

Pine Straw

FROM VARIOUS BRANCHES
By Robert Covington.

PRICE REDUCTIONS. The long rumored reductions in prices, which would bring the farmer, and the business man, dependent on the farmer back to the economical security of ten years ago, is slow in developing, but there are some indications of a drop, which, while they are few, give some hope to the anxious watchers. Cotton goods are somewhat reduced in price but this is little encouragement to the farmer who has begun to believe, grimly, that anything with the name cotton attached to it, must be given away. Woolen products are reduced by wholesalers, one per cent and this news is of insufficient importance to merit a special day of thanksgiving. Automobile manufacturers are gliding their reductions with large and glaring announcements. The reductions in the majority of products is there, but in few it is proportional to the reduction that has been made in the price paid to the farmer for his product.

Books are a notable exception. For the first time in the recollection of the writer at least, books are available at a large reduction. Among publishers a concerted effort is being made to reduce the price of books, both the newest, modern products and the classics. Three large publishing houses are at present flooding the market with a series of books which retail at one dollar. In the case of many of these books, the reader feels that a much greater reduction could have been made without unnecessarily bleeding the publisher, but in some of these new volumes we may find the finest of the modern writers. Taking a step further in the beneficent direction, two firms, Charles Boni of New York and Simon and Schuster, also of New York, have brought to America the old economical French precedent of printing books of merit in paper bindings, thereby giving to a wide circle of readers the ability to read books cheaply. The former firm is adding monthly to a distinguished list of books, well bound in paper, selling for fifty cents and the latter is putting forward a series of worth while books, in a similar binding for one dollar. This plan not only reduces the initial price of books but prevents the distressing result of the readers having on his hand unread books in expensive editions. While the price reductions are, as yet, still not extensive or very noticeable, there is hope that these first declines are notices of more to come.

SOUTH CAROLINA TREES. The traveller who passes through South Carolina cannot help being impressed by the beauty of the trees in the towns. The South Carolina towns are unusually rich in the number and majesty of the trees which shade their streets. The long, shady street with magnificent, over-arching oaks and elms is typical of the towns and villages of the state to the south. The added charm which these trees lend is hard to calculate, but it can be said without exaggeration that they add greatly to the air of culture, comfort and quiet contentment of the towns. Riding into a town by these leafy archways is like going into a building through a beautiful and impressive colonnade. It seems to show that the people of the town are content to be there and that it is a pleasant place to live. North Carolina towns which have missed this form of town beautification, could prevent this lack in the future by planting trees now.

MATCHING STORMS. As a postscript to the Biblical declaration that there is no new thing under the sun, there might be added a rule of many columnists in American daily papers that there is no calamity under the sun which does not recall one of former times which was more terrible, more tremendous and more far reaching in its destruction. The recent disaster in San Domingo recalls many catastrophes in Florida, San Francisco, Naples and other unfortunate territories but is dwarfed by the remembrance of THE GREAT storm which visited the continent of Europe in 1703. This is reported to have been the greatest destruction of human life by storm in the last thousand years. The effects were particularly far-reaching on the sea where it is estimated that 8,000 sailors and passengers lost their

lives. In the inland sections of the British Isles the loss was much less, only 173 being killed. It is probable, however, that much of this terrific loss was due to the lack of knowledge and equipment in sailing. The same storm today with the wonderfully improved state of navigation would have done little damage.

TOM THUMB, THE GIANT. Even above the triumphant campaigns filling stations and Eskimo pie in establishing themselves in every section of our country, has been the development of the little giant, Tom Thumb Golf. In less than a year this game has driven and putted its way into the recreation hours of almost every American family. Such whirlwind and substantial success is almost unprecedented in the history of American games. Aside from the pleasure that the game is affording for people of every nature and every yearning, Tom Thumb golf is today establishing itself as a veritable big business. Statistics show that incomes of several thousand dollars per week have not been uncommon. In one or two cases the weekly income has run into five figures. The coming of winter presents a problem to many outdoor courses but Raeford, with its southern resort climate should suffer little. Many winter days will be warm and sunshiny enough to thoroughly enjoy this pastime. Cast off garages and warehouses are utilized in many cities for indoor courses which reap their dividends when cold weather runs the enthusiasts off of the outdoor courses.

Tom Thumb is proving helpful in many ways. Not only does it provide a needed source of recreation but it is being turned to constructive purposes in many cases. One

church in Charlotte has constructed a course on an adjoining lot and the receipts are rapidly paying up a worrisome debt. At Queens college it is anticipated that the addition of a miniature golf course to the college equipment will keep the girls and the quarters at home. Raeford's course has been exceptionally popular. Lewis estimates his largest daily crowd at two hundred and thirty-five players. Add to this a crowd almost as large which enjoys the game from the spectators seat and you have a large number of people who enjoy and patronize the game. Truly Tom Thumb has changed from a midget to a giant.

SEEN WHILE RIDING. The imminent danger that this year's crop of fall leaves will not be as rich as those of more moist years . . . the dry weather has made many already turn from green to brown without the intermediate golds and crimson which make the Fall so beautiful . . . the daisies along the highways which make the roads look like overgrown paths through a meadow . . . there is something majestic about a driver perched atop these mountainous loads of bulging cotton sheets . . . the wagons leave a little trail of snow along the roads . . . like the whole county playing a gigantic game of Fox and Hounds . . . Raeford's busiest corner, cotton platform and alley and Main street . . . a new filling station, like a boy with a new suit of clothes on his first job . . . there's something about the air in the early fall.

AN AUSPICIOUS OPENING. Today marks the first appearance of a well known entertainer for the fall season. Many football teams will face each other today for the first kick off of the fear. Simultan-

eously thousands of people, to whom the game is an ever renewed source of pleasure, will feel that the autumn has come in all its fullness. Whatever we say, the color and joy of football games adds the savor to this season of the year to us of us and the work of the week is made a little easier by the anticipation of a Saturday afternoon holiday at this or that stadium. The added color in life, to the spectator and to the player is an important part of happiness and we hereby breathe thanks for many of you, to the English, the Indians or whether it was that invented football.

Calvin Coolidge says: Times may get better or worse.

Every man has his wife but the ice man has his pick.

Life goes along like a song for those who do today what should be done today.

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