

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.

CXI.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

How are the farmers going to manage the day-laborers to the best advantage of both? The season for picking strawberries and cotton generally causes the laborer to go away from home to where it is necessary to have large numbers to do the work quickly. This leaves the small farmer in a bad way. He does not have sufficient work to keep his laborers employed all the time so as to be profitable to both. The laborers being mostly women and children cannot do heavy work. In the winter the children go to school (or some pretend to go but just go enough to have the name). It may be that the farmers have supplied them with meat and bread through the winter with the expectation that they can have the bill paid in work the following spring and summer. The laborers are not always dishonest for some go away and make money and pay their bills, but this does not chop the farmer's cotton, hoe his potatoes or replant his corn. The labor is what he needs and wants at this particular time more than money. The laborers can make better wages while picking berries or cotton, so he is not altogether to blame.

Now this is getting to be a serious matter with a large number of farmers. It is a problem that must be solved. The complaint is made in nearly every newspaper published in the central and eastern part of this State. People must eat and dress, and the man who can give work for this class of labor the whole year which will be profitable to himself and remunerative to the laborer will have solved the vexed question.

On our own farm we employ some during the winter months, raking leaves and litter for the stalls and pens, butchering hogs, etc. The large boys cut wood and split rails, though we do but little of the last named work. Now it is almost useless to say that if we cannot have them during the busiest season of the year, that we will not employ them at all. We knew some farmers a long time ago who would not sell colored people any sweet potato seed in the spring so that it would be easy to have them work for potatoes when digging time came, but

this plan failed after a few years. Labor troubles will come, and the wisest men are often puzzled to know what is best to do. The plan of profit-sharing seems to us to be the most equitable of any we have tried. Some of the most successful business men pursue this course with their employees. If you will give any one an interest in a business, let it be farming, merchandising, or any other occupation, he will do better work.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

The Agricultural Department and the A. & M. College.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

You will please publish in full for the benefit of your readers the act concerning the buildings and general appropriations made for the A. & M. College as finally passed by the Legislature, giving the vote, names, for and against the measure, by the Senate.

I read your editorial this week on this appropriation with a great deal of interest. I was thoroughly disappointed, and I might say disgusted, with the action of the Senate in the matter. I am sure the people of the State, especially the farmers, expected no such legislation, a discrimination against the farmers who have to buy fertilizers. If I am correctly informed there is no positive assurance of an Agricultural Building for at least two years yet. The farmers of the State asked for this building, but instead of getting it, are made to complete the unfinished buildings at the College at a cost not exceeding \$12,000 this year, and to contribute to the maintenance of the College next year, \$10,000—an amount equal to the annual maintenance appropriation of the State. This is where the farmers are discriminated against. They pay their share of the taxes from which all the State institutions are maintained, now those of them who use fertilizers are made to pay a special appropriation to a State College that is open to any boy in the State who wishes an industrial education regardless of whether he is a farmer's son or not. I am informed there are 20 or more Raleigh boys attending this school and boys from nearly all the towns and cities in the State, none of whom, probably, are taking the agricultural course. We are glad to have these town boys attend the college, but we do not think it right to

require the farmers who use fertilizers, as a class, to support them. Let the support and improvements come from the State Treasury, as the other State schools are supported, and we have nothing to say.

I have been told this act was passed as a rebuke to the management of the College; which reminds me of the man who fell out with his neighbor and to get even with him brutally beat his neighbor's horse.

The farmers of the State are not responsible for the management of the College. If there has been mismanagement, correct it in the proper way, but not by laying burdens on the farmers of the State—who are not at all responsible for the management of the A. & M. College, any more than they are responsible for that of any other State institution.

It may be the Legislature could not distinguish between the mechanical, textile, engineering and agricultural departments of the College and treated it as a whole, designating it simply as a farmers' college. If this is true, their ignorance of the real situation may be their excuse for the act as passed.

I am sure the Legislature did nothing that will be as disappointing to the farmers as the passage of this act.

T. B. PARKER.

Will you please correct a mistake that was in your paper of January 13th? I don't know who made it, the typesetter or myself. It made me say that J. E. Glasgow cleared \$7,000 on his farm in 1901; it should have read \$700.

From what I can learn there will be but little tobacco planted in this section this year. Cotton and peanuts will be the money crop. There will be a very large acreage of corn and field peas planted, as we farmers are determined, by the help of the Master, to make our hog and hominy at home in the future.—Leonidas, Halifax Co., N. C.

Washington Gazette-Messenger: One of our leading farmers remarked this morning that the question of labor and the securing of sufficient number of the hands to run a crop was fast becoming a serious matter. Last year at least half of the pea crop rotted in the fields for the want of hands to gather them, and so many of the negroes were leaving the country and moving to town, unless the farmers secured labor from abroad, it looked as if it will be useless to pitch a crop.

The Scab of the Irish Potato.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The potato scab is readily recognized by all growers of the potato by the scabby depression in the normally smooth skin of the potato. These scabs may be single or scattered, but are often so abundant as to involve nearly the whole surface of the potato. To the consumer they are of considerable importance, since they necessitate very thick paring, and a consequent loss of the edible portion of the potato. To the farmer who wishes to sell his potatoes, the loss is even greater, as the scabby tubers command in the market a much less price than clean, healthy potatoes.

The scab is due to fungus which grows in the skin of the potato. This fungus on old fields, which have been used repeatedly for potatoes, may be thoroughly distributed through the soil. In ground which has not been used for potatoes so much, the scab causing fungus may be absent. If, however, scabby potatoes be planted in a clean soil the scab will be carried to this soil by such planting, and a scabby crop will result.

One method then by which the scab gains access to the field is through the seed. This means of entrance is under the control of the farmer, and may be readily cut off by soaking the seed in a chemical which will kill the fungus adhering to the surface of the potato, and yet not injure the potato itself. Such a chemical is formalin.

To treat your seed potatoes mix eight ounces of formalin with fifteen gallons of water, and soak the seed in this solution for two hours. Then cut and plant. The solution may be used repeatedly, but it is well after it has been used two or three times; to either lengthen the time of immersion or to add a little more formalin to make up for any loss in strength. Formalin is a harmless non-poisonous substance (when used externally) which can be used with safety anywhere. It can be purchased at any drug store for about 80 cents per pint.

In many cases the value of the crop has been doubled by this treatment, and yet the treatment itself, including both material and labor, costs only a few cents per acre.

If you are troubled with the scab do not neglect treatment.

F. L. STEVENS,
Biologist, N. C. Exp. Station.