

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening, woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, or the family generally.

Editorial.

TO NON-SUBSCRIBERS.

If you are not a subscriber but have received this number of The Progressive Farmer as a sample copy, you should examine it carefully.

In this issue we begin the publication of the proceedings of the Legislature. This will be a very important session and you cannot afford not to keep posted regarding it.

Subscribe now.

ONE SCHOOL TERM PER YEAR.

One of the wisest suggestions made by our retiring Superintendent of Public Instruction is this:

"The Committee should not be allowed to divide the school of any one year into two terms, as is now done in some places. We have heard of schools where the Committee employed one teacher two months in the summer, and another teacher for two months, for the same children, in the winter.

We have had the opportunity of observing some of the evil effects of the system which Mr. Mebane so properly condemns. It is with a school just as it is with an engine: it requires some time to get fired up, the rust worn off, and the wheels to turning properly.

It is a costly and foolish plan and should be abandoned.

Bro. T. B. Parker has been sick for some days and his appointments for Wayne county have been cancelled.

GOV. AYCOCK'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

On August 7, 1900, The Progressive Farmer said:

"Our next Governor, Hon. C. B. Aycock, is a high-toned Christian gentleman of courage and ability. He is not a man of violent prejudices or of bitterness toward those that disagree with him, and as Governor he will doubtless pursue a dignified and conservative policy."

While this statement of ours was severely attacked by rabid partisans, we bided our time. And now as a vindication of our estimate of the present Governor of North Carolina, we publish in this issue his inaugural address.

We trust that the spirit of Gov. Aycock's inaugural address will accutate the Legislature of this year and the new administration as a whole. If so our State will at once enter upon an era of educational progress, industrial development, and good feeling in politics, more excellent than the good old days of the fathers.

THE TOBACCO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Executive and Legislative Committees of the North Carolina Tobacco Growers' Association was held in this city last week. Col. J. Bryan Grimes, owing to press of business interests, tendered his resignation and Col. Jno S. Cunningham was elected President.

TO REDUCE THE TOBACCO TAX.

At the Tobacco Growers' meeting held here last week, the following resolution, introduced by Col. J. Bryan Grimes was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, by the Tobacco Growers' Association of North Carolina, That we do earnestly ask our Senators and members of Congress to reduce the tax on manufactured tobacco. The tobacco growers and the small manufacturers need this relief."

A similar resolution was introduced in the Cotton Growers' Convention by Jno. P. Allison and unanimously adopted.

THE FARMERS AND THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

A called meeting of Wake County Alliance was held in The Progressive Farmer office January 16th. All Subs were represented except two. The following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The Fourth district was represented upon the Board of Agriculture during the past year by a city lawyer, a city editor and two city business men, therefore be it

Resolved, by Wake County Alliance, That while we recognize these as men of honesty and of ability in their respective lines, we respectfully suggest that this year the farmers of the Fourth district should be allowed at least one representative upon the Board which is to look after the interests of the farmers.

The preamble gives all the argument needed in support of the resolution. The present arrangement is a standing reflection upon the farmers of the Fourth District. An outsider would suppose that the Legisla-

tures of the past four or five years could find no farmers here capable of looking after their own interests.

The Legislature might also risk a few more farmers upon the Board of Trustees of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, after ascertaining the number now serving upon the Board. We have heard these matters discussed by wide-awake thinking farmers from all parts of the State and we trust that the Legislature will give them some consideration.

The Raleigh Post fears very much that the Grout bill would damage the interests of the cotton farmer. As a matter of fact it has been shown that it would not affect the price of cotton one cent per bale. But it would encourage the dairy business, for which our State is so admirably adapted.

THE STATE POULTRY ASSOCIATION AND THE CHARLOTTE POULTRY SHOW.

The Charlotte Poultry Show held last week was a fairly compact exhibit and filled Charlotte's city hall. The leading farmers of the State brought out a lot of good birds. In many specimens great excellence was seen.

Beside the fowls of economic value we saw canaries, parrots, an owl, an eagle. A young coon and a pair of both were good specimens of their respective breeds.

There was an interesting group of games at one corner of the hall. No Carolina show would be representative without a considerable number of the favorite games in evidence.

Perhaps the finest exhibit present was the tastefully arranged ribbons and cards won at leading poultry exhibits by the Biltmore Poultry Yards during the last two seasons.

Pr of. Benjamin Irby thought supply and demand influenced prices of cotton 75%, speculation, etc., 25%.

"Get a majority of the people pledged to curtail crop and the unpledged minority will double its acreage," he said. "The best way to increase the profits is to reduce the cost of production. Don't sell your products as raw material, thus getting only one small profit. Let a hundred farmers of each county purchase a thousand acres of land. On this let them run a cotton farm, a cotton factory, a cotton oil mill, a fertilizer mixing establishment, also raise beef for market. With this arrangement they can put their products into manufactured form and save to themselves the bulk of the profits that now go to manufacturers."

The Executive Committee consists of B. S. Davis, J. P. Kerr, W. B. Alexander, W. M. Barringer, R. L. Simmons, W. D. Harrill, J. T. Winslow, C. C. Randleman, T. P. Dillon, J. W. Kestler and J. W. Gibbs.

Col. Cameron thought these plans somewhat out of order. "This association as organized in Georgia is merely a combination of farmers, merchants and bankers for the purpose of ascertaining size of crop and distributing sales throughout twelve months instead of two."

"The truth of the matter is," said Col. Cameron, "that at Macon it was admitted that without Texas and Louisiana not much could be effected."

Before adjournment, Secretary

MEETING OF THE COTTON GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the North Carolina Cotton Planters' Association was held in this city last week. Strange to say, the two counties now so well organized, Edgecombe and Scotland, were not represented.

At 11 o'clock Wednesday, 16th, the convention assembled in the Agricultural Building and was called to order by President W. A. Graham. Secretary Jno. P. Allison read the minutes of previous meetings and also the minutes of the Inter-State Association at Macon, Ga., last November, as reported by him for The Progressive Farmer of Dec. 11th.

Mr. W. P. Batchelor wished to know if any feasible plan for reducing acreage was presented at the Macon meeting. "I attended a cotton growers' meeting in Atlanta four or five years ago," said Mr. Batchelor. "Cotton was selling at five cents. We unanimously resolved that it ought to bring ten, elected our officers and adjourned. And no more attention was paid us. Eloquent addresses and resolutions amount to nothing without a well-defined business policy."

Mr. W. S. Barnes also presented a scheme providing a system for cotton growers very much like that embodied in the Jordan plan for tobacco growers. Mr. Barnes will also explain his proposed arrangement in an early issue of The Progressive Farmer.

Maj. Graham said he didn't think farmers should term any organization formed merely for the purpose of self protection, etc., a trust. "The trouble with our people is that they want good prices for their products, but they do not want the trouble of attending meetings and paying dues. But we can't start a State movement here; it must be started in the townships and worked up."

From the New York Farmer editorial page we clip the following: "Now go right ahead and carry out your New Year resolutions."

"Have you read the Grange program of discussions for 1901? It is an interesting, a varied, an important program. The discussions will be of great value to all who share in them, both as speakers and hearers. Don't overlook it."

"The Grout bill should be forwarded in the Senate as rapidly as possible. Write to the two Senators from your State to aid in forwarding it."

In North Carolina all these notes should be heeded. Where any other organization is named for New York we have the Alliance and co-operation is even more needed among North Carolina farmers than in New York.

Brother reader, weigh this last item in connection with your Alliance history; can you see anything like a hint of history repeating itself? Is it possible for farmers to unite in upholding their common interests? We still live in hope that it is possible and that we shall find men among our farmers and enough of them with intelligence and courage to act on their own convictions and stand by their organizations and support the principles until the organization is popularized and may help all morally, mentally, educationally and financially.

The Farmers' Alliance can and will do this if earnestly invoked. Renew your interest, brothers. Bring out the sisters and have them rejoin and revive the Alliance to rival the Grange in the North.

Allison talked of the work of the Georgia association. "The people are in dead earnest down there," said he. "They are growing cotton in a business way. Diversified farming is becoming the rule, the grain acreage is being steadily increased, and the people are in a position to hold cotton. If the same spirit of determination and perseverance existed throughout the South, great good would result."

Messrs. William R. Cox, Jno. P. Allison and Benham Cameron were then selected as the North Carolina members of the Inter-State Executive Committee, soon to meet in Atlanta.

No other business being presented, the convention adjourned to meet at call of President. It is probable that another meeting will be held in Raleigh early in June at which meeting we hope all the cotton-growing counties will be represented.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

A number of new rural free delivery routes may be established in North Carolina if the neighborhoods that desire them will ask the assistance of Congressmen. The people along the routes already established now regard free rural delivery as indispensable. We shall say more of this matter next week.

LEARN BY EXAMPLE.

On a recent trip into Chatham county it was reported that a Virginian has recently visited that part of the county near and about Lockville. The object of his visit was successful, as he purchased and took back with him about seventy young heifers. These were selected with some care as representing native and grade Durham, Hertford or other strains of cattle which make rather large growth. No Jersey or other small breed was taken.

Our comment on this is simply that North Carolina farmers are strangely constituted that they do not keep such stock as that at home and purchase new infusions of the best bred bulls in the country to mate up with. Then turn their attention to the production of food stuffs as never before. These Virginia drovers and cattlemen are laying solid foundations for future profits.

F. E. E.

PUSH THE ALLIANCE.

From the New York Farmer editorial page we clip the following: "Now go right ahead and carry out your New Year resolutions."

"Join the Grange. If there be no Grange within range, join the Patrons of Industry, in case that order is established in your county."

"Farmers, more than any other class of producers, need to co-operate in order to dispose of their products profitably."

"Have you read the Grange program of discussions for 1901? It is an interesting, a varied, an important program. The discussions will be of great value to all who share in them, both as speakers and hearers. Don't overlook it."

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Humility is the true cure for many a needless heartache.—Montague.

The Thinker

GOOD ROADS.

That gravel makes the best roads is shown by the recommendation of the road superintendent of Wake, W. C. McMackin, to the county commissioners at their January session.

He will advocate the making of gravel instead of Macadam roads, and that the county sell the rock crusher and purchase the rock necessary, already crushed, from Grey-stone.

He says that gravel roads are better for travel, are cheaper and better in every respect, except that they will not last so long without repair, than the macadam roads. Macadam costs \$1,500 per mile, gravel costs \$500 per mile. For such places as absolutely require macadam, he recommends that the material be purchased from greystone. This material costs \$1.22 cents per cubic yard, and Mr. McMackin says it is cheaper and more durable than that crushed by the city.

In that county there is very much clay. Gravel mixed with it makes a splendid road.

In this county, where there is an excess of sand, clay should be put on the roads. The best roads are those made of clay and gravel.—Ex.

It is strange to see the unmanlike cruelty of mankind, who, not content with their tyrannous ambition to have brought the others' virtuous patience under them think their master hood nothing without doing injury to them.—Sir Philip Sidney.

THE CUMBERLAND DISPENSARY.

We have a right to be interested in the dispensary question in Cumberland. Our county is adjacent, and we are a part of the constituency of Fayetteville. We must, in very fact, exert what influence we can wield to retain the dispensary unless there is a chance to wipe out the drinking saloons and dispensary, and put an end to the traffic in whiskey altogether. We are sorry the question of "Dispensary" or "No Dispensary" is thrust upon the people at this time. The cry of liberty, giving the people a chance to settle the question, is an old one. The inference is that those who make the cry are against the dispensary and in favor of the saloon. We might content ourselves with allowing figures to show the advantage of the dispensary over the saloon. But we want at this distance to bear testimony to the great change in favor of greater sobriety since the institution of the dispensary. Robeson would appeal to the good and true men of Cumberland, at whose capital she markets much of her produce and buys many of her goods, to go to the polls and vote overwhelmingly against the saloon and in favor of the dispensary. The saloon must go, and is going everywhere. Let the historic old county of Cumberland march abreast in the procession under the Christian banner.—Rev. P. R. Law, in Lumbert in Robesonian.

Only a faith which is sufficient to believe beyond the seeing, and a love which is able to walk childlike and lowly with its God, are willing to acknowledge the stupendous mystery without losing their heart and trust.—Henry Wilder Foote.

MRS. SALLIE C. HOBSON, MOTHER OF A HERO.

Mrs. Sallie C. Hobson and her daughter, Miss Annie, occupied a box at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, at the great patriotic meeting held some months ago, on which occasion Lieut. Hobson presided. In reply to a World reporter, who had asked about her plans for bringing up boys, Mrs. Hobson said: "Teach them to be upright, honest and to do their duty always and to be frank and amiable. Give them the best books to read—books that will give them high ideals, high purposes; books that will stimulate them an teach them never to fall short of the most lofty purposes."

Mrs. Hobson said the lieutenant had inclined to sports as a boy. "He liked all outdoor sport—hunting, riding, fishing," she remarked. "As a boy he walked six or eight miles almost daily. Nobody could impose upon him. He could always take care of himself in a fight at school, and he did, too. It's no disgrace to a boy if he does have a little fight now and then at school, providing he doesn't get licked and he is in the right."

Humility is the true cure for many a needless heartache.—Montague.