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We Guarantee Our Advertisers.

WE will positively make good the loss sustained by any subscriber as a result of fraudulent misrepresentations made in our columns on the part of any advertiser who proves to be a deliberate swindler. This does not mean that we will try to adjust trifling disputes between reliable business houses and their patrons, but in any case of actually fraudulent dealing, we will make good to the subscriber as we have just indicated. The condition of this guarantee is that the claim for loss shall be reported to us within one month after the advertisement appears in our paper, and that the subscriber must say when writing each advertiser: "I am writing you as an advertiser in The Progressive Farmer and Gazette, which guarantees the reliability of all advertising that it carries."

Editorial Gleanings.

VERY REASONABLE question about agricultural subjects that comes to us receives a direct personal answer—that is, if the writer signs his name and gives his postoffice. So far as we know, no other farm paper does this; and the cost of doing it amounts to hundreds of dollars in the course of a year. We are glad to give this aid to our readers, however, and feel it part of our work for the cause of better farming. But we must ask our friends not to ask questions that have no relation to farming, not to ask questions that no man can answer, and, above all, not to ask questions that have been answered over and over in the columns of the paper. If you can't find the information you desire in the paper, write to us and we will do the best we can for you; but be sure before you write that the question hasn't been answered in the last issue or so of the paper, and don't forget to sign your name and write your address plainly. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is the best thing to insure no mistake on this point. Moreover, if you file your papers and get our index, you can often find your question answered in some back number without an hour's waiting.

The extraordinary heavy editions we have had to print of late, and the increased size of each individual paper, have overtaxed the capacity of our presses, running day and night though they have been. In order to catch up, we are forced to have this week's issue printed by the Daily News and Observer, which accounts for some changes from our usual style of printing, folding, and pasting.

"You may judge a civilization by its buildings," writes John Stewart Bryan in what is perhaps the most significant single paragraph in the Southern number of Collier's Weekly. "A century ago Virginia's great edifices," he goes on to illustrate, "were the homes of the planters, beautiful and stately shrines for an individualism that is gone. It is the country schoolhouse that dominates the landscape in Virginia to-day. That change is the most impressive and hopeful fact in Virginia's life, for it is a visible demonstration of faith of the people that the best education possible is the

right of the child and the duty of the State." It is seldom that one sees a finer truth more finely put. And Mr. Bryan has himself done not a little to bring about the better condition of which he writes.

W. P. Brown, the New Orleans cotton bull, declares that he will not be surprised to see cotton 20 cents a pound in the near future. Nearly all the cotton has passed out of the hands of the farmers, and a speculative movement at this time will not only seriously injure the manufacturers and demoralize business generally, but will probably prove hurtful to the farmers themselves in the long run by stimulating overproduction this year. This is another reason for supporting the efforts of the Farmers' Union to restrict gambling in farm products, if there is any practical way.

The Yorkville, S. C., Enquirer puts it this way, and perhaps this statement of the case will reach some that have not been reached by our former statements: "Right now, live pork on foot is selling at from 10½ to 11 cents a pound, corn is worth \$1.10 to \$1.15 a bushel, and flour is worth \$7 a barrel with a good chance of going higher. Fifteen-cent cotton will not buy these commodities at these prices, and it is the part of wisdom for every farmer to arrange to raise these things before he arranges for the planting of his cotton crop."

Again, we would urge our readers to save their papers. It is easier to start the habit at the first of the year while there is a chance to keep all the 1910 copies together than it will be later. Remember, we shall be glad to send copies of our 1909 index to any reader sending a two-cent stamp for a copy. We shall publish our 1910 index either quarterly or semi-annually, so that our readers may quickly and easily find articles on any subject in which they are interested.

Have you no love for the acres you tend? Do you not wish to see them fairer and more fruitful? Do you feel no throb of pity or no sense of shame when you see them bare and gullied, or weed-grown and water-logged? Have you not dreamed of how beautiful and productive they might be made? If not, you dare not call yourself a good farmer.

If the boy has a calf or a pig or even a pair of chickens all his own, the work in the corn and cotton fields will not seem so hard. And when the boy's cow or sow presents him with a calf or a litter of pigs—well, he is likely, if he has any farming blood in him, to take a fresh grip on country life.

A good movement, and one that should be encouraged, is to have the farms in connection with the county poor-houses in the South made demonstration farms. A number of counties are working this plan with excellent success.

This is a good time to get rid of the stumps which cumber the ground that should be put to better use. A wide-awake farmer will find opportunity for putting his time to profitable use every day of winter as well as summer.

We learn from one of the Western farm papers that six hundred farmers attended the short course at the Iowa Agricultural College this winter. Why shouldn't we have such records as this in the South?

You should have put out that strawberry bed last fall; but if you didn't it can be done this spring. Just what excuse can any Southern farmer give for being without strawberries, anyway?

The farm tools standing out in the rain, are they? Not only an evidence of lack of pride in your work, but also a gross and needless waste.

The Biggest Money-Making Opportunity Offered Southern Farmers.

IS COTTON HIGH? Cost of production and shortness of crop considered, cotton is not half so high as meat.

Five acres in hog pasture in 1910 will make you twice the profit of five acres in cotton.

Start now with rape, oats, and Canada peas; a little later, corn; then soy beans, cowpeas, and sorghum—these (as an article in next week's paper will indicate) will make pork for you at three cents a pound.

And hogs are now selling at nine to eleven cents!

There are going to be hundreds of thousands of farmers going cotton crazy this spring; nothing can stop them. Don't "follow this multitude to do evil"—and get caught.

Rather, put fewer acres in cotton, more acres in hog pasture. You may say that the cattle tick prevents you from raising cattle, but there's no reason why we can't beat the West raising hogs. And consider this Associated Press dispatch just sent out from Chicago:

"HOGS GETTING HIGHER.

"Reach the Highest Price, Save One, in the Past Forty Years.

"Chicago, Illinois, Feb. 14.—The widespread agitation against the high price of meat has failed to check the advance in hog prices, live stock at the stock yards here selling to-day at the highest mark, with one exception, of the last forty years. The new high point recorded to-day was \$9.28½ per hundred pounds, and predictions were freely made that within a few weeks the \$10 level will have been passed.

"Continued light receipts of hogs at all Western packing centres and an unusually active demand by Eastern shippers, are the reasons for the persistent upward trend."

And if you are going to raise hogs, raise hogs you can fatten quickly and thereby get greater profits. Get blooded breeding stock. Every breeder who has any improved breeds for sale should make haste to let the fact be known.

There is a flood of golden profit in meat-raising at present prices. Southern farmers cannot afford longer to surrender this profit to their Western brethren.

Re-arrange your farming plans for 1910 and add several acres for hog pasture.

The Virginia Governor's Good Example.

WRITING FOR OUR paper a few weeks ago, Mr. O. B. Martin, in charge of the boys' corn club work of the United States Department of Agriculture, suggested that Southern Governor's give diplomas to boys making the best yields in each State. It is gratifying to see that Virginia's new Chief Executive, Governor Mann, acts on this matter in his inaugural address. Reciting the progressive action of State Superintendent Eggleston and State Demonstration Agent Sandy in arranging to have five thousand boys each cultivate an acre under demonstration methods, Governor Mann announces this policy which every other Southern Governor should be urged to adopt:

"To encourage the boys, I propose to offer them certificates of merit, as follows: Special certificate to the boy under eighteen producing the largest yield of corn per acre, not to be less than one hundred bushels; certificate number one, to all boys under eighteen who produce one hundred bushels of corn per acre or over; certificate number two, to all boys of the required age producing seventy-five bushels per acre and over, and certificate number three, to all boys under eighteen producing fifty bushels per acre or over."

No fruit on your farm? Then there is something the matter with the farmer.