

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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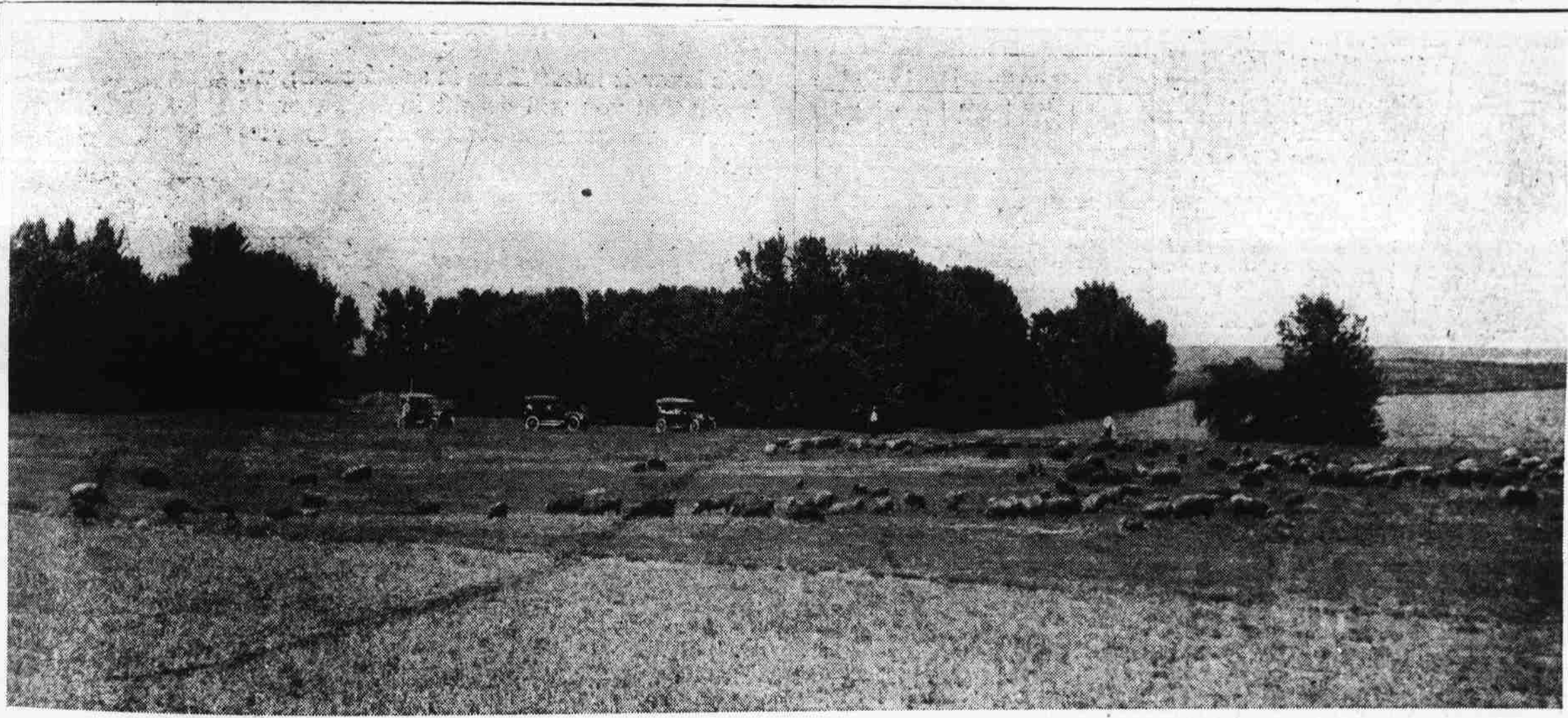
HARNESS THE IDLE ACRES

IN farm management two well recognized principles are (1) that each acre shall be required to produce maximum crops and (2) that a sufficient acreage be cultivated to insure for men and teams as nearly as possible a maximum of employment, under working conditions best suited to efficient effort. In other words, every acre must yield good crops, and enough acres must be cultivated to insure fair wages to the farmer.

In actual farm practice Cotton Belt farmers are too often falling

profit, so should we insist that each acre we own be required to render a good account of itself.

2. *Drain the wet spots and fill the gullies.* Who has not seen in nearly all parts of the South the wet hollows, feet deep in the richest soil on the farm, producing nothing but a crop of weeds? Who has not seen the gullies, dozens and hundreds of them, that cut our broad fields into patches and waste our soil fertility? The presence of these undrained, non-productive spots and soil-wasting gullies means



"HOG HEAVEN"
Hogs and Alfalfa on Helen Temple Farm, Plainview, Texas

short of these ideals. It is rare indeed that we find a farm that is averaging fifty to seventy-five bushels of corn and one to one and one-half bales of cotton per acre; yet such yields are economically possible on large areas, and the farmer who falls short of *averaging* them over his entire farm is correspondingly failing to realize on his opportunities. How can we correct these deficiencies and put our acres on a maximum profit-yielding basis? Of course the use of clovers and other legumes as well as manures is absolutely essential in any well ordered system, but this week we wish especially to emphasize other points that are scarcely less important.

1. *Demand of each and every acre on the farm that it do its share.* This simply means, where a man has 80 acres of land and has only 40 acres of it open, that the unused 40 acres should either be put to work in some way or else sold and the proceeds used to improve the remainder of the farm. Just as the expert dairyman weeds out and sells off his cows that fail to show a

that we must learn more about tile and terraces and how to use them to make our farms yield us greater returns.

3. *Don't tolerate stumps, trees and bushes in the cultivated fields.* We believe in orchards, shade trees and wood lots, but they should be in their proper places, and this means that they have no business in the cultivated fields. Their presence, along with a sprinkling of stumps, simply means that we can never use to advantage the labor-saving machinery that is absolutely essential if we get maximum returns for our labor. We well know that ridding fields of such nuisances is no easy job, but it is a job that should be tackled with a determination that will never slacken until it is finished.

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Let us repeat, that good farming consists in getting from each acre the maximum returns that are economically possible, and in handling an acreage sufficient to insure low labor cost through the use of improved machinery. And right now is the time to plan and work for these things for another year.