

# JOHN T. THORNE, A NEW DEAL FARMER!

John T. Thorne, a veteran of the farming industry, and in whom the Country Gentleman is so well typified, has found himself assuming a new role this year, a farmer of the New Deal, a position, which in a recent interview, he states is the most satisfying of any of late years.

Since 'way back there in the early dawn of the cooperative system he has taken considerable interest in its progress, and has been very active during the past few years in the foremost cooperative endeavors; long a member of the executive board of the North Carolina Cotton Cooperative Ass'n., and an ex-president, he realized the importance of the organization of the tobacco farmers, and was prominently identified with the Cooperative Tobacco Marketing movement, the platform of which corresponds with the present program, but lacked the prestige and power that could only be shed upon it by the government.

There has never been a day when John T. Thorne was too busy with his own business to drop it all, and dash up to Raleigh or Washington, to offer constructive suggestions in support of, or to strike a blow in defense of the farmer, and during the past year, as one of the three North Carolina members of the Advisory committee to the Tobacco Section of the AAA, he has been continuously in attendance on the various conferences with the agricultural administration in Washington, and has been recently appointed as the Administration member of the Tobacco Warehouse Code.

Coming closer home, this amazingly energetic farmer is never too busy to pause and assist his farmer friend, no matter how insignificant and lowly he may be, to translate into a comprehensible language the varied and sundry rulings he receives, which in complicated phrases, explains the many new angles and phases of farming with the government.

An experience, on the opening day of the tobacco market here this season, impressed Mr. Thorne very deeply, revealing as it did the inner feeling of the tobacco farmer in Eastern Carolina—Walking home from tobacco town, Mr. Thorne heard an old Negro farmer say in jubilant tones of infinite relief, "Thank de Lawd and Mr. Roosevelt, I can see my way."

The remarks of this humble darkey, to Mr. Thorne, reflected the first rays of the light of a dawning day of hope and happiness, which are clearing the vision of the people, as Roosevelt, inspired leader of humanity, commands them to march out of the Slough of Despond, and instills faith, confidence and courage in hearts, dismayed and terrified by the "Gorgons and hydras and chimeras dire," which have overshadowed them during the past four years.

Mr. Thorne knows the New Deal in regard to agriculture, and is most optimistic over its possibilities. In discussing the farm program, he emphasized the fact that it was not conceived by white collared theoretical experts, but is the result of planning by farm groups in collaboration with the Administration. He advised



JNO. T. THORNE

against passing snap judgment on its policies, and stated that many of the present measures are of a temporary nature, and that only those that prove their adaptability and merit, will be used in the permanent program, which is to be a challenge to Agriculture to think more highly of itself and to adopt more up-to-date methods of production and selling.

At the close of the interview, THE SPOTLIGHT reporter's impression of the New Deal farmer, as exemplified by Mr. Thorne, smiling and radiating cheer and goodwill, was that real happiness is attained by thinking wide thoughts of God and humanity, and feeling deeply for the other fellow.

### A BASQUE PEASANT RETURNING FROM CHURCH

Oh little lark, you need not fly  
To seek your Master in the sky,  
He treads our native sod.

Why do you sing, aloft, apart?  
Sing to the Heaven of my heart.  
In me, in me, in me is God.

Oh stranger passing in your car,  
You pity me who come so far  
On dusty feet, ill shod.

You cannot guess, you cannot know  
Upon what wings of joy I go,  
Who travel home with God.

From far off lands you bring your  
fare,  
Earth's choicest morsels will you  
share,  
And prize of gun and rod.

At richest boards I take my seat,  
Have dainties angels cannot eat.  
In me, in me, in me is God.

Oh little lark, sing loud and long,  
To Him who gave you flight and  
song,  
And me a heart of flame.

He loveth them of low degree  
And He hath magnified me,  
And holy, holy is His Name.

Mrs. de Barry

(Ed. Note—This soliloquy might as well have been that of the American farmer.)

## PITT COUNTY'S '34 TOBACCO CROP WORTH \$8,000,000 TO GROWERS

Pitt county's tobacco crop this year will be 30,032,729 pounds, it was revealed recently by E. F. Arnold, director of the local farm department.

The figures were based on allotment cards distributed to 1,639 farmers in all sections of the county, but does not include the poundage of a few non-signers whose tobacco will be sold under the Federal tax act.

Commenting on the value of the crop, Mr. Arnold said that to estimate the average at 25 cents the total amount of tobacco under con-

tract would bring growers approximately \$7,500,000 with a half million dollars benefit payment to come from the government. This would bring the total to around \$8,000,000.

Although it was impossible to say what the average would be, it was hoped it would go beyond the 25 cent mark, giving the growers more money for their crop.

Mr. Arnold said this is the first time the department had been able to obtain a definite check on the amount of tobacco in this county.

He said with the poundage over a fourth less than it was last year the total amount received from the crop at the estimated 25 cents average would be considerably larger than last year, and over twice as much as in 1931 and 1932.

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