## The Commonwealith



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Prejay Freighton all Work
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| Fditor's feisure flours. |
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| observations of passing events. |



| Good Investments. the cold winter weather. In many instancee cows are allowed to tand in the open all night with no shelter and but litulbeedtizg; and sometumes whero they have a |
| :---: |

sheiter at all it is nothing more than a few boards or planks propped a
against a fence corner-a poor protection indeed from the winter blasts.
tian elling out of the unpoliced districts into the incorporated
First Chance for Pronf. towns, claimed that it would be effectire in do-
country distilleries. The Christmas with fights and homictles around the navally been a time for country distilleries. The Christmas seazon has usually been a time for
much of sueh disorder in the county. This is the first chance for proof of
what the advocates of the law con:eveded for. If the number of cutting scrapes, homioldes and the liks shall be legeened by the oneration of the
law it will be a great trumph in its favor and a great rellef to the people
in the country dietricts who heretofore have had no protection against in the country dietricts who heretofore have had no protectiou against
such disorders. And from the very nature of the case the law eannot fail The Chartotte Observer has learned the following which is some-
of thing nevr and it seems to be good: " 'The Village Improvement Society' Praisoworthy Work. in several of the towns in this State. These societes are composed largely if not entirely of ladies, and it is the duty of
the m $\boldsymbol{m} m$ bers to look after and report upon the condition of the streets, with a view to baving them kept clean; to see that the lots back of stores,
are kept clean of waste paper and other refuse ; that vacant lote are rid of are kept clean of waste papgr and other refuse ; that vacant lote are rid of
tomato cans and such other rubbiah as usually encombers them, and that
they are made presentable ; in a general way to cooperate with the munictthey are made presentable ; in a general way to cooperate with the municl-
pal a authorities for the promotion of pablic tidiness ; and to encourage the
setting out of trees and the hetter care of lawns and front yards. All of these objects are most commendable, and these societies should te counte-nanced and assisted where they exist and organized in smaller towns where
they are not already. There are numbers of pretty towns in North Caroli-
na the streets of which are disgracefully untidy, wheress they could be kept na the streets of which are digracefuly untidy, whereas they could be kept
cloan at trifing cost. The other objects of these societies are praise-wrthy,
but 11 they did no more than give their town clean streets they would justiNo sulject more interests the farmers ot the South now than the cotton question. The Manufacturers' Rocord recontly addresed a letter to a
Vital Factors in Cotton Vital Factors in Cottion $\begin{aligned} & \text { number of persons in the South asking their } \\ & \text { opinion on three points: (1) Is there any dete- }\end{aligned}$ Freduction. oothus in the fertiiitv of the siily (3) is there lack of farm labor? To thees
nestions the Reoord prints many interesting answers. Here is the ansquestions the Record prints mauy interesting answers. Here is the ans-
wer of Hon. S. . Patteron, Commissioner of Agriculture for North Caro-
 ent conditions beforos such danger becomes imminent. Among theese conditlons I would note especially the higber prices that have obtained during
the past ferv jears, the increaze of manufactories, and the efforte, thus far unsucceseful, of producing cotton in other countries. Referring to your
epecific questions-
"1. While the produotion of cotton, iike that of all crops,may be improvad by the careffol selection of seed, I am not aware and do not belloye that the best seed 18 eotd to the oil mills and inferior seed reserved for planting.
The tendency seems to me to be rathor in the other drection. In this conThe tendenc- seems to me to be rathor in the other direction. In this con-
nection 1 say that this department is endeavoring to show by tests
actually mato the advantage of selecting good seed for all crops. actually male the advantage of eelecting good seed for all crops.
"2. I am of the opinion that indications point to a greater sense of the
necessity of conserving the fertility of the soil and the more necessity of conserving the fertility of the soil and the more intelligent ef-
fo.ts to do this. The tytimony comes to us from various sources of the purpose of tarmers to fmprove their soil by a more intelligent use of fertil-
izars and rotation of crops.
"
 prises bas drawn lareely upon the supply of farm labor. This can be part-
Iy comi ensated, howerer, by the increased use of labor-saving machinery. But the cotton crop is one requiring a certain amount of manual labor which cannot be supplied by machinery. A decided increase in wage eeff to the farmer of the risk of the next year's crop eelling at prices very much lower than those of the preceding year. But for all this the cotton
planters will manage in one way or another to meet the diffioulties preeented, and with favorable seasons will continue to produce as large crops In future as the last several crope bave heen. Notwhen
etacles to be encountered, I regard the future outlook of agriculture in stacles to be encountered, I regard the
North Carol:na bright and promieing.

