



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

Vol. 1.

WINSTON, N. C., NOVEMBER 10, 1886.

No. 40.

### State Items.

—The famous murder case of Mr. A. A. Owens by his wife and two negroes, has been removed from Washington county to Beaufort county and will be tried here at the next term of the court.—*Washington Gazette.*

—A young lady named Dry was found hanging by the neck dead, near Big Lick, Stanly county, last Friday morning. It was a clear case of suicide. Domestic trouble, it is said, was the cause of it.—*Concord Register.*

—We learn of a coon being captured the other night upon the neck of which a brass chain was found so deeply imbedded in the flesh that no trace of it could be seen from the outside and it was discovered after the animal had been dressed.—*Washington Progress.*

—A colored woman knocked her child on the head with a rock killing it, and then buried it in a branch last near Ransom's Bridge, Franklin county. She was arrested and carried to Louisburg jail to await the penalty of her dastardly crime.—*Battleboro Headlight.*

—Ossipe Cotton Mill, of which Capt. Jas. N. Williamson is the proprietor, has just received an addition to its machinery of 1,200 Whiting gravity spindles, making the whole number of spindles 3,200. This mill also contains 160 looms and is now full of machinery.—*Alamance Gleaner.*

—The news comes to us of a severe hailstorm at Mt. Olive, this county, Wednesday afternoon, which broke windows and filled people with great wonderment. The stones were so large and solid that many of them were still lying about the neighborhood yesterday.—*Goldstboro Argus.*

—Mr. Nolder, a farmer from Pa. has moved his family to Hickory with the intention of locating in this section. He says that he leaves others behind him who are dissatisfied with the high taxes caused by governmental extravagance, and wish to find a home in N. C.—*Piedmont Press.*

—A pet dog arrived here this week that was shipped by Express from San Francisco in a caged box. It belongs to Lieut. Henderson, who purchased him in Peru. The privilege of the old war vessel Shenandoah was extended to "Jack" for two and a half years.—*Salisbury Watchman.*

—Distemper among horses is prevalent in this section.—Wesley Rothrock showed us a walking stick which is made of hickory wood and was owned by his great-grandfather Peter Rothrock. It has been in the Rothrock family for more than 100 years and will be kept as a family relic.—*Salem Press.*

—Last week Mr. Torrence, of Philadelphia, who is president of three Railroads, went to Webster to aid in the opening mineral operations in the Kaolin Mine. A railroad will probably be constructed to the mine, and thus old Webster will be connected with the world any way.—*Waynesville News.*

—Mr. W. G. Lewis made an assignment, Tuesday, of his stock of agricultural implements and Machinery to Messrs. J. H. White and B. B. Lewes. His assets are about \$5,000 and his liabilities about \$1,800. Inability to realize on outstanding accounts was the cause of the assignment.—*Statesville Landmark.*

—Mr. George M. Goforth dug his crop of sweet potatoes last week and brought the *Topic* office three specimens of his crop that weighed together sixteen pounds.—The mast, oak, hickory, chestnut, beech &c., is almost a failure and that accounts to some extent for the

large number of squirrels that are to be seen. They are hungry. They leave the heart of the forest and come out into open country in search of grapes and other fruit, corn &c.—*Lenoir Topic.*

—When we called at Duke's factory yesterday morning we saw an order for 300,000 cigarettes from Stockholm, Sweden.—Messrs. W. Duke, Sons & Co. shipped during the month of October 30,111,450 cigarettes from their Durham factory alone.—It is rumored that the Baptist denomination will soon erect a new church on the lot donated to them by the Durham Land and Security Co., in the neighborhood of the residence of J. T. Diver.—*Durham Plant.*

### LET THE FARMERS SPEAK.

There are many matters which come before the Legislature in which the farmer is directly interested, but in which their collective capacity farmers seldom express an opinion for legislative guidance. Take for instance road laws, fence laws, dog laws. These are matters in which the farmer, more than any other class of our citizens is interested, but who ever heard of farmers uniting to express an opinion on these questions when under discussion in the Legislature? Suggest a law affecting railroads, manufacturers and other business interests, and how soon do you see petitions or remonstrances going up or lobbyists to work for or against the proposed measure. While farmers cannot send lobbyists to work in their interests they can express their sentiments and make themselves heard. During the late campaign Governor Vance said in his speech at Hickory in discussing the issues of the day, that the reason why the people as compared with corporations and monopolies had so little influence in Congress was because the people demanded nothing and took what they got, while the corporations and monopolies demanded and were generally more or less successful in securing their demands. This is true and while the farming class constitute the great bulk of our population it is especially true of them. In view of these facts we suggest that the farmers' clubs of the State take under consideration such matters of legislative character as may affect them, discuss them and send us the result of such discussion for publication in the PROGRESSIVE FARMER. This will be one method of making their sentiments known to their representatives in the Legislature.

### PLANTING GRAPE CUTTINGS.

If you intend to plant a vineyard, there is no difficulty in propagating Concord, or in fact any of its type, from cuttings. Varieties that do not "strike" well may generally be coaxed to grow, if a little of the old wood is taken with the wood of the present season's growth, which alone should be used for cuttings. The old wood at the base assists the starting of the roots. The time to make the cuttings is now. Cut the canes into even lengths of two or three buds with a slanting cut. Tie them in bundles of twenty to fifty with a withe; set them on their butts, and cover them entirely with a mound of earth for the winter. As early in the spring as the ground can be worked, dig a slanting trench and place the cuttings in this, six inches apart, and so the top bud will be even with the surface. In filling the trench tramp the earth firmly about the base of the cuttings, and the most of them should grow. Keep them carefully hoed and entirely free of weeds. It will not be necessary to tie up the vines. In the succeeding spring they will be ready for planting in the vineyard, being cut back to two eyes each, only one of which should be allowed to finally grow.

### THE STOCK LAW.

In some sections of the State no subject entered into the recent canvass that created so much interest and excited so much hard feeling as the "no fence law." Indeed it overshadowed all the other questions and decided the election in many instances.

This unfortunate state of things in our judgment could and should have been obviated. The farmers of our State are eminently conservative. They are slow to adopt new ideas and new systems, even when presented under most favorable circumstances. They are cautious and prudent. Especially are they jealous of their rights. They may be led but they cannot be driven.

The act of the Legislature of 1877 establishing the Department of Agriculture among other duties charged the Board:

"The sixth clause of Sec. 7 of the Act charges your Board with the collection of statistics relating to the subject of fences, with suggestions for diminishing their cost, and the conditions under which they may be dispensed with altogether."

The commissioner after laborious investigation of the subject in which he had the efficient aid of many of the most intelligent farmers in all sections of the state and of special committees appointed by the North Carolina State Agricultural Society and by the Roanoke and Tar River Agricultural Association, submitted his report to the Board of Agriculture at the opening session of 1879. In that report the Commissioner said:

"Our people, always cautious in accepting innovations, may be slow to adopt a system which must ultimately revolutionize long-established habits and ideas; but the investigation of this subject, now so actively instituted, will no doubt direct their sober judgment to a correct conclusion. The wants and necessities of different localities vary greatly, and any law arbitrarily abolishing the present system, while it might meet the requirements of old and thickly settled communities, would doubtless work hardship and damage to those not so well advanced."

He then recommended the enactment of a "local-option" law on the subject, to remain on our Statute books, that any township or county might vote on it as they chose and that thus the people themselves should say whether or not they desired such a change.

As Commissioner and having received all the best available information we could as to the necessity for the change and the sentiments of the people in all sections of our State, we made that recommendation and our report was endorsed by the Board of Agriculture and by Governor Vance to the legislature. We have seen no reason since why that course was not the correct one. We believed it then and we believe it now. Indeed if we had doubted it, the recent opposition to the law, as passed by the last legislature would confirm us in the views then advocated.

We hope in all future legislation on this subject to see the old idea of the sovereignty of the people respected. Put the law on the books, and let the people say at the ballot box whether or not they want such a change. The existence of such a law would evoke reflection, discussion and research, which would doubtless result in a decision that would best subserve the true interests of the people. And what is scarcely less desirable, it would move it from the arena of politics.

### FINE STOCK.

The reports that come from the fairs held up to this time this year in North Carolina represent the stock exhibits as very fine. This is very gratifying and shows that the farmers of the State are giving stock raising much more attention than they did in years gone by even up to a few years past. There has been a marked improvement not only in the stock but a large increase in the

numbers. The increase would have been greater but for the fact that it costs considerable money to purchase thoroughbred stock, and it is generally only the farmers who are in independent circumstances that venture the investment. The obstacle of the cost might be overcome when Farmers' Clubs are organized by the club becoming the purchaser of the males of any desired stock for the use of those members of the club who were stock raisers, for the use also of others not club members at a reasonable charge. Thus the first cost, which would be large for the ordinary farmer to bear in these times of short crops and low prices, would be distributed among a number in such portions that none would feel it severely, while all would be benefitted and more than repaid the first year for the investment.

Where there are no clubs a few neighbors might combine and together become the joint owners of such stock, for breeding purposes, as they desired. Co-operation is a big thing, and nowhere can it be practiced to better advantages than in the domain of stock raising.

### SENSIBLE TALK.

The Battleboro (Edgecombe county) *Headlight* of last week contains a sensible editorial on the outlook for cotton planters which it pronounces exceedingly cheerless. The crop in that section is of good quality but the price low, and the question with the planter is whether to market now or wait for an advance in prices which may not come. The farmer who owes nothing and has enough to eat at home may do this, but the farmer who is in debt, or who is compelled to purchase his bread cannot do this. He must sell regardless of price, whether the crop brings enough to pay for his labor or not. The fact is the profit in cotton culture is becoming less and less every year, if there be any profit in it at all, which we do not believe there is, for with few exceptions, the crop costs as much or more to make than it brings on market. The only escape from impending ruin is in diversified farming. As the *Headlight* well says "We must resolve at once to abandon the suicidal system and hereafter diversify our crops. With cribs filled with grain, our pastures with cattle, our barns with tobacco, our yards with poultry, we have a full guarantee of plenty for the future, regardless of merchants and if we have no ready cash we can manage to get along very well without it until another cotton crop is harvested. It is so easy to do this that it does seem strange that people will not do it. We exist on scanty allowance—that of the roughest kind—and what is worse still, are living without hope."

It is remarkable, very remarkable, that farmers who expect to live by the farm and lay up anything for themselves or their children will continue in the same old ruts year after year and toil hard in raising the same crop which in one year out of five does not pay for the actual labor and expense in producing it. We say this is remarkable because nobody but the farmer will continue to produce that which does not pay him for his time, labor and capital invested. The manufacturer don't do it. When there is over production and prices run too low he shuts down until the stock on hand is reduced and prices advance. The farmer alone does it and the cotton planter seems to cling to it with more pertinacity than others.

There is hardly a crop raised on the farm that would not pay better when the work is well done than cotton. On average fair land corn, wheat, oats, grass, potatoes, peas, beans and many other things would pay better, while the cultivation of some of these crops would improve the lands and add to their value, and at the same time supply the farmer with his home supplies and

thus put him in a position to feel independent whether he has money in his purse or not. And to feel that way is worth a good deal.

### LARGE OR SMALL HORSES.

A question that seems too prominent at present among farmers, is the consideration of size and weight in breeding, as though we bred horses as we do cattle, for the amount of meat they produce. Our Eastern farmers well know that a horse of 1000 lbs weight or even less will perform its varied round of employment quite as efficiently and with less wear than a horse with 200 or 400 lbs additional weight. If the farmer wants to raise colts for his own use from mares of ordinary height and weight it is ill advised to breed them to stallions of a larger type, as the progeny is more likely to show defects in build or gait. One point must not be lost sight of, that the dam controls size in offspring more than the sire. The Percheron has been bred to what he now is by Arab stallions and large mares. Shall we not make a mistake by working in the opposite direction with large stallions and small mares? I have a list of examples to that effect in my recollection of breeding during the past forty years, prominent among them was a small Canadian mare which gave her first foal the year she was bought. The colt proved a coarse ungainly brute and was sold for a cart horse at a low price. The mare was afterward bred to a small but good stallion, and her colts proved every way good and sold at high prices. If we know what we want, we shall be more likely to succeed than if we proceed in a haphazard way.

We find ourselves in possession of mares which rarely exceed 16 hands high or 1100 lbs weight and very many which reach us no more than 15 hands high with a weight of 900 lbs. It cannot be expected that farmers will to any great extent change their mares, hence it follows, what is best to raise from such stock as we have? There seems to be a certain adaptation in growth to the necessities of the land. Thus we find large horses on the heavy and productive land of Pennsylvania and the Western States, while the growth of New England is of a smaller type.

When we examine the markets and find the class of horses which sell at the highest prices, gentlemen's driving horses supersede all others, excepting such as may be trained for the track. Two hundred and fifty dollars buys a first class work horse in any of our market cities, although I have paid \$350 for seventeen hands high and 1400 pounds weight, to mate a team for heavy draft. Such horses I found of great value in hauling heavy loads at a walking gait and after keeping one team in service eight years, I sold them at an advance in price to a city brewer. On the farm I find no profitable place for horses of that size and weight, nor do I think that many farmers will find profit in attempting to breed them, and only under favorable conditions.—*J. H. Dickerman, in Farm and Home.*

### LARGE CASTINGS.

Two of the largest castings in the world are to be seen at Nara and Kamakura, Japan, the one at the latter place being forty-seven feet high, and the other, at Nara, being 53 feet from the base to the crown of its head. The statue at Nara is supposed to have been erected in the eighth century, but it was destroyed and recast about 700 years since. In endeavoring to recast it several mishaps occurred, and when at last success came, some few thousand tons of charcoal had been used. The casting which is an alloy of iron, gold, tin and copper, is estimated to weigh 450 tons.