

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Volume XVIII.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1903.

Number 45.

## AGRICULTURE

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS. CXXXIII.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

It is dangerous for farmers to leave off the old staple crops and plant some untried crops when they are not familiar with their management. Nearly every one who tries it will get left. A farmer we know of who had been planting cotton all his life and had been able to make both ends meet was allured by the high price of tobacco to abandon cotton and plant tobacco. When his crop was sold he received just three-fourths enough to pay for the fertilizer used on the crop. All of his work, building barn, cultivating crop, etc., all gone. Of course, the American Tobacco Company had something to do with it.

\* \* \*

Let us figure what this farmer actually lost. He planted three acres in tobacco and used one ton of high-grade fertilizer on the crop which cost him \$25.00. The same land planted in cotton would have made two bales at \$50, worth \$100; subtract amount for tobacco crop, \$18.85, would leave \$81.35.

This may be an extreme case, and we hope it is, but the lesson taught by the unwise movement of this farmer, which has cost him so severely, should be a warning to others. We do not like to state such cold facts of loss, for it is so discouraging; yet these failures should be made public just as much so as our great successes, for we can often be benefited as much by the one as the other.

\* \* \*

November was a very cold month here. It has made growing crops look badly. There is some hog cholera, but the losses so far are not very great. One farmer, just as soon as he learned that his neighbors' hogs were sick, confined his in a lot and gave them some concentrated lye, such as is used to make soap, and has not lost a hog. We believe that the loss could often be prevented by proper management.

\* \* \*

It seems from the complaints made in the small towns that the farmers had formed a trust on wood. Well, we can hardly blame them, for they are the first affected by the raising of prices by other trusts. A reasonable rise in the price of wood would be justifiable, but to go up too much so that it would curtail the consump-

tion might cause them to have to meet competition from sources to their hurt another season.

\* \* \*

The Department of Agriculture sent out some "iron" cowpeas last spring for farmers to test on lands affected by the blight or wilt. One farmer tried them on land that had failed partially to make a crop, and the test shows them to be quite an improvement, but one season is not a sufficient test. This pea is smaller than the clay pea which it resembles in color. Some of the peas are quite small, and for this reason it will take fewer seed for an acre.

HARRY FARMER.

### Solving the Labor Problem.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Enclosed you have \$2 for renewal. I am glad to see Harry Farmer back again, as his articles were usually interesting reading.

Crops with us are fair; prices out of sight. Labor is thoroughly disorganized by the inflation of prices. Everybody has plenty of money at present and don't care who is elected.

But there is a momentous question confronting the farmers in the east. That is, how they are to get their lands cultivated in the future, for labor at one dollar per day cannot be used in the cultivation of any crops grown in this State, even at present inflated prices, except at a loss to the farmer employing it.

The only plan in sight, as this writer sees it, is to intensify. "How is it to be done?" you ask. Let every farmer discard three-fourths of his land and by quadrupling and manuring, make all his crops the very best as to quantity and quality. Let them read The Progressive Farmer and profit by the experience of the best farmers in this State.

J. H. PARKER.

Perquimans Co., N. C.

### The South's Profit by the Advance in Cotton.

The planters of the South, owing to the sustained price of cotton and the new bull movement, are expected to get \$200,000,000 more for their crop this year than last year. Speculators, it is believed, will this time not get the whole advance, but the millions will be more widely distributed. Since other products are ample in volume and bring good prices, the prosperity of the South for some time to come seems assured.—Baltimore Sun.

### COTTON AT 15 CENTS.

#### A Texas Authority Ventures to Make a Prediction.

Washington, Dec. 9.—President E. S. Peters, of the Texas Cotton Growers' Protective Association, who is in Washington to urge remedial legislation for the boll weevil invasion, said to-day:

"I would like to convey to every cotton grower of the South this message: The Agricultural Department report estimating the crop at 9,962,000 bales is not only conservative, but is over rather than under the indicated yield. I would, therefore, earnestly urge all growers of the staple not to part with their holdings, except at their real value, which is not less than fifteen cents a pound, the figure I have repeatedly predicted would be paid. Let future markets alone and allow no middlemen and speculators to fix the price of the fruit of your labors. This is the opportunity of the Southern planters. If there is to be a corner, let them conduct it themselves and reap the benefits."

### To Destroy Nut Grass.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

In your highly esteemed paper of November 3rd, Mr. C. V. B. Batts, of Wilson County, asks how to kill nut grass. As Brother Massey says, eternal vigilance is the only thing that will destroy nut grass. By your consent, I will give Mr. Batts my experience and observation. Give the land a clean cultivation for three years in succession in cotton; the last plowing should be in August. The best plow to use is what we call here is a gopher plow. Have it sharp so that it will cut it clean every time. Plow as often as possible. If he should prefer to change the crop the fourth year, sow it down in oats in the fall and then follow with peas, two bushels per acre; then back in cotton. He should have as much cotton weed as possible. With best wishes,

J. W. ALDRIDGE.

Pamlico Co., N. C.

The belief prevails in many quarters that the South has reached its limit in cotton production. This may be true with the present supply of labor, but we have millions of acres of land lying idle that would produce the finest of cotton. If the necessary amount of labor can be found and trained, the South will furnish all the cotton needed for the entire world for many years to come.—Shelby Aurora.

### Danger of Increased Cotton Acreage.

Secretary T. B. Parker of the Farmers' Alliance, speaking of the cotton prices says he has advised the farmers to hold their cotton and sell only as the trade demanded it, and that anyone could have foreseen higher prices. He thinks the meeting of the cotton mill men in Charlotte may temporarily lower prices, but that there will be no general movement of the mills for curtailment. He further says:

"Now, seriously, this meeting of the cotton mill men at Charlotte should put the farmers to thinking and see to it that the prediction of a 13,000,000 bale crop shall never come to pass until the requirements of the trade demand it. I have great faith in the newspapers of the South, and I am confident that every editor will preach against a material increase in acreage for next year, especially in the face of the fact that a ten-million-bale crop will bring more than a thirteen-million-bale crop would. The Alliance in this State will preach against a large crop, and I think the farmers' organizations in all the cotton-growing States will do likewise. With all these agencies at work it is to be hoped the acreage for next year will not be abnormally large. If not the present high prices will rule throughout another season."

### Work of the National Department of Agriculture in North Carolina.

The report of the National Secretary of Agriculture contains also several matters of information that will be of interest in North Carolina. Among other things it is stated that the work of thoroughly testing the large number of varieties of European table grapes in the co-operative experimental vineyards in North Carolina is to be continued. It is also announced that field studies of timber tracts on 16,000 acres in Mitchell, Caldwell and Watauga Counties are being prosecuted. Studies of commercial hardwoods were also made in the State. More work has been done by the department in the survey of soils in North Carolina than in any other State. So far 2,973,440 acres have been surveyed or mapped in the State. This is a total of 4,646 square miles. This survey last year in North Carolina covered 1,221 square miles.

He doeth much that doeth a thing well.—Thomas a Kempis.