

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## DO YOU RIDE OR ARE YOU FARMING AFOOT?

"Start your two-horse riding cultivator," was the advice you read last week in "Suggestions for June Farm work."

We hope a bigger per cent of **Progressive Farmer** readers are adopting this advice this year than ever before. Consider what the farmer gains who is cultivating his crop with such improved implements—as those shown in the picture: (1) he is saving time, (2) he is saving labor, (3) he is doing better work than he ever did in the old one-man, one-horse, and one-furrow way, and (4) he is saving himself. Sweeping two rows at the time, he can cultivate his entire crop within the time when it should be cultivated, while the season is yet in the ground. He leaves behind a long double trail of clean fresh earth, and the young roots, left feeding themselves fat under the uniform, moisture-holding dust-mulch, are giving the crop rich color and rapid growth. How much more has been done when night comes! And as for the farmer himself, who has been riding instead of walking, what a difference



in his feeling after the big day's work! There is money lost and much time lost each and every time a man does anything a machine might do or that two men and two

horses do what one man and two horses with the right machine might do.

In the modern march of progressive farming in the South, how are

you travelling? Do you belong to the infantry or the cavalry? If you are spending these warm June days walking up and down each row two, or three, or four times before you can leave it for the next, it is a good time for you to do a lot of good thinking. And if when might overtakes you, it finds you feeling that you have not done half as much as you wanted to do that day and finds you also feeling too tired to do anything but rest, hadn't you better do some thinking and change to more progressive and profitable methods? Think upon these things.

The time is at hand when more and more of our Southern farmers should get out of the infantry, quit farming afoot, and join the rapidly recruiting army of cavalry farmers who do their work faster, better, and easier, by means of more horse-power and machinery.

He fights enough who obtains the victory.—Duke of Alva.

I had rather men should ask why Catō had no statue than why he had one.—Marcus Porcius Cato.

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### IN THE PAPER THIS WEEK.

If you merely skim this week's paper you are going to miss something that you ought to get. There's a whole page (page 2) of timely practical farm questions answered by Professor Massey. Possibly the very thing you wanted to know is right there, or possibly on page 1 where he takes up some important things suggested by last week's paper.

The letters, answers, and short-cuts on pages 4 and 5 will be found to have unusual interest. How to sow millet and turnip seed through a grain drill, when to put nitrate of soda on cotton, getting cash without cotton, more about silos, and how to dehorn calves, are a few of the topics that are pointedly handled.

Mr. French pushes vigorously on page 10 the plea for a North Carolina Live Stock Association, while on every other page of this week's paper there are live topics that no progressive reader should overlook.

### Comments Suggested by Last Week's Paper.

**Successful Farming With Tenants.**—Mr. Scherer makes some excellent suggestions in the issue for June 2nd in regard to tenants. The fact is, the whole system of tenant cropping in the Cotton Belt is wrong, and a loss to land-owner and tenant alike.

If a man has more land than he can work with his own means, he had better sell it or let it grow up in pines than to parcel it out in the usual way. But if the large tract was divided into smaller ones, and decent houses and outbuildings placed on each, so that a respectable man could rent it, there might be a great change. Then if the renting is accompanied by an agreement as to the course of rotation to be adopted, and just what part of the expenses are to be borne by landlord and tenant, and the tenant assured that so long as he farms right his tenancy will be permanent, there would be hope for the South. A similar system is in use in Maryland. Forty-two farms of the McKinney estate in Queen Anne County, Md., are occupied by intelligent farmers, and these farms have been improved greatly in productiveness while rented, and the late owner and organizer became a millionaire since the war at farming only. But so long as the cotton farms have only cabins for negroes and a little log hovel for the mules, a respectable tenantry cannot be had, and the land will never improve under the annual cropping system.

The example of the millionaire cotton farmer, James Smith, of Georgia, shows what a man of business energy can make in cotton farming where the improvement of the land is kept in view. Mr. Smith has built up his immense plantation by degrees under his own supervision, and not by putting croppers in to grow weak cotton to bear the market in the fall. It is a great pity that men of means in the South cannot see the great oppor-

tunities that are afforded in business-like farming.

**Saving Clover Seed.**—The purchase of clover seed from men who do not clean it well, has spread more vile weeds over the country than anything else, and Mr. Clarendon Davis gives good advice. If a farmer will get and sow perfectly clean red clover seed, no matter what the price he has to pay for extra cleaning, and will then grow clean clover and save his own seed, he will avoid the bringing in of foreign weeds that infest so many fields. One man in Virginia wrote me that his land has gotten so infested with the narrow leaf plantain that he cannot grow clover at all. He got all of the plantain seed in the clover seed he bought without inspection. In getting clover seed, if you are not well versed in weed seeds, you had better get samples and send them to the Experiment Station for examination, and never buy from a sample that is not clean. Better pay \$10 a bushel for clean seed than to have foul seed given to you. Take the advice of Mr. Davis and grow your own clover seed.

**Double and Treble Your Corn Yield.**—Mr. Crowder says that his corn crop has doubled through reading **The Progressive Farmer**. If he and others who read our paper will persevere in methods advised, and will carefully breed up the productiveness of their corn and get rid of barren plants, he will not only double the crop but treble it. There is certainly some improvement in corn in North Carolina, but far slower than it should be. In 1903 the average production of North Carolina had advanced from 12 bushels per acre to 14.7 bushels, and in 1904 to 15.2 bushels, and in 1906 to 15.3 bushels, while South Carolina had advanced from 9 bushels per acre to 12 bushels in 1906. But Maryland in the same time had ad-

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