



ORGAN OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Organ of Industrial Classes of North Carolina.

EIGHT PAGES—FORTY-EIGHT COLUMNS.

TERMS: TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

\$.10 for Six Months, Cash in Advance

RANDOLPH ABBOTT SHOTWELL, MANAGING EDITOR.

JOHN D. CAMERON, JOHN S. LONG, W. C. KERR, A. R. LEBLOUX, C. B. DENSON, NAT. A. GREGORY, Contributing Editors.

ADVERTISING RATES: One Dollar per Inch, first Week; fifty cents each subsequent insertion.

Table with 7 columns: One week, Two weeks, One Mo., Two mos., Three mos., Six mos., One year. Rows for 1 in., 2 in., 3 in., 4 in., 5 in., 6 in., 7 in., 8 in., 9 in., 10 in., 12 in.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING must be PRE-PAID. Advertising collected regularly on the first day of each month.

OUR FORESTS.

The Secretary of the Interior in his late official report sounded a note of alarm to rouse the government to the duty of protecting the forest property belonging to the national domain, showing that it is now, and has been for years, the prey of depredators who cut and carry away, without let or hindrance millions of feet of timber in the forest timbered regions of the United States.

The striking peculiarity of most of North America at the period of European occupation and settlement was its unbroken magnificent forest; a forest combining more of beauty from size of trees and grace of foliage, and more of utility from excellence and variety of timber than any region of the known world.

But it is time now to begin the cultivation of other feelings than those of hostility. The work of conquest is well nigh completed. In the older sections of the States first settled, there is little more to attack. In New England there is little left of the original forest.

to replace them, might still be crowned with their forest wealth, to meet demands now coming up from all the world; demands that we, in shiftless prodigality, will soon be unable to meet.

No farmer in middle North Carolina will deny that he suffers from the reckless prodigality of his forefathers; that he suffers in fact from his own wastefulness. Choice timber trees are hard to get now. The special woods for which the country once had a fame, maples, cherry, walnut, poplar and others, are obtained with difficulty.

These considerations ought to induce to a change; ought to lead to serious plans for preserving the forests that remain, to protect growing timber that is replacing that which is being used, and might lead eventually to the system practiced in Europe for the creation of new forests.

As we write one eye falls upon a paragraph quoted from the venerable Elias Fries by Rev. Charles Kingsley in his my pleasant "Winter in the Tropics."

"Before him lay Nature in her wild and sublime beauty. Behind him he leaves the desert, a deformed and ruined land; for childish desire of destruction or thoughtless squandering of vegetable treasures have destroyed the character of Nature, and, terrified, man himself flies from the arena of his actions, leaving the impoverished earth to barbarous races or arrivals so long as yet another spot in virgin beauty smiles before him."

Could language better describe what is now going on before our eyes? J. D. C.

BURNING OFF THE GRASS.

Josiah Ruggles is a small farmer in one of our eastern counties. He is a queer fellow at the best. He

has a standing rule from which he never departs, and that is to do nothing in the manner or method of anybody else. If he has a superior quality of seed, and a neighbor begins to use the same kind, he instantly abandons them.

One of the singular notions of this extraordinary man is, that it is his duty every year to burn the grass from the face of his farm. He has a low narrow piece of ground stretching around his farm, on the edge of the river, which left to itself is apt to grow up in reeds and a very heavy crop of dog fennels.

It is not necessary, at this late day, for any sensible person to be warned of the evil of burning grass from the soil. The earth in a lower degree, has the same life in it which the animal kingdom possesses.

But why not turn all the grass under in its green state, to enrich and fertilize the ground? If a crop of peas ploughed under will produce this result, why will not a crop of grass in a certain measure also? And yet it seems to be almost a universal rule with farmers, even if they are not so silly as to imitate citizen Ruggles and burn the grass, to leave it to fade and wither under the sun and frost, until it is absolutely worthless for all purposes of the farm.

If the rapid and genuine improvement of the land is the important duty of this generation, then it is not necessary for a person to be as blind and obstinate as farmer Ruggles, in order to stand condemned before the bar of his conscience.

NORTH CAROLINA WHEAT.

We admire the enterprising spirit that prompted the letter of Mr. John Ott in the last F. & M. He says "Virginia and North Carolina tobacco holds the highest rank in the market, for excellence. So for the export trade, especially to hot countries, no wheat has proved the equal of ours."

or Petersburg. But self interest must be the first consideration. When has North Carolina really had a surplus of wheat, or when will she have? In whose favor on which side does the balance stand? Is there not more flour brought into than there is wheat shipped from the State? (Here is where our commissioner will soon come in and help us out.)

If miller kings are to be made here are the Haw or the Roanoke. Would not the same trouble and expense that landed our wheat in Richmond, land our flour in Norfolk or Wilmington? If Richmond is headquarters, and it takes the crops of the two States to invite the South American trade, our supplies must go, but let it go as flour and not as wheat.

N. A. G.

FATTENING HOGS.

We have shown from actual experience what an item in the count it was to carefully save and protect the manure. Hogs fattening, when the proper time has come to confine them, should by all means be put under sheds. A little sunshine coming in is better, but not absolutely necessary.

It is time all the loose customs and prejudices of the past were pushed aside. Open sloppy farm yards and rail pig-pens, with the rich juices of the corn flowing from

them must be abandoned. The farmer who studies and understands this subject of manure and manure making must surely outstrip his fellows. It is the test, the key to success. N. A. G.

An Invaluable Number.

Owing to delay in getting certain facts and data, the publication of the "Immigration Number" was postponed one week. It will appear on Thursday next, and we invite advertisers to note that an edition of above 5,000 copies will be printed; of which 1,100 will be sent to our regular subscribers and correspondents in North Carolina; and the remainder distributed throughout the North and Europe.

Below we give a few of the leading features of the forthcoming number:

- 1st. Paper from Gov. Vance. 2d. Letter from Col. Polk. 3d. Paper from G. B. Hanna, U. S. Assayer at Charlotte Mint—on the gold mines of North Carolina. 4th. Paper from Prof. W. C. Kerr on Silk-Growing in North Carolina. 5th. Paper from Dr. Gleitsman (formerly of Bavaria) on the Climate of North Carolina. 6th. Paper on the Cotton Manufactures of North Carolina. 7th. Letter from Senator John B. Gordon on Southern Manufactures. Also Description of Newbern Cotton Factory. 8th. Notes of Western North Carolina, by Prof. C. D. Smith. 9th. Paper on "Naval Stores," by Col. J. G. Burr of Wilmington. And a great variety of statistical items and information not before published.

Orders, and articles for publication should be sent in by Saturday evening, at farthest.

To the People of North Carolina.

It is known to you that in obedience to a provision of the new constitution of our State, the recent session of the Legislature passed a bill establishing a Department of Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics, and for the protection of sheep Husbandry. Early after the adjournment of the General Assembly the Board of Agriculture was organized. They elected a Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer, opened an office and museum in this city and went earnestly to work to carry out that wise provision of our organic law.

In the first place the Commissioner has established a corps of reliable and intelligent correspondents in every county in the State, mostly farmers, who give trustworthy reports monthly of the state of the crops, the weather, the live stock, and all other kindred topics; enabling an intelligent man at any moment to make a fair estimate of our natural condition.

In the second place, we have established a laboratory at Chapel Hill, and secured the services of a skilled analytical chemist who has been actively engaged in testing scientifically the various kinds of artificial fertilizers which have become so extensively in use among our people, and in the ignorant purchase of which so much money has been wasted.

—Up to 1859 lunacy exhibited a steady increase in England, since that date it has been steadily diminishing. On the other hand, Dr. Ordreux of New York has pointed to the fact that lunacy had shown a steady increase since which he attributed chiefly to the intense struggle and competition of the race for wealth. In England during the last fifteen years there have worked much less hard than in time past. Saturday is now a legal half holiday to the manufacturing classes, and among stock brokers and bankers nothing is done after 1 o'clock. The city is almost lifeless after 2 p. m. on a summer Saturday.

be deemed of importance to the interests of agriculture.

In the third place, we have inaugurated the artificial propagation of fish, with a view to restocking our waters, once so full of food and pleasure to our people. Too late to make the most of the past season, we yet may be considered successful, in progress made in this direction. More than half a million of young shad were obtained and cast into the Tar, Contentnea, Neuse, Cape Fear, Yadkin and Catawba rivers, and we have now a quarter of a million of the eggs of the California salmon in the process of hatching in our establishment at Siler's nanao Gap in the Blue Ridge. These are to be distributed in the cool waters of our river heads, in the mountains. Should their distribution to those streams be completed, the quantity can be multiplied indefinitely, and an awakened public sentiment can no doubt be made to influence the proper legislation to secure the clearing of obstructions in the rivers.

Time and space forbid that we should attempt to tell you what the Board have tried to do in the way of obtaining statistics, inducing migration, establishing a museum and many other matters. Suffice it to say, they have attempted many and accomplished something in each direction; and one of the greatest of their accomplishments has been the renewed interest which has been awakened throughout the State in all the industries in which our people are engaged.

The chief difficulty against which the Board has had to contend consists in the task of reaching the great mass of the people. No undertaking of this kind can hope to be entirely successful unless a direct and speedy communication can be had with those for whose benefit we are laboring. The reports of our correspondents, the formulas and analyses of our chemist, and all other information published by the Commissioner for the past season were partly promulgated by the courtesy of the political press of the State, and partly in small pamphlets, which, though so few in number, probably one-tenth of which was actually received, yet cost a very large proportion of our small fund.

To meet this want, the Board determined to procure the establishment of an agricultural journal, entirely disconnected with politics and exclusively devoted to the success of the Board's work, through the columns of which their labors could be made known to the farmers and others. Like the Department itself, the paper will cost the public not one dollar in the shape of taxes, the enterprising publishers agreeing to publish free of all charge furnished them by the Board, and risk their remuneration by the patronage of the people. The columns being thus placed under our control we pledge ourselves every means in our power shall be exerted to make it worthy of the patronage. If the Department of Agriculture shall prove capable of doing anything for the real good of North Carolina, these results shall be made known through these columns from time to time.

With many congratulations of the success of the year and the improved condition of our people, we heartily commend this enterprise to their support.

By order of the Board, Z. B. VANCE, Chairman, L. L. POLK, Commissioner.