

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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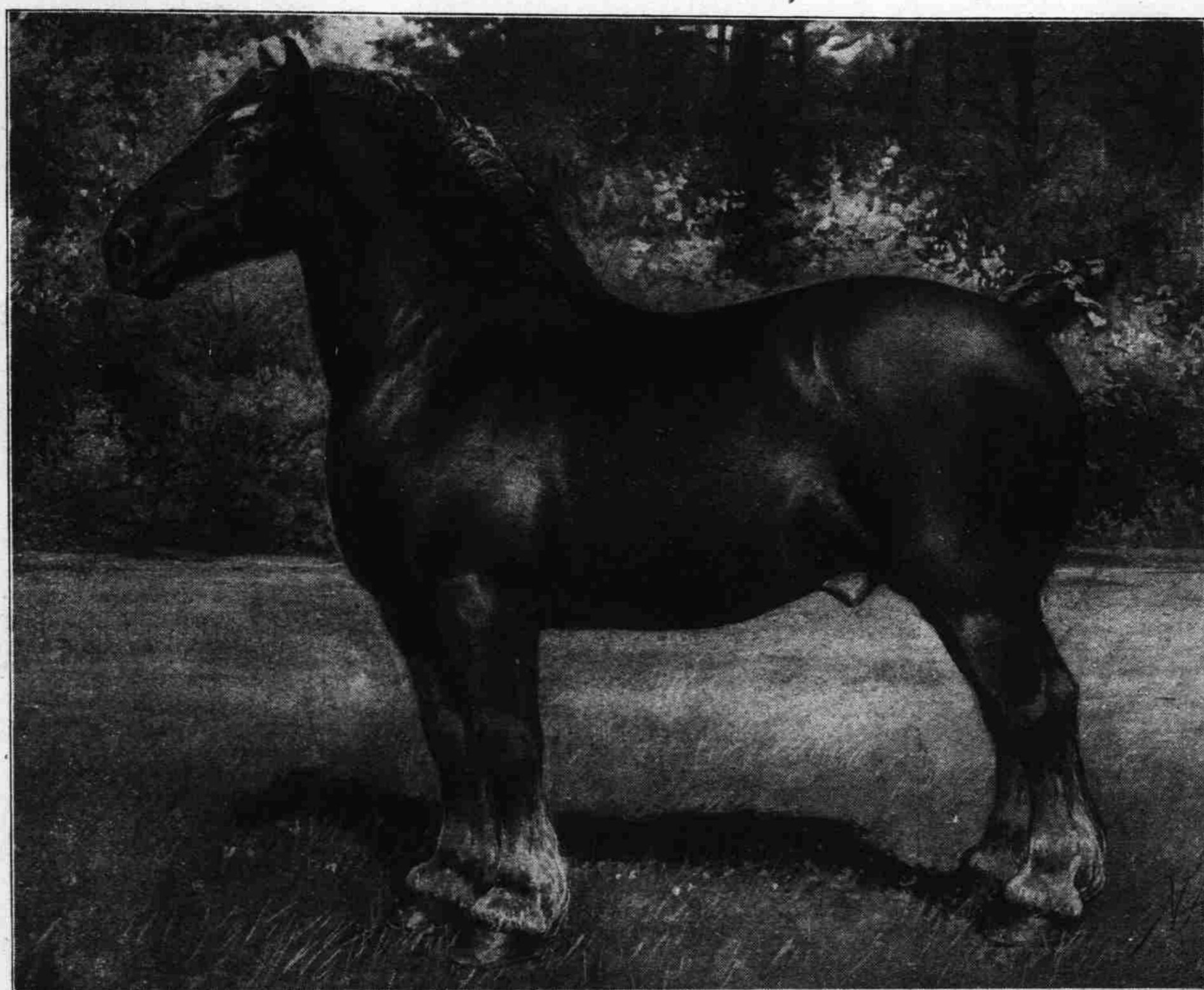
RALEIGH, N. C., SEPTEMBER 10, 1908.

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## THE SOUTH NEEDS BETTER HORSES AND CAN RAISE THEM

At the bottom of better farming in the South is the use of more horse-power, bigger and better horses, horses bred to the business of pulling loads and walking with a business-like stride all the while. Such horses are needed in preparing the soil and harvesting the crops that grow on it. And, in turn, the crops of corn and grain and peavines and grasses, and clover and other forage which can be raised so cheaply in the South by proper farming will help you to grow the horses you need. Take hold now and make the South a land of such horses as those of Europe of which Editor Poe has written as follows in his this week's letter from abroad:

"And the horses, the magnificent horses—they are themselves worth coming across the ocean to see! If I had needed anything else to convince me of the need for the fight **The Progressive Farmer** is making for better work horses in the South, this trip to Europe would have supplied it. Do you remember that picture we had on the first page of **The Progressive Farmer** about six weeks ago, 'The Sort of Work Horses Western Farmers Use,' showing four big muscular, magnificent looking horses ready to hitch to the harrow? The picture must have impressed you, for we don't often see



SPLENDID TYPE OF THE DRAFT HORSES USED IN BELGIUM. This picture, shown by courtesy of J. Crouch & Son, LaFayette, Indiana, represents one of their magnificent imported Belgian draft stallions. Notice the full, compact, powerful body of the Belgian type, possessing a maximum of weight within a given space, an essential for moving great loads with least exertion.

such big, strong fellows in the Cotton Belt. Well, anyhow, it is horses such as these that you see on European farms, and it is with them that the farmers here break and cultivate the land with such thoroughness as to produce the splendid crops I have seen growing everywhere I have yet been.

"As for the draft horses in the cities, they have been the admiration of our entire party. College professors, college girls, lawyers—everybody has paid the Dutch and Belgian horses tributes of interest, inspection, and praise such as even the masterpieces of art in the great galleries here might well envy. 'Why, they look as big as Barnum's elephants,' was the not unjustifiable declaration of a young lady as the great Percherons passed by us. Kingly horses, bearing themselves as if conscious of royal blood, strong as lions, but thoroughly gentle, beautiful in form, hauling gigantic loads on wagons that when empty would alone make good loads for the miserable-looking dray horses belabored by ne-

gro drivers in our Southern towns—and doing it all with such wonderful ease and with such majestic and rythmical movements that it was a positive pleasure just to watch them for an hour at a time."

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### TRY HEAVY LIMING FOR ALFALFA ON A SMALL SCALE.

It has been long known that lime is necessary for sweetening the soil for alfalfa, and its success in the arid West is largely due to the amount of lime in the soil, it having not been washed down as in the humid regions. But now Joe Wing, of Ohio, who has probably had more experience in alfalfa than any other man in the country, and

who has hundreds of acres of it growing, says that this sort of liming is not enough, and that alfalfa wants lime in such abundance that the soil would be unfitted for other plants. He claims that four tons of lime per acre is about right, and that with this much lime the crab grass will not bother it. Four tons would mean about one hundred bushels of lime per acre. The farmers in Pennsylvania formerly used more than that in their ordinary farm cropping, till they found that they were liming too heavily, and now seldom use more than twenty-five bushels for most cropping.

I have considerable confidence in what Mr. Wing says, and would like to have an opportunity to test his ideas if I were now growing alfalfa. But any one can test the matter on a small scale by applying lime at rate of one hundred bushels per acre on a small part of an alfalfa patch. It will certainly do no harm and may open up the way to greater success with this crop.