

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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"What's the News?"

THE DEFEAT OF HOKE SMITH IN GEORGIA.

Perhaps the most notable happening of the last seven days for our readers was the defeat of Hoke Smith in his struggle for re-election as Governor of Georgia. In Georgia the Democratic primaries settle the question as to who shall be Governor, and for a quarter century until now every Governor has been given two terms. The defeat of Hoke Smith, who has had but one term, is therefore significant, and the danger is that its significance may be misinterpreted.

Two years ago Hoke Smith—somewhat influenced in his candidacy, so it is said, by personal feeling against his opponent, Clark Howell, the "machine" candidate for Governor—won the Democratic nomination in one of the fiercest contests the South has ever had. Negro disfranchisement, regulation of railway freight rates, and opposition to machine methods in politics were his battle cries, and Tom Watson, the Populist leader, with thousands of his followers went into the primaries and supported Smith.

This time the campaign has been one of singular complications. Governor Smith, almost a giant in body and mind, has something of a giant's roughness in dealing with his opponents. Two years ago he denounced Joseph M. Brown, Railroad Commissioner and a son of Georgia's much-loved War Governor, and last spring—only three weeks before Brown's term expired and just after the Legislature adjourned—Smith removed Brown from office, declaring him unfit for the place. This action displeased most Georgians. "Even if Brown is unfit," they declared, "removing him only three weeks before his term expires can serve no purpose except to humiliate and dishonor him; and besides, the Governor should have submitted the matter to the Legislature so that it could have passed upon the justice of the matter."

THE WHIRLIGIG OF TIME AND ITS REVENGES.

Still the affair did not create much feeling at the time, and Brown went into private life to think upon revenge, next appearing on the scene three or four months ago when he announced that he would offer himself as a candidate against Smith for election as Governor. At first Smith charged that Brown represented the anti-prohibitionists, but the temperance issue was eliminated when Brown joined Smith in a public pledge to veto any bills injuriously affecting State prohibition. In the same way both candidates pledged themselves in favor of negro disfranchisement. Smith stumped the State, while Brown, who is a man of ineffectual presence and a poor speaker, stayed at home.

But just here another player enters upon the scene. Tom Watson, Populist candidate for the Presidency though he is, still has following enough in Georgia to hold the balance of power in such a contest as this in these white primaries,

and Hoke Smith had offended Tom Watson. Tom Watson also declared that Smith had set up a machine of his own as bad as its predecessor and that he had not carried out his campaign pledges. Watson therefore urged his followers to vote for Brown. How much influence this had we do not know, but anyhow Brown, who would have been only an ex-Railroad Commissioner, if Smith had let him alone, is now chosen to take Smith's place as Governor of the State.

"Hoke Smith is one of the strongest men in the Southern States," a friend of his declared to us two years ago, "but his great weakness is that he runs roughshod over whatever comes in his way." This fault now seems to have proved his undoing. And having found much to admire in his course, we regret his fall.

COTTON TRADE CONDITIONS IMPROVING.

Nothing more gratifying to Southern readers, however, has recently appeared in the papers than the news that cotton trade conditions have improved so markedly that American cotton mills will soon be using about the usual quantity of raw material again. The first of this month New England factories employing 35,000 operatives began full-time work once more, and similarly encouraging reports come from Southern cotton mills as well.

In this connection, it is of interest to note that the fifth International Congress of Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers in session last week kicked most vigorously against the American monopoly of the raw material and the great advance in prices during the last five or six years. European nations were urged to combine for the purpose of developing cotton growing in Asia and Africa. As these experiments have been going on with distinguished unsuccess ever since most of the delegates were born, however, we see no reason for alarm on the part of our Southern farmers now.

The Government estimate of acreage planted this year, it will be seen, shows practically the same as last year—only 21,000 acres increase in 32,081,000 total, while the Farmers' Union Presidents declare there is a reduction of 2,000,000 acres and the New York Commercial says that there is an increase of 1½ per cent.

STEADY FORWARD MARCH OF PROHIBITION.

The prohibition movement is becoming distinctively National in its proportions. Tuesday of one week its advocates register a great victory on the Atlantic: the State of North Carolina going dry by 43,000 majority. Tuesday of the following week it makes a no less notable advance on the Pacific: the State of Oregon having only one dry county at sunrise, adding twenty more by sunset. In wild and woolly Montana, too, a friend of ours writes that temperance sentiment is beginning to make itself felt in ordinances for closing saloons at midnight and on Sundays! The Democratic Convention of Arkansas last week also voted to submit the question of State prohibition to popular vote next year, and with that State in line, one unbroken column of State-prohibition territory will stretch from the Atlantic shore on the eastern edge of North Carolina to the Rocky Mountain foothills on the western border of Oklahoma.

RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT WINSTON.

The resignation of Dr. Geo. T. Winston, for several years President of the A. & M. College, last week, came as a distinct surprise to nearly everybody in the State. Dr. Winston is one of the most gifted of North Carolinians, and there are few who have rendered the Commonwealth more distinguished service than he. While we have held the opinion that he should have done more to build up the agricultural division of the College, even in this he did better than his

predecessors, and his work in developing the College patronage during the early years of his presidency was remarkably successful. A man of great resourcefulness, untiring energy, and an almost wonderful versatility and range of information, we hope that Dr. Winston's rare abilities will at once be turned to the service of the State in some other line of endeavor.

MR. TAFT'S PLAIN SPEAKING.

The Republican Convention meets in Chicago June 16th, and it is now practically certain that Taft will be the nominee. Mr. Taft, who is noted for frankness and plain speaking, as well as for good humor, is also much in the limelight now by reason of his address on General Grant recently delivered at Grant's tomb in New York City, in which he recounted the fact that Grant resigned from the army in 1854, because threatened with court-martial for drinking. Taft pointed to this as an illustration of how a brave man can finally rise master over an evil habit, but his critics think he carried his "plain speaking" too far in mentioning the matter on this occasion.

MINOR MATTERS MERELY MENTIONED.

The arrest of Theodore Price, of Cotton Exchange fame, will not likely excite much interest in the South. All our farmers have discovered by this time that the New York gamblers play the game for themselves only all the time, regardless of whether it helps or hurts cotton prices.—Two record-breaking ocean voyages have recently been made: the Mauretania crossing the Atlantic in 4 days, 20 hours and 21 minutes, while the Lusitania beats even this by 56 minutes.—There is general criticism of the inactivity of the Democrats in the closing hours of Congress, and their failure to back up La Follette in his wonderful fight against Standard Oil Aldrich's currency bill.—Ex-Senator James K. Jones, of Arkansas, Democratic National Chairman in 1896 and 1900 who died a few days ago, was a native of Mississippi and of North Carolina ancestry. He was eighteen years (1885-1903) United States Senator—Two or three local matters also deserve mention in this week's review. One is the action of the Wake County Democratic Committee in ordering the use of the Australian ballot in the party primaries. This system counts strongly against corruption and bossism in politics and ought to be adopted everywhere. We also wish to commend the action of Durham County in organizing an Anti-Tuberculosis Association, to which county and city each give \$600 annually, while individuals supplement the fund further by private subscriptions. A properly conducted campaign of this sort in each county would save countless lives, and is one of the most fruitful forms of philanthropy and patriotism. The third fact to which we would allude is our error in placing Duplin County in the dry column in the report of the North Carolina Prohibition election last week. The final count shows that Duplin went wet by 17 votes, and we mention that matter now to keep history straight.

NEXT WEEK'S PAPER.

Next week Professor Massey will write further on the Williamson Plan of growing corn, and there will be a report of Alabama Station tests of the plan by Director Duggar.

"Summer Work in the Poultry Yard" will be treated by Mrs. J. C. Deaton and we are sure that there's not a housewife among all our readers who will not find it valuable if she has anything at all to do with chickens on the farm.

A number of inquiries have been made recently about cabbage bugs, flea beetles and the like, and next week Prof. R. I. Smith will write about fighting these.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

If we, here in America, shall teach the world how to use the land without abusing it, we will have written a new page in History.—Judge J. Otis Humphrey.