

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARALLEL TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1888.

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Editorial.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Don't forget your county Alliance meeting. Go and go prepared for work.

See your neighbor and get his subscription. Only those who subscribe within the next two weeks will be in time to get the full proceedings of the Legislature.

We regret that Harry Farmer's letter arrived too late to take its usual place in our agricultural department. We haven't published a more valuable series of articles for a long time than that furnished by Harry.

Chief Justice W. T. Faircloth, of the North Carolina Supreme Court, died suddenly at his home in Goldsboro, 10 p. m., Saturday, Dec. 29th. He was 62 years old, a man of high character, wealthy, a leading Baptist and a life-long Republican, respected by men of all parties. He was one of the ablest men in his party in the State. His term would have expired December 31, 1902. Governor Russell will appoint his successor to serve till that date.

Those of our readers who have been troubled by the wilt disease of cotton or who become interested in Prof. Gerald McCarthy's article on the subject in our last issue will learn with pleasure that an exhaustive illustrated bulletin, "The Wilt Disease of Cotton and Its Control," has just been issued by the Agricultural Department. It may be obtained free of charge by addressing "Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C." It is a valuable little pamphlet for cotton growers.

In the death of George E. Boggs, of Haywood county, last Wednesday, The Progressive Farmer lost a firm friend and valued correspondent and the State one of its best citizens. As an individual, he was a Christian gentleman of high ideals, a man of sincerity and earnestness. As a farmer, he was progressive and enterprising, his apple orchards being among the finest in the State. As a citizen, he was courageous and independent, too high-toned to long wear the shackles of any party. A good man's character is the world's common legacy, and the life of George E. Boggs has influenced and will influence men to purer lives and higher aims. Peace to his ashes.

The fourth annual session of the North Carolina Association of Academies was held in this city last week with a good attendance of enthusiastic business-like educators. Many valuable papers were read. Resolutions were adopted recommending the establishment of a reformatory for youthful criminals; urging the strengthening and lengthening of the public schools; commending the course of Prof. Mebane, the retiring Superintendent of Public Instruction, and advising liberal appropriations for the State's higher institutions of learning. The Association of Academies has a work all its own, and is going to live and do it. The following officers were elected to serve next year: President, S. L. Sheep, Atlantic Collegiate Institute, Elizabeth City; Vice-President, John Graham, Warrenton High School; Secretary and Treasurer, Robt L. Madison, Cullowhee High School, Painter.

A NEW CENTURY.

We expect that a goodly number of our readers have already been bored by long-winded essays on the greatness of the nineteenth century and the possibilities of the twentieth, but we hope that such persons will pardon us for submitting a few observations of our own regarding the subject so much in vogue at this time. And if so, we give our promise not to so offend again until the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Whatever you have heard of the greatness of the century now forever past, it is not likely that you have heard its pre-eminence exaggerated. In progress along all lines of invention and discovery, in educational matters, in the spread of Christian civilization, it towers above all the other centuries since time began.

We firmly believe that the world is growing better; that God's works are all right, and that man and man's works grow better as surely as the years roll on. This may not be evident in comparing to-day with yesterday, or even this New Year's day with last New Year's day, but the dullest can see it in a comparison of conditions to-day with conditions on the first day of the nineteenth century. You don't have to look for evidences of it in books by learned professors or theologians, but in your own every-day life are all the proofs needed.

Two blocks west of our office stands a handsome depot. It suggests the greatest of the century's inventions—the railroad, which has made the whole world neighbors. To-day you may be in Raleigh; tomorrow you may be in New York. To-day you may look out the waves of the restless Atlantic; within little more than half a week you may be carried to the very edge of the Pacific. The greater part of the country crossed in such a trip was, a century ago, a wilderness where only the savage Indian roamed. And the fastest means of transportation then known was the stage coach.

Here in front of our office runs a street car line. A hundred years ago who dreamed that man would ever harness the element that illumines the heavens in a thunder storm and use it for taking him from place to place?

An electric light is just in front of our window. Had some man on January 1, 1801 predicted such an invention, he would have been called a visionary, a dreamer.

The telegraph now "puts a girle about the earth in forty minutes" when a hundred years ago, the courier on horseback was the fastest method of carrying news.

The uneducated man has become the exception rather than the rule. Where one child had the opportunity of securing an education in 1801, ten thousand now have such such privileges.

Yonder waves a United States flag. In 1801 it was the emblem of a newly born republic, a loose confederation of thinly populated States along the Atlantic seaboard. Today our country stretches from ocean to ocean, and from the Lakes to the Gulf. (We say nothing of our "island empire," for we are not sure that it, or our methods of acquiring it, reflects very great credit upon us.) Then government "of, by, and for the people" was an experiment—an unpromising experiment, the classes thought; the masses were not yet thinking seriously about such matters. Few dared question the divine right of kings.

But steadily and surely has grown the doctrine of "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man." Monarchs have been dethroned, savage nations civilized, the shackles of slavery broken. The "good tidings of great joy" first proclaimed nineteen centuries ago are being told unto all nations.

But it is useless to carry the comparison further. Take this thought with you into the new century: The world is getting better, men are getting nobler. To live in such an age and to use the talents God gives us for encouraging right and justice—that the world may be better for our having lived in it—is a privilege not to be lightly esteemed.

We direct attention to the call for a meeting of the State Cotton Growers' Association to be held in this city, January 16th. We hope that the meeting will be largely attended and urge all our cotton-growing readers that can do so to attend. Several hundred farmers should come from Wake and adjoining counties alone.

MEETING OF THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The twenty-second annual meeting of this Society was held in Asheville, N. C., Dec. 19, 1900. Only a few members were in attendance. This is the first meeting this Society has held west of Winston-Salem and to the loss of time and expense of the long distance by rail must be ascribed the lack of attendance by the numbers of its members who flock to its meetings when held at eastern points. Because of different interests and the distance, few fruit growers of Western North Carolina have cared to become members and attend meetings held in the East.

At this session President J. Van Lindley gave a stirring address on apple growing in this section of the State. He is a firm believer that some day the fruit grown here will be marvelous in its quality, abundance and value.

There was no set program and discussion took a wide range. This meeting was to discuss apples and Western North Carolina as an apple-producing center.

First, as to the crop of 1900. It was a very large one and it was estimated that in Haywood county fully 75 per cent. has already been sold at a good price. Falling prices were expected because of the large crops reported early in the season, but instead there has been and still exists a rising price for apples. This was ascribed by some speakers to the increasing demand for apples for consumption among the people, and by others in part to the wide spread damage to fruit by the Galveston hurricane, which stripped off fully 50 per cent. of the New York, Ohio, and Canada apples, which in consequence were necessarily evaporated or converted into cider or vinegar.

Discussing varieties of apples best suited to Western North Carolina, it was agreed that Mr. Boggs' list was a desirable one. The list comprises five varieties, viz: Ben Davis, Albemarle Pippin, York Imperial, Winesap and Rhone Beauty.

A considerable number of varieties were mentioned and their merits for different sections were discussed. Amongst these may be mentioned: Gravenstein, which succeeds well in Cabarrus county. It is one of the chief export apples of Nova Scotia. Spitzbergen grows very poorly, making an unsightly scrubby tree, but it produces some of the finest fruit.

Wealthy has been fruited and discarded at Pomona, but it may do well in the mountains. No one present knew of its trial here.

Baldwin, Mr. May says, succeeds in the high mountains as a fall apple.

Van Hoy originated in Forsyth county and is a fine apple. An Illinois fruit grower who has tried it there ranks it above York Imperial. McCulloch Winter, originating in Wake county, is good for cotton belt and South, but not for mountain region.

The Alexander was called, but no one present has fruited it here.

Mr. May would change the order of some of the varieties recommended. For instance, he would rather have the old native Nick-a-Jack as a money-maker than Winesap, and thinks the proportion of 5 barrels to 1 about right between these as yielders. He also places about this same proportion as between Ben Davis and Albemarle Pippin in yield. The Red Lambertwig was recommended.

Mr. C. C. Lindley, from Old Fort, in an address on fruits for his section, commented favorably on Virginia Beauty, Rhone Beauty particularly for new land. Ben Davis is as good a bearer on low land as Red Lambertwig. He said the Mattamusket bears well but it is not a fine market apple.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Gulliver that members bring or send to these meetings samples of varieties which do well in their section of the State. Whereupon Mr. Sherman spoke of the magnificent displays in Rochester, N. Y. (Western N. Y. Horticultural Society) and of the beginnings and progress in this line in Maryland.

Discussing curculio injuries and methods of destroying this pest Dr. Von Herff reported killing them by spraying just as the leaves appear with Paris green or London purple. The old methods of jarring was reported as well as the new, wherein the inverted umbrella frame is attached to a wheelbarrow and the opening for the trunk of the tree is placed in front. The operator trun-

dles his wheel up against the tree, two or three strokes, then backs off and goes on to the next tree. The curculios which roll off into the cloth bring up in the vessel of kerosene placed in the center in the barrow.

Why do not sweet cherries do well here? Mr. Gulliver's trees are dying. Mr. May has some doing well. Mr. J. A. Young, life member from Greensboro, spoke of trees near his farm which had done well and of a lady buying a little place and paying for it from the cherry crop. By these examples he was induced to plant five acres ten years ago and has never harvested five dollars' worth of fruit. President Van Lindley, quoting from a Biltmore farmer, said the reason was probably that Mr. Young's trees were cultivated. "The cherry does not bear to have its roots disturbed. The ground planted in cherry trees should be left uncultivated," i. e., seeded to grass, but not neglected by any means.

The killing of trees by warm weather in winter followed by cold waves was discussed. Partial remedy is to plant in cold exposures. The sheltered warm valleys and south and east exposures are peculiarly liable to these losses.

Dr. N. Robinson being called upon, gave a lively and vivid account of the Society's Experimental Farm and Orchard at Southern Pines.

Blight came in for a share in the discussions. It must be kept up by constant care, cutting and burning the blighted limbs. Dr. Robinson has cut back six inches below the visibly infected bark, while a U. S. Department of Agriculture authority recommends cutting not less than 18 inches below in order to be assured of cutting below the limit of the disease in the growing tissues.

There were resolutions offered and passed urging North Carolina Congressmen to favor and help increase the appropriations for certain specific objects, viz.:

"Resolved, That this Society favors the following additional appropriations and respectfully urges our Congressmen to do all in their power to secure the same:

"1st. An increase of \$25,080 to the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the investigations of the diseases of plants and to enlarge the plant-breeding work.

"2nd. To increase the appropriation of the Division of Pomology \$10,000 to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the present market and to open new ones; also to disseminate knowledge of the best methods of harvesting and marketing apples and other fruits."

A resolution which provoked more discussion than its modest terms would seem to warrant was introduced and passed:

"Resolved, That this Society take under consideration the holding of three meetings before the next annual meeting."

This was referred to the Executive Committee. If three meetings are advertised and held in different parts of the State by this Society, and they are well attended and each is as interesting as this Asheville meeting has proved, there should be at least one hundred members added to the Society, and these will have been well repaid before the year is out for the time and money spent, in that they will be prompted in their practice in fruit growing, and the quickened spirit with which they will note and handle their affairs will make this a profitable investment to them.

Before adjournment, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—J. Van Lindley, of Pomona.

Vice-President—W. F. Massey.

Secretary and Treasurer—Franklin Sherman, of Raleigh.

District Vice-Presidents—George E. Boggs, R. C. Simon, Oliver Warren, J. S. Westbrook, O. W. Blacknall, D. E. Parker, C. R. B. Caldwell and Dr. Balmere.

Executive Committee—B. Von Herff, P. H. Beck, J. F. Gulliver, J. Van Lindley and Franklin Sherman.

The address of President Van Lindley was an excellent one, and will appear in full in next week's Progressive Farmer. F. E. E.

Our Sampson county readers should work earnestly among their neighbors during the next two weeks to prepare them for State Lecturer Ban's visit to their county. Read his list of appointments in another column. Spread the news.

IMPROVED FARM IMPLEMENTS VS. OLD STYLE IMPLEMENTS AND HAND LABOR.

A thorough discussion of this subject is rather difficult, as it is sometimes hard to draw the line of distinction between ordinary implements and what we call improved implements. However, I think any implement that is a great labor-saver might properly be called an improved implement. In North Carolina, at least, the time has passed by when the farmer who depends on hand labor, and scratching "mother earth" with a bull tongue and a single plow, can compete with his neighbor who uses improved implements, or with people in other States on rich lands and highly improved machinery.

If we expect to make a living at farming we must be progressive and keep up with the line of march. People in all other professions are continually trying to get information, and to use better machinery, tools, etc., and the farmer, too, must be ready to adopt new methods and new ideas when beneficial. Of course, he will slip up sometimes, and engage in something new and fail at it, or he may be induced to buy implements that are not just the thing for his farm; but he could cultivate his judgment and learn to buy more discreetly.

When our lands were new, and our wants were not so numerous as they are now, farming could be made to pay, even with rude methods. But now if we stick to the old ideas we soon find ourselves either in debt or without a farm. With the low prices of several years ago it was a noticeable fact that North Carolina was "not in it" so far as the wheat industry was concerned. Not because wheat would not grow in North Carolina, as it did in years past, but because the man out in Illinois, using the steam plow, cutting with a reaper and binder, and using all the improved machinery possible, could raise the wheat and sell it to North Carolina and then sell it cheaper than our farmers could raise it. Imagine a man in North Carolina raising fifteen bushels per acre, breaking the land with a one-horse plow, sowing by hand, putting out the fertilizer by hand, and then covering the seed with another going over, reaping the crop with a grain cradle, and perhaps beating out the wheat with a flail—imagine this man competing with the Western fellow with his machinery!

The two horse turning plow of any of the improved makes can be properly called an improved implement, as it now turns so much more earth than the old fashioned plow did, and does it so much better.

The cutaway and disc harrow is a highly improved implement, as it does the work of several plows with the use of one man and two horses. Of course it does not cut deep, but if set properly it will go as deep as the single horse plow. This implement is quite useful in putting in grain in the fall, and in freshening up land that has been broken with a two-horse turning plow sometime previous. In fact, it should precede the sowing of all grains, grasses, etc. It is also of great service in putting in peas in the summer.

The adjustable smoothing harrow has gotten to be just about perfect for its work, as it can be set at any angle, and then it covers so much ground. It is useful not only in putting in seed that should not be covered deep, but is quite useful in cultivating for the first time or two other crops, such as corn, cotton, etc., when planted in the drill. If the harrow is run right across the row very little damage will be done to either corn or cotton, and the weeds and grass will be killed when small, and the crust broken up and the ground kept moist.

The grain drill is now perfection itself. It opens the land, sows the seed, puts in the fertilizer and covers it, all at one time. With this implement a man with a pair of mules can do as much or more work than a man sowing grain, one sowing fertilizer, and still another covering. Not only will he do more work, but he will do better work. The grain is put in in better shape, more regularly and the fertilizer is more evenly distributed.

The Kemp manure spreader is another implement that can be mentioned in this list. One man with a pair of mules can distribute more manure and do the work more thoroughly than can four men with a

wagon and pitch forks. This manure spreader puts the manure out evenly and pulverizes it well as it throws it on the ground. It is only a matter of about five minutes after you reach a field to have a ton of manure spread over your land, and the work is done much more perfectly than when done with forks.

The corn and cotton planters are indispensable in these days of close competition. Imagine two neighbors, one has his land thoroughly prepared for planting corn. In a favorable season in the spring he takes out his horse and planter, and puts in eight or ten acres per day. His neighbor goes at it in the old fashion way, breaking up his land just before planting, then opens a furrow with a bull tongue. Another man comes along dropping the corn in an irregular fashion, still another man with a mule and block, or harrow, covers it up. These three men and two horses have attempted to do the work that farmer No. 1 did with one mule, and of course they do not do it as well. The planter puts all the grains in at about the same depth, same number of grains, and the same distance apart, so that it is a saving process in any way you look at it. The same can be said of the cotton planter.

The new disk plows also do fine work in large fields free from rocks and stones.

The corn shredder and husker is now attracting a great deal of attention in North Carolina, and a great many people are cutting their corn and curing it for stover. This is a step in the right direction, and when a man has a large quantity of stover, of course he can afford to use this machine.

There are a great many other machines that could be mentioned, such as pea hullers, grain threshers, feed cutters. All of these save labor and do the work so much nicer than it could possibly be done by hand. The great wonder is, after we have used this improved machinery, how we ever got along without it. It is now not a matter of taste, fancy, or sentiment, but a matter of business. No one can expect to make anything and compete with other people unless he adopts these improved implements, whether he wants to or not.

Let us lay aside prejudice, and foolish notions, and if a thing is good, adopt it, and be thankful for it.

B. I.

MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE.

Prof. John Graham, of Warrenton High School, was chosen Vice-President of the Association of Academies last week. Bro. Graham is one of the State's leading educators. We are glad to know that his school is prospering.

The Raleigh Times has been much improved recently. Mr. John Wilbur Jenkins, an able and experienced newspaper man, is now editor-in-chief, while Mr. W. G. Briggs now devotes his entire time to the city news features. A good team.

Rev. John E. White leaves Raleigh this week to become pastor of the largest Baptist church in Atlanta, Ga. His departure is a loss to the whole State, and especially to the Baptist denomination which he has served so ably and conscientiously.

Mr. E. O. Cole, for three years past a resident of Raleigh, has gone to Charlotte. He is a member of the Cole Mfg. Co., manufacturers of the Cole combination corn and cotton planter, for the Southern farmer one of the most valuable inventions of recent years.

Prof. Frank E. Emery, corresponding editor of this paper, has severed his connection with Biltmore Farms. We do not remember ever having read a finer report of an agricultural meeting in this State than his report of the State Horticultural Society meeting in this issue.

Dr. J. Allison Hodges, a native of North Carolina and long a resident of this State, has been chosen President of the University College of Medicine, Richmond, Va. He succeeds the famous late Dr. Hunter McGuire. His many Tar Heel friends will be glad to hear of Dr. Hodges, deserved promotion.

The State Horticultural Society made no mistake in the election of Mr. Franklin Sherman as Secretary of that Society. Mr. Sherman is a young man of ability and character and has gone about his duties in the Agricultural Department in a manner pleasing to those interested in the State's agricultural progress. By the way, we have just received an excellent article from him which will appear in our next issue.