

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND
SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

"You can tell by a man's farm whether he reads it or not."

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY

The Progressive Farmer Company
(Incorporated under the laws of North Carolina.)
Home Office: 119 W. Hargett St., Raleigh.

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| CLARENCE POE, | President and Editor. |
| TAIT BUTLER, | Vice-President and Editor. |
| B. L. MOSS, | Managing Editor. |
| W. F. MASSEY, | Contributing Editor. |
| JOHN S. PEARSON, | Secretary-Treasurer. |
| J. A. MARTIN, | Advertising Manager. |
| J. Frank Foshee, General Representative. | |

THE United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., has recently issued a bulletin on "The Management of Sheep on the Farm," which should be secured by every reader of The Progressive Farmer who is interested in sheep.

YOU can't hope to get business cooperation started in your neighborhood unless your neighbors read papers that tell them about cooperation and its advantages. Education must precede cooperation, and if you "make your neighborhood a reading neighborhood"—with the right sort of reading—it will also soon be a leading neighborhood.

OUR congratulations to the twelve progressive North Carolina counties which have employed a county health officer for his whole time. Their names deserve to be mentioned: Nash, Rowan, Columbus, Sampson, Johnston, Robeson, New Hanover, Durham, Guilford, Forsyth, Rockingham, and Buncombe. Congratulations, too, to the North Carolina Board of Health for its leadership in putting its State at the head of the whole list of Southern States in this important respect. A county with a progressive county school superintendent, county farm demonstration agent, and county health officer, each employed for his whole time and each selected for his ability and energy, apart from political consideration—such a county is one that anyone may be proud to live in. Has your county one, two or three of these qualifications?

THE truckers of Eastern Virginia have one of the most successful cooperative organizations in all America, but the sad fact is that its success is probably better known in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts than in the rest of our own Southern States. Dr. Bruce Payne, of Peabody College, Nashville, in a letter now before the writer refers effectively to this as an example of the South's agricultural achievements which, through the Knapp School of Country Life, should be reported and carried back to farmers all other the South. He says:

"Time and time again, when my relatives were losing their potato crop because of the glutted market in Eastern Carolina, the manager of the Eastern Shore Corporation was telling me of the lucrative prices they were receiving for their potatoes. One of my friends got twenty-nine cents in stamps for a carload of strawberries, shipped from near Goldsboro; the Eastern Shore people were telling me of selling theirs for twice the cost of production."

Editor Poe is this week investigating and studying this Eastern Shore Produce Exchange and will have one or more articles about it in early issues of The Progressive Farmer.

IN ADDRESSING the last session of the North Carolina Press Association, Judge Thomas A. Jones made an excellent point when he said that city papers often think it remarkable for a country paper to record that a farmer has bought a new mowing machine, whereas the city paper in the same issue will record at length and with great gravity how "Willie Brown, son of Col. Brown, has just celebrated his fourth birthday by a party, to which all his little friends were invited; and there were four tiny red wax candles on the cake." As Judge Jones continued:

"I somehow think that a mowing machine is as valuable an asset to a community as Willie's beautiful cake with the four beautiful red candles. It is true that the country paper may also tell us that Bill Simmons has just purchased a bull calf, whereupon a city paper will deride it, but in the same issue will tell an eager and expectant world that Mrs. Potter has given an auction bridge party at which Mrs. Jones had one pink sachet bag as the

first prize, and that Mrs. Williams won a rag doll as a booby prize. Now, I do not think papers ought to mention gambling in high life, anyhow, and I submit that a bull calf may prove of more service to a community than a sachet bag or a rag doll."

Better Parcel Post Facilities

EFFECTIVE January 1, 1914, new parcel post regulations that should aid further in closing the expensively wide gap between producer and consumer became operative. Thus we are gradually approaching a sensible parcel post system—something we have long needed and that is already enjoyed in European countries. The most salient features of the new regulations are as follows:

First and Second Zones—the weight limit is increased from twenty to fifty pounds, with charges of five cents a pound for the first pound and one cent for each additional pound; Third Zone—six cents for the first pound and two cents for each additional pound; Fourth Zone—seven cents for the first pound and four cents for each additional pound; Fifth Zone—eight cents for the first pound and six cents for each additional pound; Sixth Zone—nine cents for the first pound and eight cents for each additional pound.

It is also announced that on and after March 16, 1914, regular parcel post rates shall apply to books. While much remains to be done to make our parcel post system really effective in bridging the gap that is now occupied by a horde of middlemen, the progress that is being made under the present administration is a hopeful index.

Let Us Be Up and Doing

THERE can be no doubt that one of the most important annual events from an agricultural standpoint, and that necessarily means from a standpoint of prosperity, not only for the South, but for the whole country as well, is the National Corn Exposition, to be held during the coming February in the city of Dallas, Texas. The holding of this exposition in the South is particularly of interest to our Southern states, as during the past few years we have shown a decided tendency towards wresting from the Middle West its heretofore undisputed claim to being the corn belt of the country. Therefore the holding of this exposition in the South should be seized upon by every state as an opportunity unexcelled for proving that claim. At the same time, while showing our capabilities as corn producers, there is no event of this character that attracts such widespread interest in everything of an educational nature, and nowhere can our Southern states find a better or more appropriate medium for the exhibition to the world of their resources.

Since the National Corn Exposition is really a great educational institution, it naturally follows that every Southern state should be represented by an exhibit from its leading educational institutions, both agricultural and otherwise. For the Southern states not to have exhibits at this show is like having the invited guests sit down to the banquet without the host; and yet, from present appearances, there is grave danger of this very thing happening. Of the thirty-seven states that have indicated their intention to have exhibits from their educational institutions at the coming exhibition, but three are Southern. Never before was the proverbial poverty of our Southern educational institutions so greatly emphasized as in this instance, as the almost universal reason for not promising an exhibit is a lack of funds. At best fifty dollars will cover the cost of any exhibit from any of our Southern states. This, of course, will not include the cost of collecting, but it is a poor institution indeed that has not already within its walls enough material to make a more than creditable exhibit of its work and of the resources of the state. Then the total expense is simply the freight on this exhibit one

way. Space is free, and the Exposition pays traveling expenses of two men, including railroad fare both ways, with an allowance of \$2.50 a day for meals en route and \$3 a day for expenses while in Dallas. For the lack of the paltry sum that the exhibit will cost them, the people of the South cannot afford not to have their educational institutions represented. If your state institution hasn't this amount, are there not enough public-spirited citizens within your borders who have enough state pride to induce them to go down into their pockets and raise this trifling sum? Don't wait until it is too late, but make it your business to see if your state institution is one that cannot promise this exhibit; and if so, make it your business to see that the means are forthcoming.

The Week on the Farm

THIS week we are carrying a rather remarkable story of what business men may and should mean to a farming community. It is a story with a moral—the moral that only in so far as the whole community is prosperous can the individual prosper; and that only in proportion as the source from which the city's life is drawn is healthy and vigorous can the city or town remain healthy and vigorous. A simple system for guaranteeing market prices for cotton; a free rest room for farmers' wives and families; good roads; and a dozen other good things that have come through the broad spirit of cooperation between business men and farmers are established institutions in "A Town Run by Young Men." Farmers and business men alike may read the story with profit.

January is not usually a busy month in Southern fields. The feeling is too prevalent that it is the half-way station between the old crop and the new—a sort of take-things-easy period; but the thinking farmer is coming to see that every day must be "busy day" if the maximum profits are to be realized. Farms are like factories—plants with capital tied up in them—and to run them efficiently six days in the week is the secret for piling up a profit for the end of the year. There are ditches to dig and to clean out; terraces to build; clearing to be done; machinery to be put in shape; the garden to get ready; and countless other little things the thorough-going farmer will heed. In this issue Professor Duggar and Mr. Parker discuss a few of the things to be done now. Read what they say.

That is an illuminating article by Mr. French in this issue on the South's cattle-raising possibilities. Mr. French rightly does not take the position that the average Southern farmer should engage in the livestock business exclusively; but he does show clearly that our numberless acres of untilled, unproductive land should be put to work. Livestock is the means by which this may be done—not livestock exclusively by any means, but a few head to each small farm to eat up the waste, graze on the lands that are now idle, and to furnish a large part of our food supply in wholesome meat, milk and butter.

We feel that to be of the greatest service to our readers it is necessary that we devote considerable space each week to a discussion of our business problems—buying and selling. So this week we are carrying an article on marketing the peanut crop of the South Atlantic States—why low prices obtain, and the remedy. This article is worthy of attention whether we sell peanuts, tobacco or cotton.

We are rather fond of running stories, especially when they carry a moral, and that is why we call attention to "A Lesson in Home Canning" in this issue. The moral is that we can't afford to put up a shoddy product, whatever our business. Read the story by Mr. Blackburn of the man who was greedy.