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Has the largest circulation of any family agricultural or political paper published between Richmond and Atlanta.

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

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*"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows of the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with the dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."—L. L. Polk, July 14, 1890.*

## PRACTICAL FARM NOTES.

Written for The Progressive Farmer by the Editors and Prof. Guy E. Mitchell  
Massachusetts has appropriated this year over \$200,000 for fighting the gypsy moth. And still the government neglects the simple and inexpensive steps necessary to exclude any new pests which are liable to secure a foothold at any time through the importations of foreign plants or trees.

When we consider the high prices which good mutton and beef command in our Raleigh market and other markets "right here at home," we are at a loss to understand why more of our farmers do not abandon cotton and go to bacco for stock raising. Let us have better stock and more stock. Read again the two articles in our live stock department by Mr. Richards and Mr. Bellwood last week and think the matter over. It will pay you.

It will be remembered we recently inquired about the Wilmington Packing Company and the North Carolina Live Stock Associations. One association still lives and proposes to hold a meeting at Concord the latter part of June. This is the North Carolina State Dairymen's Association. Prof. Frank E. Emery is its Secretary-Treasurer. The North Carolina Swine Breeders' Association may meet at the same time and place if enough of those interested in good swine who are members find themselves together there.

Really fine stock is scarce but the gentlemen J. & W. S. Long, Graham, N. C., have laid part of a foundation to supply some in future by the purchase of a two-year old registered Shorthorn bull Currituck, from the Agricultural Experiment Station. The price is a large one for this part of the State, and for a two-year old bull. But this animal is of the milking strain of Shorthorns and some fine grade cows with large square udders bearing large and well placed teats may be expected in the herd to which this bull is sent.

Practical foresters in the United States are scarce. In fact about the only ones are the lumbermen, and their forest training is all in one line. The forester of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Gifford Pinchot, is arranging to take a forestry class with him into the forests of the far West for the purpose of studying forest preservation. Their expenses will be paid by the government and they will be utilized by him as assistants, at the same time receiving practical instruction in lines of work for which there is sure to be a demand in this country as the question of practical forestry comes more and more to the front and the needs of forest preservation is realized.

The plow trust has arrived on the scene. Representatives of more than a score of the leading plow manufacturers met in Chicago two weeks ago and vir-

tually completed the organization of the combination into which it is proposed ultimately to take all manufacturers of agricultural implements. The capitalization of the trust is placed at over \$65,000,000. The greatest secrecy was maintained regarding the proceedings, but it is understood that C. H. Deere was elected President of the combination.

Now, Mr. Farmer, what are you going to do about it? Mere grumbling, fretting, fuming will do no good. Do you propose to stand and deliver, or will you join your brother farmers in a movement to bury the plow trust with its brother, Jute Bagging?

The following manufacturers of plows are said to be in the trust:

- Moline Plow Company.
- Deere & Co.
- Peru Plow and Wheel Company.
- Sattley Manufacturing Company.
- Pekin Plow Company.
- Rock Island Plow Company.
- Fuller & Johnson Manufacturing Company.
- J. I. Case Plow Works.
- Bucher & Gibbs Plow Company.
- St. Joseph Manufacturing Company.
- Syracuse Chilled Plow Company.
- Gale Manufacturing Company.
- Morrison Manufacturing Company.
- Grand Detour Plow Company.
- David Bradley Manufacturing Company.

Kingman Plow Company.  
Parlie & Orlendorff Company.  
The Moline plow works and Deere & Co. are credited with manufacturing nearly half of all the plows used in the world. W. L. Velie, President of the Moline Plow Company, and C. H. Deere, President of the Deere & Co. plow works, were the leading spirits in the work of the organization.

An attempt was made, it is said, to secure the Oliver Chilled Plow Company, but James Oliver, the President, has issued a statement to the effect that if there is to be a trust the Oliver's will not be in it. The St. Joseph Manufacturing Company, of Mishawaka, Ind., may also remain independent.

There's no danger of over-production in the cattle line. About a year ago The Progressive Farmer gave figures showing that on January 1st, 1892, there were 9,000,000 more cattle than on January 1st, 1898.

A circular recently issued by the Secretary of Agriculture shows the decrease in cattle on January 1st, 1899, since January 1st, 1898, to be 1,120,743 head. In addition to this the receipts of beef cattle at the various markets of the first twenty-eight days in January, compared with a corresponding period last year shows a decrease of 68,490, classified as follows:

Cities—	1898	1899
Kansas City.....	143,000	127,500
Chicago.....	198,900	173,000
St. Louis.....	77,100	52,900
Omaha.....	40,300	37,700

From these figures, it is apparent that the beef cattle supply is not equal to the demand. Besides an increased demand for beef is expected from our new territorial possessions and from Europe. The latest figures we have been able to get show that the number of cattle in North Carolina was:

1895.....	653,528
1896.....	635,621
1897.....	631,530
1898.....	608,872

Decrease in four years..... 44,656 Or 6 1/2 per cent.

Mr. Sawyer's letter reminds us of the Illinois plan to protect shippers, to which we call the attention of our readers. The legislature of that State passed a bill—"an act to regulate the shipping, consignment and sale of produce, fruits, vegetables, butter, eggs, poultry or other products or property, and to license and regulate commission merchants and to create a board of inspectors and to prescribe its power and duties." The bill provides that such commission houses shall pay an annual license fee of \$25, the license to be granted by a board of inspectors, "composed of one member from each of the following organizations: Illinois State Horticultural Society, Illinois State Dairymen's Association, Illinois State Retail Dealers' Association, Chicago Butter and Egg Board and Chicago branch of National League of Commission Merchants." One feature which will appeal strongly to country shippers is the feature providing for their protection. Section 10 of the measure provides as follows "When said board shall have received report of any authorized inspector upon any

complaint and shall have satisfied a majority of such board that the person, firm or corporation has dealt dishonestly with said complainant, they shall take such action regarding such offense as can be prosecuted in the courts by said inspectors, or shall, in case of flagrant abuse of position as receiver of commissioned goods, apply to the courts to revoke license of such person, firm or corporation for any term not to exceed one year."

Every now and then some word bobs up about tea farms in South Carolina and the question is asked whether tea can be raised profitably in this country. Secretary Wilson has believed for some time that we should grow some of our own tea in the United States and he proposes to convince the people of the South that they can keep in the country, and themselves get a good share of the \$10,000,000 sent abroad for this article annually. The Secretary has just returned from a visit to the tea farm of Dr. Shepard, at Summerville, S. C., where in cultivation about fifty acres of tea. Last year these yielded about 3,500 pounds of superior black tea, which sells readily, it is stated, at \$1 a pound. The average cost of tea brought from Asia is about 14 cents a pound and it may thus seem impossible for us to compete with the cheap labor of the Orient. Mr. Wilson states that he would not attempt to grow teas in competition with these poor grades, but only fine teas. Some teas are of such high flavor that they sell for as much as \$5 a pound, but these teas are never seen in the United States, as they lose their aroma in transit. While the negro labor of the South is not of course as cheap as Eastern labor the Secretary believes that Yankee ingenuity will invent special machinery to offset the difference.

Reports received from the various experiment stations indicate that the flat pea, a comparatively new leguminous plant, is not finding the favor which was predicted for it. Although a plant rich in nitrogen, it does not especially commend itself as a forage plant as it appears to be somewhat distasteful to most stock. Testimony regarding it is quite conflicting; it is evidently not an unqualified success, and it would be well for farmers contemplating its trial to plant experimentally rather than extensively. The California Station reports that it maintains a heavy growth with very little moisture, but that while hogs and sheep eat it green cattle and horses avoid it green but eat the hay. Our North Carolina Station says "The flat pea we place next to sachaline as the most loudly trumpeted swindle perpetrated upon the long suffering public in recent years." The Alabama Station states that it withstands light frosts and grows throughout the winter, is liked by horses and cows and is as good a soil renovator as cow peas. The Massachusetts and the Nebraska stations condemn it. The Michigan Station reports that it grew fairly well but that sheep confined on the pasture and that cows fed in stable lost weight and diminished in production of milk and butter fat when fed either green or ensiled flat pea fodder as a part of the ration.

## AGRICULTURE.

### FARMING HINTS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

GREENSBORO, N. C., May 16, 99.

Farming without capital is the complaint. The best capital on the farm is the farmer himself. Money is no comparison. Horses, mules, cows and hogs—no comparison to a farmer in the full acceptance of the term. If a man on a good farm cannot make a success, the real cause may be the very thing to which his mind has never given a thought. Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge. To the shame of many people called farmers be it said they have no real knowledge of the science of farming, and so they go on much like the horse that pulls the plow—by force of habit. The farmer should be up to the demands of the locality in which he is placed. A variety of crops is of vast importance to the farmer. All cotton, all tobacco, all corn, all wheat or all oats is not best. Let the children see the acre in onions, the acre in Irish potatoes, the acre of sweet potatoes, all the grasses—and peas in quantities. The first business of the true farmer is to see that his wife has no lack of good vegetables for twelve months in the year

and peace at home and good will to his neighbors.

The most beautiful place on this earth is the well tilled farm with all its attachments the flowers by the walks and waysides. Beautify your home if you wish the boys to love the farm. There must be some inspiration at home. When you have a general variety of crops and orchard growing you will get good returns from some of them. The seasons will be apt to be suitable to some of them. And now, with all that is said, be sure to give your family much reading matter on all subjects that they work at, let them have an article to read on every crop or vegetable, and be sure to take The Progressive Farmer and see that your neighbors take it. To my observation that paper has done more from its first issue to get farmers to read and be well posted than any other paper.

R. R. MOORE.

### A WORD OF WARNING.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

FLORENCE, N. C., May 7, 1899

Brother Truckers and Farmers:

As the season is drawing near for the farmers to commence shipping their potatoes and other produce to the Northern markets, and knowing as I do that many of our farmers in past years have been cheated out of the money that their potatoes and other produce has sold for, by shipping it to so called commission merchants who have no place of business, I write a word of warning.

Last year one of that kind of commission merchants was represented in this county (Pamlico)—to my certain knowledge he had no place of business. I visited the city and place that he claimed to be last December, and found that he had no place of business.

I think that the farmers of this county lost last year \$3,000 by sending their potatoes to unreliable men to sell for them.

There is a man in Boston, Mass., who claims to be a commission merchant who has no place of business. He has a cellar rented, a room about 12 feet square. I went down in it last December and I was informed by a reliable person that this so called commission merchant had judgments hanging over him and the officers could not find any property belonging to him to attach. And that man had two agents in this county representing him last year and will probably have as many or more to represent him this year and some of our farmers will probably ship to him this year to their sorrow. Watch.

W. R. SAWYER.

### DEEP VS. SHALLOW PLOWING.

A number of letters on this important subject recently appeared in The Practical Farmer. Summing up the matter contained in them and the opinions expressed, Prof. W. F. Massey said:

"Our friend who went from the Old North State to Ohio and tried to teach the natives, allowed one rash experiment to settle the matter of deep plowing for him. If, instead of turning all the black surface down and covering it with the un-aerated clay, he had simply plowed as his neighbors did and had run a subsoil plow in the furrow made by the shallow turning plow, the result would in all probability have been very different. While wheat and oats like a well compacted soil it by no means follows that the deep plowing for the preceding crop is not just what they need. Where oats or wheat follow a crop of corn on land that was deeply prepared for the corn crop and has been shallowly cultivated all summer we have a regular summer fallow, which gets the wheat land into the best possible condition, and only surface preparation is needed. But where a clover sod or pea stubble is turned for wheat, the plowing should be as thorough as for any other crop, but should be done as early as possible, so that the land can have time to settle and get into the compact condition the crop demands. It is a deep, firm seed bed the wheat wants and not an un-aerated and unbroken soil. Where land has been well plowed at midsummer for the sowing of the cow pea crop, it is totally needless and generally injurious to the success of the wheat to merely disc and leave the decaying pea roots on the surface. It is strange how little our farmers yet know in regard to the practice of subsoiling. We are all the time meeting those who con-

found subsoiling with deep turning, whereas the subsoiling does not turn anything up, but simply loosens the clay below the reach of the breaking plow. One who rashly turns the un-used subsoil all at once on top can hardly expect good results at once, but rather to the contrary. Any increased depth of turning over the soil should be gradual, but there is no need for any such caution in the use of the subsoiler. Put it in as deep as you can, provided the soil is in such a condition that subsoiling will be of any advantage, for there are plenty of soils in which there would be a positive disadvantage even in subsoiling. A soggy, crawfishy subsoil would only be made worse by any attempt to run a subsoiler through it. Hence the first requisite before subsoiling is to be sure that the drainage is all right, for if it is not you had as well save the labor of subsoiling, as no amount of stirring helps a water-soaked subsoil. Then so far as deep plowing in the sense of turning over the soil is concerned, there are many soils in which it is not necessary, and may be harmful. There are deep, sandy soils which are all the better for having their lower part undisturbed, and there are clays that are absolutely harmful if mixed with the surface soil. But in the blood red subsoils of the Southern Piedmont region the plow cannot be driven too deep. We have here as a rule on our uplands a thin and rather sandy soil at the surface, and right under this thin layer of sand and broken rock there is the greatest of red clay, that will stand year after year almost perpendicular in a railroad cut. This thin sandy surface has been the part scratched for generations. When the floods of rain come, this soil gets at once filled with water, and as the hills are steep hereabouts, it soon starts for the river and takes the soil along, and the hard clay right below gives the water a nice easy passage off, and directly there is what the farmers call a "red gall," that is a broad stretch from which the whole of the sandy surface has been carried off bodily. Year after year the frosts of winter mellow the surface of the red gall and the rains wash it down to the hard pan again, and the hill gets from a red gall to a deep gully. There are thousands of acres of such gullied and wholly useless land in the South, and all started down hill by reason of a mule and a little plow. With a big plow driven down into that clay drawn by three good mules, and another pair to a subsoiler following in the same furrow, we could work these lands without so much need for the big terraces to stop the water. We would have a soil of better texture on the surface, for the present sandy surface would be all the better for the admixture of the clay. I can never insist too often on the fact that the red clay subsoils of our Southern Atlantic uplands are the best soil we have. But there are plenty of soils where it would be folly to turn the clay up. There are such lands all along our Southern coast that are called white oak soils, a white, flat stiff soil overlaid with whitey blue clay, and generally needing underdrainage worse than anything else. Such subsoils are apt to contain matters absolutely poisonous to plant life. Hence we must study the nature of our soil. If it can be helped by deep plowing then plow deep. If subsoiling is what it needs, and the majority of our uplands do need it, then do not mix up subsoiling with deep plowing, for you can grow better crops on lightly turned land that has been deeply subsoiled than you can of deeply turned land not subsoiled."

curdly and heavy, and you can't put colors on it in curing barn. I set my tobacco three feet in the drill. This gives good room for it to spread. I mark the distance by having a careful person to go ahead of droppers and chop off ridge at this distance, and then pat place with back of hoe—this to keep and retain moisture in ridge. After plants have taken root and made a start to grow (say a week or ten days,) I give them a good, thorough working with the hoe, chopping around the plants, and chopping the ridge down between plants. After a week or ten days I take a cotton plow with small front and short sweeps, and give it a good siding close up to the plants and moderately deep. Then I split out the middle left when listing up land for planting, and don't plow deep any more, and seldom hoe after the first time, except to get out any bunches of grass that may be about the plants. I then repeat the plowing about every ten days, throwing out middle every time with wide sweeps. This puts the tobacco on a ridge. I never plow more than three times—often only twice, depending on the growth the plant makes in the time. Before giving the last plowing I prime off the lower or plant bed leaves, put them in barn and cure, (many times they pay for the fertilizers used;) then with large fronts and long sweeps side up with plow, throwing all the dirt you can around the plants, covering up the wounds made by the priming. This done your tobacco has begun to show buttons.

Now comes topping, when judgment is to be exercised. This should be done by the best man available (I do this myself.) I don't know that topping is so important when you prime as when you cut, still to get best results I think judgment and discretion is to be used. I top to an average of ten to twelve leaves, and make 800 to 1,000 pounds per acre. Some top fourteen to sixteen leaves, and get from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. They do not get so much colory tobacco, however, when they top high. As to worms, they make their first appearance the last of May or first of June, or about full moon in June. Then plants put out, say, the first week in May will be about twelve to fifteen inches high. We usually begin to set about 25th of April, and try to finish by the 6th of May—any way by the 10th. After the latter date it does not do so well either in field or curing barn, and besides you will get the August showers of rains, which are troublesome and do great damage. Tobacco put out by or before 10th of May misses these showers, because it is cured and in pack house. I use nothing to keep off or destroy worms but Guinea chickens. I prefer them to turkeys because turkeys are difficult to raise. I follow after Guineas and destroy all eggs and kill such worms as they do not get. With early planting and these chickens I do not consider worms amount to much.

### THE CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO

A Practical Article by an Experienced Tobacco Grower in Greene Co., N. C.

I prefer to put in tobacco on lands that lay out last year, but good tobacco is made in the East even after cotton. I break my land twice—first in December or early in January; afterwards in March. I use a compost of stable manure and cotton seed; 25 or 30 bushels of the former and 12 to 15 bushels of the latter, and mix these in alternate layers about the 1st of February. I run my rows three and a half feet apart, sow compost in drill, and on this put 600 pounds of guano; then make ridge by turning two furrows together. I think 600 pounds to be about all that the plant will take up, even if it takes up that much. An excess of this amount causes the plant to grow late (especially if wet), and tobacco that grows late is apt to grow

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