

EDUCATION, COÖPERATION, LEGISLATION

(1) Education to Develop Power, (2) Coöperation to Multiply It, and (3) Legislation and Good Government to Promote Equal Rights and Human Progress—Plain Talk About Men, Measures and Movements Involved

By CLARENCE POE

North Carolina Should Protest Against \$5,000,000 Increase in Freight Rates

FOR some reason the people of North Carolina and the press of the state seem to have almost overlooked one of the most serious questions affecting the financial welfare of North Carolina farmers and business men. We refer to the demand of the railroads for a great increase in freight rates in this state, the demand to be heard by the Corporation Commission in Raleigh, August 30. The officers of the North Carolina State Farmers' Union have already arranged to represent the interests of our farmers in this matter, but other leaders seem strangely silent.

In the face of the fact that the Inter-State Commerce Commission reports the railroads of the country in the latest month for which the figures are available (June) as making more money than in any previous June in American history, Southern railroads alone netting \$1,000,000 more than in June last year—in the face of these facts, the North Carolina Corporation Commission is asked, chiefly by change of classification, to increase the freight tax on the people of North Carolina by an amount estimated at \$5,000,000 a year. If this estimate is correct, it means an added tax of \$2 a year for every man, woman, and child, white and black, from Currituck to Cherokee.

The state owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. George L. Forester, Traffic Manager of the Western North Carolina Lumber and Timber Association, for his painstaking studies in this matter. Mr. Forester expresses the belief that the total increase asked would average 50 per cent. Four roads alone—the Southern, S. A. L., A. C. L. and Norfolk Southern—collect about \$7,000,000 a year in intra-state freight rates, and it is estimated that such receipts of other roads carry the total to \$10,000,000; so that an increase of 50 per cent would mean \$5,000,000 more a year. In a letter to the Progressive Farmer Mr. Forester says:

"The change in classification and so-called 'basic scale,' accounts for advances of above 50 per cent. On lumber (carloads) the increase is 51 per cent. Other specimen commodities (less than carloads) show the following advances:

Per Cent	Per Cent
Apples and onions	126
Potatoes, onions, turnips	55
Building material (int. trim)	123
Cotton hosiery	194
Cotton bales (any quality) ..	13
Fertilizer	15
Cast iron pipe	46
Sugar	72
Sugar (carloads)	15
Scrap iron (carloads)	91

"And so on. As an indication that the carriers of the South do not need more revenue at this time, it should be stated that since the first of January their net earnings over and above all expenses, which included taxes, are greater in the aggregate than they were in a similar period in 1916. It is a further fact that in 1916 the railroads earned more money during that period than they had ever earned in any previous similar period."

All interested farmers who attend the Farmers' State Convention here August 28-30 should make it a point to attend the hearing before the Corporation Commission. We must protest against such a tax.

Ask Your County Commissioners for the Cotton Grading Service

WE HOPE no reader missed the article on page 22 of last week's Progressive Farmer, "Official Cotton Graders May be Obtained by Any North Carolina County." For a comparatively small sum the county commissioners of any county may obtain this authoritative cotton grading service for their farmers. Heretofore the service has been confined to a few counties, but this year it should be available for every man who grows cotton in the state of North Carolina. He should be able to say just what grade his cotton is, and then he will know whether or not he is offered a fair price for it. If he doesn't know grades, he can't tell whether he is offered a fair price or not.

In some sections, we know, cotton buyers have joined together and refused to recognize this Government grading service. In other words, they have tried to stop a service that will shut off opportunities for them to rob farmers by undergrading. It seems to us that all reputable buyers should frown on such a procedure by their fellows but wherever it is attempted, there is but

one thing for cotton farmers to do. And that is for them to join together and ship together to Norfolk, Wilmington, or elsewhere, and keep on doing this until the local buyers come to their senses. Boycott all such buyers absolutely.

Remember this: if cotton buyers in your county refused to recognize this Government grading last year, that is no reason why the commissioners should not make the appropriation again this year. On the contrary, it is the very strongest possible argument why the appropriation should be made. It shows that there is something wrong which must be corrected. It is wrong in principle for a man who is buying a product to have the sole say-so as to its grade. The temptation to take advantage of the ignorant is too great for a state to permit it.

Every Progressive Farmer reader should see or write his county commissioners and ask that this cotton grading service be provided. Every Local Union or other farmers' club should also adopt a resolution on the subject and send a committee to appear before the commissioners. Last week's Progressive Farmer shows exactly how much each county's part would be, and any further information may be had by writing the Agricultural Experiment Station at Raleigh. Meanwhile look out for a notable article, "A Golden Opportunity for North Carolina Cotton Growers," in next week's paper.

Find Out About Forest Product Prices

FARMERS should make it a point to ask their state marketing bureaus about prices of any commodity before selling, if not sure as to what the price should be. A friend in Moore County, N. C., sends us this suggestive note:

"The New York Journal of Commerce quotes prices of tar. Last winter the New York price of tar was \$9 and buyers in Moore County paid \$5 per barrel. Now the New York price is \$14 and buyers pay only \$6.50 per barrel. This is not fair. It may be that you can aid your readers and help them in getting more justly treated."

We believe it will be a good idea for all our Southern states marketing agents to publish at least once a month an article on the trend of prices in lumber, tar, and all forms of forest products. In no other commodity sold off the farm is it likely that farmers so generally fail to get anywhere near real values.

Louisa: A Progressive Virginia County

THE Editor was glad to pay a visit the other day to one of the most progressive rural communities of Virginia—Louisa.

They have a live Farmers' Union in Louisa; their women are organized and eager for progress; and everybody mentions "Jim" Quisenberry as one of the foremost agencies for betterment. The folks call him "Jim," and he is one of their own folks—a good Louisa County farmer who has been four years demonstration agent and has shown himself a live wire. Any county without such a man as captain of its progressive forces is bound to suffer.

They are doing better farming in Louisa: growing more legumes and livestock, and are also learning the value of coöperation. Two years ago the "Louisa County Holstein Association" was organized, the result of a community meeting or two which voted to adopt Holsteins as the breed for those sections. Three Holstein bulls, coöperatively owned, have been placed in different parts of the county. Very soon now a mass meeting of all the cattle breeders of the county will be held to decide officially on a breed for the whole county. Of course, owners of cattle of any breed other than the one officially selected will not be unduly hurried in disposing of their animals, but as fast as possible it is intended to secure uniformity of breed.

Already, too, the county is preparing to make itself famous as the home of one particular breed of poultry. "The Louisa County Barred Rock Poultry Association" is actively at work in two communities, and three others are ready to come in. Rev. J. E. Roe, the energetic secretary-treasurer, says that the organization has already enabled the members to get from 100 to 200 per cent more for hatching eggs and 5 to 10 cents a dozen more for table eggs. "We had more orders than we could fill for hatching eggs at from \$1 to \$3 a

setting and for stock birds at from \$2 to \$5 apiece. Then in the last six months our 35 members have sold \$1,200 worth of table eggs, or \$200 worth a month. We get the extra price on table eggs because of careful sorting or grading combined with guaranteed freshness. Each shipping carton has the owner's number on it, and in case a bad egg is found, the member responsible loses pay for a full dozen eggs."

A cheese factory is one of the newest evidences of progress; there is a national farm loan association with \$30,000 worth of loans applied for; the county fair has been put on a permanent basis and the community fair idea is spreading; County Agent Quisenberry's neighborhood is starting a farm life school; the County Farmers' Union holds an annual picnic at Frederick Hall; and an agricultural census of the county is just being completed.

Another interesting feature of Louisa County life is the large number of enterprising farmers who have come from the North and West and are working as if to the manor born. They don't seem to feel any difference between themselves and the native farmer, and the native farmer seems to feel no difference. This is a situation that is highly creditable to the good sense and good hearts of both classes. It too often happens that each element is too critical of the other. In Louisa all work together with no distinction between them. And the newcomers are doing good work. "When we came here four years ago, they said we had the poorest farm in Louisa County," said Mr. D. E. McPherson, "but last year our farm exhibit took first prize at the county fair." It is an important achievement to take a worn-out waste of sassafras and briars and redeem it to something of the beauty and productiveness God intended it should have. We are glad to report that hardly any of the Western farmers after coming to Louisa have gone back home.

The good women are interesting themselves greatly in canning, bigger gardens, and better schools. At Frederick Hall they showed us their new school building. "We raised \$60 to beautify the grounds," said Mrs. McPherson, "and the girls have worked hard in planting the shrubs, etc. We also have a school library, and a traveling library, while friends have donated not only books but subscriptions to papers like The Youth's Companion and The Progressive Farmer, and our missionary society has interested itself not only in getting good schools for the heathen, but also in getting adequate equipment for our school here at home."

And in this little story of Louisa we suspect the reader will find some lessons for his own county.

RALEIGH is to have a packing house and we hope it will prove a big success. The men who will direct it are men of high character, and farmers anywhere in North Carolina may ship to it with the assurance that they will be fairly treated. As we have said before, however, packing houses as a rule have not been financially successful in the South and if other North Carolina towns set out to build packing houses just because Raleigh has one, we believe farmers will do well to wait awhile before investing.

A Thought for the Week

WE COULD have stayed out of the war and saved our bodies and lost our souls. Germany would then have won the war; she would have taken over Belgium; the rich coal and iron districts of France, regained her colonies, possessed herself of the British fleet and received an indemnity so large that the Kaiser and Hindenberg and Von Tirpitz would have said, "See what we have done; any war is a good war when it increases the power of state." The warlike German people and the German Army flushed with victory and wealth, would have backed up the sentiment, saying to America: "Come out, you must make good the loss which you inflicted upon us by furnishing arms and munitions and food and contraband of war to our enemies." By that time we would have begun to wake up to the fact that Germany's conquest of England was the enthronement of force and we would have begun to arm ourselves and get ready for the final battle between civilization and savagery.—Judge Robert W. Winston.

MY CREED

I would be pure, for there are those who trust me;
I would be true, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare;

I would be friend of all—the foe—the friendless;
I would be giving and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up—and laugh—and love—and lift.

—Howard Arnold Walter, in Harper's Bazaar.