

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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AGRICULTURE

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

CX

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Mary Jane was preparing some eggs a few days ago to set under a hen. She was careful to get nice new eggs and marked each one with ink and on some she placed the date, March 6th. Her reason for marking them, was to tell if any hens should lay in the same nest, and by dating some of the eggs she could tell when to expect the "biddies."

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The spring season is always the happiest time of the year for us. The lowing cows, the bleating calves, the clucking hens, the chirping biddies, the cheering songs of the birds and the green fields, with here and there a beautiful white butterfly flitting in the mellow sunshine, always make us love our country home more and more. The man who lives on a farm and does not enjoy these jewels of nature, had better leave and go where there is something more charming for him.

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The seasons have been very wet here, and it has greatly delayed farm work. We failed to get our oats sown as soon as we wanted to on account of the rains, so we were getting a little behind, and in order to do the work quickly we hitched four mules to the cutaway harrow and went in to the corn stalks, dead crab grass, prairies, etc. It was necessary to hip half way in order to get the work done satisfactorily, but we noticed that the side which run on the meat land would not go deep enough, so we filled a heavy coffee sack with sand and placed on that side, which did all the work that was necessary.

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The cutaway harrow does more and better work than the disk. It is lighter to pull. On one piece of land that had been "flucked" with a common turn plow (Boy Dixie) we used the cutaway to put in the oats, and have never had a job done better.

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It is a question how deep oats should be covered. We have tried sowing them on the surface and harrowing them with a V harrow, then we have covered them four or five inches, and have had them to do well both ways with average seasons. But the most satisfactory plan is to cover very shallow in the early fall and to

cover more deeply as they are sown later in the season. A neighbor had a very fine crop one year with the seed just lightly harrowed in, and almost a total failure the next year treated the same way. The first was a moist spring while the latter was dry. Professor Massey condemns the spring sowing of oats in the red clay lands on account of the numerous failures caused by the spring drouths so common in the South.

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We notice that the sale of Northern grown seed Irish potatoes is much smaller this spring than usual. Our people made good fall crops and are planting them freely. It will not be many years before the South will be furnishing the North with seed Irish potatoes. Another thing that we are glad to see is a decrease in Congressional seed sent out from Washington. It is a good idea to send out seeds of rare, meritorious plants to be tried in different sections of the country, but to send out a lot of Flat Dutch cabbage that may make an interior crop is pure nonsense. Then ask that the results be reported. Did any body ever report?
HARRY FARMER.
Columbus Co., N. C.

Making Good Butter Without a Separator.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

I see a great many articles in the papers, on butter making; and how to make good butter. Nearly all agree that no one can make good butter without the use of a separator.

There are hundreds of farmers in North Carolina who keep from one to three cows. Many of them are not prepared to do a dairy business. Yet they have more butter than they need for their own use.

It is to this class I wish to speak a word. Here is my plan. Dig a well, four feet in diameter and twelve feet deep. Build a house over it 10 x 10, six feet pitch. Build a frame that you can let down in the well. Fix a windlass; four inches in diameter is large enough. The smaller the windlass, the easier you can draw up the weight. Get some tin cans. Fifty-pound lard cans are very good. They will hold about seven gallons. As soon as the milk is drawn from the cow, put it in these cans and let it down in the well.

If it does not turn at the proper time, draw it up and set it out. Of course this process applies to the summer season. And by this method you can make as good butter as can be made by any process known to the genius of man. I have used the well for two summers, and it works all right, no difference how hot the weather.

PLEAS. H. MASSEY.
Durham Co., N. C.

The Real Remedy for Spring-Poor Farmers.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Your correspondent who signs himself Harry Farmer, but who writes well enough not to be ashamed to put his real name to his letters, proposes a problem about a farmer without money in the spring, and how he is to get it, whether to go in debt for what he wants or borrow money at a high rate of interest to have cash for what he needs to buy. And our friend says that the condition he pictures extends over the entire cotton belt, and adds that for our farmers to become prosperous there must be a change of the system, and then goes on to say what the change should be. But the proposed change looks to me like jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

I agree with Harry Farmer that a change is necessary. He says that the impecunious condition of farmers in the spring extends all over the cotton belt. Why? If it is a condition peculiar to the cotton belt, then the farming in the cotton belt must be radically wrong. And this is, I feel certain, just what is the matter. So long as the farmer is depending on one single crop for cash and gets the returns from that but once a year, he is apt to accumulate deficiencies that leave him continually at the mercy of the merchant or the money lender, and no matter which of these he goes to, they are bound to protect themselves for the risk they take and the farmer pays the fiddler.

Yes, there is great need of a change, but the change should not be a change from a store account to a paper shaver. The change must be far more radical than this. Why is the farmer whom Harry Farmer pictures without cash in the spring? Is it not simply because he has nothing to sell but cotton in the fall, or the pitiful resource of the chicken yard in winter? The whole trouble at the bottom of this impecunious condition is the system or rather the lack of system in the farming. Any man who farms simply for one crop, and depends on that crop entirely for money is as certain to get into debt as the sun is to rise. Any system of farming which leaves out the keeping and feeding of live stock in the best manner is necessarily bad farming, no matter what the money crop is.

Why is the difficulty peculiar to the cotton belt if not because in the cotton belt more than anywhere else the

growing of forage crops and the feeding of stock have been more generally ignored than anywhere else? Suppose that a cotton farmer had raised an abundance of forage in the shape of corn and peas and had some cattle to eat it during the winter. Would not a bunch of fat cattle bring him cash in the spring at a better profit than borrowing money at 10 per cent merely to raise more cotton, and expect that cotton to pay the debt, give him a living, feed the mules and pay for the mules too?

It is the system of cotton cropping that makes the farmer spring-poor like the stock that stand out all winter at the straw stack or in the old field. The remedy is a change of system of farming and not a change of system of borrowing. If a farmer takes care to have something to sell all the year through to enable him to pay expenses in cash he will own the cotton crop when it is made, but in any system of raising money or goods on the strength of the cotton crop, he will always be in the same spring-poor condition.

W. F. MASSEY,
Editor of Practical Farmer.

Mr. Fred. A. Ogg, writing in the World's Work on "The Proportion of City and Country Population," finds reasons for believing that our cities have reached their greatest proportionate growth, and that henceforth the country will relatively gain rather than lose. If we are to have anything like the population predicted by such writers as Professor Hart, of Harvard, who thinks the Mississippi Valley alone is capable of supporting 350,000,000 people in comfort, the cult of farmers must increase to supply food-stuffs. The change in agricultural methods, the growth of intensive farming, will be the rule of the future; small farms, economically administered, will supplant the worn-out estates, and all this will mean an increase of rural population.

Mr. S. E. Godwin, living in the north-eastern part of Cumberland County, cultivates an eight-horse farm, from which he has sold 111 bales of cotton, bringing in something over \$5,000 in cash. Mr. Godwin is a farmer, too, with whom the corn crib and the meat house are large parts of the home place, and he has his "hog and hominy" without stint.—Exchange.