

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## CLOTHE YOUR FARMS IN GRASS.

What marvelously beautiful scenes are possible on Southern farms that show hospitality to grass and cattle! Looking on such a picture of peace and reposeful thrift, the poet might appropriately say, "It seems a Sabbath thro' the drowsy land: I pause and listen for some faint church bell." Seek the beauty that is a type of thrift and good farming. Go to getting garments of green for your fields to wear this winter, and make your home acres in fact, if not in name, an evergreen farm. With plenty of live stock and plenty of feed you can build up your farm wherever you are; and if your farm is hilly, then grass, as Mr. French recently said, will prove to be your greatest soil-binder to prevent washing. Learn to stop gullies with beef steak and butter, and remember that gullies seldom come on farms that flow with streams of milk. Get your farm a suit of fine green clothes to wear this coming winter, and add to it cat tle such as the picture shows on the farm of Mr. R. W. Scott in Alamance County.

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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.

W. F. MASSEY.

### THAT MIRACLE IN WHEAT.

A curious public—not so easily taken in now as before the great advance in experiment station work, in farmers' institute work, and in the general diffusion of agricultural intelligence—has

been waiting with no little interest to see what explanation the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post would make of the wonderful fake story it printed with such grave enthusiasm about that "miracle" in the grain world known as Alaska wheat.

The explanation has been made, and the excuse is that the story was accepted and published while the editor was away on a vacation. Fearing that his paper had been monstrously duped, the editor sent an expert to Idaho to make an investigation. Following is the telegram which the expert sent to the Post:

"Assertions of huge crops or good flour-making quality not justified. Adams only claim of proportion of 200 bushels an acre is with an eighth of an acre patch two years ago. For last year admits farm average only thirty bushels. So far this year only twenty-five or thirty-five an acre. Offers excuses such as weeds and under-sowing. Not true that wheat has been successfully grown elsewhere. Misleading to say frost-proof, for admits some injury by snow. Flour-making qualities unknown. Adams was given Experiment Station analysis lat year and told with it that milling test was necessary to show the quality with certainty. Has not had the test. The wheat in appearance is much like certain large coarse wheats not valuable for flour."

Many papers of smaller circulation have printed the story, but a most comforting feature of the whole affair is the enthusiasm with which farmers write to their papers and experiment stations expressing their doubts or demanding that the palpable fake be exposed.