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JOHN B. SHERRILL, Editor and Publisher.

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THE FARMERS' UNION.

Our Home.
The growth of the Farmers' Union has no parallel in the history of the world. It marks the beginning of a new era in agricultural life. It is a fact that in a multitude of countries there is wisdom in the educational influence of an organization that can enroll over two million farmers as members within a short period of five years, is destined to be far-reaching in its effect and elevating in its tendency. It is a noticeable fact that many farmers who were never interested in the Farmers' Alliance are becoming enthusiastic and loyal members of the Farmers' Union. While it is an educational organization it does not mean that it is merely a negative force. It is pre-eminently a business organization and as such it must take positive action to produce tangible results. In its business transactions it proceeds with discretion and shows no disposition to be in any great haste to put into action its plans. To change environments that are detrimental to the great agricultural interests it will require time. To carry to maturity plans that will change the course of history as it relates to agricultural conditions will require heroic work, wise leadership and practical judgment, and those who have joined the Union seem to fully realize this fact. They know something of the obstacles that are to be overcome, and knowing this, it gives them the nerve and the patience that it takes to win.

There will be a lot of public meetings in the organized counties of North Carolina during the next two months. It is the purpose of the officials to conduct a kind of educational campaign during the leisure summer months, and the meetings will be made as pleasant and entertaining as possible.

North Carolina is the last State in the cotton belt to go into the Farmers' Union, but the organization in this State is growing very rapidly, and by the end of the first year it will be found as active as it is in the older organized States.

There will be called meeting of the State Farmers' Union at Lincolnton on Thursday, August 6th, to elect delegates to the national meeting which convenes at Fort Worth, Tex., September 3rd.

Profitable Farming on Four Acres.

Mr. W. E. Funderburk, of Monroe, made on his farm, two miles south of town, 576 bushels of oats, 285 bushels being reaped from four acres of land. On the same four acre field Mr. Funderburk made last year \$248.20 worth of cotton and cotton seed, at an expense of \$81.60, or a net profit of \$166.60. The oats just threshed, the Apler variety, are worth 75 cents per bushel or more, but at 75 cents per bushel the crop is worth \$213.75 and was made at a cost of \$29, making a net profit of \$184.75, to say nothing of the straw which is worth several dollars. Mr. Funderburk has sown the four-acre patch in peas.

The axiom that a burnt child dreads the fire does not apply in the case of the foolish Gould woman, who, after freeing herself, as she regards it, from the long struggle, from Boni de Castellane, yesterday hung in with another and worse besotted member of the same degenerate family. Whatever may come to her she has relinquished in advance any claim upon public sympathy.—Charlotte Observer.

If a man can take eight or nine hundred delegates and make them do things they do not want to do he should certainly be big enough for president.—Durham Herald.

A Bold Step.

To overcome the well-grounded and reasonable objections of the more intelligent to the use of secret, medicinal compounds, Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., some time ago, decided to make a bold step from the usual course pursued by the makers of put-up medicines for domestic use, and so has published broadcast and openly to the whole world, a full and complete list of all the ingredients entering into the composition of his widely celebrated medicines. Thus he has taken his numerous patrons and patients into their full confidence. Thus too he has removed the veil from among secret nostrums of doubtful merits, and made them medicines of known composition.

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IT IS A TIME FOR BUILDING.

Now and Observer.
If there ever was a time for building houses in which lumber is used, now is the time, and those who study the conditions of the lumber market realize that this is the truth. This condition is brought about by the slump in the lumber market, in some instances there being a drop of \$5 a thousand, and such a condition says in plain terms to those who expect to build "Get at it now even if you have to borrow the money with which to do it."

That now is the season for building is clearly seen here in Raleigh where the contract price for houses is way below that of a year or six months ago. As the material is cheaper the houses can be erected for less money and this being done, and in some places lumber dealers in order to have a market for their products are joining in with large land-owners in erecting buildings for rent, as these can now be built at figures way within those of a short time ago. If such arrangements as these can be made it is safe to advise all who are going to build to get busy right now.

Especially is this so in view of the fact that it is not known at what time conditions may change again and the market advance. It is the statement of builders that such favorable conditions for the man who is going to build may not occur for many years, and the man who desires to have his own home should act at once.

There is an abundance of lumber yards anxious to fill orders, as the longer it stands on the yards the greater is the depreciation, and the general expression is that building now is cheaper by fifteen per cent than it was this time last year, a condition brought by the general depression in business and the suspension of building operations on a large scale. This gives to the home builder his opportunity and if he is wise he will grasp it at once and not delay, for at any time the advance in prices may begin.

What Socialism Stands for.

A Socialist organizer has been narrating in Newton and from all accounts, he took a rank hold on the subject. The Newton Enterprise reports him as saying that Socialism means that the factories, railroads and other big enterprises shall be owned collectively by the whole people who will manage them and share in the profits. In answer to a question he said Socialism is the complete owning the lands and farms. As to how the change from private to public ownership of all the many factories and railroads can be made, he said he did not know, but that will be determined when they elect a President and take charge of the government. But he suggested four plans by which this could be done. First by building publicly-owned factories and railroads and running the others out of business; second, by fixing the hours and price of labor so that the private owners would have to quit business; third under the right of eminent domain, as the right of way of railroads is secured, or in other words, by as the right of eminent domain, as one robber takes the property of another, by seizing his pistol and getting the drop on him.

The fellow is named Fitts. Wonder if he is gentleman who took part in water-works rucus in Charlotte some time ago?

Thinks Her Son The Messiah.

Asserting that her six-year-old son, Charles Goodall, was the Messiah, his mother, Mrs. Grace Goodall, of New York, branded him for a lot of trouble and throat with a red hot iron. The child early Saturday from the religion crazed woman and both were taken to the Bellevue Hospital, where the mother told the police and hospital authorities that she had branded the boy whom she believed to be the long looked for Messiah, so that he would be known marked and distinct from others in his life. The police charge that the woman also tried to kill her mother, with whom she lived, and herself. The little boy, though, terribly burned, will recover. The two women were placed in the Paicpatic ward of observation.

Warning to Republicans.

It is noised abroad that the two special detectives employed by Charlotte to ferret out blind tigers made out over 200 cases during the convention alone, not counting those of these, the Republicans who are to meet there in August, had better order in a couple of car loads from outside the State.

It would be interesting to know the number of escapes from the State penitentiary, the penitentiary farms and convict camps, within the past six months, say, and the number of escapes has been so numerous recently as to cause one to wonder if an investigation should be made.—Statesville Landmark.

As indicated by the latest government report, the prospects are for substantially increased yields over last year in all the principal crops, including corn, cotton, spring wheat, winter wheat and oats.

A MILLIONAIRE HUSBANDMAN.

How George W. Vanderbilt Makes His Farm Pay.

By Atlanta.
At Billmore, in North Carolina, George W. Vanderbilt has spent over \$2,000,000 in creating the greatest estate in America. He has torn down a mountain, built a great castle and owns seventeen square miles of mountain country. These miles, however, are under the most careful cultivation, either as farming, grazing or timber land.

The owner of Billmore has the result of picking the right man for the right work. He induced a "book farmer" from Louisiana to come into the Carolina mountains and take charge of the fields, flocks and herds. That was eleven years ago, and until Arthur S. Wheeler began riding up and down the hills and through the bottoms he had never known of agriculture, except from the printed page. He tested the soil of the few little worn-out plantations on the estate, he examined the hillsides. He brought into the green manure, fertilizing the earth, of crop rotation, of the fodder and grain which might grow here, and especially of the live stock which might thrive and yield a profit. He decided that high-grade Jersey cattle would pay in milk and butter, also hogs and poultry, and that the product of the soil should be first for their benefit. So the bare hills became pastures and lots for the swine to range, ample shelter being, of course, provided. The poultry farm was stocked with record egg-layers of high degree, also pigeons, for squabs are profitable. Modern incubators hatched chickens by the hundreds. Everything, however, was conducted on strictly business lines. Each Jersey had her own stall and a page in the dairy record. Every time she is milked the number of quarts she gives are marked on the record, as is also the butter test—the quantity of butter which the cream would yield. All the ensilage and other fodder she eats in a day are debited against her. When a hen in the poultry house wants to contribute to the egg fund she enters a "trap" nest by which she shuts a gate which keeps her a prisoner until the poultry keeper finds her. He looks at the number on the same old man claims to have killed the deer himself," said Col. Gaither, "but I am getting away from the story. As I said Butler and the man could not trade, so Butler came to me saying he could not trade with the 'd—d oldascal," and asked me to come to his house and trade the old man out of the stone, giving him cash and jewelry. Well, to make a long story short, for we wrestled back and forth for a time, before we could agree on what would satisfy the man; I finally landed it for Butler, and the old man went away happy, with a good sum of money and several fine looking gold watches and fancy chains, in all between \$500 and \$800 worth of stuff, and by the terms of the private trade between Butler and I, I was the gainer by \$100 or more for getting the stone. You see Butler wanted it.

"From Butler the stone went to the late Dr. Dennis O'Donohue, who heired about of Butler's estate and from Dr. O'Donohue I do not recall who got it, but have heard that one of the physicians in the city now has it.

"But I forgot to tell you about John Butler taking the stone north with him and having the rough party to levy a tax on dogs has failed. Now the people who usually have to set the pace for the politicians, are putting the dogs on the tax list themselves. By and by all dogs will be taxed, as they should have been all along, but the so-called leaders and representatives of the people will deserve no credit for it.

As to the Taxing of Dogs.

In the township of French Broad, a rural precinct in the county of Buncombe, dogs to the value of 1,300 have been returned for taxation according to the veracious Asheville Citizen. This sudden zeal to place the canine tribe on the tax lists is not entirely due to a virtuous desire to levy a tax on Caesar the things that Caesar bit is due to the fact that an untaxed dog is not property and not entitled to the protection of the law, while a dog on the tax list is property same as a cow or horse and he who molests the tax-paid dog does so at his peril. All these years a few people here and there have cried aloud for a dog tax, but the politician, having before his eyes always the fear of the one-gallus voter, the proud possessor of 14 dogs and one hog, is always disreputably silent when a dog tax is mentioned in the Legislature, and each attempt to levy a tax on dogs has failed. Now the people who usually have to set the pace for the politicians, are putting the dogs on the tax list themselves. By and by all dogs will be taxed, as they should have been all along, but the so-called leaders and representatives of the people will deserve no credit for it.

Ants as Weather Prophets.

Ants as weather prophets afford new testimony to the cleverness of these small animals. When you go out on a spring morning and find the ants busy engaged in clearing out their nests and dragging the sand and bits of earth to the surface you may be sure that no matter how cloudy it is there will be no rain that day and the probabilities are for several days of good weather.

A Californian's Luck.

"The luckiest day of my life was when I bought a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve," writes Charles F. Bundaba of Tracy, California. "Two or three boxes cured me of an annoying case of itching piles, which had troubled me for years and that yielded to no other treatment." Sold under guarantee at all drugists.

MADSTONE FROM DEER'S STOMACH.

The Late John Butler Paid a Mountaineer About \$800 for Hydrophobia Specific Which Has Saved 1134 Lives.

C. W. H. in Charlotte News.
"I have been thinking today," said a citizen yesterday, "about the wonderful record of the Butler madstone—and its 1134 times sticking to dog bites, and of all that number not a single case of hydrophobia ever developed. It is beyond common belief."

"I can tell you boys something about that stone," said Col. Thos. H. Gaither, who was one of the party addressed, "but what's the use? You'd go home and forget it all."

"Never mind about that last part," said the first spokesman, "I am interested in the stone and what it can do, so go on and tell us what you know."

"I don't believe there is anything in it," broke in the doubter, "It's all stuff—talk about a rock keeping off hydrophobia! Bosh!"

"But you keep still and let Col. Gaither tell us," said the first man. "To begin with," said Col. Gaither, "Old John Butler was a reckless, harrum-scarrum, take-all-the-chances kind of a fellow. Right after the war, and about the year 1869 he had a jewelry store in the room now occupied by the Blitrite shoe store. One day there came from somewhere in the mountains an old man wearing home-spun jeans clothes, with gaiters made of cloth, a hard looking, but smart old fellow, and he had come all the way to Charlotte to sell the madstone.

"Butler was one of the first he showed it to, and it caught his eye on sight, and he wanted it bad; but the old man wanted a pile of money for it—so much that he and Butler could not trade. The old man had it carefully wrapped in half-dozen or more cloths and safely tied in a bag. In looks, at that time, it was about the size of an egg, and looked like a series of shells placed one upon top of another, the outer one being broken in, and looking, for the break, like a broken piece in a hard boiled egg, except for color."

"Where did the old man say he found it?" asked the first spokesman, butting in again.

"I was just about to tell you that it came from the stomach of a deer, and this same old man claims to have killed the deer himself," said Col. Gaither, "but I am getting away from the story. As I said Butler and the man could not trade, so Butler came to me saying he could not trade with the 'd—d oldascal," and asked me to come to his house and trade the old man out of the stone, giving him cash and jewelry. Well, to make a long story short, for we wrestled back and forth for a time, before we could agree on what would satisfy the man; I finally landed it for Butler, and the old man went away happy, with a good sum of money and several fine looking gold watches and fancy chains, in all between \$500 and \$800 worth of stuff, and by the terms of the private trade between Butler and I, I was the gainer by \$100 or more for getting the stone. You see Butler wanted it.

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From Cherry-Blossom Land.

It is a proverb of Cherry Blossom Land that a healthy stomach is the basis of all strength. Good nature is the most recognized as great importance. The Japanese as a people are remarkable for their health, endurance, patience and energy. They have a system of physical training which is universally used. It is called the Jiu Jitsu, and by this they regulate diet, bathing, clothing, breathing, muscular development and boxing. They have a philosophy of life which is followed by good health. They try to banish worry and believe that a cheerful view of life is a good foundation for strength. Such people are apt to be adopted by our American people. They are apt to be adopted by our own people. One is that a woman is as old as she looks. The Japanese woman's face is usually as unlined as a baby's. Although the Japanese women do not usually have the well-developed features of our American women, yet they do not wrinkle from worry or suffer as do our American women. What makes it that makes our American women often look so old? It is their life. They eat wholemeal food and do not practice high living. To keep young a woman must keep healthy and strong. When she is run down with the pains and ills which come periodically, her brain is crowded, indigestion disturbs the stomach, the body does not get healthful growth, and she is a nervous wreck. She plunges into social dissipation, followed only too closely by the taking up of wifely duties and responsibilities towards a husband who has only noticed her beautiful face. The woman suffering from continued nervousness, weakness, headache and backache, needs the advice of a physician of the largest experience in the diseases of

ON TO DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.

News and Observer.

The Democratic party of the United States faces the coming election with the brightest of prospects for victory, dependent upon a determination of all Democrats to stand to the party, and laying aside all past differences to unite as a harmonious whole in the determination to succeed.

With Bryan and Kern and the platform upon which these go to the country there is every chance for success and the news comes from the various sections is that the country is turning to the Democratic party as the great hope of all the people as it stands for the people and their rights.

Men and papers who have stood in opposition to Mr. Bryan are swinging into line, and out of the Great West comes an increasing demand for his election. His wisdom and statesmanship are such that there is contained in him, and the platform which he endorses in explicit terms that which means for the best interests of all the people, and the advancement of this great country.

Writing concerning the nomination of Mr. Bryan, the Wilmington Dispatch has the following to say: "William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska, for President. No matter what have been our opinions, and how divided we have been, the Democratic family must be reunited. Those of us who didn't want him for the nominee must bow to the will of the majority and must be content to put party above personal feeling—and above the man—because, while Mr. Bryan, in the opinion of many Democrats may not have been the best man to head the ticket, yet there was no division of opinion about the Democratic party being the best party to administer the affairs of this country. Hence, from the narrowest viewpoint it must be the party first. If the party gets control no one man can run it, and the Democratic party is greatly preferable to hold the reins of government. That is the vital question at issue and all former Democrats should stick by the party and those Republicans, who have long been aware of the fact that the affairs of the government could, to say the least, be improved and who as loyal citizens desire a change for the better, must swell the ranks so that victory will be forthcoming next November. It will then be as much their victory as ours, and they will be benefited just as much as we are in seeing and feeling the country prosper. The platform adopted at Denver well sets forth the many acts of violence that have been done to the country by the Republican party, and one alone, the supreme, iron-hand rule of Speaker Cannon, should be sufficient to show that the country needs a change. The latter unless the United States to be turned into a monarchy.

"Rah for the Democratic party and Bryan!"

The secret of happiness is to keep the secret going.

THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

Greenboro City News and Observer, 1908.

The presence here today of Mr. C. M. Ray, of Charlotte, on a tour of personal campaigning for the nomination by the Republican State Convention as its candidate for Labor Commissioner, has pleased greatly those local Republicans who are not accustomed to having nominations for State officers sought after. From the fact that since the era of Russellism and negro rule most candidates for State Republican nominations have to be "drafted," this respectful but earnest seeking of a nomination by the Mecklenburg man is a distinct novelty, which these Republicans highly appreciate.

Illustrative of this appreciation, the following is apropos: Early in the morning, an influential Republican here had given this correspondent his guess at the names of candidates who would be induced to run for the State offices. His "slate" was as follows: Governor, Elwood Cox, of Guilford; Lieutenant-Governor, I. M. Meekins, of Pasquotank; Secretary of State, J. J. Jenkins, of Chatham; Treasurer, J. H. Weddington, of Mecklenburg; Auditor, George Pritchard, of Mitchell; Attorney General, A. H. Price, of Rowan; Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. J. Britt, of Buncombe; Corporation Commissioner, W. F. Talley, of Randolph; Commissioner of Agriculture, A. J. Moyer, of Pitt; Labor Commissioner, S. F. Vance, of Forsyth; Electors, S. F. Bynum, Jr., of Guilford; Frank Hepburn, of Macon, for Congress, Fifth district, endorse John W. Fries, of Forsyth, who may run as an independent business man's candidate.

An hour later the slate maker called up this chronicler on the 'phone and the following conversation was had: "Hello, Joyner. Say, wish you'd take Sam Vance's name down off of that ticket for Labor Commissioner and put C. M. Ray, of Mecklenburg, up. He's here asking for it, and he ought to be rewarded for his pluck, and besides he's a first-class fellow."

The slate maker's attention was called to the omission of a candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture and he said if his advice was followed no nomination for this office would be made, so that Charlie Cotton Moore would be encouraged to fight it out with Major Graham and tell the farmers how he was hoodoed out of it.

Persons in the \$15 a week class are interested in hearing that Stuyvesant Fish, former president of the Illinois Central railroad, says this: "In my opinion it is harder for persons who have received an income of \$250,000 a year to come down to live on \$50,000 a year basis, than for a man who has been earning \$15 a week to accustom himself to living on \$10 a week."

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