

To Make Mother Earth Turn Loose Big Crops.

That is the Business the Farmers' Institutes Want to Help You Out in —Don't be Afraid of Them—They Bring the Latest and Best Ideas in Farming Right to Your Door.

Yes, it's Institute time. Let's knock off and go. We'll renew old friendships with our neighbors, and with the lecturers who are coming a long ways to see us. And there will be some new lecturers along, and from both old and new speakers we will get new ideas and fresh faith in the great business of farming. And at many places the good women will be there to hold conference with our wives and daughters about the great business of keeping the home and making life richer in good things, brighter and better, and more worth living.

Yes, arrange your work, so you can knock off Institute day. Say to your wife, "Get ready"; to your neighbor, "Let's go," and to the farmer who follows afar off say, "Come, go with us, and it will do you good." But the rest of what we wanted to say is so well said by Editor John A. Oates, in the North Carolina Baptist that we are going to copy it now:

There is a sneering laugh among some folks whenever a Farmers' Institute is named. They prefer the "good old way," as they are pleased to call it, and have no time for the "book farmer." They like to tell it, that they plant and plough and reap just as their daddies did, that they have inbred the same stock for fifty years, and followed in the way their fathers trod. Well, we like reverence and respect for ancestry, but China has shown to the world that that thing can be carried a little too far—until all the world moves on and leaves the crusty worshiper behind.

The world is moving on industrially at a rapid rate, and the farmer must utilize every invention, every discovery, every improvement he can get hold of to help him make mother earth turn loose the biggest crops

GOOD SCHOOLS ARE WORTH PLANNING FOR.

Should Have as Much Zeal and Business Judgment Back of Them as the Banks and Factories.

Messrs. Editors: I believe that our people read and think more than they used to. They certainly travel and observe more. All of this means good for our part of the country. It means that we are not going to be satisfied with perfunctory support and indifferent schools.

It has been a mystery to me how our farmers could afford to neglect their schools when such a course meant not only ignorance and inefficiency for their own children in the future, but present depreciation of property and scarcity of good people in the community. A good school will aid in the solution of the labor problem. It ought also to teach many young farmers more about improved machinery and better methods of farming.

It has been a mystery to me also why the people of a community will not go about building a school with the same zeal and business judgment that they manifest in building a warehouse, a bank, or a factory. Surely there is not enough money in all these to purchase one child.

that will pay the biggest profits. Well, the agricultural colleges, the experiment stations and the institutes have helped the farmer along wonderfully. They don't turn out fool farmers, who don't know how to do anything but read bulletins and spend money. To be sure they cannot take a blockhead and turn him into a captain of industry, but the advanced ideas in farming do give the farmer a chance to get the most out of his work—and that is what every man ought to do.

We are not afraid of true science. It is the good friend of man. Let us have it in all its thoroughness, in religion, in medicine, in agriculture. It unlocks the secrets of nature and makes them the servants of man. He works then in the light rather than in the dark. He learns through speedy experiment lessons what it would take a lifetime to learn through slow experience. The farmer thus becomes the beneficiary of the student who uses the money of the State for the upbuilding of the people.

Don't be afraid of these Institutes. There will be a number of them this summer, held all over the State, for farmers and farmers' wives. Take a day or two off and go. It will pay you. You may be able by a little help from the scientific man to reclaim that wasting hillside, to utilize that thrown-out meadow, to build up your retrograding stock, to beautify your home—in fact to make life more worth living. Yes, go to the Institute. You, the backbone of the land, are entitled to know all the latest and best things about agriculture, just as much as the doctor and preacher and teacher are to learn the best things in their work.

And best of all, this information, this proffered help, is brought right to your own door. Get it and combine it with your own common sense, using here and rejecting there as conditions may demand.

But be sure to take your wife.

And yet the child is frequently sent for several hours in the day to a school house better suited for developing pneumonia, and with furniture seemingly designed for curving backbones and shoulders!

A good school cannot be built in a day. It cannot be built in a year. It takes foresight and forethought to do this work. It also takes time. I have often thought that the leaders of a community ought to get together and make plans, not only for next year, but for ten years in the future. If they look forward twenty-five or fifty years, it will be all the better. If school patrons look more to the future there would not be so many differences among them, and the teachers would not be so often changed.

O. B. MARTIN,
State Superintendent of Education of South Carolina.
Columbia, S. C.

I want to congratulate you upon the rapid strides which The Progressive Farmer is making, not only in the increase of its subscription list, but also in the tone and value of its contents. It is growing in grace and usefulness as well as in circulation.—J. L. Chambers, The Liddell Co., Charlotte, N. C.

MARVELOUS REVIVAL OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SOUTH.

(Continued from Page 2.)

increased from 4,000 to 8,000, that of the Baptist paper from 5,000 to 11,00, and that of the farm paper from 5,000 to 24,000.

Schools and Farms Make Love to Each Other.

For the first time, too, the school is beginning to lay hold on farm life—no longer a mere parasite, but a living, vital thing rooted in the soil. Agriculture and Nature Study now have a place in the curriculum. Under the old system the farmer boy learned about the wonders of Asia and Switzerland, but nothing about the wonders of plant and animal life; he was taught the metric system of weights and measures, but not how to calculate a feeding ration, foreign exchange had a place in the school books but there was not a word about the elements of soil fertility. Teaching a hundred ways of applying education in the office or the store, but utterly ignoring agriculture, small wonder that hundreds of boys who might have been farm successes became town failures, and hundreds of others quit school as soon as they decided to become farmers, and dwarfed their souls because of a school system that belonged to the middle ages.

Ten years ago, State-aided rural school libraries for North Carolina were not even talked of; while every day for five years now some new store-house of the world's intellectual wealth has been put within reach of the country children. I sometimes wonder if any other money the State has ever spent has produced better results. Only a few weeks ago a young business man told me a vivid story of a country boy's soul-hunger, his unsatisfied hunger for food intellectual, in the days when the country school supplied nothing beyond the monotonous drill of the text-books. Each volume he had borrowed from his neighbors' scanty book-shelves—here a life of Lincoln; there a copy of Tennyson's Poems; from another Hawthorne's "Twice Told Tales"—all these he recalled as a Sahara traveler might remember each oasis found in crossing the desert. Even a poem he had picked up on a scrap of paper in the road had come like a cool draught to a thirsty man.

Calling the Town Man Back to the Country.

Yet another noteworthy factor in the enrichment of country life is the rural telephone—farmers in more than one country setting up their own poles, stringing their own wire, and operating extensive co-operative lines—and the trolley is also beginning to penetrate the farming districts. With all these improvements, and the betterment of the public schools which we are now to consider, it is not strange that with us the drift to the cities has been largely checked, and that the high price of cotton of late years in many sections has actually turned the tide back toward the country.

[From "The Rebound of the Upland South," by Clarence H. Poe, Editor of the Progressive Farmer, in June number of the World's Work. By permission of Doubleday, Page & Co.]

At the meeting of the district committee of the Burley Tobacco Society at Winchester, Ky., there was considerable talk of establishing independent factories in various places. The Commercial Club of Winchester is securing stock for a factory in that place. The Burley Society neither encourages nor discourages these factories. Their business is to sell their tobacco, and it is immaterial who is the purchaser.

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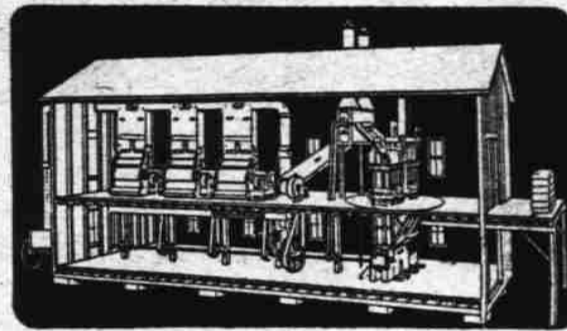


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