

BEGIN KEEPING ACCOUNTS NOW—7

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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The Man Who Reads Is the Man Who Leads



LEARNING TO READ WITH THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AS THE TEXT-BOOK

The above photograph which appears in the new Annual Report of the Harnett County, N. C., Superintendent of Schools, shows a "moonlight school" or school to teach grown people to read and write. In this school there were thirty-eight adults, the oldest one 65 years of age, learning to read.

THE man who reads is the man who leads. Watch it where or when you will, and you will find this the rule, and with mighty few exceptions. Now and then you will find a non-reading man who has made some money, but he is usually such a failure as the "Farmer Grind" described in last week's Progressive Farmer—a man whose mind is not broad and who has missed the joy of living by working for self alone.

The man who reads is the man who leads. It is natural that this should be so. "The ancestor of every action is a thought," says Emerson, and the richness or poverty of a man's reading usually determines the richness or poverty of his thinking. The man who doesn't read gets his thoughts only from Tom, Dick, Harry, and the others in a little narrow neighborhood right around him. The man who reads gets the thoughts of the foremost minds in his county, state, nation, and world.

The photograph on this page is a reminder of one of the most inspiring movements anywhere in the South today—the "moonlight school" movement, whose purpose is to teach every man and woman, no matter how old, to read. These people were neglected in their youth, but for them the door of hope is now about to swing open at last, so that they need no longer hang their heads and say, "I can't read and write."

Let everyone who can join in this blessed

crusade, and let us at the same time carry on a crusade to get all who can read to read more. A people are not educated if they only know how to read; they must actually read. If one goes to school weeks and months, year after year learning how to read, and then doesn't read,—if he is then too short-sighted to pay a few cents a week for good papers and books—he is like a man who spends days and weeks break-

ing a piece of land, getting it in shape for planting and then is too foolish or stingy to buy enough seed corn or cotton seed to plant it. Learning how to read prepares the mind, cultivates it, makes it a fertile seed bed, but then a man must fill it with seed-thoughts. Books and papers furnish the seed corn for the mind. When a man says he is too poor to pay two cents a week for a paper for inspiration, help, intellectual food, seed-thoughts for his whole family, ask him if he ought not to spend as much for brain-food as he spends for tobacco.

Make your neighborhood a reading neighborhood and you will make it a leading neighborhood. Join in a movement to teach all grown-up illiterates to read next year if you can, but in any case bestir yourself to get all who can read to read more. If they read papers that stand for progress they will eventually join with you in all the progressive movements you are interested in.

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