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Progrieter and Sucioess Manager.

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"The Industrial and Educational Interests of our People Paramount to all other considerations of State Policv.' 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, February 10, 1886.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A fundamental mistake is to call vehemence and rigidity strength. man is not strong who takes convulsion fits; though six men cannot hold him then. He that can walk under the heaviest weight without stagger-The man who cannot hold his peace, till the time come for speaking and acting, is no right man .- From Carlyle's "The Hero as Man of Letters."

The State press has of late given considerable attention to the statement in Lawson's History that there was a volcanic explosion in the Gordon's Mountain region in Anson County 109 years ago. Lawson and Pro. Collier Cobb, the well-known geologist of the State University, differ considerably in this matter-19, 999,891 years, to be exact. Prof. Cobb tells us that there has been no volcano in the region named in the last 20,000, 000 years.

The action of Governor Aycock in the Salisbury lynching matter has directed attention to the anti-lynching law of this State. Many of our most intelligent citizens were not before aware of the existence of such a law. It was put on our statute books in 1893, and is,in part, as follows: "Every person who shall conspire to break or enter any jail or other place of confinement of prisoners charged with erime or under sentence for the purpose of killing or otherwise injuring any prisoner confined therein; and every person who engages in breaking or entering any such jail or other place of confinement of such prisoners with intent to kill or injure any prisoner, shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof or upon a fence not less than five hundred dolprison or the county jail not less than two nor more than fifteen years."

So instructive to many of our read ers and so remarkably interesting to all are the articles on "Old Times in the South" now appearing in our col umns that, with the hope of inducing others to contribute, we have decided to extend the time limit for articles er prize. As the matter now stands therefore-

The competition will remain open at least until August 1st, until later unless seven or more letters are received in July.

Plantation," heretofore offered as a erated by white farmers and 24.4 per prize, a copy of "Sketches of Old Vir- cent by colored farmers. Of the white ginia," by A. G. Bradley, is now also farmers 66.6 per cent own all or a offered. The writer of the most in- part of the farm they operate, and teresting letter by a woman will get | 33.4 per cent operate farms owned by one of these books; the writer of the others. For colored farmers, the corremost interesting man's letter will get | sponding percentages are 82.0 and 68.0 the other. Only one or two men have Of the colored farmers, 98.4 per cent Hear type, and both treat of "old times | three-fourths of whom are owners." in the South."

A DECADE OF FARMING PROGRESS IN RORTH CAROLINA.

At least once every ten years the farmers of the State should take their bearings and endeavor to learn in what direction they are going and with what speed they are traveling. For this purpose there is hardly anything of greater interest than the census statistics on farming conditions. We do not know therefore that we can employ our editorial columns to better advantage this week than giving a review and summary of the census bulletin on "North Carolina Agriculture" which has just come from the press. It ought to be of interest to every farmer; but some people don't like figures, and our apology to this class is that it will certainly be ten years before we inflict on them another statistical summary of the State's farming interests. This one we have prepared with considerable care, endeavoring to present in it all the more striking and noteworthy facts that were gathered by the census numerators and set forth in this bulletin of 13 large pages.

A GOOD SHOWING MADE

The number of farms in this State, according to the bulletin, is 224,637, with an average value of \$866.54, the total value being \$194,655,920. this amount 27 per cent represents the value of farm buildings and 73 per cent the value of "land and improvements other than buildings." The farmers of the State also own \$9,072,600 worth of farm implements and \$30, 000,000 worth of live stock.

That North Carolina farming is ing, he is the strong man. We need not going backward is made evident forever, especially in these loud-shriek- by a statement at the outset that in ing days, to remind ourselves of that. | 1899 (the census having been taken in June, 1900, crop statistics are for the previous year) the total value of our farm products was 78.4 per cent greater than that reported for 1889. After making due allowance for the part of the increase due to a more detailed enumeration in 1900," we still regard this reported growth from \$50. 070,530 in 1889 to \$89,309,638 in 1889. as a really remarkable showing-one that should encourage all interested in North Carolina agriculture.

FARMS GETTING SMALLER.

The number of farms now, as we have said, is 224,637-25 per cent more than ten years ago and almost exactly four times as many as fifty years ago. The average size of the farm is now 101.3 acres, compared with 127 acres a decade ago, 142 acres in 1880, 212 in 1890, 316 in 1860 and 368 in 1850. The average size of the farm, it will be seen, is gradually decreasing; ten years hence it will be considerably less

The value of the farm property of the State is 7.9 greater than ten years

PERCENTAGE OF TENANT FARMERS INCREASING

The number of farms operated by owners has increased during the last decade, but the relative increase in number of farms operated by tenants has been so great that while the number of land owning farmers has grown from 117,469 to 131,629, the latter number now represents only 58.6 per cent of the farms of the State while plea of guilty, shall be fined by the the 117,000 in 1890 represented 65.9 court having jurisdiction of the of- per cent of the farms then in operation. In 1900 8.9 per cent of the lars and imprisoned in the State farms were operated by cash tenants 32.5 per cent by share tenants, 58.6 per cent by owners; in 1890, the percentages were: cash tenants, 5.9 per cent, share tenants 28.2 per cent, owners 65.9 per cent. In the last twenty years the number of cash tenants has more than doubled, the number o share tenants has increased 65 per cent, and the number of land-owning farmers 25.5 per cent.

COLORED

The bulletin gives the number of white farmers as 169,773, negro 53, 996, Indian 868. In this connection, the following paragraph from the bulletin is of interest: "Of the farmers In addition to the copy of "The Old of the State, 75.6 per cent are opyet entered the competition. The are negroes, of whom nearly one-third books are very interesting, cloth own all or a part of their farms, and bound, printed on good paper with the remainder are Indians, more than Negroes operate one-fourth of the Slavery days, Civil War times, the farms, but less than one-eighth of the Reconstruction period-write us your | acreage and farm property. The aver-

less than half as large, the average the cottonseed, \$2,290,000. being 53.6 acres.

The acreage of farms is as follows: 1202 farms of less than 3 acres; 11,323 farms of from 3 to 9 acres; 20,659 from 10 to 19 acres; 59,913 from 20 000; sweet potatoes, \$2,000,000; wheat to 49 acres: 55,028 from 50 to 99: 44,-052 from 100 to 174; 17,012 from 175 to 259; 11,224 from 260 to 499; 3,275 from 500 to 999; 949 of 1000 acres and over, these averaging 1888 acres.

ACREAGE OF VARIOUS CROPS

The Census Office reports "hay and grain" as the principal source of income of 44,648farms (we expect the hay member of the partnership is here given a little more prominence than it deserves); live stock as the chief source of income of 23,607 farms; tobacco of 22,626; cotton, 48,896. The hay and grain farms average 97.8 acres; stock farms, 116 acres; tobacco 94, cotton 87. So of the total acreage of the State hay and grain farms lead with 19.2 per cent, cotton follows with 18.7, stock farms 12.1, tobacco 9.4, vegetables 1.3, fruit, while 37.6 per cent are classed as miscellaneous.

This paragraph giving a summary of live stock conditions we take from the bulletin: "The total value of all live stock on farms, June 1, 1900, was \$30,106,173, of which amount 29.2 per cent represents the value of horses; 28.8 per cent, that of mules; 14.7 per cent, that of dairy cows; 10.8 per cent, that of other neat cattle; 8.3 per cent, that of swine; 4.8 per cent, that of poultry; and 3.4 per cent, that of all other live stock."

FARMING LOSSES IN THE CIVIL WAR

Very interesting is the table showing the number of domestic animals for each decade since 1850. The terrible devastation of the Civil War is pictured here in the marked decrease in the number of cattle, horses, sheep and swine in the decade between 1860 and 1870-an all round decrease of more than one-third, we believe. (Mules and asses, however, showed decrease of less than 2 per cent; they couldn't be eaten and were not in demand in the cavalry.) In that decade, too, the acreage of improved farm lands decreased from 6,500,000 to 5,250,000, and the total decrease in value of farm property decreased from \$180,000,000 to about \$80,000,000.

LIVE STOCK STATISTICS

But let us get back to stock conditions. This table is hardly less painful to consider than that showing the ruin wrought by war. For though the State is admirably adapted to stockraising, from 1890 to 1900 we made practically no progress in this branch of farming. True the number of dairy cows increased from 223,000 to 233, 000 (it was 232,000 in 1880), but the number of other neat cattle shows decrease from 407,000 in 1890 to 391, 000 in 1900. And while Samuel Archer and other Progressive Farmer corresopndents have sought to emphasize the importance of sheep raising, the statistics show that in the decade covered by the census figures the number of sheep shrunk nearly half-declining from 402,247 in 1890 to 208,812 in 1900. Mules and asses increased 36 per cent; horses, 21 per cent; swine per cent.

It is noteworthy that the negroes ise more mules than horses, the whites more horses than mules. On cotton farms the number of mules exceeds that of horses; of all other kinds of farms, the reverse is true.

A comparison with the census of 1850 shows that we have five times as many mules and asses; less than 10 per cent more horses; about 5 per cent more dairy cattle, and one-sixth less of other neat cattle; only about one-third as many sheep, and about two-thirds as many swine.

POULTRY RAISING AND DAIRYING

wholly discouraging. The poultry and ampton, Hertford, Martin, and Edgedairy exhibits are the brightest features. We produced in 1899 62 per cent more milk (gain, 34,275,084 gallons) than in 1889. We made 28.8 per cent more butter. As the increase in Bertie County shows a gain from 528 number of dairy cattle was not nearly so large, these figures indicate that the grade of cattle was very considerably improved. Then our production of eggs in 1899 (17,000,000 dozen) was a time and a half as large as in 1889 The poultry and eggs raised in 1899 were worth \$4,500,000, three-fifths o this representing poultry, two-fifths

VALUE OF DIFFERENT CROPS

Perhaps it will surprise some to learn that our corn crop is more valuable than our cotton crop, but such tion was 250 per cent. This much is the case. In 1899, we produced, in larger increase in yield than in round numbers, \$17,000,000 worth of acreage is another indication of better memories of any of these, and enter age size of the farms owned by whites corn, and \$15,500,000 worth of cotton. farming. Here is the Census Office is 116.6; those owned by negroes, are If, however, we include the value of statement as to tobacco production:

to the very nearly \$18,000,000 credit of King Cotton, which puts him head. Our 1899 tobacco was worth \$8,000,000; hay and forage, \$4,200, \$3,400,000; oats, \$1,000,000; peanuts, \$1,800,000; miscellaneous vegetables, \$3,000,000; orchard fruits, \$1,000,000; forest products, \$4,900,000. The editor of the bulletin comments on the figures as follows:

"Of the total value of crops in 1899, cotton, including seed, constituted 26.2 per cent; corn, 25.2 per cent; other cereals, including rice, 7.0 per cent; vegetables, including potatoes, sweet potatoes and onions, 8.9 per cent; forest products, 7.2 per cent; fruits and nuts, 3.0 per cent; hay and forage, 6.2 per cent; and all other products, 16.3 per cent. The acreage devoted to corn constituted 47.1 per cent of the total area in crops and yielded 25.2 per cent of the total receipts, while cotton, occupying but 17.5 per cent of the total acreage, yielded 26.2 per cent of the total receipts."

Except oats and rye, we are raising more of all the cereals than ten years ago. The corn acreage has increased in nearly every county. The Yadkin River Valley grows nearly one-third of our wheat. The acreage in rice nearly doubled between 1890 and 1900. Though grown in 45 counties, threefourths of this crop is raised in seven 'Sound counties"-Beaufort, Brunswick, Camden, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Tyrrell.

100,000 COTTON FARMERS

In 1899 we raised 35 per cent more cotton than in 1889, though the increase in acreage was only 12 per cent. Let us hope that this indicates better farming. The bulletin has this to say as to the cotton production:

"In 1899, 105,766 farmers devoted to the cultivation of cotton a total area of 1,007,020 acres, or 12.1 per cent of the total improved farm land, and an average of 9.5 acres per farm reporting. The total production was 216,-506,930 pounds, an average of 215 pounds per acre and 114 pounds per capita. The counties reporting the greatest area under cotton are Mecklenburg, Robeson, Wake, Union, Johnston, Anson, Halifax, Wayne, Cleveland and Edgecombe, ranking in the order named, and reporting in the aggregate 42.6 per cent of the total acreage."

WE ARE GROWING MORE FRUIT.

It is encouraging to see that we are planting more fruit trees. We have a time and a half as many apple and cherry trees as ten years ago, a third more peach trees, and three times as many plums, prunes and pears. We have twice as many apple as peach As to the standing of the counties,

the bulletin speaks as follows: "Most of the fruit trees are reported from the western part of the State, Guilford ranking among the leading counties in all varieties. Moore, Burke, and Guilford counties reported about one-eighth of the peach trees, and Wilkes, Buncombe, Surry, Guilford, and Haywood reported about onesixth of the apple trees." Halifax County produces one-fourth of our igs. Three-fourths of our strawberries are raised in the four adjoining counties of Duplin, Pender, Sampson and Wayne.

Our sweet potato acreage was slightly smaller in 1899 than in 1889. PEANUT INDUSTRY GROWING.

The peanut industry is getting be- for the ensuing year: yond peanut proportions. In the census decade the acreage increased fourfold and production sevenfold. There are now nearly 20,000 peanut farmers who devote 100,000 acres to the crop. Two-thirds of the acreage is in the kinson, of the Christian Sun. The stock table, however, is not counties of Bertie, Halifax, Northcombe, ranking in the order named. "The area devoted to peanut growing has increased at least tenfold since 1889 in each of these counties, while acres to 14,499 acres, or about twentysevenfold."

TOBACCO FARMING MAKES GIANT

There are 50,000 North Carolina to bacco farmers, and 200,000 acres planted to the weed. In 1899 these produced 127,500,000 pounds, averaging 6.3 cents in value, or a total value of \$8,038,691. Tobacco farming made giant strides in the decade between 1890 and 1900. The acreage more than doubled and the increase in produc-

"The average yield per acre in 1899 was 628 pounds, against 375 pounds in 1889, and 472 pounds in 1879. Of the 86 counties reporting the cultivation of tobacco in 1899, the county having the largest acreage was Rockingham, with 16,882 acres. Pitt County report ed the largest production, 10,733,010 pounds, and was closely followed by Rockingham, Nash, Wilson, Stokes, Granville, Franklin, Caswell, Greene, and Person counties in the order named. The 12 leading counties of the State contained 61.3 per cent of the entire acreage in tobacco and contributed 63.0 per cent of the total production."

FIFTY PER CENT INCREASE IN FERTI LIZER CONSUMPTION.

There is a steady increase in quantity of fertilizer used. We now buy a time and a half as much as ten years ago. The Census figures show an 1899 expenditure for this purpose of \$4,479,030, an average of \$20 per farm, ranging from \$80 in Scotland County through an average of \$30 for the central district to an average of only \$1 for some western counties. For vegetables farms the average was \$43; for tobacco farms, \$42; for dairy farms \$15; for florists' establishments, \$11 for hay and grain farms, \$11; for sugar farms, \$9; for live-stock farms \$7; and for rice farms, \$5.

CONCLUSIONS.

The figures indicate reasonable agricultural prosperity, though the disparity between increase in total value of farm products and that of farm property is very marked.

The size of the farms is steadily decreasing; the number of the farms is just as steadily increasing.

Stock raising made slow progress during the decade. The sheep statistics are astonishing, the 1899 report showing barely half as many as 1889. Dairying and poultry raising, lowever, made encouraging reports.

There are three white farmers to one colored, and the negro's farm is ess than half as large as that of the white man.

Less than 1000 farms contain more han 1000 acres.

The cotton acreage is almost exactly double that of tobacco, the ratio being 18.7 to 9.4. The total values of the two crop show a like proportions-\$15,696,000 to \$8,038,000.

The tobacco, fruit, peanut and rice industries made really remarkable growth in the decade covered by the census reports. This, we take it, indicates a tendency toward crop diversification.

All in all, the report is encouraging, but we hope that we shall make a better showing in the live stock column next time.

MEETING OF TRE PRESS ASSOCIATION

The North Carolina Press Association held its thirtieth annual session in Hendersonville last week. The at tendance was large. A number of very interesting addresses were delivered, the oration of Mr. Clyde R. Hoey being especially good. A carriage drive to Mt. Hebron Wednesday afternoon was greatly enjoyed. Hendersonville is a beautiful town, a delightful health resort, and is steadily growing in population and popularity. Its citizens did all in their power for the comfort and pleasure of the editors. The banquet at the Hotel Wheeler Thursday night was a fitting close to this delightful

The following officers were chosen

President-W. F. Marshall, of the Gastonia Gazette.

First Vice-President-M. L. Shipman, of the Hendersonville Hustler. Second Vice-President-J. O. At-

Third-Vice President-J. J. Far ris, of the High Point Enterprise. Secretary and Treasurer-J. B Sherrill, of the Concord Times.

Historian-C. H. Poe, of The Prorressive Farmer. Orator-Archibald Johnson,

Charity and Children. Poet-J. R. Swann, of the Madison

County Record.

Executive Committee-H. A. London, Thad R. Manning, J. J. Farris, R. A. Deal, H. B. Varner.

The conferees on the isthmian canal bill last week reached a complete and unanimous agreement this afternoon in favor of accepting the Senate amendment, which contemplates the building of the Panama Canal if the President can secure a clear title to that route. It is believed that both Houses will speedily ratify this action. Senator Morgan says, "We must have the canal; the question of route is of secondary importance."

The Thinkers. A FREE PRESS.

The newspapers, with faults, are among the most constant aids to the vigilance which is the pri of the liberty that is protected by courts. Who believes that the poli the prosecuting officers, or the jud would enforce the laws and resp private persons as well as they do n if the eye of the reporter and the of the editor were not at the daily as vice of every voter? The occasion pettifogging of attorneys is a necessity sary evil, incidental to the conserva tive power by which the legal profes sion upholds and tests the law as exists, and exercises a foresight gain ed from history and informed by pres ent business. Yet sharp practise kept in check by the fear that it will be reported.

In England, in the reign of James II, there was not a word in the Go zette about the trial and acquittal of the seven bishops who had dared tell the king that he was not above the constitution. It is better to tolerate the worst newspaper in the Unita States than to have a censorship of the press. We have to take some risks and our people prefer the risks freedom of speech. They who abuse by foolish declarations lose much what influence they have by the i difference or ridicule with which our people are accustomed to treat absurdities; and those who publish criminal suggestions are more easily watched and caught in their earlier career than they would be if our government required them to be more secret. Indeed, the people of the United States do not know how to do without free dom of speech. The repressive policies of other governments, judged by their effects, are not alluring.

The more open and fearless way is the better way for trying to give to every human being his share of truth and right, as well as his just portion of punishment. We can not escape suffering of some kind, and we are learning that no tests are too severe for the ages in their development of the highest types of human character. Until individual life shall not need to fear exposure, publicity will be the dreaded weapon of public order as well, as of private revenge. And it is impossible to foretell when publicity will not need to be subject at least to the restrictions of our existing or future law.—Charles E. Grinnell, in the Atlantis Monthly.

THE POLITICAL BALANCE-WHEEL

It is becoming quite common for a

certain class of writers to advise far-

mers to stay at home, attend to their farming and leave politics alone. This agrees so perfectly with the selfish interests of an uncertain class of politicians that the inference is fairly deducible that such advice to farmers is inspired by them. It will be a sad day for this country when farmers cease to take an interest in the political affairs of the State or Nation, and assign politics to the politicians. An engine of high power and great speed must have a heavy balance-wheel to equalize the motion, overcome deadcenters, and deliver the power in 8 steady, controlled current. Profession al politicians, like a wild horse harnessed to a road-cart, are liable to run away, kick off the dash-board and tear the thing to pieces, and in doing so injure innocent passers-by. Farmers, as a class, constitute the balance wheel of the political "machine" we read so much about, and the only team that is perfectly safe anywhere and at all times. There is no other really important class of citizens who really want good government. Every other business wants special favors at the hands of our law-makers; want som advantage over producers; means by which they can levy tribute on others. Farmers are just as selfish as others for they are made of the same sort of dust, but as their interests are best served by just laws that afford no special advantages to any body, they favor such laws. As their interests are as great, or greater, than those of any other class, they have, to say the least, as much right to demand home government in their interests as others have to demand partial and unjust laws for their especial benefit. Farmers, should of course, attend to their farms; but as government is a part of their business also they should attend to that, too. There is a large and influential portion of our popula-

tion who would be very glad if farm-

ers generally would cease to meddle

with politics, and turn the whole thing

over to the pecuniary politicians.

Farm and Ranch.