

# 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

JUNE

1. Have We Cultivated Our Crops as Economically as Possible This Year and Are We Growing All the Leguminous Crops We Should?
2. Plans for a Neighborhood and Union Picnic This Summer.

## THE FOOD PROBLEM

"The Work Is Not Done, but Just Begun"

MUCH is being written and said about the duty of the farmers to feed the nation. Especial emphasis is being laid upon the duty of the farmers of the Southeast to feed our own population.



MR. DABBS

This has been a hobby of mine for years, and no one can put it stronger than I have done in the past. But when all is said about it, this one great fact must not be overlooked: We should not be expected to feed our non-farming population at a loss. And every one should realize that it costs us more this year to grow a pound of foodstuffs than ever before. Our labor costs more, our mules cost more, our implements cost more, our fertilizer costs more, our clothing costs more, and it costs more to feed our mules and labor with hay at \$30 the ton, with meat 20 cents a pound, corn \$2 a bushel, flour \$15 a barrel.

But some one says, "The farmer should raise all these things." Yes, even his mules and labor. And should make all his clothes and implements, too. So there is a *reductio ad absurdum*. Under our modern life men specialize and other men can make our clothes and implements cheaper than we can.

But the fact remains that even if we should grow our own labor, mule power and food these things should be worth to us whatever they are worth in the world's market for labor, for mules, for corn, hay, wheat, meat, etc., and like all manufacturers we should have a profit on the cost of the material and labor that goes into the food that we put on the market. Therefore I do not see how we are to cheapen the prices of food except at a loss to ourselves. Why should I take my 20 cent meat and \$2 corn, to grow more meat and corn to sell for less to those who do not farm? These are the fundamental underlying principles. And until this problem is solved we will be no better off than we are now.

How can we cheapen food when other occupations are calling the best labor of the land to their workshops? Farm labor has not been adequately paid in the past, because farm produce did not bring its rightful price. We can only cheapen food in one way—by increased production. We can increase production only by more labor and more skill. And if we do not get a profit, skill is the only increasing factor, for labor will not stay on the farm, not to say come back to the farm, unless adequately paid.

Is the helpfulness of chambers of commerce only temporary, as suggested by President Barrett, or is the business world and the government big enough to see that they must em-

bark on a permanent policy? I give them credit for patriotism as well as self interest, and a great work is being done now by such bodies all over our land, my home county town, Sumner, being in the forefront of this great cooperative effort. This article is not written to criticize nor to condemn anyone, but to try to make the non-farming world see the problems as we farmers see them and to help all our farmers get a business grasp on our field of labor. We must take a businesslike view of these things. Sentiment is good but must be backed by business sense for permanent results.

The Sumner County Committee of Public Safety adopted the first slogan, "Grow Food or Go Hungry." The South Carolina State Committee on Civic Preparedness adopted the next slogan, "Service for All." Lee County's preparedness meeting when Chairman D. R. Coker flashed the S. O. S. signal before that splendid audience adopted, "Save or Starve" as its slogan. But I think the best of all that has come to my notice was unconsciously uttered by Farm Demonstration Agent Tiller at Chesterfield Court House in telling of the work in that county when he said, "My friends, The Work is Not Done, It is Just Begun."

## WHAT THE UNION IS DOING

Collective Buying and Selling, Cooperative Purchase of Livestock Sires and Farm Machinery and Developing Community Spirit

SOME North Carolina counties last fall made the required appropriations to secure services of cotton graders, as a result of the activities of the Farmers' Union in these counties. In fact, very few counties, have as yet secured this valuable service except where organized farmers have taken the initiative in securing these greatly needed agencies to prevent under-grading by interested buyers; and under-grading is equivalent to under-pricing. The losses to farmers in North Carolina from under-grading have aggregated anywhere from one to two million dollars on each cotton crop, and there is no way to prevent it except through the establishment of grading offices under supervision of the state and Federal governments.



MR. GREEN

"The Farmers' Union has never been given credit through publicity agencies for half its progressive and constructive work," said a Farmers' Union worker in a recent North Carolina State Council meeting.

That is everlastingly true. The efforts of members of the Union have been directed along such a great diversity of lines that it makes it a difficult task to put together even an approximate inventory of its assets as represented in constructive achievements.

Beginning with the Local Unions, we would have to place to the credit of organized farmers first the direct benefits that have come through intelligent collective buying and selling, and the aggregate volume of this sort of business will run well up into the millions annually.

The cooperative purchase of pure-bred sires is a form of constructive cooperation that is doing much to transform the fundamental basis of agriculture in hundreds of localities so as to give larger returns of agricultural wealth from the livestock industry and the increased fertility of

soils that always goes along with it. The thousands of members who have made joint purchases of farm machinery have not only eliminated the inexcusable waste that comes from duplications of investments in expensive machinery that, under individual ownership, stands idle most of the time, but have been enabled to secure the use of additional labor-saving farm machinery which places the small farmer in position to reap more of the benefits of machine-made wealth on the farm.

And yet I think I am justified in the contention that I have not, in the foregoing, referred to the field of service in which the Farmers' Union has been of greatest human value. As an agency for interweaving the units of society in rural localities and developing a greater degree of community patriotism, and in promoting and enlarging the community assets, the value of the Local Union cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. In developing the community spirit and a better human relationship, all of which is accompanied by educational benefits, a field of service is entered where values cannot be figured on a commercial or financial balance sheet.

J. Z. G.

## Farmers' Cooperative Associations in Florida

THE county agents have made an effort to organize farmers' clubs and cooperative organizations in almost every county. Such organizations have been difficult to effect or to hold after organization. Some have organized chiefly for cooperative marketing of truck crops; these have been effective in securing better prices by enabling truckers to ship collectively in carlots, and reach a wider range of markets. Of these the most effective has been the Lee County Truckers' Association, the agent being a real leader of men. Most of the truckers in Lee County are trucking on a small acreage, growing early eggplant, peppers and tomatoes and following them with winter Irish potatoes. This association turns over its entire output to a responsible commission firm on a commission basis who diverts their products according to market demands. All shipments are pooled. They are also enabled to purchase seed, insecticides, fungicides, and part of their fertilizers, collectively, which not only reduces the cost of materials, freight rates, etc., but secures supplies well in advance of the time actually needed. This organization has 80 per cent of the truckers of the county in its membership.

In Marion county an effort was made to establish a single breed of hogs in the county. After a conference with the bankers who loaned the money for the project, Hampshires were selected, chiefly for the pig club boys. However, of the two carloads of breeding stock purchased about twenty were bought by farmers.

Lake County has an organization known as the Lake County Chamber of Commerce. It is organized for the general agricultural development of the county, in which the agent takes an active part. Through the influence of the county board of trade, the commissioners were induced to levy a half-mill tax to be used for agricultural development and this money was turned over to the board for expenditure. The plan submitted by this board of trade is working toward tick eradication, encouragement of dairies, erection of silos, distribution of pure-bred breeding hogs, and the standardization and marketing of Natal hay.—A. P. Spencer, District Demonstration Agent for East and South Florida.

Bill (cheerfully): "Hello, Jack! Married yet?"  
Jack (sadly): "Yes, married yet."—Lippincott's.

### WILLIAMS IMPROVED MILL CORN MILL

SAVE money by grinding your own grain. MAKE money grinding for your neighbors. Increase food value 25 per cent. by stock feeding ground instead of whole grain. Do it with a WILLIAMS MILL, the fastest, cleanest grinder, most trouble-proof mill made. New screening device protects burrs from hard substances, removes dirt from grain before grinding which insures pure, high-grade meal. Cast iron fan case and grain spout, new oiling system, long-wearing, thro-grinding, pebble stone grit burrs. Invest on the improved WILLIAMS—the difference is made. Catalog free. WILLIAMS-BIRD MFG. CO., BOX 27, HUNTSVILLE, T. C.

### AT LAST

Progressive Farmer Readers can get from "The South's Mail Order House" on the same little-profit selling plan as other goods, strictly high-grade, reliable

## PIANOS AND ORGANS

guaranteed to give satisfaction in any southern climate at prices that SAVE YOU MONEY compared with usual figures. Our instruments have the genuine musical quality which you'll find in instruments of much higher price. They are backed by the unlimited guarantee of a concern you know well. EASY PAYMENTS and 30 days approval before you pay a cent. Beautiful Piano and Organ catalog just out; write now for a free copy.

**THE SPOTLESS COMPANY**  
475 Shockoe Lane, Richmond, Va.

## STOCK LICK IT—STOCK LIKE IT

For Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Hogs. Contains Copper for Worms, Sulphur for the Blood, Salspeter for the Kidneys, Nux Vomica, a Tonic, and Pure Dairy Salt. Used by Veterinarians 12 years. No Dosing. Drop Brick in feed-box. Ask your dealer for Blackman's or write

**BLACKMAN STOCK REMEDY COMPANY**  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

## DURABLE ROOFING

Extra Good—Low Priced. Complete with Large Head Nails, Lap Cement and Directions for Laying in Center of Each Roll.

1-Ply.....	Per Roll of 108 Sq. feet.....	\$0.75
2-Ply.....	Per Roll of 108 Sq. feet.....	1.00
3-Ply.....	Per Roll of 108 Sq. feet.....	1.25

Write for Samples.  
**ABRAMS PAINT & GLASS COMPANY**  
Richmond, Va.

## "Southern Homes And Orchards"

A New Booklet, written especially for the Southern home-lover, small fruit-grower, and commercial orchardist. Not a catalog. It contains important data and instructions. A limited number will be sent free. Write today.

**J. VAN LINDLEY NURSERY CO.,**  
Box 166, Pomona, N. C.

## The Threshing Problem Solved

Threshes corn and soy beans from the mow tines, wheat, oats, rye and barley. A perfect combination machine. Nothing like it. "The machine I have been looking for for 20 years." W. F. Mason. "It will meet every demand." H. A. Morgan, Director Tenn. Exp. Station. Booklet 88 free.

**KOBER-PEA & BEAR THRESHER CO.,**  
Morristown, Tenn.

## EGGS-POULTRY

We are the largest handlers of Eggs and Poultry in the South. What have you to ship? The highest market price guaranteed with quick returns. Give us a trial. Reference 1st National Bank, Richmond, Va.

**WOODSON-CRAIG CO.,**  
Commission Merchants, RICHMOND, VA.

GROUND LIMESTONE ASK FOR FREE LITERATURE

**MASCOT**

American Ballast Co. 200 BOX 104 HUNTSVILLE TENN.

## CANNERS

Make money and save money by canning surplus vegetables, fruit and berries. Our PERFECTION is simplest, most practical canner made. Small size sets on stove; other sizes have fire-box to burn wood, coal, coke and trash. Catalog free. Lowest Prices.

**THE SPOTLESS CO.,**  
"The South's Mail Order House"  
475 Shockoe Lane, Richmond, Va.

FEATHER BED BARGAINS  
The Carolina Bedding Co., Dept. 25, Greensboro, N. C., are now offering some real bargains in Feather Beds and Pillows. It will pay any one to write them now for their Summer prices, as these goods will be much higher by fall.

If you would have a better neighborhood and get neighbors to work together along all useful lines, read "How Farmers Cooperate and Double Profits."