

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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THE GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

The Good Roads Congress held in Winston Salem a few days ago seems to have been successful. The object lessons in good road making that were given alone would have reaid those who attended...

The Association will endeavor to secure more satisfactory and uniform laws for road building, and will ask that the State Highway Commission be authorized to employ competent engineers to aid counties interested in highway improvement.

Of much greater significance, in our opinion, was this declaration by Senator F. M. Simmons: "The State government of North Carolina ought to quit trying to farm and devote all the energies and labor of its convicts to the betterment of the public roads of the State..."

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The good roads train went from Winston-Salem to Asheville, where another successful good roads convention was held. Permanent organization was also effected to cover nineteen western counties and to be known as the "Appalachian Good Roads Association..."

It is probable that a State Good Roads Convention will be held in Raleigh next February, and we hope that plans will be laid for bringing pressure to bear upon the Legislature for better road laws...

THE ELECTIONS LAST TUESDAY.

The one overshadowing feature of last week's elections was, of course, the complete defeat of the corrupt Tammany organization in New York City. In the four counties of greater New York City every city, county and borough candidate of the anti-Tammany forces was elected.

On the other hand, it is to be regretted that the attempt to defeat the Republican clique that has plundered Philadelphia much as Tammany has plundered New York met with a failure almost as complete as the victory that the reformers won in New York.

The State elections were not of so much interest as these city elections. Massachusetts, Iowa, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio, of course, went Republican, as everybody expected, and it is equally unnecessary to say that Virginia and Mississippi went Democratic.

On the whole, honors are about even, both parties merely holding their own.

FARM ARTICLES THIS WEEK.

All stock feeds are now bringing high prices, and the title of Dr. Burkett's article, "Roughage Feed for Horses," will doubtless attract many readers. His report of his New Hampshire experiments is of special interest, and the sentence in which he sums up the conclusions reached ought to be printed in caps: "The corn stover proved of equal value to timothy hay and was furnished at but a fourth the cost..."

Last week we promised an unusually interesting letter from Harry Farmer for this number, and we think that our friends will not be disappointed. Next week he will give some valuable hints on fattening hogs.

A very entertaining series of letters from a Tar Heel soldier in the Philippine Islands were published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER two or three years ago, as most of our readers doubtless remember. The author was Mr. Randall H. Fussell. He has since returned home and we have a letter from him this week reporting farm conditions in Duplin county. The new Duplin way of conquering "General Green" is unique but sensible, and we commend it to grass-fighters in all parts of the State.

"Arachel" is a charming writer, as well as a thoughtful and progressive man, and we are glad to number him among our correspondents. He, too, comments upon the increased quantity of hay harvested this year. It is well. Every farmer ought to regard the importing of hay into this State as a disgrace to North Carolina agriculture, and we hope that this year's tendency to save enough at home will be permanent.

His defence of an English system of hoeing and his description of a better plan for setting strawberry plants, are among the most noteworthy features of Chapter 3 of Mr. A. H. Craig's "A Plan for the Boys."

"The Value of Hothouses" is the subject discussed by Mr. S. W. Chambers, and we call attention to it because the hothouse is sorely neglected in North Carolina. We doubt whether there are one tenth as many as there should be. Once tested, their value becomes apparent and they are likely to be regarded as indispensable thereafter. And a very simple plan for making a hothouse was described in "A Plan for the Boys" on page 8 of last week's PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Look it up.

CLEANSE THE MIDWAY.

When our editorial condemning the State Fair's indecent Midway "attractions" was written, no article of the same tenor had appeared in any newspaper. From articles appearing since that time, however, we find that many other editors think as we do in regard to this matter, notably the editors of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, Elon College Sun, News and Observer, Charlotte Blade, Biblical Recorder, Greenville Reflector, Warrenton Record, Smithfield Herald, Chatham Record, Sanford Express, Winston Sentinel, Charity and Children, Littleton Reporter, Scotland Neck Commonwealth, Fremont Visitor and Statesville Landmark.

None of these have stated the case more ably than the Chatham Record in its refreshingly vigorous comment: "We congratulate the officers of the Fair upon the great success that crowned their efforts, and regret that they should have allowed so many indecent side shows and gambling tables to disgrace the occasion. If such are permitted again, then decent and respectable people should not attend the Fair. No respectable lady could walk in the most public places at this Fair with out being shocked at the sight of brazen-faced and scantily dressed women, both white and colored, exhibiting themselves in the most indecent manner. Such disgusting scenes were a disgrace to the Fair officials and an insult to all respectable visitors."

The opinions of most of the other newspapers are best expressed by two sentences from the Sanford Express and Statesville Landmark. The Express says: "If the Fair cannot be made a success with out the tawdry and side show the quicker it is abolished the better it will be for the people of the State." And this is the Landmark's opinion: "If the State Fair cannot attract a crowd without becoming a sewer for filth the sooner it goes out of business the better."

But from the Biblical Recorder come the most defiant and unmerciful criticism of the Fair managers. Perhaps it is just; at any rate, its editors have no right to expect better things. We quote: "As the reader loves his State, respects himself, cares for his child, honors religion, reveres woman, we plead with him to do all that he can to prevent a repetition of this carnival of shame in our land. As a social institution, as an educational institution, as an industrial institution, as an agricultural institution, we would uphold the Fair. But it is defiantly, shamelessly, flagrantly an institution of vice, of inhumanity, of lust, of bestiality. In the fear of God, and without any fear whatever of the men who made this prostitution of our State possible and who now carry the price of it in their pockets, and with full knowledge of the meaning of our words, we declare that as an institution of vice, of shame, of all uncleanness, as an agency for the degradation of women and the destruction of men, the Fair last week utterly obliterated the good purposes in which it was founded. We charge Secretary Pogue with responsibility for this; we charge President Cox; and we charge the Executive Committee."

We might give further extracts but the foregoing show plainly the drift of public opinion. The Midway must be purged of its villainous or the decent people of the State will give the Fair over to the baser elements, to whom it has so boldly pandered. And if this year's high carnival of filth was necessary to arouse the people, then good has come out of evil.

The writer is not personally acquainted with the new President, Mr. L. Banks Holt, but a gentleman who knows him well assures us that he will undoubtedly throw his whole influence against the features that disgraced this year's Midway and humiliated nine tenths of those that visited the Fair. The Midway must be made decent.

The North Carolina rural school library plan is an unqualified success. The State has already aided in the establishment of than 200 of these libraries, and it is predicted that the entire appropriation will be exhausted within a few months. Last week Superintendent Toon was asked to send a copy of the law to a prominent Georgia educator, who thinks that the Legislature of his State will put the system in operation there.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Alliance re-organization is being actively pushed in the Palmetto State. We notice in the Charlotte Observer that the organization in Spartanburg county is again at work, with some of that section's best farmers in the lead.

While we regret to lose Prof. J. M. Johnson from North Carolina, we congratulate him upon his election as Professor of Dairying in the University of Georgia. It is unnecessary to say that he has made an excellent record at our A. and M. College, and will doubtless fill his new position most worthily.

The long winter evenings are near at hand, and they should not be wasted. A supply of good books, not new ones of uncertain worth, but those that have stood the test of years, should be purchased as early as possible. Every farmer should set aside a few dollars each year for the improvement of his library.

For our cotton growing readers at least, this number of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER contains nothing of more interest than Secretary Parker's reply to Mr. Martin V. Calvin's cotton seed letter, and we hope that no one with cotton seed to sell will fail to read it. There is nothing dull about it. We had ourselves expected to reply to some features of Mr. Calvin's article, but Bro. Parker leaves nothing to be said. And we think that Mr. Calvin must admit, as we then suggested, that he was sadly misinformed in more than one particular.

We ask attention to the appeal of Business Manager Denmark for prompt settlement of subscriptions. We know that crops are very short this year, and that farmers are not so afflicted with unwanted prosperity as they have been in other years, but we hope that each reader will remember that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is paying out money each week to keep the paper going to him, and that prompt repayment is expected. If you cannot now settle in full, remember that part payment, showing that you appreciate the paper and wish to sustain it, will be gladly received.

A recent number of the Kinston Free Press contains this news item: "Mr. Roy Cox was before Mayor Webb Wednesday charged with pointing a pistol at Mr. J. D. Griffin. The evidence of all the witnesses showed that Mr. Cox had pointed the pistol without serious intent, but pointing a pistol even in fun is a transgression of the law, so Mayor Webb recognized the defendant for his appearance at court." The Mayor acted wisely. If reckless handling of deadly weapons were not so often allowed to go unpunished, we should not read of nearly so many deaths by the discharge of "unloaded" (?) fire arms.

A hundred thousand of North Carolina's best citizens would regard the Fair as more worthy of their own and of the State's support should its managers endorse the following from Col. F. A. Olds: "Talking yesterday with a fellow-member of the executive committee of the State Fair your correspondent expressed the purpose to make a motion at the next meeting of the committee to bar forever from the fair grounds all hoochie koochie shows, and also the snake eaters; the farmer as immoral in the extreme and the latter as disgusting. It is a pleasure to see the public taking ground against this class of shows. No doubt they will be barred from this and other fairs. This year marks the time of their downfall."

After glancing over a long list of State exchanges that have been deluded into supporting Tammany because that organization claims to be Democratic, it is refreshing to find the Concord Times declaring that Tammany rule "was corrupt from its smallest to its greatest department and vice and crime were projected so fully by a system of blackmail that there was absolutely no hope for relief so long as its power was unbroken." The Times continues: "Any disinterested man who is at all familiar with the situation in New York must admit that the corruption from the highest to the lowest official was the worst possible to imagine. All who wished to practice vice and commit crime needed only to pay for 'protection,' and there were never molested. Such a state of affairs there is at an end, for a while at least. It is hoped that the reform will be true and genuine, and that it will last."

GOV. AYCOCK'S GOOD ADVICE TO NEGROES

In his address opening the recent colored State Fair in Raleigh, Gov. Aycock, discussing certain phases of the race problem, made some remarks that should be of interest to most of our white people, and may be studied with profit by the negroes. As one paper said: "The colored people will find more to their advantage in studying Governor Aycock's advice than in cogitating and felicitating upon President Roosevelt's example." As to the discussion of "social equality" revised by this Booker Washington incident, Gov. Aycock said:

"It may not be inappropriate for me to express to you the hope that recent events occurring in the nation may not unduly excite you and that you will still remember that your best friends are those who live in your State. What you wish, what you need more than recognition by the President or other people in authority, is the establishment among yourselves of a society founded upon culture, intelligence and virtue, and in no wise dependent upon those of a different race. The law which separates you from the white people in the State socially always has been and always will be inexorable, and it need not concern you nor me whether that law is violated elsewhere; it will never be violated in the South. Its violation would be to your destruction as well as to the injury of the whites. No thoughtful, conservative and upright Southerner has for your race's sake but the kindest feeling and we are all willing and anxious to see you grow into the highest citizenship of which you are capable and we are willing to give our energies and best thought to aid you in the great work necessary to make you what you are capable of, and to assist you in that elevation of character and of virtue which tends to the strengthening of the State. But to do this it is absolutely necessary that each race should remain distinct and have a society of its own. Inside of your own race you can grow as large and broad and high as God permits, with the aid, the sympathy, and the encouragement of your white neighbors. If you can equal the white race in achievement, in scholarship, in literature, in art, in industry, and commerce you will find no generous minded white man who will stand in your way. But all of them in the South will insist that you shall accomplish this high end without social intermingling and this is well for you; it is well for us; it is necessary for the peace of our section, it is essential to the education of your children that there should be no misunderstanding upon this point. I am sure that you agree with me in what I have said and in the spirit of one who is the Governor of the whole people without regard to race I bid you God's speed in the great work of upbuilding our State, of multiplying her industries, of increasing her commerce, of educating all her children. I find a little encouragement in the friendly co-operation of the men and women of your race in the task which we have undertaken to do, that of educating all the children, and I pray you that in this great work we shall not be retarded by misunderstandings."

THE LATE JOSIAH TURNER

Mr. Jos. A. Harris, editor of The Orange County Observer, who was a compositor on The Raleigh Sentinel when the late Josiah Turner was its editor, writes us that Mr. Turner would have been 80 years old had he lived until the 22d of December next. He died of typhoid fever, having been sick only a few days. The funeral was held on Sunday morning from St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Hillsboro.

As he vanishes from earthly vision a great many facts concerning him and impressions which he made come back to those who knew him personally or followed him in his paper during the years through which he so mercilessly lashed his enemies and the State's. Through his most vitriolic editorials, in which he singled men out by name, charged them with their crimes and hurled away epithets at them, there ran a thread of perfect amiability and they bubbled over with delicious humor. It is not now recalled that in the fiercest of them was there ever a suggestion of anger. He was himself absolutely imperturbable; if the ground had opened at his feet in any moment he would not have changed countenance or moved a muscle; and his paper carried the air of immovability. It never betrayed excitement, but went straight ahead, calling men thieves, with perfect good humor, telling what they stole and offering to prove it if furnished with "a squire" with power to summon witnesses. He was in no sense a newspaper man, and judged by any newspaper standard there was never such a newspaper writer. It often happened that the heading of an editorial and the editorial itself bore no sort of relation to each other. There was a comical sameness about his editorials, day after day, and on one occasion he rehearsed all his accusations and arguments and headed the article "The Old Editorial."

There was never such a man for naming people. "Jay Bird Jones" was a Superior Court Judge; "Greasy Sam Watts" was another Superior Court Judge; "Kildee Laster" was a Granville county man who tried to sell the State land on which to build the penitentiary and for a farm—Turner had said the land was so poor that the whole farm would not support a kildee; "Pat Carrow" was the United States Marshal for the Eastern District; "Pat Jenkins" was Aaron, son of the State Treasurer and Chief Clerk in his father's office; "Chicken Stevens" was a member of the Legislature from Caswell—afterwards hung by men who were never detected, in a lower room of the court house at Yanceyville while a political meeting was in progress up stairs—and Turner gave him this name because he said he was a chicken thief; Col. W. F. Henderson was "Wildy Billy Henderson" because he talked so much; Maj. W. A. Smith was "Blow Your Horn Billy" because during the war he had hunted deserters with hounds, and "Sugar-Lips" was Dr. Geo. W. Blackhall, proprietor of the Yarboro House. He could ring the changes day in and day out on a word, a phrase or a sentence. John Nichols and John C. Gorman were large job printers in Raleigh and an influential firm. They had been Democrats and became Republicans. While they were in the transition stage Mr. Turner had heard that Governor Holden had confided to a party friend that "Nichols and Gorman are with us." What reader of The Sentinel in those days but has had the sentence burned into his brain by daily seeing it? "Nichols and Gorman are with us." Some occasion could be found for ringing it into every editorial. Turner would write all around his subject—if he happened to have any particular one—to make some reference to "John Nichols, of whom Holden said 'Nichols and Gorman are with us,' or to 'John Gorman, of whom Holden said,' etc.

His accounts of his street fights were the funniest things in contemporary literature. Judge W. A. Moore, of the Supreme Court, "laid" for him one day, but in starting to assault him slipped and fell. Turner, greatly amused—if he could be amused at anything, for he never cracked a smile—stood over him and punched him in the ribs with his umbrella, and never got tired afterwards writing about "the man who fell down at us." Wm. H. Bailey, then of Salisbury, challenged him to duel. Turner replied to the challenge through his paper, signing the name of his office devil, a boy named Hall, to the letter. Hall was supposed to take the difficulty off his chief's hands, and wrote frequent open letters to Mr. Bailey, inviting him to mortal combat. Turner could take the most trivial incident of a man's life, or the slightest peculiarity in his personal appearance, and make him a laughing stock.

In the progress of years he turned against all political parties and against pretty nearly all established things. Some twenty years ago he ran as an independent candidate for the Lower House of the Legislature from Orange and was elected. He was so disbeliever of all rules and rulings that it became necessary to expel him. When the resolution of expulsion was declared adopted he gathered up his belongings and strolled out of the hall, passing at the door to let fly this Partisan arrow: "What do I care for being expelled from a body like this? Every fellow in here is totting a pass!"

But "Jo Turner" is not a proper subject for a newspaper article, he deserves a book. He was very wrong about a great many things but intensely right about others, and as the man who in the days of reconstruction cleaned out the Angelen stables, he must have a high place in the history of his State.—Charlotte Observer.