

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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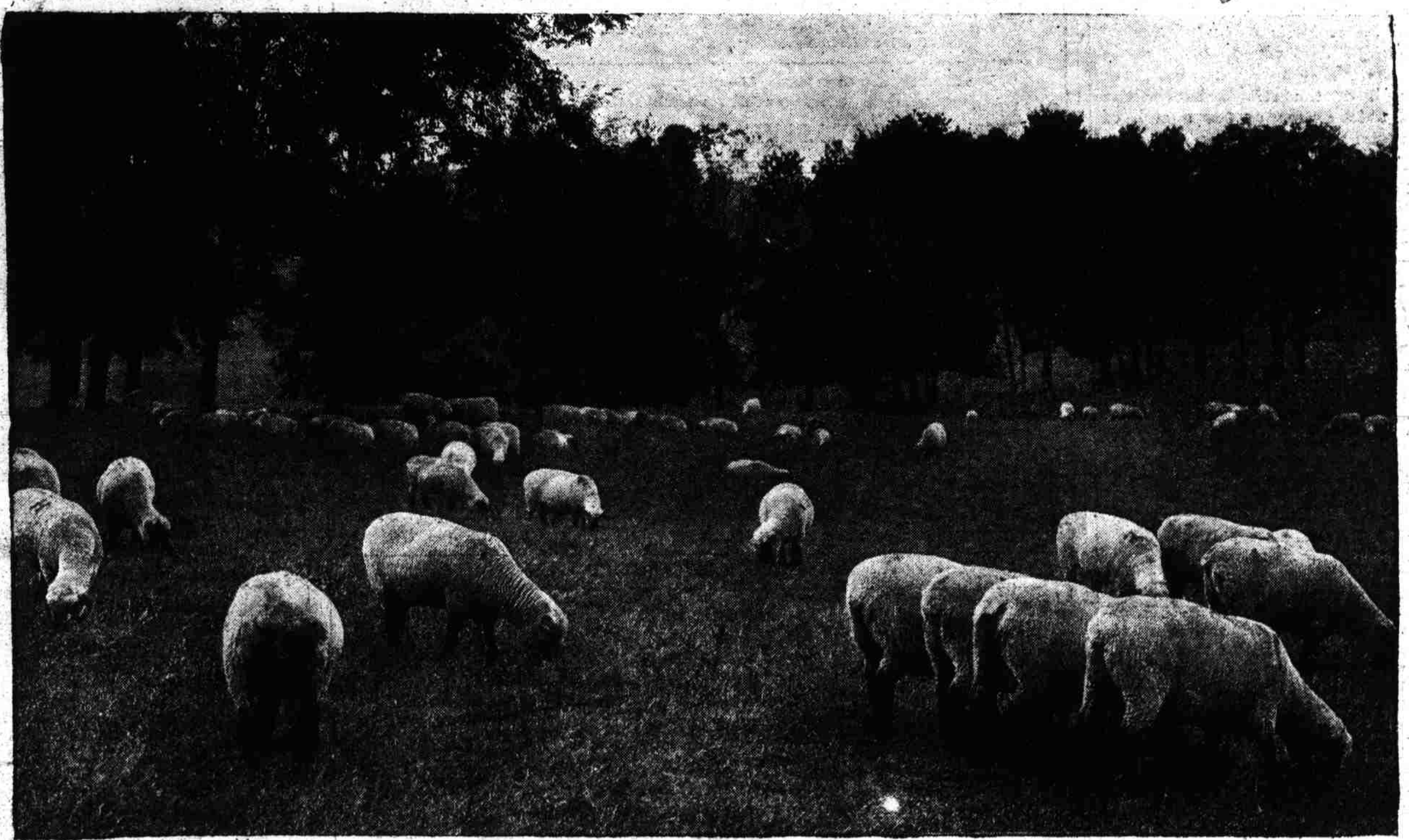
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HOW ARE THE SUMMER PASTURES?



"WHERE THE GREEN GRASS GROWS ALL AROUND"
Good Pastures Are of Prime Importance in Making a Success of Livestock Growing

THE two hardest seasons of the year for livestock are early spring and late summer. During the former supplies of hay and roughage have reached a minimum, while grass large enough to graze is several weeks away; and in late summer and early fall the pastures have been so parched and dried up that they furnish little sustenance.

Of course it is not possible entirely to avoid this late summer shortage, but we are certain that during this period our pastures may be made much better than they now are. First of all, let us remember that a real pasture is anything but a barren spot with a fence around it—"a place where grass won't grow," as some wag tells us. This has been one of the serious mistakes Southern farmers have made,—expecting to have a good pasture on barren, washed-away hillsides, infested with briars, bushes and weeds, rather than covered with nutritious grasses. This summer, as we watch our stock attempting to exist on these barren wastes, we should plan to guard against such shortages in the future.

To begin with let's clean out the bushes and weeds, leaving only some shade trees here and there. This is work that may well be done

right now, and it is one of the first essentials in making a good pasture. Then it should be borne in mind that the top of the poorest hill on the farm is hardly the place for growing the best beef or dairy animals or good mule colts. We know of few crops that grow well on poor land, and grass is no exception to the rule. If no good land is included in

the pasture it should either be made rich or some enclosed that is. Then comes the matter of grasses we shall grow. In a very large proportion of our territory Bermuda grass and lespedeza must be the basis of our summer grazing. This is a simple combination, too, that is hard to improve on, either North or South, and we are safe in saying that unless you have it your pasture is not what it should be. These three essentials looked to, with the addition of bur and white clover for late winter and early spring grazing, and we are in a fair way to begin with livestock—and not before.

We have great livestock growing opportunities in the South, but we repeat that it is better to "grow" into the business rather than "go" into it; and before we are ready even to begin growing good pastures must be provided.

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