[CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 1.]

ewes at $3 per head and bred them up.

It must not be thought that the highest standard of excellence has been attained in these nine years; not at all. This year real fat fancy lambs sold at from $7 to $12 per hundred pounds ($6 to $10 per head) in in the New York market.

As to wool, there was for three years that my entire clip of wool, off from 300 to 550 head of thoroughbred Merinos averaged from 13½ to nearly 17 pounds of wool in the grease and sold at from 20 cents to 18½ cents per pound, averaging $2.70 up te $3.20 per fleece. So my illustration has not been drawn from the top nor the impossible; not at all. There is plenty of room above it for the ambitious shepherd.

I must modify this by saying it would be better so for one who has a good knowledge of the business and practice in handling it, but for the amateur who will without experience put the sheep and plantation in a new section for sheep, three chances out of four, it would be better for him to buy the low grades and breed up according to the illustration.

Note that the total income above cost is $3,670, or an average of $486 per annum, and a stock on hand at end of nine years worth at least $3085.

Nor is this all, for we must now have a talk on the value of sheep manure as a fertilizer.

SAMUEL ARCHER.

Marion, McDowell Co., N. C.

SHEEP RAISING.

I enjoy reading The Progressive Farmer very much, as it is always in the interest of the farmer and is one of the most reliable papers published in the State. I have been particularly interested in Mr. Archer's letters on sheep raising. I have thought for several years that sheep raising in the South could be made profitable for both mutton and wool. I have kept a few sheep, a cross between Merinos and the common sheep. My experience led me to believe as just stated, though I never gave them the attention that they should have had. I am now too old to undertake the business on an extensive scale, but would like to see the business tried by some persons capable of managing it. If any person wishes to engage in the stock raising business, and especially sheep, in this section, I would be glad to correspond with him.—J. M. W. Alexander, Harrisburg, Cabarrus Co., N. C.

INTERESTED IN STOCK RAISING.

I have been reading The Progressive Farmer nearly twelve months, and it has put me in a great notion for stock raising and pasturing. I have decided that I can get much information out of Killebrew's book you recommend. Find enclosed 25 cents, for which please send me a copy. W. B. H.

Duplin Co., N. C.

The Poultry Yard.

THE USE AND VALUE OF FRESH CUT GREEN BONE AS POULTRY FOOD.

II.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

It takes time and labor to grind green bones or even to pound shells up for the poultry, and a great many who start in nobly soon give out. Probably they look at it in this way: the time anfi labor spent in grinding the bones, if paid for at regular rates, would represent much more than the actual profits of the eggs. It is hardly economy, therefore, or good sense to do a work that is irksome and not very profitable. But how else will you spend your time to make up for the difference? There is no other way on the farm in winter to put the idle moments to actual profitable use. Consequently it will more than pay to grind the bones or pound the shells as religiously as you feed your chickens every night.

ANNIE C. WEBSTER.

Carbon bisulphide is a colorless liquid with a strong odor, which evaporates freely in an ordinary temperature. It is heavier than air, highly inflammable and a poison, although a small amount is not injurious. It is exceedingly useful in treating stored grains for killing insects. Make the bin as nearly airtight as possible, then place the bisulphide in small dishes on top of the grain, close up the bin and allow to remain for 24 hours. This will eventually rid the bin of all insects, rats and mice. Warehouses, mills, elevators, stores and the like may be treated in this manner.—Exchange.

Horticulture.

IMPROVING THE APPLE CROP.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The American apple crop is rapidly becoming the leading crop of the United States as far as actual returns are concerned, and our exports of these fruits are growing larger and more valuable every year. No grain or other farm product is more generally or more widely cultivated than the apple. This fruit is by all odds our national fruit. It is raised from Maine to Florida now, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is eaten in every American home almost the year round, and England and Germany are rapidly imitating us in the matter of consumption. Our apples sell better in the European markets than any of the continental fruits, and the prices thus obtained help to swell the returns to our farmers on lands where wheat and corn fail through drought, or where these cereals cannot be raised successfully.

The question of improving the quality of our apples, and increasing the yield, is one that more farmers are actually interested in than that of improving corn or wheat. Injury to the apple crop may not cause such ruinous disaster to some few States as corn or wheat, but it will reach a wider number of farmers in the whole country. One of the perplexing questions in apple growing is the dropping off of fruits when very small or half grown. The waste of apples from this cause alone is enormous. Spraying will not stop the loss, for the cause seems to be deeper than the attacks of insects or blights. There is a theory that the blossoms are not properly fertilized, and that the fruit cannot consequently ever reach maturity. The apples are doomed to fall off when half grown and be wasted. Some experiments have been made recently that help to confirm the theory. In a large orchard where the dropping off was a serious handicap to successful apple raising, the attempt was made to prove or disprove this theory. Right in the midst of the orchard, which was of fifty acres, a score of bee hives were located. The bees literally swarmed in the orchard at blooming time, and the insects buzzed around tht blossoms in swarms. There was little more done to the orchard other than that of ordinary spraying. That year the fruit yield was from ten to twenty per cent. higher than common. The second and third year the same practice was kept up, and the increase was even more apparent. In that orchard at least the apple trees were apparently helped by the presence of the bees. Whether or not it would prove true in all cases is quite another question. It is a matter, however, that deserves some more extended experiment, for if bees in the orchard will perform such a useful function to our apple crop they should be raised wherever commercial apple growing is an important industry.

S. W. CHAMBERS.

HANDLING PEACHES.

In his annual report R. K. Price, Horticulturist of the Texas Experiment Station, says that the peaches from the station orchard were marketed just as would those from a private orchard. Two years' experience enabled him to reach the following conclusions:

1. It paid us well to build up a local market.

2. After a local market was built up it paid us best to ship to one commission house.

3. Careful packing paid about 15 per cent. more than ordinary packing.

4. Peaches just ripe enough to eat here were too ripe to ship to Houston, a distance of ninety-five miles.

5. It paid us best to place fruit of even size throughout the package, and the red cheek of the top layer uppermost.

6. The one-third bushel basket was the best paying package that we tried.

The station is also experimenting in canning fruit, with a view to enabling producers to can their surplus fruits profitably. It has been found that one bushel of Mamie Ross peaches will fill twenty-two 3 pound cans, which, at 20 cents per can, gives a value of $4.40 per bushel, less the cost of cans, labor and sugar. But even after deducting these items the work will still be found profitable.

Farm Miscellany.

CURING GULLIES.

On many Virginia farms there are deep gullies, and little gullies which in a few years will wash out into deep ones. In the lower Mississippi, Eads discovered how, by sunken jetties, to use the same water-force which created shallows and bars in destroying them. So in gullies the same force which creates them can be turned to account to fill them up. To accomplish this engineering feat it is only necesrary to have cedar or pine boughs or brush. The brush should be laid in the gullies "against the current;" that is, with the butts pointing toward the lower end of the gully. Freshets of water will not wash them away, as would be the case did their limbs trend with the flow of the water, but on the contrary earth will be washed and lodged wherever there is an acute angle formed by a crotch, and the gullies will gradually fill up, until in a couple or three years only a gentle depression will remain, which can easily be leveled, if desired, with a plow. Brushing gullies is good winter work. A few loads of fire-wood trimmings can be distributed about on most farms to good advantage.—Guy E. Mitchell.

Keep a spool of copper wire (wire the size of a large knitting needle) in the wagon or buggy, so that if you should have a breakdown while on the road you have the means to make repairs. A piece of wire two yards long may be coiled up about the size of a watch so as to be carried in the pocket, the end being wound around the coil to keep it in place. This will then always be at hand ready to mend broken harness, wagons, tools. In fact, almost everything that is subject to breakage may be stoutly mended with copper wire, which is flexible and tough.—Mrs. Sadie Shroyer, Humboldt, Neb.

DESTROYING WEEVIL IN GRAIN.

To prevent insects from getting into newly threshed wheat care should be taken that the bins are perfectly clean. If bins or store houses are thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed before the grain is placed in them, many cracks and crevices filled with insects will be stopped up. The granary should be made as tight as possible and thoroughly disinfected each season. Before the adoption of bisulphide of carbon, one remedy practiced was heating the infested grain to 140 degrees. It was left in this temperature for 8 to 10 hours. The remedy was difficult to adopt and was not extensively used. Tobacco, sulphur and many other substances have been recommended, but have not been used with satisfactory results where large large quantities of grain are stored.

The simplest, most effective and least expensive of all remedies for stored grain insects is the use of bisulphide of carbon. To insure grain from the attack of insects it should be treated with bisulphide thoroughly after being placed in the bin. It is a foul smelling liquid which evaporates very readily. The fumes are heavier than air and penetrate the grain, producing an atmosphere in which no insect can live. Although explosive, this material can be handled without danger if care is taken not to have lights of any kind around during the fumigation. The material can be thrown directly upon the grain without injuring it either for seed or edible purposes. About one pound, equivalent to a pint, is necessary for one ton of grain in store. It should be poured in soup plates or tin pans, set about on the surface of the grain. The price of bisulphide of carbon varies from 15 to 30 cents per pound, depending on purity and quantity purchased. There is a grade known as fuma bisulphide of carbon, especially manufactured for the disinfection of grain and seeds.—American Agriculturist.

Many farmers in this section have stopped pulling fodder. They cut the corn when the fodder is ripe. The best farmers and agricultural journals agree that the blades should not be stripped from the stalk. Every neighborhood should have a "shredder." It is as important as the threshing machine. It is claimed by the best authorities that much of the value of the value of the corn crop is in the stalk. Fodder pulling is a custom which should be abandoned. It is all a habit.—Asheboro (N. C.) Courier.

New York has increased the penalties for selling oleomargarine in violation of law from $25 fine to $50 as a minimum and $200 as a maximum fine for the first offense, while for the second offense the minimum penalty is six months' imprisonment. This, it is believed, will go far to enforce the law in that State.

I find by experience the most effective way to kill locust trees is to deaden when in full bloom by peeling the bark down to the ground, commencing three or four feet above the ground. This done at that time and in the manner stated will positively kill the roots as well as the trunk and branches.—Virginia Yerbett, Piney Flats, Tenn.

Mr. T. B. Terry thinks that the man who saves the solid manure from his animals, and lets the liquid manure, worth as much more per pound, run through a leaky floor, to go to waste, and then buys artificial fertilizer to get the elements that were in those liquids, is very much the same kind of a food that a man would be who saved his skim milk, threw away his cream and bought butter. The comparison is a strong one, but if farmers had been educated to know the real value of those liquids when they are properly absorbed and used on the soil, they would not often be so foolish.—American Cultivator.

TO NON-SUBSCRIBERS.

If the person to whom this copy of The Progressive Farmer is sent is not a subscriber, this number is sent as a sample, as an invitation to subscribe. The small sum of two cents per week will make it a regular visitor to your home—three months, 25 cents; six months, 50 cents; one year, $1. And any Carolina or Tennessee farmer subscribing now who feels at expiration of subscription that he has not received full value, may have his money back for the asking.

VALUABLE FARM BOOKS.

Principles of Agriculture. By Prof. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University. Handsomely illustrated. 300 pages. Price, $1.25.

We really do not believe that the average North Carolina farmer can anywhere invest $1.25 to better advantage than by sending that amount to us for a copy of Prof. L. H. Bailey's "Principles of Agriculture." This is a work which tells the "whys and wherefores"—the principles—of the "business" of farming. It is written by a man of great ability who knows his subject by long years of actual experience and scientific study. The farmer who secures a copy of this work and studies it during his spare moments this summer will not only find much pleasure thereby, but will find greater interest in his work, a broader view of his profession and the probability of making many more dollars as a result of his study. There are many books upon the market, but not for many years, we firmly believe, has one been issued which the average reader of this paper so badly needs. The work is handsomely bound, well illustrated, clearly printed and contains 300 pages. Send us $1.25 and get a copy. We guarantee satisfaction.

A SPECIAL PRICE.

We have now decided to send a copy of this valuable work and a year's subscription to The Progressive Farmer to any address for only $2. This offer is made at a sacrifice in the hope of placing the work in the hands of more of the thousands who need it.