

The Farmers' Experience Meeting

A Few Good Acres (\$5 Prize Letter)

I WOULD rather own a few good acres than a section of poor land. Good improvements are to be desired, but they are not all that is wanted when buying a farm.

Last fall there was a farm adjoining my father's that had a dandy dwelling and outbuildings worth \$5,000 or \$6,000, with 215 acres of land. This was offered me for \$14,000. There were only 50 acres of land in cultivation, and that run down. The rest was in grass, bushes, briars and woods, with many days' hard work before the one who bought it.

The farm I finally bought contained only 100 acres, 40 acres of as good, rich land as any one should wish, all level and in high state of cultivation. The rest is in fine bluegrass, except a few acres of timber, locust, walnut and hickory.

This farm had a new stock barn and a good, comfortable five-room house in good condition, outbuildings and good fences, also a new tobacco barn,

were to be paid. We had made plenty of potatoes and beans add meat and bread, so I just got out and worked a while for the neighbors, bought a few winter clothes and paid the taxes. I was determined to win and to make as nearly all that we consumed as possible on the farm.

In these nine years we have paid for our farm and have built a modern home, with electric lights and running water.

JOHN A. NESTER.

The Hollow, Va.

What to Look for in Buying Land

I HAVE learned from experience that one of the most vital points to consider before purchasing a farm is the opportunity for a paying size or volume of business—that is, that the desired volume of business is at least potentially there, as is evidenced by tillable land or markets for intensive crops. That the volume of business which can be conducted is such that it will yield an income large enough to provide a comfortable margin, after pay-

Send a Christmas Message

Co-operation and Neighborhood Improvement
Special December 25

HOW would you like to send a Christmas message to 200,000 neighbors and have it reach them on Christmas morning? You can. There are no finer Christmas tidings than those of coöperating with neighbors and neighborhood improvement. The Progressive Farmer is going to devote its Christmas issue to this subject, and we want you to send your good word along to the farmers of the Southland.

Coöperation is the big business issue before Southern farmers. Shall we do team work and win?

If you have been working with your neighbor in selling or buying something, tell other farmers about it through the columns of The Progressive Farmer on December

25. That will be a fitting way to show your good will to man.

There is an example of neighborhood improvement in your community. Maybe you have never thought about it as such, but we are willing to predict that it's there. Think it over, and write us briefly of it. If you prefer to combine the two and write us of coöperation and show how it has improved the neighborhood, for it does improve neighborhoods wherever it goes, be sure and get your letter in by December 10.

Our usual cash prizes of \$7.50 for the best letter, \$5 for the second and \$3 for the third will be given. All other letters used will be paid for at space rates.

This place cost me \$10,000. I had both these places to choose from, one offering a better home and more land for only \$4,000 additional, but I took the good land and smaller farm, because it does not cost as much to keep it going. It will make me twice as much as the other farm. I will make 10 to 12 barrels of corn per acre; the other man, five to six. He offers to sell for \$15,000, and gets no bidders. I have had several to want to look at my farm at \$14,000. Was I wise in buying the farm I did? I think so. Bethpage, Tenn. A. A. HOWELL.

How Tenant Farmer Became a Landlord

(\$3 Prize Letter)

IN THE fall of 1911 I made up my mind to buy a small farm. I had been a tenant for three years and had not saved anything, and it looked as if it would be impossible for me to pay for a home, living where tobacco was the only money crop. I figured that I was paying about \$300 a year rent and that I would be able to pay \$600 a year if it were all mine.

I found a small farm for sale on the installment plan, though each payment seemed to be over my earning power. But my wife and I made up our minds that we could make all our supplies, and all the money that we made could go on the place. The first year we had only about \$20 left after making our first payment, and we had no winter clothes, and the taxes

ing all running expenses, for saving and future demands.

The soil should be closely examined and noted as to depth, ease of drainage, danger of erosion, flooding, etc., for they directly affect the productivity of the land. The soil should be of a type that is well adapted to the money crops of that section and to diversified farming.

An adequate supply of water, nearness to good roads, churches and schools and good social advantages are very important. It is well to obtain a statement of the business conducted on the farm and examine it as to the total receipts from each source and note whether receipts are due to good crop yields or to high prices. If poor crops are made, one should learn whether it is due to poor soil or bad management, and before buying in such a case, make sure that the land is capable of improvement.

All necessary buildings that will need repairing in the near future, and all swamp land that cannot be drained, or other waste land, should be noted so that a fair price can be arranged. ERNEST PETREE

Look to Your Land Lines and Corners

IT IS timely advice at this season to the practical agriculturist that he look well at once to the location of his property lines, if he has not done so before, and have them well defined



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