

*Knowledge of Production alone may make a man a Slave.  
 Knowledge of Distribution alone may make a man a Plutocrat.  
 Knowledge of Consumption alone may make a man a Parasite.  
 Knowledge of all Three makes a man an Effective Citizen of  
 Democracy. --Dr. Glenn Frank*

# COOPERATION in The Carolinas

By ROY H. PARK

**M**ORE and more farmers are coming to the conclusion that through cooperation lies the pathway to a permanent agricultural prosperity. Statistically the cooperative movement gained 124,000 members and 165 million dollars of business in 1935 as compared with 1934. Last year the 10,700 active farm marketing and purchasing cooperatives had 3,260,000 members and did \$1,530,000,000 net business, according to data from the Cooperative Division of the Farm Credit Administration.



Ben F. Wilson

Cooperatives do more than purchase and market products. Some, such as the National Grange and the American Farm Bureau Federation, devote the lion's share of their activities to educational, social, and legislative work. Both the Farm Bureau and the National Grange keep representatives in the nation's capital and these men study carefully all legislation that may affect the farmer.

### Cotton Co-Ops Largest

The two largest cooperatives in the Carolinas are those dealing in cotton—the South Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association and the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association. Each started operations in 1922 and each works on the plan of handling all cotton on a grade and staple basis, paying premiums to members on all cotton better than middling 7-8.

The South Carolina Cotton Association has a membership of around 15,000 and maintains branch classing offices in all important cotton centers. "The Association is the strongest in several years and will continue to render a service to the cotton farmers of this State," according to J. S. Hathecock, the general manager.



M. G. Mann

The North Carolina Cotton Association has 18,000 members, and during the past 14 years has handled more than 1,300,000 bales of cotton. It enjoys a line of credit of \$5,000,000 from three North Carolina banks and does not owe the government one penny.

The North Carolina Cotton Association is managed by M. G. Mann, who is also general manager of the State's largest cooperative purchasing cooperative, the Farmers Cooperative Exchange.

### Two Purchasing Organizations

Started 18 months ago, the FCX, as it is known to farmers, now has 15 branch warehouses located in Washington, Burlington, Newton, Charlotte, Greensboro, Greenville, Statesville, Kinston, Williamston, Lumberton, Salisbury, Tarboro, Smithfield, Elizabeth City, and Clinton. Some 200 distributors handle FCX supplies.

The FCX handles only open-formula feeds and fertilizers and seeds of known and adapted origin. Last year it did a business of well over a million dollars

and its goal for this year is two million. Profits are returned to members in the form of patronage dividends.

The other chief cooperative in North Carolina is the Farmers Federation, with headquarters at Asheville, which markets poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruits, potatoes, cannerly products, black walnuts, and purchases seeds, fertilizers, feeds, flour, salt, insecticides and other farm supplies for farmers in the mountain counties of Burke, Rutherford, Polk, Henderson, Haywood, Jackson, Buncombe and Macon.



J. G. K. McClure

The Federation operates feed and grist-mills, sweet potato curing houses, canneries, hatcheries, and a home industry department which aids in the marketing of articles that can be made by farm homes. A religious department of the Federation sponsors "The Lord's Acre Plan" to help the rural churches. Under this plan, first sponsored in 1930, the members of the church, either singly or in groups, pledge themselves to raise something to help the church expenses. President and general manager of the Farmers' Federation is James G. K. McClure.

### Nationals In Carolinas

Operating in both Carolinas are branches of the National Grange, America's oldest farm organization.

"Our last report of the national secretary showed a membership of 5,651 with 193 subordinates, 23 Pomonas, and 37 Juveniles," says Ben F. Wilson, of Mebane, Master of the North Carolina State Grange. Mr. Wilson went on to say that the goal for 1936 is 2,000 new members and 25 new Grange chapters.

Most recent farm organization in North Carolina is the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, affiliated with the American Farm Bureau, which started a membership drive on February 17, and by March 31 had around 5,000 members.

"Thirty thousand members by January 1, 1937," is the hope of Chas. J. Brockway, acting secretary.



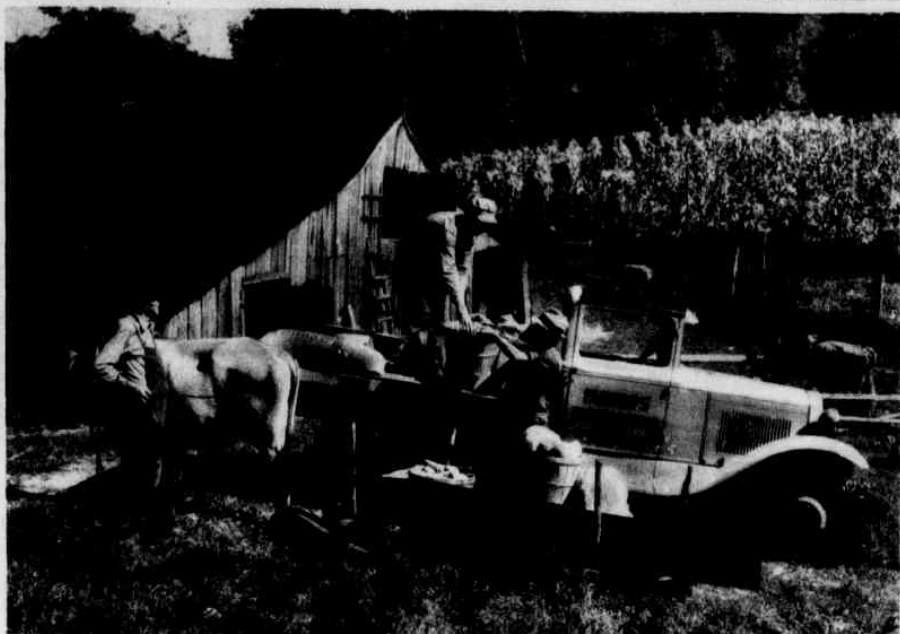
J. E. Winslow

J. E. Winslow has been named State Chairman and headquarters established in Greenville.

Other cooperatives operating in the Carolinas include:

South Carolina Peach Growers Association, of Spartanburg, S. C., with a membership of 61 and which expects to handle 800 carloads of peaches this year. In 1935, the association paid patronage dividends of \$10,000. T. H. Cribb is manager.

Carolina Cooperatives Consolidated, Florence, S. C.; Monetta Asparagus Association, Monetta, S. C.; Palmetto Asparagus Association, Williston, S. C.; S. C. Asparagus Association, Barnwell, S. C.; Carolina Produce Association, Meggetts, S. C.; Carolina Fruit and Vegetable Exchange, Monetta, S. C.; and other more local groups.



Typifying modern operations of farm organization in this scene showing a Farmer's Federation truck operating in the mountain country of North Carolina taking farmer's produce and delivering feed. This organization operates a fleet of 20 such trucks. Note the farmer's ox-drawn land-sled.



To meet the constant demand for trained leaders, cooperatives have established training classes. Pictured here are six selected Western North Carolina high-school graduates who are being given an intensive course of instruction in both practices and theory of cooperation by the Farmer's Federation.



Instruction in home-craft is a part of the educational program of many farm organizations. At the left, above, a group of farm women receives needle-work instruction at Gerton, N. C. Right, the FCX Branch Warehouse at Tarboro, N. C.



Cash markets for typical mountain crops are sought by cooperatives operating in the mountain regions of the Carolinas. A shipment of mountain shrubs, laurel and rhododendron, and the sale of locust-posts to the state highway department served as one means of increasing farmer's cash income.