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WE ARE glad to note that the North Carolina State Board of Agriculture at its last session passed a resolution asking for a six-months term for every rural school in the State, and also a resolution in favor of the Torrens system.

THE MAN who has to make a living from a small piece of land, is the very man who should not stick to one or two crops. He needs to combine hogs, or poultry, or truck, or fruit with his staple crops. He will have a much better show with these crops than with corn and cotton.

IF YOU haven't been getting your State Health Bulletins regularly, send a postal card right away to the Secretary of your State Board of Health and ask for them, and ask also for the Health Almanac for 1913, if your State issues one. These bulletins and almanacs are free, being paid for with public taxes, and as a taxpayer you should get the benefit of them.

IT WOULD be worth a great many thousands of dollars to the South this year if every farmer heeded those two little articles on page 10—"Fools Burn Leaves," and "Don't Burn Cornstalks." It will be worth money to you, too, if you heed them. It is seldom, indeed, that anything which can be turned under or left on the land to decay should be burned. Fire in the fields helps make poor land.

THE North Carolina Drainage Association had a good meeting in Raleigh week before last. Perhaps the most progressive step proposed was that of creating a department of drainage in the State Department of Agriculture. This ought to be done by all means, and we hope the matter will be arranged for. Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt was re-elected President, and Mr. Geo. Boyd, of Wilson, Secretary.

HAVE you noticed that the new farm papers that are trying to get patronage in the South, set out the very first thing to get articles from one or more old stand-by Progressive Farmer contributors, and always feature these articles by our Progressive Farmer correspondents? We appreciate the compliment our contemporaries pay us by doing this; but we wonder if a little more originality on their part would be unbecoming?

THERE is no need for the man with small capital and meager farm equipment to be discouraged. He will have to work hard, of course, and think hard, but the experience letters in this issue prove that the Southern farmer with grit and gumption can succeed. Really, it is a fine bunch of encouraging letters we have, and there are many more we couldn't get in,—and, as usual, a number that came after most of the paper was made up.

LINED up alongside the fence in a Tennessee farmer's barnyard we saw the other day a binder, a hay loader, two mowing machines, a grain drill, with some cultivators and plows thrown in for good measure. It was a rainy day, too, and all these implements were getting a thoro soaking. If the farmer leaves them there all winter, the probabilities are that the depreciation in their value will amount to enough to build a good implement shed, which would last for ten to twenty years.

WE HOPE many of our farmers are starting bank accounts now that that money for the year's crops is coming in. A man is more likely to save his money if he has started putting his surplus in a bank; and it is a great convenience to be able to make payments by check. When you pay a bill with cash you may have no record of its payment; but a returned check with the payee's endorsement on the back constitutes a good receipt. Not all farmers who have started bank accounts however, are as careful as they

should be in writing checks. We have just received a check on subscription written in lead pencil. No check should ever be written in pencil. It must frequently pass through several hands before reaching the bank, and if written in pencil, it is easy for the amount to be raised.

THE DIAGRAM on the first page of the issue of November 30, should have been entitled not "The Length of School Term in the Various States," but "The Length of Rural School Term in the Various States." The city schools in the South have a term not much shorter than that of city schools in other sections of the country. It is in the rural districts that the bad showing is made; it is there that boys and girls are deprived of a fair chance in life by the failure of the State to provide adequate educational facilities. The Southern city schools are very good. We must make a fight now for the country boys and girls.

Fifteen Cents for Rest of Cotton Crop.

AN ALABAMA banker sends us the following note:

"Why not write a double-leaded editorial on 'Make the Remnant Bring Fifteen Cents?' 'The \$300,000,000 Crime' editorial was great—the best one you ever published. Our bank will help all farmers to hold who wish to."

We are glad to see that the confidence in higher prices that we expressed in former editorials has been more than justified. We can now say with equal confidence that we believe that fifteen cents ought to be obtained for all the rest of the cotton crop.

It is our definite conviction, in fact, that somebody else is going to get about fifteen cents for it. It all depends on whether that somebody else is to be the man who made the cotton or the man who sees the present opportunity to get it for less than it is worth.

"Bully for the Stokes Commissioners": How About Yours?

HERETOFORE most of our Southern counties have been very ready to vote tax money to support poorhouses and jails and criminal courts. But they have been mighty slow to vote money to educate the people and protect their health, and so keep them out of poorhouses, and in a large measure out of jails, for it is usually ignorant, untrained men, neglected by the community, who are responsible for our criminal expenses. Fortunately, however, a change is now coming. Progressive, wide-awake counties are beginning to give proper support to all forms of education—educating not only the young but the old as well; and everywhere there is steadily increasing interest in public health work. "Bully for the Commissioners!" said the Danbury (N. C.) Reporter, lately, referring to the action of its county authorities, and we are glad to give them the same hurrah of approval. Read the following statement, and then find out what your county is doing along similar lines:

"The action of the Stokes County Commissioners, last Monday, in appropriating \$250 for the eradication of hookworm disease in Stokes County, and \$300 for the promotion of co-operative demonstration farming, will be almost unanimously commended and applauded by our people. Hookworm is ravaging at a fearful rate. The State physician who recently took up the work of combating the disease in Yadkin County, found 52 per cent of population examined afflicted with it in that county. Possibly the same condition may be met with in Stokes.

"Now that an appropriation has been secured, the work of scientific farming, under the capable direction of Mr. I. G. Ross, will be further spread. The value in dollars and cents of co-operative demonstration farming cannot be overestimated. It teaches us how to grow more than two ears of corn where one grew before."

There is a movement now to have these demonstration agents also take up better methods of marketing and business co-operation. The man who wakes up the people to better methods of farming will soon wake them up on these things also.

No Excuse for North Carolina and South Carolina.

O H, WELL," some reader says, "Of course, North Carolina and South Carolina are giving their country boys and girls a school term of only ninety-three and ninety-four days apiece, while some other States are giving 170 and 180 days; but the explanation is that the other States are so thickly populated. We haven't so many people per square mile, and besides we have to support schools for two races."

But this explanation will not do, brethren; it will not hold water.

Of the fifteen States in the Union providing the longest school term of all for their country boys and girls, 157 days or more—nine are States which have a smaller population per square mile than either ninety-three-day North Carolina or ninety-four-day South Carolina. Both California and Nebraska, with an average population per square mile of only 15, less than one-third that of North Carolina or South Carolina, are giving their country boys and girls over 170-days school term, while North Carolina, with an average population per square mile three times as great, are giving only ninety-four days school term.

In other words, our white population alone, to say nothing of the Negro population, is twice as great per square mile as the average population per square mile of either Nebraska or California—and yet we seek to excuse ourselves for giving our farm boys and girls not only a poorer chance than their children have, but a poorer chance than farm children get anywhere else in the whole American Union, with the single exception of New Mexico.

And even New Mexico has the right to point the finger of scorn at us; for altho her population is only three per square mile, while the population of the Carolinas is fifteen times as great—45 per square mile for North Carolina and 49 for South Carolina—yet New Mexico furnishes her widely scattered country boys and girls a school term only four days shorter than that of the proud old original States of North and South Carolina.

Or there is Washington with less than half as many people per square mile as either North or South Carolina, which nevertheless furnishes her country children 164 days against our ninety-four days.

Moreover, Utah, with only one-fifth as many people per square mile as there are white people alone per square mile in the Carolinas, has a 157-rural term against our ninety-three days—and yet we think ourselves so much better, and so much better civilized than those "heathen" Mormons!

No, brethren, there is no excuse for us. There is nothing to do except first to confess that we have sinned against our own flesh and blood, and then proceed to bring forth fruits meets for repentance.

We must all join together in demanding that the Legislature of neither North nor South Carolina shall adjourn next spring until it has made absolute and unqualified provision to furnish at least a six-months' school term for every farm boy and girl in our States.

A Thought for the Week.

THE fatal taint of artificiality is often observable in the courtesies and refinements of urban social life. Individuality is suppressed and manners are constrained in the endeavor to conform to the recognized standard. Frankness and simplicity of speech are the marks of the boor. We are "charmed" with the music which has tortured every nerve. We have been "longing for weeks" for the visit which we hoped would never be made. We are "so pleased" to meet the gentleman from whom we turn in disgust. We are "delighted" to have been bored at receptions and teas. From our hysterical speech the old-time positive and comparative degrees in plain homespun are rigidly excluded; only the superlative appears in good society. No reserve of a moment, no grateful silence, no calm candor of emotions; but only raptures and ecstasies. O the weakness! O the pity!—Dr. W. L. Potrat.