

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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Agriculture.

INTER-STATE COTTON GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Organization and Objects Set Forth by President Harvie Jordan.

The Inter-state Association of Southern cotton producers has been organized. The headquarters of the Association was given to Georgia, in view of the fact that this State took the initiative in the movement and because of her geographical location in the cotton belt. I was chosen President of the Inter-state Association and my postoffice address will for the present continue to remain at Monticello, Ga. For the information of your readers who are largely engaged in the production of cotton and should therefore be deeply interested in a movement calculated to benefit them, I will briefly outline the object of this Inter-state Association.

On Thursday, February 14th, an Inter-state Executive Committee of cotton representatives from nearly all the principal cotton States met at the capitol in Atlanta to decide whether or not an Inter-state Association of Southern cotton producers should be organized. Each State was entitled to three representatives by action of the Inter-state Convention held at Macon, Ga., last November. Strong delegations were present from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi. Texas was represented by proxy and the action of the committee ratified in advance by the official head of the Texas Association as to organization.

The names of the committeemen who attended the meeting were as follows:

North Carolina—General W. R. Cox, Tarboro; B. Cameron, Stagville, and John P. Allison, Concord; South Carolina—Hon. J. C. Wilborn, Columbia; R. A. Love, Chester, and Dr. D. M. Crasson, Leesville; Georgia—Harvie Jordan, Monticello; Pope Brown, Hawkinsville; Thomas G. Lawson, Eatonton, and Hoke Smith, Atlanta; Mississippi—Captain John F. Jenkins, Natchez.

The delegates from Florida and Alabama wrote endorsing the movement and promising their active cooperation in the future.

The committee was in session all day and until late Thursday night perfecting organization and determining upon a plan of work for the future.

ACCEPTED GEORGIA PLAN.

The present plan of the Georgia Association was recommended for adoption by the other States, both as to the method of forming branch clubs in the various counties or militia districts, and for raising the necessary funds to carry on the work. Lecturers will be sent out by the different States to present to the farmers the practical features of the movement and to enlist their active cooperation. A Central Bureau of Inter-state Headquarters was deemed essential, because it is necessary to have a medium through which the statistical and other information gathered from the different States can be consolidated, put into comprehensive form and sent out to the members of the Association.

The farmers of the South have derived any source from whence they could obtain reliable information concerning the varied conditions surrounding the cotton crop at all seasons of the year, particularly during the fall and winter. There are many factors which tend to control the price that without full and largely correct information the producers are largely in the hands of the speculators who use them for speculative purposes. There is but one method of finding out early in the winter the exact size of the crop and that is through the cotton ginners. Weekly reports from ginners will give the movement of the crop on the farms and by the last of December will generally give the size of the crop without further speculation or guess work.

There is now a wide difference of opinion as to the size of last year's crop and the "bears" are using the maximum figures to help hammer down prices. If we had the reports

of all ginners in all this time, the question, of how many bales were made in 1900 would be accurately and positively settled. We also want to know how much cotton is being produced in other countries and what effect those crops should have upon our market. We want to keep up with the demand for cotton goods, and what such goods are being sold for by the mills. Not only is this necessary as to the lint, but we also need full information about the value of our seed to the oil mills. No man can protect his products from the insatiable greed of the world, unless he knows their true value and markets them in such a way as to command the payment of their value.

A PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATION.

The present annual assessment upon each member of the State Association is 50 cents. Forty cents of this annual dues will go to the support of the State Association, and 10 cents to the Inter-state Association. Now, suppose that through the efforts of the Association a half a cent per pound is gained for the producers above the price usually fixed by the spinners and speculators. On a crop of 10,000,000 bales it would mean a saving to the farmers of \$25,000,000 at a cost of not more than \$50,000. It is estimated that \$5,000 will pay the operating expenses of the Association in Georgia. We make about 1,200,000 bales of cotton annually—which sold at a gain of only one-half a cent per pound over speculator's prices, would mean a saving to Georgia farmers of \$3,000,000 for the small outlay of \$5,000. If 10 per cent of the farmers in Georgia would subscribe 50 cents apiece to this movement each year, it would make the Association strong enough to defeat all efforts of the speculators and spinners to depress prices by giving out their usual false reports. A member of the Association receives back the most of his dues in such statistical information as he needs, which must be printed and mailed to him. Twenty five per cent of the dues is taken up in postage stamps canceled on letters which go direct to him, the balance will be used in gathering the information required and in paying the clerical and official force of the Association.

With the producer in possession of the truth, it will be an impossibility for another crop to be sacrificed at 6 cents per pound, when it is actually worth 10 cents, as was the case in 1899. Every farmer who sold a bale of cotton in 1899 at 6 cents per pound based on the false report of Mr. Neill, lost \$20 or enough on one bale of cotton to have paid his dues in the Association for 40 years, to have protection against such loss. These are practical truths which cannot be argued against, and it is to prevent a repetition of many such losses, which our people have annually sustained in years gone by, that this Association was created.

WHAT WILL FARMERS DO?

The officers of the Inter-state Association are: Harvie Jordan, President, Monticello, Ga.; R. A. Love, General Vice President, Chester, S. C.; John P. Allison, Secretary and Treasurer, Concord, N. C. Each State has one Vice-President, and Col. W. L. Peek, of Conyers, was chosen from Georgia. The President was instructed to hold a State Convention of cotton growers in each of the cotton States during the coming spring and summer, and that each State be requested to arouse the people to action before another crop is harvested and ready for the market.

If no determined effort is made to check the downward course of cotton, we may look for 6 and 7 cent cotton next season. The plan of organization for protection is now fully mapped out and the method of work agreed upon as far as it has been possible. The vital question is, whether or not the producers are willing to lend a helping hand to a movement to be operated in their own interests, or whether they will continue to depend upon the old system of marketing their great staple crops in years gone by, the price to be dictated by the buyer. The farmers made a gallant fight last season and won mil-

lions of dollars which would otherwise have been lost.

But the coming season will require a much better perfected system of work to defeat the buyers than was the case last season. The spinners were not prepared to resist us, and did not believe we would stand together, but with a year's notice they will have their interests guarded as never before. The success of this new Association, based as it is on sound business principles is in the farmers. It will be formed into a mighty tower of strength if they will rally to its support. Without their aid, it will, as a matter of course, cease to exist. Every man who reads this should think well before he refuses his cooperation in a movement that means so much for his future interests. HARVIE JORDAN, President Inter-state Cotton Growers' Association.

THE BOY IN SCHOOL.

For the farmer who thinks he cannot afford to let his boy remain in school during the busy season on the farm and for the boy who thinks that he can plod along as well with the education already acquired, we print the following thought-provoking paragraph from a recent issue of the *Stanly Enterprise*. The lesson is so plain that "he who runs may read." We quote:

"Only a few days ago, we were talking to an employee in one of our mills here who had gone just as high in the line of promotion as his education would guarantee. He was even sad in thinking of the position several steps higher, to which he was eligible, but his education was not sufficient. Others who knew less of the routine and mechanical than did he had overridden him and were drawing salaries that he likewise should get. He told us his story. He did not blame his father, but saw the awful mistake that had been made in keeping him at the plow handles, thinking that a little present money was better than 'book larnin', when he could easily have been sent to school. This is an actual fact and needs no comment. It is only one of many such instances and has a meaning moral."

CROPS FOR THE FARM STOCK.

No Farmer Successful Without Good Stock—For Feeding, Try Crops Mentioned Here.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. The life and prosperity of the farm is the young animals growing on the farm. Every farm should be well stocked with hogs, cows, colts, sheep and fowls. The provision for the feeding of such a crowd requires some forethought.

My experiment with clover gives it the higher place in all feeds for horses and cows. It is so easily grown on proper land that is rich or made so by manuring—this grows clover to perfection. Have often sowed in early fall or August and mowed twice the year following.

Never sow clover by itself; either sow rye or oats and a full rate of timothy seed. When the rye and clover is mowed off it gives the grass time to root and the stubbles give plenty of shade. When the clover has grown two or three years, then comes the first timothy grass grown.

For mowing and pasture, the orchard grass is preferable because after you have mowed first crop then you may pasture until late in the fall. Clover and orchard grass does well together. First crop should be mowed early so the second or fall crop can get a good start before the hot season sets in.

The alfalfa or lucerne clover is a rapid grower and may be mowed often. Southern cow or clay peas are fine for stock and may be grown extensively in corn field. But after all, prepare one acre made rich and sow common field corn in drills about 18 inches apart and let it grow up thick, so the stalks are small. On this acre you can grow a vast amount of fodder for cows.

Why not grow beets extensively for cows in winter? They make a fine feed for a change then. Seed may be sowed as late as June or first of July.

R. R. MOORE, Guilford Co., N. C.

SMALL FARMS VS. LARGE FARMS AGAIN DISCUSSED.

Mr. Cates Replies to Mr. McAulay. Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

I notice in a recent issue of The Progressive Farmer that a gentleman from Mecklenburg says that in his opinion some erroneous statements were set forth in my article of some days ago. I desire to thank the gentleman for his very candid statement, but I am sorry to have to confess my inability to see matters in such a light, even after noting the reasons(?) set forth by said gentleman.

I heartily agree with him when he says a bale of cotton raised on one acre is cheaper than one raised on two. Theoretically the small farmer is the one to raise cotton of this class; in practice, however, we find that this does not work. On the other hand, the man who secures the large yield is the man who superintends the cultivation of large areas of land.

My friend from Mecklenburg is right again by saying that the tenants of large farms are the ones who are moving to factories, but he should also have included a large number of those who own small farms, as they are doing the same thing. There are numerous examples of this here in my own county. A common cause exists for both these classes leaving the farm. Aside from lacking capital and proper equipment for carrying on the work of a farm economically, under the present system they are forced to rely upon themselves for planning and superintending the work, as well as for carrying it on. This is where the small farmer and renter are generally lacking, and it is one large reason why they find it more profitable to sell their labor to some one else. North Carolina has for a long time been a mere strip of land between two States, because every man who tilled the soil demanded to be allowed to do so according to the dictates of his own conscience. Fortunately many of our land owners are seeing the folly of this, and the time is almost in sight when the work on our large farms will be done under the supervision of a competent man, and not for a part of the crop, but for a stipulated amount, either money, products of the farm, or both.

Mr. McAulay speaks of depriving so many men of homes by the large farm system. This is a free country, and surely no man would sell his home unless he thought to better his condition. There is in this State, however, enough land now almost deserted to more than double the agricultural output, if it were only properly, and economically cultivated. Would not the large farm system, instead of depriving people of a home, be a great boon to those who have found it necessary to leave the farm, and who are now being denied that freedom and outdoor life to which they have always been accustomed?

The gentleman again sadly errs by taking as a standard a few poor deluded fellows who, using his own language, "started off believing they had the world by the tail, using the best fertilizers by the ton."

As to small farms affording a scientific man at the head, it is not to be supposed that anyone will object to my friend employing the most scientific man the country can afford to superintend the cultivation of a half-acre plot. It is not to be supposed, either, that he could make it pay. If we expect to put a special trained man, an agricultural college graduate, on every fifty acre farm in the State, it looks as if some of them would have to be imported, and it is very evident that President Winston will have to ask for more money for his college.

It is conceded cheerfully that the size of a farm should always vary with the capacity of the man in charge, and in his confidence in his ability to manage large affairs. Fortunately these things will adjust themselves, and we find that men are generally advanced or relegated to the rear according to their abilities.

J. S. CATES, Alamance Co., N. C.

Horticulture.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE.

Its Appearance Described and Ways of Combating it Suggested—Care Should be Exercised in Purchase of Nursery Stock.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Probably most of the readers of The Progressive Farmer have read about this insect in various publications. Nearly every experiment station in the country, including the Station in our State, has published a bulletin containing special information about this pest. But while these serve an excellent purpose in their own State, and furnish new information to workers in other States, we believe that the readers of The Progressive Farmer would like to have a recent account from North Carolina.

The San Jose Scale (*Aspidiotus perniciosus*) is a small insect which attacks various plants, but especially fruit trees. While very young it is unprotected, but as soon as it once settles down and begins to suck its food from the plant a shell begins to form over its body and thereafter the insect does not move, except that when adult, the males acquire wings, with which they may fly for very short distances. When fully grown, the scale over the body of the insect is about the size of the head of a pin, and is ashy gray in color. When a twig is badly infested it becomes so crowded with scales that they may overlap one another, forming a complete crust over the entire surface of the bark. If such a twig be examined with a lens it will be found to resemble a stick covered with barnacles.

It is only a few hours after birth that the insects are capable of moving about, for they soon insert their beaks into the tissue of the plant and begin to suck the sap. Once the beak is thus inserted, they cannot withdraw it, but remain attached at that same spot. It is while the insect is in its young stage, therefore, that it is capable of being transferred from one place to another. They are not able to migrate from tree to tree of their own accord, as they are so small that one could only crawl one or two feet before it would be compelled to insert its beak and begin to take food, which, as before explained, would preclude any further crawling. They are dependent on accidental causes therefore, to insure the spread of the species. Chief among these is the wind, for the young insects are so extremely small and light that a moderate breeze will carry one for considerable distance. Another means of spread is by crawling on the feet of birds and being thus carried from tree to tree. For transportation over great distances, they must depend on shipments of trees and plants on which they subsist. It is this point that makes it so important that nurseries should be examined every year so that in case the scale secures a foothold in any nursery; it may be discovered and checked before it is sent out to the orchardists.

As a remedial treatment for an infested orchard kerosene emulsion spraying is what we recommend. There are various other remedies, as petroleum emulsion, whale oil soap, and fumigation by gas. The fumigation of nursery trees we believe and know to be a very effective method of combating many of the insects that infest nursery stock, and in this connection we wish to state that the Commission Controlling Crop Pests now requires all fruit trees to be fumigated before leaving the nursery. Although all the nurseries have not yet begun this operation, many of them have begun and we would by all means advise persons desiring to purchase fruit trees to patronize home nurserymen, and ascertain whether or not the stock is fumigated before purchasing.

This pest has been positively located in orchards at six different localities in the State, as follows: Wilmington, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Gastonia, Durham, and Waynesville. It is reported from two other localities, but we have not yet received specimens.

At each of these localities the par-

ties have been given instructions for fighting the pest, and personal inspection by the writer has been made at three locations. At Southern Pines it threatened to destroy the fruit industry, but we now believe that we have checked it for this season, and as operations will be begun against it again as soon as the fruit is off the trees, and will be continued throughout the winter, we believe that in a year we will have it under control.

We are doing all in our power to keep the pest from getting the upper hand. We earnestly advise every man who has an orchard to make a careful examination of his trees now and in case any suspicious insect or diseased twig is found, send it to this office and we will take pleasure in aiding you. Young trees should be especially looked after, especially all that have been set out in the last six years. We will be glad to answer any inquiries regarding insects.

FRANKLIN SHERMAN, JR., Entomologist, Dep't of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

STRAWBERRY CULTURE—PICKING AND MARKETING.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

This is the most important part of the business of strawberry growing. More is lost by slovenliness or ill judgment at this final stage than anywhere else.

First, there is much blundering as to the stage of ripeness or unripeness at which this luscious fruit should be picked. Eagerness to get them to market at the beginning of the season when prices are high induces many to pick them too green. A little later when they ripen thick and fast non-hustling growers are apt to let them get overripe before gathering.

A very good rule is to try to let them get a shade too ripe at first when the weather is cool and the process of ripening slow, and then to try to pick them a shade too green when the hot days ripen them like magic. Then with eagerness at first and indulgence a little later, corrected or modified by this rule, one may come nearer the happy medium.

The exact degree of ripeness which the strawberry may be allowed to attain and then stand shipment to market, depends upon the distance it must go and the natural firmness or softness of the variety being handled, and also upon the manner in which they are gathered.

It is very essential that the berry should be full colored before it leaves the vine. For, although it may afterwards ripen in a fashion, it cannot gain much in color. Some kinds, owing to inherent firmness of flesh, can be allowed to get deep red and still bear carriage a long distance. Other things equal, a variety of this kind is far more valuable than one that softens as, or before, it colors. Not even the fragrance and lusciousness of the strawberry has had as much to do with its universal popularity as its beautiful color.

But to get back to the subject in hand—picking, packing, selling. Much has been said about the importance of clean, attractive cups or baskets and crates, but not too much. As long as the world is influenced in its estimate of a man by the clothes he wears, it will judge fruit by the packages that hold it.

Much also depends upon the choice of pickers and upon their management. A woman makes the best picker, a girl next and a man next. The boy—well, the boy ranks with cataclysms. He can Nationize a strawberry patch in as short order as Mistress Carrie can a Kansas saloon. He can trample a five acre field quicker than a buffalo herd and more effectually than a thirty ton turnpike roller. Where there are only large berries he can gather only small ones; where there are only ripe ones he can fill cup after cup with rank green ones. His transmuting power in this respect beats all the Geniis in Arabia. It beats everything except his cubic capacity. I don't say cubic capacity of his stomach. For everybody knows that a twelve-year-old boy can eat

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]