

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER—VOL. XIX. NO. 46.
THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXI. NO. 45.

RALEIGH, N. C., JANUARY 3, 1905.

Weekly—\$1 a Year.

PORT ARTHUR FALLEN!

Port Arthur has fallen!

An Associated Press dispatch, sent out at noon Monday, 2nd, says that the State Department at Washington has received official dispatches announcing the surrender of Port Arthur to the Japanese forces.

This information is later than that given on page 8. The surrender is a fearful blow to Russian prestige in the Far East.

A CLEAN SWEEP.

Our 10-cent and 15-cent subscribers are responding marvelously to our appeal for renewals. They are coming in by dozens, scores, hundreds. But we must make a clean sweep. We do not want one left in outer darkness. If you sent in a club, please see every man before the end of the week and ask for his subscription for 1905.

In your neighborhood we expect you to do your part. Get every man to renew, if not for a year, then for six months; if not for six months, then for three months.

Let us make a clean sweep.

A Practical Suggestion.

The next time you go to the post-office get a package of 25 or 50 postal cards, and then sit down and write for the catalogs of improved implements, improved machinery, improved seeds, poultry, live stock, fertilizers, etc., as advertised in The Progressive Farmer. Then study these catalogs and find out what improvements you can make in your farming this year. If prices are low, all the more reason why you must adopt labor-saving machinery, which is always cheaper than human labor; all the more reason why you must have the tools which will cultivate the land most effectively; all the more reason why you must have the most productive varieties of crops; all the more reason why you must have the most profitable breeds of cattle and hogs and poultry. You can't make a better use of these winter nights than to get these catalogs from our advertisers and study them. And when writing, be sure to say, "I read your announcement in The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant."

North Carolina Farmers' Institutes.

Farmers' Institutes will be held by representatives of the North

Carolina Department of Agriculture at the following times and places:

Warrenton, Monday, January 9.
Jackson, Tuesday, January 10.
Halifax, Wednesday, January 11.
Kinston, Thursday, January 12.
Greenville, Friday, January 13.
Tarboro, Saturday, January 14.
Washington, Monday, January 16.
Roper, Tuesday, January 17.
Williamston, Wednesday, January 18th.
Currituck, Friday, January 20.
Camden, Saturday, January 21.
Elizabeth City, Monday, January 23rd.
Hertford, Tuesday, January 24.
Edenton, Wednesday, January 25.
Gatesville, Thursday, January 26.
Winton, Friday, January 27.
Windsor, Saturday, January 28.
The addresses and discussions at these Institutes will be of the highest practical value, and we earnestly urge the attendance of all Progressive Farmer readers in the communities visited.

Favors the "Twenty Per Cent Club."

Messrs. Editors:—I see notices of Mr. Arendell's plan for "Twenty Per Cent Clubs," and I will say I want us to carry out this plan.

If you will do all you can for us, we will do the rest. You know that we must do something or we will go up. I will say I will do all in my power for the "Twenty Per Cent Club."

F. D. WILSON.

Halifax Co., N. C.

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COTTON: A SYMPOSIUM.

THE COTTON SITUATION.

Cotton the Only Low Priced Product—Organization Imperative—Manufacturers will Help—Make Estimates in Pounds—Farmers Should Make Smaller Bales.

Messrs. Editors:—The cotton situation has been so fully discussed by men more able than myself, the ground has been so thoroughly harrowed, that I feel as if nothing I can say will add anything new to the discussion. However, it sometimes does us good to take an inventory and see how we stand.

In the first place, I believe that demand and supply, when left to a normal condition, regulates the price of every commodity that has a name in commerce, and any business man or farmer who shuts his eyes to this fact will sooner or later be poorer, if not wiser.

Now what is the situation of cotton compared with other commodities? It is this: there is not another article in the whole category of human industries just at this time, save cotton alone, but that is selling for more than the cost of production. The great discoveries of gold helped to settle the money question: the hum of human industries is heard both night and day; yet in all this intense activity it is only in this Southland of ours that the cry of "low prices" is heard, and that for her great staple—cotton.

Some great writer in the North, in looking up into the heavens at the Milky Way, exclaimed that it was but the reflection of light from the cotton fields in Dixie. Happy thought indeed! Cotton is king! and when left to a normal condition of demand and supply, it is the greatest money crop on earth. Of the \$500,000,000, in round numbers, balance of trade in favor of this country last year, three-fourths was for cotton and cotton goods alone. If it were not for cotton, the balance of trade in favor of this country would sink to an insignificant amount, our gold reserve would become exhausted, and we would become a borrowing instead of a lending nation. This is one side of the situation.

* * *

Now another: After a long depression of prices from 1893 to 1901, owing as much to the scarcity of

money as anything else, great discoveries of gold were made in Alaska and elsewhere. This, combined with the short crop of 1901, made cotton once more king. New industries were opened up, old ones were enlarged, mortgages we had tried for years to shake off were cancelled, new school-houses were built, old ones made more comfortable, the people awakening everywhere to the advantages of education. How could we educate, from 1893 to 1901, with cotton from four and one-half to six cents per pound? It took everything we could do to keep buckle and tongue together, so to speak. After waiting and toiling so many long years, the clouds of adversity began to clear up. The star of hope had just risen above the horizon.

Then, just as we were going to reap the benefits of fair prices for the last three crops, the greatest blow we have ever received in the history of this country has befallen us—but a blow we were never in better condition to withstand than now. On or about December 3rd, the gamblers of Wall Street, by selling paper cotton, and through the influence of the Government report, depressed the price of cotton more than ten dollars a bale, thereby entailing a loss of more than \$40,000,000 to the Southern cotton planter, which means a loss of two dollars per capita for every man, woman and child here.

* * *

Now what is a remedy for the present and a safeguard for the future? This is the burning question of the hour. It is a gigantic task to organize the farmers, a herculean task indeed, but I believe it can be done, and done effectively. The "bears" of Wall Street have over-done themselves. They have attacked the farmer in the hour of his greatest strength since the war. It will take time and a combination of the best brain and business capacity of the whole South to complete this organization and make it effective, but once completed, its effect on business everywhere will be incalculable. Call it a trust if you will, and there are some things about a trust that are commendable; and one thing you can rely on: when men combine together as one man and move in a certain

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