

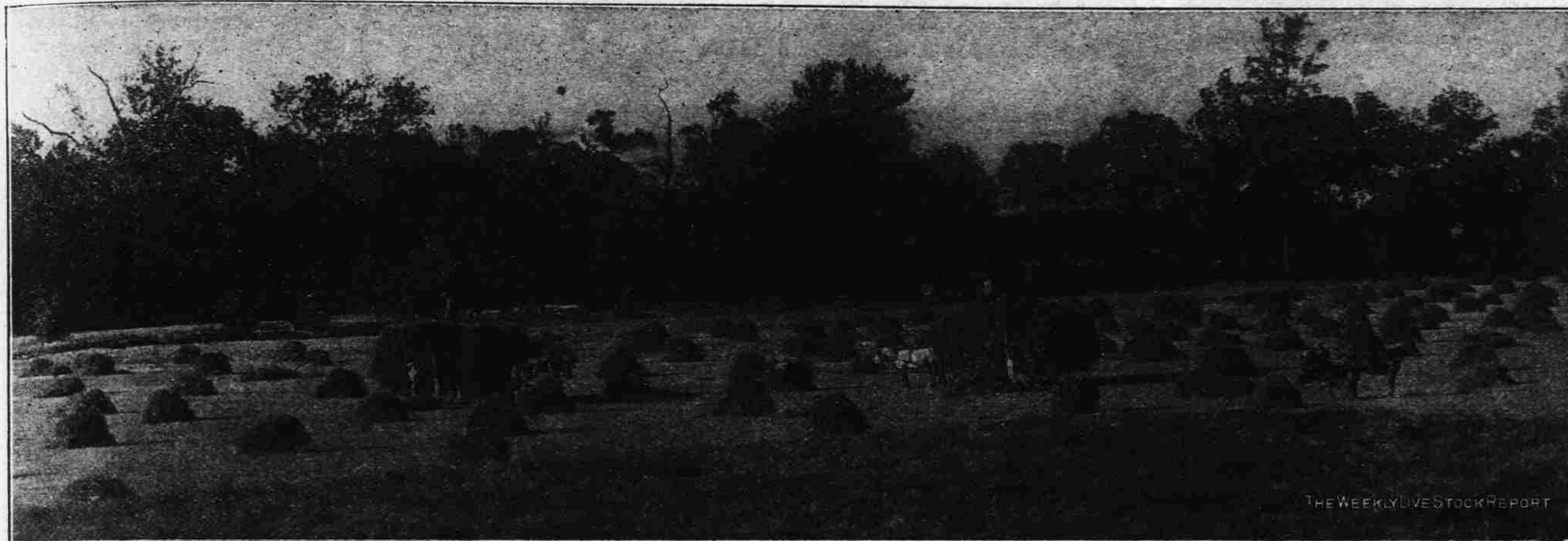
THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

[Title Registered in U. S. Patent Office.]

Vol. XXIII. No. 19.

RALEIGH, N. C., JUNE 18, 1908.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.



EVERY FARMER SHOULD GIVE ALFALFA A CHANCE.

There are many places in The Progressive Farmer's territory where the wonderful alfalfa plant is growing luxuriantly. Is it growing on your land and yielding its rich increase in three or four heavy cuttings every year? If not, give it a chance. Alfalfa has changed the history of every community wherever it has gained a foot-hold. True, after it gets thoroughly started, it requires a vast amount of hard work to keep it cut and hauled out of the field as fast as it grows, but to repay you for all this it will round out the hollows in your horse's sides, it will put fat on the flanks of your cows, it will call for more milk and butter vessels, it will hang meat in your smoke-house and will lift mortgages higher than Haman. In this issue an article (page 3) tells how the farmers of one Southern State are doubling their alfalfa areas 3,000 and 6,000 acres at the time. Why shouldn't Progressive Farmer readers do likewise? Give alfalfa a chance; it is well worth a great deal of effort.

A SONG OF ALFALFA.

What makes the landscape look so fair,
What blossoms bright perfume the air,
What plant repays the farmer's toil,
And will enrich the worn-out soil?

Alfalfa.

What grows in loam and clay and sand,
What lifts the mortgage off the land,
What crop is cut six times a year,
And no foul weeds in it appear?

Alfalfa.

What makes the swine so healthy feel,
And never raise a hungry squeal,
That wholesome food that never fails,
To put three curls into their tails?

Alfalfa.

What makes all other stock look nice,
And bring the highest market price,
What fills the milk pail, feeds the calf,
And makes the old cow almost laugh?

Alfalfa.

What makes the poultry good as gold,
When eggs are at a big price sold,
What makes the happy colts all play,
While mothers graze throughout the day?

Alfalfa.

What is the crop that always pays,
And will mature in forty days,
Resisting drought, the frost, the heat,
Whose roots reach down one hundred feet?

Alfalfa.

—R. E. Smith, in Farm and Ranch.

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THE SOUTH'S NEED OF LEADERS.

The deep public interest in the selection of a strong man as President of the A. & M. College finds abundant illustration in the great number of commendatory expressions that have come to us concerning our article last week.

The people of the State unquestionably see the need of a great technical college at Raleigh, and realize that the selection of a strong President must precede this. If we could get a man who would do for industrial education what Dr. Charles D. McIver did in waking up the entire State to the importance of educating our young women, such a man would be cheap at \$10,000 a year instead of the \$2,000 or \$3,000 we offer.

North Carolina and every other Southern State needs a dozen great leaders, and we must offer such men greater inducements to come to us and to stay with us. There is literal truth in the saying that a great leader is "a host in himself." A Napoleon is worth ten thousand ordinary generals.

And the South, much as it has suffered in the emigration of her great middle classes, has suffer-

ed tenfold more in the emigration of her strongest men, her men fitted by nature to be leaders and captains of thousands.

It is a striking statistical fact, for example, that while the Carolinas and Virginia in the shifting of population have suffered a net loss of only 14 per cent from the total number of native-born population, they have suffered a loss of more than 48 per cent in number of strong men of the type recognized in the compilation of "Who's Who in America" with its list of 16,000 eminent Americans. In other words, while only one man in every seven of our average population has left us without being replaced, one man in every two of our ablest sons has gone from our borders with no man of similar qualities to take his place.

It is high time for us to realize the importance of strong leaders and that for every important post the fit man is cheap at any price.

It will pay very well to fence the oak woods for a hog pasture as the acorns are a valuable feed for them.