

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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AGRICULTURE

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

XCVII.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer

In consideration of the Electric Churn Company agreeing to deliver one of their No. 2 churns at the station of Jamestown, State of North Carolina, on or before the first day of January, 1904, I promise to pay to the agent or order of the Electric Churn Company the sum of twenty-five dollars for value received, and further agree to pay all costs of collecting the same with any and all charges, and the Electric Churn Company's agents agree to pay all charges of delivering the churn to the said town.

Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 10th, 1902.

JOHN JONES. (Seal.)

Witness: JAS. D. SHARP.

November 19th John Jones receives this notice on a postal card:

"Dear Sir: Your churn will be delivered at the depot in Raleigh, N. C., on November 20th, 1902. Please meet our agent promptly.

Yours truly,

ELECTRIC CHURN CO."

John Jones's heart sinks within him. Not to meet the agent means a law-suit. If he does not meet him, a notice like this is received:

"Dear Sir: Your note for \$25, made payable to the Electric Churn Company, is in our hands for collection. Come forward and settle the same promptly, or the matter will be placed in the courts.

Respectfully,

JACKSON & JACKSON,
Attorneys-at-Law."

Jones begins to think. "I never signed any note; I only signed an agreement. The agent kept dinging me until I put my name on the paper."

He did not notice that it was nothing but a note after all the rubbish of words were stripped off. Now what must he do? He goes to the lawyers and says: "I want to see that paper you fellows have got here against me. You said it was a note. I did not give any note. It was nothing but an agreement."

The lawyer says: "Mr. Jones, leave out all the agreement part and it just simply leaves a plain note. The best thing for you to do is to pay the money and save costs."

He shows the paper and Jones acknowledges signing it. He finally agrees to pay it in a few days. He

gets the money and goes to the depot and gets the churn. He calls in at a hardware store and sees a churn almost like the one he bought, and is informed that it can be bought for \$5.

"Well, I have lost several days' time and about as many nights' sleep and twenty dollars besides! What a fool I am! Just see what I have spent!" His wife tries the churn a few times and sets it away and takes the old one.

Moral: Do not buy anything from agents who will not let you test their machine. And do not sign papers without first carefully reading them.

* * *

This is very much like the scenes that are being enacted all over the country. Farmers who do not read much are usually the victims. We are proud to say that The Progressive Farmer has been an eye-opener wherever it has been read.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

The Tobacco Convention.

Since the American Tobacco Trust and the Imperial Tobacco Trust pooled their issues and divided out the world between them, there has been quite a drop in the price of tobacco. One of the largest tobacco growers in the State said yesterday that the slump in prices was about four cents in the pound in common tobacco and two cents per pound in the better grades. Think how many hundred thousand dollars this slump transfers from the pockets of the farmers to the pockets of the trust magnates!

There will be a meeting of the State Tobacco Growers' Association in Rocky Mount on the 19th of December. In view of the merger of the great trusts of the world and the reduction in the price of tobacco, with the outlook for much larger decreases next season, it is well for the tobacco growers to hold a conference and exchange views and try to prevent a return of the ruinous prices for tobacco that logically followed the organization of the American Tobacco Trust.

The United States Investor, one of the ablest and wisest of the financial papers, in an article this week, predicts that the American and Great Britain tobacco trust "in the near future may extend to the continent, embracing the principal manufacturers of France and Germany and possibly other countries." In an extensive article on tobacco, the

Investor gives as the reason for the better price the farmers have received this year that there has been a strong and active demand from abroad for the weed. It was to destroy in part this strong foreign demand, which was putting up the price of tobacco in the hands of the farmers, that the tobacco trust was so anxious to swallow up the English trust. Both were interested in getting cheaper tobacco. The day they merged was a dark day for the tobacco grower.

The agents and apologists of the tobacco trust are telling the farmers that the cause of the reduction of prices is due to the fact that the farmers are rushing it too rapidly to market. The answer to that explanation is that the rush is not nearly so great as two months ago—before the trusts joined—when prices were two and four cents a pound higher than now. Of course rushing any crop to market too rapidly depresses the price some, but that is not the cause of the big reduction in the price of tobacco. Well-posted tobacco men do not think the trust will put down the price of tobacco much more this season. It is to their interest to encourage a large acreage next year by paying a living price for the remainder of the crop this year.—News and Observer.

Give the Farmer Boy a Chance.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The boys are leaving the farm. What is the cause of this exodus? A failure to appreciate the opportunities in agricultural pursuits. The country boy leaves the farm because he sees nothing ahead of him but drudgery and endless toil. He does not understand the vital relation of the sciences to the progress of modern agriculture. He is ignorant of the fundamental principles that govern his occupation. The operations on his father's plantation are in all probability carried on after the fashion of a hundred years ago. The methods pursued are antiquated, the fields are cultivated in a slipshod manner, the financial returns are meager, and it is little wonder that the youth determines to seek his fortune elsewhere.

What is the remedy? Education; in order that the farmer's boy may have an equal chance in his chosen profession with that of his city brother. It seems to be an axiom in the country home that the boy who intends to be a doctor or a lawyer

must be educated, while the one who proposes to be a farmer must not be associated in any way with "book l'arnin'." This is where the most serious mistake has been made. Farming is a business. The profits in farming are directly measured by the intelligent effort put into the business. Treat nature wisely and she will yield bountiful harvests.

Is it not time that this fearful drain upon the best element of the rural district was stopped? Is it not time that rational methods were pursued in agriculture? Is it not time that the country boy was given a chance to secure that education that will enable him to appreciate his occupation, to conduct it on broad and common-sense lines and with a margin of profit? Agricultural pursuits never offered higher rewards than today. There never was a time when the country offered such bright prospects to educated effort.

In view of all this, is it not surprising that more Southern farmers do not avail themselves of the practical agricultural education offered their sons through the medium of the short courses in agriculture, horticulture and dairying in the State University at Knoxville? Farmers, educate your boys. One of these courses only costs about fifty dollars. No investment that you can make will repay you so well.

Give the farmer boy a chance. Give him an opportunity to obtain an education that lifts his business from the plane of drudgery to a remunerative and inspiring calling. The country needs his services. His education means the beautifying of the whole face of nature and the changing of barren soils and washed and gulleed hillsides into pleasant and profitable fields which will afford rich feeding for much live stock. Educate the farmer boys. The State, through its University, offers the privilege of an agricultural education at a trifling cost. The agricultural prosperity of the State depends upon it; the future welfare of the nation will be measured by it.

A. M. SOULE.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Monroe Enquirer: The exceptionally warm fall has been most favorable to small grain, and oats never were finer at this season of the year than they are now, but we learn that chinch bugs and Hessian flies have made their appearance in some oat fields and are doing considerable damage.