

MONEY MAKING DURING THE VACATION.

Young men and young women who wish to make some extra money during their summer vacation will be interested in the liberal cash commissions we are now offering agents.

We are especially anxious to have every township in The Progressive Farmer's territory thoroughly canvassed in our behalf before fall and to this end our terms to agents are now made more liberal than ever before.

Whether school-boy, school-girl, young man, young woman, old man or old woman, if you are willing to work to get new subscriptions for The Progressive Farmer this summer and thereby make some money for yourself and at the same time help The Progressive Farmer, drop us a postal and learn our liberal terms.

Do it now.

FOR ORGANIZING TOBACCO GROWERS—THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

The last number of the Southern Tobacco Journal sums up in very forceful fashion the conditions which seem to render higher prices for tobacco inevitable throughout the coming season. The increased cost of living which has forced up the prices of nearly every product of farm and factory is in itself an adequate reason for expecting higher prices, and in addition to this the consuming world faces the almost certain prospect of an unusually short crop to meet a constantly increasing demand. It is certainly an opportune time for tobacco growers to combine their forces and compel the Trust to pay what the 1907 crop is worth. But we set out only to give the Tobacco Journal's editorial, and it is as follows:

The past five years has been a period of wonderful development in all parts of the country, but more especially in our own Southland. The population has grown more rapidly than at any previous time; railroads, mills, mines and factories have increased enormously in capacity and output. Horses, mules, and labor are higher than ever known. Cotton has advanced, and is now a fixed price at from ten to twelve and one-half cents. Every product of the farm has increased except tobacco.

Since 1903 there has been a marked decrease in the production of leaf tobacco, each year's crop falling below the previous one, so that now the records show that our last crop of tobacco in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina totals about one-half of the quantity produced in 1903. While this remarkable fall off in the production of tobacco has occurred, there has been at the same time a very large increase in its consumption. The demand has so nearly exhausted all surplus stock that the manufacturer must absolutely depend upon the next crop for his leaf for future business.

During the time this decrease in production of tobacco has occurred every other product of the farm has been increased and every line of business has been enormously developed. Public work of all sorts has offered such large increase in wages to farm hands that they have left in droves, and there is not the labor to be had to produce a full crop of tobacco. In addition to the labor trouble, the unfavorable and late spring weather has affected the plants so that much of the crop will be set late and at best can only make a very poor yield per acre, which will result in another short crop.

Now while it is true that tobacco has been gradually advancing for the past few years, and has really sold higher this year than for many years past, still the prices are not sufficiently attractive, considering the increased cost of production, to make the farmer put forth any extra effort whatever to increase his crop and the prices must go higher yet.

In the face of this situation, it ought to be plain to our tobacco farmers that they now have offered them the chance of a lifetime for organizing successfully to beat the Trust, and it is the intention of The Progressive Farmer to agitate this matter until some action is taken. Write us your views.

One of the best crops of all is the big harvest of farm-bred boys and girls who are leaving the various schools with their diplomas these May and June weeks. But the crop is not yet big enough. Increase the acreage.

President Roosevelt's Message to Farmers.

Perhaps the most notable agricultural address ever delivered by a President of the United States was that of President Roosevelt at Michigan Agricultural College last Friday. It was not an address of mere platitudes, not a mere rehearsal of oft-told stories concerning the strength of body and soul that comes from living next to the soil, not a mere address of flattery for the most numerous class of our country's population. On the contrary, the wonderful versatility of the Nation's Chief Executive has seldom been better illustrated than in his splendid handling of strictly agricultural questions in this address at Lansing. And while the whole speech would fill nearly half of The Progressive Farmer, we have thought it worth while to select for the consideration of our readers three passages of especial note—one bearing on the great benefits to be derived from more thorough organization and co-operation of the farmers; a second emphasizing the fact that it is just as important and necessary a work to add cheerfulness, beauty, and comfort to farm life as it is to add dollars and blooded stock and bank stock; and a third passage in which a plea is made for a broader life for farmers' wives.

I.

"Farmers must learn the vital need of co-operation with one another," was the sentence with which President Roosevelt began his argument for the organization of the farmers, and his clear statement of the case would gain little by comment of ours. We quote:

Farmers must learn the vital need of co-operation with one another. Next to this comes co-operation with the Government, and the Government can best give its aid through associations of farmers rather than through the individual farmer; for there is no greater agricultural problem than that of delivering to the farmer the large body of agricultural knowledge which has been accumulated by the National and State Governments and by the agricultural colleges and schools.

Nowhere has the Government worked to better advantage than in the South, where the work done by the Department of Agriculture in connection with the cotton growers of the Southwestern States has been phenomenal in its value. The farmers in the region affected by the boll weevil, in the course of the efforts to fight it, have succeeded in developing a most scientific husbandry, so that in many places the boll weevil became a blessing in disguise. Not only did the industry of farming become of very much greater economic value in its direct results, but it became immensely more interesting to thousands of families. The meetings at which the new subjects of interest were discussed grew to have a distinct social value, while with the farmers were joined the merchants and bankers of the neighborhood. It is needless to say that every such successful effort to organize the farmer gives a great stimulus to the admirable educational work which is being done in the Southern States, as elsewhere, to prepare young people for an agricultural life.

Nor did President Roosevelt pass over in this connection the great need of organization of the farmers for purposes of self-protection. In no other way, he pointed out, can the farmers make themselves felt as they should in getting justice from the commercial world. It is to be hoped that Mr. Roosevelt's message here will set many farmers to thinking who have not yet been reached by the Alliance, Farmers' Union, and Cotton Association organizers. His words are worth emphasizing:

The people of our farming regions must be able to combine among themselves, as the most efficient means of protecting their interests which now surround them on every side. A vast field is open for work by co-operative associations of farmers in dealing with the relation of the farm to transportation and to the distribution and manufacture of raw materials. It is only through such combination that American farmers can develop to the full their economic and social power.

II.

The new thing in President Roosevelt's speech—and it is a most important new thing—was his

declaration for a broader policy on the part of our National and State Department of Agriculture. His own language will best give his meaning:

But great as its services have been in the past, this Department of Agriculture has a still larger field of usefulness ahead. It has been dealing with growing crops. It must hereafter deal also with living men. Hitherto agricultural research, instruction, and agitation have been directed almost exclusively toward the production of wealth from the soil. It is time to adopt in addition a new point of view. Hereafter another great task before the National Department of Agriculture and the similar agencies of the various States must be to foster agriculture for its social results, or in other words, to assist in bringing about the best kind of life on the farm for the sake of producing the best kind of men.

It is unnecessary to say that with this position of the President we agree most heartily. It has been a conception of this sort which has distinguished The Progressive Farmer from all other farm papers. Other agricultural journals have been content merely to tell the farmer how to fertilize wheat and how to make bigger yields of corn; we have gone further, and without neglecting the side of crop production, we have sought just as earnestly to stimulate interest in better schools, better roads, rural mail delivery, rural telephones, more beautiful farm homes, and in everything that makes farm life sweeter and happier. For the true aim must be to make broader lives as well as acres; fuller minds as well as fuller barns; greater happiness as well as greater profits. Let the National Department of Agriculture now turn its tremendous energies into this new channel and the good that will result will be of incalculable value. In striking fashion did President Roosevelt state the case when he declared:

We hope ultimately to double the average yield of wheat—an important achievement; but it is even more important to double the desirability, comfort, and standing of the farmer's life.

We must consider, then, not merely how to produce, but also how production affects the producer. In the past we have given but scant attention to the social side of farm life. We should study much more closely than has yet been done the social organization of the country, and inquire whether its institutions are now really as useful to the farmer as they should be, or whether they should not be given a new direction and a new impulse, for no farmer's life should lie merely within the boundary of its farm.

Important as have been many of President Roosevelt's services to the Nation, when we consider how many millions of people would be affected by such a movement, as is here suggested, it is certainly not too much to say that it would be one of his half-dozen greatest achievements if he should set the Nation-girdling forces of the National Department of Agriculture at work upon these new tasks of social service. The farmers of the country should join him at this psychological moment in urging its importance.

III.

In concluding his speech, President Roosevelt came to another question which is a sort of hobby with The Progressive Farmer—the important part played by the farmer's wife in the work of the farm and the full recognition of her services and her position which should be given her. We cannot do better than to quote this part of the President's Message entire (it is given on another page), and so end this article by leaving his words in the ears of our readers. Oh, the many and many a hard-handed woman of toil whose heroism is as great as that of the men whose monuments we are building and whose queenly heart deserves tributes as gentle as ever queen has won! May the President's suggestion bring to some one of these women on the farm some new word or deed of happy appreciation—as it should.