

A Batch of Timely Farm Notes.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Practical Farm Experiments would be a more comprehensive and attractive title for a series of bulletins which are being issued by the Department of Agriculture (and which are in fact the most general all-round interesting and useful publications gotten out by that Department) than the present title. They are known as "Experiment Station Work," but this does not convey the correct impression, as an immense amount of detailed work and investigation is done at the State Experiment Stations which is of no direct practical interest to farmers. These "Farm Experiments" bulletins are short, usually from twenty to thirty pages and contain probably a dozen concise, practical articles, a compilation by the Department editors of results of the various experiment stations. One which is now in type (Farmer's Bulletin, No. 169), contains a number of interesting articles, none too long to pick up and read during a ten-minute leisure period.

The first subject treated is the farm water supply—the importance of pure water for milk cows. This article picks out the meat from three different bulletins; one from the Oregon station, one from Arizona, and one from a Department bulletin. Another article is entitled "When to Cut Forage Crops;" another is "Fog Fruit," a lawn plant and soil-binder for arid regions. Pithiness in celery is the title of another article in which it is shown that American celery seed is poor. In Maryland forty per cent of the plants raised in an experimental plot from American grown seed was pithy, while not a single stalk grown from French seed had this failing. The irrigation of strawberries is discussed in another article and extracts made from bulletins from eight different States, from Connecticut to Colorado on this subject. The Farmer's Fruit Garden is another which suggests interesting reading and practical hints. Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits heads an article of more general interest than value as farm instruction. The realm of flowers is invaded with a short article on China Asters, the gist of two experiment station bulletins. Several other subjects are likewise treated in this work. The bulletin is obtainable upon application.

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"The trucking business in the South is making steady progress," said a representative New Orleans man who made a call the other day on the Secretary of Agriculture. "And now the establishment of many large canneries is adding a stimulus to vegetable production. The Louisiana farmers are subscribing stock in a good many of the canning factories which give them a market for their surplus produce. New Orleans instead of Baltimore will soon be the center of the canning industry in the United States. Our Louisiana lands are many of them especially adapted for vegetable growing. We can pro-

duce four hundred and five hundred bushels of tomatoes to the acre, and other vegetables in proportion. Trucking in the South has a great future; the dividing up of large plantations into small farms and gardens is highly beneficial to the community and the establishment of canneries gives us a sure and profitable market."

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Germany is a large purchaser of meats from this country. The proposed German tariff, it is estimated, will reduce our meat exports to Germany by fully 25 per cent. Should it become necessary for the United States to retaliate we would be able to cripple Germany far more than the proposed German tariff would affect this country and the knowledge of this fact, it is believed, will cause German statesmen to hesitate about adopting this feature of the new tariff.

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According to a prominent Washington newspaper correspondent who has just returned from a tour of Canada, much of the emigration of American farmers from our middle west to Canada is likely to prove disappointing if not disastrous. A considerable portion of the Dominion which is being exploited and "settled" lies in the sub-humid or semi-arid belt which corresponds to parts of Kansas and Nebraska. It is prophesied that a series of two or three dry years will depopulate that portion of the Dominion as completely as happened in western Kansas some years ago. The land is fertile and the climate is good and in what are known as "wet years" large and profitable crops can be raised, but the seasons come in cycles or groups and sooner or later the bad years make their appearance. Then, unless settlers are well established and enabled to stand severe reverses until the meteorological pendulum swings the other way, great suffering must ensue and an exodus result.

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Nineteen hundred and three promises to be a banner year for cotton exports, the first ten months of the fiscal year showing \$295,800,000; this against \$268,000,000 for the first ten months of 1902, \$286,000,000 in 1901, \$223,000,000 for 1900, \$191,000,000 for 1899, and \$100,000,000 for 1898. It is the high prices, however, which so swell the figures for 1903 as in both 1898 and 1899 the number of bales exported was greater than in 1903.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Why do farmers from Stokes, Yadkin and other counties around us pull up stakes and seek homes in the Western States? The Danbury Reporter of this week gives one reason. That paper says:

Last Friday nine wagons were prized from the mud on the Danbury-Walnut Cove road. At one place the harness was cut from a good pair of mules, and even then the poor brutes, unable to move, had to be literally dug from the mire. No wonder so many of our good citizens are leaving the country. It's a shame to our people to tolerate such a condition of affairs.—Daily Sentinel.

CALL FOR A FARMERS' MEETING

To be Held at A. & M. College, Raleigh, July 20, 21 and 22.

The following call, signed by Governor Chas. B. Aycock, President Geo. T. Winston, of the Agricultural & Mechanical College, and Chas. W. Burkett, professor of agriculture, has been issued:

"An invitation is hereby extended to farmers and other persons interested in the improvement of agriculture in North Carolina to meet in convention at the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, in West Raleigh, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 20, 21 and 22, 1903. A regular program of instruction will be carried out; including lectures, conferences, discussions and practical experiments. The program will be published soon, and will speak for itself.

"This convention will devote itself exclusively to a study of agriculture. It is intended to be the beginning of a series of North Carolina farmers' conventions to be held annually during July or August at the State Agricultural College in Raleigh. Let all farmers who can, come and bring their wives, making the occasion a pleasant family holiday as well as a means of instruction. The Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Agricultural Department of the State and the State Museum, the capitol and the various State departments, the asylums and penitentiary, the colleges of Raleigh, and the city's beautiful residences and buildings all combine to render the occasion worthy of the small time and expense needed for the trip.

"The railroads have granted a rate of one fare plus 25 cents for the round trip, being special rate tickets to the A. & M. College Summer School for Teachers. Tickets on sale July 20th, good to return August 1st. The College will furnish board at 50 cents a day, or 25 cents a meal. Lodging may be had at the College, if there is room, otherwise in the city, at reasonable rates."

Sheep Thrive, and Investment Promises Well.

Mr. Samuel Archer, the sheep man, who is now located at Mt. Ulla, Rowan County, dropped in on the Landmark Wednesday and gave a good report of the flock. He says that the stock rams have made a fine increase in the quantity of wool produced this season over last. One ram that last year produced 18 pounds of wool, this year produced 30; another increased from 26½ to 32, and another from 29¼ to 38. This season's clip has not been sold, but it will probably be sold to the Chatham Manufacturing Company at Elkin for 20 cents per pound.

Mr. Archer, who is the pioneer in sheep husbandry in this section, says the flock owned by Gibson, Adderholdt & Archer has prospered during the past year and he thinks with the increase in value of the flock the investment ought to show a net profit of 25 per cent.

As this sheep industry is yet in its infancy and is capable of being brought to much greater success, the outlook is indeed encouraging.—Statesville Landmark.

After the Wheat Harvest.

It will be a comparatively short time all over the wheat growing regions before the crop is harvested, and the present condition of the fields is a matter that needs attention. If the farmer has a good stand of clover he is fortunate. But here and there all over the land there will be found fields where clover has failed, and the farmer is bothered to know just what to do with that field to keep up his regular rotation. If he is south of the 40th parallel and not in too elevated a section, where the nights may be too cool, there is no crop that will help him more than the Southern cow peas. Sown in its northern limit after harvest it will probably not reach sufficient maturity for hay making, but it will furnish an abundance of pasturage late in the season, and will help to make another crop of wheat on the same land, which can be treated in the same way and the dead peas left on the ground for the corn crop the next spring so as to bring the field in as it would have come with a season of clover, and the two sowings of peas will probably do as much good in the improvement of the soil as the clover would have done. The value of the cow pea to the Northern farmer comes in right here when clover fails. Not to supersede clover, but to help when clover refuses to help. No farmer on good wheat land between 39 and 40 north latitude should ever think of putting any crop in the place of clover, but at times may need help to get his land to give a stand of clover. And this is just what the cow pea will do for him. South of 39 latitude and in a moderate elevation the cow pea becomes of greater importance, and on sandy soils South, where clover uniformly fails, the cow pea is the clover for the farmer, and will enable him to repeat the legume crop more frequently in a short rotation from the short time it takes to make the crop. There are few localities north of the 39th parallel where the pea will have a great value as a hay crop, but for pasture in dry weather and as a soil improver it has value far north of this, especially on warm, sandy soils. Those of us who have made a study of the Southern pea know well its limitations and we never suggest to the Northern farmer the use of the pea except as a means for taking the place clover has failed to fill, and to tide over a drought in late summer. If clover is all right, then you are fortunate. But when the rag weeds appear, do not let them go to seed. The idea seems common among farmers that rag weeds are a necessary intruder on stubble fields. But rag weeds can be abolished just as other weeds can. Mow the rag weeds as soon as tall enough to get hold of them and the stubble, and if needed, mow them a second time, to prevent their seeding, and you will soon have few rag weeds on your land. Clean farming is just as possible with wheat as with any other crop raised on the farm.—Prof. W. F. Massey in Philadelphia Farmer.

A jealous woman believes everything her passion suggests.—Gay.