

CO-OPERATION OF BANKERS AND MERCHANTS WITH THE FARMERS IN MARKETING THE CROPS OF 1912.

President H. Q. Alexander.

We can produce but one of the staple money crops in any one year; therefore it must supply the demand of the world for twelve months. As nearly as possible only one-twelfth of the crop should be marketed in any one month. This would be feeding the market without glutting it.

This method of marketing would be easily adopted in the handling of non-perishable crops if the farmers were out of debt and all crops grown on a cash basis. But the majority of farmers are burdened more or less heavily with obligations that must be met, and the percentage of mortgaged farms is increasing each year. Crops are grown very largely on credit extended by the time merchants and bankers. This ought not to be the case, but it is. Farmers will never become financially independent or prosperous as long as they are slaves to the credit system.

But under present conditions the gradual marketing of crops is possible only by and through the co-operation of the creditor classes, the bankers and merchants. Is it not a strange unnatural condition, that the non-producing classes are the creditors of the business of the country, while the producing classes are the debtors? It is a condition that will not be changed until the farmers put themselves in position to price the products of their labor and wrests from the non-producing creditor classes, to that extent, the privilege of pricing everything; both raw material and finished product.

All men will agree that gradual marketing without over-supplying the immediate demand will enure to the benefit of the producers. All men will also admit, and experience proves it, that agricultural prosperity promotes every other industry and adversity of the farming class depresses all business.

This, then, brings us to the question, Will it be to the interest of the bankers and merchants to co-operate with the farmers in an organized effort to secure gradual marketing? I believe that every wise business man will agree that it will in the long run be decidedly to his interest to secure gradual marketing and good prices for farm products. He will thus be promoting the prosperity of his home people; the people who will in turn patronize his business and make it prosperous.

I want to appeal to the bankers and merchants of North Carolina to aid in a co-operative movement for the gradual marketing of all farm crops, to the end that we may not have depressed prices from congested markets. That definite and united action may be taken along this line, I hereby call upon every County Union in the State to appoint a committee of say a dozen of the leading farmers of the county, not all necessarily members of the Union, to meet with the bankers and merchants of your county towns to discuss this matter and devise plans of co-operation. Some of the points to be considered will be extension of time on obligations maturing, volume of money to be loaned on farm products, rates of interest, warehouse facilities, etc.

Let all counties take this action at once and report results through your county papers and The Carolina Union Farmer, that your success may encourage other counties; and in case of failure, that other counties and towns may come to your aid. Do not delay. Call special sessions of the County Union if necessary and act at once.

LAND MONOPOLY.

The increase in land values in the United States in the last few years has made it very nearly impossible for a person of common means to get foot-hold, and they have no prospects or hopes of ever obtaining it as long as the present methods of landlordism exists. The unrestricted methods of land monopoly and unchecked greed of land speculators are mainly the cause of the confusion and discontent, the social unrest and disorder that prevails. A large number are on the move all the time, discontented and disheartened, trying to find a foot-hold. The concentration of land by land speculators has brought about greater hardship and oppression to the common class of people than anything else, depriving them of homes, and by so doing has caused confusion, and the incited to all kinds of vice and dissipation, disrupting society, engendering class distinction. That land should be monopolized and controlled by the few to the detriment and oppression of the many, was never intended.

When the land of Canaan was divided, it was ordered that each should have an equal share, and it is more necessary now that this command should be observed, because of the greater number of people and limited amount of territory. Land is the basis and foundation of all support, and life is dependent and could not exist without its support. From the above it is not only right but just and proper that every one should have an equal sharing with the means so necessary for their happiness and prosperity. A great portion of the best land is in the control of the land

speculators, and they are still reaching out, and if there is not a stop or check to their greed, they will soon own it all. Pass special license tax on land speculators, similar to many other trades and professions; place a limit in amounts to the individual needs and impose a graduated tax on all over that amount, which would cause them to unload their surplus holdings and forever put a stop to the iniquitous greed of a few persons to own the earth. And it will be well to establish a maximum limit to rents.—Texas Co-operator.

MT. OLIVE LOCAL, No. 1869.

Mr. Editor:—Some of our fellow-members are wishing to know something of the progress of our local organization, so we wish to use a small space in your columns in which to insert the following notes:

Having organized May 6, 1911, with only a few faithful members, our Union has been working under steady improvement, and now prevails with a membership of sixty-four; there being forty-six male and eighteen female members, nearly all of whom are "paid-up" and in good standing. A majority of the members are getting the best results of making nearly all purchases of fertilizer and groceries through the trade channels of the Union.

We are glad to note the progress of our sister Unions and want to feel that we are one of the many spokes now constituting this great wheel of progress. We believe that the Union is here to stay. It is the very thing that we have been needing so long, and now all that we need to do is to put our shoulders to the wheel and

all push together with all our might. We want every farming man to take sides with us in this great work. We cannot but prosper if we do our very best as brother farmers.

Our meetings are held promptly in which much interest is manifested. Besides the transaction of business we have lectures from different members of the Union on interesting topics such as different methods of planting, working and harvesting of chops, and crop rotation.

We want to stand fast, remaining loyal to our duty, working constantly in that which is good, and show to the spectator that we are a band inseparable for the noblest work.

We are glad to announce that the next County Union Meeting will be held with our Local, September 3, 1912. We are hoping to have an able speaker for the benefit of the public.

Fraternally,

COMMITTEE.

Northampton Co., N. C., July 11, 1912.

HERTFORD COUNTY UNION.

Hertford County Farmers' Union will meet with Union Local at Union on the 26th day of July. Dr. J. M. Templeton and Dr. H. Q. Alexander will be with them and address the public on the warehouse and other plans of the Union work. Everybody is invited. Northampton, Bertie and Gates County Farmers' Union will please send a good delegation.

J. H. EVANS, President.

P. D. SEWELL, Sec. Treas.

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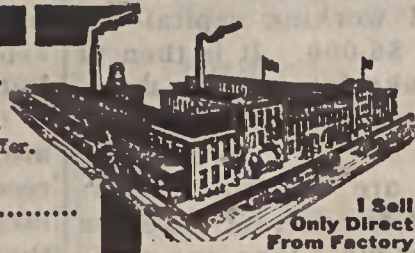
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