

# THE CAROLINA FARMER

## UNION



GASTONIA, N. C., SEPTEMBER 21, 1911

One Dollar a Year

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## HOLD YOUR COTTON

To the Members of the Union and every Cotton Producer in the South:

The greatest convention ever held in the interest of securing fair and equitable prices for cotton has just come to a close in the historic city of Montgomery, Alabama. This convention following as it did, the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union, adds strength that cannot be computed to our holding movement for better prices.

The Commissioners of Agriculture of the cotton producing States, under whose auspices the meeting was held, and the bankers, merchants, doctors, lawyers, senators, congressmen, Farmers' Union delegates, and unorganized farmers, assembled in vast numbers, heartily endorsed the holding movement inaugurated by the Farmers' Union for fifteen cents, and unanimously pledged its support to the plan we have on foot for securing finances to insure the success of the undertaking. It went a step further and passed a resolution recommending that a campaign be begun in each State to show the people the necessity for a concert of action, and calling upon business interests everywhere to subscribe funds for carrying on this great work, such fund to be in charge of the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Farmers' Union of the respective States, who will disburse it to the best advantage and give an accounting to the public and the contributors.

Bear in mind, this convention was not a crowd of fanatics. It was composed of the leading business men of the South and its acts were the result of calm, deliberate judgment. All possible light was thrown upon the situation and the facts there brought out sustain them in the position they have taken. The Committee on Statistics, after securing reliable reports from the several States, gave as its opinion that not more than 12,500,000 bales may be expected this year. No sane Southerner will question the statement that to throw this crop on the market at less than the price set will be a sinful waste. In our opinion, the expected yield is not the only thing to be considered in setting a price. Under the present high cost of everything used by the cotton producer in making his crop, should the yield be much greater than this estimate, which is not likely, it would be suicidal to sell for less than the minimum price.

It is a source of great satisfaction to the officials of the Farmers' Union to know that at

last the business interests of the entire South have been aroused to protect its great crop, a fight which the Farmers' Union has been waging single handed for years. We have borne the brunt of these efforts heretofore, but in this good year of 1911 we have every reason to believe that all Southern interests will rally to our support.

Already your National Secretary has received contributions for campaigning in the interests of this movement and is now arranging with the State officials of each cotton producing State to send lecturers into the field to impress the importance of standing firm in this movement. Watch for the dates and rally every farmer, business man, banker, in fact everybody. Get busy among your farmer friends and have them join the Union, the only force recognized by the business world as being able to cope with the situation. Surely no Southern farmer worthy the dignity of being called a producer can willfully withhold his membership from the organization which means the betterment of his present finances and the future protection of his home.

Arrangements have been practically made for the assembling of millions of dollars to finance those who are compelled to have assistance in this movement, and needs only the support of the producers themselves to insure success. But bear this in mind, determination is a bigger asset in this struggle than finances. Great numbers of you will not need assistance, and those who do, should be urged to borrow as little as possible. See to it that no merchant nor banker to whom you may be obligated, is made to suffer by the stand you take. This organization does not propose to teach its members to enter this campaign at the sacrifice of honesty, and we believe that its membership is composed of men who would not do such a thing, even if urged.

The money secured will be used to assist your local banker and will be circulated through the local banks. With the support of the entire South it will not be difficult for you to satisfy your creditors.

The business world is amazed at the rapidity with which we get results from the members of the Union. But six days prior to the Shawnee meeting, your National Secretary issued a circular asking that messages be sent setting forth the desires of the organization. The telegraph operators at Shawnee were literally swamped for two days with telegrams

from all parts of the South signed not only by Farmers' Union men, but business men as well, pledging support to the holding movement.

We thank you heartily for your loyal support and compliance with our request, and are setting about our work in this campaign, firm in the belief that you will work industriously in your neighborhood to secure a price for your cotton that will remove more mortgages from the farms, will properly feed and clothe your children, will give some rest to the toil worn hands of your wife, and will insure the prosperity of your beloved Southland.

Faternally,

C. S. BARRETT, President.

A. C. DAVIS, Secretary.

### Peele's Local, Bertie County.

Mr. Editor:—Having been appointed corresponding secretary by this local, I will ask for space through the columns of the Carolina Union Farmer, to note a few items from this part of "Old Bertie." This local is situated in the heart of a good and industrious farming community. We were organized February 15th, 1911, by W. T. Swanson, with 12 members. We now have 23 paid up members in good standing, and expect more to join us in the future. We have done some little business with our State Business Agent, and hope to do more in the future. We realized a saving of many dollars by dealing with him. I am sorry to say we have not been active much along the line of co-operation, as we should, but are being aroused to a sense of our duty, and begin to see and feel our weak point. We should ever stick together as true Union men, and let our motto be: "United we stand, divided we fall."

We would like to see our fair ladies of the farm home to join and co-operate with us, and help make us more useful and helpful in our Unionism.

Now I would ask all Union men to subscribe and patronize the Carolina Union Farmer, our noble organ of the F. E. and C. U. of A. Will say we have ten members who take the Union Farmer and trust more of us will let it visit our homes. Success to our noble paper and all fellow members of the Farmers' Union.

Aug. 21, 1911.

J. M. BAZEMORE,

Alexander, N. C.

Begin early to get your cabbage ground ready, and arrange for Frost Proof Plants by writing. The Wakefield Farms, Charlotte.