

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENTS.

Healing the bruised ones, feeding the famished, giving a cup of cold water to the thirsty, rebuilding the broken walls, restoring the waste places, putting to flight the curse of want before the shouting hosts of plenty, filling the desert with sweet dew and roses and the gaunt valleys with corn—how the promise of such blessings stirred to hope the fainting hearts of old and the stories of their fulfillment refresh the hearts of men today! Have you forgotten the charming story of Mr. French a few weeks ago telling about the reclamation of an old abandoned farm? We are all rank partisans of the man who accomplishes such things—who takes the bleak and desolate old farm, heals up its scars, feeds its exhausted soil, clothes its nakedness with the beauty of orchards and wide green fields, who brings to it the joy of the herds upon the hillsides, the dancing of the wind's feet over the waving grain, and the song of the rustling corn—yes, we are everyone partisans of a man like that; and as for ourselves we cannot rise from reading a story of his triumph without a feeling that we ought to clap our hands and hurrah for him as we sometimes do for our party heroes at the joint debates.

But pardon us. We started out to give a hint or two about this week's paper, and we were moved to these reflections by the reading of one of this week's articles on this very subject of rebuilding a worn-out farm. It was exhausted, abandoned, falling at last into that direst humiliation of being sold for taxes. The new owner sowed two bushels of wheat and harvested three. He planted twenty acres in corn; it tasseled knee-high. The entire product of the twenty acres was hauled off in four loads of a two-horse wagon, corn, fodder, stalk, tassels and all. That same land is now producing two fine crops every year—corn and clover—the corn from only five acres amounting last year to 250 bushels—seven tons of grain alone. The readable story of how this was accomplished—a chapter in the actual experience of Mr. J. B. Norris, of Dinwiddie County, Va.—is one of the features of this week's paper that nobody should overlook.

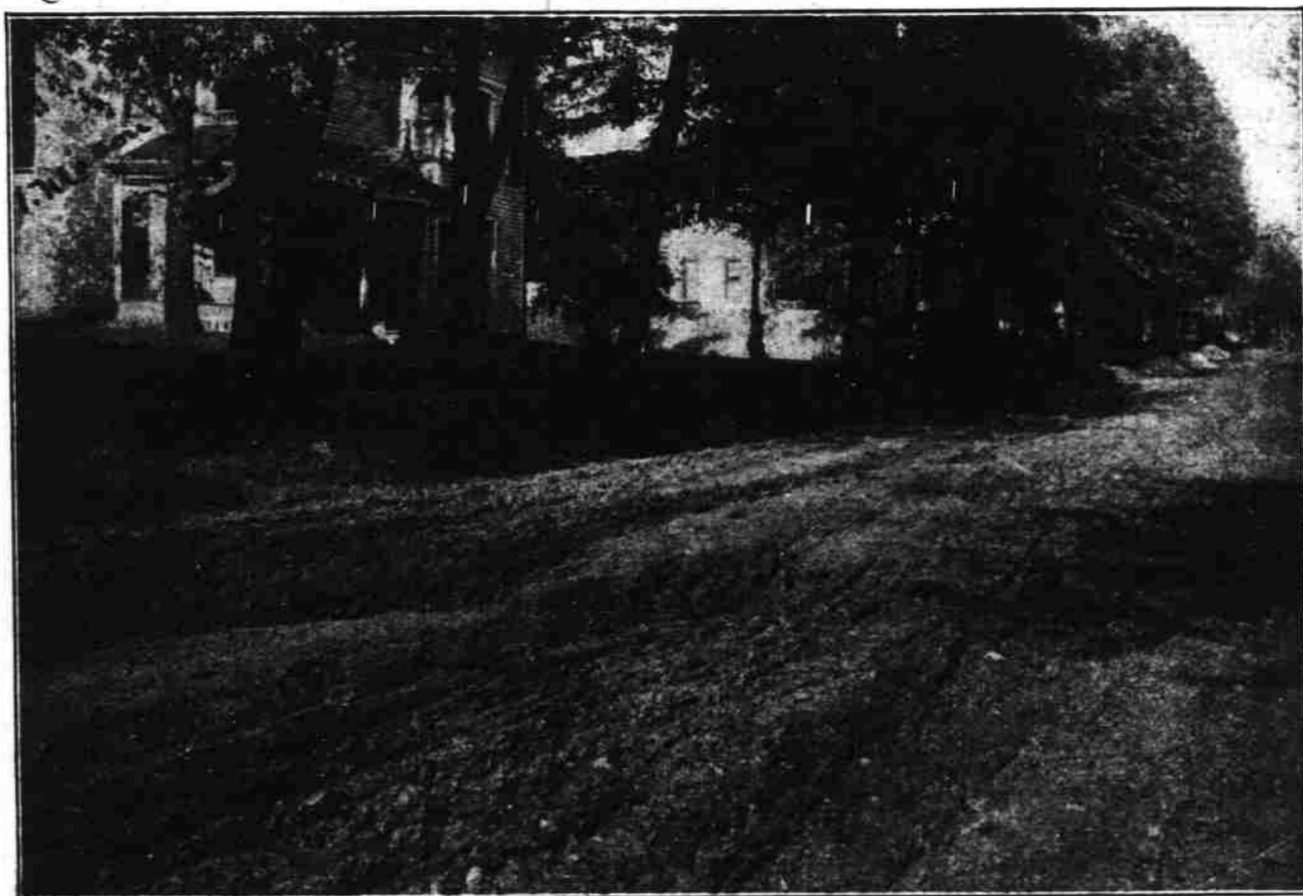
Following this—on page 4—are two articles, brief and pointed, that will interest every practical farmer who reads them. In "A Few Things Well Done," Mr. A. L. French gives a strong note of admonition to those farmers who incline toward having "two many irons in the fire," and pleads for specialization of effort. In his own farming Mr. French is himself a fine exemplar of the doctrines he sets forth—and he succeeds. On

The King Road Drag—A Photograph of Results.

Last week we gave *Progressive Farmer* readers a description of the King split-log road drag, with working plans for making it and explicit directions for using it; though no extended directions are necessary for so simple a contrivance. We want to see the drag method thoroughly tested by our readers; if they will carry out the suggestions in that one issue we believe they will accomplish wonders upon the muddy roads of *The Progressive Farmer's* territory. One road supervisor ordered a hundred extra copies of last week's paper and will distribute them among the farmers who live along his roads. Results may be expected to follow work of this sort.

Our illustrations in that issue were designed to show the method of dragging; in this week's issue we follow them up by trying to show, as well as can be shown with ink and paper, the actual results of dragging. The pictures explain themselves. Between the two conditions shown nothing has intervened except thirty minutes and a dragging with the King split-log drag.

Does not this photograph of results prove that you should at least give the split-log drag a chance? The drag is intended, of course, for clay roads only, but for these it is unquestionably the greatest of recent discoveries in road-mending.



[By courtesy of Mr. D. Ward King, Maitland, Mo.]
MUD SCENE, MACON, MO., 2 O'CLOCK, P. M., MAY 17, 1905.



[By courtesy of Mr. D. Ward King, Maitland, Mo.]
THE SAME THIRTY MINUTES LATER, AFTER USING THE KING ROAD DRAG.

the topic of "Thin Planting of Corn," Prof. J. F. Duggar, of the Alabama Experiment Station, calls attention to the conditions in the South which have made it necessary to plant corn thin (but not so thin as it is generally planted), and then shows how these conditions may be overcome.

An article by Mr. S. B. Woods on page 5 assails some of the popular notions about raising turkeys, basing his contentions upon good reasoning and upon his own successful experience. He does not pretend that young turkeys can be raised without trouble, but he does claim that with the proper amount of intelligent care they may be easily raised—and, he says, there are few things that pay better than turkeys.

While speaking of poultry, we cannot omit directing attention to Uncle Jo's "Bunch of Stray Feathers" on page 12. By turns, he is a gentle

counsellor showing you how, and then a sharp shooter with his "don'ts" and searching interrogations, showing you how not to treat your chickens. And when he puts a whole sermon in two sentences like these: "Don't be a 'chicken raiser. Be a 'poultry breeder'"—well, we feel like leaving you right there to think over the sermon.

A timely paper also is that of Mr. A. J. Webb on page 6 on "Pure Bred Stock for the Small Farmer."

On page 13 will be found the article we promised last week by Miss Will Lou Gray on School House Improvement. Mrs. Grimes has on page 16 one of the finest papers she has yet given us. Be sure to read what she says on the subject of vines.

Our cottage plans are resumed on page 7, and our various departments—as well-filled as usual—speak for themselves.