

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND
SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

"You can tell by a man's farm whether
he reads it or not."

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WE INVITE the attention of our readers to the announcement on page 18 of prizes for letters for our "Wheat, Oats and Rye Special." Send us your letter right away, and thus help us to double the South's small grain acreage this fall.

NEXT week we issue our "Clover Special" and can promise our readers some splendid clover articles and experience letters. In this connection, Progressive Farmer readers should bear in mind that the time for seeding crimson clover and alfalfa begins in August in Virginia and the western sections of North Carolina, and that planting seed should be arranged for now.

WE SHOULD like to make this request of every subscriber. After reading our articles on the next page, please send a letter or, at least a postal card to your Senator or Congressman. Say to him that as a plain citizen you favor paying war expenses by taxes on big incomes and excess profits and not by increasing postage on letters and newspapers and thereby preventing the spread of news, knowledge and business. A few hundred letters from farmers might turn the tide in Washington. Will you do your part?

OUR South Carolina friends will be interested in two new forward movements just inaugurated at Clemson College. Prof. Verd Peterson has been elected Professor of Agricultural Education, and will also act as State Supervisor of Agricultural Education under the provisions of the new Smoot-Rector Law. Prof. R. L. Shields, who has been in charge of animal industry and dairying, will hereafter give his entire attention to animal industry, while the dairy work, now promoted to the dignity of an independent division, will be in charge of Mr. W. W. Fitzpatrick.

AN INTERESTING feature of the bulletin, "A Study of Cotton Marketing Conditions in North Carolina," is a table showing the variation in cotton prices in leading market towns. In the coastal plain section it was found that from the standpoint of price the relative merits of these markets seemingly were: 1st, Fayetteville; 2nd, Ahoskie; 3rd, Kinston; 4th, Jacksonville; 5th, Selma; 6th, Clinton; 7th, New Bern; 8th, Laurinburg; 9th, Washington; 10th, Scotland Neck; and 11th, Red Springs. In the Piedmont section the best markets investigated in order of merit were: 1st, Gastonia; 2nd, Kings Mountain; 3rd, Wadesboro; 4th, Salisbury; 5th, Statesville; 6th, Raleigh; and 7th, Louisburg.

ONE of the main points of rational cultivation is to save moisture, but whenever a farmer practices the old-fashioned plan of ridging up rows, he simply goes out of his way to throw away the moisture his crops will surely need before harvest-time. This is true because in throwing up ridges, one exposes just so much more soil-surface to sun and wind. Says the North Carolina Experiment Station:

"When rows of corn or cotton are planted 40 inches apart and are ridged to a height of 8 inches, which is not uncommon in some sections, thus leaving the sides of the ridges exposed to the sun, the surface exposed for evaporation is increased at least 33 1/3 per cent."

HERE'S a mighty good point about his neighborhood of which Will Carleton boasts in his "New Lives for Old":

"We don't buy as much patent medicine as we did. In the first place, there isn't a store in town—not even a drug store—which carries it any more. A man wouldn't dare. If you want any of the stuff you have to send to town

for it, and while this is still being done, no one lets anyone know he's doing it. Those with the habit get it and swallow it the way they do their rum, and most of them know pretty well that this is all it is."

It's a pity the same thing can't be said of every country neighborhood. Advertisements of secret remedies or patent medicines have been driven from all the best class of publications. Speaking generally, any man should be indeed about as much ashamed to be caught using such concoctions as he would be to be caught using "conjure balls," and a paper as much ashamed to carry their advertising.

ONE of our good friends complains that we did his state an injustice in our recent "Educational Special." "We certainly spend more than you say for each \$100 of returned valuation of property," he says. That is where our good friend reads a word into our article that did not appear there. The figures we gave were based on the authoritatively estimated actual value—not assessed value—of all real and personal property in each state in the last census year. The statistics may be accepted as reliable. Of course, we have made some progress since 1910, but so have the other states and the South must indeed double its school taxes in order to give her boys or girls as good a chance in life as Northern and Western boys and girls will have.

HERE is a good point to keep in mind—namely, that a large district is worth while, not merely because it means more people to support the school, but because it provides a larger and stronger "community unit" for every other neighborhood enterprise. People who live in the same school district and boys and girls who are educated in the same school, are going to run together more and work together better than other people. They will have a little community of their own and if this community is small, it may not be large enough to support the needed agencies of community life—a farmers' club, farm women's club, young people's clubs, community library, community fair, etc. Consolidation of districts often helps the people by providing a larger neighborhood unit to support these things as it helps by providing a stronger school itself.

Get Ready for the Winter Legumes

NOW is the time to get busy on winter legume work. The best seed should be purchased and the soil thoroughly prepared. Such crops as alfalfa, crimson clover and vetch should be planted within the next few months.

There are numerous reasons why the acreage devoted to winter legumes should be largely increased. The grazing which may be obtained between, say, November 15 and April 15, is of importance to livestock farmers, but of far greater importance is the fact that the roots of the growing plants fill the soil, bind its surface particles and reduce leaching to a minimum. As fast as the plant food becomes soluble, the roots of the growing plants utilize it and prevent leaching by winter rains.

The fact that our open, wet winters, when the lands are bare, is the largest single factor in the depletion of our soils, should be continually stressed; but we should also rejoice continually to know that we can utilize our winter growing season for the growing of such crops as clovers and vetches.

The winter legumes not only furnish some grazing, reduce washing and leaching to a minimum, but also transfer nitrogen from the air to the soil to be used by succeeding crops, fill the soil full of much needed humus and furnish large quantities of the most valuable feed. If we could only be made to realize the full value of winter legumes, few acres on our farms would be bare this winter.

Over-production Hardly Possible

WAR or no-war, food prices generally will not fail in the next two or three years, for the reasons that there is a vast amount of money in circulation and the held-over stocks of primary food have been consumed.

The primary necessity is an abundance of food and feed for our own country and a surplus for our allies. Farmers everywhere are bending all their available capital and energy to the production of maximum food and feed crops. However, in

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spite of their strenuous efforts the total crop yield will probably be below normal. Spring temperatures were below normal and there has been in many sections a serious deficiency in the rainfall.

Every farmer should continue to work at top speed. He should use every dollar of capital and every ounce of muscle he possesses in order to grow maximum profitable food and feed crops.

It is not too late to plant grain sorghums, cow-peas, Spanish peanuts, early maturing soy beans, potatoes, turnips and numerous other crops. Large acreages should be devoted to fall-sowed crops.

The South can greatly increase the production of pigs and chickens in a few months, but, in order to do so, feed must be grown. The farmer who undertakes to increase his supply of pigs or chickens without growing the necessary feed for them is destined to disaster.

This is a golden opportunity for farmers to pay all debts and lay up a few dollars for the rainy day and at the same time fire the shot for liberty that will be heard around the world.

Let us raise more and better livestock, increase farm flocks, double the poultry and pork output, save the best dairy calves, guard against disease, grow an abundance of food and feed crops and build silos.

The South Is Coming With a Great Corn Crop

THE appeal to the South to live at home and help win the war has not been in vain. The eleven Southern states of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, according to the Bureau of Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture, have this year planted 43,240,000 acres in corn, an increase of about 14 per cent. From the condition on July 1, the Department estimates the probable yield for these eleven states at 806,601,000 bushels, or an average of 18.6 bushels per acre. The total yield for this year, 806,601,000 bushels, compares with 725,002,000 bushels last year, or a gain of 81,599,000 bushels, and with 754,404,000 bushels as the ten-year average, or a gain of 52,197,000 bushels.

No less interesting are the figures giving comparative prices per bushel this year and last. This year the average price in the eleven states named is \$1.78 per bushel, giving a value to the total indicated crop of \$1,435,749,780, against a value last year of only \$609,001,680. This is a gain in value of \$826,748,100, or about 133 1/2 per cent. Incidentally, this year's corn crop in the South promises to be worth more than any cotton crop we have ever grown.

With a bumper corn crop in sight and with a moderate cotton crop worth from \$150 to \$160 a bale, lint and seed, the agricultural South faces an era of prosperity such as we have never before enjoyed.

A Thought for the Week

PROPERTY is badly constituted at the present day because its actual distribution originated, generally speaking, in conquest; in the violence by which in remote times certain invading peoples possessed themselves of lands and fruits of labor not their own. Property is badly constituted because the basis of the division between proprietor and workmen of the fruits of a work accomplished by both together does not rest upon a just and equal rate, proportioned to the work itself. Property is badly constituted because by conferring on those who possess it political and legislative rights which are denied to the workingmen, it tends to be the monopoly of a few and inaccessible to the greater number. Property is badly constituted because the system of taxation is badly constituted and tends to maintain a privilege of wealth in the proprietor, while oppressing the poorer classes and depriving them of every possibility of saving. But if, instead of correcting evils and slowly modifying the constitution of property, you sought to abolish it, you would suppress a source of wealth, of emulation, and of activity, and you would be like the savage who to gather the fruit cuts down the tree. It is not necessary to abolish property because only a few possess it now; but the way must be opened for the many to acquire it.—Joseph Mazzini, Italian Patriot.