

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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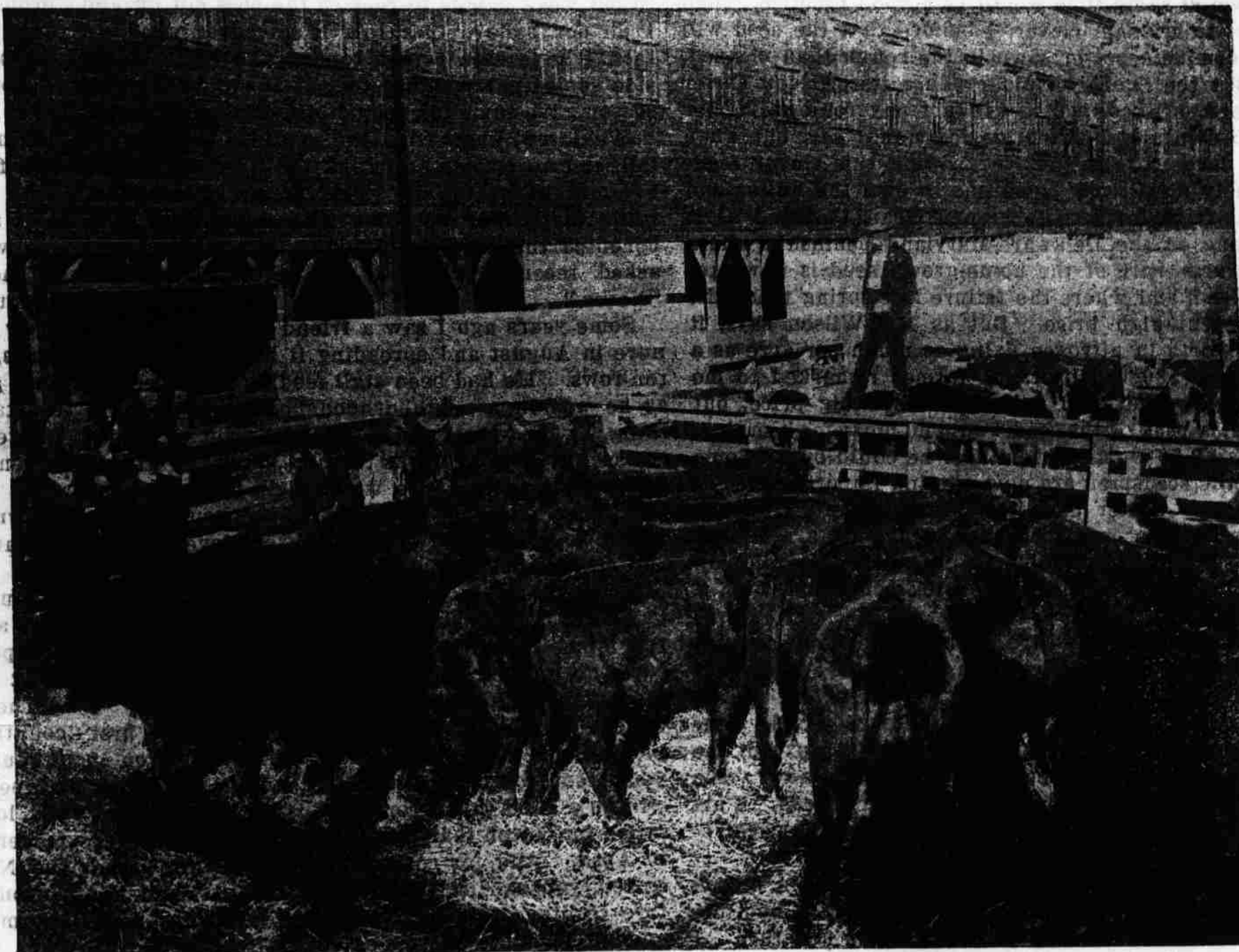
RALEIGH, N. C., AUGUST 20, 1910.

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The Tide is Turning and the New Day Dawning.

It has been but a little while since we ran across the story of how farmers around Shreveport, La., last winter for the first time found themselves with corn to sell instead of to buy—a thing the railroads had never even contemplated—with the result that freight rates had to be readjusted, as they were, and hundreds of cars of 1909 corn were shipped out of Shreveport, while from the depot at Belcher Station alone fourteen cars of hogs were shipped to Fort Worth.

Straws show which way the wind blows—and also which way the tide flows, and straws like this show how the tide is turning in the South. Another straw, and a big one, which shows how the tide is turning and the new day dawning in the South, is this letter just received from Dr. L. S. Rogers, of West, Miss. What the farmers of this little Mississippi town are doing, farmers around many and many another once sleepy Southern hamlet or village are now getting ready to do—and why not the farmers in your neighborhood, Mr. Subscriber? We quote Dr. Rogers' letter as follows:



ABERDEEN ANGUS CATTLE MARKETED AT THE CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

"From what I see in your paper, I think you are doing a great work for the farmers of Mississippi. There is no questioning the fact that there is a great revolution going on in farming methods.

"There were more sulky riding plows, disk plows, riding cultivators, smoothing harrows, etc., sold here this year than in the ten preceding years. People are buying binders, seeders, drills, threshers. More oats were sown and threshed than ever before. More hog wire sold. More improved hogs and cattle being bought than ever before.

"This being true, any one can see that there is a great change being worked out by our farmers. That it will be for the good of the whole country, no one denies. Our Board of Supervisors, at last meeting, passed an ordinance to eradicate the cattle tick. This is a great step forward for Holmes County. It is hoped that the adjoining counties of Carroll and Attala will do likewise.

"It might be of interest to your readers to know how much butter, eggs, poultry and beef cattle are shipped from this point (West). These figures are direct from the books of the I. C. R. Co., given me by the agent, January 1st to August 1st, 11,973 pounds of butter, 515 cases of eggs, 13,250 pounds of poultry; 36 carloads of cattle in last 12 months. This at same rate balance of year, and at 20c. per pound for butter, 20c. per dozen for eggs, 12½c. per pound for poultry, \$600 per car for cattle. foots up about \$40,000 that this brings to our little town per year. With very little effort from the dreaded boll weevil it could be increased ten times."

There are many good points in this letter—in fact, it is as full of good points as a pin cushion—but the best one of all is that which tells of the fine shipments of cattle and dairy products. There's no getting away from the fact that the only way

to get a profitable agriculture in the Cotton States, or anywhere else under Heaven, is to raise stock along with our field crops. We might as well try to fight against the stars in their courses as fight against the fundamental law. As we say on page 10:

"The plant feeds on the soil, the animal feeds on the plant, and the fertility goes back to the soil. This is the Almighty's trinity—the plant, the animal, the soil—over and over again in unending cycles, if the earth is to be kept fruitful. Any sort of farming that tries to exist with only two of the three—the soil and the plant—flies in the face of Nature and of Providence and can only end in failure and in poverty."

FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

BETTER CARE OF THE FARM MACHINERY—How the Life of the Average Farm Tool Might Be Doubled.....	6
THE RIGHT WAY TO SOW WHEAT AND OATS—Why It Pays to Prepare the Soil Well and Put the Seed in With a Drill.....	8
WHAT PROFESSOR MASSEY THINKS—Corn and Cotton Problems, Permanent Pastures, Winter Cover Crops, Silos.....	2
HOW TO SAVE CORN STOVER—A Symposium.....	4
WHAT THE BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULD DO.....	8
WHY THE SOUTH MUST HAVE PASTURES.....	7
HOW TO GET RID OF THE CATTLE TICK.....	12
POULTRY, BEES, AND THE GARDEN.....	16 and 17
SOME BOOKS FOR THE FARM HOME.....	14
SYMPTOMS OF TICK FEVER.....	13
THE TORRENS SYSTEM.....	11