

Gaston Farmers' Union Warehouse Company.

In last week's issue we had something in regard to the operation of the Gaston Farmers' Union Warehouse at Gastonia, N. C., and The Gaston Progress of last week tells of a meeting of the stockholders and directors of this company at which a 10 per cent dividend was declared ordered paid in addition to passing a handsome sum to the surplus fund.

One of the most interesting and significant items related in this ac-

Clemmer, Jonas Pasour, W. W. Faires and E. P. Lineberger.

The co-operative creamery is now being talked in Gaston, and it is probable that at an early date a co-operative creamery, such as is being operated at Newton, will be established in connection with the warehouse.

The Gaston County farmers are also interested in telephone developments, and recently the Gaston Rural



count is the fact that for the past year the company has been on a cash basis, including fertilizers, acids and chemicals, which the company makes a speciality. This warehouse has been doing business for several years and sold fertilizer in the old way and

Telephone Company has been organized, and although the charter has not yet been received, they are getting ready to build telephone lines through the county with the intention of extending the farmers' lines into other counties.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

To the Officers and Members of the Farmers' Union:

As it is the custom in a great many sections of our country, especially in the mountain districts of the South, for the public schools in the rural districts to open in August, I deem this an opportune time to touch upon a few things relative to the work.

In the first place the school committeemen, or those whose business it is to look after the employment of the teachers, should exercise the utmost care in selecting the men and women who are to have control of the boys and girls during the coming scholastic year.

This is a matter of vital importance to the entire district and a mistake here might seriously cripple the work of the entire term. The very best teachers available should always be selected without fear or favor and the powers that be should be exceedingly careful to have no object in view save the greatest good to the greatest number. I have known the school term almost absolutely ruined over the action of some school committeemen in employing his son or daughter, or some near relative. Then, too, I have seen the school seriously handicapped because some unfortunate had enlisted the sympathy of the officials. Sympathy is a most excellent thing, but the public, and especially the little children, should not be made to suffer on account of it.

All the duties and responsibilities though do not rest upon the officials. The patrons and the friends of education, too, have their part to perform. They should see to it that the school premises are looked after prior to the opening of the term, that the building is fumigated and the floors oiled, and that everything needful be done to make the school life of the child pleasant. See to it that a number of

pictures are hung upon the walls, sanitary privies should be provided, and, if possible, the individual drinking cup should be installed. If this is not practicable, then each family should be provided with a drinking cup. Much of the danger of contagious diseases can be eliminated by a proper regard to the rules of health and sanitation.

Last, but by no means least, I desire to call your attention to the importance of visiting the schools. You have no idea how your visits will cheer and inspire the teacher. Not only does it aid the teacher for her patrons to come to see her, but it helps the children, too.

As I write this my mind goes back to the days when we tried to teach the young idea how to shoot, and how well do we recall the pleasure which it gave us to have our patrons call and spend an hour or two. How often does the young teacher feel discouraged and how many of them, doubtless, finally gave up the work for want of expressions of appreciation on the part of the patrons. Friends and brethren, if our teachers are doing what they can for our children and our neighbor's children, let us give them a token of our appreciation. Far too many of us wait to place our flowers upon the coffin. How much better would it have been if, while they were yet with us, we had let them know that we cared. What an incentive to attempt still greater things is a kindly word of appreciation of that which we have tried to do. Let us resolve that in the school year upon which we are just entering we shall do our part, and may we have the most prosperous year in the history of the work.

C. C. WRIGHT,

Chairman Educational Com.
Hunting Creek, N. C., August 2,
1912.

THE READJUSTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

We are all by nature standpatters. We like to think along old familiar lines. We like to do things to which we are accustomed, and to do them in the same old way. We are all naturally lazy and like to move along the lines of least resistance. If we are accustomed to putting the right foot first when we start out in the morning, it is hard to accustom ourselves to putting the left first. If we are in the habit of putting on the left shoe first, it is hard to accustom ourselves to beginning with the right. If from our childhood we have used the left hand most, it is very hard to learn how to use the right hand.

If we are accustomed to growing corn and small grains, it is hard to start to growing grass. If we are accustomed to one-crop farming, nothing but necessity will compel us to follow diversified farming. Our grandfathers were accustomed to using the cradle. Nothing but necessity compelled them to use the reaper. They were experts in swinging the scythe, and would not get a mower until they were forced to do so. They were accustomed to pitching hay on the wagon, and nothing but necessity made them use a hay loader.

If it were not for the fact that nature is geared on the principle of change, we would continue to be standpatters politically, agriculturally, religiously, to the end of our days. The scarcity of labor compelled us to use the reaper and the binder, to dispense with the old-fashioned threshing machine and get a modern, up-to-date implement. The law of nature is change, evolution, some call it, which continually forces us to consider new things and adapt ourselves to new conditions.

And yet there are some things about farming that are as stable as

Mount Siani or the eternal laws of right and wrong; for example, the movement of water in the soil, the laws of heredity, the necessity for balanced rations. And yet these immutable laws compel us to do things differently. For example, the great demand for milk and butter compels us to observe the law of heredity in breeding dairy cows instead of dual purpose cows; while the closing up of the ranges compels us to grow dual purpose cows where we used to grow beef cows. The laws that govern the movement of water in the soil compel us to farm one way in the humid section and in an entirely different way in the semi-arid section. The changes in the price of feeds and their relation to the price of meats compel us, while following the invariable law of balanced rations, to make our rations out of different materials.

From time to time farmers have to readjust their methods. They do it unwillingly, but sooner or later they have to come to it. They were compelled to use a drill instead of sowing broadcast. It took us long years to see this simple proposition; that drilled grain, speaking generally, was better than broadcasted, because it conforms to the laws of nature. Farmers were accustomed to forking their manure on a wagon, dropping it in piles, and scattering it afterwards. It took us long years to persuade them to use a manure spreader. Farmers were accustomed to growing corn for the grain alone. They are still doing so, at an enormous waste of food values. It will take us years to persuade them to harvest all their corn crop, and our persuasion would be utterly useless, if it were not that nature is working with us in compelling them to do so.

We can no longer farm as we used to. We can not be satisfied with two acres to a cow for summer pasture. We must make one acre do the business. We can no longer be satisfied in the best corn states with between thirty and forty bushels of corn to the acre on an average. We must have from fifty to sixty, or see our land yield us less and less income from the investment each year.

We must learn to use the silo. We must learn to use better machinery and more horse power, because the price of labor compels it. We must learn to balance the ration so as to make more pounds of beef or pork from a given amount of grain, or else see hard times.

It is a good thing that nature is geared up in the line of progression. If it were not so, we would stagnate. For no matter to what we are accustomed, sooner or later nature compels us to see that we have not been doing exactly right, and that we must do differently; and so this necessity for readjustment will go on in the future as it has in the past. We may imagine we have got the right thing, the best thing possible for us at the time, but bye and bye we will have to be shown by hard knocks that after all it is not absolutely the best thing. The present is better than the past, but there is a still better future in store. In agriculture, as in religion, we must take the position of Paul, who wrote: "Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect, . . . forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal . . ."

It is hard to change our notions on any subject, but we will be obliged to change them by the logic of events, and thus be brought to realize that after all we are never sure that we have the absolutely best in anything. "For every blue there is a better blue." We hope the time will come when the farmer will not be considered in good standing unless he has a manure spreader, a grain drill, a win-



MR. H. L. LINEBERGER,
Manager Gaston Farmers' Union
Warehouse Company.

when it was first intimated that they would go on a cash basis, it was easily predicted that it would go to the wall, and that in short order. The fact is, the first season has been such a success that the stockholders are so well pleased that anything but a cash business now will not interest them at all.

The Gaston Farmers' Union Warehouse has a paid in capital stock of \$6,500, and the plant of the company to-day is estimated to be worth more than \$10,000. The warehouse is located within the town limits of Gastonia, and has railroad connections. It is managed by a board of directors composed of one man from each township.

Mr. R. Lee Falls is president and Mr. H. L. Lineberger is secretary and treasurer. The directors are Messrs. C. P. Robinson, S. L. Kiser, J. F.