

NEXT WEEK—CORN SPECIAL.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE



A Farm and Home Weekly for the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

FOUNDED, 1896, BY DR. TAIT BUTLER, AT STARKVILLE, MISS.

Volume XV. No. 9.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1910.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

The "Forward, March!" in 1910 Farming: Are You Ready?

MARCH IS HERE: the first month of the 1910 crop-growing season. Let us see if we are ready for the "Forward, March!" of 1910 farming in the South.

First of all, let us see if we are ready to farm this year with labor-saving tools. The man who has only one horse may be a good progressive farmer and use only one-horse tools, but every farmer who has two or more horses should have two-horse plows, harrows, cultivators, and other improved implements. The only way to make money farming in the South is to stop having men do work that mules might do. We must stop having so many one-horse power workers. A California farmer said to us this week that out there an eight-mule team is the standard—they are more likely to have more than fewer. Whatever the number of horses we use therefore, we must have this year the most up-to-date, labor-saving tools and machinery. If these have not already been secured, postal cards should be sent right away—this week—for catalogs and price lists, or orders placed without delay.

And just as we cannot afford to waste our labor on out-of-date tools and machinery, so we cannot afford to waste our labor on scrub seed or scrub stock this year. We have long seen the necessity for getting improved varieties for all garden seed; now we must recognize that there are just as great advantages in having improved varieties of corn and cotton and tobacco and all other field crops. Director C. B. Williams has shown that improved varieties of cotton would add \$3,000,000 in cotton profits in a single State without the farmer shedding an extra drop of sweat or giving an extra lick of work. The time has come when we must think too much of our hard work to throw it away on crude tools, poor seed, and scrub stock.

Then, too, we must see to it that we do not let Western farmers monopolize the big profits that are being made in stock raising and poultry raising this year. There is no danger of over-production. Last year there was a decrease of 2,100,000 in the number of cattle (other than milch cows) on American farms, and a decrease of 6,365,000 in the number of hogs. The Westerner can no longer raise enough to supply the demand, and the opportunity of Southern farmers in 1910 is to get some of the big profits that come in stock raising. Profits are bigger here than in any other line of farming simply because it calls for more highly skilled labor, and skilled labor always demands higher wages than crude labor. Crude labor can make cotton and win a small profit, but stock-raising demands more intelligent labor and pays correspondingly bigger profits.

And in stock-raising or poultry-raising, to make money as Western farmers do, we must raise improved breeds as Western farmers do. They can laugh in their sleeves at our competition so long as we try to catch up with them and use only scrub hogs, scrub cattle, and scrub hens. We might as well try to beat them in a race with a Southern mule matched against a Western race-horse.

If we are ready for the "Forward! March!" in 1910 farming therefore, it means that we have not only arranged for better tools and machinery for this year and for improved varieties of both field and garden crops, but that we are going to have improved breeds of cattle, hogs, and poultry on all our farms this year. It means that we must be arranging hog pastures for making the pork cheaply. It means that we must have caught the spirit of the great Corn-raising Revival that is now sweeping over the South—for we are just finding out that the South can beat the Corn Belt itself in raising corn if we only give the crop a chance.

These things we have already done if we are ready to start, but there is still time for the enterprising farmer to throw re-doubled energy into these things, get them done at once, and catch step with the great forward procession in ample time. But to do this not another day must be lost. See that orders are placed without delay for better tools and machinery, improved varieties of field crops, and for better hogs, cattle, and poultry.

With these things done and the same spirit shown throughout the rest of the year, there is no reason why everyone of our 100,000 subscribers can not have it said of him at the end of the year: "He is one of the county's wide-awake farmers—one of the men who are re-making Southern agriculture and putting the South in the forefront of American progress."

And isn't it worth getting busy—right away—to win and deserve such a plaudit?



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