

The
Carolina Union Farmer

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
 BY THE UNION FARMER PUBLISHING COMPANY.
 OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' UNION.

Subscription Price: One Dollar a Year.

All subscriptions are payable in advance, and the paper will be discontinued when the time expires, unless renewed. The date on the tag which bears the name of the subscriber indicates the time to which the subscription has been paid.

J. Z. GREEN, *Marhsville*, - - - Editor
 MRS. E. D. NALL, *Sanford*, - - - Home Department
 C. A. EURY, - - - General Manager

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
 JOHN D. ROSS, 812 Hartford Building, Chicago.
 L. E. WHITE, Tribune Building, New York.

Entered as second-class matter March 21, 1912, at the Post-office at Raleigh, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1897.



Raleigh, N. C. - - - April 18, 1912.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

NEEDS LIVE STOCK.

The fertilizer tax hits the cotton farmer hard between the eyes and it frequently puts the balance on the wrong side of the sheet. The wise farmer is learning how to dodge the fertilizer tax. He does it by raising feed for live stock and raising live stock to feed. Indeed, it is a rare thing to find anywhere in the South a farmer in easy circumstances who does not give special attention to live stock. Discussing this part of the business of farming Home and Farm makes these remarks:

"The cotton farmer needs to raise live-stock. On many of our farms much of the money for which the cotton is sold in the fall has to go to pay for the commercial fertilizers used in growing the crop. Should not this suggest efforts to raise just as good crops without having to buy so much fertilizer? Is there any way by which this can be done? Raise enough livestock to use all the cottonseed grown on the farm. To go with the food made from the seed use peavine hay, clover, alfalfa and other nitrogen-gathering crops. This can be done with small cost. The cotton farmer cannot afford to neglect cattle-raising. The cattle sections of the country are making the greatest progress in agriculture. The nitrogen-gathering crops, while helping to feed the stock and also to reduce the fertilizer bills are doing the work of supplying one of the costly elements of the fertilizer. The ordinary cotton fertilizer consists principally of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. Of these three by far the most costly is nitrogen. Now peas, beans, clover and peanuts will leave enough nitrogen in the soil for cotton. Then, if they be raised, it is necessary to buy only potash and phosphoric acid. Thus comes a big saving."

INCREASING THE CAPITAL STOCK.

When you pass a farm and see barn yard and stable manure spread on clover in early spring, it isn't necessary to make inquiry, for there is no truer sign that the owner of that farm is adding to his capital stock. Investment in soil building pays good dividends. It increases the wages of the farmer who tills that soil. It is one of the essentials to success on any farm. It's the fundamental basis of good farming. The best methods of soil building should be discussed in every Local Union, for it is the most important essential on the producing side of the business of farming—the important thing that must be achieved before a farmer can produce things at minimum cost. Methods of soil preparation and cultivation are good as far as they go, but good preparation and good cultivation can never produce good crops on impoverished soil. If you have skinned along and, by being close and stingy, have managed to save up a little money which is bringing you the pitiful income of four per cent,

couldn't you invest it in the depleted soil which you plow up and cultivate and make it pay more than four per cent?

BUYING FARM IMPLEMENTS.

It is a common thing for lecturers and editors to call attention to the leaks caused by exposing farm implements to the weather. There is another waste that is seldom referred to, and that is, the investment in implements that are not suited to the needs of the farmer who buys them under the influence of flattering advertisements and testimonials, and then lets them rust out because they are useless and impractical on his farm. There are very few farms that do not bear evidence of this waste in form of discarded "labor-saving" implements lying around on the premises. The safe plan is either to buy on trial, to be paid for if satisfactory, or refuse to buy until the implement has been tried in the neighborhood.

THE PARCELS POST.

Those Congressmen who write farmers nice letters in favor of the parcels post and then write other nice letters against parcels post and send to merchants who are having nightmares for fear a few mail order houses are going to put them out of business, will be caught up with. These servants of the people can't continue in that kind of double attitude without getting into trouble. Approximately ninety per cent of the people are in favor of an effective parcels post and this issue must be met. Referring to the effort of a minority to defeat parcels post, Charleston News and Courier says:

"The argument on which the opponents of the contemplated modernization of the postal service seem to rely is briefly that the parcels post would enable mail-order houses in New York and Chicago to put goods into the county districts at a price with which the village merchant could not compete. We do not believe that there is cause for apprehension on that score. If there is, the cry is nevertheless without merit, and it is remarkable that those who most like demagoguery should be uttering it. Surely no politician really advocates the keeping up of prices by law in order to make the farmer pay more for his necessary supplies! Yet that is what it comes to. We must make him buy from the nearby store no matter what the cost. We imagine that few farmers will be fooled into acquiescence in such a program, if indeed their intelligence is not insulted by those who advocate it.

"Every other civilized country has cheap charges for the transportation of small packages. Those opposed to the parcels post claim that we must not have cheap transportation. That is the issue. Is any sensible man going to be beguiled into believing that cheap transportation will be an evil? We fancy not."

UNDIGNIFIED ATTACKS.

The attack of certain misled and unduly alarmed retail merchants upon the parcels post system is undignified and unbecoming to any set of men who claim to be good business men. In every other civilized country a parcels post system is maintained, and there are no big mail order houses in any of those countries. The fear of being put out of business by mail order houses is based upon a false alarm. But if we admit that mail order houses could pay the postage on small packages sent by mail (the postage charges would represent a good profit to a local merchant) and still be able to undersell the local merchant, in what sort of attitude do you find the local merchant, as a "good business man?" If he isn't a good enough business man to compete with the prices of the mail order houses, plus the postage, don't you think he has missed his calling, and wouldn't it be best for his vicinity for him to step down and out of business and let somebody take his place who knows how to buy goods right? If a local merchant can't buy goods in large quantities and have them transported by freight, which is the cheapest known method of transportation be-

tween inland points, and thereby put himself in position to compete in price with a mail order house that must add the postage, which at best, would be much more expensive than freight transportation, do you think it reflects much credit upon said local merchant to be advertising his inefficiency as a business man by setting up a howl against parcels post? Looking at it in its most favorable light, the puny complaint certain local merchants are making against parcels post is discreditable to any set of men who have the element of manhood and business efficiency in them, and it is a serious reflection upon their ability to do business as economically and as successfully as anybody else can do business, and a full grown man ought to be too proud to be caught in that kind of begging attitude.

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

Since the price of corn has gone above a dollar per bushel in many of the local markets of the State, and oats and other things to feed to stock, have reached high water mark in price, how do you cotton and tobacco speculators and gamblers like it? Do you feel like raising another big cotton crop to buy food products with? The farmer who doesn't make his living at home should never be caught complaining about the high price of corn and feed stuffs, because it wouldn't look right for a real farmer to be complaining about the high price of products which he can raise on his own farm. On the other hand, every genuine farmer (the helive-at-home farmer) ought to rejoice over the high price of food products—and he ought to have a surplus of these things to sell to towns and cities in this State, and thereby become a beneficiary of these high prices. If North Carolina farmers will quit importing mules and food products and will raise these things at home, we will begin to reap our share of the high prices that will prevail, for some years to come, at least. But we can't afford to keep on specializing on commercial fertilizers, cotton and tobacco, for that isn't farming. It's just plain gambling.

NEW LOCALS CHARTERED.

During the past month State Secretary Faires has granted charters to new locals at the following places: Winfall, Bolivia, Eure, Hughes, Elizabeth City, Trap Hill, Winnabow, (2), Dabney, Bethel, Hickory, Ellerbe, Arba, Cedar Grove, Lasker, Altamont, Hendersonville, Fletchers, Uree, Valley, Rockford, Wilson, Zirconia, Clarissa, Gudger, Okisko, Supply, Sunbury, Glen Ayre, Chapel Hill, Nebo, Kenley, Lyons, Walstonburg, Hillsboro, Garysburg, Mr. Pleasant, Hampstead, Durants, Rocky Mount, (3), Flat Rock, Sunbury, Edenton, Wadesville.

Applications for charters have also been received from Aberdeen, Covington, Snow Hill, Rockingham and Hookerton.

THE FARMERS UNION PLEDGE.

We are printing in another column the pledge recently circulated by the State Secretary for signers. A large number of these pledges have already been returned to the office of the State Secretary properly filled out but there are many in all parts of the State who have not yet sent in a pledge. This pledge is as much for the Tobacco Farmers of the State as the Cotton Farmers, and every farmer of the State, whether a cotton or tobacco planter, should obligate himself as prescribed in this pledge. If no signatures have been taken in your territory, cut out the blank on another page of this paper and have the members of your local sign it, then return it to E. C. Faires, Secretary, Aberdeen, N. C.

Education is leading human souls to what is best and making what is best of them; the training which makes men happiest in themselves also makes them most serviceable to others.—Ruskin.

I long that the husbandman should sing portions of Scripture to himself as he follows the plow; that the weaver should hum them to the tune of his shuttle; that the traveler should beguile with their stories the tedium of the journey.—Eras-mus.