

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

A Farm and Home Weekly for the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

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THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXIII. NO. 47.

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## THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

### Raise Alfalfa.

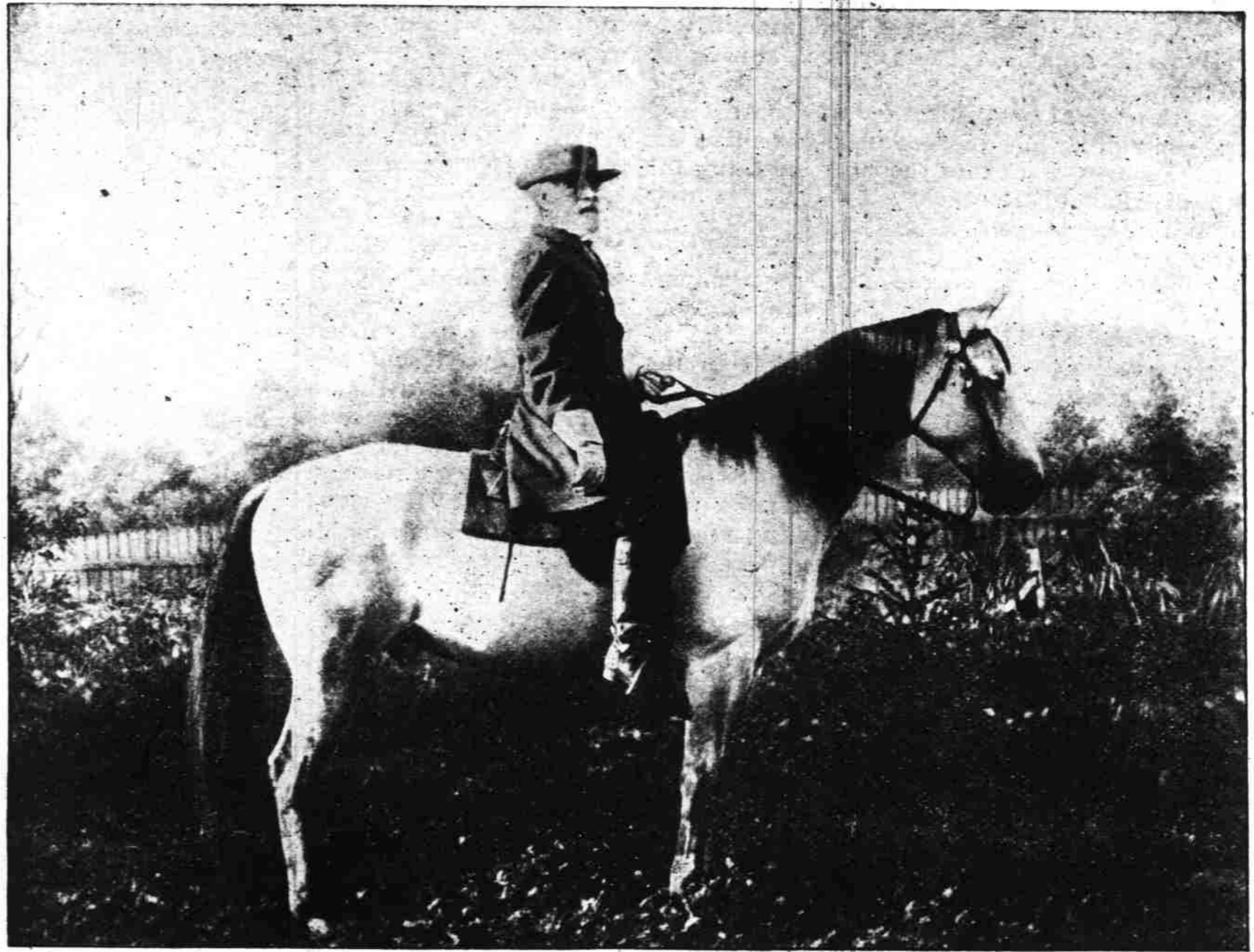
Every earnest thoughtful farmer is desirous of improving his soil, making more remunerative crops and doing the work with the least amount of labor. Small grain and pea vine hay is much less expensive than cotton. Corn and sorghum come next in cheapness. But the cheapest crop possible in proportion to the labor is alfalfa. Because many farmers in Texas and other South-western States and in the irrigated districts plant hundreds of acres of it, we do not advise you to rush into the business that way. Go at it by degrees until you learn how to manage it. Take one acre as a trial lot. Select a dry sort of soil, with a porous subsoil. Flat, sandy land will not do. A cotton lot that is nearly free from grass seeds is best. Break well, getting up two to four inches of clay. Do this as early in the year as you can. Harrow several times so as to make a fine seed bed. Sow broad-cast fifteen pounds of seed on the acre, March 1st to 15th, mixing them first with two bushels of sand slightly moist. Sand is the best thing to sow small seed with. Cover the seed with a weeder or light harrow, but not deep. Keep back a pound of seed and go over the lot after they come up and re-sow the thin places. Before the last harrowing it might be well to apply 400 pounds of 10-4 acid potash. If a good stand is secured and the first dry spell does not kill it before the roots strike down you will be all right. After learning how to manage that acre you will be ready to put in two or three the next fall, which is the best time to sow it. The farmer who works two horses and has ten acres in alfalfa will get more clear money from it than he would from a cotton crop if he planted nothing else.

### Too Many Irons in the Fire.

The blacksmith who would thrust a n edged tool, a plow and a horse shoe in the fire at the same time would be apt to spoil all of them. He would show as much wisdom as farmers who endeavor to do three or four things each of which is a specialty. We know a young man brought up on the farm. He is industrious. But he read up on poultry and incubators and thought it would be fine to have 100 or 200 chickens falling over each other to get out of their shells. We have never heard of him getting any broilers. An incubator might be bought from him at a bargain. There is another man who has a quick, penetrating mind and he catches on to correct methods of doing things. But he has an orchard of several hundred trees, had bees, and ran a truck farm besides his regular farm. He attempted all this work with little help; consequently he does not succeed. Raising chickens with the aid of an incubator and brooder is a specialty. So is an orchard and a truck farm. These are very exacting. The work has to be done at the right time. An expert is required to do it. No farmer can give up his main work for these special crops. No grower of truck can attend to a cotton and corn farm at the same time. The old saying "Jack of all trades, good at none" is especially applicable to farmers.

### The Cow Pea Question.

It is very evident that farmers cannot get peas enough to sow their stubble land. The next best thing is break and harrow land, run off rows about thirty inches apart and plant about a peck of peas to the acre. They ought to be cultivated twice. One farmer in this county last year sowed a lot of stubble land in cottonseed. He had a good stand, but we have never heard results. While the cotton plant does not gather nitrogen, it is better than nothing on the land. Thin land



GENERAL LEE ON "TRAVELER."

The hundredth anniversary of General Lee's birth—he was born January 19, 1807—is celebrated this week in all parts of the Southern States and, to some extent, even in the North.

fertilized with only 200 pounds of 10-4 acid potash to the acre, planted in rows and cultivated will make of an average year 6 to 10 bushels of peas and be worth \$4 to \$6 an acre to land.

CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg, S. C.

## THE BEST AND CHEAPEST WAY TO SELL IMPROVED SEEDS OR IMPROVED STOCK.

### I.—The First of Four Brand New Opinions, Unsolicited and Unexpected, Which Tell Why You Ought to Advertise in The Progressive Farmer.

Mt. Holly, N. C., Jan. 12, 1907.

I have advertised in a great many papers, and for a numbers of years, but I have never received so many answers to any other advertising anywhere as I have received from The Progressive Farmer in the last two months. They have come not only from North Carolina and South Carolina, but largely from Virginia and Tennessee also. I shipped two two-horse loads of stock Monday mainly as a result of my advertisement with you.

R. L. ABERNATHY,  
Proprietor Open View Farms.

### II.—One Inch Ad. Inserted Twice Sells All His Seed.

Wallace, N. C., Jan. 11, 1907.

Dear Sirs: You will please cut my ad. out, as I have now already booked enough orders to take my supply of seed. Send bill for ad. in two issues and I will pay same at once, accompanied by my subscription.

R. M. DEMPSEY.

### III.—Readers Keep Worrying Mr. Holden With Orders.

Hillsboro, N. C., Jan. 11, 1907.

Sirs: Yours to hand asking me to extend my ad. in The Progressive Farmer. I would be glad

to be able to do so, but your subscribers not being satisfied with taking all the stock I have for sale, continue writing for more. You will hear from me about the first of May, and then on indefinitely.

A. L. HOLDEN,  
Proprietor Chestnut Ridge Farm.

### IV.—So Many Orders Must Stop His Ad.

Scotland Neck, N. C., Jan. 9, 1907.

Mr. Clarence H. Poe, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir: I have your request for a renewal of my ad. in The Progressive Farmer for Culpepper's Improved Cottonseed. The notice brings such fine results, in inquiries and orders, I do not think I shall need a renewal to sell my limited supply, however, if I find it necessary, I will be glad to do so.

I will say that you are improving the paper all the time, and I would not be without it for many times the cost.

GEO. W. BRYAN.

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