

"CO-OPERATION IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD."

About two years ago some of the brethren in our Local, Benham, No. 1361, in Wilkes County, conceived the idea, that it would be a benefit to the brethren, and a great stimulus to the cause of unionism to have a general merchandising establishment controlled by the members of the F. E. and C. N. of A. This idea soon found its counter-part in the nearby Locals.

The Benham Local appointed a committee to draw up a plan of co-operation. A day was set for a meeting of those interested. Quite a number met. The plans drawn up by the committee were discussed and adopted. We then took subscription to the amount of \$850, which was paid in to an executive committee. This committee at once purchased a small stock of general merchandise. We rented a house and began to sell goods on February 19, 1911. We sold our goods cheaper than they could be bought elsewhere. We also allowed a bonus to the membership. This plan of co-operation soon drew a large trade—much larger than our most sanguine expectations. By the end of the year, a little better than ten months, our cash sales amounted to \$4,907.07. By this time our stock subscribed and paid in amounted to \$1,310.

Our labors had been crowned with so much success that we decided to extend the work. We asked for more subscription to the stock, which has been increasing, until we now have a paid in capital of \$2,440. We elected another clerk, rented another house, in another community, divided goods, and had been selling goods from two stands this year. Our cash sales from the time we began business on February 19, 1911, till December 26, 1912, amounted to \$13,220, an average of \$662.50 per month for the whole time.

By dividing the goods and selling at two stands, we have extended the plan of co-operation to other brethren. We have sold some goods on time, the most of which is in good hands. We now have in goods and fixtures \$3,276. Besides selling our goods as cheap as they can be bought elsewhere, we have returned to the membership a little better than \$350 in bonus. The stockholders have received a good per cent on money invested. Co-operation begets friendship, friendship begets love, and where there is love there is peace and happiness. Why should we not co-operate? The greatest blessing ever bestowed on mankind was through the co-operation of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Fraternally,

E. W. SETTLE.

"CO-OPERATION IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD."

Before the coming of the Farmers' Union in our community each family lived to itself so far as business relations were concerned. We helped each other in a small way, but our resources were limited. Now all this is changed. Four neighbors clubbed together and bought a stump-puller, and now our fields can be cultivated without wear and tear on man, mules and machinery. Many more acres of land are under cultivation and cribs are correspondingly fuller. Instead of feeding our corn in a wasteful way, the corn shredder, purchased by three neighbors, comes around and shreds our corn. Aside from its educational value, think of the saving in feed and the helpful influence on the boys, who often want to leave the farm because of the lack of labor and time-saving machinery! Through co-operating, we have our Business Agents order not only groceries in large quantities, and at greatly re-

duced prices, but our wagons, buggies, roofing, and last, but not least, our fertilizers. Here is where we save the most money. Not only do we have our fertilizers shipped to us in car-load lots, but we ship off our cotton in car lots and get better prices than are offered on the local markets. We have no desire to trade away from home, but we want the worth of our products and are willing to go to a little trouble to get it. Whenever our local merchants give us good prices, we gladly buy and sell at home.

Through the efforts of our Lee County Farmers' Union we have a splendid cotton-seed oil mill and also a registered Percheron stallion, owned by the Union men who formed a company to purchase him and thereby improve the quality of work stock in our community.

Our Union has always gone in for good roads, and by concerted efforts on the part of some of its members, working with others equally interested, we have issued bonds and good roads are in process of construction.

Entirely through the efforts of Union men, Farm Demonstration Work was introduced in Lee County and an appropriation secured from our County Commissioners. The work has been successfully carried on for three years and the future prospects are very encouraging.

Aside from material benefits, co-operation has been educational, has given us a common interest, something to think and talk about, has encouraged the cash system of buying supplies, and has drawn us together in a social way.

MRS. J. H. HENLEY.

December 30, 1912.

NEW YEAR CUSTOMS.

In some Old World cities the bells were rung muffled until 12 o'clock of December 31, and then rung clear for the New Year. Perhaps this is what suggested Tennyson's New Year's poem to the bells. It is certainly poetic enough to have inspired someone.

At Oxford, a century and a half ago, New Year's eve was called "Scrutiny Night." On that night the servants of the college gave up their keys to the Warden and Fellows, and presently received them back with a Latin address—and perhaps a tip in addition.

A pretty New Year's eve custom in Derbyshire is for the lady of the house to serve posset into which she has dropped her wedding ring, every unmarried guest striving to secure it in his or her ladleful, for its possession means that one will be fortunately married within the year.

There is record of King Henry VII. receiving in state a New Year's present from his queen. The king had just arisen and sat in his dressing-gown at the foot of his bed, when the gift was brought to him, and he then returned one to the queen, after which both received gifts from their courtiers. There is a story that King Henry VIII. received as a New Year's gift from Latimer a copy of the Bible with a leaf turned down at Hebrews 13:4. Apples skewered on three sticks so as to form tripod legs were New Year's gifts in England, and so were gilded nutmegs.

Perhaps, after all, the modern New Year has preserved more of the ancient customs than might be supposed at first sight. Chimes, midnight feasting and masquerading are certainly features of it, as they were of the old English New Year. The "watch-meeting," however, is more or less an innovation, though when we consider that half the old observances were once religious rites, we may truly feel that there is nothing new in holidays.

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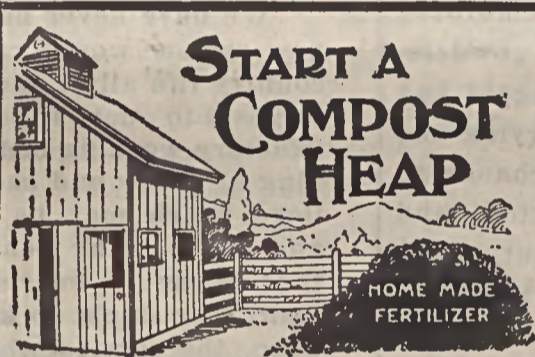
Klondyke Strawberry Plants until Feb. 1st, at \$1.50 per M.; in lots of 5,000 or over, \$1 per M.

Hazel Long Staple Cotton Seed, \$1 per bushel; 5 bushel lots or over, 75 cents per bushel. These seeds have been selling at 17 and 19 cents a pound.

ELROY BAILEY, Chadbourn, N. C.

Member of Washington Local.

F-



And Save Money on Fertilizer.

START a compost heap in the barn lot. Mix with the barnyard manure all waste of whatever kind—all straw, weeds, stalks, leaves, bones, everything. Rot as it accumulates, with Red Devil Lye. The lye starts it to rotting at once. All odors are killed. All seeds from weeds, bad grass and other plant life is killed. By Spring you have real fertilizer—all rotted black and fine. Until you try this one time you don't know what you are losing.

Regular barnyard manure rotted with Red Devil Lye is improved fifty per cent in fertilizing value and costs you next to nothing.

We have a booklet that tells how to start a compost heap and how to handle it. Write for this book today. It will prove the best penny you ever spent for a postal.

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Raymond, aged five, returned from Sunday-school in a state of evident excitement. He strutted around the room as if about to burst with importance. The sympathetic eye of his mother was not slow to observe this.

"What's the matter, Raymond?" she asked.

"Oh, mother," exclaimed the small boy, his eyes sparkling, "the superintendent said something awful

nice about me in his prayer this morning."

"What did he say?"

"He said, 'Oh, Lord, we thank Thee for food and Raymond.'"

Life without endeavor is like entering a jewel-mine and coming out with empty hands.—Japanese Proverb.