

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND
SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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

The Progressive Farmer Company

(Incorporated under the laws of North Carolina.)
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THE South Carolina Plant Breeders' Association held an interesting meeting at Hartsville last week and a report will appear in our next issue. Every state should have such an organization.

SAMPSON County won the silver cup offered as prize for the best attendance at the Farmers' Convention and Edgecombe the cup for the largest attendance of farm women. Stanly county, sending 123 youngsters to the corn club meeting, took that prize.

"EASILY twice what it was last year," is the general report we get as to tobacco prices. And cotton is also going to most satisfactory figures. It's a great year for Mr. Renter to put some money in the bank and make a start toward home-ownership.

WHETHER or not you use the rental contract form we are printing on page 6, with such changes as are needed to suit your conditions, does not concern us. But one thing we do wish to insist on, and that is that you have a written contract. That is far better both for landowner and renter.

THE North Carolina A. & M. College opens this week, and as we go to press the prospects are for the biggest enrollment the College has ever had. Teachers all over the state should also take notice that the A. & M. will have a summer school next year offering all the usual summer school courses and giving in addition especial attention to agricultural and country life features.

OUR tobacco farmers have been letting Congress hear from them as to the British embargo on tobacco shipments to Germany and Austria, and have evidently made an impression. A bill has passed both houses providing that clearance papers may be denied any ship "refusing to take American merchandise on other grounds than lack of space." Other legislation intended to relieve the situation is also in progress.

IF YOU are either a tenant or a landlord you should request the United States Department of Agriculture to send you the following bulletins relating to the subject of tenantry:

- No. 280—A Successful Tenant Dairy Farm.
- No. 472—A Successful New Jersey Tenant Farm.
- No. 437—A System of Tenant Farming and Its Results.
- No. 299—The Tenant Credit System: Its Injurious Effects.

FEATURE articles in next week's Progressive Farmer will be "A Success Talk for Boys," by Herbert Quick, member of the new Federal Farm Loan Board; "Weeds, Their Control or Destruction," by Dr. Butler; "Every Farmer's Future Largely Depends on His Own Efforts," the concluding article in the "\$500 More a Year" series, by Professor Massey; and "First Aid to the Injured," by Mrs. Hutt. In addition, we expect to run a number of articles and letters on the landlord and tenant problem that were unavoidably crowded out of this issue.

WHILE insisting on the advantages of home-ownership, we realize, of course, that some men must be tenants before they become home-owners and that other men will be renters all their lives. There is always going to be a place therefore for the progressive, wide-awake landlord-farmer, living on his farm and looking after the preservation of his soil, the welfare of his tenants, and the betterment of his neighborhood and country. And such a man deserves all honor. It is the absentee landlord—letting soil fertility waste, ignorant of the condition of his tenants, careless as to the progress of the community—

who is the peril to our rural life. And this is why we believe it is sound morals and statesmanship to have taxation favor the resident as compared with the absentee landowner.

AT THE meeting of the Farmers' Convention last week we took special pains to inquire as to the condition of the cotton crop in all parts of North Carolina, and our information fully bears out the reports already made as to the low condition of the crop. The same thing is true as to the reports we get from South Carolina. In a private letter just received from Mr. E. W. Dabbs, ex-President of the South Carolina Farmers' Union, he says: "Every week it has been so I could see from twenty to eighty miles of the cotton crop, and there is not one redeeming feature, but rather it becomes more and more disappointing as to yield. We picked yesterday 3,550 pounds of seed cotton from twenty-two acres of our best crop, and we have half. Twenty bales would have been a normal crop."

The North Carolina Farmers' and Farm Women's Conventions

THE North Carolina Farmers' Convention and Farm Women's Convention in Raleigh last week broke all records for attendance and enthusiasm. Not only were superb addresses delivered, but the exhibits and demonstrations were as useful as the speeches.

President Roger A. Derby, who is one of North Carolina's foremost rural leaders, is succeeded for next year by Mr. J. P. Lucas, of Mecklenburg County, the Vice-Presidents being Messrs A. J. Moye, of Pitt County, and C. C. Wright, of Wilkes, and the new Secretary, Mr. A. K. Robertson, of West Raleigh. The Farm Women's Convention elected Mrs. Charles McKimmon President and Miss Mabel Howell Secretary.

The resolutions adopted—crowded out of this issue by articles on the tenant question—outline a well considered program of education in agriculture and home-making as the supreme need of the state, and urge farmers everywhere to take advantage of five important new opportunities now offered them.

These five new opportunities are for forming credit unions, getting the county cotton grading service, forming National farm loan associations, organizing community leagues, and forming county boards of agriculture.

Accumulating Personal Property the Renter's Way Out

ON PAGE 1 we have offered some suggestions to our landowners, and on the next page we are discussing the legislation needed to remedy the worst phases of our tenant problem. Here on this page we wish to say a few things to our friends who are renters.

1. **Think of tenancy as an apprenticeship for home-ownership.**—Only a small minority of young men in towns either own their homes or have any share in the businesses that employ them until they are well along in their thirties or forties. The majority of those who attain such independence first work for wages for a number of years. But they put their savings in the bank; they probably buy a home on the gradual-payment building-and-loan plan; and slowly but surely and steadily they work their way toward business independence. Similarly we would have every capable, ambitious young renter think of home-ownership and land-ownership as an ideal to strive toward, but realize at the same time that business independence and home ownership cannot come much more quickly to the farm worker than the town worker. Think of tenancy as an apprenticeship for home-ownership. If you are 25 or under, aim at home-ownership by the time you are 35. If you are already too old to realize this ambition, plan for home-ownership ten years from now.

2. **Accumulating personal property is the renter's way out.**—Just as the town workingman finds the savings bank and the building and loan association his surest route to independence, so the average tenant will find the accumulation of per-

sonal property—productive personal property—his way to home-ownership. A year ago we printed for our tenant readers what we called "The Seven Rungs on the Ladder to Freedom" and we are going to give them again:

1. A garden.
2. Poultry.
3. Pigs.
4. Cows.
5. Horses.
6. Tools and Machinery.
7. Land.

Your first great need is to make your living at home so as to keep out "time-prices" and crop-lien slavery; and the first four items mentioned will give you your freedom in this respect and should be your first concern. Then bank your money till you can buy your horses, tools and machinery, and then you are ready to buy land with a good chance to pay out.

All experience is useful to the man of sense, and the experience of renting may be exactly what you need. You can study and learn improved methods of farming and make yourself such a good farmer that you can't help but win when you go on a farm of your own. On the other hand, if you had bought or inherited land without having had this previous experience in working, saving, and studying, you might have lost the place and walked the down-road from home-ownership to renting instead of the up-road from renting to home-ownership.

Let whiskey alone. Let traveling agents alone. Keep an all-the-year-round garden, with pigs, chickens and cows, and so let "time prices" alone. Then resolve to make yourself a good farmer by reading farm papers, consulting the demonstration agent often, and get yourself noted as the best renter in your neighborhood. And when you have done these simple things, you will not be very far from the kingdom of home-ownership.

Let Our Cotton Farmers Corner the Market

OUR readers know how valiantly The Progressive Farmer has fought in every battle to compel a fair price for cotton. We are not so much concerned ordinarily about forcing prices away up beyond fourteen or fifteen cents because of our fear that this will mean a quick collapse the next year to the one-crop system, crop liens, over-production and low prices.

Here, however, is the situation as we now see it: The crop is short, alarmingly short, and before another crop comes in there is going to be a virtual cotton famine, forcing prices perhaps beyond any figures yet reached. And if anybody's going to corner the market and force prices sky-high, we want farmers and not speculators to do the cornering and rake in the money.

Two years ago we had to sell a crop at five or six cents a pound too little. Now if we can get five or six cents a pound too much, it's only a fair evening up. There seems to us therefore no occasion for rushing cotton to market, even at present prices. We again commend the slogan, "Pick rapidly, sell slowly, and know your grades." If anybody is to corner the market, let the farmers do the cornering. At the same time let every farmer arrange now for record-breaking acreages in clover, vetch, oats, wheat and rye, for feedstuffs are high and if cotton goes much higher nothing can prevent a record-breaking acreage next year. And when everybody else goes cotton-crazy, the wise man prepares to live at home. Be wise in time.

A Thought for the Week

A PROSPEROUS, intelligent, and contented rural population is essential to our National perpetuity. The world's experience has shown that the best way to secure this is to encourage the division of all the lands into small farms, each owned and operated by one family.—Dr. Seaman A. Knapp.

Jesus did run around with a very common sort, but when He left them they were not quite so common as they were before He met them, and that is the acid test of your religion.—Billy Sunday.