

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER—VOL. XX. NO. 13.  
THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXII. NO. 12.

RALEIGH, N. C., MAY 9, 1905.

Weekly—\$1 a Year.

## The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.

(Consolidated September 27, 1904.)

Entered at Raleigh, N. C., as second class mail matter.

The Most Largely Circulated Farm Weekly  
Published Between Washington and New Orleans.

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### A LITTLE LETTER TO THE SAMPLE COPY READER.

My dear Sir: This number of The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant has come to you marked "Sample Copy." That means that you are one of a number of wide-awake farmers and truckers in the Carolinas and Virginia who ought to read The Progressive Farmer, but don't.

And this copy is sent you solely to give you the opportunity to reform.

It's not fashionable nor profitable to try to farm here without The Progressive Farmer.

And it's not fashionable because it doesn't pay. Every week the most successful and enterprising farmers and truckers of our territory write our paper of methods and ideas which help them make money—and which will help you make money.

There are some papers you can't afford to take, and there are some you can't afford not to take. The Progressive Farmer is one you can't afford not to take.

It is not an expenditure, but an investment, and pays for itself every issue.

"Most money pays only 6 per cent a year," says Mr. Ashley Horne, "but the money I pay for The Progressive Farmer pays me 6 per cent a week."

"The Progressive Farmer," says Mr. J. M. Paris, "has given me \$100 profit in improved land, crops and stock for every \$1 I have paid for it."

But there's no use to argue. Here's the paper—let it speak for itself. We know you are going to subscribe, because we are going to get every wide-awake farmer in North Carolina and adjoining States before we quit.

But what we want is to get you on our list at once, and in order to induce you to do this we are making a remarkable offer:

The Progressive Farmer every week from now till January 1, 1906 for only 50 cents!

This is a special cut price open only to those not now subscribers—no profit in it for us—and made only to insure 1,000 new readers before June.

We count on you as one of the lucky thousand. And the quicker you respond, the more you get for your money.

Order to-day.

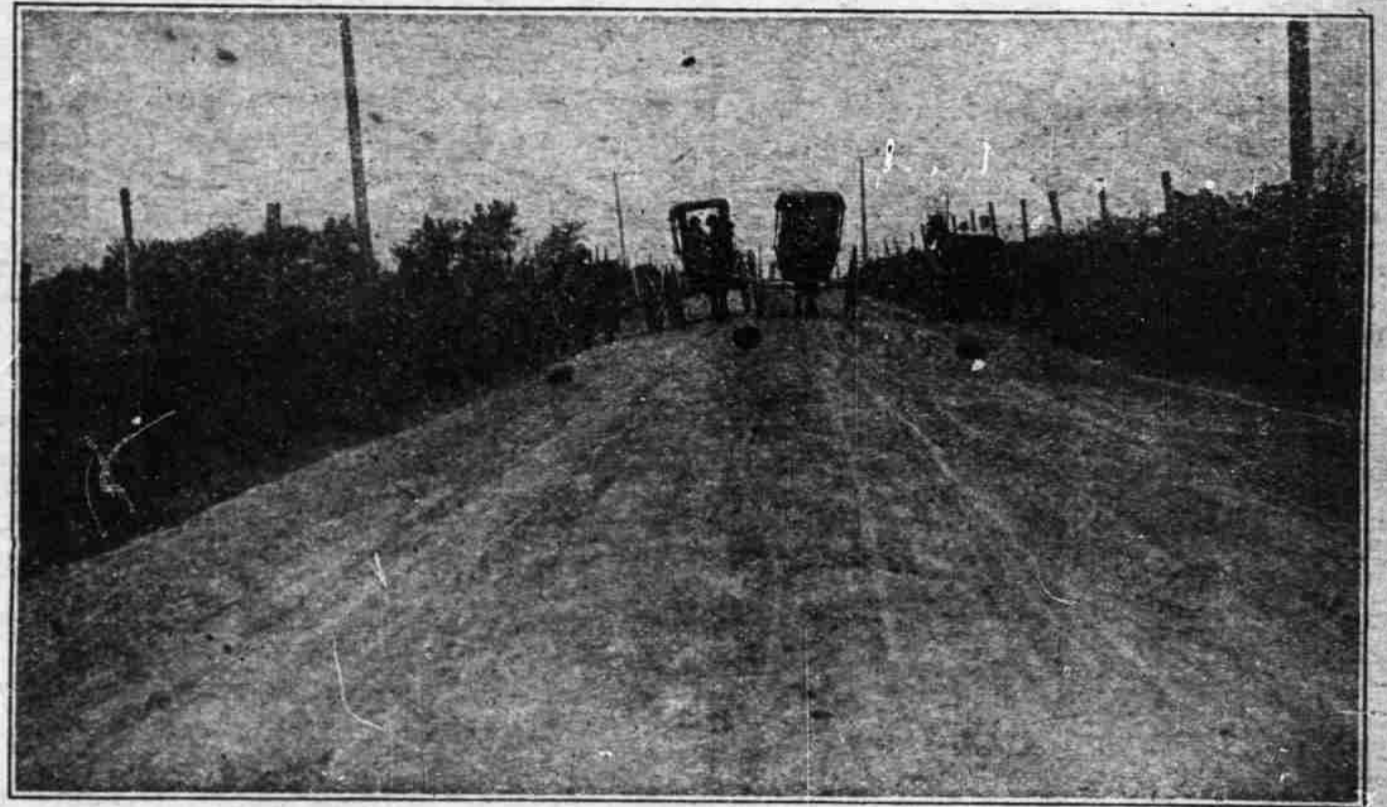
We direct especial attention to the articles on the tobacco situation which we are printing on page 5. This is indeed an important matter, and its seriousness is likely to attract the attention of all classes of our people within the next few weeks. Look out for further particulars as they will appear from time to time in the Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant.

The Missouri Board of Agriculture with its road expert, Mr. D. Ward King, is exploiting the idea of road dragging for making good roads where expensive macadamizing, etc., is impossible. The theory is simple:

"Teams usually follow the beaten trail. Dragging destroys the old trail and the new trail, each time broader and less definite than before, is made on a different portion of the highway. By dragging while the earth is yet moist the road finally becomes a series of practically water-proof layers of puddled earth, each one of which is rolled and pounded by the wheels and hoofs of travel. Almost imperceptibly the center of the road is elevated until you discover you have made a smooth grade that is not easily affected by bad weather."

This is a photo of a clay hill south of D. Ward King's house that has been dragged since 1896. The hats were placed in the road to bring out the

DRAGGING DIRT ROADS.



curvature of the surface. This road is 25 feet wide between the ditches and 40 feet between the fences. Beginning at the top of this hill and going south a half mile stretch of road has not cost the county a penny since the drag has been used.

In next week's Progressive Farmer an important illustrated article on this subject will be printed.

### "THE OCTOPUS" IN NORTH CAROLINA.

If Frank Norris were alive to-day, he could write another story of "The Octopus" with North North Carolina instead of California as the scene. All the long months of labor and planning, all the favorable seasons with which Providence blessed them—all this the berry growers of Chadbourn and other towns on the A. C. L. Railway have seen come to naught through the failure of the Armour Fruit Express Company to provide the promised refrigerator cars. One thousand seven hundred cars were promised and only 500 have arrived. Consequently, probably a half million dollars has been lost to the truckers; and \$200,000 worth of berries were dumped into the river in the one town of Chadbourn last week.

The berry growers continue picking and delivering the crates to the station agent, and the Armour Company will be sued for the losses. If such a corporation cannot be held to full accountability for what would otherwise mean the ruin of an important industry, then our American freedom counts for very little. We hope that our North Carolina Corporation Commission will bestir itself in the effort to get justice for our truckers.

### ALFALFA AGAIN.

#### A Fine Specimen From Guilford County—Reports of Experiments Wanted.

The Progressive Farmer is in receipt of a very fine specimen of alfalfa from the Cottage Grove Farm, Greensboro. The crown of the plant was five inches in diameter, consisting of six large stems or stalks and twenty-six secondary ones.

The proprietor of Cottage Grove Farm wrote that the seed were planted in 1890, just fifteen years ago; but the stand not being good, the field was plowed up and put in other crops. However, this particular plant being located in the edge of a turn row escaped the plow and has

proved by its immense size that alfalfa will grow and succeed in that locality. The land on which it grew is a black sandy loam, underlaid with soft rock some two feet from the surface.

A year ago alfalfa was again sowed on this farm and inoculated soil used. The results are entirely satisfactory, the owner writing that he thinks the only thing necessary for the successful growth of the crop is the proper inoculation of the soil.

I was in the Western part of the State last week and saw a field of alfalfa, near Statesville, that was sowed a year ago with seed inoculated with bacteria. The stand was very irregular, being in patches. On parts of the field the alfalfa is very promising, while within a few feet of fine patches there is scarcely any at all. The seed sowed were the same in the entire field, and the soil has the appearance of being alike.

I have noticed two or three similar spots in my own field on which alfalfa is not growing, though the treatment and soil is the same as that a few feet away where there is a magnificent stand and the growth very fine.

To me this is evidence that there is something in the soil of those particular spots that is detrimental to the growth of alfalfa, and whatever that is, must be corrected before we may hope for a successful crop on those particular places. It also suggests the thought that every one who experiments with the crop this spring will not succeed, but a failure should not discourage any one. It was by perseverance that the Cottage Grove Farm has succeeded in growing a fine crop; it is by perseverance that some fine crops are now growing near Statesville,—for the first efforts were almost complete failures.

I have sent inoculated seed to more than twenty-five counties in the State this spring, from the coastal section to the mountains. If each experimenter will take notes of the crop throughout the season and report the same in the fall, we shall learn much about this wonderful crop and its adaptation to the different sections of the State.

T. B. PARKER.