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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## THIS WEEK'S FEATURES.

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**NATURE STUDY OUTLINE.**—Mrs. F. L. Stevens writes on the constellations every child should know. Page 5.

**CHRISTMAS.**—Jeanie Deans, our gifted South Carolina correspondent, Aunt Jennie (whose picture appears this week), and others, write of the observance of the greatest of holidays. Pages 6 and 7.

**IMPORTANCE OF GOOD STOCK.**—Some of your cows you are supporting; some are supporting you. It pays to have only the best blood, says Dr. Burkett. Page 9.

**KILLING HORSES BY DRENCHING.**—Dr. Tait Butler says many a time the horse dies, not from the disease, but from the drenching given for the disease. He describes the right and wrong methods of drenching. Page 10.

**BLACK ESSEX HOGS.**—Their points of superiority set forth by R. L. Abernethy. Page 11.

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You cannot think of a more suitable Christmas present for any farmer or farm owner than a year's subscription to The Progressive Farmer. Try it and quit worrying.

Another thing: If you have a tenant or a farm manager you cannot do a better thing than to get him to reading a good farm paper, with its innumerable suggestions of improved farming methods. Some one article may bring about a forward step that will be worth many times the cost of a year's subscription—to you as well as to him. Resolve now therefore to have The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant in each tenant or manager's home next year. Either have him subscribe himself or give him a year's subscription as a Christmas present. Of course, selfishness should have no place in holiday giving; but it will not hurt you to remember that in such a gift as we here suggest the giver would be blessed no less

surely than the recipient. We are ready to guarantee that a subscription will bring you \$5 in increased value of land, better care of the soil, not to mention increased value of products and the greater interest and pride the farmer will feel in his work.

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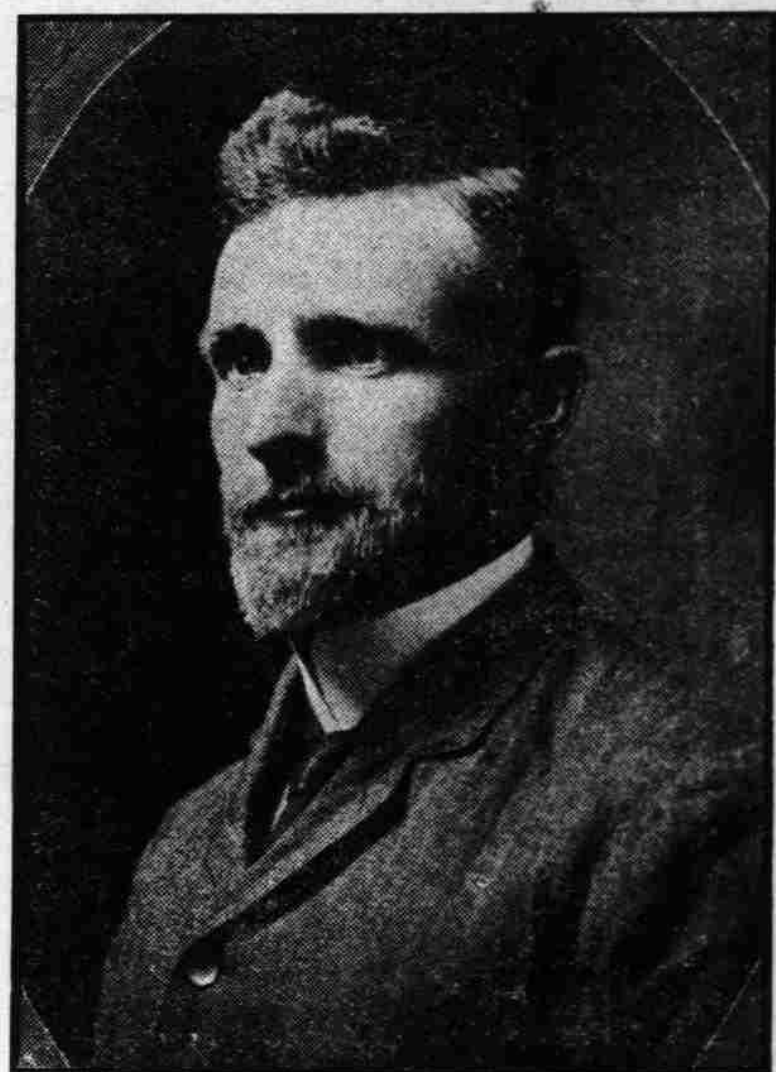
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## THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

### January Work.

It is time that farmers were getting ready for 1906 crops. The old adage, "A good start is half the journey," is certainly true, as to farm work. Timely and thorough preparation before planting is half the labor of making a crop. The first thing to look after is good and reliable horses or mules. Then see that suitable harness are on hand. Let the old harness be repaired and oiled. A box or two of rivets, a side of harness leather with a few buckles will enable a handy farmer during the wet days of this season to make all his harness good as new. Overhaul plowstocks and see that heel-bolts, lap-links, singletrees, hoes, mattocks and all necessary tools are in good order. There are some thoughtless farmers in South Carolina who cannot start three or four hands to plowing in the spring under two days, because last year's tools are scattered and no attention has been paid to them until the time has come



MR. A. L. FRENCH.

Western-bred but fully in love with his adopted Southland, Mr. French is one of the best informed and most enterprising stockmen in our territory. His "Sunny Home Stock Talks" now running in The Progressive Farmer are full of practical advice, simply and clearly set forth. His address is R. F. D. 2, Byrdville, Va.

to use them. (Of course, North Carolina has no such careless and slouchy farmers.)

### Farm Contracts.

In this State there was a sharp fight between a landlord and a tenant, and a few days later a tenant killed his landlord, just because they had a misunderstanding. Make contracts very plain, whether written or verbal. Let the tenant understand every requirement in it. Let it be known what he is to pay, where he is to deliver the rent, what will be required of him in preparing and caring for land, and be sure to make the small details plain. Most quarrels between landlord and tenant result from not understanding little things apparently unimportant. Suppose a farmer rents for a part of the corn, hay, fodder, small grain and cotton. That covers the greater portion of the farm products. But let the tenant then plant an acre in melons, two acres in potatoes and receive all the profit thereof, and he will have a considerable advantage. So in making contracts, let them be plain and well understood.

### The Selection of Seed.

This a very important and necessary work that should be done long before planting time. If put off till then just anything in reach will be planted. In this State we consider cotton the important crop. The Georgia Experiment Station has been trying many varieties of cotton for several years. It is evident that select seed from best varieties will make much more seed, much more seed-cotton, much larger bolls, and a much greater per cent of lint than common seed from the ginner's pile.

The figures ought to be studied by all cotton farmers, and more should learn to try improved varieties and improve their own seed by careful selection.

CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.