

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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## Community Organization the First Step Toward Community Progress

"PEACE on earth, good will to men," sang the Christmas angels looking down over Bethlehem more than nineteen hundred years ago this season, and it has seemed to us that we could not better use an issue at this Christmas-tide than by devoting it to spreading the Christmas spirit of peace, good will, fellowship and coöperation. And if in view of all the slaughter and butchery which crimson the earth at this holy season, "the brotherhood of man" seems yet far, far away as a working

whose progress is reported in this issue. The writer has recently been in consultation with a group of other men interested in organizing "Community Leagues" in this State—representatives of the State Farmers' Union and State Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health, etc.—and we believe that organization forms have been perfected that are well worth considering by everybody interested in making his neighborhood a better place to live in. Look on page 15



A RURAL HIGH SCHOOL WITH AGRICULTURAL FEATURES AND TRANSPORTATION FOR PUPILS

basis for international action, we can at least work confidently to promote the spirit of brotherhood and coöperation in our own communities.

And the very first thing needed, it seems to us, is to get an organization of your people. In all our general reading this year we have been struck with the fact that whenever conspicuous progress has been reported in any line of human achievement, it seems to have been the result of some sort of organization, and almost every letter about neighborhood progress in this week's Progressive Farmer points to exactly the same moral. Let even a small group of people get together, and it is impossible to say what great results will follow. They need not be extraordinary people, nor even highly educated people. The Great Master began the task of the world's redemption with the organization of only a dozen humble Jewish workers and fishermen.

Put it down among your plans for the coming year, therefore, that you are going to get some such organization of the people of your neighborhood—some such neighborhood organization as those which have brought about the marvelously inspiring results in various neighborhoods

for the list of committees recommended for each "Community League" and the subjects each committee is expected to look after.

Nor should anybody think that having such a League of all the people of a community will hurt the local farmers' organization or farm women's organization. On the contrary, experience shows that just as a good, strong church helps make a strong Sunday school and a strong Sunday school helps make a strong church, so a strong community organization helps make a strong farmers' organization and vice versa. The people see how organization helps in one place and resolve to get yet more benefits from it.

You know, Mr. Reader, how true is the ancient proverb, "What's everybody's business is nobody's business." The only way to get public affairs, community affairs, properly looked after is to put specific tasks on specific people. If you do not believe your community perfect therefore, but should like, on the contrary, to see it go forward as other communities mentioned in this week's paper, why not resolve now that you will set out to interest other men and women who will help you, and with them get your people together for neighborhood organization and improvement during the coming year?

*Community organization is the first step toward community improvement.*

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