

the penalty in diminished fees, diminished salaries, diminished influence.

Victims of the vicious teaching I am pointing out, your men of talent—artist, sculptor, poet, orator, have too often fled to other sections, or else have died with vision unfulfilled among a people untrained to appreciate their genius—when but for these things you might see statues of Southern leaders in every Southern city, the work of Southern artists in the world's greatest galleries, the thought of the Southern poet the common heritage of mankind. It is not that we have had no mighty dreamers; it is that they sleep in neglected graves trampled under foot by war, and waste, and error.

Now war and waste, thank God, are behind us. Let us also put error behind us.

THE SOUTH'S GREATEST ERRORS.

Of all our errors our greatest has been the failure to recognize the fact that the prosperity of every man depends upon the prosperity of the average man—and in many cases the actual acceptance of the doctrine that the State is benefited by having cheap, untrained labor. We have seen on the contrary that such labor is a curse.

And our second great error has been like unto it—the belief that even if the prosperity of every man does depend upon the prosperity of the average man, we are too poor to train him. The truth is, that we are too poor not to do so. The fullest and freest training of the average man is the one and only positive guarantee of Southern prosperity, and by this I mean the prosperity not only of our section and of our institutions and of society as a whole, but the prosperity of every individual—every farmer, every laborer, every merchant, every manufacturer, every professional man, every inhabitant as I have said, from the boy who blacks shoes to the master-mind that builds your railroad systems or governs your State. And having once accepted this doctrine concerning the average man—and the average man in the South being a farmer—we shall not be slow to put into effect that large and comprehensive program of rural development which earnest men and women, working in many different lines have gradually brought into shape—a program which looks to the ultimate doubling of the output and the more than quadrupling of the profits of that occupation which engages the attention of more people in the South than all other occupations combined.

THE GREAT REVOLUTION THAT HAS NOW BEGUN AND WHAT IT WILL DO.

Then indeed will the South blossom as the rose; then indeed will the long ambitions of our fathers come at last into glorious fruition. Not only will the common farm homes in the South be supplied with all the conveniences our city brethren now enjoy, good roads and telephones and fine stock and fat acres greeting the glad eyes of an awakened people; but every industry known to our Southland will throb with new vigor as if fresh blood had been poured into its veins. Great mercantile houses will grow up among us rivaling those of the North and West, and Southern merchants will make the big profits that come with big sales instead of the small profits inevitable with small sales. (Merchants in the West are selling automobiles to farmers; compare, if you will, the profits on automobiles and ox carts.) Manufacturers of a thousand things for which there is now no profitable Southern market, we shall have; and our laboring men, finding room for greater skill and higher wages, will walk with quicker step and lighter hearts. Bankers will no longer own allegiance to other sections, but our own financial institutions will become the equals of any in America. Our newspapers will grow greater with stronger subscription and advertising patronage, and Northern men and women will begin to read Southern magazines and Southern dailies. Our railroads will double-track old lines to supply the new demands, and new lines will be built to quicken dead sections into life. Able lawyers will no longer go North to find big fees, foreign pulpits will no longer be able to take our strong religious leaders from us, our poet-souls and artist-souls will find here at last the atmosphere in which they best can flourish, our statesmen will speak with potent voices in the councils of the nation, and the eye of every Southern schoolboy will sparkle with a keener pride as he learns the story of a generation that has wrought as well in peace as the fathers fought in war. These are the things we have now set out to win; these are the things which are to come about with that agricultural revolution upon which alone can any really New South be predicated.

PROF. MASSEY'S Editorial Page.

Prof. Massey will personally answer inquiries on Agricultural subjects sent by our readers.



Raise Your Own Meat.

YEARS ago I wrote of visiting a man's farm, where all the land was in cotton right up to the house standing unpainted in a bare field. A hopeless-looking woman was frying some Western bacon for the dinner, while the man toiled in the cotton. And I got to thinking over the matter. There was no stock on the place but the mules that worked the cotton. And as I saw that bacon, I thought that some farmer out West raised that hog, and probably made something out of it. Some railroad carried it to Chicago, and certainly made money. Some packer bought and cured the meat, and grew to be a millionaire. Another railroad brought it South and paid dividends by doing it. Some merchant bought it, and sold it to that man out there in the cotton field at a big profit—and he works all summer in the cotton making all these people prosperous out of his one crop, while at the end of the year he is as poor as ever, and his land grows less and less productive, while he might have made all those profits himself in raising the bacon at home.

The Western farmer makes corn, the railroads haul it, the merchant buys it and sells it to the man who could raise the corn at more profit than the Western farmer if he improved his land. Yet, he goes on in the old hopeless way imagining that cotton is the only thing to get money out of, and that corn, oats, and wheat are only "supplies," and the Western farmer gets rich supplying him.

When will the cotton farmer get out of this slavery to everybody else? Not till he goes to farming just as the Northern and Western farmers do. He has a crop that is far superior as a money crop to any they have, and a crop that fits into an improving rotation of crops fully as well as any they have North or West, and while they get rich in sending him "supplies" he gets poor furnishing the crop that maintains the trade balance between this country and Europe, and selling the cottonseed that fatten the cattle that make the meat he buys in various forms.

Now, then, is the time to resolve to change all this. Plan a rotation for your farm and stick to it, grow plenty of forage and make manure, and when you once have manure enough to cover a corn-field, you will be on the road out of this slavery to the North and West.

Nine-tenths of the letters I get from farmers ask what fertilizer I shall use for this, that or the other crop, when the man who farms right will need to buy little, and that only of the mineral forms of acid phosphate and potash, or but one of these, perhaps.

I have been hammering away at this for many years, and yet how few have taken the idea. But I do hear now and then from farmers who have broken loose from the old ruts, and are succeeding. Would to God that I could get all of them to do so!

Our "Best Crop" Reports.

THE reports on last summer's crop in the last two issues show that at least a few farmers are trying to get the Old North State out of the fourteen-bushel-per-acre class, and I hope that the next census will show that we have advanced. In fact, I believe that it will. If we could but get every farmer in the South to take *The Progressive Farmer* and study farming, it would not be long till North Carolina and every other Southern State would show a creditable yield of corn, oats, and wheat.

Mr. Petree spoke of me as "that grand old man, the apostle of the cowpea." The apostle is all right, perhaps, but to a frisky youngster in his seventieth year, who can walk a mile as quickly as the next youngster, it is something of a shock to be called old. It is said that a woman is as old as she looks and a man is as old as he feels. According to this standard, I am about 45 or 50. I eat three meals a day, sleep like an infant, and am as active as most men of twenty less years. Hence, I am not old, for I do not feel old.

I will forgive Mr. Petree, however, for calling

me old, since he has found out the value of the cowpea; but as he gets his land into better heart, I think he will find that it pays better to save all the peavines for hay and feed them to make manure to return to the soil. Then, while peas will be all right in the tobacco if he is not going to sow fall grain, I think that he would find it a bet-rotation to follow the tobacco with winter oats, and these with peas for hay.

Mr. Lawson, by heavy application of fertilizers, made 60 bushels of corn after oats. If he had followed all his oats with peas and made three tons per acre, the pea crop would have been worth far more clear money than the corn, and would have been of help to his land. It looks to me as though he used over \$14 worth of fertilizer and cottonseed per acre, and it would have been instructive had he left part without this heavy fertilization to see what amount of corn was due to the fertilizer. Still, his letter shows that he is beating cotton with his "supplies."

Mr. Bigner puts a high price on his corn and a very moderate price on his peas. If corn brings that price with him he should certainly give attention to the development of his land in corn. But I am glad to note that Southern farmers are finding out that four-foot rows are better than five or six. One must have stalks enough on an acre to make a big crop.

When Mr. Lewis has gotten his land through a rotation, to make a bale of cotton per acre, he should quit calling it "poor," for if not rich, it is in a fair way to become rich if he will stick to a good rotation.

Some Features of Our Last Issue.

RIGHT at my kitchen door I have a little cold frame covered with three 3 x 6 feet sashes. In that frame is now a crop of lettuce which we are enjoying daily. How many farmers in the South have green stuff in winter that they might have?

Get money in the bank, of course, but in the meantime live at home and have the comforts that any one may have in the South in winter. With parsnips, salsify, spinach and turnip-tops, to say nothing of the green onions, any Southern farmer should not live on peas and collards all winter.

Mr. Green tells a good story of the energy of the Union County farmers. When farmers get telephones it is an evidence that they are alive to modern improvement, and I know that, as a rule, the Union County farmers are improving in every way; and, barring some thin slaty ridges, they have a fine soil. They grow peas, too, and have a pea that I have never seen elsewhere, which they call the "Revenue," and though not a rank runner, I believe the Revenue will make more peas per acre than most other varieties.

Mr. Powell is doubtless right so far as Edgecombe is concerned; but I referred to keeping the potatoes in a colder section than Edgecombe. I have kept them, and not the dry yellow barks either, till June without a rotten potato, in the way I described. All the earth that is needed is enough to exclude frost in the section where they are stored.

There is another sort of composting that pays. On a farm in which I am interested we had this summer a pond that completely dried up in the extreme dry weather. The bottom was covered a foot or more deep with a black, spongy mass of decayed vegetable matter. Now, to haul this muck out fresh on the land would do little good, as it is cold and sour. But we hauled out about 150 loads and spread it in layers a foot thick with two inches of lime between. Later on when it has dried and been frozen several times, the heap will be chopped down and completely mixed, and we hope by time for planting cantaloupes and melons to have a fine compost on which to spread some commercial fertilizer to start the crop, believing that the black muck compost will keep up the later growth and make a crop. In fact, this black muck treated in this way, will analyze in spring very like so much cow dung. There are thousands of acres of similar muck in Eastern North Carolina that treated in this way would be a valuable addition to sandy soil.

The scarcity of manure is one great drawback in the way of better farming in the South to-day, and every opportunity should be taken to increase its amount or to use it where it will do the most good. The land cannot go on feeding the owner if he will not feed it.