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EDITORIAL SHORT-STOPS

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RURAL credit plans may give farmers some relief from the burdens of usury. What farmers need more than anything else is not credit but cash—more of the consumer's dollar.

The function of our educational system should be to find out the bent and temperament of each child and educate him for what he is fitted by nature for, instead of dealing with students in the mass as though they were all cast in the same mold.

An April fool is a farmer who works his land through the month when it is too wet.

Bonds for good roads are all right if the funds are handled for road building on a business basis, instead of using it to reward political chair warmers. The political job hunter can scent a good roads appropriation afar off.

Watch your Farmers' Union leaders. They may mean well but they are treading on dangerous ground if they permit partisan politicians to recognize their worth by bestowing political appointments upon them.

In this country the government itself has created a gigantic money trust. A rural credit idea will not get far without the sanction of the money trust. Give the farmer a fair price for his products and he will have the cash to do business with.

In pointing out the weak places in the record of the recent North Carolina Legislature, the Progressive Farmer "missed the whole shootin' match," so far as the interests of the farmer are concerned. It forgot to put it in bold-face letters, or in any other kind of letters, that the Legislature failed to make it compulsory for the Commissioner of Agriculture to use a fair proportion of the two hundred thousand dollar fund which farmers pay into that department in teaching systematic marketing along with systematic production.

Get improved farming implements, of course. But don't be in too big a hurry to make your selection of an untried implement in your locality. Millions of dollars have been invested in implements that were soon discarded to rust out.

Isn't it strange that all the benefactors offer

their prizes to those who produce most on the farm and never a one of them offer any prize for the best co-operative selling system? Farmers want prices, not prizes.

No benefit has yet been derived from anti-trust laws except to pay court costs and lawyers' and receivers' fees, and these fees ultimately come out of the consumer, after the company organizes under another name and raises the price of its products.

The extra session of Congress will pull off another tariff show. After they revise the tariff, prices to consumers will be practically the same as now, and you farmers will continue to pay that high credit "tariff" to your time merchant for what you buy and also continue to let an army of useless middlemen take a "tariff" of 65 cents of the consumer's dollar when you sell. If you have been waiting for politicians to give you relief through a political tariff, you can now get ready for the biggest disappointment of your life. It's coming all right—when Congress gets together and piles the "relief" down on you.

Isn't it nearly time for the Commissioners of Agriculture in the South to again start on the rounds to try to get farmers not to produce too much cotton? It looks like double taxes to teach the boys how to produce and then follow it up again, at the expense of the tax payers, with a campaign to put them on guard against producing too much! But then the farmers are good-natured, and they can stand it all right. They've been standing it with a great deal of patience.

What became of the idea of establishing a bureau of markets in connection with the Department of Agriculture? That's really a more important matter than the Torrens System of registering land titles. Unless we have a reformed system of marketing those who actually till the soil will, in the course of time, have no land titles to register. Those who are given the uncontested right to price the products of the land will ultimately own the land upon which the products are grown.

Working for the benefit of somebody else. That's what the farmer does who bends all his energies to produce big crops, the prices of which decline in proportion to the increased yields.