

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## 1914---LET'S MAKE IT OUR BEST YEAR.

**A**NOTHER year has passed, and a new year has begun. We express the hope that to all our Progressive Farmer readers it will really be a new year—a year of new hopes and aspirations, of higher ideals and ambitions, a year of such progress and achievement that at its close we may look back upon it as the best so far in our lives.

That we may do this it is necessary at once that we take stock of our short-comings and deficiencies—make a real, heart-searching inventory of those things we have done and are doing and those we have left undone—and resolve that the new year shall be one



CAREFULLY SELECTED SEED MATERIALLY INCREASE FARM PROFITS. Scene on Farm of D. R. Coker, Hartsville, S. C.

of better things. New Year's resolutions are commonly supposed to be made only to be broken; but without resolutions no effort can be successful and no true progress may be made. So let's make our 1914 resolutions of unbreakable material, adhering to them and steadily striving for their attainment, until in the end the things we set our hearts upon are ours. Successful men—men who have achieved great purposes—have first hoped, then resolved, and then worked unceasingly until their hopes and aims became realities. In all human lives and activities this law holds good—that whatever man hopes for and unceasingly strives for he finally gains. So let us at the beginning of this, our best year, set our hearts upon a few of the good things that will go to make ours and the lives of those for whom we live better and happier—and then let's never turn aside, never falter, until we have made of them realities.

What can we hope and work for? What are some of the possibilities, some of the things that make for better lives and better living, that we may attain?

First of all, it must always be true that material, external things, in a large measure, affect our welfare; and as a consequence our first duty must lie in the direction of making our material surroundings more pleasant and habitable. This takes a certain amount of wealth—wealth created by the application of better methods in crop production. We believe that our Southern people have the knowledge to expend wisely at least double their present annual outlay for schools, roads, better livestock, better implements and better homes. These elements of happier living must be bought with increased wealth, so

the problem fundamentally is one of more money—not money for money's sake, but that our country boys and girls and men and women may get out of life the happiness and joy that are rightly theirs.

So, Progressive Farmer readers, let us resolve, once for all, that

1914 shall mark the year we forever rose above the class of the average farmer—the farmer who makes 18 bushels of corn and less than 200 pounds of cotton to the acre. This is truly our only hope for economic independence—the only means by which our children may be brought up as educated, clear-

brained, clean-hearted, right-thinking American citizens.

How this increased wealth shall be achieved is one of the problems of our economic regeneration. The means lie all about us, ours for the asking. Let us harness them to our purposes and bear steadily toward better things. And with our hopes and ambitions, our failures and successes, let us not forget to cultivate that mental spirit which, whether we have riches or poverty, fits us to meet the day's work with smiling face and dauntless courage—the spirit that points unswervingly toward its goal, the spirit of cheery good will and eagerness to bear our share of the world's burdens.

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