

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Weekly for
The Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.
FOUNDED 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.

Vol. XXX. No. 21.

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1915.

\$1 a Year; 5c. a Copy

ORGANIZING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES AT LAST

IN The Progressive Farmer just a year ago this week we discussed the problem of "The Rural Community," and emphasized the truth of Mr. George W. Russell's statement that heretofore we have virtually had no rural "communities". We have had people living here and there in country districts; we have had collections of farm houses, but we have not had rural communities, the word "community" signifying a body of people with common aims, aspirations, hopes, working together for the improvement of one definite section. We have village communities, town communities, city communities, but broadly speaking, we have not had country communities.

And why not? That was the question we set out to answer a year

ago. And the conclusion we reached was that we have not had country communities, not because country people are less earnest or ambitious than town people, but because the country has not had the facilities which the town has had for organizing or expressing the community spirit. Every town, county, state or nation has (1) its definite boundaries and (2) its duly constituted governing authorities to whom any plan for progress may be presented. The country community has neither. And no great man in all American history, except Thomas Jefferson has maintained that it should have either. Then even Jefferson's ambition was forgotten and it is only in the last few years that earnest men, notably in North Carolina and Alabama, have again caught his vision, and begun to work for the organization of rural communities. Just in the last twelve months some interesting experiments have been inaugurated in Alabama, which we hope to report on later, while Sampson County, N. C., in the organization of "Community Leagues" has partly solved the problem of organization, with Jefferson's idea of incorporation soon to follow.



A HERD OF PROMISING SHORTHORNS

Courtesy of Swift & Co.

ago. And the conclusion we reached was that we have not had country communities, not because country people are less earnest or ambitious than town people, but because the country has not had the facilities which the town has had for organizing or expressing the community spirit.

First, the country community lacks definite boundaries: We have often wondered, as we said then, how it would be in our cities if there were two or three towns converging together and no citizen knew to which one his allegiance belonged or with which city group he ought to work.

Second, the country neighborhood lacks organization: Mr. George W. Russell, the Irish philosopher, in our Thought for the Week in this issue, gives striking expression to this fact by contrasting the facilities for "getting things done" in a city like Dublin with the lack of such facilities in a country neighborhood. In this brief paragraph Mr. Russell has put

DON'T FAIL TO READ—		Page
Are You Getting Fair Prices for Your Cotton Seed?		20
Great Opportunities in Cooperative Livestock Breeding		10
Harvesting Oats—12 Suggestions		4
Harvesting Wheat and Oats and Putting the Stubble Lands to Work Again		6
Help Your Neighbor		12
How You Can Avoid the Plague of Flies This Summer		12
Legumes Should Return the Nitrogen Removed by Wheat and Oat Crops		5

Every town, county, state or nation has (1) its definite boundaries and (2) its duly constituted governing authorities to whom any plan for progress may be presented. The country community has neither. And no great man in all American history, except Thomas Jefferson has maintained that it should have either. Then even Jefferson's ambition was forgotten and it is only in the last few years that earnest men, notably in North Carolina and Alabama, have again caught his vision, and begun to work for the organization of rural communities. Just in the last twelve months some interesting experiments have been inaugurated in Alabama, which we hope to report on later, while Sampson County, N. C., in the organization of "Community Leagues" has partly solved the problem of organization, with Jefferson's idea of incorporation soon to follow.

Read about the Sampson idea on page 13.