

ganized weekly exchanges where produce can be sold as on a city grain exchange.

Down in Berkley County, West Virginia, the fruit growers not only have an association similar to those in the West, but they are holding apple shows, apple carnivals, and festivals to promote the spirit of union and progress.

But how is your isolated up-State farmer, living amid such non-progressives as sent the office man home unsupplied—how is he to wipe out the middleman and remedy conditions? For him, there is only one way, by hook or crook, by some such ingenuity as the Vermont turkey raisers tried, to get in direct touch with the city buyer.

In Denmark 162,000 co-operative farmers sell \$78,000,000 of dairy produce a year, an average of more than \$1,000 a member. In Russia are 800 co-operative milk factories using the product of 70,000 cows. In Germany, there are 19,000 similar societies. Why does America lag at the foot of the list in her farmers' co-operative societies?

But all this, you say, remedies matters only for the country man. How about the town buyer? Wouldn't the truly co-operative association embrace consumer as well as producer? I am not advocating Socialism. I never read a book on Socialism or attended a meeting on it in my life. The point is to get that middleman's heavy foot off the city man's stomach; to keep that unseen hand of higher cost of living from picking your pockets and mine.

As long as the consumer does nothing but grumble, he will continue to have his pockets picked; and the middleman may sleep easy. For the consumer, there is only one way out, and it is the way the irrigation has taught—buyers must get together. That is what the consumers' co-operative leagues of England have done. They buy direct from the producer. Only 2 per cent covers the expense of distribution. Compare that with the 2,000 per cent extortion on the basket of grapes. And the co-operative leagues of England yearly feed 8,000,000 people. That is a cutting out of middlemen, isn't it? Feeding twice as many people as live in New York! England's co-operative leagues began sixty-five years ago among some twenty-eight poor weavers who succeeded in saving \$5 each in one year, pooled their capital and did a total business of \$3,550 the first year. The second year they made profits equal to their original capital. To-day, those leagues employ 18,000 people, have 150 telegraphic addresses on their books, sell to members close on to six-hundred-million dollars' worth of produce, and pay back to their shareholders not the extortionate 2,000 per cent, but something over three million dollars, less than half of one per cent on business done. This, of course, does not show the saving in price to the purchaser.

Mr. Wilson says there will be no bridging of the chasm between grower and eater, producer and consumer,

till starvation drives men back to the land. Mr. Hill's prophetic vision foresees only one door of hope—also starvation, compelling higher yields on the land. Many thinkers agree with both big men. Are they right? Will America wait for starvation? She never has yet. She has taken time by the forelock always, and averted the evil. Will she do it in this case? Will some great co-operative organization bridge the chasm between producer and consumer? Reciprocity may bring an era of lower prices; but so long as farmers are flocking from the farm, the relief can be only temporary. Seven million people—Canada's population—cannot make material difference in the cost of feeding 100,000,000 people. Is the giant to be left standing with one foot on the city man's stomach and one foot on the farmer's back, filching from both sides; his warehouses literally bursting with food stored and held back to force prices yet higher; stored and held back till it rots and has to be dumped into the sea? It is for the people to give the answer.

The little child of the slums was enjoying her first visit to the country, and was enthusiastic in her admiration of the farmyard. "Just look at the chickens!" she exclaimed in ecstasy. "They're all running about raw!"

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STATE NEWS.

Mr. James C. Draughan, living near Dunn, Sampson County, last ten bales of cotton a few days ago by fire.

The Southern Railway Company is soon to build a new passenger station at Hickory. It is to be entirely modern in every way it is said.

Mr. Paul F. Burton, an excellent young man and electrician of Warrenton, came in contact with a live wire Tuesday last and was instantly thrown to the ground and killed. He was twenty-seven years old.

The home of Mr. Jeff D. Whitesides, near Yorkville, in the vicinity of Hickory Grove, was destroyed by fire a few days ago. The loss was estimated at from \$3,000 to \$4,000. The cause of the fire was not known.

Thirty-nine bridges in Guilford County were totally or partially wrecked by the recent floods. Most of them were wooden, and the commissioners of that county have decided to replace the larger wooden bridges with steel ones.

Mr. L. H. Phillips, at one time clerk of the Superior Court of Catawba County, and at present cashier of the Merchants and Farmers Bank of Newton, is to become secretary and treasurer of the Fidelity Hosiery Mills, succeeding Mr. R. P. Frieze.

A glove factory is to be opened in Hendersonville soon, conducted by Mr. R. P. Frieze, secretary and treasurer of the Fidelity Hosiery Mill at Newton.

The surviving members of Company I, Forty-ninth North Carolina Regiment, Confederate Veterans, will hold their annual reunion at Catawba, March 30th.

The post-office and express office at Kingsboro was robbed one night last week. Ten or twelve gallons of whiskey, money, postage stamps and other express were taken.

Mr. R. W. Vincent, who has been managing editor of the Charlotte Observer for years, has accepted a position on the staff of the Atlanta Georgian and will take up his new work soon.

The jewelry store of J. R. Brown, at China Grove, was broken into and robbed last Thursday night. Only a few articles were taken as the robberies were not successful in breaking into the safe.

A contract has been awarded to Mr. R. C. Campbell, of Lenoir, for the building of a new court-house for the new county of Avery. The contract was for an \$18,000 building.

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If not do so at once.

We are going to extend the time until April 15th, because some were not able to get their clubs together by April 1st. Remember that the subscription price will be strictly \$1.00 a year after this date and all clubbing offers will be discontinued.

All new and renewal subscriptions will be accepted at the clubbing price of 75 cents each until April 15th. If you are making a club or intend to do so, get it up now and let us have it on or before April 15th. If you haven't a subscription blank, use the form below, or write for one on a postal card. If you want sample copies we will be glad to send them to you.

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