

THE FRANKLIN TIMES

A. F. JOHNSON, Editor and Manager

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DO NOT NEED A MOSES.

For some reason Mr. G. H. Ferguson has failed to understand the article recently published in the Franklin Times and to see the object in the article recently published in the News Observer concerning a letter he wrote in regard to Co-operative Marketing. To criticize Mr. Ferguson was foreign to us as we had never given that idea a thought, but what we were trying to impress on his mind as well as a great many others was the importance of the responsibility one held towards his community. We don't believe he seriously disagrees with us in that particular.

He points to Louisburg as an example of failures of the farmers organizations. We presume he had reference to the Farmers Union Tobacco Warehouse and the Farmers Co-operative Storage Warehouse. If so we can assure him that there is absolutely no comparison between these and the Co-operative Marketing Associations. He is getting a stock company organized for profit alone, with the ownership of the stock in the hands of a few individual farmers to a non-profit and non stock association whose only duty is to make sales at a profit for its members. As a matter of fact the farmers tobacco sales warehouse, which was owned and operated by a few individual farmers, would have had greater success if it had continued the management of Mr. W. D. Fuller, one of Franklin's best business men, but they didn't. And the Storage house was converted into a store in competition with local merchants whose friendship the farmer should have courted without giving the average farmer an iota of benefit. This comparison is absolutely unfair, and also the charges made by Mr. Ferguson that "some of the people that worked against the Union are working for this Co-operation." The facts are the Union has never owned or operated any warehouse storage house or any other business in Louisburg. But under the name Union a few individuals did invest in and operate houses. And so far as we have been able to ascertain there is no one actively at work for the Co-operative Marketing Associations who have ever been directly or indirectly charged with "working against the Union."

The farmer got his share of profit during the war when his products reached the skies and easily offset the prices he had to pay. But in 1920 his crops were taken from him at less than cost of production by organizations working for the interest of their members and against the farmer. If he is sincere in his statement that he "wants to see the day when the farmer will be organized" then he is not getting any credit for such desires in his present attitude.

We are glad to see him committed to education, but we can also show him by experience, that where education is a grand and glorious possession it does not eliminate the necessity for organization as the world recognizes that "United we Stand, divided we fall" is just as true today as it was a hundred years ago. To us it seems that if he is as much interested in education as he expresses he will use his every effort to educate his people toward better living conditions through the only remedy now offered — the Co-operative Marketing.

There is no doubt but that Mr. Edson and other inventors thought for themselves. But like the farmer,

thinking would not produce the assistance they were compelled to have to succeed, so they were willing to conform their idea of thinking to the ideas of others whose business ability and finance would put them on the road to success.

One of the most erroneous ideas Mr. Ferguson, as well as many others, have is those who are endorsing and helping to put these associations over are trying to tell the farmer how to farm. There is absolutely no question of production involved in the Co-operative Marketing plans. The whole and sole question is the application of business to the sale of the crops after they have been made. The farmers have had time that has grown gray with age, to remedy their conditions and they are today using antiquated methods that have been discarded in all other business so long ago that it seems absurd to attempt a connection. If the farmers have the business ability to handle their crops after they are made they have not shown it, as other concerns, who are organized and have the ability are making millions of dollars out of the labors of the farmers who are not getting cost of production. Therefore it looks to us that the farmers should welcome the assistance of business men who have proven their ability by having laid aside a profit after a comfortable living to help them to apply a little business to the selling of their crops so that they may receive a fair portion of the profit that is made in the sale of their crops. It is exceedingly ungrateful on the part of farmers, certainly those who are supposed to occupy a position that would entitle them to know better, to charge these men, who are honestly trying to bring about a better condition to our farms, with intrigue and dishonesty of purpose. If there was any guping of farmers in the references Mr. Ferguson made it was by the farmers and not business men.

No one objects, however, to the charge of selfishness on the part of the business men, if that will be any consolation to anyone, as they thoroughly expect to increase their business and accumulations when the farmer is furnished with money sufficient to gratify his needs. But you will have to give the business men credit for enough generosity to assist the farmer to get hold of it first. They know that when the farmer can make a decent profit on his crops that he will buy more clothes, better vehicles, labor saving machinery both for the home and the farm, and get some of the pleasures in life that God Almighty intended. They know that when they do this the business of the merchants, lawyers, doctors, printers and everybody else will be increased, and the bank will profit by the deposits of both the farmer and business men. And who is it that will not say that such conditions will not be better.

We have ventured to go into this question again because of the fact that Mr. Ferguson was of the opinion that the former articles caused some to have the wrong idea about him. We are far from misleading any one and certainly to the detriment of any one else. But we are frank to say that it is easy for anyone to read his letters and understand his position without any criticism of ours or anyone else's.

We sincerely hope Mr. Ferguson, being the leader he is of his community, even though he is no Moses, will see the error of his position and come out boldly in the interest of the farmer. We can assure him that the average farmer is not so bad as to need a Moses to lead him, but will listen to the sound advice of his more fortunate neighbor.

The Chicago Tribune wants the constitution taught in the schools. Isn't knowledge of it needed more in Congress and legislatures?—Houston Post

One trouble with civilization is that it pays so much more to the lawyer who finds loopholes in laws than to the lawyer who tries to enforce laws.—Greenville, S. C. Piedmont.

Another obstacle in the way of peace is the fact that the milk of human kindness won't satisfy a thirst for oceans of foreign trade.—Muncie Star

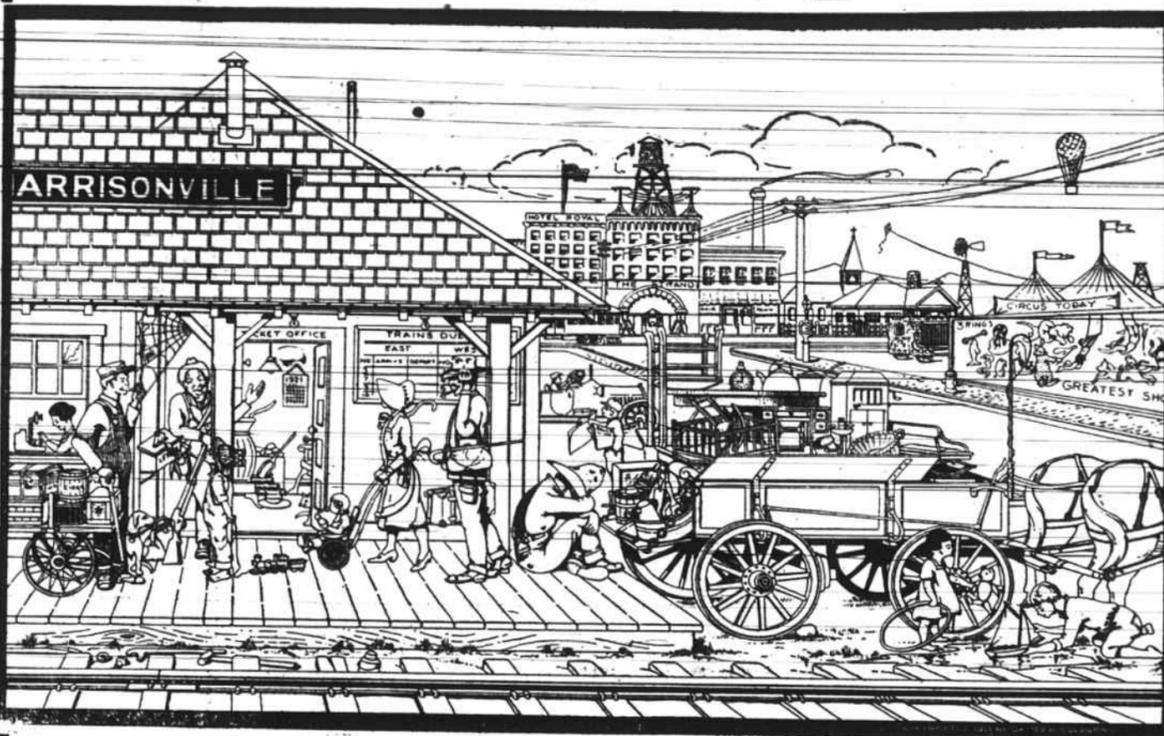
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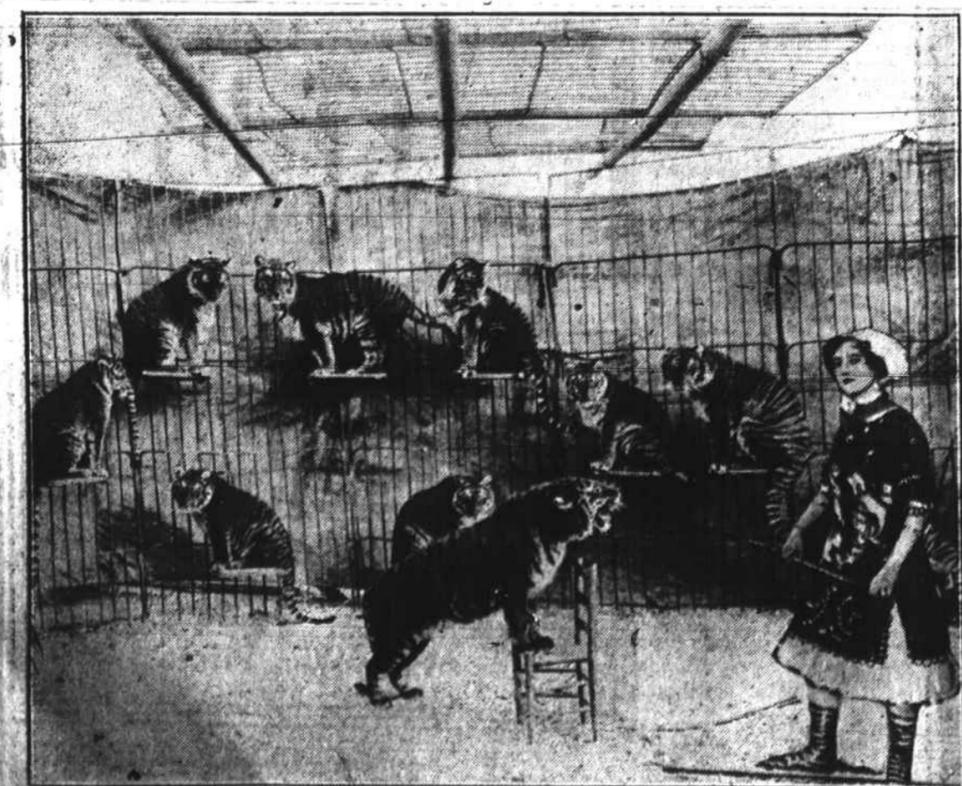
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