


# THE CAROLINA FARMER

## UNION



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CHARLOTTE, N. C., JULY 20, 1911

One Dollar a Year

## CLOSER BUSINESS RELATIONS URGED

To the Officers and Members of the Farmers' Union:

In England, there is a consumers' league that number about half a million members. It is closely organized. The officers are chosen for proved ability and not for personal popularity. They have built up a splendid buying machine. As a result the members of the league get food products at a much less cost and more quickly than by depending on the middleman. And the producer also profits by the arrangement.

This is the sort of initiative the Farmers' Union must develop, and on a large scale.

I have tried persistently to preach the virtues of organization.

We need its qualities within the order to keep members loyal and aggressive.

We need them even more in our business dealings, if we are ever to materialize a nation-wide program of buying and selling.

The first requisite is that Farmers' Union members must make stronger their various enterprises. Recently I published a partial list of these already in operation, and they were impressive, covering broadly the field of business and of industry. But they must be properly conducted.

It is useless to start enterprises of any nature, if you are going to be dissatisfied and quit because things don't go your way, because one or two managers you have yourselves chosen make failures or prove crooks, and it is quite useless to start enterprises unless you are going to support them.

There is no earthly reason why we should not eventually work toward closer business relations that will knit the Farmers of every state in this union.

It will be to the benefit of the country, to the benefit of the consumer, to the benefit of ourselves and of business generally.

We have first a number of things to learn, however, before we can hope to get well toward the consumation of such a plan. I propose to discuss them more in detail in a statement that will shortly be forthcoming.

CHAS. S. BARRETT.

Union City Ga., July 29th, 1911.

### A Domestic People.

Mr. Editor:

Since your paper has been coming to our house I have been led to think of things from various standpoints. However, a thing that rather impresses me most is the fact that we

farmers are so shaped that we ought to be all "of one mind" as well as possible, that our friends who are not called farmers ought to be with us *well as they can too*. We must live, and they must have a living too. We ought to prosper, and they as we, ought to prosper too. The prosperity of all our friends, however their varied occupations in life depends, more or less, on our prosperity. However, the thing in view is the fact that we are a folk that are home keeping and but few of us will ever get out far into this wide world.

It would, perhaps, be a little too singular for this "scribe" to give himself away by telling how closely he has been confined inside of one of the farms—after hearing many boys tell how "bravely" they "have traveled over more than 'ten' States." "It is a good thing to travel," good to look over the "wide world," but it is rather more important for the safe living of all that a large force stay close about the plow handles.

A generation ago it was traditional to say that "plowing must go"—and for the plowing forces to fall into, live was the thing in order.

The thing at issue by this hasty article is the thought of the literary help for the great hosts who are being termed "a quiet people." This army of quiet people are an interesting people, and it belongs to the interests of the hosts outside of this quiet "congregation" to make this people an interested people. There is a literary interest that must take better shape. We have need to come together much closer on some lines—a thing that we often talk about.

Now, I write this article to suggest, or urge that every farm home in the State be made a home for the visits of the Carolina Union Farmer. This can be done. There are various things to think of in connection with this enterprise. There are many men and women who are not members of the Farmers' Union, and some never will be, but *need the paper*. Let us see if we can do such a thing as to be united on a newspaper. Our interests are too much scattered, and by all reading in concert, the same paper we will do much towards becoming "of one mind." Many are, as they say, "not able to have many expenses," but many of this class, and others too, have been prejudiced and biased against their own interests.

Surely the Carolina Union Farmer will prove to be a true advocate for the interests of the toiling, hard working and hard worked people. I am not writing this article to please the editor nor any man, nor any class of men, nor any

"set," nor any order, but an trying to urge for the people to avail themselves of better help on literary lines. There is abundant literature, an over abundance, but we farmers of this Piedmont section have need of a paper that we can all subscribe to, and all read, and yet not cripple our (pet) prejudices. I feel sad and sorry about the fact that we are not better united. The powers that are "not of us" are united, and while their leading interests are foreign to our simple interests of life, they are living from our labors, and their successes are largely by the destruction of our interests.

We are glad to be quiet and "domestic," but we are now being disturbed, because we feel that there is a lack of sympathy right where much of our literary help comes from. When we read after those who instruct as our "fathers" we want them to be worthy "leaders of men." We pay our taxes in "good faith," as we hope, and we must ask for protection.

Let us all unite to read at least one paper every week, all at the same time, and let us sacrifice, as may be necessary, in order to do so.

I, as others, am not a member of "the Union," but I, as others of the "outsiders," am obliged to be one of the "laborers," and am on the part of those "who are not against us"—according to the teachings of the Son of God. We, "the people," have need to associate (however close farm duties), and there must be more neighborly interest stirred up. We must associate in order to sympathize. The interests of the religious bodies usually call the people together and in mass, and so with the various Fraternal Orders. We, the common people, have a right to call out for help, and this effort means to call to the Farmers' Union for the help.

Besides the prospective regular warm visits of the paper to every home, we have need to be enthused, at least once a year, by being invited to a farmers' mass-meeting, where we may hear experienced men tell much about the ability of the common people being, and becoming able, and better able, to live and let live, and to live and help to live.

The idea too often comes in the way of men that others ought to think as we do, but there is no harm by the little variation of sentiment, if we will all be liberal enough to see that none of us make human slaves while we all have the same human liberties in the world.

We, the people, feel thankful to those of the Farmers' Union for the privilege of their great

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