



## The Progressive Farmer Company

(Incorporated under the laws of North Carolina.)

119 W. Hargett St., Raleigh, N. C.

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COME to the great meeting of the State Farmers' Union, Raleigh, next week. Read the program on another page and note Secretary Faires' announcement as to railroad rates.

IT'S too late now to sow clover, but rye may still be planted, and should be wherever possible. The Abruzzi variety is best, and at least a seed patch of it should be planted. However, seed of this variety are scarce and high-priced, and in case it is difficult to get, ordinary rye sowed as a cover and grazing crop will pay well. Keep your lands covered winter and summer.

A NUMBER of readers have written us their experiences in threshing or hulling velvet beans, some of these letters appearing in this issue. It appears that an ordinary grain thresher will do the work very satisfactorily by having a wider spacing of the cylinder teeth, thus giving more space for the beans, which are larger than the small grains, to pass through, and running the cylinder at a lower speed.

INSPIRED by Mrs. Patterson's reports last week, Mrs. Charles Rankin, Fayetteville, N. C., writes that as late as November 2 her garden was furnishing twenty-three vegetables—eggplant, spinach, English peas, corn, peas, okra, lima beans, beets, turnips, lettuce, snap beans, Irish potatoes, carrots, pumpkins, salsify, tomatoes, onions, Swiss chard, winter squash, green pepper, mustard, collards and kale. Who can beat it?

FOLLOWING are the officers of the State Farmers' Union meeting in Raleigh next week: President, Dr. H. Q. Alexander, Matthews; Vice-President, Dr. J. M. Templeton, Cary; Secretary-Treasurer, E. C. Faires, Aberdeen; State Organizer, J. Z. Green, Marshville; Executive Committee—W. B. Gibson, Chairman, Statesville; W. H. Moore, Bruce; C. C. Wright, Hunting Creek; C. T. Weatherly, Greensboro; Clarence Poe, Raleigh.

THE farmer who doesn't save some money now when prices are high is going to regret it as long as he lives. And whatever amount you can save ought to go into a credit union, if your neighborhood will start one, and if not, then in your nearest bank. No city business man keeps his money idle at home, and no farmer who professes to be business-like ought to. It is as wrong now as it was in the days of Christ to hide money in a napkin, as the unprofitable servant did, when it might be put into a bank and made useful.

NEXT week we issue our Town and Country Special, with a remarkably interesting lot of contributions showing how people in town and country may work together to their mutual benefit. These letters and articles will interest both farmers and business men, and we hope none of our readers will miss them. Other features of the same issue will be "A Success Talk," by Dr. Lyman Abbott, Editor of the Outlook; "How to Terrace Land," by B. L. Moss; and "A Lesson in Hemming and Gathering," by Mrs. Hutt.

THE more we study the problem the more we are inclined to the belief that the share system of renting is the best of all systems for conserving soil fertility and the best interests of tenant and landlord. As an illustration, in parts of Alabama and Mississippi nearly all crops were practically ruined this year by storms, floods, and the boll weevil. Under such conditions, the cash renter of course suffered most, because in many cases he did not make enough to pay the rent, while share tenants suffered least because they were obliged to pay only a share of whatever was produced, regardless of the yield. In other sections where the cotton crop is fairly good and prices excellent, the landlord renting for cash is getting no benefit, all the extra profits going to the tenant. The only right relation between landlord and tenant is a partner-

ship or profit-sharing one, and it seems to us that the share rental system is best of all for encouraging this relation.

## Southern Farming Seriously Under-capitalized

AS WE are pointing out on page 1 this week, the South, compared with the North and central West, has relatively little of its total area in farms improved. Our most intensively developed states have 50 per cent or less of their farms improved, while states like Ohio, Illinois, and Iowa have between 80 and 90 per cent.

The heavy burden that these unimproved lands impose upon the owners unquestionably has done much toward retarding our agricultural prosperity. The farm of eighty acres, only 40 of which is improved and yielding returns to the owner, is seriously handicapped, because the idle forty acres, instead of paying their way, are burdening the improved acres with charges for interest and taxes. Many a farmer who wonders why his net income is not larger will find the real trouble right here—too many acres that loaf instead of work.

These conditions prevail in most sections simply because of a lack of working capital; Southern lands have been and are comparatively cheap, and this fact has been a great temptation to overload on land, leaving too little capital for development and equipment. However, with the generally high interest rates prevailing and the difficulty in securing long-time loans at any rate, the average farmer has felt it unwise to attempt to borrow money for improving these idle lands. Likewise, this same inability to secure working capital at a reasonable interest rate has kept hundreds of thousands of farmers from investing in better livestock, better implements, and better buildings.

If the new rural credits law proves the boon that we hope and believe it will, it will in a large measure supply our present embarrassing deficiency in working capital. With this deficiency supplied, with money at 4 to 6 per cent and five to forty years in which to repay the loan, there should come to the South an era of continued prosperity.

## Progressive Davidson

IF WE were called on to diagnose the condition of a county to find out whether or not it really had a genuine case of progressiveness, the first eight questions we should ask would probably be as follows:

1. Are three-teacher schools taking the place of the old one-teacher schools?
2. Is the county building good roads and making plans for maintaining them after they are built?
3. Has the county a live demonstration agent?
4. A whole-time county superintendent of schools?
5. A whole-time county health officer?
6. A home demonstration and canning club agent?
7. Are the farmers growing legumes, using im-

## THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN THE WORLD

WHO is she? Well, we think she must be Miss Pollyanna Whittier. We asked our readers which of our serials they liked best and which story they wanted next, and it seemed as if the whole earth rose up to holler "Pollyanna" in answer to the first question and "Pollyanna Grows Up" in answer to the second. "Pollyanna has set everybody playing 'the glad game' at our house, the whole family is in love with her, and we want to know more about her," is the cry everywhere. "I have never read a more inspiring story for children—or grown-ups—outside the Bible," one man writes.

And so in obedience to a command all but unanimous and universal, we start next week the first chapters of "Pollyanna Grows Up," and that story alone will be worth the price of a year's subscription to The Progressive Farmer. Don't miss the opening chapters.

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

proved farm machinery, and getting interested in pure-bred livestock?

8. Have the people discovered the power of organization—so that each community has a farmers' club, a farm women's club, a boys' corn club, and a girls' canning club?

Judged by the first seven of these tests—it answers "yes" to each and every one—Davidson County, N. C., as we found on a recent trip, is entitled to be recognized as having a real case of modern progressiveness. We didn't see much evidence bearing on symptom No. 8, but with all the other seven symptoms well-developed, we know that the eighth is bound to show up soon.

Davidson is a good county. Its farmers live at home and then have a lot of wheat to sell. And they use modern machinery, grow untold acres of clover, have quit pulling fodder, and have become passionately interested in Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein, and Aberdeen-Angus cattle. The only regrettable thing to note here is that they are not combining on one dairy breed instead of scattering their interest among several breeds. At Lexington a real coöperative creamery is at work, and making money for the farmers.

There are fourteen three-teacher schools—some of the fourteen schools having four teachers—and a well organized movement is under way to get more up-to-date schools to supplant the one-teacher type. In the matter of roads, what pleased us was the intelligent interest in dragging. One farmer whose farm we passed attended a "good roads short course" at the State University, and is noted as the best road dragger in the county.

The farmers are also improving their homes; and at the county fair the exhibit of the Delco lighting system for farm homes was one of the most popular features. With a little extra equipment one may use this system not only to light all the farm buildings, but also to pump water, run the cream separator, the churn, sewing machine, and vacuum cleaner—and even an electric fan in summer.

## The South's "Place in the Sun"

THE South this year will produce 11,000,000 bales of cotton, worth, with the seed, at least \$100 a bale, or a total of one billion, one hundred million dollars. Texas, with 4,000,000 bales, will cash in to the tune of four hundred millions for cotton alone; Georgia's crop will bring two hundred millions; the crops of South Carolina, Oklahoma and Arkansas will bring around a hundred millions to each of these states. All the South, except the storm and boll weevil-ridden areas of Mississippi and Alabama, are sharing in the golden flood.

Can we stand such unprecedented prosperity? Or will it turn our heads and lead us back into our old-time follies when cotton was king and shared his throne with none other?

In making our plans for 1917 let us never forget that while cotton is high, everything else is also high. With flour at \$10 to \$12 a barrel and still going up, with corn next spring at \$1.50 a bushel, with fertilizer prices soaring, what will it avail us if we raise a big crop of cotton and it all goes to pay debts for things we should have grown at home?

Let us repeat, with all the emphasis we can, that for the average Southern farmer there is only one road to independence, and here it is: plenty of corn for bread and feed for livestock; a field of oats to supplement the corn crop in case of shortage; a good pasture to furnish grazing for cattle, hogs and horses; milk cows enough to furnish plenty of milk and butter the year-round; a big flock of hens to supply the table and help pay grocery bills; a first-class year-round garden; home-raised syrup and potatoes in plenty; sows enough to supply the place with plenty of meat; and a legume crop on every acre every year, so as to reduce fertilizer bills to a minimum.

When these points have been looked to, we are ready to grow all the cotton we can, and such a system of farming generally followed will surely find for the South its "place in the sun."

Which road will you take, Brother Farmer?