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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENT.

Sub-soiling. Question marks about it are beginning to congregate in the think-loft of the farmer who is progressive. Last week we printed fine articles on the subject by Prof. Massey and Dr. Knapp. This week we print an article by Mr. E. E. Miller on the gradual deepening of the soil; and on the same second page, Mr. Worden writes from experience on the allied topic of underdraining, to which attention is being turned now by a number of the best farmers, while the eighteen reasons of Col. Waring for tile draining covers pretty thoroughly the argument for underdrainage of the soil. Deepening the seed-bed and enriching it clear down, filling it with vegetable matter for retaining water and to prevent washing, ventilating it and draining it—all present problems for the go-ahead farmer to tackle and solve for himself on his own lands. And this is the time of year to commence the tackling.

Does cotton lint gain in weight by being allowed to ripen in the seed? Some people may not be convinced that it does, but Mr. G. M. Davis is not among the number. He regards it as an unquestioned fact, and in an interesting article on page 3 says he is anxious for the Government to make a thorough test. We wish some of our Progressive Farmer Family would make this test and not wait for the "Government" to get all the honors.

An unusual number of practical farm topics in very brief form are handled in this week's issue, and we hope no reader will overlook a single one of them. How to get a stand of bur clover, the subject of Mr. Bailey's letter on page 2, has a heading in type large enough to catch the eye, but a number of similar topics are handled on page 5 under the questions answered by Mr. Parker. Is it too late to sow rape?—When is the best time to sub-soil?—What are best early varieties of the sweet potato?—What is the best grass mixture for a permanent pasture?—these are some of the topics which give to Mr. Parker's answers timeliness and value for a great many readers.

Along with other good things at hand now, this is sweet potato time. It is a pity to lose any crop after it is made, and we will say that if you haven't read Prof. Massey's article on the harvesting and housing of this crop, it will be a good idea

## How Much Land are You Renting Out to Stumps?\*

This picture shows where a stump puller has been along, and the signs indicate that it has performed some pretty powerful dentistry on this piece of land. You've heard of the man who wanted to know why it is that lightning seldom strikes twice in the same place; the answer is, that it seldom leaves anything to strike. Same way with the stump puller that went browsing over the field shown in the picture.



By the way, how much land are you renting out to stumps now? And what rental do they pay you? Stumps, you notice, have a way of occupying no hing but good land and they also have another stubborn, insistent way of getting there first and having the first whack at the new ground—while it is fresh and productive. Each stump also

arrogates to itself a certain little patch of its own, a long patch between the rows, sharp at both ends and wide in the middle, like the sign in the music book which shows you when to swell out louder and then taper off again. And when old Bob sidles around the stump, and strikes it with the trace and single-tree and tramples down the growing crop, and your lifted plow gets caught on the big root, and the plowhandle pastes you a good one under the ribs, you swell out louder all right, but do not always taper off again in strict accordance with the diminution sign in the note book.

As to the rent—stumps do raise a crop and pay rent after a fashion. But the crop is mainly in the nature of ejaculations, like the one the Randolph-county man got after Mr. Hobbs about—and others not so mild; while the rent is paid in relieving you of working a considerable percentage of your land, in broken plows, in keeping improved machinery off your land, and in unsightly fields. Altogether, Mr. Stump is a fine type of the undesirable rural citizen.

Hitherto, Mr. Farmer has depended on his partnership with the weather to rid his farm of Mr. Stump's occupancy. But the weather is slow and uncertain—especially slow. It is mighty easy on the intruder and allows him long years—two, five, ten, twelve—of his dog-in-the-manger policy. Time and land and labor are too precious to bother any longer with Mr. Stump. The wide-awake farmer quits waiting on the weather and forms a partnership with a stump puller. The stump puller noses over the field a while and then says, "Mr. Farmer, here's your land." And he finds that the stump puller pays handsomely as a farm enlarger and pays again by clearing the way for improved cultivating and harvesting machinery.

\*This is the first of a series of Progressive Farmer articles about the different types of farm machinery.

to turn back to our issue of October 3rd and read it. That is, if you are raising only a hundred bushels or so. But if you have larger quantities to carry through the winter, you will certainly be interested in the potato house described by Prof. Massey on page 9 of this week's paper.

We do not often mention them—but the Home Circle and Our Young People's pages are full worthy this week, we think, of the attention of those who are fond of these departments. Aunt Mary's sensible opinion of this season's millinery fashions is something that you mustn't overlook.

Another thing—Mr. Harrison's article on page 11. He just says that all those farm conveniences are easy to have if you try. He has tried and knows—he has them. Can't you go and do likewise? A progressive farmer must keep on making progress, you know.

### HAVE YOU BEEN TO TOWN?

All your farm neighbors, of course, ought to take The Progressive Farmer; but have you tried your merchant, lawyer, and doctor? A great many of these own farms, or are interested in farming, and would be "tickled" to get a wide-awake, thought-provoking farm paper. Every man who owns a yard of farm dirt ought to read The Progressive Farmer.

### MR. T. O. SANDY AND HIS WORK.

Mention was made in last week's Progressive Farmer that Mr. T. O. Sandy, of Burkeville, has charge of the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work in Virginia. It should also be noted that Mr. Sandy is a member in good standing of The Progressive Farmer Family, and a man whose experience in rebuilding a Virginia farm is too inspiring for us to pass over without notice. He bought a Nottoway County farm about twelve years ago which then produced about six bushels of corn per acre, the land itself being valued at about \$4 per acre. By a proper system of rotation, stock-raising, and tillage, he has brought his corn yields to nearly seventy bushels per acre, and has refused an offer of \$50 per acre for the land which was worth only one-twelfth that amount when he took charge of it. Last year's operations brought him \$6,000. To have a man of this type get in touch with a hundred or more of his brother farmers in any county, and show how the thing can be done, is undoubtedly one of the most effective, if not really the most effective, of all plans for the upbuilding of Southern agriculture.

Going to mill or store or church meeting Saturday? Don't forget that club for The Progressive Farmer.