

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

"You Can Tell by a Man's Farm Whether He Reads It or Not."

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## Be a Man and Take Your Medicine.

AS A REPRESENTATIVE of the agricultural interests of the South, The Progressive Farmer is very much mortified to hear that some farmers who sold their cotton last spring for fall delivery are trying to break their contracts and sell the pledged product to other parties at higher prices. Such conduct is nothing less than disgraceful thievery, and no farmer deserves the respect of his fellows, nor can have the respect of himself, who is guilty of it. If you pledged your cotton at a lower price than it is now selling at, in Heaven's name, take your medicine like a man, for the honor of yourself and the honor of farmers as a class.

## Do We Wish Lower Prices for Farm Products?

OUR EXCHANGES contain numerous references to the so-called meat and other "trusts" and to fancied combinations of dealers and speculators for raising the prices of farm products. Throughout all is a tone of regret at the high prices of meal, flour, corn, etc. This view of the prices of farm products is in sympathy with the consumers, and we infer that in the opinion of the editors these high prices for farm products are a great calamity. To one knowing that 80 to 90 per cent of our people are farmers and that the farmer is the only producer of meat, flour, corn, etc., this bewailing of the high price of these products appears peculiar at least, if not ridiculous.

Truly, is it not remarkable that the farmer should complain of the high prices of the products which he grows? While nearly one-half our land is planted in corn, we complain of the high price of corn; we produce some meat and could produce more at one-third the price it is selling for, but still we complain of the high price of pork. We have even heard farmers bewailing most bitterly the high price of cowpea seed. The cowpea is particularly a Southern crop, is one of our great soil-improvers and hay crops, and still our farmers are heard to complain of the price of cowpeas.

It is a fact, however, that while nearly all farm products are now bringing top prices we are injured instead of benefited thereby; because al-

though farmers, we are buyers, not sellers, of all farm products except cotton.

While the farmers of other sections are rejoicing at and growing rich on the high prices of meat and other farm products, we are complaining and blaming the trusts and every other imaginable person except the right one—ourselves. The absurdity of the farmer complaining of the high price of farm products must be apparent to any one. If meat, corn and flour are too high, why don't we produce them? Farming is our business, and if we can not produce these farm products for less than the present selling prices, then those prices are not too high. With all farm products bringing maximum prices, this ought to be a season of rejoicing instead of mourning, and it will be when we realize the ridiculous position we are putting ourselves in by not growing those crops to sell which are so high as to call forth our special attention. If these prices are too high, why stop at growing merely enough for our own use. Why not grow some to sell and reap the benefits of the unusually high prices? If we will not avail ourselves of this rare opportunity, let us at least cease making ourselves ridiculous by the spectacle of farmers complaining of the high prices of farm products.

## This Week and Next.

HERE ARE A NUMBER of features in this issue which we do not think you can afford to miss. Professor Massey's "Farm Work for December" will claim first attention from many readers; and his suggestions as to the things to do right now are well worth heeding. Over on page 6 will be found a list of "Twelve Things to Do This Month"; and we believe that every one of them is worth doing, too.

Our report of the great meeting of Southern agricultural workers at Jackson, Miss., shows plainly the trend of the best agricultural thought in the South. Especially notable are the resolutions presented by a committee of which our own Dr. Butler was chairman, and adopted by the meeting. The boll weevil is advancing steadily, and it is only a matter of a comparatively short time until it will be all over the cotton country. To have both boll weevils and cattle ticks means a hard row to hoe; therefore, since we know how to get rid of the tick, let every State in Progressive Farmer territory exterminate it before the weevil gets here. It can be done; and this reminds us that in an early issue we are going to publish a symposium showing just what has been done along this line in every State in all our territory.

There is an interesting discussion of the tenant system on pages 4 and 5, which adds new weight to our contention that the thing for every aspiring man to do is to buy at least a small piece of land.

Don't neglect Mr. Conover's warning against the creamery promoter sharps: if they show up in your neighborhood, invite them to move on. Neither can you afford to miss the list of "Agricultural Books Worth Reading," nor the list, on page 8, of hardy vines that can be planted now.

Next week our "\$500 More a Year" article will tell how to care for the manure—something that most farmers certainly need to know. The third article in our reading course on fertilizers will treat of soil formation; Mr. French will make a strong plea for more and better pastures; there will be another article on drainage, this time from Mr. J. M. Jones, of Alabama, and the usual amount of timely suggestion and information.

Every few days we have calls or letters from young men who have trained themselves as bookkeepers or stenographers and want positions. The young men who are trained in agriculture, however, do not need apply for positions; the places are seeking them.

## Help Stop Forest Fires.

THE RECENT DROUTH has resulted in enormous damage to our timber resources by forest fires. We have by no means developed as yet a public sentiment against negligence with fire in the woods such as we ought to have, and must have. Our timber supply, large trees and young undergrowth, are just as much of the farmer's wealth as his houses, barns, and wheat-stacks, and a man is just as blamable to let fire destroy one as the other. In this connection a helpful suggestion is made by the Richmond Times-Dispatch which we take pleasure in passing on:

"A reader of The Times-Dispatch in this city, Mr. S. T. Beveridge, writes to us to suggest that Virginia farmers should prohibit hunting on their land until the drought is broken. Mr. Beveridge thinks that if their attention is once called to the matter, true sportsmen will stay at home until the danger is passed. We hope, and we believe, that he is entirely right. Guns are a real menace in the woods at times like these. The most careful hunter brings peril with him. In other States, because of this plain fact, the Governor is authorized to close the hunting season by proclamation in seasons of prolonged drought. Virginia will have a law like this some day, but at present, she must rely upon the common sense of her land-owners and sportsmen. No farmer should give shooting privileges to anybody till the woods are soaked by a good rain, and no hunter should make himself a public danger-spot by trying to get them."

A few weeks ago we advised our farmers to hold their cotton for better prices. That advice has been justified and thousands of farmers have doubtless profited by it. Now with cotton at 14½ and 15 cents, we are not inclined to take the responsibility of urging farmers to hold their whole crop longer. Certainly every farmer now should sell enough to pay his debts and get thoroughly square with the world during December. When you have sold enough for this, you may then decide for yourself as to the wisdom of speculating on a further advance.

In all sections of the South the boys' corn clubs are proving one of the greatest educational agencies ever devised and one of the greatest aids to better farming yet thought of. We heard the other day of a fourteen-year-old boy who made 98 bushels of corn on an acre of land, while a neighbor farmer in an adjoining field cleared at the same time made on 10 bushels. See your County Superintendent and put your county in the forefront of the Boys' Corn Club movement.

For the illustration on our first page this week, as well as the one last week, credit is due the Missouri College of Agriculture.

## A Thought for the Week.

WHAT MEANS the social and industrial evolution of our people? It is that we are preparing to interpret the needs of the new times in Virginia and in the South. Our work of to-day is a time of preparation to save our country in the next great crisis. . . . We must take the life and the work of the people into the school, and must carry the teaching and influence of the school into the life of the people. The chief objection to the old school was that it educated too many young people out of the country. Our present common schools have a worse influence in this way because they are more narrowing, and fit primarily for nothing but poorly paid commercial positions. We have thousands of industrially untrained boys going into the ordinary commercial callings and no scientific farmers or engineers, and thousands of young girls eager to earn the pitiful pittance of a saleswoman, while none can be found for well-paid manufacturing positions.—Dr. Charles W. Dabney, at Virginia Educational Conference, November 23, 1909.