



PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE UNION FARMER PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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, Marshville, 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. - - - October 3, 1912.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

ARRANGE TO AVOID THE TOLL GATES.

The Live-at-home policy of the Farmers' Union, properly put into practice, will enable farmers to avoid the expensive toll gates that are located along the commercial highway, as far as it is possible to avoid them. It is true that farmers must buy manufactured products that travel the circuitous and expensive channel of distribution, but no farmer is compelled to buy food products which can be raised at home. When we make the mistake of planting any so-called "money crop" which we must sell to buy food products that can be grown economically on our own farm, the economic error is farther-reaching in its disastrous effects than would appear from a surface view. We must keep it in mind that we are living under the most indirect, expensive and extravagant system of distribution the world has ever seen, both on the selling and buying side of our business, and it will require time to reform this expensive system of distribution. When a farmer plants a "money crop" with which he intends to purchase a living, he must put that product into this expensive channel of distribution and all the toll gates along the way take a dig out of it at the expense of the farmer as a producer. Then when he buys his food products he must again pay the tolls as a consumer. He then places himself in position to be double-taxed by a grinding system of distribution.

WHAT THE "LIVE-AT-HOME" POLICY DOES.

Now, the farmer who makes his farm self-supporting by planting always for a living at home, pays no jobbers' commission, no wholesale profits, no retail profits and no transportation charges on his food products. He doesn't even have to lose the time of a man and a team to haul those products from the nearest market town. In other words, he gets his food products at "first cost" by raising them at home, and he thereby refuses to permit himself to be taxed to maintain the superfluous toll gates along the commercial highway. He also avoids the tolls that he would have to pay if he had made the mistake of putting a "money crop" upon the market to get the necessary money with which he purchases his food products.

"LIVE-AT-HOME STRENGTHENS THE FARMER'S POSITION ON THE MARKETS.

There is another important feature about the Live-at-Home policy. When a farmer who has his barns, cribs and smokehouses filled with the necessities of life, he can then hold his cotton, tobacco or peanuts, or any other surplus crop, until market conditions are favorable. When a man is in position to fight for profitable prices behind a

living at home he has the strongest position that it is possible to occupy. He can sit steady in the boat and wait until a consuming world gets hungry for his products. He is not panic-stricken on account of price fluctuations, because he is not in distress. These remarks are made at this time to remind Farmers' Union folks that during the grain sowing season is the opportune time to make provision for a living at home by sowing a good portion of the acreage in grain crops that do not require cultivation. Now is a good time to renew your discussions in your Local Unions on the importance of getting solidly upon the fundamental basis of a living at home, and then carry the discussion far enough to include methods of soil preparation and the sowing of oats, wheat, rye, and also the clovers, vetches, etc., as soil builders.

ANOTHER EFFECT OF "LIVE-AT-HOME."

The general adoption of the "Live-at-Home" policy in the South may cause a few thousand grocery stores to do less business, but it will be the greatest blessing to the South that could possibly come through any other economic reform. The natural and logical effect of such policy will be not only to reduce the size of the cotton crop and insure higher prices for this great Southern staple with which the South holds a world monopoly, but it will gradually and effectively eliminate the ruinous credit system, and it is the only economic policy that will eliminate it. If Southern farmers will get as much excited over making a living at home as they have been over the attempt to "make money" this section will ultimately become financially independent. With a living at home and with a warehouse system of co-operative marketing farm life will become more profitable and also more attractive and it can not become more attractive until some of the element of uncertainty that now exists is removed and the business of farming is made more profitable.

EXTRAVAGANCE VS. "HIGH COST OF LIVING."

This is an era "fast living." Extravagant habits have been firmly fixed in the nature of families living in towns and cities, and this condition of things is sometimes called the "high cost of living," and voluminous articles have been written about this "problem." If the problem solving theorists would call it the "cost of high living" they would have it correctly stated and then they could soon get down to the fundamental cause. In the towns and cities children are more expensively dressed every day at school than they were dressed at church on Sundays a few decades ago. Even in the smaller towns the "high cost" of extravagance makes the "dress" expense loom up about five times as large as it was under the plain and simple standard of living a quarter of a century ago. It is wrong to call this the "high cost of living." Call it the "cost of high living"—the result of the voluntary raising of the standard of living higher than the average income will justify. The soda fountain must be visited. Five and ten-cent cigars have been substituted for the pipe and tobacco. The moving picture shows must be visited. Expensive "social functions" must be given. Dry goods and groceries must be delivered at the house. Automobile rides come in the program, which means not only the "high cost" of the machine but the lost time must also be taken into account. The standard of living has been raised about three hundred per cent, while the average income has fallen far behind. It all goes to make up the "cost of high living," and the people who have raised their standard of living relatively higher than their incomes are alone responsible for it, and they stultify themselves when they undertake to shift the responsibility to somebody

"HIGH LIVING" ON THE FARM.

Just as poor factory people and other wage earners in towns and cities try to ape the rich

and spend all their income to "keep up appearances," many farmers have caught the spirit of "high living" and undertake to spend as much to "dress up" their "kids" and give them as gay time as the town and city folks have. Extravagant habits are about as catching as measles and smallpox, and when Bill Jones buys his little girl a black pair, a tan pair and a white pair of shoes his neighbor, John Smith, considers his little girl just as good as Bill Jones' girl, and under this spirit of false pride and foolish rivalry, John Smith goes and buys his little girl the three colors of shoes just to show Jones' folks that he is able (?) to do it. The Farmers' Union might get in some important co-operative educational work by discussing home economics and by discouraging extravagances that are as needless as they are foolish. Farmers should live the natural and plain life, which is the sensible and economic way to live. Perhaps the most deplorable and alarming feature of our modern extravagances and high living exists in the fact that we are producing a generation of spendthrifts, who know more about scattering than about the creation of wealth. If the extravagances of the next ten years increase as they have during the past ten years, it is difficult to forecast the extent of the disastrous results.

THE POLITICAL HYPOCRITES.

The biggest rascal that ever betrayed the people and served the special interests in Congress can come before the people with a bold and plausible defense of his "record." With all the brass and bluster and bravery that it is possible to bring into play, certain machine partisan demagogues are now engaged in standing before audiences telling how they have served the "dear people," when they belong body and soul to "the interests" and now have the solid support of the corporations and "special interests" of the State. The strange part of it—the deplorable part of the whole business, is that there is such a large element of dense ignorance among the voters and so many local "machine" politicians who care nothing for principle and who are out for the "spoils" only. Perhaps the most corrupt thing in North Carolina is modern "machine" politics—which is simply a scramble for political office.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF TOBACCO FARMERS.

Notice is hereby given that there will be held in the Carroll Hotel, Lynchburg, Va., October 16, an Inter-State Meeting of the tobacco farmers of Virginia and North Carolina. All county organizations in the Tobacco Belt are requested to send representatives. The meeting will be held at 10 o'clock.

H. Q. ALEXANDER, President North Carolina Division; D. M. GANNAWAY, President Virginia Division.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee of the North Carolina Farmers' Union is hereby called to meet in the Carroll Hotel, Lynchburg, Va., October 16 for the purpose of selecting a place for holding the Annual Convention and the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

H. Q. ALEXANDER, President; W. B. GIBSON, Chairman of Committee.

When you are satisfied with mediocrity, when commonness doesn't trouble you, when you do not feel troubled by a poor day's work, or when a slighted job does not haunt you; when you are satisfied to do a thing "just for now," expecting to do it better later—these are signs of deterioration of character.—O. S. Marden.