

Editorial Notes.

IF YOU HAVE one or more tenants on your place, don't be content with sending them a ten weeks' subscription to *The Progressive Farmer*. Send them a full year's subscription. You cannot find a present which will more surely bless both him that gives and him that takes.

We shall soon publish two or three articles fully explaining the Torrens System of registering land titles to which we so often have occasion to refer. Only this week we met a farmer who is threatened with having his house taken away from him because a defect in the title has been discovered. Land would bring more under the Torrens System, would be more easily sold, farmers would find it tenfold easier to borrow money on their land, and many thousands of dollars in useless lawyer's fees would be saved each year.

When you send your renewal—and that is one of the things you will be sure to do, of course, before the New Year—don't forget to add 45 cents and get a binder to keep your papers together next year. There is no profit for us in the binders at this price—simply actual cost, besides lots of trouble in taking care of orders—but a binder will double the value of your year's subscription, and for that reason we should like to see every reader have one.

"Opportunities for Fruit Growing in Virginia" is the title of a very interesting and practical paper we expect to publish next week from the pen of Mr. Walter Whateley, the enterprising Secretary of the Virginia Horticultural Society. Which reminds us to say that the program of the Society which meets in Winchester January 5th and 6th (see page 17), is intensely interesting, and we hope all our Virginia fruit-growing readers will attend.

Now that you will not get a *Progressive Farmer* next week, add 40 cents (regular price, 60 cents) to your renewal and get a copy of Editor Poe's "A Southerner in Europe" to read instead of the paper. If you order immediately we can get it to you in time for Christmas reading. Look up the lists of free farmers' bulletins on pages 13, 16, and 17, and order such of them also as you need.

There are a number of other good things in this issue besides our good crop reports. For example, that little warning on page 2 against going "cotton crazy," the drainage article on page 5, the short course notices on page 7, Mr. Vincent's cheery talk on page 19, the Christmas articles on pages 8 and 9, and above all, Dr. Butler's splendid review of the great subject of "How to Make the Old Fields Produce Good Crops."

No Paper Next Week.

IN ACCORDANCE with a time-honored custom, we shall give our printers and pressmen holiday next week, so there will be no issue of *The Progressive Farmer* for December 30. Our next paper, therefore, will be dated January 6, 1910. We expect that issue to come out with a new and more attractive title heading, but the same old spirit, though, we trust, in an intensified degree will breathe through its pages: the spirit of earnest desire to be a real help and a constant inspiration to the quarter million people who read these pages each week. To this end we shall make some announcements of new features for the year—features that will alone justify our claim that *The Progressive Farmer* in 1910 will be bigger, brighter and better than ever before in its twenty-four years of history.

And meanwhile we wish for each and every reader—the farmer himself, the farmer's wife, the boys and girls—the brightest and happiest of all Christmases and New Years.

A Thought for the Week.

IN THE SEASON of immortal hope and on the birthday of immortal mercy we will shut out nothing.—Charles Dickens.

"What's The News?"

Zelaya, Leopold, and Irish Home Rule

THE MOST IMPORTANT news of the past week has happened outside of America. Prime Minister Asquith in England has committed the Liberal Party to Home Rule for Ireland; King Leopold of Belgium has died to the intense gratification of everybody, there being almost equal satisfaction over the retirement of President Zelaya of Nicaragua; and Dr. Cook's data is on the way to Copenhagen.

Mr. Asquith's declaration is that in all purely Irish affairs, Ireland shall govern itself: that the same system of self-government which has restored peace and prosperity in the rebellious South Africa of a few years ago shall now at last—after many weary centuries of disorder—be given Ireland also. And with the Liberal Party committed to this policy it seems to be clearly in sight. The English people must be ready anyhow for a reform in their wretched system (or lack of system) in land taxation, and they must become more emphatically in favor of it on account of the action of the Lords in attempting to thwart the will of the elected representatives of the people.

President Zelaya resigned as President of Nicaragua Thursday, leaving the Nicaraguan Congress to name his successor. Meanwhile the Revolutionists who have been in rebellion against his government are active, and it is said that the United States will still hold him responsible for the death of the Americans executed by his order.

King Leopold of Belgium has been much in the public eye for several years as one of the most generally disreputable monarchs in modern history. Belgium has had control of the Congo Free State in Africa, and it is charged that the natives there have been wretchedly misgoverned and plundered, and many of them virtually enslaved. As the *Richmond News-Leader* says:

"In this country King Leopold would have been impossible. As President, with his mistresses openly maintained and flaunted in the faces of the people, he would not have lasted a month. He has been corrupt and vile in his personal conduct. In the Congo he has created a world-wide scandal. For his own enrichment he has permitted horrors and cruelties staggering belief, but proved by evidence too strong to be questioned. Humanity is better for his death."

Congress and Judge Lurton.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN regularly in session, adjourning December 21st until January 4th, but little of interest or importance has been done. The House leaders profess to have agreed upon a policy of economy and retrenchment; another lively fight is promised over the question of one or two new battleships; and everyone seems waiting for the expected conflict between the "Insurgents" and the regular Republican organization in both branches. New fuel has been added to the matter by the report that President Taft has treated Senator Dolliver, the able leader of the insurgents, with discourtesy. In the Democratic camp there is great consternation and disgust over the action of Senator Money, the newly-elected minority leader in the Upper House. Money was chosen simply as a personal compliment since this is his last term in the Senate, and he seems to have determined to take advantage of it by appointing members of his own family to all the new offices which his position as Senate leader places at his disposal. The ship subsidy bill will be the feature of the session, and the fight over it will be almost as bitter as the tariff fight of last session.

Of more interest than anything happening in Congress has been the appointment of Judge Horace H. Lurton, of Tennessee, to the Supreme

Bench. Judge Lurton is a lawyer of recognized ability, and was considered for appointment to the Supreme Court, it is said, when Justice Moody was appointed. It is charged, however, that he is a "corporation man," that his decisions have been uniformly favorable to the corporate interests, and that he was furnished a private car by the L. & N. Railroad until the anti-pass law was enacted. There is promise of a fight on him for these reasons; but it is not likely to prevent his confirmation. He is sixty-five years old, and a Democrat in politics, though a Democrat of the very conservative type. When Bryan was nominated, it will be remembered, David B. Hill wrote to a friend: "I am a Democrat still—very still." Judge Lurton is of the "very still" kind.

The Suit Against the Tobacco Trust.

CASE OF GREAT interest to our *Progressive Farmer* readers in Virginia and North Carolina is the Government suit against the American Tobacco Company which is set for a hearing in the Supreme Court of the United States January 3rd. The suit against the Tobacco Trust is based on almost identically the same arguments as the suit against the Standard Oil Company which will come up for hearing some months later.

In all our industrial history there have been few trusts more flagrantly indifferent to the rights of the people than the Tobacco Trust. It has crushed competition by whatever methods, fair or foul, were nearest at hand, and has made itself the financial master of a vast section of country, fixing the prices of the leading farm product of this area with shameless arbitrariness. If it cannot be punished in our highest court, then indeed is our anti-trust law a snare and a delusion.

Whatever the Supreme Court may do, however, thorough organization on the part of the farmers themselves, together with wise leadership, should enable our tobacco farmers to win their independence of this trust. And to this end we hope soon to publish a number of articles from leading tobacco farmers in Virginia and the Carolinas.

Minor Matters of Interest.

A VERY SILLY movement is that of the Texas Farmers' Union in proposing to secede from the National Farmers' Union—that is, if the reasons announced in the newspapers are correct. Objection is made, it is stated, "to an advance in the salary of the President of the National Union from \$600 to \$3,000 per annum, an increase in the salary of the National Secretary from \$1,200 to \$1,800 per annum, and other expenditures." If an organization with two or three million members does not have a man worth \$3,000 at its head, it is likely to go to pieces very quickly. The chief trouble with all farmers' organizations has been unwise leadership, and a good way to prevent it is to pay salaries large enough to justify the ablest and most successful men in taking office.

It has been nearly a half century since the name of Red Cloud, the famous Dakota Indian war chief, was on every American tongue. It was 43 years ago this week that he fell upon Captain Fetterman and massacred his hundred soldiers, not a man escaping. For 25 years past he has been at the Pine Ridge Agency, and the news of his death one day last week was chiefly interesting because everybody had forgotten that he was alive.

The Government has now received a total of nearly \$3,000,000 from branches of the Sugar Trust in payment of amounts out of which they had cheated the Government. Admitting their own thievery running through a period of nine years, Arbuckle Bros. last week paid \$695,573.

The Associated Press report stated that the negro at Cochran, Ga., was lynched and his body then burned, but Dr. J. W. Rogers, of Reynolds, Ga., writes us that the latter statement is incorrect. We are glad that the crime, bad enough as it was, at least stopped short of the burning.

Outbreaks of night-riders are reported from Georgia. Governor Brown is investigating the matter, and it is to be hoped that he will deal with all offenders with a heavy hand.