

Has Your Farm a Well-kept Appearance?
Editors Progressive Farmer:

A few days since, I was riding along the road and came to a farm I well knew, but it did not look natural. As I knew it, the roadside was bordered by a tumble down fence covered over with briars and sprouts until the whole had become a veritable thicket some fifteen or eighteen feet wide. Said I, to myself: "This farm has changed hands," for its appearance was strikingly changed, and the contrast was quite pleasing. Now you may not know it, gentle reader, but it is a fact that I always admire the beautiful, and when I saw that old fence had been removed and the briars and sprouts grubbed up and neatly piled ready to be burned, it is no wonder the sight was pleasing. I rode along and saw some children at a house on the opposite side of the road, and I said: "What's the matter over here? Has some one bought this place?" A little fellow answered, "Yes, papa bought it."

This explained the matter, for I knew the new owner was a lover of aesthetics. I had just been observing the neat appearance of his farm and that of a neighbor on the opposite side of the road. Both successful farmers, and you don't have to look inside their pockets or get a peep at their bank account to find it out. The farm tells a true story. Then I fell to thinking.

Harry Farmer told us a few weeks since about the importance of keeping up appearances about the house, and making things there look like somebody lived there, and I thought, Why not let this care extend all over the farm? It will pay in dollars and cents, besides adding beauty to the farmstead. I don't know other people's taste, but I like to see a farm look neat and tidy, and I try to have it so on my farm.

But with many it is different. Their farms show us how careless they are. The man who goes forth to buy a farm will judge the productiveness of a farm largely by its appearance, and he will pay more for one well kept than he will for the one that is overrun with briars and sprouts.

How often as I drive along the highway do I notice these overgrown hedges along the roadside, and generally the owner gives back a little every year, thus giving more and more room for the hedge. Sometimes I see young trees eight or ten inches in diameter sending their roots out into the field sapping the land of fertility the crops need, and long branches shading the crops. Soon a wide strip becomes unproductive and it is left out, and ere long the so-called farmer is driven from the field, and, yes, from the farm, too. He says farming doesn't pay, and so he moves to town. A wide-awake man comes along, buys the farm for a trifle, goes to work, cleans up the place, uses improved tools and common sense. Soon the farm is yielding profitable crops and making money. Just so it is.

Reader, to which class do you be-

long? When your land is too wet to plow, walk out on the farm and look about. Don't take any tool at first—just look over your place and study it. You will soon decide where the tools are needed. Then use them.

E. S. MILLSAPS.

Iredell Co., N. C.

The South's Opportunity.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

It is with sadness and regret that I read the death of "Harry Farmer," Mr. Wyche, of Columbus County. The writer knew him personally, and had business relations with him for several years, finding him to be a man of the highest character; and having the confidence in him, as I did, his articles in your paper were doubly appreciated: first, because I knew he would not write falsely: second, his experience on the farm gave him wisdom that only diligence could acquire. He was the helpbuilder of the State, for no farmer could read his articles and not profit by them, and when the farmer prospers all other classes prosper.

I used to think you had an excellent paper, but I think it is still better since you have associated with you Profs. Kilgore and Burkett, as your agricultural editors. Many of their articles alone are worth to the farmer more than the price of the paper for the entire year, and the lines upon which the farmer is being educated is the one that is most needed in order that he may grasp the greatest opportunity the South has ever had, namely, the digging of the Isthmian Canal. And if she will eliminate the narrow and selfish partisan, I will venture to say that every foot of tillable land in the South will be doubled in value in a few years after this great traffic-way is opened up. This will be the cotton field to furnish cloth to the Oriental people, and as we have acquired a foothold there we will sell the goods, and as those people become more civilized they will want more clothes, and the cotton industry alone will make the South what the high tariff has made the North—a rich and prosperous people, though it did seem at one time that the politicians would defeat this measure.

While we have a great scarcity of labor, and the farmers hardly know how to plant, yet it has a tendency to give us more intelligent, if higher-priced labor, as we will never get high prices for our products until we pay high prices for the labor that produces it. I agree with Mr. Walter Page that cheap labor is a menace to any country. If anyone doubts it, let them turn their minds to Europe or China, or any other section of the Orient.

Yours very respectfully,

B. F. KEITH.

New Hanover Co., N. C.

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Very truly yours,

H. L. Dunham
Ex-Mayor of Dover, N. J.

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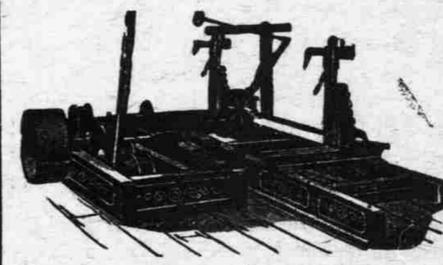
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