



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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Agricultural.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

ROCKY RIVER CLUB.—PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING, MAY 22.

THURSDAY, May 27, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—I herewith send you some items from the regular meeting of our Club May 22, which may be of interest to your readers. There were thirteen members present, the subject of consideration being, "How to make our meetings more interesting."

Dr. J. M. Blanton, former Commissioner of Agriculture of Virginia, being present was invited to address the Club. By a very interesting and instructive speech he made one meeting very enjoyable and told how to make many other meetings interesting and build up our Club, by mapping out a plan of work with topics for discussion. He referred in very just and complimentary terms to the work of the Agricultural Department of North Carolina. Gave encouragement and counsel which we felt to be both helpful and assuring. Rocky River Farmers' Club was organized two years ago, and through much indifference and maybe something worse at times, has not only kept its organization intact but made some commendable progress. During last year it awarded and paid premiums on Cotton, Corn, Wheat and Watermelons aggregating nearly \$20, and has made a schedule for the current year on a sure basis. On co-operative plan we have saved in purchasing fertilizers and groceries hundreds of dollars. Once more, while our Club is distinctively a Farmers' Club, it is not only not inimical to any other industry but friendly and, so far as successful, helpful to all other classes.

Wishing you success in your laudable enterprise,

I am, Yours, &c.,
SECRETARY.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

What They are Doing for East Tennessee.

Winston, N. C., May 27th, '86.

ED. PROGRESSIVE FARMER: Dear Sir:—I have read in your valuable paper an article urging the farmers of the State to organize into associations and clubs, etc., for the benefit of farmers, all of which I endorse. But before proceeding in the matter it might be well to say I am familiar with the workings of Farmers' Clubs and Conventions in East Tennessee. About fifteen years ago the farmers in East Tennessee commenced forming all over the country Farmers' Clubs and held their meetings regularly (generally about once per month), where they discussed among themselves all the interesting subjects connected with the farmers' interests. This they continued from year to year and so beneficial were the results that 10 years ago it was determined to have an annual convention for East Tennessee at Knoxville, where all the Clubs in the East Tennessee were represented by delegates and a general discussion of all the varied interests, etc., took place. In reading the *Tribune* I see they held their Eleventh Annual Convention last week and it was pronounced a grand success. The East Tennessee Farmers' Convention to-day is considered the most powerful and most efficient Agricultural organization in the Southern States. It has accomplished many good results all over the country—and it is an admitted fact by all that the annual East Tennessee Farmers' Convention which met at Knoxville last week was one of the best and most harmonious conventions ever held. Every farmer went away satisfied with the proceedings of the Convention and with a determina-

tion to revolutionize his community on some subject: (Some on Grasses, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Wheat, Corn, or determined to make a little more money and live a little more comfortably. So organize your Clubs and have your State Conventions and let every intelligent farmer attend, and none who attends will go away without being benefitted. The most indifferent will learn something by which he will be profited during the year. The exchange of ideas among live farmers and a comparison of experiments must necessarily prove very valuable to all. I do hope the old North State will take valuable lessons from her daughter over the Blue Ridge and immediately proceed to hold State Conventions. The great revolution in the farming department is due in a great measure to Col. C. W. Charlton, of Knoxville, one of the best men East Tennessee has produced for years, and who has organized and put in running order the whole working machinery of the East Tennessee Farmers' Convention.

The Old North State has a grand opportunity before her. If she will take the advice of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and put Col. Polk into the harness, he (Charlton like) will bring about that revolution which is so much needed in the farming department. I hope, sir, you will excuse me for intruding on your patience in this letter. I expect to make this my future home and of course feel very much interested in the future of the Old North State.

Respectfully,
RUSTICUS.

A SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

What Industry, Pluck, Perseverance and Brains Will Do.

A correspondent of the *Raleigh News and Observer*, writing about some successful farmers in the "Dog Swamp" section of Greene county, gives the following sketch of a remarkable man:

"Mr. John Sylivent is a farmer. He is 53 years old. He settled in this vicinity in 1858, having first bought eighty-three acres of land on a credit, for which he paid \$16 per acre. The war breaking out soon afterwards, he went into the army and remained until its close. He then returned home, went to work and commenced buying land until now he has 500 acres of land, of which 400 acres are cleared. The original cost of the land was \$9,000, or \$18 per acre. He erected upon his land a nice comfortable dwelling house with four rooms in the main building, with kitchen, dining room and pantry in the wing, at a cost of \$3,000, and thirteen tenant houses at an aggregate cost of \$4,540. Four of the tenant houses have five rooms with two brick chimneys, plastered inside and painted white, costing \$1,000 each. His gin house, engines and fixtures cost \$1,500, and his stables and barns \$1,000. So it will be seen that he has added by way of improvements in buildings alone (to say nothing of the enhanced value of his land by ditching, clearing and manuring,) \$10,000, or more than he gave in the first instance for the land. He has cleared over one-third of the land that is now cultivated. He plants 225 acres in cotton, 100 in oats, 75 acres in corn. In 1884 he made 154 bales of cotton, averaging 470 pounds, making a total of 72,380 pounds, or 321 pounds of lint cotton per acre. He sold his crop for ten cents, making \$7,238. He gives half this for cultivating the crop, which leaves \$3,619 net profit, or a little over 40 per cent. interest on the original cost of the land, or about 20 per cent. on the first cost and the present improvements added. Or to take another view of the matter his plantation pays him a dividend of 6 per cent. on \$60,000 valuation, making his land at present worth \$120 per acre. His method of manuring is by composting 100 loads of muck or woods-mould with 50 bushels of

marl and 15 or 20 bushels of cotton seed per acre. He breaks up his land deep with a one-horse plow and puts in his manure and bed on it and plants and cultivates in the usual way. He runs ten plows and plants 22½ acres in cotton, 10 in oats and 7½ in corn to one plow. It will be seen the greater part of his provision crop is oats. He considers corn as too expensive a crop to feed stock upon, hence he raises oats and feeds exclusively on them from the time he cuts in June till February or March, when he feeds on corn and fodder. It has been a notion with a great many farmers that stock could not stand work on oats alone, but he assures me that his mules do better on oats than they do on corn and fodder. He has boxes or troughs and feeds in the straw without even cutting it up. I was at his house the 11th of this month and saw his mules and they were fat and in good condition. He has no other kind of mules but mare mules. He says his experience is that horse mules are not as good as those of the opposite sex. If a horse will do the same work and keep in good condition when fed on oats exclusively as when fed on corn it will be observed that it is much cheaper to thus feed him, and that the cost of farming can be reduced a great deal. Mr. Sylivent informs me that one acre in oats will feed a horse longer than a ½ acre in corn. Now here is a point worth the attention of the Southern farmers. For it is the cultivated feed crops that makes Southern farming so costly. Farmers, consider this fact and try it. You can see at a glance what can be saved. The same plowing that breaks up the land for corn will plant the oats. Then the oats require no more cultivation, while the corn will require four plowings and two hoeings, thus making the raising of corn cost about seven times more than growing oats. This is an important item in the expense of cultivating a farm, and I beg the farmers to consider it. It will certainly produce a great revolution in the present system of feeding on corn and fodder exclusively.

His method of raising his hogs is worthy of attention. He has four acres in orchard enclosed with a plank fence and divided into two lots of two acres each. In this orchard there are all kinds of fruit trees. There are plum, mulberry, peach and apple trees. The trees are so selected that his hogs have fruit from the last of May, when his plums and mulberries ripen, till the close of the fruit season. He plants a few acres in peas, which are ready for the hogs by the last of August. They are kept on peas until the potatoes are ready, when he turns them on them, and by the time they get through with the potatoes they are fat and require but very little corn to harden the fat. By adopting this method his meat costs him very little. Now it may surprise your readers when I tell them that this man who has accomplished so much by farming, and done it, too, since the war, under the changed order of things, when so many have failed, cannot read a letter in the book or write his name. It must not be inferred from this that he does not appreciate education and that he is not a man of refined tastes. But the reverse is true. He has a school house on his land that cost \$200—a nice and comfortable building, plastered and painted. He keeps a school all the time for his children, having had his present teacher, Miss Ida Edwards, for four years. He has around his dwelling a yard of most beautiful flowers, and the whole atmosphere is laden with the sweet perfume of the blushing rose. All of his tenant houses, thirteen in number, are located on the public road that runs on one side of his cleared land and divides it from the woodland, like a street, and in front of each are clusters of oaks, affording a grateful shade, and numberless rose bushes, emitting a fragrant odor, but unlike the flower mentioned in Gray's

Elegy, "that was born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air," for there are happy tenants who after the labors of the day are over can enjoy their sweet perfume, and surrounded by such scenes of comfort (and I am almost tempted to say luxury) can with an easy and quiet conscience retire to rest and dream of their loved ones, of happiness, and of flowers.

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The success of this man is indeed a phenomenon. It is a study. It opens up a big field for reflection. What are the causes of this wonderful success of this extraordinary man? They are numerous and are well worthy the attention of every man. I have endeavored to enumerate some of them by giving his method of farming. But the great secret of his success is that he don't drink a drop of spirituous liquors; he gives his business his close personal attention, stays at home and don't gossip and talk about his neighbors and go to town and grunt and curse the hard times. For with him all times are easy, whether cotton is eight or ten cents per pound. While he is emphatically what is termed a self-made man, yet he is different from a great many of that class who swell up and strut and think they are the only men since Agamemnon. But on the contrary, he is diffident, modest, and unassuming. I have written somewhat in detail about this wonderful man, who has no education and who commenced life without a cent, and first went in debt for his land, but in twenty years has a farm and improvements worth at the lowest figure \$60,000, taking into consideration simply the original cost and improvements, but which in fact pays him a dividend of 6 per cent. on \$60,000 valuation. I challenge the United States to present a man under the circumstances to beat him."

State Items.

—The graduating class of the Salem Female College for the year 1886 numbers 26. —The cut worms and Colorado "beetles" are playing havoc with crops in this vicinity, leveling the potato crops with the ground as they go. —Mr. N. Alcott, who has had charge of the building of the Mt. Airy Railroad, was paralyzed last Friday night. Capt. J. M. Wright, of Fayetteville takes his place. —*Greensboro Patriot*.

—The town authorities have had the street machine at work this week, grading the wagon part of the streets. With police-Hoffman at the levers, and "Big Bob" Smith, "Big Will" Cranford and "Little Kin" Grimes to engineer their teams they did more grading than 150 hands would have done in the same length of time and at one-tenth the cost. —*High Point Enterprise*.

—We hear much complaint that chickens are dying in some sections of cholera. —Noah Kimel sold a two year old bull calf for \$44.65. It weighed 1,188 pounds gross. There is no profit in raising stock that is not well fed. The profit is in the extra feed given them over what is necessary to keep them in a sorry growing condition. —We hear much complaint that insects are committing havoc on tobacco plants. One person in Davidson county set out something over 7,000 plants, and now but few of these plants are left standing. Another set out over 4,000 and more than half have been destroyed. —We hear of an unusual amount of tobacco plants dying this year after they have been set out. We think the great difficulty is that most people covered their tobacco beds with canvass, and set the plants from these beds without first moving the canvass a few days so that the sun could toughen the plants. The plants should stand on the bed a week or ten days after being uncovered. —*Salem Press*.

—The Supreme Court has affirmed the decision of Judge Clarke in the case of the State against Jas. H. Miller, convicted of keeping a gambling house, and the fine of \$2,000 and 30 days imprisonment will be enforced. —*Raleigh Chronicle*.

—There is a weeping willow at old Mr. Tipps' on Lower Creek that is 17 feet in circumference. He is 82 years old, and, when he was a young man, about 20, he stuck a riding switch in the ground at his spring and from that grew this tree. —*Lenoir Topic*.

—Capt. E. J. Parrish is shipping large quantities of leaf tobacco to England and other foreign countries. —Junius A. Strickland, instead of giving the people the name of the man who dictated the anarchistic letter he had published in the *Chicago Alarm* as requested by the *Plant*, has fled to Texas. The *Recorder* publishes information that shows conclusively that John R. Ray is an anarchist. —*Durham Plant*.

—A large lot of young shad were brought down to this city from the hatching department of the State's fish commission, and deposited in Neuse River. —Thirteen flat-cars loaded with cross-ties and as many others loaded with iron rails, passed through this city Friday en route for Smithfield, to be used in the construction of the Wilson and Fayetteville "short-cut." —*Goldboro Argus*.

—A gas company has been organized in Asheville. —The prospect of the apple crop is not so flattering as it was a month ago. The trees bloomed profusely, and the fruit seemed to form well. But it did not "set" well; and now after having obtained some size, the ground is covered with fallen immature fruit. But the crop is not all lost, and we will have our apples. —*Asheville Citizen*.

—A practical test was made of the Aldred Automatic car break today, the fixture having been attached to a freight car. A train of cars was controlled by it with unexpected success. To-morrow a train of cars will be loaded with cross-ties and the break will be put to a full test. The invention appears to be wholly successful and one to realize well. The break now in use will go to Greensboro to-morrow and thence to Washington, D. C. —*Fayetteville News*.

—We learn from our Ringwood correspondent that the barn of Mr. C. W. Garrett, at the Vineyard, was burned Monday together with 1,500 bushels cotton seed and a large quantity of corn, fodder and guano. His silo and ensilage were also destroyed. The building took fire from a spark from an engine. His dwelling escaped because the wind was blowing in an opposite direction. The loss amounts to \$1,200 or \$1,500. It was said to be insured. —*Roanoke News*.

—The prospect for a wheat crop in this county is by no means encouraging. Reports from every section are unfavorable. To add to the gloom the chinch bug has begun its work and promises to be unusually devastating. The oat crop is but little more promising than the wheat crop. We are glad to hear by way of compensation that there is a most encouraging outlook for an abundant fruit crop of all kinds. —*Monroe Enquirer*.

—Mr. W. J. Hollingsworth returned yesterday after a successful engagement on the Susquehanna river on the U. S. Fish Commission. Last year the work at that station aggregated 13,000,000 eggs while this year the take was 56,000,000. The Potomac fisheries yielded 30,000,000 eggs. The result is unprecedented. —Mr. E. M. Robinson, who is permanently employed, made a successful railroad journey last week across the continent to Oregon with 1,700,000 fish for Pacific streams. —*Fayetteville News*.