

# THE CAROLINA FARMER UNION



Vol. 5. No. 37.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., JULY 8, 1911

One Dollar a Year

## HELP THE MAN WHO'S DOWN

*One of the Best Investments, Says Barrett, is Helping the Man's Who's Down, Whether or Not He's a Member.*

*To the Officers and Members of the Farmers' Union:*

If more men had helped each other over rough places since the world began, civilization and christianity would be much farther advanced than it is today.

The obligation to help the man who is down and out is one of the most sacred—and it isn't confined to your fellow-member in the Farmers' Union. In the first place you don't know when you may be in the same fix yourself, and in need of assistance. In the second, by help-

ing to put a man on his feet you're saving yourself the expense of having to feed him or his family. So the proposition cuts from the business as well as the philanthropic end.

In this country of quick changes, the man you give a lift today may tomorrow be in position to help you or the organization. So it's good policy, as well as a plain matter of duty.

I don't think I ever saw a man so far gone in meanness that I wouldn't try my best to give him even a little ray of lift. The man or the woman is cast out by society with the cry of "unclean, unclean," is the man and the woman who most need help.

You are not going to soil your hands by picking people up out of the mire. You're

much more likely to soil your soul, and lose some good opportunities in life by failing to do it.

One of the most beautiful features about some of the secret orders is that they never desert a member, no matter how far he has strayed from the pathway. That ought to be the motto of every member of the Farmers' Union, from the biggest leaders down to the newest joiners.

We have a good deal of that spirit now in the organization. The more we encourage it, the more we enhance the prestige of the order, and live up to the principles upon which it is founded.

CHARLES S. BARRETT.

Union City, Ga., July 6th, 1911.

## Important to the Farmers of the State

Many sections of the State are passing through the most severe drought they have ever experienced at this season of the year.

Many of us, as we review the farm operations of the past three months, see where we have made many costly mistakes. We also see where we hit the "bull's-eye," so to speak and scored a success. We have illustrations and demonstrations, or opportunities for observing on the farms of others, the causes of these successes and mistakes. We should make careful note of these and they will serve us in good stead in the years to come. It would be a day well spent to take a day off at this season and drive over the country and observe the crops on the different fields and farms along the way, make inquiry as to date and depth of breaking, subsequent preparation, date of planting, and method of cultivation, and previous crops grown, noting carefully the physical and mechanical condition of each field. In this way we can get interesting matter for discussion at Union meetings, Alliance meetings, Farmers' Clubs, picnics and social gatherings. It is thus that we can learn and teach some most valuable lessons in soil and crop management, and thereby make our mistakes contributory to our future success.

But the past, with all that it teaches, is behind us; the immediate future engages our attention; the harvest is not yet; the critical period is just before us, and we should try to avoid making further mistakes. In the beginning of the season our minds and thoughts were engaged principally with the problem

of proper fertilization (in most instances, methods of preparation and planting received secondary consideration. Many of us did not reckon with the problem of moisture, but just took it for granted that it would be forthcoming, and therein we find the cause of some of our most costly mistakes.

Moisture is the most important factor in the production of crops, and methods by which water may be stored in the subsoil and conserved for future use by the crops should receive our most careful consideration early in the season.

The planting season in many sections opened with less water in the subsoil than ever before, and the rainfall in most places since April 1st is below the average for this period by several inches. As a result, the soil is unusually dry, and the soil water unusually low for this season of the year. And, as already stated, we are just entering the critical period in the growth of the crop—the stage of growth at which most moisture is required to bring to good fruitage and maturity.

With a normal rainfall the remainder of the growing season it will require our utmost skill to produce a fair crop in many sections. We will have to conserve every particle of moisture possible, and herein we need to be resourceful and perform the work in the most efficient manner. The only thing to do is to cultivate. *Cultivate shallow, cultivate frequently. Avoid open furrows.* The man who takes a shovel plow, or solid sweep and opens a ditch on each side of the row, as some are

now doing, is guilty of murder—the destruction of plant life. Heelscrapes, cotton sweeps, harrows and cultivators, set to run shallow, not over one or two inches deep, are good implements to use in making a dust mulch. *Lay aside the Dixie and shovel plow and thereby save the crop.* Make all possible haste to stir the soil after a shower. Under present conditions it is imperative that we do this; if we do not, and a crust is allowed to form and remain for a few days the soil actually becomes dryer than if no rain had fallen, and the crop suffers most severely.

We should keep the cultivation going even if no rain falls to form a crust. In some instances it may be better to run a drag or a light roller constructed for the purpose to break the crust or compact the soil where too open and loose. Go over the crop every week or ten days; if allowed to lie too long, injury will be done by cultivation.

It behooves us as farmers to study the situation, to stand by our crops, seek advice from each other and try not to let our crops suffer through any mistake of ours.

There is another thing that should not escape our attention—the scarcity and high price of hay. Many farmers are now paying \$30 to \$35 cash per ton, and \$35 to \$40 on time for timothy hay. The drought has cut short the hay crop in the North and West, and hay is going to be scarce and high next winter and spring.

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