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NEWS LETTER

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LEADING INDUSTRY OF AMERICA

I AM THE FARMER

I am the provider for all mankind. Upon me every human being constantly depends.

A world itself is builded upon my toil, my products, my honesty.

Because of my industry, America, my country, leads the world. Her prosperity is maintained by me; her great commerce is the work of my good hands; her balance of trade springs from the furrows of my farm.

My reaper brings food for today; my plow holds promise for tomorrow.

In war I am absolute; in peace I am indispensable—my country's constant reliance and surest defense.

I am the very soul of America, the hope of a race, the balance wheel of civilization.

When I prosper, men are happy; when I fail, all the world suffers.

I live with nature, walk in the green fields under the golden sunlight, out in the great alone where brain and brawn and toil supply mankind's primary need. And I try to do my humble part to carry out the great plan of God.

Even the birds are my companions; they greet me with a symphony at the new day's dawn and chum with me till the evening prayer is said.

If it were not for me the treasures of the earth would remain securely locked; the granaries would be useless frames; man himself would be doomed speedily to extinction or decay.

Through me is produced the energy that maintains the spark of life.

I rise with the early dawn and retire when the chores of the world are done.

I am your true friend.

I am the farmer.—James P. McDonnell.

COOPERATION IN BEAUFORT

During the last year a farmers' exchange in Beaufort County, N. C., saved its members and the farmers in the community between \$75,000 and \$100,000, according to a report to the United States Department of Agriculture.

The organization, formed to aid potato growers, has shown high proficiency in cooperation. Last season its activities were confined to the purchasing of branded barrel covers and the selling of potatoes. Thirty-five thousand barrel covers were bought at a saving of \$700, and 126 carload lots of potatoes were sold with a saving of \$50,000.

A great growth in cooperative marketing and purchasing has been one of the outstanding results of extension work in the South. County agents, assisted by marketing specialists, through marketing demonstrations and by instruction and advice, have aided local and county associations of farmers in the cooperative selling of many kinds of farm produce and livestock, and in the cooperative purchasing of a great variety of farm necessities.

Farmers have gained knowledge of methods and acquired confidence in their ability to do business on a cooperative basis. They are beginning to undertake definite business organizations on a county-wide and even state-wide scale for the marketing of their main cash crops, such as cotton, tobacco, and peanuts.

Owing to the cooperative work in cotton grading, classing, and stapling and information given as to the market value of the various grades and staples by extension workers, it is estimated that between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 were saved to the cotton farmers of Texas during the year in increased returns.

AMERICA FIRST

Even Congress has at last seemed to wake up to a realization of the fact that we have lost our European markets. Europe must be composed with the least delay possible in order to save our foreign markets.

Our presidential campaign was conducted upon the principle of America first, meaning that we should take care of ourselves and let the rest of the world do the same. We have done it with supreme indifference not only to

the rest of the world as dependent upon us but to the rest of the world as our best market.

Yes, we are living unto ourselves with a vengeance; and as a result we have our wheat and our corn and our wool thrown back upon us with no market abroad.

Not only that, but foreign products are invading our country, due solely to the rate of exchange. When not only Denmark but Australia and Argentina begin to ship butter to America it is high time to sit up and take notice. When Central Europe is starving for want of our surplus, which they cannot buy because exchange is ten or twenty to one against them, it is again time to sit up and take notice.

Unless something is done speedily to create a market for the surplus American food and textile products, production will, of course, be forced down, and that indefinitely. In the meantime some thousands of farmers will be driven back upon their own resources.

The farmers can, of course, take care of themselves if they must, but if they are forced back upon a self-sufficing system it will be to the disadvantage not only of themselves, but most of all of the general public. If this condition is to be prevented and if this enormous surplus is to be handled on a foreign market that does not exist, our statesmen must act quickly and intelligently. Their problem is exceptionally difficult because of their long sleep.—The Country Gentleman.

THE WORLD IS IN TROUBLE

A cable has been received from John H. Patterson, industrial leader and president of the National Cash Register Company, in which he urges America to wake up to conditions in Europe before it is too late. Mr. Patterson is in Europe studying business conditions, problems of capital and labor and foreign exchange. He also attended several meetings of the League of Nations at Geneva and spent some time investigating the work of the league. His cable follows:

The world's business is in trouble. Some nations cannot sell their surplus of agricultural industries and minerals. Other nations greatly need them. Plenty of idle ships to carry them. Millions of people out of employment.

Nations are still spending money for war like drunken sailors. The world's business has no directing head. It needs an association of nations whose object is to do good to all the people, to stop war and fight with brains, not with bullets, to stop bolshevism, to extend international credit, to prevent disease. Civilization is at stake. Wake up, America, before it is too late.—News and Observer.

FARM COOPERATION

The farmers of Wisconsin own and operate 2,000 cooperative producers' societies. They own 718 cheese factories, 380 creameries, 437 telephone companies, 214 insurance societies, 150 livestock shipping societies, 4 packing plants, 2 laundries and 7 fruit exchanges.

The farmers of Minnesota own and operate 2,950 cooperative societies including 643 creameries, 360 elevators, 400 livestock shipping societies, 52 cheese factories, 102 stores, 950 telephone companies, 59 fire insurance and 290 other societies. They did a business in 1917 of \$118,710,000.

The farmers of North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, California, Washington and other states have organized thousands of other cooperative societies and do a business running into the hundred millions annually.—Frederic C. Howe, in The Survey.

RUSSIA'S COOPERATIVES

Russia is over twice as large as the United States, with fully 93 percent of its population rural and only 7 percent urban. Due to the strenuous climate and lack of means of transportation, the people have lived in small communities and the spirit of cooperation has always been present.

There are four modern types of co-

A NATIONAL CONCERN

The real concern in America over the movement of rural population to urban centers is whether or not those who remain in agriculture after the normal contribution to the city are the strong, intelligent, well-seasoned families, in which the best traditions of agriculture and citizenship have been lodged from generation to generation. The present universal cry of "keep the boy on the farm" should be expanded into a great public sentiment for making country life more attractive in every way. When farming is made profitable and when the better things of life are brought, in increasing measure, to the rural community, the great motives which lead youth and middle age to leave the country districts will be removed. In order to assure a continuance of the best strains of farm people in agriculture, there can be no relaxation of the present movements for a better country life, economic, social, and educational.—E. T. Meredith.

operative enterprise in Russia: consumers', producers', savings or credit, and insurance cooperative societies. The local consumers' societies are united into regional unions, some of which build and conduct their own factories. The regional unions unite into an All Russian Central Union of Consumers' Societies. In 1918 its membership consisted of 500 federations, comprising 40,000 local societies, and about 12,000,000 individual members. The producers' societies are organized for the marketing of eggs, butter, flax, hemp, etc. These local societies are members of central bodies organized according to their general specialties. Credit societies exist that the farmers may have a place to deposit their savings, or that they may obtain credit to make improvements on their homesteads. The various cooperative societies also make use of the credit societies to carry on their business. These credit societies are also organized on the regional union and central head plan. The Moscow People's Bank is thus owned and controlled by the unions and local societies. Cooperative insurance came into existence during the war, and has already been managed on a large scale by cooperative societies.

The educational activities of the cooperatives include courses of instruction to prepare young people to become instructors, lecturers, book-keepers, etc., while the peasant universities teach agriculture, home economics, and civics. The success of the Russian cooperatives seems assured and permanent, since even during 1918 over \$5,000,000,000 (par) worth of goods were handled. The movement is deeply rooted in the history of the country, and is not hostile to any political system which will simply leave it alone.—A. J. Zelenko, in the Federal Monthly Labor Review, June, 1920.

LOOKING BACKWARD

I am not anxious to accelerate the approach of the period when the great mass of American labor shall not find its employment in the field; when the young men of the country shall be obliged to shut their eyes upon external nature, upon the heavens and the earth, and immerse themselves in close and unwholesome workshops; when they shall be obliged to shut their ears to the bleating of their own flocks upon their own hills, and to the voice of the lark that cheers them at their plows, that they may open them in dust and smoke and steam to the perpetual whirl of spools and spindles, and the grating of rasps and saws.—Daniel Webster.

WESTERN COLLEGE SUPPORT

There is no doubt about the belief of the people of the Middle and Far West in college education. Their college plants and their annual support funds

COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 47

FARM LIGHTING PLANTS—III

RELIABILITY

We have discussed in the last two issues the first cost and the attention required for the operation of farm lighting plants. Having settled these two points we naturally turn to the question of reliability and the advantages each type of plant offers. Of course it is impossible to give a detailed discussion as a book might easily be written on this subject. Therefore we will attempt only to give a few outstanding features.

If you went to a horse sale and were picking out a horse, what is the first thing you would do? Quite simple, isn't it? You would look at his mouth and tell by an inspection of his teeth how old he is. This will give an indication of the number of useful years of work that can be expected of him, or in other words his reliability. The same is true in selecting a lighting plant. It does all right while it is going but its life is short.

On the score of reliability and assuming well-made apparatus properly cared for, either the acetylene or electric plant should insure an ample and un-failing supply of light at any time on demand. Reliability of course depends on well made apparatus. There are both acetylene and electric plants offered for sale that are cheap, trashy, and full of trouble. Either system gives a good light. The electric type has the advan-

are ample proof of this foundational belief.

Take Kansas, for instance—a state that has in it almost exactly seventeen hundred thousand white inhabitants, which, by the way, is right around the white population of North Carolina. Her corn, wheat, and livestock farmers are in distress just like our cotton and tobacco farmers; but that does not seem to stay the march of college education in Kansas. Her legislature, now in session, has just appropriated one and a quarter million dollars to her Agricultural College and another one and a half million dollars to her University for 1921.

The Kansas State University alone gets a larger fund than the legislature of North Carolina voted to the eleven state institutions of learning all put together. The University of Kansas has a working income three times as large as that of the University of North Carolina. The Kansas Agricultural College has a working income more than four times as large as that of the A. and E. College at Raleigh.

The Kansas farmers may be in trouble, but they are not minded to cure their troubles by stinting their University or their Agricultural College. On the contrary, they are greatly increasing their investment in these two institutions.

North Carolina is making a great step forward this year. The annual support fund of her eleven institutions of liberal culture and technical training has been more than doubled; the rise has been from seven hundred thousand to one million four hundred and thirty thousand dollars a year. But we are not yet in sight of Kansas nor any other western state. We are headed the right way, and we are moving fast in college education, but we shall have to quicken our gait immensely or be hopelessly outstripped in the running. These blarsted western Yankees believe in college culture—no doubt about that.

We say we do ourselves. We have said and sung this belief for the hundred years, and meanwhile we have starved our colleges, church and state. A pocket-book faith is a convincing faith in anything, secular or religious. What we spend our money for tells the tale far better than stump speeches and songs about The Old North State.

THOMAS WALTER BICKETT

In the matter of State building Thomas Walter Bickett, who retired from the office of Chief Executive of North Carolina on January 12, has much marked up to his credit which lays the state he so splendidly served under tribute to

tage in that lights can be controlled by switches located at convenient places and that different sized bulbs can be used interchangeably with the same fixture.

One disadvantage of the acetylene plant is that in cold weather the pipes and generator if not properly protected are apt to freeze and give trouble.

Uses

But the greatest advantage the electric plant has to offer is in the variety of uses to which it can be put. The acetylene plant is limited in its uses to the production of light, the operation of an iron and to cooking. However, cooking by acetylene usually involves an expense that the owner finds too high. This is also true of the electric plant. On the other hand the power furnished by the small electric plant is sufficient to operate churns, washing machines, iron, pump, vacuum cleaners, cream separator, milking machine, fan and many other time and labor saving devices conducive to comfort and happiness in the rural home. It would appear that the electric plant does everything as well as the acetylene type and many other things beyond the power of acetylene.

The present and future requirements of the home should determine in large measure the selection of a suitable system.—W. C. W.

him and furnishes him memories of things accomplished which will ever be cause for happiness to him.

We will not attempt a catalogue of his many activities. But we will remember in the years to be that his voice rang sincerely and clear for a finer state to live in. He was a friend to the unfortunate and delinquent. He held it to be his high privilege to break down the isolation and cramping limitations of the countryside. He carried the fight against disease deep into enemy territory. He underwrote a system of professional training for teachers and the lengthening of public school term from four to six months. And with a courage and statesmanship rarely exhibited in North Carolina political life he became the flaming evangel of equality in taxation for every son and daughter of North Carolina.

Two other things splendidly written into his record are: His voice as our representative beyond the borders of the State was always heard with respect, and the fact that his hand was at the helm while the destinies of the State were being tried by the fires of the world conflagration, gave assurance and hope.

As Thomas Walter Bickett takes up anew the work of a private citizen, the good wishes of The Review and Alma Mater go with him.—The Alumni Review.

A TWO HUNDRED DOLLAR PRIZE

A two hundred dollar scholarship has been offered to rural school teachers by Kenyon L. Butterfield, president of the American Country Life Association, Amherst, Massachusetts.

The prize goes to the rural school teacher whose essay best describes an effective elementary school taught by a country school teacher. Effective means adapted to the needs of American country life, in curriculum, in community enterprise, or in community relationships, in any one or in all these particulars.

The essay must be based on actual personal experience of the writer, and it may include practical plans for future country school development. The contest is limited to country school teachers actually working in the country, and the scholarship means two hundred dollars to the winner for further preparation in rural school work in any normal school or college.

The time limit for this essay is August 15, 1921. For detailed information write to Dr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, Amherst, Massachusetts.