

THE MEBANE LEADER.

And Right The Day Must Win, To Doubt Would be Disloyalty To Falter Would be Sin.

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EUROPEAN WAR SHATTERS KING COTTON'S THRONE

FLEECY STAPLE MUST PAY RANSOM INTO THE COFFERS OF WAR.

Nation Rings With Cries of Stricken Industry.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

King Cotton has suffered more from the European war than any other agricultural product on the American continent. The shells of the belligerents have burst over his throne, frightening his subjects and shattering his markets, and, panic-stricken, the nation cries out "God save the king!"

People from every walk of life have contributed their mite toward rescue work. Society has danced before the king; mildy has decreed that the family wardrobe shall contain only cotton goods; the press has pleaded with the public to "buy a bale"; bankers have been formulating holding plans; congress and legislative bodies have deliberated over relief measures; statesmen and writers have grown eloquent expounding the inalienable rights of "His Majesty" and presenting schemes for preserving the financial integrity of the stricken staple, but the sword of Europe has proved mightier than the pen of America in fixing value upon this product of the sunny south. Prices have been bayoneted, values riddled and markets decimated by the battling hosts of the eastern hemisphere until the American farmer has suffered a war loss of \$400,000,000, and a bale of cotton brave enough to enter a European port must pay a ransom of half its value or go to prison until the war is over.

Hope of the Future Lies in Co-operation.

The Farmers' Union, through the columns of the press, wants to thank the American people for the friendship, sympathy and assistance given the cotton farmers in the hour of distress and to direct attention to co-operative methods necessary to permanently assist the marketing of all farm products.

The present emergency presents as grave a situation as ever confronted the American farmer and from the viewpoint of the producer, would seem to justify extraordinary relief measures, even to the point of bending the constitution and straining business rules in order to lift a portion of the burden off the backs of the farmer, for unless something is done to check the invasion of the war forces upon the cotton fields, the pathway of the European pestilence on this continent will be strewn with mortgaged homes and famine and poverty will stalk over the southland, filling the highways of industry with refugees and the bankruptcy court with prisoners.

All calamities teach us lessons and the present crisis serves to illuminate the frailties of our marketing methods and the weakness of our credit system, and out of the financial anguish and travail of the cotton farmer will come a volume of discussion and a mass of suggestions and finally a solution of this, the biggest problem in the economic life of America, if, indeed, we have not already laid the foundation for at least temporary relief.

More Pharaohs Needed in Agriculture.

Farm products have no credit and perhaps can never have on a permanent and satisfactory basis unless we build warehouses, cold storage plants, elevators, etc., for without storage and credit facilities, the south is compelled to dump its crop on the market at harvest time. The Farmers' Union in the cotton producing states have for the past ten years persistently advocated the construction of storage facilities. We have built during this period 2,000 warehouses with a capacity of approximately 4,000,000 bales and looking backward the results would seem encouraging, but looking forward, we are able to house less than one-third of the crop and warehouses without a credit system lose 90 per cent of their usefulness. The problem is a gigantic one—too great for the farmer to solve unaided. He must have the assistance of the banker, the merchant and the government.

In production we have reached the high water mark of perfection in the world's history, but our marketing methods are most primitive. In the dawn of history we find agriculture plowing with a forked stick but with a system of warehouses under governmental supervision that made the Egyptians the marvel of civilization, for who has not admired the vision of Joseph and applauded the wisdom of Pharaoh for storing the surplus until demanded by the consumer, but in this age we have too many Josephs who dream and not enough Pharaohs who build.

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A CITIZEN'S VIEW OF GROWING MEBANE

A gentleman from above Burlington was in town a few days ago and in commenting upon the progressiveness of Mebane said that in his opinion Mebane was decidedly the best town in the county. "No wonder," said he. "That the farmer's come from Orange here to sell tobacco, for they can get better prices for it and from what I can understand the merchants offer the people unusual bargains." This statement is true in every sense, we have not only heard this gentleman make statements to this effect, but almost countless numbers. We have never heard of a person coming to Mebane on business matters, or otherwise, but what was highly pleased with the town and people. We make the statement, and defy anybody to deny it, that Mebane has bigger and bigger manufacturing enterprises, to its population than any town in North Carolina. Just think that only a few years ago and a very few too, Mebane only had five hundred people, now she can show a population of about two thousand and the people just keep a-comin'. Some of these times if you don't watch and listen you are going to wake up and hear street cars running, and horses feet pounding on a macadam street. You are going to see skyscrapers towering almost to the heavens, and many other things that look like a great metropolis. Mebane is a great place to live.

MR. TUCKER COUGHS UP BRASS PAPER FASTENER

Reidsville, Jan. 12.—A remarkable, yet well authenticated story, has reached here from Caswell county.

During the recent holidays John E. Tucker, a well known resident of Yanceyville, fell down and struck his abdomen severely, which brought on a severe coughing fit. In the midst of his spell Mr. Tucker coughed up a small metal article which proved to be brass paper fastener, and he is now enjoying better health than during the past seven years. Previous to the dislodgment of the paper fastener, Mr. Tucker was in very poor health and during the seven years he suffered he was confined for the most of the time to his room, and very often to his bed. Doctors were called in but medical science seemed unable to diagnose his peculiar ailment. —Greensboro Daily News.

WAR CONTINUES IN EAST AMID SNOW AND ICE.

The latest reports from the theatre of war show stubborn fighting by both the allies and their enemies despite the very bad weather. It seems the French and English on the west are making some progress and are gradually driving the Germans back into their own country. While the Russians are holding the Germans and Austrians in check in the far East.

A few days ago the Russians cut to pieces a large army of Turkey as it attempted to advance into Russian territory from the south east. No indication of the war coming to an end is seen. (More information of war in next issue) Editor.

Makes Improvements

Mr. J. R. Rimmer, the Grocer, and one of our most prominent business men has made much improvement, owing to the large amount of business it was necessary for him to have more room. The store has been extended fifteen or twenty feet back in the rear and adds much to the improvement. Mr. Rimmer having just received a big order of stock will have one of the most complete grocery stores in the city. He is assisted by his two sons, Messrs. Walter and Clyde, two efficient young business men who are always ready and willing to serve you at any time.

Killed by Southern Train.

On last Saturday morning, Mr. Ed. Roach, a citizen of Hillsboro was found dead on the railroad two miles west of Hillsboro and about one hundred yards east of Thomas Fitzpatrick's residence by Ellis Williams section foreman. Mr. Roach was last seen alive by some colored people about three quarters of a mile east of where he was killed by the train. He was in an intoxicated condition and had been drinking heavily before he left Hillsboro to go to Efland. It is supposed that a freight train going east about 7 o'clock Friday night killed him and several more trains had passed over his body. His head was almost severed and his lower limbs badly crushed. His brother Mr. Jack Roach was notified and came up and took charge of the remains and had him prepared for burial and taken to his house. The interment was in the Hillsboro cemetery Sunday. Mr. Roach is survived by a wife three sons and two daughters, one brother and three sisters. Another sad death caused by strong drink.

We'll Profit by Past Mistakes and Make 1915 the Best Year Yet

Lord Beaconsfield once said that his very success was founded on previous failures, and the same thing's true of most of us. We learn by our mistakes. As a rule, even the best men simply "rise on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things." And what is true of individuals is also true of sections. They get strength by overcoming hardships. They are baffled to fight better. They learn to swim by being thrown into the water.

That he should "endure hardness as a good soldier" was the counsel given to Timothy in the Book of Books, and it's good counsel for all of us here in the South at the beginning of the New Year. Like little Chad out on "Kingdom Come," "we've got to act the man now." We must profit by past mistakes, and resolutely make up our minds to avoid these mistakes in future.

So, despite six and seven cent cotton prices, The Progressive Farmer now sends out throughout the length and breadth of the South, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, the inspiring slogan and battle-cry. "Diversification and Independence in 1915." And we confidently believe both "Diversification and Independence" (and they go together) are much nearer realization than they would be if our great staple crop were bringing normal prices. We are learning by experience, and all that is needed now is that every farmer shall adopt a definite individual, personal program to fit the new era that is beginning. Such a program we are attempting to map out in our "Diversification and Independence" series, and in the New Year resolutions suggested on page 1.

Forgetting those things which are behind—except the lessons they taught—let us press forward with the motto, "We'll Profit by Past Mistakes and Make 1915 the Best Year Yet!" Progressive Farmer

Policies of the Mebane Leader.

The leader has launched upon the New year of 1915, with the determination to grow into real worth to its readers. A newspaper, should above all other institutions, grow in prestige and worth, because they are the forerunners of progress and growth. We want to give our readers something of value and interest, and we intend to put forth our very best efforts toward that end hoping that you will read and support us. From week to week we propose to carry a brief summary of the war made within that time, and we presume this will be of great interest to our readers, also we want to give our readers the current events of the country, both State and National, also inform you as to the progress of the General Assembly and the laws that it turns out. We feel that the latter is very important in that the laws the General Assembly turns out, concerns everyone. We feel this is incumbent upon us as a publication.

The new editor desires to place the Leader in its accredited capacity for good.

Statistics of Sight and Hearing. Blindness is more common in men than in women, the proportion, according to the last census returns, being one in every 1,316 males and one in every 1,424 females. As regards deafness, however, the position is reversed.



RATE INCREASE NECESSARY

FARMERS' UNION OFFICIALS THINK RAILROADS ARE ENTITLED TO MORE REVENUE.

Products of Plow and Farmer Who Lives at Home Should Be Exempt From Increase.

By Peter Radford.
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The recent action of the Interstate Commerce Commission in granting an increase in freight rates in the eastern classification of territory; the application of the roads to state and interstate commissions for an increase in rates, and the utterances of President Wilson on the subject bring the farmers of this nation face to face with the problem of an increase in freight rates. It is the policy of the Farmers' Union to meet the issues affecting the welfare of the farmers squarely and we will do so in this instance.

The transportation facilities of the United States are inadequate to effectively meet the demands of commerce and particularly in the South and West additional railway mileage is needed to accommodate the movement of farm products. If in the wisdom of our Railroad Commissions an increase in freight rates is necessary to bring about an improvement in our transportation service, and an extension of our mileage, then an increase should be granted, and the farmer is willing to share such proportion of the increase as justly belongs to him, but we have some suggestions to make as to the manner in which this increase shall be levied.

Rates Follow Lines of Least Resistance.

The freight rates of the nation have been built up along lines of least resistance. The merchant, the manufacturer, the miner, the miller, the lumberman and the cattleman have had their traffic bureaus thoroughly organized and in many instances they have pursued the railroad without mercy and with the power of organized tonnage they have hammered the life out of the rates and with unrestrained greed they have eaten the vitals out of our transportation system and since we have had railroad commissions, these interests, with skill and cunning, are represented at every hearing in which their business is involved.

The farmer is seldom represented at rate hearings, as his organizations have never had the finances to employ counsel to develop his side of the case and, as a result, the products of the plow bear an unequal burden of the freight expense. A glance at the freight tariffs abundantly proves this assertion. Cotton, the leading agricultural product of the South, already bears the highest freight rate of any necessary commodity in commerce, and the rate on agricultural products as a whole is out of proportion with that of the products of the factory and the mine.

We offer no schedule of rates, but hope the commission will be able to give the railroad such an increase in rates as is necessary without levying a farther toll upon the products of the plow. The instance seems to present an opportunity to the Railroad Commissions to equalize the rates as between agricultural and other classes of freight without disturbing the rates on staple farm products.

What is a Fair Rate?

We do not know what constitutes a basis for rate making and have never heard of anyone who did claim to know much about it, but if the prosperity of the farm is a factor to be considered and the railroad commission concludes that an increase in rates is necessary, we would prefer that it come to us through articles of consumption on their journey from the factory to the farm. We would, for example, prefer that the rate on hogs remain as at present and the rate on meat bear the increase, for any farmer can then avoid the burden by raising his own meat, and a farmer who will not try to raise his own meat ought to be penalized. We think the rate on coal and brick can much better bear an increase than

THE COUNTY FAIR THE RURAL PRESS

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

The farmer gets more out of the fair than anyone else. The fair to a city man is an entertainment; to a farmer it is education. Let us take a stroll through the fair grounds and linger a moment at a few of the points of greatest interest. We will first visit the mechanical department and hold communion with the world's greatest thinkers.

You are now attending a congress of the mental giants in mechanical science of all ages. They are addressing you in tongues of iron and steel and in language mute and powerful tell an eloquent story of the world's progress. The inventive geniuses are the most valuable farm hands we have and they perform an enduring service to mankind. We can all help others for a brief period while we live, but it takes a master mind to tower into the realm of science and light a torch of progress that will illuminate the pathway of civilization for future generations. The men who gave us the sickle, the binder, the cotton gin and hundreds of other valuable inventions work in every field on earth and will continue their labors as long as time. Their bright intellects have conquered death and they will live and serve mankind on and on forever, without money and without price. They have shown us how grand and noble it is to work for others; they have also taught us lessons in economy and efficiency, how to make one hour do the work of two or more; have lengthened our lives, multiplied our opportunities and taken toil off the back of humanity.

They are the most practical men the world ever produced. Their inventions, have stood the acid test of utility and efficiency. Like all useful men, they do not seek publicity, yet millions of machines sing their praises from every harvest field on earth and as many plows turn the soil in mute applause of their marvelous achievements.

FARMER RADFORD ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The home is the greatest contribution of women to the world, and the hearthstone is her throne. Our social structure is built around her, and social righteousness is in her charge. Her beautiful life lights the skies of hope and her refinement is the charm of twentieth century civilization. Her graces and her power are the cumulative products of generations of queenly conquest, and her crown of exalted womanhood is jeweled with the wisdom of saintly mothers. She has been a great factor in the glory of our country, and her noble achievements should not be marred or her hallowed influence blighted by the coarser duties of citizenship. American chivalry should never permit her to bear the burdens of defending and maintaining government, but should preserve her unsullied from the allied influences of politics, and protect her from the weighty responsibilities of the sordid affairs of life that will crush her ideals and lower her standards. The motherhood of the farm is our inspiration, she is the guardian of our domestic welfare and a guide to a higher life, but directing the affairs of government is not within woman's sphere, and political gossip would cause her to neglect the home, forget to mend our clothes and burn the biscuits.

RURAL SOCIAL CENTERS

We need social centers where our young people can be entertained, amused and instructed under the direction of cultured, clean and competent leadership, where aesthetic surroundings stir the love for the beautiful, where art charges the atmosphere with inspiration and power, and innocent amusements instruct and brighten their lives.

To hold our young people on the farm we must make farm life more attractive as well as the business of farming more remunerative. The school house should be the social unit, properly equipped for nourishing and building character, so that the lives of our people can properly function around it and become supplied with the necessary elements of human thought and activity.

The rate on cotton and flour. We would prefer that the rate on plows remain the same, and machinery, pianos and such articles as the poor farmer cannot hope to possess bear the burden of increase.

The increase in rates should be so arranged that the farmer who lives at home will bear no part of the burden, but let the farmer who boards in other states and countries and who feeds his stock in foreign lands, pay the price of his folly.

The Local Paper a Most Useful Agency on the Farm—The Press, Pulpit and School a Trinity of Influence That Must Be Utilized in Building Agriculture.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

A broad campaign of publicity on the subject of rural life is needed in this state today to bring the problems of the farmers to the forefront. The city problems are blazoned upon the front pages of the metropolitan dailies and echoed in the country press, but the troubles of the farmers are seldom told, except by those who seek to profit by the story, and the glitter of the package oftentimes obscures the substance. A searching investigation into the needs of the farmers will reveal many inherent defects in our economic system that can be easily remedied when properly understood and illuminated by the power of the press.

The rural press, the pulpit and the school are a trinity of powerful influences that the farmer must utilize to their fullest capacity before he can occupy a commanding position in public affairs. These gigantic agencies are organized in every rural community and only await the patronage and co-operation of the farmers to fully develop their energy and usefulness. They are local forces working for the best interests of their respective communities. Their work is to build and their object is to serve. They prosper only through the development and prosperity of the community.

Every farmer in this state should subscribe for the local paper, as well as farm periodicals and such other publications as he may find profitable, but he should by all means subscribe for his local paper, and no home should be without it. The local paper is part of the community life and the editor understands the farmer's problem. It is the local press that will study the local problems and through its columns deal with subjects of most vital importance to local life of the community.

A Noble Task.

In too many instances the country papers mimic the city press by giving prominence to scandals, accidents and political agitation. The new rural civilization has placed upon the rural press renewed responsibilities, and enlarged possibilities for usefulness. It cannot perform its mission to agriculture by recording the frailties, the mishaps and inordinate ambitions of humanity, or by filling its columns with the echoes of the struggles of busy streets, or by enchanting stories of city life which lure our children from the farm.

It has a higher and nobler task. Too often the pages of the city dailies bristle with the struggle of ambitious men in their wild lust for power, and many times the flames of personal conflict sear the tender buds of new civilization and illuminate the pathway to destruction. The rural press is the governing power of public sentiment and must hold steadfast to principle and keep the ship of state in the roadstead of progress. The rural press can best serve the interests of the farmers by applying its energies to the solution of problems affecting the local community. It must stem the mighty life current that is moving from the farm to the cities, sweeping before it a thousand boys and girls per day. It has to deal with the fundamental problems of civilization at their fountain head. Its mission is to direct growth, teach efficiency and mold the intellectual life of the country, placing before the public the daily problems of the farmers and giving first attention to the legislative, co-operative, educational and social needs of the agricultural classes within its respective community.

The Power of Advertising.

The influence of advertising is clearly visible in the homes and habits of the farmers, and the advertising columns of the press are making their imprint upon the lives of our people. The farmer possesses the things that are best advertised.

The farmer is entitled to all the advantages and deserves all the luxuries of life. We need more art, science and useful facilities on the farms, and many homes and farms are well balanced in this respect, but the advertiser can render a service by teaching the advantages of modern equipment throughout the columns of the rural press.

The farmers are in need of personal leadership. They have political leaders, but they need local industrial community and educational leaders.