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Economy Day in Sumter County, S. C.

RECENTLY the best crowd that has assembled in Sumter County since the first cotton conference last fall met in the courthouse to discuss economy and fertilizers. The first speaker was the President of the South Carolina Farmers' Union, on some phases of economy. He did not touch upon personal economy at all, stating that he regarded that as a matter that needed very little discussion. His remarks were confined to the problems of economical home and farm management, which he divided into four parts. The garden, the poultry yard, the barn yard, and the farm tools. These four general divisions, with some subdivisions being all that could be covered in a popular speech.

The suggestions about uniformity of farm tools and implements not only for one farm but for a neighborhood and even a county—and right pitching of crops, seem to have been the most striking things said on economy, judging by comments of the newspaper reporters. The discussions on fertilizers revolved around more home-made manures, and a diversity of crops leading to stock raising.

Most people when the subject of economy is mentioned immediately think of personal expenses. I am of the opinion that our personal extravagance is a bagatelle compared with the losses from failure to plan our work right. The importance of the garden, the poultry yard, the pigery and the dairy were emphasized as sources of support for the family, and of income from the sale of the surplus of these products. And no family can be economically fed, or fed on the most nutritious diet, that depends for a large part of the year on tin cans and paper bags for its food supply.

A resume of the reasons for growing the same type of poultry, hogs, cattle, and field crops in a given community was a feature of this meeting to which was added the economy of owning and using the same kinds of farm tools.

One reason why so many improved implements are rotting and rusting out in the weather on so many farms is that the repair parts are so expensive and hard to get. We could save a larger sum than our state, county and school taxes each year if we had uniformity of farm implements by neighborhoods and counties.

Over cropping is another fearful source of loss; or one-sided farming that requires two or three times the normal supply of labor at certain periods and then nothing to do at others. One-sided farming is responsible for billions of dollars loss in the cotton crop each year from low grade cotton that is low because of too much cotton to pick for the labor available.

Drs. Dwight and Baker made most interesting talks on making and saving manure; Mr. C. L. Cutlin on lack of thrift; Mr. Beall on diversified farming that would cut cotton out; Mr. W. E. Kolb on practical farm management; and Mr. Dunbar on the state warehouse system of handling cotton.

The closest attention of the many farmers who sat through more than two hours of plain talks on these important farm topics was a good sign for the future of farming in this county.

From all over the state we read of very timely discussions of economy and fertilizers. Probably never before

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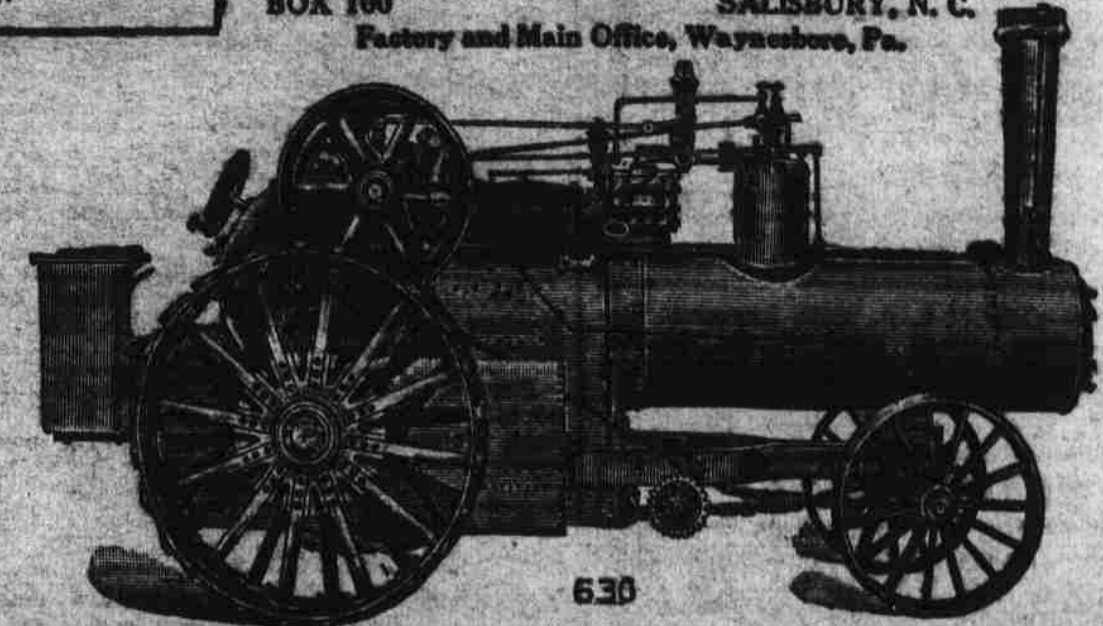
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in the history of the state, have so many farmers assembled on the same day to discuss agriculture as gathered Saturday, February 13, in the county courthouses of South Carolina under the proclamation of his Excellency, Gov. R. J. Manning. Himself a farmer, who wrung success from a poor soil by economy and thrift in the days from 1880 to 1900 when the South was many times poorer than it is today, Gov. Manning knows from experience what we can do if we go at it right. It was a happy thought of his that called the farmers and their wives to meet in consultation on this subject.

E. W. D.

A Warehouse Open a Half Day Each Week Helps This Local

THE Swannanoa Farmers' Union organized something over two years ago with seven or eight members. After we organized we made a few small orders for groceries and fertilizers but found the distributing rather bothersome. We decided to try a small stock company as we could get the use of a room for the first year free and order in a small lot of groceries, such as we mostly used, and open for the benefit of our members on Saturday evenings. We only had \$140 in cash to start with. We only bought and sold for cash. This seemed to suit the convenience of our members and a few outsiders. We only charged about 10 per cent profit to our members to pay expenses. Then outsiders began to find out how much cheaper they could get their groceries in the Union than out of it, so the membership began to grow till now we have about 42 members paid up and about \$700 cash capital, and have handled about \$4,000 dollars worth of groceries, about one-half that is consumed in the settlement; also about 480 sacks of fertilizers costing about \$700.

We have saved for the community within two miles of this place nearly \$1,000, and nearly all the farmers have joined the Union. On the 480 sacks of fertilizers we saved about 55 cents each, \$272; 560 sacks cottonseed meal, 25 cents per sack, \$140; 15 per cent on \$4,000 worth of groceries, \$600.

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year ago if times are dull and business generally poor. We now pay a man that lives near the house 5 per cent on his sales to go in at any time he is called on through the day and get goods for any one who wants them, members or outsiders. We get quite a little of the outside cash trade also. The stock has made about a 40 per cent profit since we started the warehouse business eighteen months ago. How is this for coöperation? Is it helping our Brother Farmers or is it charity? If we help a man to save a dollar, is it not as good as to give him one?

The greatest secret in our success is the little expense we have had in house rent and handling our business. The one-half day per week has only been costing us about 75 cents per one-half day, and our room very little.

R. L. PATTON,
Swannanoa, N. C.

Editorial Comment—These members have indeed avoided the mistakes which hundreds of similar organizations have made. If they had rented a building at considerable expense and hired a man for his whole time, they would probably have gone bankrupt. But by the half-day-a-week plan they are prospering.

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25 and 32 inches high—bottom line wire is standard twisted barb wire woven into the fabric—hogs will not root under. Wires 3 inches apart at bottom—up and down wires spaced 6 inches apart—locked with a never-slip tie. Made of open hearth steel spring wire galvanized. Two lines barb wire over woven fence makes a dandy fence for Hogs, Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Etc.

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