

EDITORIAL

VIEWS OF THE EDITOR ON MATTERS
OF CURRENT INTEREST.

The Danbury Reporter

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THE WISDOM OF EXPERIENCE.

Mr. J. G. Flynt, of Walnut Cove, was here Tuesday. Mr. Flynt is one of our most successful and progressive farmers, being a fine tobacco raiser, but he says the last two years he has made a failure in his crops. His 1915 crop was very inferior, owing, he thinks, to the wet weather in the latter part of the summer in conjunction with sorry fertilizer. Mr. Flynt, like many other Stokes county farmers, has had his eyes opened with regard to making home supplies at home. Big crops of tobacco even at good prices are quickly absorbed by time prices paid for the things it takes to produce the crop. In 1913 Mr. Flynt's crop of tobacco sold for about \$2,500. But the cost of its production was proportionately as high. The farmer who raises a moderate crop of tobacco every year, taking the precaution to provide first for all the wheat, corn, and roughness that will be needed during the year by his establishment, is the farmer who will in the long run come out safely.

THE BANKS OF STOKES COUNTY.

Danbury is the home of a good bank, and King is the home of a good bank, while Walnut Cove boasts two good banks. These are all home financial institutions depending on home support for their life and prosperity. They are economically and conservatively managed by officers and directors that you know, and their methods of business are known to the people of Stokes county. There is one element of peculiar safety which the Stokes county banks can claim, which not all outside banks have the advantage of: this is security. While the city banks located in the commercial centers must of necessity carry a large per centage of their loans on corporate securities, and stock and bond collaterals which involves necessarily some degree of hazard which the rural financial institution is unacquainted with, the bank located in the farming community must depend for its security almost wholly on deed of trust on real estate, mortgage on personal property or personal endorsed notes. Consequently there are no big failures to catch the country bank, and its losses are therefore reduced to a minimum.

The people of Stokes county will make no mistake in patronizing their home banks in preference to outside institutions whose assets are used to develop outside industries, while the home bank lends its money at home almost altogether.

RABIES VS. RABBITS.

In upper Stokes and the lower edge of Patrick they seem to be having some trouble with the Dawg. It went on a rampage the other day and chewed up some of the people's legs and things, as well as their chattels, the consequence being that some expensive sojourns are being taken to Pasteur institutions at great distances, while valuable mules have died. Whole neighborhoods that formerly scoffed at hydrophobia, are now in the ferment of conviction, while those who have gone off to be treated by high salaried specialists are doing--in the sad repose of the hospital--some serious thinking. But only the dead mules have been converted. But like Danbury, the neighborhoods have not killed the Dawg yet, as he is such an interesting, useful and entertaining thing. When he lies down and moans and slobbers, then gets up and rips across the country biting people cows and mules, he is only suffering with some kind of a mild disorder which the dog-book says is not at all dangerous. Catch him and tie him a few days, he might hurt himself. If anybody says anything about it--shoot him, not the Dawg but the man.

It is said that the unfortunates who have gone to

Richmond, and those who lost the valuable property were not the owners of the deprédating Dawg, which is a common sad feature of such incidents.

CHEAP MONEY AND WHAT IT MEANS.

Mr. Poe, the bright editor of the Raleigh Progressive Farmer, has figured it out that the average rate of interest paid by the farmers of North Carolina in time prices at the supply stores is seventy per cent. A Stokes farmer can beat this two in the game. The Reporter was asked one day recently by this gentleman, who was illiterate and not an adept at figures, to calculate the interest on \$3.75 flour bought in June at \$5.00, and paid for four months later. The man was amazed when informed that this rate of interest was 100 per cent. He had thought that a bank's 10 per cent. was heavy, but here he had paid the merchant ten times as much, and never kicked while being robbed.

The only way under the Heavens whereby the farmer can become independent, is to become independent, and this happy state of mind, heart and stomach can never be attained by a farmer who depends on buying on credit the things which he ought to raise on his land.

It should not concern you so much about whether or not Congress will pass a rural credit bill. Such a law is not intended to help those who will not help themselves. Low interest rates mean iron-clad security. The merchant is not making a large profit on his goods if you consider the losses he must charge off at the end of the year because of his policy of selling goods to people who can't pay. He is paying dearly for the hazard.

When the time comes that you can go to the bank and get what cash you need in a sack at 2 1-2 or 3 per cent. interest on 10 years' time, the era will also have arrived that you are a man both willing and able to make a success financially, and whose unincumbered real estate, appraised at its real and not at a fictitious or inflated value, is willing to be tied up fast till the cows come home, not only to insure your own obligations, but those of your brother's also.

OUTLOOK FOR 1916 TOBACCO CROP--BOUND TO BE SHORT OWING TO A NUMBER OF CAUSES --WISE PLAN FOR THE FARMER.

The Reporter after diligent inquiry in many sources has been unable to get any encouragement out of the fertilizer situation with reference to the 1916 crop of tobacco. The State board of agriculture, all of the national authorities and all of the expert farmers agree that potash will be exceedingly scarce and higher in price. There is no other available supply than Germany, and the ports of Germany are locked in the iron grip of war, with little prospect of early peace. As plant-bed time is here hundreds of farmers are uncertain what to do. Various remedies and suggestions are being offered in the press with regard to saving manure, ashes, etc., in order to meet the serious situation as wisely as possible, but as the average Stokes county farmer is a non-expert in the matter of mixing ingredients in the necessary proportions when it comes to making fertilizer at home, it is a very gloomy outlook indeed, and one which is sure to curtail the crop of tobacco in this county to unheard of proportions.

Many well informed farmers say that the fertilizers used last year were almost totally deficient in potash, which accounts for the strange inferiority and marked lightness in weight of a crop at curing which looked so well in the field, and that at all events we shall be as well off as we were in 1915 as far as our ability to make a crop of tobacco is concerned.

Taking everything into consideration, the uncertainty of the situation, the higher prices which it is said will prevail even over those of last year, for guano, and the obsession that has siezed upon the minds of the planters that they must raise all of their supplies at home--these things are sure to re-

sult in a marked shortage in acreage for tobacco this year.

Perhaps 'twere well that this be the case. If such conditions enure to a shorter crop in this county, the same conditions, which prevail in other counties also, will result in a general curtailment of the 1916 crop. And this condition is what is needed by the farmers more than anything else. Lessened supply will make keener demand, and keen demand is certain to produce high prices.

If a farmer can make arrangements to produce on his farm all the supplies which are necessary for his living, keeping away from those places where time-prices tax him to death, and moreover if he can raise a moderate crop of fairly good tobacco for which he should receive cash that will be his own and not belong to the supply man--then he will have well established himself on the high road that leads with no curves to the city of success.

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