

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.

CXXX.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Doubtless many of your readers would like to have our opinion of the Northern people. We found them as kind and sociable as one could wish.

The first thing to attract our attention was their eagerness to read the newspapers. The dailies sell for one cent each and everybody buys and reads. Every boy that was not selling papers was reading one. We believe that this is the secret that has made the North more prosperous than the South. We do hope that our people will take more pains to send their children to school. The amount of money spent by the North is much more than that from the South. We took a trolley car some distance in the country. We passed several large two-story brick buildings, each marked "Public School, No. 4," etc., Of course, in the cold climate such buildings are needed more than here.

We noticed that ladies do not have escorts as much as they do in the South. They care not how late, if one wishes to take a train or boat, they put off by themselves. Our Southern ladies would be afraid to undertake such a thing; this is caused by the presence of the negroes.

The men are not so gallant as they are in the South; men and women push and shove each other almost like wild animals to board a car. You must not think all of them are this way, however. You will see a young couple occasionally as loving as a pair of cooing doves.

The men do not dress in up-to-date styles as they do in the Southern towns. Black is the color worn. It is exceedingly rare to see any other color. A great many wear clothing two or three years out of style. We agree with them on this. When you get a nice suit you are not likely to wear it more than a month the first year. The average farmer does not care to wear such costly clothing, and if he adopts the Northern style and wears them three years, no one can blame him.

We were with men from nearly every State in the Union. There is not much difference between the South and West. Of course, every section has some words, etc., peculiar to itself. We used the word "tote" in speaking about feeding hogs with

sweet potatoes. We said "we preferred to turn the hogs on the potatoes to digging and toting them to the hogs." One bright young man wanted to know what we did to the potatoes when we were "toting" them? He had never seen the word used. There is no word we can substitute for it. It means to bear and carry at the same time.

HARRY FARMER.

How Mr. Loftin Succeeded with Pecans.
Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

A communication from Mr. Robert S. Taylor on pecan culture, which appeared in your paper some time ago, in which he spoke of me as a successful grower of pecans, has brought me so many inquiries that I will give my experience through your paper.

About eighteen years ago I saw an article on pecan culture, in which the writer urged the growing of pecans, and stated that they would grow in fence corners, or anywhere that the hickory would grow. As the public road runs through my farm, and I was compelled to keep fences on either side, I decided to plant pecans in each alternate corner on both sides. Not knowing anything about planting them, nor how many required, I ordered ten pounds from Wilmington, and planted in spring of 1887. Not a one of these germinated.

During the year 1887, I read every article on pecan culture obtainable, and learned that the nuts must be fresh, and that they had to be bedded during winter, to be planted next spring. I began corresponding with parties who had bearing trees, and secured four pounds of fine nuts at \$1.00 per pound. These I budded in December, 1887, and in March, 1888, planted in fence corners (but one field side) along the road. About 90 per cent came up, and as they were planted two nuts to the hill, there were but few missing places.

Like other things planted in such places, and given no care, however, they made very poor growth. So in 1890 I planted an orchard of seventy-five trees, on poor, sandy soil. These were given no special care; the land planted to cowpeas, corn, cotton, etc., and manured regularly with commercial fertilizers, but they made a fair growth for three or four years, then grew very fast, and some of them are now bearing their fourth crop, and the land is given over to them entirely; no cultivation being done

except to break the land in late winter or spring.

The trees planted along the fence made very little growth for a number of years, but one occasionally would grow up three or four feet, and then grow off nicely, until all are getting to be fine trees, about half of them now bearing.

In 1893 I planted a few more nuts on good soil, first digging out a hole three feet square, two and one-half feet deep. Filled it with well rotted mould, with a liberal sprinkling of fertilizer mixed with it, tramping it down firm, and planted two nuts to the hill. These all came up, and in six years some of them bore, and are the largest and most productive trees I have.

I do not know as yet how numerative they will be, but everyone should plant pecans for nuts for their own eating. In a future article I will tell you about the different varieties, budded or grafted trees, etc.

J. O. LOFTIN.

Mt. Olive, N. C.

Every Farmer Should Have Plenty of Fruit, Milk and Eggs.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

I want every farmer who does not get the monthly bulletins which are issued by the State Experiment Station to write his address on a postal card (write it plain, in full, giving name, county, street if in a town, etc.), and address it to the State Experiment Station and ask for Bulletin No. 187. It treats on the culture of grapes, strawberries, currants, dewberries, etc., in the garden. No farmer can give too much attention to these cheaply-provided additions to the garden and his home. It does not cost much to have a few nice grape vines, some strawberry plants, cultivated blackberries and dewberries (which are much finer and better in every way than the wild ones which are uncultivated), some currant bushes, etc., as well as a nice orchard.

The home orchards in this State are sadly lacking. I often wonder why farmers do not have more of such things. It is a serious mistake you are making. If you do not know how to start these things, and at no cost scarcely, just get these Bulletins, which are published on almost every subject the farmer needs, and they cost you nothing.

I want to see the day come in North Carolina when every farmer

will have a good cow (one that will give two or three gallons of good rich milk), and that can easily be done if in no other way than by getting a calf of some good registered stock and raising a cow, and then taking care of the stock, and in three or four years you can have some stock you will be proud of and which will pay you to bother with. The scrub cow does not.

The same way with hogs. How very few ever get any new blood to improve their stock? They keep on raising from the same old stock year after year. Whether you know it or not, it is a fact, that every time the same offspring of any class of stock are crossed they become more and more dwarfed and consequently of less value. Even the one item of chickens is well worth the trial. You know what an item eggs are these days. An old mongrel hen is a dead expense. She will not lay enough eggs to pay for keeping her, even in the country. The State has a poultry department where many of the nicest chickens are raised and where you can get the very best of eggs or possibly a few choice birds. And besides, there are hundreds of poultry farms of whom you can get chickens and eggs to start with, and at little cost compared with their real value. It pays, my friends, to have the best of such things. They do not eat any more. They may require some more attention, but it pays. It is easy to find out where you can get these things. Think of this matter, and not only think about them, but try them.

W. O. SMITH,

R. F. D. No. 4, Raleigh, N. C.

Carolina and Virginia Tobacco Growers Form an Association.

Three hundred tobacco growers, representing eleven counties in Virginia and North Carolina, met in Danville Monday and formed what will be known as the Tobacco Growers' Protective Association of Virginia and North Carolina.

S. C. Adams, of Charlotte County, Va., was made President, W. T. Bryant, North Carolina, Secretary. The object of the organization is to decrease future tobacco acreage, keep present crop off the market for better prices and induce farmers to grow diversified crops. All of the counties in the belt will be organized, President Adams being selected for the purpose of organizing them.