

## The Annual Convention.

Another Annual Convention has passed into history. The annual meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' Union held here last week was, in many respects, the most important of its kind ever held in the State. Although the attendance was much smaller than expected, every organized county was represented and the delegates remained until the session was over.

It was the pleasure of the farmers to have fair weather and a hearty welcome, and they did not fail to take advantage of the hospitality offered them while in Raleigh. Every official member of the organization was present, including two of the National officers—President Barrett and Secretary Davis.

From the opening session Tuesday afternoon until the final session Thursday the deliberations of the Convention were watched with interest by outsiders, which goes to show that the outside world is waking up and is beginning to realize that the Farmers' Union in North Carolina is an important factor in the development of rural conditions in the State.

Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock the Convention was opened in public session with prayer by Dr. T. W. O'Kelley, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, and the address of welcome was delivered by Hon. J. Bryan Grimes, Secretary of State, who represented the State; Major W. A. Graham of the Agricultural Department and Dr. D. H. Hill of the A. & M. College, spoke for their departments, and Mr. A. L. Cox spoke for the Chamber of Commerce and the city of Raleigh, while Dr. Templeton spoke in behalf of the Wake County Farmers' Union. The addresses were responded to by Dr. Alexander in behalf of the farmers. All of these addresses will be printed in a future issue of this paper.

The first executive session of the Convention was held Tuesday night, when the reports of the State officers and the standing committees were made. The President's address and the report of the Executive Committee are printed in this issue in full and are commended to our readers. The address of the State Organizer was printed in last week's issue and these documents should not only be read by the Farmers' Union members, but should be preserved for future use. The report of the State Treasurer and of the Warehouse Committee will be printed in full in the minutes and we hope to give, in a future issue, some of the most important items in these reports.

The annual election of officers, which took place Wednesday morning, occupied very little time as all of the officers were re-elected unanimously, and the only ballot taken was that for members of the Executive Committee, which was occasioned by the nomination of an additional member. However, the old board was re-elected by a very large majority. The following are the officers:

President, Dr. H. Q. Alexander, Mecklenburg County.

Vice-President, Dr. J. M. Templeton, Wake County.

Secretary-Treasurer, E. C. Faires, Moore County.

Organizer, J. Z. Green, Union County.

Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Duke, Franklin County.

Executive Committee: W. B. Gibson, Statesville; W. G. Crowder, Cary; I. P. Coggins, Bear Creek; W. H. Moore, Bruce; C. C. Wright, Hunting Creek.

Following the election of officers, there was a short address by President Dabbs, of the South Carolina

Farmers' Union, and also an address by National Secretary Davis. On account of the limited time, the address of Mr. Davis was delivered on the instalment plan and was not completed until the evening session. This address will be printed in full in a future issue. President Barrett's address in the afternoon was one of the features of the session, and we regret that it is impossible to reproduce this entire address. The reproduction in type of such an address as Barrett delivered is an impossibility, but we are giving here a fairly good report of his speech, but as stated by President Alexander following his speech, President Barrett is the only man in America who could deliver this particular address and, as stated above, to reproduce same in print, is an impossibility.

President Barrett's address was a heart-to-heart talk, and one of a kind that the head of a family would make to the home circle. It bristled with suggestions of what the farmers should do, and the head of the Farmers' Union did not hesitate to criticize things that had been done and to point out what he considered mistakes. He urged the value of the Farmers' Union, told what it had done, declared that the great need was that of co-operation. With emphasis he declared that the Farmers' Union had proven the greatest organization that the farmers had ever had, that it is the greatest in the world for the farmers, and that it is growing.

### Introduced by State President.

President Barrett was happily introduced by Dr. H. Q. Alexander, President of the North Carolina Farmers' Union, who declared him a man of national reputation, one devoted to the betterment of the farmer, and one who loved the Farmers' Union and its cause.

### Must Know How to Obey.

President Barrett began his remarks by declaring that what is necessary is to know how to obey, that there is a value in obedience, and that while this might not be understood at first, it would be in time. His work as head of the Union, he declared to be one that gave him concern, that it meant responsibility to be at the head of the greatest organization of farmers ever effected. He recounted visits made to many sections, that in all parts of the country there is being developed a greater interest in the organization. As part of his work in looking after the interests of the Union he declared that his visit to Colorado was to see put on the chain-gang one of the officials who had proven unfaithful, that this man whom he strongly denounced was paid \$14,000 a year and had done things that caused indictments against him. "We will land him in prison yet," he declared, and added: "The meanest man I know of is one who having the opportunities of the Farmers' Union will not do right."

### "Back to Land" a Fallacy.

Speaking of the talk of "back to the farm," or as he put it, "back to the land," he spoke of the value of co-operation between town and country in the way of "get together" efforts, but that as to the "back to the land" talk that there had been much of this for the past five years, but in all this time he had not heard of more than a half-dozen going back to the country from the town. "Do any of you know of first-class men going back?" he asked.

"I do," answered one in the audience.

"Who?" queried Mr. Barrett.

"I am that man," was the answer.

"Listen, my boy," cried out President Barrett. "I said first-class men." And then there was much good humored laughter.

### Should All Pull Together.

Continuing, the speaker said that there seemed no reason why the town and country people could not pull together, that this would be a thing of value to both. Co-operation is the need, and because the town people are not at farmers' meeting is no sign that they are not in sympathy with such movements, but that they are busy with their own affairs. What the farmers should do, he declared, was to get busy with theirs. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, he declared, is the garden spot of the country, and that in the next twenty-five years this would be shown that these States form the best part of the United States. Co-operative work is that which will aid the farmers. The Farmers' Union is doing work for this aid in meeting other great problems. Before its organization no one was talking of the rural problem, but now every one is and the Farmers' Union is responsible. It has done good work and is worth a hundred times its cost.

### Some Things Accomplished.

President Barrett told of some of the things it had accomplished for education, that its work had been of value in getting increased appropriations for schools, that the Farmers' Union in Georgia, as in other States, went to the Legislature for more money for schools. "And we got it," he declared. The Farmers' Union is now at work for an anti-gambling bill, and it is the direct cause of the bill for the establishment of a bureau of markets. Its work for a parcels post was referred to and President Barrett said it was partly responsible for this, that this was one matter in which the towns had not seen the question as did the country, and that it would never have come, but for the Farmers' Union. The Union had proven its value in making better citizens, better schools, better roads, and in the enforcement of law.

### Let Them Make Money.

"One thing it must do is to make money for its members," he declared. "We feel it. The farmers will endorse whatever they think is right and often times they get into the position of being engaged in putting one rascal out and putting another rascal in. But the only way now to satisfy him is to make money for him, and hand it to him. If the Farmers' Union does this he will say, 'Good, good; she's worth while now.'" The Union has done some wonderful stunts, and as I talk of these I wonder that we are yet alive.

The general work of the Farmers' Union, and the better conditions which the farmers sought for their homes was told in an amusing anecdote which showed how one man became converted to the cause of the Union. It gave the view that by co-operative effort the farmers could come to the front in business and enjoy the best things in life. "This is what we are up to," declared President Barrett, who went on to say that the farmers were not blaming the other fellows who were going to the front, but that now was their time to move to do the same thing.

### Politicians Not Wanted.

The speaker told a laughable anecdote of how he had broken up some politicians at a Farmers' Union meeting in his remarks which came first by telling of the flattery usually handed out to farmers. He told also

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Governor Wilson Will Be Inaugurated President March 4, 1913.

Account of the above historic event which, as we all know, will be the grandest occasion our Southland has enjoyed in 20 years, the Seaboard Air Line Railway is making preparations to take care of the great multitude of people who will attend same.

Special trains, special Pullman sleeping cars, special coaches will be required in large numbers. If you expect to attend this great event, you should get busy. Clubs, societies, schools, and other organized bodies of all kinds expecting to attend should get in line at once. Write the undersigned, who will give you important information and take care of you or your party in best manner possible. H. S. LEARD, Div. Pass. Agent, Raleigh, N. C.

Christmas and New Year Holiday Excursion Round Trip Fares Via Southern Railway.

Account Christmas and New Year holidays the Southern Railway announces the sale of low round trip tickets from all stations.

Tickets will be on sale on December 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 1912, and Jan. 1, 1913.

In addition to above dates, tickets will also be on sale from Raleigh on December 18 and from Durham on December 15, 16 and 18, 1912.

Tickets will be limited returning to reach original starting point not later than midnight of January 6, 1913.

For full and complete information, ask your agent or write J. O. JONES,

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S. D. KISER, City Ticket Agent, Raleigh, N. C.

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