

## The Carolina Union Farmer

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J. Z. Green, Marshville, N. C., Editor.  
C. E. Clark, Charlotte, N. C., Agricultural Dept.  
Mrs. E. D. Nall, Sandford, N. C., Home Dept.  
C. A. Eury, General Manager.

### ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

JOHN D. ROSS, 812 Hartford Building, Chicago  
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### EDITORIAL COMMENT

**T**HE weather for the past two months has been unfavorable for good attendance at meetings of local and county Unions and it comes at the time when the payment of annual dues should be made. Remember that nothing can succeed without leadership. A few men in church, in fraternal orders, in neighborhood school development, in commercial organizations, in every co-operative movement for financial, material or moral uplift, have had to take the lead and keep up life and activity where indifference and inactivity would otherwise bring premature death or discreditable defeat to a worthy cause. The rank and file of the people have always looked to leadership and they always will depend largely upon leadership. If you are an officer or a lay member leader in your Local Union you can see to it that there are no delinquents on your roll of members if you'll get busy and see each member individually, especially those whom you know to be discouraged and almost ready to quit. They ought to be reminded that the world hates a quitter and that in this organization each individual is a link in the chain and that when a member drops out he acknowledges defeat as one of the units of the organization, and that the discredit comes to him personally and not to the bravehearted, progressive members whose faith and courage are shown by their attitude and their actions.

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**I**T IS NOT expected that the Farmers' Union shall retain all the members who join the order and it should not want to retain those who come into the organization to see how much they can get out of it—without putting anything into it. Perhaps there is some dead weight of this kind that will make the Farmers' Union stronger when they leave it, but persistent effort should be made to get in their places intelligent, progressive, reading farmers, who are doing things for themselves and can do things in the Union. Now that we will begin, at an early date, to take stock for a great co-operative warehouse system in North Carolina, with enough tangible assets to do business in the big way that will measure up to the

standard that can be maintained by forty thousand organized farmers in this State, it is the opportune time to make special effort to get within your ranks those well-to-do business farmers in your neighborhood, if any have been standing out of the Union, because we had done nothing except in a limited local way. When we begin to do business under large capitalization we will need the capital, the counsel and the patronage from that class of farmers to help make a big co-operative business go.

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**I**F YOU lose a few members who say the Farmers' Union "ain't doing nothing," be sure to seek the membership, to take their places, of those who realize that an extravagant commercial system of distribution which places the burden most heartily upon the farmers, can't be reformed in a short time, neither can we make co-operation successful without combining capital into a corporation of our own. Many of the leaders of the Farmers Union of North Carolina are more hopeful of success now than ever before. With the concentration of all efforts towards building a business system whose assets will give it a commercial rating that is attractive and that will make its contracts good anywhere in this country, the Farmers' Union in North Carolina is getting in the right way, and the plan is in harmony with the practice and ideas of men who are leaders in the most successful financial enterprises. Its practicability can not be questioned, neither can its success be questioned, if enough of the organized farmers of North Carolina put enough capital and patronage behind it.

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**T**HE BOY readers, as well as the grown-up farmer readers of this paper, no doubt read with interest the article from Charles J. Parker, Jr., of Hertford county, telling how he produced 196 bushels of dry corn on one acre of land at a cost of twenty-four cents a bushel. Accounts of good yields of corn ought to be especially interesting to the all-cotton farmer who will have to pay for dollar-a-bushel corn with 9-cent cotton. Corn has been grown in this State at much less cost than 24 cents a bushel, but the yield was not in the neighborhood of two hundred bushels per acre. One farmer in Randolph county produced one hundred and eighteen bushels in 1909 on an acre without the use of any kind of fertilizer except clover, and the net cost of his corn must have been less than ten cents a bushel, if he saved the fodder or shredded the stalks to help balance expense account.

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**F**ARMERS who never go wild on cotton, but always have plenty of food products at home for family and stock, and some to sell, are not hit as hard by the bumper crop and low price of cotton as the so-called farmers who staked everything on commercial fertilizers and cotton. In fact, you can't put the Live-at-Home farmer out of business, for he is a real farmer who doesn't depend upon the railroads and the middleman for his living. And the Live-at-

Home farmer is never responsible for the low price of cotton for he does nothing to increase the aggregate cotton yield. When an all-cotton fellow gets it in the neck he reaps what he sows and it's right for him to suffer for it, but it is hard for the Live-at-Home farmer to have to either hold his cotton over a year or two or sell it at a low price, because the all-cotton fellows have brought ruin and panic to the country through their short-sighted policy.

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**T**HE marketing problem will be made much easier if all farmers, both in the cotton and tobacco section, will stay on a Live-at-Home basis. And the credit system can be overcome if the crops which are responsible for it are curtailed and corresponding increase is made in the acreage of food products. The best way to get out of debt is to fight debts behind a living at home. And no temporary increase in the price of a so-called money crop should cause a change from the Live-at-Home policy, for there's no independence on the farm except through this safe and sane policy.

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**I**T A MEETING of the Advisory Council at Raleigh last week, it was recommended that members of the Farmers' Union curtail the use of commercial fertilizers at least fifty per cent, and all farmers are asked to stay out of the fertilizer market until the price declines in proportion to the price of cotton. The excessive use of commercial fertilizers amounts to an economic waste for the farmers and tremendous fortunes for the fertilizer mixers. It will take nearly half the gross income from the cotton crop of North Carolina to pay for the commercial fertilizers used in this State last year. The fertilizer habit is, indeed, an expensive habit, and not one farmer in a thousand can tell how much profit he gets from its use, or whether he gets any profit at all or not. There is certainly plenty of room for some economies in its use, and also plenty of room for the application of more intelligence in its use.

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**W**ITH THE low price of cotton seed meal this year farmers can buy its use in connection with potash and phosphate, mix their fertilizers at home at a great saving from former prices of ready-mixed goods. Even at the present prices of acid phosphate and kainit, or potash, a fertilizer analyzing 8-3-3 can be mixed at home for about seventeen dollars per ton. Intelligent farmers are learning more and more every year that they can get a better fertilizer by mixing at home and at the same time save from five to seven dollars per ton. Let Home-Mixing be the slogan in the Farmers' Union during the season for purchasing fertilizers. When you mix at home you know what you are getting and you pay for no useless filler—that stuff which makes the railroad rich, pulls your team hard over bad roads, and "fills" the other fellow's pocket.