

embrace the interest and activity of the farm women of the community. The success of a farm woman's club depends upon the enlistment of active leaders among the women, with their own officers in charge, just as a successful Local Union depends upon capable official leadership. I have never seen a sleepy or inactive Local Union in a district where a live woman's club exists.

It is encouraging to note that in many communities more of the young men are becoming members of the Local Union. The introduction of young blood into the organization is not only a good thing for the Union but it will result in great benefit to the young men from whose ranks future community leaders must be developed; and it therefore means much for the future life of the communities. If you are a member of the Union and have boys over sixteen years of age insist that they become members. They need the training and influence of the Union and the Union needs them.

At a community fair at Marshville, in Union county, last fall, York Local Union had a variety farm exhibit that so greatly excelled all other exhibits that it brought favorable comment from every body who visited the fair. It represented what organization can do when it comes to preparing exhibits for a fair. Recently a dairy school was held in York district and notwithstanding the down-pour of rain the school building was filled with interested students of all ages and they would hardly consent for the teacher, Mr. Arey, to close the school in time to reach the late afternoon train. This is just another example of what organization under active and efficient local leadership, will do in an educational way for a community. At one time York Local Union's membership went down to four or five men who seriously discussed the proposition to suspend, but it is now the largest and most active Local Union in the county.

In this connection I have noted that in several communities of the state some of the liveliest and most active Local Unions now exist after a re-organization following a suspension of several years. If you live in a district where a Local Union existed and from any cause it has been suspended, don't get it into your mind that the organization can not be revived there and made a potent factor in the community. Get in correspondence with a state official, and secure instructions, how the Local Union may be quickly re-organized through the initiative of yourself and your neighbors, and then get back within the ranks of the only farmers' organization that exists in the South. The second trial or effort is nearly always fruitful of more and better results than the first.

A Thrifty Foreign Colony Helps Union in Burke

THE Burke County Farmers' Union had a good meeting at Valdese a few days ago. On account of the great floods, on all the watercourses of the county last July there is a local scarcity of feedstuffs which would amount to a famine if food could not be obtained from other sections. But thanks to the efficient management of Bro. S. M. Osbury, business manager of the Farmers' Union Warehouse, the farmers have been supplied with feed at actual cost.

We think it would not be amiss to say a few words about the community where the Union meeting was held. Valdese has been built by the thrifty Waldensian Colony which came to this county nearly a quarter of a century ago. When taken up by the colony it was thought by most people

to be too poor for successful agriculture. The transformation wrought has been a revelation and ought to be an inspiration to most of us. While we with our bottom land on the watercourses are sure put to it to get food for man and beast, the Waldensians have plenty of their own growing. There are more soy beans grown here than in any other part of the county. We have heard of more than one of these colonists whose farm produce last year exceeded \$2000. Quite a number of the colonists are raising pure-bred stock.

Quite a number of these thrifty Colonists belong to the Farmers' Union. The hall where the county meeting was held is the upper story of a stone building erected by the Valdese local at a cost of more than \$1700. The only money outlay was the small cost of lime, nails, etc. Many of the colonists are expert stone masons. Would like to say more about this interesting people later. The next county meeting will be held with the Drowning Creek local at Icard on the fourth Saturday in June when we hope to have at least one good speaker from a distance.

T. W. DRURY.

Fruit, Flowers and Vegetables

HAVE moved into the parsonage here and find a beautiful Scuppernon vine, which we are told seldom bears more than a handful or two of grapes. How shall we treat it? What shall I do for a Sultana plant that is infested with little green insects? We have poor success with squashes. The worms get them if they bear, but they bear very little and that is apt to rot.

Out in the country, where there are barren male vines of the wild muscadine, the Scuppernon will bear well, as the wild vines furnish it with pollen which is deficient in the flowers of the Scuppernon. In town the Scuppernon seldom bears well unless one of the barren wild vines is planted near it. This vine of course will make no fruit, as its flowers are imperfect, but it makes pollen in abundance to supply the deficiency in the Scuppernon bloom. The plant you call Sultana is I suppose Impatiens Sultani. The insects are the green aphides. Repeated spraying with a strong decoction of tobacco will clean them off. Plant the bush pattypan squashes, and spray with Bordeaux mixture with lead arsenate paste in proportion of one ounce in one and one-half gallons of the Bordeaux or even of water, though the Bordeaux will help prevent disease in the squashes while the poison will destroy the worms.

W. F. MASSEY.

Growing Onions

I HAVE about an acre in Yellow Danvers' onions. They are growing well but have more tops than onions. They were planted in January. Will it be advisable to apply some nitrate of soda on them? Some one told me that rolling a barrel over them would hasten the making of the onions.

Having a rank growth of top, it would seem that you have enough nitrogen at present. The best material to use now will be cottonseed meal worked in between the rows, about 200 pounds an acre with 100 pounds of acid phosphate. As the onions ripen the tops will naturally turn yellow and fall over. Some advise rolling a barrel over them to hasten ripening. But this is useless, as all the good onions will naturally fall over and those that stay erect are thin necks and scallions and the rolling will not change their character. Watch the onions closely, if they are grown from sets, and wherever a seed stalk shows nip it out at once, for if allowed to grow the onion will be hollow and worthless.

W. F. MASSEY.



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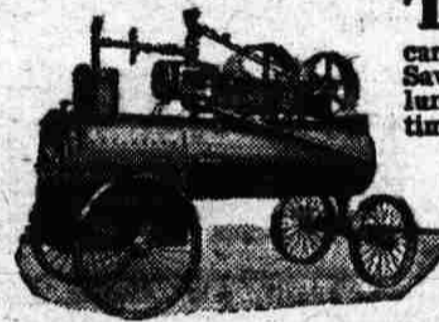
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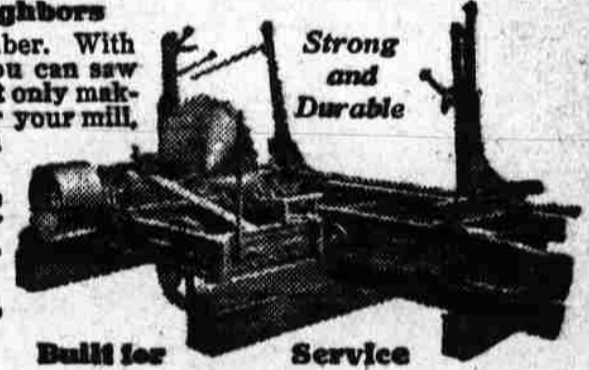


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The Cotton Market Situation

EVERYTHING that happens now only adds to the confusion in the market situation. The market has been reasonably firm this week, but any decided tendency either way appears to be held in check by the various uncertainties. There is the war and its unlimited possibilities of extraordinary demand on the one hand, and enforced economy and price control on the other. Then the war adds further to the general complexity by its bearing upon the food supply question and inevitable drafts on labor. These in turn will necessarily have a decided bearing upon the crop question. And the war situation has reached an acute stage with regard to the submarine issue. This has become very serious indeed; it menaces the export movement while destroying an unknown quantity of cotton.

Sea Island cotton is selling at 70 cents. Of course growers now have none to sell, but a continuance of present conditions means high prices again next fall, for American mills are unable to get Egyptian cotton, and there is not enough Sea Islands to satisfy the imperative call for the long staple. There is an ever increasing demand for the making of automobile tires, not to mention any other use. Naturally, the most supreme efforts will be put forth to grow Sea Islands, but here again comes the weevil menace, and nobody has any idea what to expect from a given acreage.

The cotton planter is not merely between two fires; he is just surrounded by fires. A liberal cotton crop is required, yet the call for food is even more imperative. To plant all cotton at the expense of food crops would be an inconceivable folly, notwithstanding the allurements of phenomenal prices. Still even hungry people must have clothes, and it is impossible to get anything cheaper than cotton. According to the way it looks now, some net reduction in the acreage seems probable. As was said here a few weeks ago, the best policy is to plant not so many acres in cotton, but to strive to make more per acre.

W. T. WILLIAMS.

Savannah, Ga.

A STORY OF POE

A lady employing a colored man asked him his name.

"Mah name is Poe, ma'am."

"Poe? Perhaps some of your family worked for Edgar Allen Poe."

The darkey's eyes opened wide with great surprise.

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