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Editorial Gleanings.

WE ARE ALWAYS glad to get up advertising for our readers who have something to sell but feel that they can not write ads. If you have stock or poultry or seed to advertise, for example, write us all the main facts that might interest buyers, and we will be glad to fix a telling, catchy announcement and submit it for your approval, if you desire, before inserting it in the paper. We have before us now a letter from a subscriber who wishes a farm manager, telling us about what his needs and wishes are, and concluding:

"Now, Mr. Editor, I am going to intrust myself to your hands. Write me a little ad. and insert it till I tell you to stop, and I feel that you can arrange it with the information given much better than I can."

We shall be glad to do as much for you.

There are few people who realize the great growth the trucking industry is making in North Carolina. For example, the strawberry crop shipped North this year amounted to \$1,392,885; and one house in Boston handled this season twenty-six cars of North Carolina peaches on which the average net returns per car were \$833. Of course, these are only two items in the long list of fruits and vegetables out of which the truckers are making money. Other Southern States can doubtless show a similar activity along this line.

About the most short-sighted man imaginable is the cattle owner who opposes tick eradication because it causes him some temporary inconvenience, or may stand in the way of his making a dollar or two more this year trading in cattle. When a few months of inconvenience or a dollar or two less profits now means freedom from ticks and greater profits for all future time, it does seem incredible that any man can be so short-sighted, but there is no accounting for the conduct of a man who is ignorant and will not try to inform himself, or who is fully controlled by short-sighted selfishness.

Iowa has a pure seed law, which prevents the selling of adulterated or misbranded seeds. As a result, Dr. L. H. Pammel announces that "the quality of seed sold to Iowa farmers is much better than it was." We need such a law in every State, and we need to educate ourselves, as farmers, up to the point of growing a larger part of

our own seeds, of buying farm seeds only by sample, and of demanding of the seedsman that he at least guarantee the seeds he offers true to name and free from weed seeds.

Every good citizen should know public men and study political questions, but politics is about the most "over-done" business in the South today. Everything is sacrificed to politics and the scramble for office. If the same energy, thought and time were devoted to soil improvement during the next two years as will be given to useless politics, it would matter little to the farmers of the South who got the postoffices or held the little county offices.

We clipped the same day from a daily newspaper and a country weekly the accounts of two large gatherings in North Carolina. It was estimated that 7,000 people were at one meeting and 10,000 at the other, and not a drunken man in either crowd! The man who doubts that the excessive use of alcoholic liquors is decreasing is a man who will not open his eyes; and when the few old toppers now living pass away, a drunken man will be a curiosity almost anywhere in the rural districts of the South.

The Wiregrass Country puts the matter truthfully when it says if the South does not get thrifty Americans to develop its territory now we shall have foreigners instead a little later. As our contemporary says:

"If you do not want foreign immigration in the South you had better hurry to get some Americans here while you may. Or else the time will speedily come when the foreigners will come without your invitation."

There was a time when farmers refused to take instruction or facts from any but farmers. While they adhered to this practice they made little progress. After a time they began to learn that the laboratory men and the experimenters had facts and information for them that could be put to good use on their farms; and now most of them who think don't care where the facts come from or who give these facts to them, just so long as they are real facts.

That the South is destined to be one of the richest agricultural sections of America, we firmly believe. But it can never be until our Southern farmers learn that commercial fertilizers will not take the place of good soil management, and until they learn to buy what their crops need instead of certain prescribed formulas of whose real value and real character they know nothing.

We shall await with much interest the new census statistics showing the progress of our Southern farmers in the last ten years. Some figures now before us show that South Carolina, for example, has increased her corn crop from 13,128,137 bushels in 1900, to 37,041,000 in 1909.

Any man can raise good fair crops on a rich soil when weather conditions are favorable, but it takes a good farmer to increase the fertility of his farm while still making a support from it, or to grow good crops in unfavorable seasons. It is the bad season that points out the good farmer.

The popularity of the Farm Demonstration Work in South Carolina is strikingly illustrated by the fact that the South Carolina Cotton Manufacturers' Association has just appropriated \$1,000 for the work.

The North Carolina State Farmers' Institute is in session this week at the A. & M. College. A report of the meeting by Prof. C. L. Newman will be published next week.

Rotation in Office, Wise and Unwise.

THE PRINCIPLE of rotation in office was one very earnestly advocated by Thomas Jefferson, and it is interesting to see that his opinions on the subject are now being quoted with approval in many parts of our territory. There is no doubt that the principle of rotation is wise and healthful, but there are one or two modifying facts which our voters should keep in mind.

In the first place, a very sharp distinction should be made between the offices in which merely routine work is done, such as those of Sheriff, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Auditor, Secretary of State, etc., etc., on one hand and, on the other hand, offices requiring a high degree of constructive ability and technical skill such as Commissioner of Agriculture, Superintendent of Education, Supervisor of Roads, Health Commissioner, etc., etc. Formerly most officers of this class it is certainly important that a distinction be made between the two types. Of course, no inefficient man ought to be kept in any office because he is supposed to have had experience in it, but we hope our Progressive Farmer readers will see to it that the wise principle of rotation is not carried to unwise extremes. Dr. S. C. Mitchell, of the University of South Carolina, declared the other day that while it was originally said that there were three departments of government, legislative, executive, and judicial, we now recognize four,—legislative, executive, judicial, and educational. In the executive offices, the mere execution of political and financial machinery, it is well to have rotation, but when a really able man has been found for the management of the schools, the roads, public health work, or agricultural development, there is no more reason for making frequent changes than there is for changing the professors in the State University.

In short, let us have as much rotation as the people wish in the executive offices, but less in legislative offices where influence comes with experience; still less in judicial offices, and least of all, perhaps, in the educational offices—provided in each case that the officer be a really able man who is doing his work well.

The Parcels Post and the Local Merchant

WE ARE GLAD to see that some of our Southern daily papers are taking up the fight for the parcels post. This is one measure now before Congress that would be of such immediate and decided value to the rural districts that no farmer can afford to be indifferent to it. It does not speak much for our progressiveness that Americans should be the only civilized people deprived of this convenience. That we have not had it before now is due to the inactivity of the mass of farmers and to the active opposition of the express companies and the merchants of the country towns.

The express companies will continue to fight it, of course, but to the merchants we would commend the following words of the Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier:

"The proposition is simply this: Do the people of the United States want small packages, of twenty pounds weight, say, or less, transported at but a fraction of the present cost, with every rural delivery box a point of shipment as well as a point of delivery?"

"We are told that they do not, that it is better to pay extortionate rates for the present service than to run the risk of the mail-order houses competing with merchants in small towns. We do not know that such an argument will appeal to the farmer. It will strike him as a kind of body blow at his interests. He is willing enough to endorse good roads so that he can go into the towns to buy and sell, but he is hardly prepared to keep upon himself a transportation tax in addition, not, it seems, for his own benefit, but for the benefit of the merchants of the small towns. Opposition to the parcels post, as ex-