

THE CAROLINA FARMER UNION



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One Dollar a Year

The Farmers Must Work Out His Own Salvation

To the Officers and Members of the Farmers' Union:

Did you ever hear the good old exhorters and revivalists tell you that you must work out your own salvation?

Well, the same principal applies to successful farming, and to the success of farmer's organizations in securing the reforms for which they are contending by legislation, and with their own ranks.

There's no such thing as enlisting in the battle of life and then paying a substitute. If you do, you'll either have to be satisfied with short rations, or wake up some morning and find that the substitute has walked off with the bacon, the Carnegie medal and the laurel wreath. It would be just like you then, to growl that the world had given you a "cold deal."

I lay it down as a broad, first principal, that we've got to learn to manage our own affairs, whether on the farm or within the organization, before the world takes us with the degree of seriousness our numbers and our importance to the world really justifies.

If you demand of your representative, for instance, that he vote for the recall, or trimming the New York Cotton Exchange, and he passes your place and sees the chimney tumbling down, weeds in your fields, and just a few razor-backs rooting around, he isn't apt to get busy and obey your orders.

If you elect as your Farmers' Union officials, or the president of some Union enterprise, some oily, smiling, hand-shaking, baby-kissing brother, just because he is these things, rather than for the fact that he has proved himself a good farmer, a good business man, and a good

leader of men, you are evading your share of personal responsibility, and you have no right to complain if things hit the ceiling. Or if you get into the hallelujah-lick at a meeting and promise to support almost any old enterprise suggested, and then go home and forget all about it, you needn't come around with the hypocritical criticism that there "isn't anything in a farmers' organization," and that you're not getting your money's worth.

These are just a few instances of the need of exerting personal responsibility, if you succeed in your own affairs, and if you would have this organization achieve the ends for which it was founded. It is well to remember them at the beginning of the New Year.

CHARLES S. BARRETT.

Union City, Ga., Feb. 14th, 1912.

Farming Corporations

MR. EDITOR: The remarkable Scotchman, Mr. Carnegie, whose grasp of the practical has placed him among the great men of all times, early saw the unwisdom of the competitive system and chartered a giant corporation which absorbed kindred individual enterprises by exchanging stock, and made an unparalleled success of the iron industry. Norway, Germany, Brazil and other countries have successfully applied this principle in handling the problems of agriculture.

Living proofs that the phenomenal success of all big modern enterprises, lie in corporate combination, are seen in every class of American business, safe farming, and it only needs to direct thought to men like Morgan, Rockefeller, Armour, Pullman, Edison, Hill, Wannamaker, The Harvester Co., Kress and Bowers, to show that it is the scientific and practical force of the financial, economic and commercial life of the times.

The highest order of intelligence is shown when those with common interests co-operate through a corporation embracing them all, and we believe when the farmer realizes this, his sense and self-interest can be relied on to se-

cure his support in changing conditions injuriously affecting his business by uniting under the Carnegie system, the weak scattered enterprises now unable to earn profits or protect the interests of their founders, into one corporation, and make them strong enough to guard against bankruptcy, and insure profits.

Not one of the accepted methods used in marketing American farm products is based upon the producer's interest, all are arranged to surround the details of selling, with systems earning profits, but not for the farmer. A condition only possible because the American farmer does not use modern methods.

As a rule, the business efforts of farm organizations heretofore have been sentimental, experimental and educational, but they prove that to make his business profitable, the farmer must get away from present systems and organize his own corporation through which to buy and sell.

As the "Texas Farm Co. Operator" says: "The farmer must become just as wise as big business, and whenever he wants to do anything and keep clear of the law, just take out

a corporation charter and make their own laws to govern their own business."

European farmers not only practice intensive farming but annually transact business on Carnegie lines, running into billions of dollars, while we in the United States have scarcely made a beginning.

In Germany, agricultural banks loaned farmers one and three quarter billion dollars last year; farm corporations handle the agricultural products of Denmark, and throughout Continental Europe the principle is used to protect the interests of farmers.

Such institutions will be immeasurably more useful in the United States because of the independent position of the American farmer, and the importance of his products in the financial, commercial and physical life of the world.

Eliminate the mistakes, adopt the successful features and unite the properties of each of our enterprises in one corporation, control our products, and create a company so strong that it can finance the crop, hold or sell it, as the

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