

We Ought to Have More Percherons.

They Suit the South, and it is Cheap Labor and Light Horsepower, Not the Southern Climate, That Makes Poor Farming.

Messrs. Editors: Your enterprising inquirer did exactly right in bringing his Percheron mares down from the North. Seeing Northern men moving into this country with their big mares and observing their success with them, tempted me to go North in the winter of 1906 and buy some four and five-year-old grade Percheron mares weighing twelve to fourteen hundred pounds. They were put to work and have been kept at it. Not one has ever been sick or out of condition. They have stood the work as well as the mules, and are bringing me colts besides.

One mare taken out of the plow Wednesday at noon foaled a fine colt Sunday morning. After two weeks of rest she will be put back to the plow. We have had considerable experience breeding and working horses on this place, and have never seen any ill effects of change of climate, in the trotting, the pacing, or the draft breeds of stock. I hope my experience will give some comfort to your subscriber.

CLARENDON DAVIS.

Huntsville, Ala.

Editorial Comment: Such testimony is valuable in helping to dispel some of the fog surrounding commonly accepted theories of what can't be done in the South. If the other Southern States could have as many immigrants from the North in proportion to the population, as Texas has had, there is little doubt that there would have resulted an exchange of ideas about many farm problems and that in the main the best ideas would have survived elsewhere as they have in Texas; and that the other Southern States would have profited as much by it.

Prudent Care Needed by Big Horses.—With the exceptions of a difference in soils and the best seasons for planting crops, harvesting them, etc., there is less difference between the North and the South from a farmer's standpoint than is generally believed. Of course some crops are suited to one section and unsuited to the other; but the way that field work should be done is rather similar all over the country, as large as it is. It takes a big horse to pull a big load or a big plow in the South, for the same reason that it does elsewhere. With good treatment, the big horse will do in the South about what it would do elsewhere with good treatment. As a matter of fact, it gets hotter in Illinois than it does in Alabama, though this is contrary to the usual belief. The Gulf States have a longer period of warm weather, but the thermometer does not go so high. The records of the weather bureau from year to year show this conclusively. But no man with a heavy horse would expect it to go on the road and travel fast on a hot day, in any section, if the man had horse sense. In trying to make a heavy horse do that in the South, a man can easily get convinced that a heavy animal is not suited to the South; but that does not prove anything but that such a man attempted something foolish.

A Good Habit the Northerner Has.—While comparing the North and the South, we may go farther, and say that Northern workmen work harder than Southern workmen, because the Northerner in his native section could not do anything else. There was no cheap labor to do work for him. It was work or starve. Work became a habit. When the Northerner moves to the South he can still work hard, because he has such a habit fixed on him. True, some of them get the idea that it is cheaper to hire work done than it is to do it themselves; but that kind does not last. After unusual opportunity to observe how these matters have worked out along a stretch of country that covers over half the Gulf coast, there is no hesitation in making the foregoing statements, without fear of their being

seriously contradicted by those who have had equal opportunity to make like observations.

More Faith Needed in Our Possibilities.—Men can work in the South like men work in the North; and if an unusually kind nature and cheap labor had not spoiled them, they would be working in the South to-day as men work in the North. They would also be more inclined to think that heavy horses in the South can be worked with success. What we are in the habit of doing and what we are used to seeing appeals to us as being the right thing, and sometimes as the only right thing. We are creatures of habit; and if the South had had some handicap like the North's being frozen up one-third of every year for generations, the Southern people would have had to dig so hard to make a living that the habit of working industriously in person—not by proxy—would be firmly fixed. From very necessity, the work would have been done in a more economical way. Work stock weighing more than a yearling steer would have become a part of the forces involved in doing work more economically. If Southerners would believe more in the South and in what can be done in the South, they would accomplish more; the South would take the high position nature prepared her to hold. A happy change is in progress; and it is due mostly to a change of mind, to a conviction that better things are possible and to a firm determination to do them.

CHAS. M. SCHERER.

"SOUTHERN CHUNKS"—BUT THEY ARE IMPROVING.

"That a happy change is in progress" in the South, as Editor Scherer says in concluding his article on this page, is an encouraging observation that is supported by some very pleasing semi-statistical evidence which comes from Illinois. Bulletin No. 122 of the Illinois Experiment Station, just issued, is devoted to "Horses" of market classes, and in describing the various types and the demand for them makes the following interesting comment:

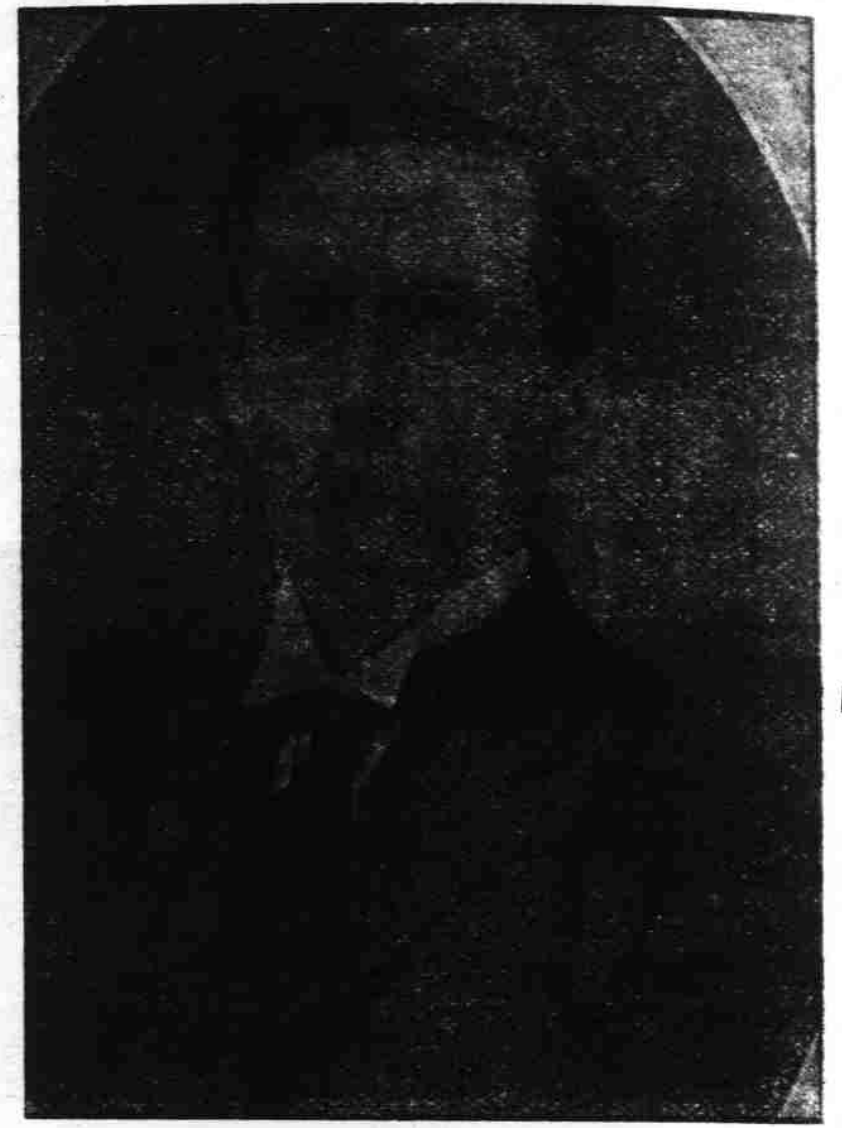
"Southern Chunks, or as they are termed in some markets 'Southern horses,' or 'Southerns,' are small horses that are bought by dealers for the Southern markets, many of them going to Memphis, Tenn., Jacksonville, Fla., Atlanta, Ga., Richmond, and Norfolk, and other large Southern towns. They are used by Southern planters for tilling their lands and for driving and riding. The Southern farmer does not cultivate deeply and the soils are light, consequently he does not require very large horses; however, each year the trend of the market is for larger horses for this trade."

This is one of the signs of the times which indicates that the revolution in Southern agriculture is acquiring some speed. The Southern farmer may not "cultivate deeply," for he is trying to learn shallow cultivation, but he is learning to plow deep and to use more farm machinery—facts which explain in part, we are sure, why "each year the trend of the market is for larger horses" instead of "chunks" for the Southern trade.

Strive to get a good stand. All your careful preparing, and good cultivation, and heavy fertilizing, and all the sunshine and showers and gently distilling dews cannot make corn and cotton grow on stalks that are not there. Prepare your seed-bed well, be sure your seed are pure, sound and strong, and then plant them the proper distance and depth. In this way you will at least be trying to do a good farmer's part in securing a good stand.

PRACTICAL HEALTH TALKS TO FARMERS.

Dr. H. F. Freeman is best known to our readers as a writer on farm subjects, but he is a good doctor as well as a good farmer—as we have had one or two excellent articles to prove. Consequently it gives us unusual pleasure to announce that Dr. Freeman has consented to write for us a series of "Practical Health Talks to



DR. H. F. FREEMAN.

Farmers," which we have no doubt will form one of the most useful and popular features ever carried in *The Progressive Farmer*. Among the subjects discussed will be the following:

- Consumption: The great white plague and how to deal with it.
- Pneumonia and Colds: How to avoid them this winter.
- Digging Your Grave With Your Teeth: Some Suggestions as to what ought and what ought not to be eaten.
- Does Moderate Drinking Hurt You?—The plain truth about temperance.
- Delusions and Superstitions: Some common fallacies about health and medicine and the harm they do.
- The Family Medicine Chest: The remedies I would have in it and the use I would make of them.
- An Ounce of Prevention: Some rules for keeping health while you have it.
- Infectious and Contagious Diseases: How far one may go in safety, and the rules for preventing their spread.
- Where Death Lurks: In the water supply, bad drainage, etc.
- Babies and Children: Some common mistakes in their management.
- Patent Medicines: The great American fraud.

WE TAKE NONE BUT RELIABLE ADVERTISERS.

Messrs. Editors: I wish to order a vehicle from The Spotless Company, Richmond, Va., and wish to know if you think it perfectly safe to send cash with order. Please answer on enclosed card. I write you because I saw advertisement in your paper.

A. J. SUTTON.

The fact that Mr. Sutton saw the advertisement in our paper is proof enough that we regard it as absolutely safe to send cash with order. It is always a waste of time to write us to ask if we regard a *Progressive Farmer* advertiser as reliable. We reject thousands of dollars worth of business every year that other popular papers take just because we do not regard it as trustworthy, and no firm can be represented in our columns if any well-grounded complaint against it has ever been brought to our attention.

Mr. Average Farmer, you are paying more mud tax, on account of poor roads, than the other kind of tax you complain so much about. Talk it over with your neighbors and try to get better roads along the highway you have to travel regularly. Do not be too timid to go with it to those whose business it is to see that the roads are made good and kept good.