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Our Farmers' Union Page

Devoted to Education, Organization, Cooperation and Marketing

J. Z. GREEN, E. W. DABBS, C. C. WRIGHT, Contributing Editors

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION IN LOCAL UNIONS

FEBRUARY

1. How Can We Cooperate This Year in Buying Feedstuffs, Fertilizers, Machinery, and Supplies, and in Avoiding the Credit and Mortgage Systems?

2. Are Our Authorities Using the Right Methods in Working Our Common Roads? What Can We Do About Dragging the Roads?

Rural School Work in February

HAS your teacher organized a debating society in your school? If not, let me suggest that you see her at once and urge that steps be taken immediately looking to this end.



MR. WRIGHT

I.—A Debating Society

A WIDE-awake debating society will do much to improve the boys and young men of the community, and will furnish opportunities for get-together meetings in the neighborhood. One of the principal reasons why so many of the young people in the rural districts annually flock to the towns and cities is the fact that there are so very few sources of pleasure and amusement in the country. Our Local Unions can do much in stimulating this community activity. The writer has known of quite a number of school districts in which the organization of debating societies has produced most beneficial results. Let us have one before the close of the present school term in every district in the state.

II.—Parents' Meetings

HAS your school yet held a parents' meeting? If not, then let me urge that you confer with your teacher immediately and ask that she arrange for one of these parents' meetings at the school house at the earliest opportunity. In planning for this occasion every patron of the school should receive a kindly invitation to be present. The schools here always arrange to have these meetings on some Friday afternoon, when usually the time from the afternoon recess until the close is taken up with exercises by the school, talks by those present, etc., etc. Some time ago a school near here was practically transformed through the agency of these parents' meetings. The people were enabled to become better acquainted with the teacher, her plans for the improvement of existing conditions, her hopes and aspirations than ever before. Oftentimes the failure of the teacher is due more to the fact that she is misunderstood than to all other causes combined. Let us see if these parents' meetings cannot be arranged in every school in the country, and that, too, before the expiration of the present term.

III.—Spelling Matches

DOES your teacher have spelling matches in school? If not, would it not be well to see her and ask that this be done? There is no questioning the fact that the schools are not turning out the finished product which they once did. A great many of our teachers, even, are deficient in this respect. What is the cause of the trouble? Is it not due to the fact that this subject is not stressed and emphasized in our schools of today as it was in the days of our fathers. Owing to this fact more than to aught else the school authorities of this county began three years ago to urge the hold-

ing of spelling matches in all of the public schools with the result that last year there were held approximately eighteen hundred of these, scattered here and yonder, all over the county. These, too, like the debates furnish opportunities for get-together meetings of the folks both young and old, for who does not enjoy an old time spelling bee in each of the schools. The results, I feel confident, will amply compensate for the efforts made in this direction.

IV.—Special Days in School

EVERY school should observe Washington's birthday. This has been a custom in many of our schools for several years. There is nothing that has a greater tendency to create a love of country in the hearts of the children, nothing that develops a greater degree of patriotism in the minds of the young than the observance of such days as these. I sometimes fear that in this age of commercialism we are too prone to lose sight of some of the things that are worth while. Let every school this year everywhere observe with appropriate exercises George Washington's birthday on the 22nd day of February. C. C. W.

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY UNIONS ARE DOING

Improvement in McDowell

THE Union in McDowell County is in better condition at the beginning of the New Year than I have seen it for several years. Nearly all the Locals have paid their dues for 1917 and are ready to go to work. County officers were elected as follows: E. H. Hill, President; T. W. Wilson, Vice-President; C. M. Pool, Secretary-Treasurer; D. E. Watkins, Chaplain; Caleb Morris, Doorkeeper; J. A. Hendley, Conductor; W. H. Greenlee, B. F. Corpening, and T. L. Tate, Executive Committeemen. Our next county meeting will be with Siloam Local Union, March 3. C. M. POOL, McDowell Co., N. C. Secretary.

Coöperation in Buying and Selling

DURING the last year members of several Locals have cooperated in buying pure-bred boars. We buy our fertilizer, lime and a few other things cooperatively. We also sell cooperatively as far as practicable. The high price of farm products has been a hindrance to coöperation this year. Our county officers are as follows: M. P. Jennings, President; A. W. Stanton, Vice-President; W. H. Pritchard, Secretary-Treasurer; W. C. Morse, Business Agent. We meet the fourth Saturday of each month at Elizabeth City. W. H. PRITCHARD, Sec'y. Pasquotank, Co., N. C.

Mutual Insurance and Farm Loan Associations

I HAVE not yet heard from the Local Unions regarding the success of the New Year meetings. At our meeting January 4, two committees were appointed. One to assist in organizing national farm loan associations, and another to organize a branch of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association in Franklin County. We have no quarterly meetings but meet on the first Thursday in each month. County officers for 1917 have not been elected because of the pressure of other business at our last meeting. The ones for 1916 (and I do not think there will be much change for 1917) are T. J. Harris, President; J. C. Jones, Secretary; J. B. Fulghum, Business Agent; and Rev. G. M. Duke, Chaplain. **JOSEPH C. JONES,** Franklin Co., N. C. Secretary.

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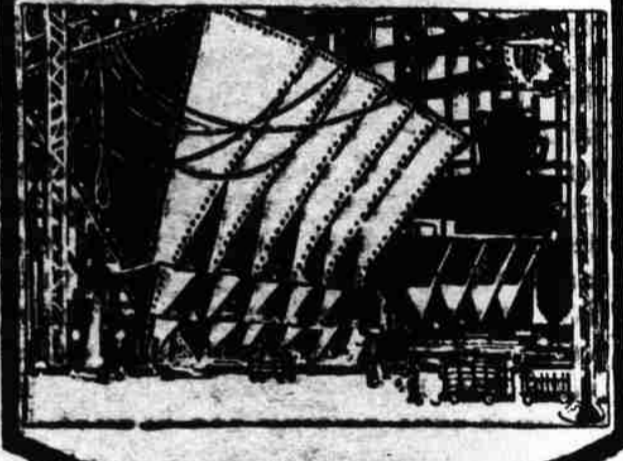
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