

## Our Farmers' Union Page

Devoted to Education, Organization, Cooperation and Marketing

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### 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.

### TWELVE THINGS YOUR LOCAL UNION SHOULD DO

XI—The Local Union Should Promote Good Fellowship, Brotherhood and the Community Spirit

LIVING conditions as represented by the character of the personal and human relationship in a rural community, make the community either a desirable or an undesirable place for a home. The productive capacity of the soil may be good, but if

concerned, prior to local organization.

Under energetic and efficient leadership no organization occupies a better position to be an indispensable factor in developing a get-together spirit and a higher human relationship between neighbors than the Local Union. It should occupy the position of a parent organization that interweaves and knits together the individual units of society in the community in a manner that makes it possible to produce concert of effort and team-work along all lines of social and constructive cooperative activity.

It is all right to look after the business interests of members in buying and selling, to secure financial benefits, but the mission of the Local Union should not be limited to this field of activity. Material things of life have nothing in them that is satisfying unless they are used for better living. A farmer who voluntarily

### WHY NOT HAVE CO-OPERATIVE POTATO-CURING HOUSES?

FOR the average farmer, it would be unprofitable, of course, to invest in an expensive potato house, but if ten farmers combine in such a venture the cost to each man will be low and the storage will be ample for all concerned. Suppose a farmer makes a crop of three hundred bushels. He ought to be able to do this on two acres of land. Ten farmers with this amount will have three thousand bushels of sweet potatoes. If sold at fifty cents the bushel in the fall they would receive \$1,500 for the crop, supposing they did not care to have any for home use. If they had the same potatoes in the spring the crop would be worth at least double—it always has been so, or for many, many years. This leaves a difference of \$1,500, and for this sum or less, these ten farmers could build a house which would not only store the potatoes for one year but for a lifetime.

And it is just as easy to get together and have a community affair like this as it is to form a stock company in town here for four or five times as much. The principle is exactly the same. A stock company can be formed, though there are details, reports to State and Federal authorities, and all that sort of thing that are troublesome. Ten men can get together and form a limited partnership company which would answer all purposes and save legal expense and reports to governmental authorities.

Very good, says one man, but neighbors are likely to fall out and not make a success of it. Business folks in town go into stock companies and the falling out business does not cut much figure. If a man gets dissatisfied, he gets out, if he can, by selling out, even at a loss. If he does not he just takes it as part of the day's work and goes on. And besides people need to bear and forbear more. Communities succeed when there is a real community spirit. It is very well to be independent, but all of us are dependent on each other.

good fellowship and brotherhood and the spirit of cooperation is lacking, the real value of the land in the community is lower than in communities where good schools, live churches, Local Farmers' Unions, good roads and other community assets indicate a high order of community consciousness and a commendable cooperative spirit. The men who will make desirable neighbors and community builders are not apt to seek homes in communities where there are neighborhood quarrels and personal grudges and differences, and where eternal knocking is substituted for community consciousness and cooperation.

No community has ever maintained a well-attended Local Union for any length of time without developing a better personal relationship, a finer spirit of good fellowship and brotherhood, and a greater element of community consciousness. The thousands of community gatherings and picnics that have been initiated by Local Unions in North Carolina within the last ten years, have been important factors in developing a constructive community spirit in scores of rural communities that were dead, so far as any community team work was

makes of himself an industrial slave and stays so busy that he doesn't have time to read or to attend a community meeting is not getting much more out of life than the mule or horse he plows. Farming should be considered a life as well as a business, if we are to get anything that is worth while out of existence. There should be time for work and time for mental and social recreation, and the time ought to come when farmers will introduce into their programs the idea of better living as well as better business; and community builders who are working with this idea in view are destined to develop communities that are deservedly noted for something more noble than the desire to make money for money's sake alone.

J. Z. G.

Miss Miranda Brown and Angelina Johnson were, in the midst of a rather heated argument as to the meaning of "circumstantial evidence" when old Uncle Rastus poked his woolly head in at the door. He was immediately besieged to give his worthy opinion on the matter in question.

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

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