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C. A. EURY, - - Managing Editor.

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Raleigh, N. C. - - - April 3, 1913.

Profit and Loss

SALES of commercial fertilizers increase by a large per cent every year in North Carolina. Where two or three hundred pounds of commercial fertilizers per acre were applied a few years ago, it is not unusual in many sections of the middle and eastern counties, to see applications of from one thousand to two thousand pounds applied per acre, and perhaps a top dressing of nitrate of soda besides. It would be interesting to know just what per cent of the increased yields per acre in North Carolina are due solely to excessive use of soluble commercial fertilizers instead of good farming. The result of "fertilizer" farming will show a profit of course, to the fertilizer companies and dealers who sell that product on time, but as a whole, can a profit be shown in favor of the farmer who depends entirely upon commercial fertilizers, purchased at "time" prices, where proper interest is allowed on the value of the farm, stock, tools, etc., and a fair allowance is made for the labor of each member of the family who helps produce the crops?

Robbing the Soil

IN TRAVELING through nearly all the counties of the State the writer has seen only a field now and then with a winter cover crop of rye or crimson clover. It is probably safe to say that nine-tenths of the fields that are now being plowed up for cultivation are clean, bare fields. No winter crop was grown on the land to prevent "leaching" and the soil is poorer than it was a year ago. Under such conditions the yields can be kept up only by increased applications of expensive commercial fertilizers which must be replaced every year at high cost. With all the sermons that have been preached on soil building, it is only now and then that a farm shows evidence of soil building. With the predominating tenant system that prevails in the South, we can hope for but little improvement from that class, but the man who owns and cultivates his own land should see that each acre under cultivation gets better every year. If he has more acres in cultivation than he can improve, a part of it should be "turned out" to reproduce itself with second-growth timber.

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' Union will be held in Shelby, August 26th. This meeting will take the place of both summer and winter meetings and will be considered the annual meeting. It is very probable that the annual meeting will be held in August each year instead of December.

Neighborhood Co-operation

HAVE you ever thought about the tremendous waste of idle machinery and implements owned by individual farmers? In traveling through any neighborhood you'll find under the sheds of farmers implements that are used only a few hours in the year, such as grain drills, planters, stalk-cutters, mowers, rakes, etc., that damage almost as much by rust as by use. Of course the farmer can proudly boast of being the absolute owner of these things, but isn't it false pride and false economy to be the sole owner of idle property just for the sake of calling it your own? The implement trust appreciates that kind of individual pride, all right, because it increases its sales and adds millions of dollars profits to be divided among the stockholders. It has been the purpose of *The Carolina Union Farmer* to keep everlastingly trying to plant some thoughts that will cause farmers to think along economic and business lines and get out of the beaten paths. Neighborhood co-operation—the joining together of two or more farmers in the ownership of farm implements, makes it possible to save millions of dollars in the waste for idle implements, and it also makes it possible to have the use of additional labor-saving implements not otherwise available to the individual farmer.

Condition of the Union

IT HAS been the policy of this paper to deal frankly with its readers. We don't think a bluff or exaggeration is ever justifiable, unless in extreme cases of emergency. As a general policy it is never justifiable, for the bluff will be called sooner or later. With this preface we are going to say that the condition of the Farmers' Union in North Carolina, the year 1913, is fairly good. The numerical strength of the paid members is better than was expected by those best acquainted with conditions and difficulties to be met and overcome. There are several hundred delinquent Local Unions. Some of these are being re-instated. The membership of hundreds of Local Unions has fallen off heavily, while in some of the older Local Unions a good gain in membership has resulted this year over last year's report. The State Secretary informs us that, while he has not yet made accurate comparison, he thinks the paid membership in North Carolina this year will foot up about the same as last year. The members are "stiking" best in those Locals and counties where there is most co-operation, in business transactions and where warehouses and other enterprises are under construction or operation.

The Use of School-Houses

IN A recent issue the Progressive Farmer expressed surprise that school-houses in one locality had been closed against the Farmers' Union. To those of us who have been down in the trenches, forcing the organization into new localities, the refusal of the use of school houses for the Farmers' Union is no new impediment. The writer remembers at least two counties that organizers left because county superintendents of education stubbornly and almost insultingly ordered the local organizers to stay out of the school houses. These instances, however, are not common. They never would have occurred anywhere if county superintendents were elected by the people instead of being chosen by partisan political boards. As a consequence of this kind of usurped power and domination brave Farmers' Union men have in some localities, come together and built halls of their own. A narrow partisan official can't defeat a worthy set of farmers who are made of the right kind of stuff.

The purest treasure mortal times afford is—spotless reputation.—Shakespeare.

The modern majesty consists in work. What a man can do is his greatest ornament.—Carlyle.

How Shall We Get Them?

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND people, mainly farmers, left the United States in six months last year for the single Canadian province of Alberta, simply because the Canadian government was offering them cheap land. On this subject the Columbia State says:

"Iowa lost 300 white farmers recently within ten days, and the worst of it is that this was only the beginning of a yearly spring migration from that State to Canada. Most of these men are householders of some means, sprung from good stock and of a thrifty habit. That few of them, moreover, are illiterate we may take for granted, upon the assurance of the census bureau that among Iowans ten years of age and over literacy averages 98.9 per cent. These are in short exactly the sort of people South Carolina needs.

"Here, as we ourselves well know, they would find congenial associations, familiar ideals and customs, reasonably good church and school opportunities, fertile lands which may be had in quantity at low price, and, distinctively, a mild, equable climate. This last would mean to them the growing of more than one crop per year, freedom from interruption of outdoor work by cold, and relief from the necessity of making special and expensive provision for winter in the items of fuel, clothing and housing.

"But instead of coming here they go to Canada, where the long winter practically interdicts outdoor work, limits crop-production to one season, makes necessary the sheltering and artificial feeding of live stock for a quarter of the year, and requires, for the family, extra food, fuel, clothing and housing; where, also, not churches and schools only but nearly all other social activities, are interfered with considerably by the cold, and in the outlying districts a stagnation of community life almost amounting to hibernation is of annual recurrence from the same cause.

"Why is it that these sensible folk make the worse choice, as between Canada and Carolina? Assuredly it is not from intention based on full information. The answer is easily found. The farming householder of the Northwestern States is continually under enticement, through newspaper advertisements, seductively designed publicity work of other forms and expert personal solicitation, to "Come up into Canada"; whereas he remains uninformed concerning the attractions which this Southern country, specifically the Carolinas, may hold for him—unless indeed he seek the information on his own initiative. We can not hope to divert to our own section any considerable share of this desirable immigration, unless we make the attempt with something like the energy, enterprise and thoroughness exhibited in Canada's behalf by railroad and other agents from that country. All of this, or the substance of it, has been said often before in Southern newspapers, but occasion for the saying of it again is presented at this time in the spring resumption of the movement into Canada coincidently with the formation in Baltimore of an association, the Southern Settlement and Development Organization, having for a principal object the procurement for the South of this very class of settlers. Some missionary work among Northwestern farmers is already being done by State bureaus, railroads and Chambers of Commerce in the South, but the sum of all such work falls far short of meeting Canadian competition."

Hundreds of people are yearly leaving North Carolina for Southern Georgia and other points because land is cheap. Every county in North Carolina is begging for immigrants, yet many of them make the mistake of turning population away by shooting up land values. It is population, not land, that makes wealth. The so-called increase in wealth due to the rise of land values is no increase at all in real wealth. It is simply a transference of money from part of the community to another part. What we need to do is really to discourage the increase of land values so that population will come in and produce the wealth than will make the community rich.—The State Journal.

There will be a meeting of the Wake County Farmers' Union in the library of the Masonic Temple Friday, April 11th at 11 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of discussing the warehouse proposition. Every member of the Union who is interested in the organization building a storage warehouse, cotton gin or oil mill in Raleigh, should attend this meeting.