

# The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.

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## CURRENT EVENTS: THE TREND OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

President Roosevelt does such a variety of things that it is not surprising that the youngster mentioned on page 6 mixed up his history and physiology, declaring on examination that "The Alimentary Canal was first commenced by a Frenchman in 1607. It was bought in 1903 by President Roosevelt, and he is going to finish building it."

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### The President Probably Going too Fast in Santo Domingo.

Of course, when a man does so many things, he is likely to do some thoughtlessly or rashly, and it seems that the President is probably about to overstep the limits in this Santo Domingo affair. On this matter we do not profess to be an authority, for it is the very topic that called forth our quotation from Mr. Dooley two weeks ago: "We don't know anything about it, and we don't care, and what business is it of ye-ers anyway?" Still while we have a great deal more respect for the President than for the handful of moneybags who seem to rule the Senate, the Senate has rights that everybody ought to respect—whatever may be said of individual Senators. And when the Senate showed so plainly that it disapproved of meddling in Santo Domingo affairs, it would have been better for Mr. Roosevelt to drop the matter. We are not surprised therefore to see that among the protests aroused, the Indianapolis News, in which Vice-President Fairbanks is a large stockholder, sounds a note of warning, saying in part:

"The President's attempt to secure for himself the power to negotiate arbitration agreements without the consent of the Senate, the action of the government's agents in the matter of the recent protocol with Santo Domingo, and now the efforts of Mr. Roosevelt to establish a protectorate over Santo Domingo without the co-operation of the Senate and in the face of the refusal of the Senate to ratify the treaty which was designed to accomplish that result, have all combined to direct attention only more to the President's rather unconventional way of doing things. If we are, as many believe, to have a direct issue between the Senate and the President, it is greatly to be desired that the President shall put himself in the strongest possible position. This he cannot do if he persists in his policy, at least, of seeming to regard the law as an obstacle to be got out of the way or got around."

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### Who Will Succeed Mr. Roosevelt?

Speaking of Mr. Fairbanks just now reminds us of the zeal with which he is promoting his Presidential ambitions, and also reminds us of some very interesting gossip from the Washington representative of The Progressive Farmer, as found in a letter bearing date of March 31st. We do not know that the outlook for the Presidential succession (in case the Republicans should continue their hold on the National Government) has been anywhere more accurately portrayed than in the following paragraphs which we reprint:

"The proclamation, 'The king is dead. Long live the king,' has always seemed to Americans a callous custom, possible only in effete monarchies; and yet the inauguration of every President is attended with lively surmise as to his successor. Hardly has a man entered the White House, before tongues are busy with the aspirations of others. This inauguration was not an exception; in fact, seldom has a new administration been attended by so many outspoken ambitions. Never before have so many of the aspirants belonged to

the Presidential family. Of course, Mr. Roosevelt's declaration that he would not again be a candidate for the nomination has much to do with the frankness of his followers. Three members of the Cabinet—Mr. Shaw, Mr. Taft and Mr. Cortelyou—are candidates; so is Mr. Fairbanks, who has just entered upon the office of Vice-President. It has become almost a political proverb that Presidents are not chosen from the Cabinet; it was also said that Presidents were never, in these days, taken from the Vice-Presidency. Mr. Roosevelt has smashed one tradition; and the other will probably not weigh with the heads of the War and Treasury Departments, although it may lead them to retire from the Cabinet earlier than would otherwise be the case. Mr. Root—who would certainly not refuse the nomination—is also not to be deterred by Cabinet traditions. As for Mr. Cortelyou, his candidacy is not likely to require his retirement from the Cabinet. His official advancement up to the time of his selection as chairman of the Republican National Committee was not the result of political organization. He has no constituency to return to for support as a favorite son, and the influences favorable to his nomination may operate as effectually while he serves as Postmaster General. If Mr. Cortelyou should win the prize, it would be not only the first instance of a man reaching the Presidency through the classified service, but would be another step in a most remarkable career—from obscure typewriter to Cabinet officer and chairman of the Republican National Committee, without political "pull." Which candidate Mr. Roosevelt may favor is an absorbing question among friends of the parties interested, for if the popularity of the President proves permanent, it will be well within his power to greatly influence the choice of his successor. In any event, Washington will be more than ever the mecca for Republican politicians during the next few years, as it happens that five of the ambitious rivals—including Senator Foraker—are practically residents of this city."

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### "All Have Agreed on Peace Except the Belligerents."

A St. Petersburg diplomat very aptly sized up the Russo-Japanese situation in the sentence: "All have agreed on peace except the belligerents." It has been a play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out. France, which is financing Russia, seems very anxious for peace; England would be glad to see the war stop while the tide is so much against Russia; and the press correspondents have cried "Peace! Peace!" But there is no peace.

Russia in some fashion managed to make it known last week that she would not consider any peace proposition involving the payment of indemnity or the cession of territory, and the victory-flushed Japanese are very well content to try the efficiency of cannon balls in convincing her that this would not be morally correct.

Mr. Takaharshi, the Japanese special financial commissioner, in an interview said: "The war cost between \$250,000,000 and \$300,000,000 the first year, and will probably cost \$350,000,000 during the present year. It would be unprecedented in the history of great wars that no indemnity and no territory be given up by the vanquished. While it is beyond my province to discuss terms of peace, I can express my personal opinion that as the war was forced upon Japan it is not likely that she will waive the right to an indemnity and cession of territory when concluding peace. What indemnity will be demanded, I cannot say, but it is my private opinion that it will at least cover the expenses of the war."

So the war goes on. Oyama, it is reported, has begun another general advance, and at St. Petersburg, Russia is again face to face with desperate internal dissensions. There is a very general feeling that General Kuropatkin has been unjustly used as a scapegoat by the Russian Government, and that the old hero who has grown gray in the service of the Czar was not responsible for the crushing defeat for which he has been retired in disgrace.

"O Cromwell, Cromwell,  
Had I but served my God with half the zeal  
I served my king, He would not in mine age  
Have left me naked to mine enemies."

The noble spirit of the old General has never shown so finely as in his volunteering to take an humbler position under his successor and continuing his services to an unappreciative government.

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

Our Cotton Growing Talks were concluded last week, and the last of the Corn Growing Talks appears in this number. We have seldom published two more valuable series of articles than these, and we hope that hundreds of our readers will utilize their teachings in this year's farming operations. In the report of these five year experiments we have the most striking illustration yet furnished of the value of the Department of Agriculture's Test Farms. And this leads us to say that the mountain Test Farm is to begin operations this year, and that Wilmington and Fayetteville are contesting hotly as to which town shall have the farm proposed for that section.

Dr. Freeman's testimony to the value of spraying is no stronger than that which could be given by thousands and thousands of other farmers. And should not the bald fact that an inexpensive spraying apparatus enabled him to have more fruit last year than for all the five previous years combined—should not this set you to thinking? Write Prof. Franklin Sherman, Raleigh, for his free bulletins on spraying. Also see the note on spraying on page 2.

Mr. Gerald McCarthy's paper on improving rundown lands is full of good suggestions, and the same is true of the Georgia Experiment Station's report on "Fertilizers for Corn." On the same page Mr. J. Washington Watts seems to give a fair and full statement as to the effect of feeding sorghum to stock.

But all in all, the most valuable article in this number is Dr. Tait Butler's informing paper on "The Value of Cottonseed in Feeding Cattle." People are only beginning to appreciate the value of this great Southern by-product which once went almost utterly to waste, and is not yet utilized to half the good advantage it might be. Dr. Butler's article is worth filing away for further consideration next winter.

Mr. T. B. Parker's additional suggestions on alfalfa growing will be welcomed by many readers who have become interested in that crop. Now is the time to plant.

The rotation of crops doesn't yet get the attention from our farmers it should have, and the article on this subject should cause some of them to plan more wisely in deciding what crops to put on different fields this season.

We are glad that so many country teachers are regular readers of The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant. Now when agriculture and nature study are beginning to find such a large place in the school work, no teacher can do it justice without reading a good farm paper. But what we started out to say is that if your teacher is not one of these who read The Progressive Farmer regularly, you should remind him or her of Dr. Stevens's article on page 5. Every teacher in the State should have the bulletin to which reference is made in this article.

Edgar C. Pinckney, whose "Serenade" we print this week, belonged to the celebrated South Carolina family of that name. His "A Health" which we used in our last issue is one of the most popular American poems.

The Raleigh Times gives good advice in the article, "Every Woman Should Learn to Cook," reprinted on page 6. The girls are learning in Raleigh, where sewing and cooking are regularly taught in the public schools; and the same thing is true of Durham. After awhile we shall have central high schools throughout the country districts, too, where the girls whose mothers fail to teach them will be instructed, and where all will learn something of the chemistry and composition of foods—as all ought to do. And this will mean a great saving in human efficiency and human life.

Our last paragraph probably looks as if we were a shining example of the man described in "The Boy's" composition on spring—which isn't bad