

## EDITORIAL

### THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENT.

We are glad to note the widespread interest in Prof. Kilgore's articles on fertilizers. It is well that our people are beginning to study this question, for the \$6,000,000 annual guano bill of North Carolina farmers is a fearful tax, and the proper application of the materials is a matter of vast importance. As our next number will be a special Cotton Edition, Prof. Kilgore will talk next of fertilizers for cotton. He will also contribute an article of unusual value on the best varieties of cotton for North Carolina growers.

Mr. Blake Johnson's suggestion in regard to keeping accounts deserves attention. We run no risk in saying that if you are a thinking farmer and are not satisfied, after a year's experiment, that our Gaston friend's plans is worth while, we will pay the expense of the test.

There have been so many inquiries regarding Prof. Kilgore's article, "Composts and Composting," that we are printing on page 2 a letter from Prof. Soule, of Tennessee, containing some practical suggestions as to this kind of work.

The Government's plans for fighting the boll weevil are outlined on page 2. We observe, by the way, that the Louisiana farmers are up in arms against the plan to stop the weevil's eastward march by stopping cotton growing within the western counties of their State. If it were clear that this would probably stay the weevil, however, the National Government should forbid the cultivation of cotton in this area and reimburse the growers there for any loss they would sustain.

"Double Teams" is the shortest article on page 2, but no other article in the paper contains more good counsel to the square inch. Think about it, and wait for a longer article on "Plowing," by Dr. H. F. Freeman, which we shall print within a week or two.

Mr. J. S. Cates is furnishing us a thoughtful series of letters on live stock conditions. Citizens of other States often comment on our backwardness in this particular as one of the first and most notable things observed by a traveler in North Carolina. This week Mr. Cates calls attention to the neglected industry of mule raising.

Mr. Samuel Archer discusses some important points in sheep management. He is to furnish other articles on the same topic.

Of our Home Circle features, we especially emphasize, "In Anticipation of Spring." One cannot do a better thing than to get into touch with Nature at the very beginning of the growing season. And we are much afraid that Mr. Ader's charge that "two-thirds of Adam's race have never learned to eat properly or to take proper care of the body God has given them," is borne out by facts.

Nor should you forget that some of the most valuable features of every issue are the advertisements. Don't overlook them. The men who solicit your trade through our columns are men of known reliability who have something of value to offer. If we did not get a cent for the ads, it would be well for us to have them because of their value to farmers who have supplies to buy and wish to know where to purchase. But the advertisers do pay us, and every time you give one an order and mention The Progressive Farmer, you help us in our effort to give you a better paper. Commenting on the part played by the advertiser, the publishers of Everybody's Magazine write as follows in their March number:

"Are you aware that the magazines published in America are the best in the world? Do you realize that they cost the publishers considerably more than you pay for them? You have the wide-awake American advertisers to thank for

making such magazines possible. Every time you patronize one of our advertisers and mention our magazine you are making it pay. A part of the money you send to him he sends to us, and we give it back to you again in a magazine that actually costs more than twice what we get for it. That is the whole story of modern magazine publishing. The publishers who don't allow too much of the advertising money to stick to their fingers, but pass it on to you in a constantly improving magazine, are the publishers who win out. You can make or break a publisher. You can buy his magazine and still break him. Just pay no attention to the advertisements and the trick is done. On the other hand, if you wish to encourage him, and actually make him (to bring it home, if you wish to make us) go through the advertisements."

And so we say to our readers as Everybody's says to its readers: "Go through the advertisements." You will find in this number announcements of a half dozen things you will need during the coming crop season, and other things you wish to buy. Write for catalogue, prices, etc., and don't forget to mention The Progressive Farmer.

### VALUE OF THE RURAL SCHOOL LIBRARY.

In a personal letter to the Editor, County Superintendent C. W. Massey, speaks very enthusiastically of his experience with rural school libraries in Durham County:

"In number of volumes our libraries now range from about one hundred and ten to five hundred volumes," he says. "We have between five thousand and six thousand volumes in our twenty-eight white school libraries. These libraries have simply revolutionized public sentiment in regard to schools and education in Durham County. They continue to grow in interest. The teachers, the pupils, the parents, the old grandfathers and grandmothers—all the people that can read are reading books. The placing of these libraries has done more for the cause of education in this county, and promises to do more in the future, than any one thing that has been done here within the last decade."

Superintendent Joyner gives us the gratifying information that all over the State interest in the rural school library is more intense than ever before and that the entire State appropriation will almost certainly be exhausted before the next Legislature meets. If your county has not applied for its full proportion of the money, and your school is yet without library advantages, act promptly lest some other community prove itself more progressive by getting ahead of you.

### PLANT CORN, SOUTHERN FARMERS!

This is the advice given by the Manufacturers' Record in its last issue, and we think this counsel and the reasons given by the Record for the faith that is in it, deserve especial attention. We are not among these who believe that cotton will drop next fall to the prices prevailing three or four years ago. We expect cotton to bring a fair price, because there will be no surplus from last year's crop, and because the boll weevil and the scarcity of labor are likely to prevent the production of a very large 1904 crop. But while we believe cotton will bring a fair price, we also believe that corn and food supplies will bring excellent prices. And if the war in the Far East should involve other nations, as not improbably it may do, the demand for American corn and wheat is likely to carry prices still higher. It is no time to reduce the acreage in corn, and we take pleasure in reprinting herewith the editorial of the Manufacturers' Record mentioned in the beginning of this paragraph:

"A few days ago a leading railroad officer, discussing the prospects of freight traffic, stated that in his territory in the central South the roads

would be taxed to their utmost capacity to handle fertilizers for cotton, so great were the preparations now being made to increase the cotton acreage. 'The farmers,' said he, 'are going to abandon corn this year and concentrate on cotton, and then next winter we will have an immense corn traffic from the West.' According to his view, this meant a great traffic hauling cotton out and a great traffic hauling corn in, and, therefore, the change was a matter for congratulation. This is a short-sighted policy, for, while temporarily it means an increase in railroad traffic, it is not for the best interests nor the permanent prosperity of the South. It would be a serious mistake for the farmers of the South to lessen their attention to corn and other food stuffs. The progress made during the last few years should be maintained and the South be made wholly independent in its food supplies for man and beast. The terrific slump in cotton last week proves how quickly prices can at times be beat down, and with a very heavy increase in acreage as an excuse it might be possible for speculative manipulation to force cotton below a remunerative profit to the grower. The intrinsic strength of the situation should enable the South for some years to come to secure profitable prices for its cotton, but if Southern farmers concentrate all their attention on cotton, and neglect diversified agriculture, they will kill the goose that is now laying golden eggs."

### MARKET QUOTATIONS TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO.

Finding among some waste papers last week a copy of the old Raleigh Farmer and Mechanic of February 21, 1878, we were considerably interested in comparing the market quotations of today with those of February, twenty-six years ago. It is rather remarkable how little change a quarter of a century has brought about. Compare our market quotations for February 20, 1904, as found on another page, with the Farmer and Mechanic quotations for February 20, 1878, as follows:

#### RALEIGH COTTON MARKET.

Raleigh, Feb. 20, 1878.

Middling .....	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Strict low middling.....	10
Low middling .....	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Strict good ordinary.....	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Good ordinary.....	9 $\frac{1}{8}$
Ordinary .....	9

#### CITY MARKET—WHOLESALE PRICES.

(Retail prices from 5 to 15 per cent higher.)

Cotton ties, new.....	6
Cotton ties, spliced.....	4
Bagging .....	14 @ 14
Flour, North Carolina.....	\$6 @ 6.50
Corn .....	70 @ 80
Corn meal.....	75 @ 80
Bacon, N. C. hog, round.....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ @
Bacon, N. C. hams.....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bulk meats, clear rib sides....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 9
Bulk meats, shoulders.....	7 @ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
North Carolina pork.....	8 @ 9
Lard, North Carolina.....	12 @ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard, Western tierce.....	12 @ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coffee, prime Rio.....	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ @
Coffee, good.....	20 @
Coffee, common.....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ @
Syrup, S. H.....	34 @ 36
Molasses, Cuba.....	5
Salt, Liverpool, fine.....	\$1.80
Nails, on basis for 10s.....	\$3.50
Sugar, white.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ @
Sugar, yellow.....	10 @ 11
Leather, red sole.....	25 @ 28
Leather, oak tanned.....	40
Hides, green.....	4 @ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hides, dry.....	10 @ 11
Tallow .....	7
Irish potatoes, new.....	\$2.00
Oats, shelled .....	50 @ 55