

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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Winston, N. C.

Winston, N. C., August 11, 1886.

[This paper entered as second class matter at the Post Office in Winston, N. C.]

THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

See our offer to give THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year and the Patch Corn Sheller for four dollars. This is the best sheller for the money in America. It is guaranteed and will give entire satisfaction. Send in your orders at once.

—Congress adjourned last Thursday.
—Samuel J. Tilden left an estate estimated at \$9,000,000.

—Pasteur claims that out of 1,426 persons treated by him for hydrophobia only four have died.

—The President has approved the River and Harbor bill which appropriates \$14,000,000.

—The Prohibitionists of Wisconsin, Connecticut and Ohio have nominated full State tickets.

—A cyclone struck the town of Hartford, Kansas, last Thursday and demolished twenty houses.

—Mrs. Cleveland has become a member of Dr. Sunderland's Presbyterian church in Washington.

—Bro. Michaux, of the Greensboro Workman takes the palm as the punster of the North Carolina press.

—Col. W. H. Cowles, of the Eighth district was renominated for Congress in convention at Lenoir last Thursday.

—There are in the United States 53,614 post offices, an increase of 2,363 for the present fiscal year ending June 30th.

—Hog cholera is destroying the hogs in Botetourt county, Va., several farmers reporting a loss of a hundred head a week.

—Hon. John S. Henderson, of the Seventh district, was unanimously renominated by the convention at Salisbury on the 3rd inst.

—There were 9,986 bills and 208 joint resolutions introduced in the past session of Congress. Out of these only 150 public bills and 642 private bills became laws.

—The coal mining industry is increasing rapidly in the South. In 1885 a million of tons were shipped from Norfolk, principally from the mines in West Virginia.

—Hon. W. J. Montgomery was nominated without opposition for Judge of the Eighth district in convention at Lexington on 4th inst., and B. F. Long for Solicitor.

—The order known as the Knights of Labor, which was organized in Philadelphia in 1867, is said now to number a membership of 2,000,000, a very formidable organization.

—It is hoped that the committee appointed at the meeting of the Farmers' County Club last Saturday to draft an address to the farmers of the State will get together and draft the address at once. The sooner the better.

—The total wheat yield of California the present season is estimated at 70,000,000 bushels, the largest crop ever harvested, and nearly twice as large a crop ever produced in any other State.

—The Ballot, the new prohibition paper started at Charlotte, is an eight column paper and vigorously edited. It opposes the third party movement and will fight it out in the local option line.

—The remains of Samuel J. Tilden were interred at Yonkers, N. Y., last Saturday. Among the attendants at the funeral were President Cleveland, Senator Endicott, and Private Secretary Lamont.

—Bohemians are fond of dog meat. They fatten them for the purpose of eating. In Pittsburg last week a Bohemian killed a fat dog and invited a number of his friends to the feast. They were all made sick, some of them dangerously so.

—Maj. John W. Graham, of Orange county, was nominated for Congress from the Fourth district in convention at Raleigh last Friday, to succeed Gen. W. R. Cox. There were 198 ballots taken when Gen. Cox withdrew, as also did Chas. M. Cooke and Benjamin H. Bunn.

—The air-ship Torpilleur, a new invention, made a successful trip from Cherbourg, France, to London, a distance of 125 miles one night last week, making it in seven hours, carrying two men. From this success it is thought the problem of aerial navigation is solved.

—A recent census of Florida shows a population of 191,185 whites and 147,221 blacks. Among them are said to be two whites over 100 years old and forty-two negroes over 100 years, one 110, one 116 and one 129. It is not stated whether any of them ever saw George Washington.

—There are some townships in our county which have not yet organized clubs. Send to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and get a Constitution and By-Laws and organize at once, so as to be in readiness for our next County meeting, which will be held on the fourth Saturday in October. It will be a most interesting occasion.

—Samuel J. Tilden died at his home at Greystone, N. Y., last Wednesday, of heart disease. For several years he has been an invalid, and held on to life with singular tenacity. His was a remarkable career, his contest and election to the Presidency and counting out in 1876, giving him a conspicuous place in our national history.

—Wm. P. Pierson, cashier and chief book-keeper of the American Bible Publication Society, has proved to be a defaulter to the amount of \$30,000. He entered the service of the Society when a boy, and was advanced from time to time until he reached the position of cashier five years ago. Implicit confidence was had in his integrity.

—Accounts from Charleston, S. C., regarding the rice fields along the Santee river as totally ruined, the whole country for miles on each side in Williamsburg, Georgetown and Berkeley counties being under water. The condition of the colored laborers is pitiful, their gardens washed away and many of their cabins being surrounded by water knee deep.

—Now is the time to prepare for a turnip crop. Select good ground. Do not be stingy with your manure, but put it in liberally. Break the ground thoroughly and repeatedly. Run the harrow over it at each breaking. See that it is thoroughly broken and thoroughly pulverized. Select seeds of the very best varieties. It does not pay to sow inferior seeds for any crop on any kind of land.

—To farm successfully you must have manure—to have manure you must have stock. It is as cheap to have good stock as inferior stock. To have good stock you must have grain and grass. In all ages grass has been the foundation of agricultural wealth and prosperity. Let our farmers remember this when preparing for the next year's wheat crop. Prepare for plenty of grain and grass and clover.

—It is important to have hill-side ditches cleaned out and repaired before the push of the fall work comes on. See that weak places in the banks are strengthened, and that all grass or weeds in the ditch are removed, to prevent clogging and filling up during winter. By doing the work now, the roots of the grass on the banks will have time to catch before frost and thus enable the banks to better withstand the force of the winter rains.

OUR STATE FRUIT FAIR.

The Annual Fair of the N. C. Fruit Growers' Association was held in Fayetteville last week. Ten counties only were represented in the exhibition, yet we found in the 318 entries—116 varieties of grapes, over 100 varieties of apples, and peaches, pears, plums, apricots, melons, etc., in immense quantities, of excellent quality and almost in endless variety. The halls were admirably adapted to the purpose, and were handsomely decorated and festooned with bunting and native vines and flowers. The first thing that greeted the eye on entering the first hall was a most beautiful and unique design of an old castle in ruins—the huge pillars and beams of which were disposed in attractive irregularity, and were made of solid blocks of ice, in which were imbedded branches of apples and various other luscious fruits, melons and lovely bouquets of flowers and ferns. These glistening columns rested on a mound of evergreens, consisting of a variety of beautiful ferns and richly colored water plants. The necessarily hurried inspection which our brief visit allowed us, pushed us on from one object of interest to another too rapidly to permit a record of what we saw. We were especially attracted to the displays of pears and grapes. New Hanover, Forsyth, Wake and Guilford made especially fine exhibits of these. Mr. S. W. Noble, of New Hanover, displayed seventy-five varieties of grapes, and such grapes! Mr. Batchelor, of Wake, fifty-eight varieties of grapes. The exhibition was a credit to the managers and an honor to the exhibitors and their State. The unfavorable season impaired the quality of many of the fruits, particularly the peaches, but the display was, by far, the best that has ever been made in the State. The evaporated fruits, and the canned goods and native wines, which embraced an extensive list, were most excellent. The association and its officers are to be congratulated on the splendid success of the fair, and upon the good judgment displayed in locating it in the good old hospitable, patriotic town of Fayetteville.

We heard, as we expected to hear, the most pleasant expressions of satisfaction on all hands, with the speech of welcome of Hon. G. M. Rose and the annual address by Capt. Oct. Coke. Standing at the ends of the halls and looking down the long aisles of tables, laden with beautiful and luscious fruits, this question forced itself upon us: If Australia can fit up large vessels with refrigerators and ship fruits to England, and deliver them in good marketable condition and make it remunerative—if California can charter refrigerator cars at a cost of \$600 per car and ship its fruit 3,200 miles to New York and make money, why can not North Carolina, with all her advantages as to seasons, climate, adaptability to all fruits (other than the tropical) and with her access to the markets—why cannot this industry be made a source of great profit to her people? And this is just the question to the solution of which the officers and members of this association are directing their commendable effort.

Every county in the State where fruits can be grown advantageously, should follow the example of Wake and establish a County Association. There is nothing like co-operative effort. Every county in North Carolina should organize into clubs, and have each year a County Fair, where the products of the counties may be shown. The State of Pennsylvania will hold fifty-one local and county fairs this year, and we trust that in the near future the farmers' clubs of our State will see the utility of these local fairs and that we shall have an equally large number annually.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

We hail the establishment of an experimental farm at Raleigh in connection with the Agricultural Department as a step in the right direction, a step in the way of progress which should have been taken long ago; but we go further than that and hold that there should be an experimental farm in every county in the State. We know that such a scheme is not practicable now, because it is not possible to procure experienced and competent men to take charge of such farms. We have no training school in this State for young farmers, as the State of Mississippi has, as Virginia has, and as many other States have, but perhaps in the course

of time, when the money which is now being used for the benefit of the University, the \$7,500 a year which belongs to the farmers of the State, is applied to its legitimate purpose as intended, we may have an agricultural college, as those states have, for the education of farmers' sons for the farm. Then it would not be a difficult matter to find competent men to take charge of our State experimental farm or county experimental farms.

The State experimental farm, as we remarked, is a good thing, and if properly conducted it will prove of immense benefit to the agricultural interests of the State, but how much better it would be if in addition to the State experimental farm there were also an experimental farm in every county, where the farmers could see for themselves the experiments that were being made, the modes of culture and the results. The results of the experiments on the farm at Raleigh they must learn by reading, for but very few of them can visit it in person, and if they could they could only make it a hasty visit and give it a passing glance, while if there were such a farm in their own county, farmers anxious to see and to learn could visit it at their option and from seeing themselves and conversation with those in charge of it, could learn much and profit greatly. Such a farm need not necessarily be large or expensive. For experimental purposes a few acres answer as well as many acres. It could be located at or near the poor-house, and much of the work might be done by the inmates of the poor-house, who would, if able to work, be thus contributing to their own support. With anything like judicious management such a farm could be made not only self-sustaining but profitable. A very small tract of land would answer the purpose of experimenting with the staple crops of our section, or with any new crop it might be deemed advisable to try. It could be done at trifling expense, and it would in a little time pay incalculably more than it would cost.

THE FARMERS' COUNTY CONVENTION.

On the first page of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER this week we publish the proceedings in full of the convention assembled in the Court House last Saturday to organize a County Club. The Court House was well filled with the solid representative farmers of the county, while a number of the prominent business and professional men of Winston-Salem were interested spectators. The meeting, not only in the numbers present, but in the character of those who participated in it, the interest manifested and in the enthusiasm and harmony that prevailed, was indicative of the interest manifested by the farmers of Forsyth in this movement, and of their progressive spirit. They were solid men all, men of business methods, who came there actuated with a desire and resolve to do what they could to promote the best interests not only of their brother farmers of Forsyth, but of the whole State, and give proper encouragement and impetus to a movement which will result in this if carried out in good faith as intended by the originators of it. The County Farmers' Club is no longer a thing of the future, it is a fact—a living, active, thoroughly organized Club, composed of live, progressive men, representing the best brain, and most progressive spirit of the county, and offered by competent men, fully impressed with the responsibilities of the positions to which their brother farmers have called them, and resolved to do their full duty. It starts off splendidly. At the next meeting, on the fourth Saturday in October, we hope to see every township in the county represented.

THE SOUTH AND BLOODED CATTLE.

A list of all the blooded cattle in the Southern States is being prepared for publication. It will be issued on the 1st of September. It is important that our county and section be fully and faithfully represented in this list. Write at once to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER or to Dr. H. T. Bahnsen, Salem, N. C., and give the number, age and breed of your registered cattle. We hope to hear especially from the counties of Forsyth, Davie, Yadkin, Surry, Stokes and Guilford.

CONVICT LABOR.—WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?

The question of convict labor has been more or less a subject of agitation in many states, in some entering as an element into their political discussions. For years the custom has prevailed in some of these states of farming out the labor of these convicts to men engaged in manufacturing pursuits, who paid so much per head a year for each, while in others manufacturing companies leased the penitentiaries, paying the state a given sum, and turning the penitentiaries into great workshops, for the manufacture of wagons, buggies, barrels, buckets, boots, shoes and various other articles. Protests against this kind of competition went up from great bodies of workmen and it has to a great extent been abandoned, and probably in the near future will be altogether so.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER does not propose to discuss nor deal with partisan questions, but it does propose to discuss freely and candidly those great economic questions in which the people, regardless of politics, have an interest, and this question of convict labor and how it shall be used is one of them.

We hold that the State has no right to farm out its convicts to come in competition with honest labor anywhere.

We hold that the State has no right to give away the labor of these convicts to corporations to build railroads for their own benefit.

We hold that the people who bear the burden of taxation are entitled to the labor of these convicts if they desire it.

We hold that good country roads are as essential to the prosperity of a country as railroads.

We hold also that whatever reason there may have been in the past to give the labor of these convicts to encourage the building of roads, railroads can and will now be built without such labor.

We hold that every able-bodied convict (not of a desperate character) should be put to work upon the public roads and kept upon these roads until good roads were the order of the day instead of the exception in our State.

We hold that there should be established by the State a thorough system of turnpikes to and from all the leading central market points in the State, and that these turnpikes should be worked and kept in condition by the labor of these convicts.

Thus every county would derive more or less benefit from this labor, and be compensated for the expense incurred in caring for them.

The people of the counties—mainly the farmers—build the court-houses, the jails, pay the judges, the solicitors, the sheriffs and the jurors, and bear all the expenses incident to the apprehension and prosecution of offenders against the law, and if anyone is to be benefitted by the labor of the law-breaker it is the people who bear the expense of his prosecution.

There are twelve hundred names now on the State penitentiary rolls. A very large number of these, we do not remember just how many, are now employed in grading railroads. The probabilities are that the number will be as great or greater for years to come. With this number constantly employed on the public roads, under competent overseers, what a revolution might be made in the condition of our roads in a few years, and how soon we might have a system that would compare with that of any other State. This is a matter in which the people of the whole State are interested, and it is for them to demand that the State convicts shall be put to work upon the public roads.

OUR TURN NEXT.

Winston-Salem is to have the next fruit fair, and right heartily will we welcome it. Our people will exert every effort to make it an honor to our county and section and to the State. The officers may rely on the hearty co-operation of our farmers' clubs and of our people generally, and if it be not incompatible with the interests of the fruit fair, to have at the same time a display of wheat, oats, Irish potatoes and cattle, we will guarantee an exhibition that any North Carolinian may be proud of. Forsyth intends to stand loyally by her record and be among the very foremost in advancing the material interests of the State.