

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Weekly for the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee.

FOUNDED, 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.

Vol. XXVII. No. 29.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1912.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

ONE of the many wide and promising fields for co-operation among farm folk is to be found in the organization and conduct of community life. In most cities and towns will be found organizations of some sort having for their end the improvement of the community in some respect or other. There may be a Civic Federation, a Village Improvement Society, a Library Association, a Health League, or any one of a dozen other societies working for the benefit of the whole community. The value of these organizations can scarcely be overestimated. They are to be credited not only with the tangible results they bring about, but also with the spirit of civic loyalty and of unselfish interest in others which they promote.

Such organizations are as yet rare in the country districts, but the country needs them not less than the town. In too many country communities there is no community life at all. By this we mean that there is no feeling of responsibility on the part of the different individuals or families for the welfare of the community, no local pride, no attempt at local co-operation in business matters, no social center for the community, no realization, in short, of the fact that the interests of all the members of the community are closely related and that only through the organization and co-operation of the various members can the community be made what it should be.

Of course, there are various organizations which do more or less work along this line in different neighborhoods, but often this work is only incidental to some other purpose, and oftener still the community has no such organization at all. The Farmers' Union locals are doing good work for community development in many instances; the Woman's Betterment Associations re-making the schools in some localities; here and there will be found a farmers' club which is keeping alive the spirit of neighborhood unity; occasionally a church is making itself a real social center; other organizations in a few instances do something toward the conscious and effective development of the community; but, taking the country as a whole, it is the simple truth to say that in the rural districts the community spirit—the honest pride in one's own neighborhood and honest effort to make it better—is sadly lacking.

We do not mean to say that the people in the rural districts do not care as much for their neighbors and are not as much interested in bettering their own surroundings as are the people in the towns. We believe that as individuals they are. What they have not learned is to make this individual feeling of value to themselves and to others by joining in with their neighbors to do the work that needs to be done for the betterment of the neighborhood. There is not a rural

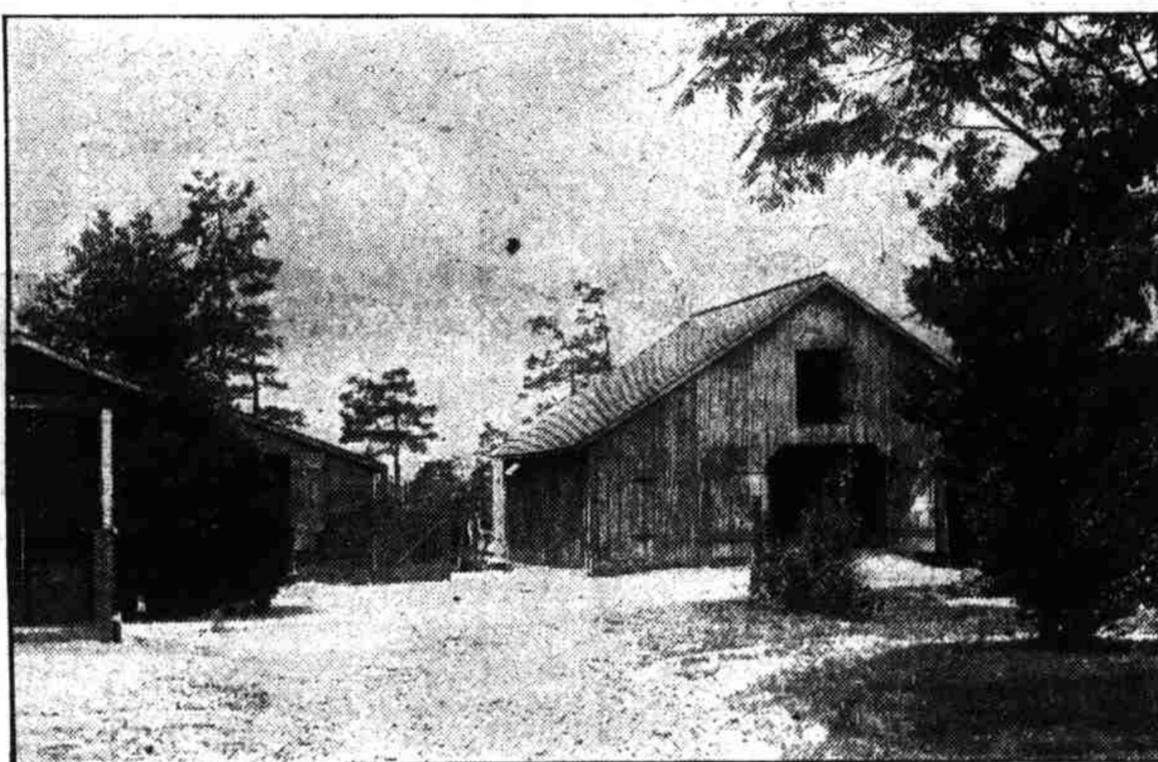
neighborhood in all our territory, we feel safe in saying, in which one or more organizations for neighborhood improvement could not find profitable employment.

Suppose a neighborhood Good Health Club, for example, devoted a winter to finding out about preventable diseases and general sanitation and then gave a summer to such preventive work in the way of cleaning up, draining, screening, etc., as might seem called for—would not the result in all probability be a healthier, a cleaner and a more aspiring neighborhood?

The lines along which effective work could be done are many indeed, and work along one line would inevitably suggest things to be done in some other. The need for such organized community effort is great and its possibilities almost beyond our comprehension. Rural life is yet largely to be developed, and it will never reach its full beauty and charm and dignity until farm people realize that their much-lamented lack of social advantages is largely their own fault, and that just as the individual gives to the welfare of the community so will the community be able to contribute to the welfare and happiness of the individual.

Only as the members of a community join together to work for the general good, is the community likely to become a more desirable and a more satisfactory place to live.

If your community is not the sort of place it ought to be, why not enlist your neighbors in a campaign to make it better?



A WELL-KEPT BACKYARD.

Too often the backyard is made a dumping ground for all sorts of useless junk, and when this is the case it is likely to become unsanitary as well as unsightly. We like the general air of neatness and thrift shown in this picture, which was sent us by Charles W. Picquet, Southern Pines, N. C.

FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION IN IRELAND—How United Effort is Re-Making Irish Agriculture	11
BREAK LAND EARLY FOR FALL GRAINS—The Best Crops Are Seldom Made on Late-Plowed Land	3
CARE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—The Concluding Article of Mr. Greaves' Series	15
CATARRHAL DISEASES OF POULTRY—Seasonable Notes on Prevention and Treatment	14
LETTERS OF INTEREST TO HAY MAKERS—The Hay Loader, Curing Alfalfa and Peavines, Storage Room	6
THIS YEAR'S COTTON PROSPECTS—Looks Now Like a Crop of Average Size	10
WHAT A GOOD PASTURE MEANS—Plain Talk by Mr. French ..	13
WHAT HOME SHOULD MEAN TO THE CHILDREN—It Should Be "the Dearest Place in All the World"	8
WHAT OUR RURAL SCHOOLS MOST NEED—A Symposium by Four State Superintendents	5
WHEN LEGUMES DO NOT IMPROVE THE SOIL—When the Entire Crop is Removed From the Land	3