

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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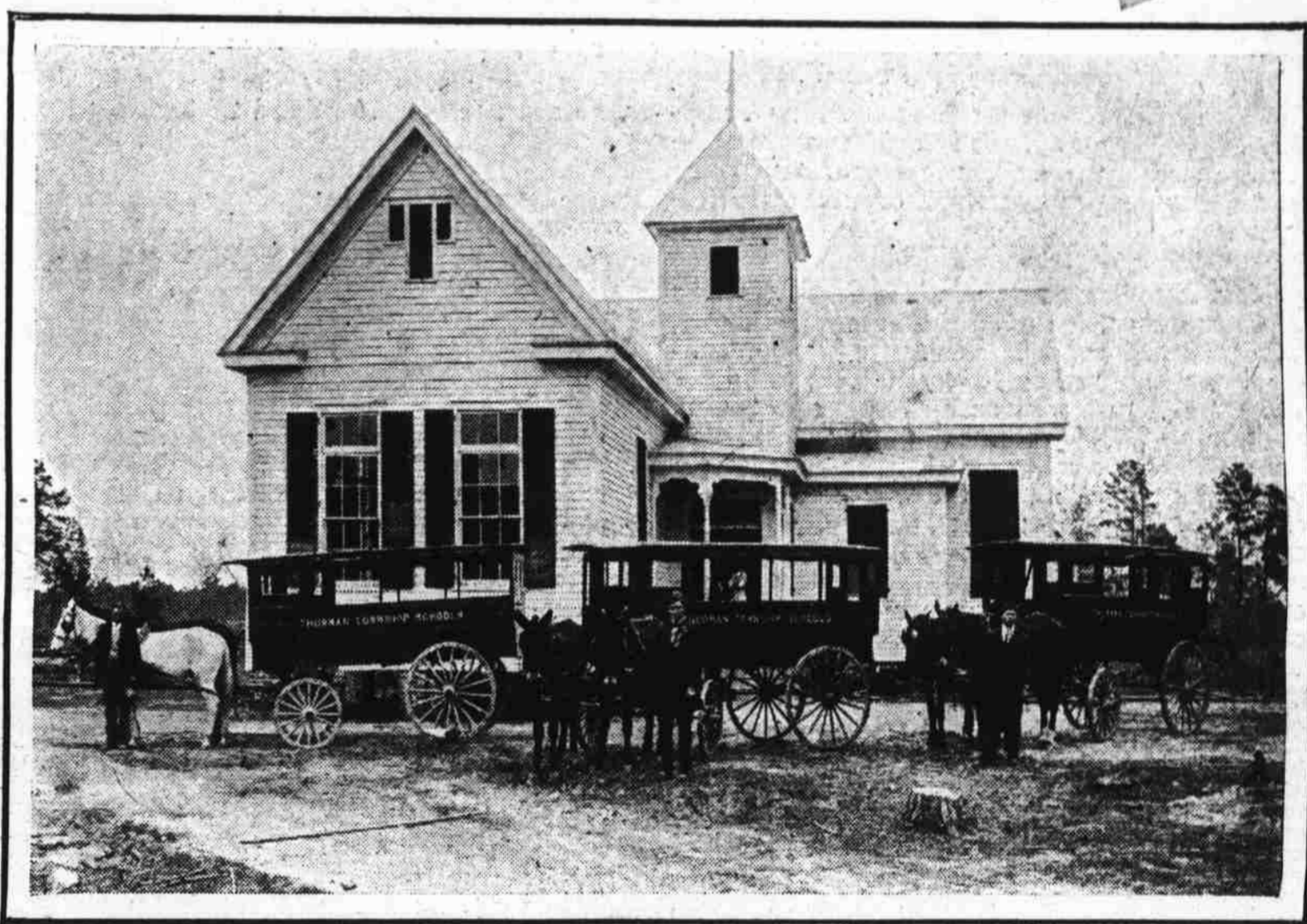
A Three-teacher School Within Reach of Every Child

A THREE-TEACHER School Within Reach of Every Child!" This, we believe, is the slogan and battle-cry which our educational forces all over the South should take up, and they and their successors should then keep up the fight until this now far-away ideal is realized.

It is not possible, as Prof. Brogden points out on page 6, to give a child the right sort of educational training in a one-teacher school. Under such conditions a teacher must have so many recitations from so many pupils that it is impossible to give even half-way adequate attention to any pupil or any subject.

We do not mean by this that a bright, ambitious child cannot educate himself in a one-teacher school. He can educate himself—in a measure—anywhere. But we do mean to say that he cannot get proper help and guidance from his teacher, and for lack of such guidance thousands and thousands of potentially useful boys and girls never get "waked up" at all, never get inspiration, never apply themselves, while thousands of others who start out well get discouraged and give up, living out unhappy lives in ignorance and drudgery.

Now this is a tragedy—a positive tragedy enacted with heart-sickening frequency in your state, your county, your township, and we fear in your school. "That there should one Man die ignorant that had capacity for Knowledge—this I call a Tragedy", said Carlyle, "were it to happen more than twenty times in the minute, as indeed by some computations it does." That your boy or girl should go through life with faculties untouched by really effective education, Kind Reader, "that the lamp of his soul should go out"—this is the tragedy against which we are protesting, and to our plea we urge your most earnest attention.

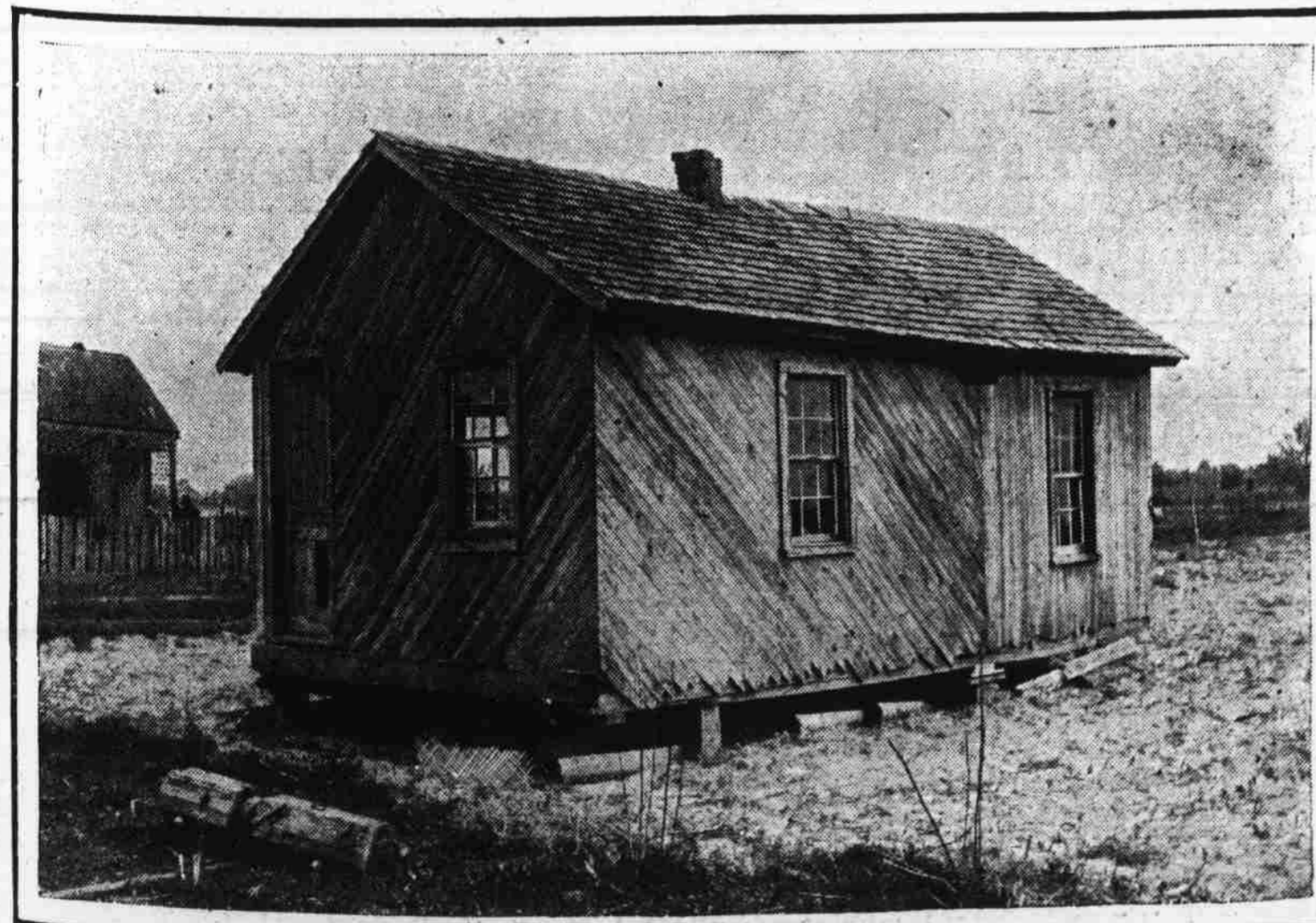


THE NEW THURMAN TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

The picture below shows one of three schoolhouses in use in Thurman Township, Craven County, N. C., three years ago. A little later the people decided that the time had come when their children deserved better treatment and they got together and voted to consolidate the three weak schools into one strong consolidated school, with transportation for the seventy pupils living too far to walk. The picture above shows the new consolidated schoolhouse and the wagons that carry the distant children to and from school each day.

And sometimes it seems to us that the whole Southern educational problem is summed up in the astonishingly simple question: "Shall we let our children walk two miles to a good school or one mile to a sorry one."

It is not necessary to say that it is The Progressive Farmer's opinion that it is better to walk two miles—or even two and a half—to the good school, and we earnestly hope every reader will study the further arguments on this subject as given in Prof. Brogden's article on page 6, and in our article on page 15.



ONE OF THE SCHOOLHOUSES BEFORE CONSOLIDATION

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