

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. 35.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1912.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

LOOKING BACKWARD---AND FORWARD.

WE had occasion the other day to go back through our last year's volume of The Progressive Farmer and—all modesty aside—we found some very interesting things in it. We, of course, found a lot of things which did not please us; it was easy to see how the paper could have been changed for the better in many ways. In fact, we never turn out an issue without seeing, after it is done, where it could have been improved. For all that, however, we decided—just between ourselves—that The Progressive Farmer last year was a pretty practical, helpful sort of paper, and that it had in it some things still worth remembering.

* * *

For example, we found as a sub-head in an article by Mr. A. L. French this sentence: "The best boss is the man who can do the job himself." We should like to commend this idea to many of our friends who have trouble with their labor. We can abuse the Negro until we, too, get black in the face, and it will not make a good farm hand of him; but when the white farmers of the South themselves learn how to do well any sort of work on the farm, and get in the habit of doing it that way, they will find the Negro following right along and doing it pretty much as they do. We have no patience with the idea that the Negro cannot be trained to handle machinery or to care for livestock, for he can. He does not know how now, as a rule, simply because he has not been taught.

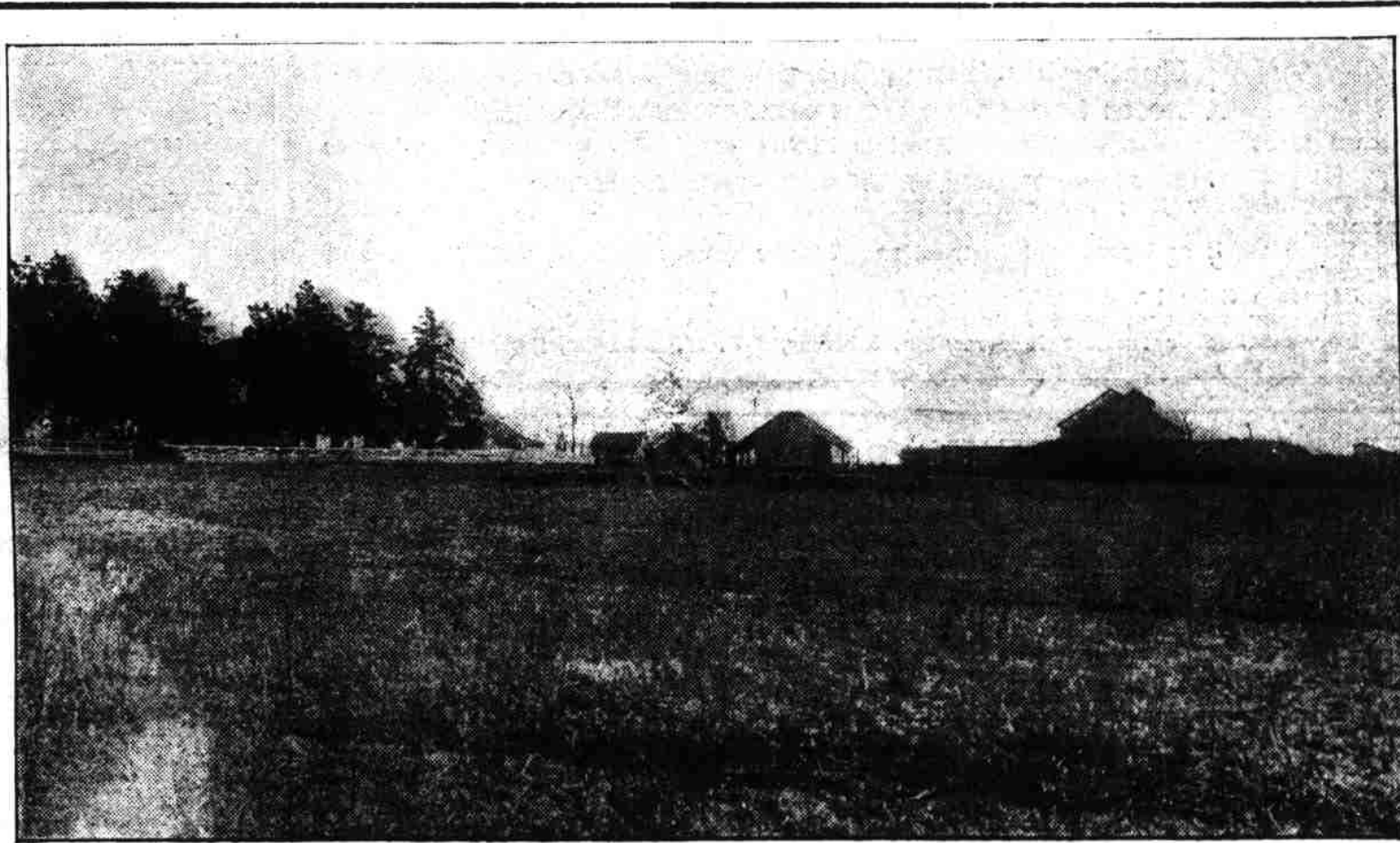
* * *

On another page we found a letter telling how the farmer who wrote it progressed from a Boy Dixie to the sulky plow and riding cultivators. He said that we helped him do it and that made us feel good, of course; but the special value of his letter is the answer it gives to those who think that when a farm paper tells about anything beyond the present reach of the very small farmer it is doing nothing to help him. Why, bless you, the first step toward improvement is to wish for something you don't have and can't get right now; the second step is to find out how you can get it.

* * *

Another thing we found which is worth recalling and repeating was this sentence in a letter from Mr. R. B. Sullivan: "Take care of your soil, and your annual income will take care of itself." We might hunt all day and we couldn't find a terser expression of the one great, fundamental fact Southern farmers need constantly to keep in mind. If we could only get every Progressive Farmer reader thoroughly convinced of this fact, these old fields of ours would blossom like the rose within the next ten years.

This sentence illustrates what we have said before—that the very best things in the paper come from the men right out on the farm. A farm paper made up of letters from its readers and without any definite editorial policy to guide it in the selection of those letters, is bound to be a poor excuse for a real paper; but, on the other hand, the editor who imagines that he can dispense with the first-hand contributions from the men in the furrows, will soon find himself getting out of touch with the soil and the people who till it.



VIEW ON FARM OF MR. CLARENDON DAVIS.
Read on page 5, the story of what Mr. Davis has done.

We are proud of our readers, but—just between ourselves again—we reached up and patted ourselves on the head when we read in one of the March issues that the only way to secure profitable prices for cotton and to insure satisfactory returns for the year's labor, would be to put cotton in its proper place as one of the crops in a carefully planned rotation and to get rid of the idea that any one crop could be the whole thing. What we predicted then about the excessive planting of cotton came true; and it will come true again unless, as we then advised, the farmers of the South get down to sure-enough business farming and begin rotating their crops with an eye not only to present profits but also to the future welfare of the soil. And there will never be a better time for them to make a start in this line than this very fall.

FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

A HOME-MADE WHEEL-TRAY—A Simple but Useful Device....	9
CLARENDON DAVIS AND HIS WORK—An Alabama Farmer Who is Doing Things Worth While	5
COMMENTS ON RECENT ISSUES—Thoughts Suggested to Professor Massey by Recent Articles	4
HOW TO LAY OUT THE GROUNDS AND MAKE A LAWN—The Second of Mr. Niven's Articles on Attractive Farm Homes....	6
HOW TO SHOCK CORN—Views of a Practical Farmer.....	17
PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT OATS—The First of a Series of Articles on This Crop	3
TAKING CARE OF LITTLE CHILDREN—How England is Conserving the Future	11
TENANTS AND LANDLORDS—A Page of Free Discussion.....	15
THE NEGRO IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IN AMERICA—By Booker T. Washington	18
UNCLE CORNPATCH ON THE STOVEWOOD QUESTION—How the Wife Can Get a Woodshed	8
WHY FARMERS NEED THE STOCK-LAW—Letters From Our Readers	13
WHO IS A PROGRESSIVE FARMER?—The Farmer Who is Progressing, of Course	10