



TAR HEEL SKETCHES.

BY J. Z. GREEN.

Over at the meeting of Cleveland County Union at Shelby Thursday, President Joe Blanton called the attention of the brethren that in August that Cleveland County is the "mother of the Farmers Union" in North Carolina and that the old lady would be called upon to entertain her children in August, the State Executive Committee having named Shelby as the place for the summer meeting of the State Union. "We want to give the children a good time back at the old homestead," said President Blanton, and it goes without saying that Shelby and Cleveland County will take good care of the convention. Brother Blanton will find that the "old lady" not only has a big family of children but also a lot of great grandchildren, when more than eighty counties dump their delegates into Shelby.

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For convenience in co-operative buying some Local Unions in the State have collected from their members, small trading funds to be used in paying bills. The fund is placed to the credit of the member who does the buying and is replaced as the goods are delivered. In some instances this trading capital amounts to a hundred dollars, and in some instances it is less. Over in Orange County a proposition was made to collect a hundred dollars among the members to be used in paying bills by the local trade agent. "No," said a thoughtful member, "a better plan will be to hire the hundreds dollars from a member who has a surplus and pay the interest on the same from the fees and dues that come into our local treasury." And his plan was adopted. A young man in the Union had a hundred dollars which he didn't need the use of himself. All the members signed a joint note and hired his hundred dollars for six dollars a year which was paid out of the common fund in the local treasury, thus letting the expense rest alike upon each member. "We have been buying our sugar for \$4.55 per hundred pounds and coffee (which retails for twenty-two cents) at sixteen cents a pound," said a member of that Local Union last week, "and I tell you we have been keeping that hired capital busy for our benefit." The young member

whose capital they hired would have received only four dollars a year from the bank. In this instance he receives six dollars a year and at the same time it benefits his vicinity just in proportion as the members keep that money busy. This expediency in neighborhood buying is also adopted by many other Local Unions in the State.

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It is far better for the country to have small towns well distributed over the State than to have congestions of population into a few large cities. It is to be hoped that the tendency that prevails in the North to concentrate the people into a few cities will not prevail in the South. It isn't best for the farmer who wants a near-by market and it isn't best for city consumers to be so far separated. I don't think North Carolina is threatened with this sort of congested population. In the greater proportion of our smaller towns the growth of population compares favorably with that of the larger cities.

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People in cities like something new. Unless there is variety and novelty they grow restless. On the court house corner at Durham the other night a long-haired preacher attracted a good audience. I could hardly pass the street without pushing my way through, so I yielded to the temptation to listen at the long-haired man myself. He was dealing sledge-hammer blows at nearly everything in existence as well as at things that are not in existence. "My sister wanted me to join the church and get in society," said he. And then he proceeded to deal with the modern city church as a society for social recreation and display of costly apparel. "I used to belong to that thing up there with a drum in it (referring to the Salvation Army on the other corner) until they wanted me to beg for money, and I quit them," said he. And as his kind of preaching furnished novelty that the Salvation Army no longer carried with it, this long-haired preacher had the crowd with him that night and the other street preachers were not in it. Which means if you want to keep up interest in this restless age you must change the program occasionally.

North Carolina was better represented in the Conference at Richmond than any other State except Virginia. Some of our Farmers' Union men asked Mr. Caldwell, of Minnesota, if he could attend the meeting of the State Union in North Carolina and make a talk on co-operation, but he could give no definite answer until his return from the European countries, where he goes to investigate co-operation over there. It would certainly be a treat to have either Nelson, Tousley or Caldwell at one of our meetings.

"PASSING OF THE HORSE."

The above is the title of a new book written by Herbert N. Casson, L. W. Ellis and Rollin W. Hutchinson, Jr. This book has been written in collaboration by three experts in their respective fields. Mr. Casson is well known for his original research work in industrial and economic subjects and also as an advertising expert. His best known books are "The Romance of the Reaper," "The History of the Telephone," and "Ads and Sales." Mr. Hutchinson writes authoritatively as a commercial motor vehicle engineer, and Mr. Ellis is connected with the Rumley Company, manufacturers of motor trucks.

This is the first and only book of its kind and is not written to serve any literary purpose, but to tell the latest facts concerning the unprofitableness of the horse.

Many of the facts are startling in their magnitude. If it be true, as these writers maintain, that our total horse-cost is now \$2,000,000,000 a year for maintenance alone, then there can be scarcely any other problem so urgent and so important as the displacing of horse-power by trucks and tractors on the farms and in the cities of the United States.

Whoever is personally concerned in the immense waste and costliness of horse-power, will find this book of great interest and value. Written especially for horse-owners who are finding their horse-profits decreasing.

A tariff for revenue only is a tariff for the people only.—Birmingham Age-Herald.