 'forage' crops, were spoken of.

USE OF LIME.

Please tell me if lime should be mixed with manure some time before applying or applied directly to the soil?

Robeson Co., N. C. (Answer by Corresponding Editor Irby.)

This query was answered some weeks ago. I should certainly not put any lime with the manure or with anything else; lime should be applied to the soil alone, as it has a tendency to liberate fertilizing elements in the manure or the compost heap.

OLEO IN THIS STATE.

As a butter-producer I have been much interested in your many articles in defence of the Grout bill and in opposition to the oleo industry. Now I want to know if our State law can't deal with this fraud?

Wilson Co., N. C. (Answered by Corresponding Editor Emery.)

North Carolina has a law to prevent adulteration and frauds which is violated every time a pound of oleomargarine is sold for butter, and we believe it is within the province of the State Department of Agriculture to enforce this law if there is, or can be had a provision which will put in the hands of the Board of Agriculture the funds with which to prosecute the infringements.

FERTILIZERS.

1. Can you tell me how many brands of fertilizer are sold in this State? 2. How do sales this year compare with sales of last year and year before? 3. Am told that in many Western States no fertilizers whatever are used. Is this true?

Rowan Co., N. C. (Answered by Managing Editor.)

1. More than 800 brands are sold in North Carolina.

2. Up to June 1, since the beginning of the current fiscal year, Dec. 1st, 1899, the Department of Agriculture had turned into the State Treasury the sum of \$46,195.04 on account of collections for the sale of tonnage tax tags. This tax being 20 cents per ton on fertilizers sold in the State, shows sales to the above date of 230,975.2 tons.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Tons. Rows: 1899 (240,487 tons), 1898 (245,512), 1897 (214,372), 1896 (187,438), 1895 (114,208), 1894 (131,243), 1893 (145,467).

3. It is true. For instance, Prof. Curtis, of the Iowa Station, says that not a single firm in the State of Iowa handles commercial fertilizers. Replying to a recent inquiry from Maxwell, Iowa, he says: 'I do not know of any land in the vicinity of Maxwell, Ia., that cannot be better maintained by good cultivation, a suitable rotation and the use of clover or other leguminous crops, together with live stock raising and the application of barnyard manure, much more economically and effectively than by resorting to commercial fertilizers.'