

pressed in the arguments we have seen, is based on the proposition that town merchants will not get the farmer's business if the farmer can get better and more convenient service elsewhere, wherefore the town merchants do not want him to have any better service.

"While, then, considered thus, this opposition is a selfish and indefensible thing, we feel that the town merchants do themselves a great economic wrong in opposing the proposed service. They would be the very ones to profit by it. Farmers can now buy in town only by coming into town in person. With cheap delivery of parcels by rural carriers, farmers would telephone or write into town for everything they needed. They would not order from New York or Chicago. They would order from the local stores, which would give practically as good service. No people in the world should more heartily endorse the parcels post than town merchants who do business with the farmers."

There is good hard sense in this, and the opposition of the country store-keepers is based, not only on pure selfishness, but on very shortsighted selfishness. The present system is unjust to the merchant as well as to the farmer. We have a parcels post treaty with England, and the result is, that a merchant in London or Liverpool could send by mail 11 pounds of merchandise to a farmer in the Carolinas or Virginia for \$1.32. If a merchant in the farmer's nearest town wanted to send the farmer this 11 pounds of merchandise, he would have to pay \$1.76 postage and make four separate packages out of the goods.

Logical, isn't it? Exceeding creditable to the men who make our postal laws?

How long will farmers continue to elect Congressmen who vote to continue such a system?

Some Features of This Issue.

FARM AND GARDEN Work for September"; "Ten Things to Do This Month"; September Work in the Poultry Yard"; talks on such timely topics as fodder pulling, the seeding of bur clover and vetch, sweet potato houses; the live stock notes—of all these timely things timeliness is the chief characteristics. They are things that you should be looking after right now. There are things on a farm that you can postpone and things that you can not, and the good farmer is the one who is ready to do the things of the latter class at the right time.

You will want to read, too, Mrs. Hollowell's story of how she was converted to the hookworm theory; Professor Barrow's account of South Carolina crops and weather; the short talks from farmers in "All Around the Farm"; the letter to the boys who are fattening pigs, and Dr. Butler's article on tick eradication.

Then on the Home Circle page there are some suggestions of things to do for your schools, and the story of a North Carolina school that has in it a message to farm women—and farm men, too,—in every Southern neighborhood. There is no nobler work than the upbuilding of our rural schools. Let each one of us this year do all in his or her power to make them a success, and thus to help the children of the South to better things than we have known.

Remember, you have no right to trouble us with any complaint about your dealings with any advertiser unless you say when making the purchase, "I am buying from you as a guaranteed advertiser in The Progressive Farmer and Gazette," or at least, "I saw your ad. in The Progressive Farmer and Gazette." We can not undertake to settle any controversies that may develop unless you do this. We put ourselves to great trouble and expense to see that every subscriber gets absolutely honest treatment from every advertiser, but you must live up to your part of our advertising guarantee if you expect us to live up to our part. It will take only a few seconds whenever you write to any advertiser to say, "I saw your ad. in The Progressive Farmer and Gazette," and even if an advertiser were inclined to be careless, this would make him give you more careful attention. He then knows that if he does not give you satisfaction, he may hear from us.

"What's The News?"

Forest Fires in the Northwest.

OUT IN THE NORTHWEST forest fires have been sweeping over thousands of square miles of territory. Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California have all suffered; the loss of life is estimated at over 200, and the extent of the damage will never be fully known, though it must be measured by millions. After all the talking that has been done about forest preservation, and after all the legislation on the subject, it is now made evident to all that we have not yet done the most obvious and necessary thing toward preserving our forests—that is, to provide adequate means of controlling forest fires. It will take centuries to repair, so far as the forests are concerned, the damage done in these few days, and hundreds of people are homeless and, in many cases, practically bankrupt.

That the loss both of life and of property would have been much greater except for the heroic work of the men employed by the Forest Service can not be doubted. Eighty-six of these brave men are known to have perished in their efforts to control the fire, and many others are yet missing.

In an interview, Gifford Pinchot says:

"If even a small fraction of the loss from the present fires had been expended in additional patrol and preventive equipment, some, or perhaps nearly all of the loss, could have been avoided."

He lays the blame largely upon those members of Congress who have prevented adequate equipment of the service, and scores particularly Congressman Mondell, Senator Carter, and the notorious Heyburn, who has been the chief objector to the forest reserves and whose home town, Wallace, Idaho, suffered greatly. The same view of the matter is taken by Mr. Graves, the present Forester.

While such fires as these are not to be expected in the South, they make clear the egregious folly of any State in which the forests are of economic importance neglecting to take steps to prevent forest fires. Only one or two States in our territory have made any provision at all for the control and prevention of forest fires, and in every one of them the annual loss from such fires amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Surely, it is time for us to realize the "penny wise and pound foolish" nature of such a course.

Other Happenings of the Week.

GENERAL INTEREST was taken in the Georgia primaries where Hoke Smith won out by a small majority over Governor Brown who defeated him two years ago. Mr. Smith represents the "progressive" element of the Democratic Party while Governor Brown was the candidate of the "conservatives." A hard fight was made on the Democratic Congressmen who came to the relief of Speaker Cannon last year when the fight was on over the House rules. All of them were re-nominated, however, except Livingston and Howard, the leaders of the delegation in rank and length of service. These two men seemed to be generally blamed for the defection of their colleagues, and the results indicate that Cannonism is not much more popular in the South than it seems to be in the North and West.

The new Senator from Florida, ex-Governor N. P. Broward, began life as cook on a tug-boat. He is 50 years old, and one of the best posted men in the South on the vital subject of drainage. Senator Tallafarro, whom Broward succeeds, represents the old machine type of politician with corporation alliances, and it is significant that in Florida as every else in America, the people are turning from leaders of this kind and giving support to men whose reliance is in constructive plans rather than in political shrewdness. Senator Broward will, doubtless, do much to get Congress to do its part in the work of draining Southern lands. He is a good speaker and a man of commanding presence.

The death of William James, for many years Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, removes one of the really great men of our time. "He made science as interesting as a novel," was a comment on his writings, and their influence on thinking men and women all over the country is not easily over-estimated. It is not too much to say that he was our foremost scientist; and with

it a great writer and a man of unusual breadth of vision and wonderful depth of insight. He is likely to be remembered when most of the names that now fill the newspapers are forgotten.

Census returns indicate that the center of population has moved westward very little, if any. The larger cities nearly all show heavy gains, and in some parts of the West the rural districts an actual decline. The population of Oklahoma has increased 109 per cent in the decade. Rhode Island, the only other State announced, has made a gain of 26.6 per cent.

Mr. Roosevelt is on a speaking tour that will extend throughout the West. He is being enthusiastically received and his speeches are generally regarded as a direct bid for the Presidential nomination next time. He has agreed to go to the New York Republican convention and lead the fight against the "old guard"—a little ring of corrupt bosses who have long controlled the party, and against whom Governor Hughes has waged a hard and partially successful war.

It is now announced that the germ of leprosy has been isolated and grown in cultures. This means that it will be possible to prepare a serum—like the anti-toxin used against diphtheria—and control the disease. That this scourge of the race that has gone on unchecked through the centuries should at last be mastered, is one of the great triumphs of modern science.

Joseph C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, who spent \$42,000 to secure a nomination to Congress, has been arrested on the charge of "conspiracy to debauch the voters." He is in ill health, a multi-millionaire, is recognized as the representative of the Standard Oil Company, and has affiliated with all parties. There will be few to regret his passing.

Emperor William, of Germany, made a speech last week again asserting that he rules by divine right. This harking back to the obsolete doctrines of a hundred years ago is not likely to strengthen his position with the masses in a country where only an unfair voting system prevents the Socialists gaining control of the government.

Returns from the South Carolina primary indicate that the second race for Governor will be between C. C. Featherstone, prohibitionist, and S. L. Blease, local optionist. C. A. Smith is nominated for Lieutenant-Governor, and J. F. Lyon for Attorney-General. All the present Congressmen are probably re-nominated.

Over in Spain,—and to a less degree in Portugal,—the old war between Church and State goes on. Premier Canalejas has brought forward a bill placing other churches on practically the same footing as the Roman Catholic, and the Clericals are fighting it furiously. The outcome is yet uncertain.

Mr. Flora L. Dotger, of New Jersey, who died recently, left an estate estimated at \$1,000,000 to Tuskegee Institute, of which Booker T. Washington is the head.

Justice Moody, of the United States Supreme Court, on account of prolonged ill health, announces that he will retire in November.

Ex-Senator Wilkinson Call, of Florida, is dead.

Next week, remember, will be our "Young Folks' Special"; and September 24 our "Good Roads Special." For this we want 100 short reports from our readers as to what they, their districts, their townships, their counties, have done in the making of better roads. Five prizes of \$1 each will be given for the five best reports. Make them short, 200 to 500 words, and get them to us as soon as possible, September 15 at the latest.

A Thought for the Week.

IN A PROPERLY organized rural neighborhood could be developed that higher kind of attraction which is suggested by the very word "neighborhood." Once get the farmers and their families all working together at something that concerns them all, and we have the beginning of a more stable and a more social community than is likely to exist amid the constant change and bustle of the large towns.—Sir Horace Plunkett, in "The Rural Life Problem."