

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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"The Industrial and Educational Interests of our People Paramount to all other considerations of State Policy," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall.

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A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

Yes, poor Louis. Death has found thee. Miserable man! thou "hast done evil as thou couldst." thy whole existence seems one hideous abortion and mistake of Nature; the use and meaning of thee not yet known.

THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENTS.

Mr. Archer, too, has something to say regarding the drift of young men from this to other States. The big fact that in this generation we have sent out practically four times as many persons to other States as all the other States have sent to us ought to start our people on a search for the cause of this condition.

"We cannot hope to have fruit any more unless we spray our orchards," said our Mt. Olive correspondent last week. Such expressions are often heard, and indicate a general awakening to the force of facts that have been often set forth in The Progressive Farmer.

The letter on "Hogology" is a puzzle; we do not know whether or not the writer intends to be taken seriously in any part of it. Meat from hogs allowed to fatten in filth is really "not fit for a civilized Christian gentleman to eat," and we take it that this plea for cleaner quarters is the real meaning of "Uncle Ben's" irony.

It is wrong to judge a man by the coat he wears, but many people will do it; and a vastly larger number are attracted by neat packing and display of fruits and vegetables. There is no other work that pays the market farmer better than that of putting what a woman would call "the finishing touch" on whatever he has for sale.

The formal starting of the Roanoke Island celebration scheme at a meeting held on the island last week gives timeliness and appropriateness to the leading article on page 4 this week. Whatever may have been the eccentricities of Joseph Seawell Jones, this description of Roanoke Island is very well done.

The great problem of the Alliance is that of winning the interest of the younger people, as Bro. Bain suggests in his letter this week. No organization can survive whose members fail

to bring in recruits from the young people. Not only is its death only a matter of time, but it will be somewhat lacking in life and enthusiasm even while its nominal existence continues.

Now that we are beginning a campaign in which members of the Legislature are to be chosen, the question, "What new laws, and what changes in old laws, are needed?" is a timely one. We are glad to print the views of Mr. Gore on this point, and shall be glad to publish the opinions of other readers.

We have just received a copy of the Agricultural Department Yearbook for 1901, mentioned in Mr. Mitchell's letter on page 1, and we presume that the entire edition will be ready for distribution by the time this issue reaches our readers. It is well worth having, and any reader of The Progressive Farmer can get a copy free by applying promptly to his Congressman or Senator.

Some time ago we spoke of Woodrow Wilson, the gifted young Southerner who has recently become President of Princeton University, as being "of North Carolina ancestry." This, we suppose, was a slight error. He was born in Staunton, Va., but his father was once pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington and Woodrow himself attended Davidson College in this State.

Harry Farmer seems to be in favor of applying to the schools of each race the amount of school taxes paid by that race. This idea is undoubtedly popular in some sections of the State, and some very plausible arguments are advanced in its behalf. But whatever the advantages of the plan, careful study has convinced the writer that it also has some very serious disadvantages and some positive dangers.

Mr. J. P. Alexander's chess article seems to have excited considerable interest, if we may judge by the number of replies received. Chess or cheat is not, as Mr. Alexander seems to think, degenerate oats; nor a kind of oat monstrosity, as Mr. Barbrey's ingenious theory would indicate; but a species of brome grass, itself subject and the oat also subject to what Mr. Barbrey calls "the universal law in nature that 'like begets like.'"

The educational rallies mentioned in our State News columns will doubtless accomplish much good, and we hope that every reader of The Progressive Farmer who can aid them in any way will esteem it a privilege to do so. For it is a privilege and an honor worth the seeking, that of helping forward in any degree the cause of public education in the South.

And just in this connection let us propose three cheers for Moore County, in recognition of her magnificent work for the library movement. Our Moore readers are to be congratulated on the progressive spirit shown by their educational leaders, and our readers in other counties should set up Moore's example as an ideal to push forward to.

TELEPHONES FOR NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS.

"The telephone is a great convenience, and there's no reason why city people should monopolize it."

The farmers of the Great West reached this conclusion several years ago, and lost no time in acting on it. The telephone system has been rapidly extended, and now in many sections practically all the farmers have 'phones, the man without one being regarded as sadly behind the times.

The telephone puts the farmer in touch with his neighbors and with the markets; herein lies its value. Without loss of time in changing your clothes, hitching the horses, or driving over the roads, the telephone, with all the speed of electricity, puts you into communication with the person you seek. You can call up Merchant Brown and get his prices on butter or beef, or learn the price of cotton or tobacco at your nearest market; you can call up Farmer Jones and ask him to send you a field hand for the next day, or tell you the condition of your sick neighbor; your wife and children can arrange with neighbors for social visits; in case of illness, the physician can be quickly summoned; neighbors can be called to the rescue in case of fire or accident; important news will reach you before getting stale—and there are a thousand and one other advantages that do not occur to us just now.

Of course, there are some sections of North Carolina where the rural telephone is not yet practicable, but there is no good and sufficient reason why this convenience should not be at once put within the reach of thousands of our farmers now without it. And our sole purpose in writing this article is to bring to the attention of our readers what has been accomplished in one North Carolina county under conditions no more favorable than are those in dozens of other counties. Union is the county to which we refer, and to the Marshville Home we are indebted for our information.

"Union County's telephone system probably surpasses that of any other county in the State, especially in the rural districts. There are in the county ten telephone exchanges and six of these are in the country. The total number of 'phones in the county is 542, and 295 of these are in towns and 247 in the country; and the system is yet in its infancy in the rural districts. At the present rate of increase the number of 'phones in the county will probably be increased 100 per cent within the next twelve months and it is only a question of short time before this county will be a network of wires and almost every farmer will have a 'phone in his house.

The telephone system, together with rural free delivery of mails, will revolutionize things in favor of country life, rendering it less isolated and more attractive. Even now all important news is transmitted to every part of the county as soon as it occurs. Two hours after President McKinley was shot at Buffalo, the affair was being talked about by our farmers through their neighborhood exchanges. During the recent Congressional Convention at Monroe farmers sat in their homes and received the ballots as they were cast for the various candidates and many of them knew who the nominee was before the first applause from the friends of the successful candidate had subsided."

We hear that in several North Carolina counties recently farmers have organized co-operative cotton oil mills. This is as it should be. With proper management they will pay handsomely. To convert any of the raw material of the farm into a higher form—into beef or butter or wool or oil—means two profits instead of one for the farmer. See on page 8 the plan adopted by the Edgecombe farmers for starting one of these oil mills.

NORTH CAROLINA: "A NURSERY TO GROW UP IN."

The following article by the editor of The Progressive Farmer, published in the Charlotte Observer of Sunday, 20th inst., brings out some facts not nearly so well known as they should be, and we hope that no apology is needed for its republication here:

I have this sentence well fixed in my mind; I do not know who said it or whether any one has ever said it before—at any rate, it is a big and indisputable fact:

"Emigration has been the bane of North Carolina."

This has always been true, and I should not be surprised to hear that the sentence is found in some address much older than the writer. Nearly fifty years ago—in 1855, to be exact—Dr. Calvin H. Wiley, then Superintendent of Public Instruction, had this to say as to the matter:

"Efforts to promote the love of home in the plastic nature of childhood are peculiarly becoming in North Carolina, a State where the want of this attachment and its ruinous effects are eloquently recorded in deserted farms, in wide wastes of guttered sedge fields, in neglected resources, in the absence of improvements and in the hardships, sacrifices and sorrows of constant emigration. Our State has long been regarded by its citizens as a mere nursery to grow up in."

At another time Dr. Wiley said that it was no exaggeration to say that "the State was a great encampment while the inhabitants looked on themselves as tented only for a season." He continued: "We have neglected our resources and instead of making a thorough examination of the advantages and capabilities of that part of God's creation on which we have been planted, with fostering skies above us, with a healthful climate and enticing scenery around us, we have been straining our eyes to far distant lands, and teaching our children that North Carolina was not their home, but a nursery from which they were to be transplanted to other regions."

And down to this day North Carolina is regarded by many of her bravest and brainiest as "a mere nursery to grow up in." This is not an idle assertion, but a fact to which census statistics bear indisputable testimony. They indicate that every year for a hundred years North Carolina has sent more sons and daughters to other States than the other States have sent to her. In 1790 when the first census was taken, North Carolina had a larger population than New York. We ranked third in population, New York fifth. From 1800 to 1820 we held fourth place; in 1830, fifth; in 1840, seventh; in 1850 tenth—and so on down to 1900 when we ranked fifteenth. (Let it be said, however, that this indicated some progress as we were sixteenth in 1890.)

Nowhere have I seen the harmful effect of emigration on the State more correctly or forcibly set forth than in Dr. Walter H. Page's address on "The Forgotten Man" delivered at Greensboro in 1897. Taking up the fact that, according to the census of 1890, North Carolina had sent out 293,000—about one-eighth—of her children then living, while only 52,000 persons had come to her from other States, he said: "If a slave brought \$1,000 in old times, it ought to be safe to assume that every emigrant from the State has an economic value of \$1,000. This emigration therefore had up to 1890 cost us \$293,000,000—a fact that goes far to explain why we are poor. To take the place of these 293,000 emigrants after twenty years of advertising and organized effort to secure immigration, 52,000 persons born in other States had come here, a large proportion of whom, of course, had come for health. But counting the sick and dying at \$1,000 each, we had still lost \$241,000,000 by the transaction. This calculation gives a slight hint of the cost of ignorance and the extravagance of keeping taxes too low."

Let me add, parenthetically, that when Dr. Page says the emigration "had up to 1890 cost us \$293,000,000," it is clear that he means the cost had been that for the generation living in 1890 alone. The estimate does not take into consideration the loss the State had sustained by the emigration of persons not living in 1890.

Not less startling than the 1890 figures mentioned by Dr. Page are those given in the 1900 census report, which I have had the melancholy pleasure of examining within the last few days.

Before getting to aggregates, let us consider some of the figures in detail, taking up those States in which 5,000

or more native North Carolinians now live. There are fifteen States in this class, while only Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina have sent more than 5,000 to us.

To Alabama North Carolina has sent 12,102 persons; Alabama has sent us 927.

Twenty-thousand men and women have gone from this State to Arkansas; 300 Arkansas travelers have come to us.

Over 13,000 natives of North Carolina now live in Florida; Florida has sent us only 388 persons.

Thirty-two thousand Tar Heels are in Georgia; we have within our borders 5,617 Crackers.

In Illinois are 5,883 natives of our State; we have 454 persons in return.

Indiana has exchanged on a basis of 11,310 North Carolinians for 488 of her citizens.

Mississippi has 15,639 living sons and daughters of North Carolina; we have 578 natives of Mississippi.

More than 10,000 persons have gone from this State to Missouri; only 358 have come from Missouri to us.

Some of New York's strongest men are in the ranks of the 8,771 we have sent her; she has sent us 1,740.

Our exchange with Pennsylvania has been at the ratio of 6,741 for 1,759.

South Carolina is the only State of my list that has toted fair with us. We have 31,513 of her citizens and have sent her only 29,521 of ours in return.

Tennessee has profited at the rate of 28,405 for 6,784.

Texas has taken 23,065; we have from the Lone Star State only 386.

Last of all, Virginia, the State in which most North Carolina exiles live—53,235 of them; and of all States, with the sole exception of South Carolina, has sent most to us—25,619.

Now for aggregates. Altogether (to these fifteen States and to the others having less than 5,000 native Tar Heels) North Carolina has sent out 331,258 of her sons and daughters now living—one-seventh of the total number—while we have within our borders only 85,290 persons born in other States. This shows a net loss to us of 245,968 persons, meaning a cost to the State of a quarter of a billion dollars, as Dr. Page would say.

And as he would say, furthermore, "when we remember that almost every one of these emigrants went to States where taxes were higher and schools were more numerous and better, and where competition is fiercer, and when we remember that they went from a State that is yet sparsely settled and richer in natural opportunities than the States to which most of them went" the fact that something is wrong somewhere "becomes tragically obvious."

The writer has been pondering this matter ever since Mr. Paul Collins announced at the last A. and M. College commencement that 18 of the 22 young men who graduated there last year now hold positions in other States. I could hardly believe it. Here in the midst of this industrial awakening in North Carolina over 80 per cent of an A. and M. graduating class leave the State within a year after they get their diplomas! I am not blaming this excellent institution; I am sure it has not encouraged the exodus. But I mention the fact because it is such a striking illustration of the drift of our young manhood to other States—because it speaks loudly enough to bring the matter to the attention of all our people.

Our greatest resource is not our farms or forests or factories, but our educated manhood, and it is perhaps not too much to say that North Carolina could better have lost a dozen of its cotton factories or a hundred of its saw mills than these eighteen well-trained young men who left our State last year.

And all this emigration in the face of the fact that no young man who wishes to find great work to do or great movements to aid or great resources to develop need go beyond the borders of North Carolina—as is very well set forth, for instance, in this paragraph from a recent number of the Biblical Recorder:

"Think of it, the Governor said it, North Carolina is the poorest and the most illiterate State! But when Mr. John Small gets his water-way constructed, and Mr. D. A. Tompkins and the Messrs. Fries, the Dukes and the Holts get their cotton mills all going, and Dr. Holmes gets his roads built, and Governor Aycock gets the schools running eight months, and Judge Clark gets our history written and known, and Editor Caldwell gets men

to thinking in politics instead of fighting—why, we shall have the richest, most intelligent and best State in the round world. And all is to come before the young men and women who graduated the other day shall be old men and women; and much of it is to be done by them—and not less by some who did not go to college. Was there ever such a time to come forth in North Carolina?"

But it is clear that the great question is whether or not the Recorder is right in thinking that our young men are going to stay here and do the work. At any rate these questions will not down:

What is the matter with our State, or what is the matter with her sons? Is it not true that there is a great work here for them to do? If so, how can they be made to see it? Are there conditions that form a barrier to progress? If so, what are they and how can they be remedied or removed?

Here is a problem big enough for our public men, our editors, our speakers, our thinkers in every sphere of activity.

It is high time for us to see why it is that we must still sorrowfully confess, as Calvin H. Wiley confessed fifty years ago, that North Carolina is regarded by many of her best people as "a mere nursery to grow up in."

The Thinkers.

THE APPALACHIAN PARK.

It may be added that it is doubtful if the people of Piedmont and Western North Carolina are alive to the importance of this park proposition. All scientific testimony agrees that the disastrous floods which these sections have recently suffered were due to the destruction of the forests. But for it we would not have had the recent stories of ruined crops and ruined lands nor the present spectacle of sandy wastes on creeks and rivers—instead of the fertile bottoms, covered with waving grain or rich green grass upon which sleek cattle fed, on which the eye has been wont to feast. The work of deforestation goes on apace, and unless it is stopped there will be recurrence of floods and accompanying destruction. Anything that is calculated to modify their energy should be hailed as a beneficence; and this is the practical view of the Appalachian national park proposition for the readers of The Observer.

It is a dazzling idea, that of a great park of two million acres—more of it in North Carolina than in any other State—cared for, protected and beautified by the government, a perpetual reservation, a pleasure ground for the people. But ours in the more utilitarian view. This reserve is needed as a protection to the lower country against the forces of nature.—Charlotte Observer.

ONE MORE BOY FOR THE DUST BELL.

The News and Observer, Raleigh, N. C., of May 6th, contains the following item, which was read by thousands of people in North Carolina and doubtless forgotten:

"A thirteen-year-old boy in Scotland County was convicted of stealing stationery from a Gibson merchant. The judge regretfully sent him to the chain-gang to associate with hardened criminals."

And so the old, sad story repeats itself in ever-varying form, and the offense against which God and nature have pronounced the severest of curses is again committed in a Christian state. Has not the time come for some force in society to find something better to do with weak, helplessly neglected, erring boys than to consign them to the hardening school of the chain-gang? Think of a great State of two millions of people, with all its machinery of government and punishment, arrayed against a pitiful weak boy just entering upon his teens and grinding him to dust with its inexorable machinery,—his only crime weakness and the neglect of parents and State! Among these millions are there not thousands of men and women with human hearts to demand that this kind of barbarism shall cease at once and forever in this good State? Can not the people understand that it is not the State's chief business to punish? Will another General Assembly of the State refuse to make an adequate appropriation for a school of reform to which boys like this are sent to be made into men instead of judicially sending them to hell in the chain-gang!—Atlantic Educational Journal.