

THE CO-OPERATIVE WAY

(This is the first of a series of educational articles on cooperative farm projects as prepared and written by Mr. F. R. Thompson, manager of the Murphy cannery.)

BY F. R. THOMPSON

"Unless he chooses to be a hermit and is up to the farmer to perceive his own need for group solidarity and group action—he must understand his interdependence, his need for COOPERATION—which, instead of calling for less individual thinking, calls for more and further thinking on these problems and, for intelligent teamwork in a nation".—Elmer O Fippin.

In a recent survey conducted by the local Cooperative Agricultural Marketing Association it was discovered that a large number of farmers in this section did not thoroughly understand the basic principles of this great movement which is rapidly changing the agricultural marketing picture in all sections of the country. It is to the better understanding of this movement and to the Divine right of the Agricultural producer to retain a fair share of the profits of his industry for himself that this column is dedicated.

The following paragraphs are taken from a series of letters which were recently mailed to a number of farmers in this section and which have aroused considerable comment.

Cooperation in some form is as old as the hills. In the days when quilting bees were held, that was one form. Corn husking meets was another form. Five farmers might join together and purchase a mower and a binder. To do this they all put in some money and collectively buy for themselves something which perhaps no one of them could have bought for themselves. That is another form of cooperation.

According to the most reliable statistics available, more than 3,000,000 farmers belonged to some type of Agricultural Cooperative Organization during the year of 1935. There existed more than 8,700 such associations. The volume of business transacted through them was estimated to have been in excess of one billion dollars. Almost every form of agricultural business is today handled through cooperative associations somewhere in the United States.

The growth of cooperatives has been large enough to indicate that the farmers at last realize that most every other form of business except farming is well organized. In order for farmers to effectively and efficiently compete in this highly competitive age, it seems advisable for them to organize in some manner for their own protection. In this section the business of farming is made up of a large number of small individual enterprises such as livestock, truck, and etc. Cooperative Associations of one form or another properly organized and capably managed and owned by farmers appears to be one of the best methods of handling most of their business transactions.

The channels through which the supplies they must purchase are well organized and the farmer without some type of organization has but little to say about the prices he has to pay for such commodities. The profits earned on the price he pays on these supplies do not go back to the farmer. The only way he can improve that situation is through some type of organization. It is not surprising to learn, therefore, that a large number of cooperative purchasing associations have

been organized and are successfully operating. Through these associations, thousands of farmers are joining together to supply their needs. Fertilizer, seed, feed, gas, oil, machinery, and a hundred other commodities are purchased and distributed in this manner. Through these associations, farmers obtain the advantage of mass buying, improved grades and worthwhile savings are being distributed back to them on a patronage basis.

In hundreds of other instances farmers have joined together and cooperatively marketed their products. These are greatly diversified in type.

It may be a creamery where milk is delivered, and after being processed into butter, cheese, and other products is sold on the market. It may be a cannery where their products are put up in the forms of finished products and sold on the market. It may be cotton, wool, tobacco, fruit, or other innumerable types of marketing services. Through these cooperative marketing associations the product of the farmer can be uniformly graded and standardized in quality. By the elimination of waste resulting in the duplication of individual effort, worthwhile savings are often times realized. As such savings are brought about the farmer thereby receives a greater income for his labor and effort.

As stated before, cooperative associations of one form or another seem able to efficiently provide almost any form of service required by the farmer.

In associating together in a cooperative association farmers well understand that they are in the business of farming. They perhaps do not have the time or experience for operating another form of business. So they first incorporate and select a Board of Directors from among themselves, and it is the duty of the Directors to select capable management to operate the business. The farmers, in becoming members, each put in a relatively small amount of cash which taken all together enables

facilities to be provided and management to be employed. No one of them acting individually could or would desire to furnish the funds necessary to build and operate the business. Then as they all transact their business through their own association the volume is sufficient to meet expenses of operations and generally enables savings to be distributed back to the members—savings which would otherwise go to private business.

Cooperation is not a form of magic. It cannot operate on theory alone. Operating a cooperative enterprise is simply a different method of operating a business enterprise. It demands capable management to be successful. It requires the use of business principles. It requires adequate capital to meet operating requirements. Above all however it must have the loyalty and help of its members. If some of the members pull away and independently sell their produce they reduce the volume of business handled by the Association and increase its expense of operating, thereby injuring the other members—their neighbors—and sooner or later ill feeling develops and the Association is torn apart and fails. The farmers are then back in the same economic position they were in before they decided to cooperate one with another. Cooperation cannot remedy in one or two years the ills and problems it has taken generations to form. To be successful it must be given a chance. Farmers should first recognize a need for the services—they must desire to better conditions—and they must stick together through thick and thin before they can win out.

Two Cherokee County Students At Mars Hill

Mars Hill, Nov. 10.—Two students from Cherokee county are enrolled at Mars Hill college. They are: Miss Edith Breedlove, and Edward William Pipes, both of Murphy.

Of the 605 students enrolled for the 80th session of the college, 89 counties in North Carolina are represented, 19 states, the District of Columbia, and three foreign countries.

In Czechoslovakia the usual traffic warnings are placed near dangerous curves and intersections, but an additional bit of useful information is also given. On all permanent traffic signs are directions for finding the nearest doctor.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 8652
ENTRY OF LAND—DESCRIPTION
NORTH CAROLINA,
—CHEROKEE COUNTY.

To R. L. Keenum,
Entry taker for Cherokee County:
The undersigned W. F. Krickhan of Buncombe county, North Carolina, enters and lays claim to the following described piece or parcel of land in Shoal Creek Township, Cherokee County, State of North Carolina the same being vacant and unappropriated land, and subject to entry, viz:

On Hiawassee River.
BEGINNING at a point in the North Carolina-Tennessee state line, and in the center or middle of Hiawassee River, where said state line crosses said river, 600 feet, more or less, below the mouth of Cane Creek, and runs up and with the center or

LOWER MARTIN'S CREEK

Rev. Will Ledford of Ranger preached at the Glade church Sunday.

Mrs. Margaret Carringer and Mrs. Josephine Phillips spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Grover Moss.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Styles, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McLeymore spent Saturday night with the former's parents, Mrs. Margaret Carringer.

Mrs. Margie James spent last week with her sister Mrs. Onia Carringer. Mr. Joe Rogers made a business trip to Asheville Monday.

We are glad to say that the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Marty Chastain is getting along fine at present. Mrs. Neil Ingram was a visitor of Mrs. Maggie Stewart Sunday.

Mrs. Josephine Phillips was a visitor of Mrs. Margaret Carringer, Monday.

Mrs. Pearl Phillips was a visitor of Miss Maude Carringer Monday. Mrs. Kate Mann, was a visitor of Mrs. Ollie Adams one day last week.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SCOUT

middle of Hiawassee River, as it meanders in a southerly direction, to a point in the center or middle of said river, in the North Carolina-Tennessee state line; thence with said state line North to the BEGINNING, containing by estimation 18 acres.

(Signed) W. F. Krickhan
Entered this 12th day of November, 1936.
(16-4t-WFK)

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