

# THE CAROLINA UNION FARMER

Vol. 5. No. 33.

GASTONIA, N. C., AUGUST 17, 1911

One Dollar a Year

## Farm = Life Schools and Agricultural Education

*President Alexander Tells What Organization Is Undertaking to Do for the Farmers' Children.*

*From News and Observer.*

The extensive circulation of your paper and the importance of the subject of Agricultural Education, deserve a more thoughtful article than my limited time will permit just now. I am on the move and am writing between trains.

A generation ago the object in seeking an education was to KNOW. Today the purpose of an education is three-fold: To be, to know, to DO, with emphasis on the active verb. To BE a noble, useful, perfect man, one must not only KNOW the traits of character necessary to constitute him, but must strive earnestly and persistently to develop that character. In other words, existence and knowledge are desirable and useful only in so far as they are productive of efficient service. "He that would be great among you let him first be a servant."

We can readily see, then, that to meet the demands of the present day an education must be of the heart, the head and the hand. The church and her auxiliaries are laboring for the enlightenment and regeneration of the mind and heart. Our school system, from day school to University, has dealt mainly in the work of developing the mind and storing it with knowledge, but not always useful knowledge. Thus we see that very little provision has been made in the past for the education of the hand.

And just here we discover the reason of the inadaptability and inefficiency of our rural schools. To educate the hand, it is necessary to know the vocation to be followed and to select text books adapted thereto. Our people are just awakening to a full realization of the agricultural classes. It has always been conceded that the minister, the doctor and the lawyer must have special training to fit him for his calling. But not so with the farmer. Any fool could farm, and I am sorry to say that as a result of this idea many of them, poor fellows, are trying it. Is it surprising then, that agriculture has not kept pace with the march of progress in manufactures, transportation and other industries and callings?

But as stated above the farmer himself has realized his mistake and is taking steps to correct it. As a result of our organized move-

ment through the Farmers' Union the law requiring the teaching of elementary agriculture in the public schools has been put into effect in many counties where it was before unknown. This campaign of agitation and education will be continued until every public school in the State becomes an embryo agricultural college. The importance of this course can hardly be over-estimated. Eighty-two per cent of our population is agricultural. That means that 82 per cent. of our boys and girls must necessarily spend their lives on and make their living from the farm. Furthermore, 95 per cent of our school population never advance beyond the eighth grade in the common school.

How important it is, then, that our public schools should be made the efficient means of educating our boys and girls for farm life and home making. That they may see new possibilities for prosperity and happiness in the farm home. That through the intelligent use of scientific appliances much of the drudgery and isolation of farm life may be eliminated.

We must stop the drain from the farm of our brightest and most ambitious boys, if we would preserve the future prosperity of the country. We must turn the minds and hearts of our girls to home making, to wifehood and motherhood, if we would save the race.

This organized campaign for agricultural education has already made its influence felt on our State Legislature. At the last session the County Farm Life School bill became a law. This is probably the most constructive piece of legislation within the history of this generation. We hope that within the next ten years every county in the State will have established one of these schools, where our boys will be given practical training in everything pertaining to farm life, and where our girls will be thoroughly trained in domestic science and art. The result in a few years will be wonderful prosperity for our beloved State. "Two blades of grass will be made to grow where only one had grown before."

Then the cry of over-production will no longer be heard in the land. Along with scientific production will be taught scientific marketing and distribution. A year's supply of no farm product will be forced on a glutted market in a few months' time. Products of a perishable character will be properly distributed all over the country, and thus avoid congested centers. Prosperous, happy farm homes with large families, will be the rule, rather than the exception.

Our courts will no longer be running divorce mills, unless our city cousins furnish the "grist." Love and reverence for home and parents, which is now on the wane, will again be seen and felt as a beneficent influence on the rising generation. The country home, the country school and the country church are the great character builders of our century. They will be run on full time and at full capacity, and will turn out a product of which no man may be ashamed.

Fraternally,  
H. Q. ALEXANDER.

Charlotte, N. C., July 24.

### ONLY A FEW DAYS MORE.

In which to get The Union Farmer for 25 cents. *The special offer closes Saturday at midnight* and in order to take advantage of it you must have your letter postmarked in due time. Any letter reaching us Monday or Tuesday showing that it was mailed Saturday before midnight can be included and subscription received, will be accepted at the special rate.

If you have not sent us your club or have not had your name included in a club, don't lose any time, but get busy and send in your name with 25 cents and get The Carolina Union Farmer until January 1st.

If you have a neighbor or member in your local who does not read the paper, get his name now. This same offer will not be repeated soon.

A great many local secretaries have been at work but the great majority have not yet reported anything, if your secretary will not send in your subscription, do it yourself. Anybody is at liberty to make a club or to send single subscriptions.

The time is short, act now!

Address  
CAROLINA UNION FARMER  
Gastonia, N. C.