

The Progressive Farmer.

CLARENCE H. POE, Editor.
J. W. DENMARK, Proprietor and Publisher.

"The Progressive Farmer will be, in the broadest sense of the word, a North Carolina paper. Serving no master ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, February 10, 1888.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

It is a calumny on men to say that they are aroused to heroic action by ease, hope of pleasure, recompense,—sugar plums of any kind in this world or the next! In the meanest mortal there lies something nobler. The poor swearing soldier, hired to be shot, has his "honor of a soldier," different from drill regulations and the shilling a day. It is not to taste sweet things, but to do noble and true things, and vindicate himself under God's Heaven as a god-made Man, that the poorest son of Adam dimly longs. Show him the way of doing that, the dullest dray-drudge kindles into a hero.—From Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship."

CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

In the newspapers last week the apparently fatal illness of Pope Leo had more attention than any other one matter. In the early part of the week there was a terrible race riot in Evansville, Ind. A mob stormed the jail in which an alleged negro murderer was held, and was fired on by the police, seven persons being killed outright. Race feeling ran high and many negroes were forced to leave the town. Some one has used this to point the moral that while a negro crime in the North brings out passion against the entire race, in the South only the individual suffers. The retirement of Charles M. Schwab, the man with the million dollar salary, is one of the most thought-provoking bits of recent news, but it has already had attention on page 4.

* * *

Girdling the World in Ten Minutes.

"I'll put a girdle about the earth in forty minutes." These were the words that Shakespeare, in one of his highest flights of fancy, put into the mouth of Puck, the fairy. But truth is stranger than fiction, and the thought conjured up in the brilliant imagination of the great dramatist, has been outdone in the world of actual fact. On July 4th the trans-Pacific cable, joining San Francisco and Manila was finally completed, and New York City for the first time found itself able to send a message round the world without break. A message by President Roosevelt made the circuit of the globe in 12 minutes, and the reply of Clarence H. Mackay, president of the cable company, went round in 9½ minutes.

But although the cablegram encircled the earth and came back on the east side of the office within ten minutes after it left on the west side, it traveled so much faster than the sun that it passed en route through all kinds of time. Vice-President Baker of the Commercial Cable Company, illustrated this by a curious calculation. "I have made out a table," he said, "showing the times at which a cable dispatch sent around the world by our new cable would pass the transmission stations. A message started from New York at 5 this morning would reach Honolulu at 11 p. m. yesterday, would get to Midway Island at 10 p. m. yesterday, to Guam at 7 p. m. to-day, to Manila at 6 p. m., would reach India at 3 this afternoon, and would get back to New York at 6 this morning. Thus the message, although leaving New York to-day, would have a trip into yesterday. Similarly if a dispatch were sent

eastward to-day it would reach Guam to-morrow and get back in New York within an hour after it was sent away to-day."

This will not sound incredible to our readers who have been in towns and heard in the forenoon of a battle fought in Manila in the afternoon of the same day.

* * *

The State Temperance Convention.

The State Convention of Anti-Saloon Leagues held in Raleigh last week was an even greater success than its promoters hoped for. Nearly 300 delegates, representing about 80 counties, we believe, were present. The declaration of principles as unanimously adopted by the Convention expresses better than could any words of our own the aims and purposes of the organization:

"The North Carolina Anti-Saloon League is an independent body, maintaining friendly relations with similar associations in other States, but entirely independent in its acts, and it is non-partisan in character. Its purpose is the abolition of liquor saloons and distilleries by all proper means; creation and crystallization of a righteous public sentiment, and proper enforcement of all laws against the liquor traffic. It favors a firm and just enforcement of the Watts Law, and it earnestly requests future Legislatures not to incorporate small towns with the privilege of licensing distilleries or saloons. It calls the attention of boards of commissions of counties and towns in the State to the danger of whiskey distilleries and rectifying establishments, now forbidden to operate in the country, removing to incorporated towns. This should be prevented. This organization favors calling elections under existing law in every town where there is a reasonable chance of carrying the election against saloons, and this League pledges its assistance in all such elections."

The Convention decided to raise \$5,000 to carry on the work during the next year and to maintain two field agents, one for the eastern and one for the western section of the State. Notable addresses were made by Manager J. W. Bailey, Temporary Chairman Henry A. Page, Permanent Chairman Henry A. London, and by Senator F. M. Simmons and Rev. A. J. McKelway. The following compose the Executive Committee: N. B. Broughton, T. N. Ivey, J. A. Oates, I. C. Blair, A. J. McKelway, J. O. Atkinson, J. W. Bailey, J. I. Johnson, W. H. Sprunt, J. C. Masee, R. C. Beaman, H. A. Page, J. H. Tucker, Braxton Craig, W. B. Cooper, G. T. Adams, R. B. White, J. A. Hartness and Q. K. Nimocks.

* * *

The Closing Career of Pope Leo.

As this is written (Saturday) Pope Leo XIII., the head of the Roman Catholic Church, lies at death's door, and the end will probably come before we go to press. The Pope is 93 years old, and has always appeared frail, but so carefully has he husbanded his strength that he has survived much the larger part of his generation. It is said that he made his will when 29 years of age—64 years ago—expressing the belief that he had but a few months to live. Temperance, courage and serenity are doubtless responsible for his longevity. The Pope is the last of a quartette of powerful old men who swayed the rod of empire and world politics at the time we entered journalism six years ago—Gladstone in England, Bismarck in Germany, Li Hung Chang in China, and Leo in the Roman Catholic Church. Each, we believe, had then passed his eightieth year, but there were no other four men in the world, excepting possibly a few kings and queens, who had greater power to shape the destinies of men and peoples. Queen Victoria was also alive at that time, and almost an octogenarian. Pope Leo has been Pope since 1878, and his wise and statesmanlike management has greatly strengthened the Catholic Church. Within nine days after his death, the College of Cardinals must meet to choose his successor.

COME TO THE FARMERS' CONVENTION.

The program of the North Carolina Farmers' Convention to be held at the A. & M. College here July 21, 22 and 23, has now been completed and is given in full on page 12.

We again urge all our farmers who can possibly do so to attend this meeting. The program is so practical that it will pay, even in dollars and cents, to come and hear the discussions, while the recreation gained by getting away from home for two or three days and mingling with the progressive men who will be here, will also be highly beneficial.

Remember, this is a purely voluntary movement. No delegates are appointed by any officer or by any organization. Every farmer in the State is asked to attend, and every one who comes will have all the rights and privileges of a member of the convention.

A rate of one fare for the round trip can be had from the railways, if you ask for tickets on account of the A. & M. College Summer School.

It is hoped to make this the first of such a series of great annual conventions as the East Tennessee farmers have had regularly at Knoxville. The attendance will undoubtedly be large. Come and bring your neighbor with you.

THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENT.

Dr. Burkett emphasizes in his letter on page 1 a suggestion that has been several times made in The Progressive Farmer within the last two or three weeks—that every acre of stubble land in North Carolina that would otherwise lie idle should be at once sown to peas. This matter should have immediate attention. To sow peas means (1) that the land will not mature a crop of weed seed to trouble you next year; (2) that its fertility will be increased, thus enabling you to grow bigger crops on the land in 1904; (3) that you will get much valuable forage for next winter when all kinds of stock feed are likely to be high.

There are some other good farm articles in this number. Harry Farmer's letter will be of especial interest to strawberry growers. Mr. W. J. Shuford sends a newsy, practical letter about Catawba County farming—the kind of reports we should like to have regularly from every county in the State. And don't plow your corn again until you read the first article on page 2.

We commend to all our young men John Graham's letter to his son Pierrepont, as given on page 6. It is packed with homely wisdom. In the version of "Dixie," printed on page 7, the line "We are ready when the duty calls us," should be "We are ready when our duty calls us." In most cases the words used have been unworthy of the thrilling, immortal tune which stirred the gray-clad boys of the 60's; this version is an exception to the rule.

"The Household Laboratory on page 7 should be read in connection with "Science in the Kitchen" on page 15. We believe that this subject deserves the attention of our women and especially of the teachers of our women. If we have come to the time when every stockman must make a careful study of the composition of different feeds and must know just how to compound rations in order to keep his animals in the best possible condition, isn't it about time for those who feed the human animal to depend on knowledge rather than on opinions picked up by haphazard methods? Hereafter the boys of the State are to study agricultural science in the school; would it not be well to teach the girls at the same time something about the "household laboratory" that most of them must manage in some way, whether wisely or ignorantly?

"Make Your Homes Beautiful" is the familiar-sounding title of an article on page 7. We re-