

The Watchman and Southron.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1909.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

Y. M. C. A. Mass Meeting.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather last evening, a large and enthusiastic crowd of men was present at the Y. M. C. A. mass meeting in the Opera House. The interest was intense.

The object of the meeting was stated forcefully with a few well selected words by Mr. C. Capers Smith. On motion of Mr. H. L. Timmons, Mr. Smith was made temporary chairman in order that the meeting be on a basis to transact business. The chairman called for expressions from the audience and a number of business men, young and older, responded with enthusiastic speeches for the Association.

A committee consisting of five members was appointed by the chairman to nominate twelve directors from the different denominations and report to a meeting to be called next Friday night at 8:30 o'clock, at quarters to be decided upon by the committee.

In reviewing the work done by the committee which has been working for members it was found that the membership now is between one hundred and forty and one hundred and fifty. Not all of the men who want to join have given in their names. Quite a number of mothers have been asking for a place for their boys in the list of juveniles. The young men expect to get more than 200 members besides the juveniles.

The organization has begun right, and success is assured. The young men are at work. The older men were surprised to learn the progress that has been made—the reason is that the promoters have been working among young men exclusively. The fact that the young men have done so much by themselves is causing a deeper interest to arise among the older men. The young men are determined to have a Y. M. C. A.

Watch the columns of this paper for the announcement of the place for the next meeting. At this meeting the nominating committee will present the names of twelve men from the different churches in the city as directors of the Y. M. C. A. These names will be voted on by the members who have signed the charter list. It is important that all members be present, because the directors are very important officers.

Peace Again in Spain.

Madrid, Aug. 4.—Spain is now tranquil from the bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean and the crisis in the country is past, according to an official announcement today. The release of Senor Iglesias, editor of El Progreso, and a certain relaxation of the censorship are considered the best evidences that the danger is past.

The Spanish Trans-Atlantic Steamship Company has offered three of its best vessels to be used as hospital ships for the troops in Morocco.

Senor Solortega, a republican senator, who has arrived here from Barcelona, denies that the recent movement in that city was separatist and says also that the revolutionists during the two days they were masters of the city did not commit a single assassination or act of cruelty.

A new civil governor of Barcelona has been appointed.

The publication of a letter from Don Jaime, the pretender to the Spanish throne, has removed the apprehensions of a Carlist movement.

Several gunboats have been dispatched to Morocco to be used especially in stopping the landing of contraband.

Jno. N. Lopez, a negro who at one time was rated as a man of means, is serving a sentence on the chaingangs of Richland County, and Gov. Ansel has declined to grant him a pardon or a commutation. Lopez's crime was obtaining money under false pretenses. He had left at Lynch & Letton's stable a horse which had a board bill of \$37.50 in 50 days. Lopez then claimed it was not his horse and the owners of the stable had him prosecuted. His sentence was six months on the chaingang and \$300 fine. He is over 40 years old and that is the principal ground on which he seeks pardon. Lopez was at one time wealthy, so far as negroes are rated in wealth. He had a big bar with billiard rooms and loaned money to negroes. Finally his money began to slip away from him and today he is too poor to raise the fine.

Revival Services.

A series of meetings will begin at Wedgfield next Monday night at 8:30 o'clock. Rev. S. E. Rose will do the preaching. All are invited to attend. Morning services at 11 o'clock; evening services at 8:30 o'clock.

T. G. WHITLOCK, P. C.

Farmers' Union News

—AND—

Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President Farmers' Union of Sumter County.)

The Watchman and Southron having decided to double its service by semi-weekly publication, would improve that service by special features. The first to be inaugurated is this Department for the Farmers' Union and Practical Farmers which I have been requested to conduct. It will be my aim to give the Union news and official calls of the Union. To that end officers, and members of the Union are requested to use these columns. Also to publish such clippings from the agricultural papers and Government Bulletins as I think will be of practical benefit to our readers. Original articles by any of our readers telling of their successes or failures will be appreciated and published.

Trusting this Department will be of mutual benefit to all concerned,

THE EDITOR.

All communications for this Department should be sent to E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville, S. C.

Some Random Thoughts.

Let us press home this week the importance of better schools in the country districts. This month while the trained educators of the State, our Governor and other officials and prominent citizens are conducting a campaign for progress and development in the schools, let our farmers' unions join in the discussions and give to this important feature of our declaration of purposes real solid support.

We need never hope to be an effective business organization so long as ignorance and prejudice prevail. When we have shown to our fellow-citizens that we can take hold of the things around our door steps and work effectively for the uplift of our communities, then we will command the respect and sympathy, and gain the hearty co-operation of all good citizens.

I would not for a moment discount the great good that can be accomplished by State-wide, and interstate co-operation, nor the big plans some of our leaders have for financing the cotton crop, but neighborhood co-operation will have to precede this wider amalgamation—for how can you amalgamate or unite what does not exist?

Therefore, we the rank and file, and minor officers of the union must stress education and community of interests in season and out of season, "line upon line, precept upon precept; here a little and there a little," and by example prove to the doubting ones that "unity there is strength" and that "farmers will stick."

This shall be the burden of the messages I will try to impress upon the farmers of another county where I have been invited to speak this week and from these little seed grains of truth we trust to see the Farmers' Union grow into a great tree that will refresh man and beast and birds, by its covering shade and beautiful proportions. E. W. D.

\$500 MORE A YEAR FARMING; HOW TO MAKE IT.

By Working for Good Schools, Good Roads and Telephones.

The subject announced for this issue of The Progressive Farmer in our "\$500 a Year" series was "By Saving the Whole Corn Crop" with the subject of this article announced for next week; but as this is our "Educational Edition," we have thought it best to let "Good Schools, Good Roads, and Telephones" come first, leaving the consideration of the corn crop until our issue of August 5th.

At first glance this topic may seem less appropriate than some that have been considered in this series, but there is really no topic on our entire category that has a more vital bearing upon farm profits. In the community at large good schools is likely to get or keep the best class of citizens. Whenever or wherever land is offered for sale, one of the first questions is, "How are the schools and the roads?" And if the prospective buyer is told that both are good, his ideas of land values at once advance, and if in addition he learns the most farmers in the community have telephones, he is willing to pay even more.

School Tax Pays for Itself in Increased Land Values.

Probably in every community which votes local tax for schools, land values in a very few years advance to double the amount of school tax money voted. And this is but one of a hundred ways in which better schools pay for themselves many times over. The whole life of the community is richer and finer wherever there is a good school at its center, the citizens feel a pride in it such as they never felt before, and everything in the neighborhood begins to catch step with the new standard of progress thus set up. It is not the fertility of the land that makes it valuable; it is the intelligence of the community in which it is situated. Land in Africa today is more fertile than the average reader

or The Progressive Farmer ever saw, but it is practically worthless because of an ignorant population, while land in Belgium, originally little more than a sand-waste, has become intensely valuable by reason of the presence of an intelligent population, and intensely fertile by reason of the wise methods of cultivation practiced by these intelligent farmers. Even if a man has no boy or girl to send, the school tax investment is a good one for any property-holder because of the increase in value that always results from the presence of an intelligent citizenship.

Education and the Individual

As to how much education means to the individual, the time has long since passed when it was necessary to argue that point. The boy or girl who starts out in life without the fundamentals of a good education is tragically, almost hopelessly, handicapped. The parents of such a child, if it is ignorant by their neglect, have committed a crime against it almost as serious as if they had suffered its right arm to be cut off, for an educated mind is in a very real sense one's right arm in the struggle for existence—and nowhere is this truer than on the farm. If the South had had for fifty years schools even as good as we have today, there is little doubt but that our average farmer would be making very nearly his extra \$500 a year more without agitation on our part.

Work for Better Schools Right Now.

Wherever the public school is insufficiently supported, the school term not long enough, or the school fund too small for the employment of the best teachers, we earnestly urge our Progressive Farmer readers to band together, get their neighbors to help them, and set about the improvement of their educational facilities. Right now while the crops are "laid by" is the very best time for the work. Consolidate your districts if it is necessary; it is better that your child spend two hours getting to a good school where he can do six or eight hours of good work, than spend half an hour going to a school where work of only half as much efficiency can be done.

Resolve now that you will get better schools. Discuss the matter of consolidation of districts with your neighbors, and the matter of local taxation as well. Bring it up at your church meeting, at the store or post-office, at your Farmers' Union or Alliance meeting. Get the advice of your County Superintendent if you wish it. Arrange with them to get some good speaker to address your people on the subject and push the matter to a conclusion. There is no finer service you can render your community.

Then see to it that there is a good building—not merely one large enough and light enough and airy enough, but a building of some architectural beauty, no matter how simple. Your State Superintendent will doubtless be able to help you in this respect. See to it also that a good library is installed; there is hardly any way by which money invested will bring bigger returns to the community.

Work for Better Roads.

The subject of schools in all its phases, however, is so fully treated elsewhere in this issue, that we leave it now and turn to the matter of better highways. This is another matter there is no better time for agitating than right now during the leisure season on the farm. Write the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for its bulletins on good roads, especially No. 311, "Sand Clay and Burnt Clay Roads"; No. 321, "The Use of the Split-Log Drag on Earth Roads," and No. 338, "Macadam Roads." A postal will get all three for you without cost. Then if you wish any further information, write the Office of Public Road Inquiries, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and also your State good roads authorities.

In Virginia an especially aggressive

campaign for better highways is now on. State Senator Charles T. Laster being a leader in the movement. Our Old Dominion readers should line up with the Virginia Good Roads Association and they should also write State Highway Commissioner P. St. J. Wilson, Richmond, Va., for expert advice before mapping out a campaign. In North Carolina the good roads movement is under the direction of Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, our aggressive and efficient State Geologist, Chapel Hill, N. C. Few men are doing more for North Carolina than he, and the last Legislature placed such funds at his disposal that he is now able to give more assistance than ever before to communities wishing better highways and also wishing to get them in the most economical way.

Get Expert Advice.

One or two bits of counsel in regard to good roads building cannot be too often emphasized. In the first place, never proceed without expert advice. In some of the sections of the South the movement for better highways has been set back a full generation because of ignorance and consequent wastefulness in the use of road funds. Get your State Highway Commissioner, your State Geologist, or some official of your State Department of Agriculture, to advise you as to what sort of road improvement policy you should advocate. Many counties are too poor to build macadam roads as yet, especially where stone for macadamizing must be brought a great distance. In such places the merits and applicability of the sand-clay system should be considered. It is much less expensive than macadam, and in hundreds of counties in the State it is the best system than can be adopted. And on all clay roads, the split-log drag should be regularly used.

Get Good Roads and Keep Them.

Getting back to the matter of expert advice, let us urge our readers not only get expert advice about the material to use, but also get expert advice about the rearrangement of the roads themselves. Straighten them; lessen the grades; run them entirely anew if necessary in order to make them of the greatest service to the people. It is folly to spend thousand of dollars in roads laid out by calves and pigs.

And then, having good roads, keep them. An expert of the United States Department of Agriculture said to us last week: "The people of the United States spend more than any other country to make good roads, and less to keep them up." This has been indeed one of our most conspicuous pieces of public folly. We know a county which voted several hundred thousand dollars in bonds not many months ago in which the roads are now going to waste because nothing whatever was voted to maintain the roads after getting them—much as if you should spend \$500 to buy a horse and then spend nothing to feed him.

A Word About the Telephones.

So much can be said, and needs to be said, about better schools and better roads that we have left ourselves little space to consider the manifold advantages of the rural telephone. We have too often written of the social and business advantages of the telephone, however, for us to need to enlarge upon this phase of the question, and we expect soon to publish some practical experiences from our readers in managing rural lines. Perhaps the best thing we can now do is to give this estimate as to cost as given out by the general manager of the Western Electric Company. He says:

"A number of farmers decide to build for their mutual benefit, a telephone line. Each man agrees to cut and haul a given number of poles—thirty poles about 22 feet or 25 feet long, are required for each mile of line. Before the poles—which are set in the ground three and a half feet—are erected, two brackets, on the end of each of which is fastened a glass insulator, are nailed to the pole, one 18 inches above the other. Having set the poles, wires are strung the entire length of the line, and farmers living off the main route can connect with the main line at any point.

"It is possible for as many as 35 or 40 telephones to be installed on such a line, which may be 40 or 45 miles in length. The total cost of all the material (less poles) required to build a mile of 'full metallic' line is but \$13.74, and the very best telephone on the market, with all material for installing it ready for use, can be had for \$13. Assuming that there will be one telephone for every mile of line, the grand total initial cost for each farmer, for the very best system, is but \$26.74.

"The maintenance expense on such a line, including wear and tear on the equipment, should be less than three dollars a year. Just think of it—for 25 cents a month the farmer can have telephone service with his neighbor, doctor, broker and merchant! For 75 cents a month, he can have access to the Bell exchange and toll lines, and through these he

can reach all of their local subscribers and long distance points."

Good schools, good roads, telephones—your community needs all of them, and there is no better time than right now to start the agitation to get them. Wake up your neighbors, get them interested, and if you don't know where to get any information you need, write The Progressive Farmer. We'll either get it for you or tell you how to get it.

TWO BIG QUESTIONS AND AN ILLUMINATING STATEMENT.

Three Notable Extracts From a Notable Address Which Country Teachers, Pupils and Patrons All Should Study—Here They Are.

In a recent address before the American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers, Dr. F. L. Stevens delivered a notable message on agricultural education, two or three extracts from which are so effectively stated and comprise so much truth in so little space that they ought to be memorized by all country teachers and by their patrons and pupils as well. One treats briefly but thoroughly of the evolution of our educational system, another points out the folly of preparing ten pupils for college instead of preparing ninety for life, and the third points out the absurdity of a teacher arguing that she cannot teach agriculture when (if she has studied the text-book properly) she probably knows a great deal more of the "knowable, teachable things" about agriculture than of the "knowable, teachable things" about history, geography, or physiology—subjects which she regards herself as thoroughly competent to handle. Here are the three paragraphs from Dr. Stevens' address and we repeat that we cannot commend them too earnestly to our country teachers, and their patrons and pupils as well:

A Question About Your Public School Teacher.

Does She Think She Cannot Teach Agriculture, But Can teach History, Geography and Physiology?—Why?

One of the greatest obstacles to agricultural teaching in our country schools is the diffidence of the teacher, who because she has not herself been taught agriculture, thinks that she cannot teach it to others. She can teach agriculture successfully, as I have seen demonstrated in many instances; and I believe that I have frequently led them to go on in my teachers' institute and summer school work, by calling their attention to the fact that to teach some agriculture, they need not know all agriculture, and that if they can teach to their pupils a few facts or principles, that they do not already know, that it matters not if the pupil knows a few kinks and turns about handling a plow or a mule that the teacher does not know.

"I wonder, as a matter of fact, if our teachers who have conscientiously and thoughtfully studied a good text-book, do not know as large a percent of the knowledge, teachable, agriculture as that same reader knows which she thinks herself amply able to teach?"

A Question About Your High Schools.

Is It Preparing for College or Preparing for Life?—Is It Trying to Help the 90 Per Cent. of the 10 Per Cent.

"The criticism has often been made that our system of public schools is an inverted pyramid, resting on the apex. The high schools are made to fit to the colleges, and the lower schools to the high schools, and many people have come to regard the high school as a preparatory school, meaning thereby that its aim is to prepare its pupils for college entrance. This has been a pernicious and costly thought.

"The high school is for the pupil. Its course should be so shaped as to do the most good to the largest number of its pupils. The large majority enter life, not the college, and the

high school, agricultural or not, should fit its pupils for the life that they will lead. The duty of fitting the few, 1, 2, or 10 per cent, by special training for college entrance must fall upon the few who are to enjoy the advanced education, or the colleges must adjust their entrance requirements to the existing status.

"The training of ninety boys who are to go no farther than the high school, must not be dwarfed or misshapen because of the ten or less who may perhaps enter college.

"In particular is this true of the agricultural high school. It cannot aim in both directions. What it offers it must give well and thoroughly, but the choice of subject matter for the curriculum must not be dominated by the entrance requirement of any college, but must be made entirely subservient, to the needs of the farmer's life.

"Hamilton Wright Mable has defined culture as 'the process by which a man comes into possession of his own nature and into real and fruitful relations with the world about him.' It should give as much knowledge and training as is implied in the definition of Dr. Mable just quoted. Therefore, we must retain as many as possible of the most pertinent of the subjects of the high school of today whose function is not filled by the newly-introduced subjects, and thereby avoid reducing the agricultural high school to a mere trade school. It is impossible to be specific in this regard because conditions vary in different sections as to the training previously received by the pupils in the lower schools. In no case, however, is there time or need for Greek or Latin, mathematics higher than geometry, and rarely for modern language except the mother tongue. While there is unquestionably great value in these disciplinary subjects, there are many other subjects which furnish useful, practical knowledge as well as mere discipline, which not only develop power to reason but power to reason about things concerning which the pupil will in life reason, and which draw him toward life rather than separate him from it."

III.—AN ILLUMINATING STATEMENT ABOUT EDUCATION.

Some Patent Truths About How Our Educational System Developed and Why the Old Ideas Are Not Adapted to Our Modern Needs and Ideas.

"Our present public school system, common, high, college, and university, is an outgrowth, an evolution, from preceding systems.

"(1) It came to us from an age during which education was for the aristocrat, hence was largely of ornate, esthetic, fashionable content.

"(2) It passed through a phase when education was for the priest, during which epoch it became heavily tinctured with subjects appertaining to the priesthood.

"(3) It developed into a system fitted for the 'learned professions' of law and medicine, and was correspondingly modified. And since the chief ancient source of knowledge was the ancient languages, and, moreover, since both law and theology—and in the earlier periods, medicine, too—required constant return to these original sources, Latin and Greek became fixed components of the educational system.

"Thus was the system of education slowly evolved through the centuries and adapted to those who were to follow the learned professions or the life of ease. From this condition, with the advent of the public school and education for all, were derived our present system. The change of needs, historically considered, was sudden. It was an educational cataclysm. Evolution could not keep pace, and we find the system that is struggling to survive today full of vestigial characters, useless except for taxonomic purpose."—Progressive Farmer.

A movement has been started in Columbia to make that city the permanent camping place for all the State troops.

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Shingles, Laths, Acme Plaster, Fire Brick, Drain and Sewer Pipe, Building Material of all Kinds, Cow, Hog and Chicken Feed,

Hay, Grain, Horses and Mules,

Buggies, Wagons and Harness. Wholesale and Retail. :: :: :: :: :: ::

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BEST LIVERY IN SUMTER. SUMTER, S. C.