

Blue Ridge, and some prominent financiers and society women in New York City. Evidently Mr. Page has not been favorably impressed by the "Four Hundred," for his pictures of its gossips and flatterers, its shams and shallowness, its avaricious men and extravagant women, its gorgeous functions and vulgar pleasures, make an eloquent defense of the simple life. The book is more ambitious, more complicated, than "Red Rock," and deals more largely with the darker aspects of life. But in every case meanness is despicable and unlovely. The book is larger than the average novel, and in the earlier part there are some evidences of padding, but in the end nearly every actor seems essential to the completeness of the picture.

**THE NATURE STUDY IDEA.** By Prof. Liberty H. Bailey. Cloth. \$1.00. Doubleday, Page & Co., Publishers, New York City.

A teacher who has read our copy of this little book and is greatly pleased with it, has prepared for us the following review notice:

Nature study is a comparatively recent movement in the schools of the country, but has proved of such great value that it is now more widely discussed than almost any other educational subject. Dr. Bailey, of Cornell University, in an attractive volume of 159 pages, gives his readers a history of the movement and a clear and definite idea of its purpose and spirit. He says: "Of late years there has been a rapidly growing feeling that we must live closer to nature; and we must perforce begin with the child. We attempt to teach this nature-love in the schools, and we call the effort nature-study. It would be better if it were called nature-sympathy." He shows that to win happiness we must be in sympathy with, and love our environments. Hence in the rural districts especially this appreciation of nature will add much to one's ability to get the best there is in life. He hopes, too, that by instilling into the school children an early love and admiration for the nature world, they may be less willing to leave the country for the city.

Dr. Bailey is a forceful and charming writer, and while his "Nature Study Idea" was written primarily for teachers it is so very practical and suggestive that every one interested in education will find in it many interesting suggestions along the line of child-development.

The time for the annual meeting of the State Farmers' Alliance at Hillsboro—August 11, 12 and 13—is now near at hand. An especially attractive program is being prepared, and it is believed that this will be one of the most interesting and profitable sessions ever held. No county in which an organization exists should fail to be represented. If any County Alliance failed to meet at the regular time, a special meeting should be called at once to elect officers and to send a delegate to the Hillsboro meeting. It is important that this matter have prompt attention.

We regret to say that Harry Farmer, our most faithful and popular correspondent, has been too unwell to write for this number. We do not know exactly the nature of his affliction, but we know that our thousands of readers join us in extending sympathy to him and his, and in wishing for him a complete and speedy recovery. No issue of *The Progressive Farmer* is complete without one of his invariably sensible and practical "Talks."

We shall not extend the time for the prize competition for articles on "Negro Life and Character During and After Slavery." Any article received by August 1st will be considered, but on that day the award will be made and a handsome edition of Brock's "Life of Robert Lee" sent to the successful competitor.

Very bright is the outlook for the Farmers' Convention to be held here Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Those who cannot come the first day will find it worth while to attend the last two days.

#### The Life That Lies Outside of the Dust and Din.

When the temptation grew too overpowering he left his office and went down into the country. It always did him good to go there. To be there was like a plunge in a cool, limpid pool. He had been so long in the turmoil and strife of the struggle for success—for wealth; had been so wholly surrounded by those who strove as he strove, tearing and trampling and rending those who were in their way, that he had almost lost sight of the life that lay outside of the dust and din of that arena. He had almost forgotten that life held other rewards than riches. He had forgotten the calm and tranquil region that stretched beyond the moil and anguish of the strife for gain.—From Thomas Nelson Page's "Gordon Keith."

#### Are You Farming for a Living or as a Business?

There are two classes of farmers: one which farms because they do not know how to do anything else and because it is the easiest way for them to make a living and get along somehow for the time being. The other class farms not so much for a living as because it is their chosen business. They do not think of getting along somehow, but of getting ahead, accumulating, improving the farm, increasing its fertility, all with the object of making it a better manufacturing plant and better business proposition.

The man who farms as a business adopts business methods as far as they are applicable to farm operations, keeps books, knows his income and outgo, takes an inventory of stock, has system in all his methods, and knows approximately what every crop each year has cost him in cash or its equivalent in labor. We have small hopes of the man who is simply farming as a means of getting through the world somehow.—Dr. Henry Wallace in Wallace's Farmer.

#### Educated Negro Labor and White Competition.

The morbid fear of the negro's industrial education would never have arisen but for the prevalence of the economic error that the volume of the world's work is fixed in quantity, and that if the negro does a part of it, there will be less of it for the white man. But, one man's work does not reduce the volume of the work open to other men. Every man's work produces work for all. Every laborer who is really a producer, represents a force which is enlarging the market for labor. The man who makes a table, broadens the opportunities of industry behind him and before him. He helps to make work for the man who fells the trees, for the man who hauls the trees to the saw-mill, for those in the mills who dress the timber for his use, for those who dig and shape the iron which goes into the nails he drives; he makes work for the man who provides the glue, the stains and the varnish, for the man who owns the table at the shop, for the drummer who tells about it, for the men who sell food and apparel to those who handle it and who profit by its repeated sales from factory to wholesaler, and from the wholesaler to the retailer, and from the retailer to the final purchaser. The man who makes a table makes business. The man who makes shoes or harness or tools or wagons, makes business. The work of the skilled producer does not restrict the market of labor. It enlarges that market. The friction sometimes due to the negro's possession of a lower standard of living passes away as the negro advances in real education and genuine skill. As he begins to work productively, he begins to live better. He is not like the myriad labor of the Orient which never accepts American standards. As the negro goes up, his standard of living goes up. There will never be any question about the negro being a consumer. He is ever a free spender. To strengthen him, upon wise lines, as an American producer will add not only to his capacity to work, but to his capacity to buy, and both what he produces and what he purchases will directly contribute to the wealth and peace of the community and the State.—Rev. Edgar G. Murphy, Executive Secretary of Southern Education Board, in "The Task of the South."

#### North Carolina is Making Relatively Greater Progress Than Any Other Old State, North or South.

In 1890, according to the figures given in the recently issued "Abstract of the Twelfth Census," North Carolina ranked sixteenth among the States in population; in 1900 she was fifteenth.

In 1890 North Carolina ranked twenty-third in gross value of agricultural products; in 1900 she was twentieth.

In 1890 North Carolina ranked thirty-first in gross value of agricultural products; in 1900 she was twenty-eighth.

In other words, during the decade we forged forward one notch in population, three notches in agriculture and three in manufactures.

No other Southern State made such a record. Texas was the only other cotton State which made progress in each of the three divisions, and it moved up only one notch in each—a total of three notches to our seven.

Of the States around us Virginia fell back two places in population, advanced three in agriculture and one in manufactures.

Tennessee fell back one point in population, two in manufactures and advanced three in agriculture.

South Carolina fell back one notch in population, two in agriculture and advanced four in manufactures.

Georgia fell back five points in agriculture, one in manufacturing and advanced one in population.

Of Southern States not contiguous, Alabama and Arkansas ranked lower in population, agriculture and manufactures in 1900 than in 1890; Florida held its own in population and declined in agriculture and manufactures; Louisiana advanced in population and manufactures and declined agriculturally; Mississippi ranked lower in agriculture and manufactures, higher in population.

But hold! Since the foregoing paragraphs were written I have taken the trouble to compare North Carolina's record with those of Northern and Western States, and with even more gratifying results.

It appears that if we are to accept the criterion of progress with which we started out—that of gain in rank among the States in population, gross value of agricultural products and gross value of manufactured products—that North Carolina is not only the most progressive Southern State, but the most progressive old State, North or South.

Let us see. In the decade from 1890 to 1900, as we have said, North Carolina went from sixteenth to fifteenth in population, twenty-third to twentieth in gross value of agricultural products and thirty-first to twenty-eighth in gross value of manufactured products. In other words, she gained one point in population and three each in agriculture and manufactures—a net gain of seven points in rank among the States. Virginia lost two points in population, but gained three in agriculture and one in manufacturing; so her net gain was two points.

Taking this method of comparison, I have gone over the census reports to get a rating in progressiveness for each Commonwealth and have been as much pleased as astonished to find that North Carolina's net gain of seven points in rank was equalled by no old State, North, South or West, and by but one new State, Montana (with a net gain of 11 points), and that wonderful new territory, Oklahoma (with a net gain of 32 points).

If, as somebody has said, "the great question is not where are we standing, but in what direction are we going," then there is no reason to be discouraged about North Carolina's condition. Poor and slow and ignorant, we have been heretofore, but if we only keep up the pace we have set, 1950 will find the Old North State well in the lead.

The end is a long way off, but we have struck the right pace at last.—Clarence H. Poe (Editor of *Progressive Farmer*), in *Charlotte Observer*.