

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF TENNESSEE FARMERS' UNION.

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To the Tennessee Brotherhood.

The Carolina Union Farmer has Been Adopted as Organ of the Tennessee Union.—A Stirring Appeal from President Rhodes to Put the Organ in Every Members' Home.

At the close of the best year's work of the Tennessee State Union, in State Convention at Chattanooga, September 6, 1912, we adopted The Carolina Union Farmer as our State organ. We are to have a Tennessee page, or pages, and I most earnestly request State and county officials and other Union members all over the State, to write to our Tennessee department. Write short, readable letters; tell what you are doing, when your County Union meets and what kind of meetings you are having. Make the Tennessee page a red-hot live wire, sparkling with unionism every week.

Let every Local make a special effort to get every member to take this paper. Every Local Secretary should send in a club at once. Let us put The Carolina Union Farmer in every farmer's home in Tennessee. North Carolina, the foremost State in the Farmers' Union, and Tennessee, one of the foremost, can certainly get out a paper that will interest, encourage, strengthen and enlighten every farmer who reads it. We must be up and doing. So let Tennessee and North

Carolina join hands across the mountains and make The Carolina Union Farmer the greatest farm journal and Union paper in the whole country.

Every farmer should read it and treasure up its truths, for knowledge is power, and practical intelligence, properly applied, is the most productive force on earth. But the power of knowledge exercised by the few and neglected by the many, has mocked equity, dethroned justice and torn the Golden Rule into shreds. Farmers, we must take no backward steps until intelligent methods of production, scientific methods of marketing, and co-operative systems of rural credits transforms our country into a nation of happy and prosperous homes and our farmers from industrial slaves to industrial masters.

Our slogan is double the membership in Tennessee this year. And my motto has always been, "A purpose once fixed, then death or victory."

Fraternally,

L. M. RHODES,
State President.

CONSTANCY.

By C. W. Brooks, Tennessee State Secretary.

The writer has yet to meet his first man who will come out, straight from the shoulder, and say there is nothing farmers may gain by organizing, should get closer together; should have frequent meetings where their various interests may be discussed that all may profit by the successes and failures of each. And that there are a multitude of small and great problems, local, State-wide and nation-wide in their scope, that may be dealt with profitably by a compact organization where individual effort would be absolutely futile. There is no denying this proposition. It is so nearly self-evident that a little real thinking is sufficient to convince anyone who is not incensed by some bigoted or foolish prejudice or who is too mentally lazy to exercise the thinking faculties.

There is one "stock in store" argument used by all who would place a low estimate on the results of an organization composed of farmers. It is neatly constructed and always in easy reach that it may be brought forward at the proper time. It is conceded that organization is legitimate, that there is a need for it, and if properly conducted much good will result, but—they say, "Farmers won't stick."

Is it true that farmers are lacking in constancy? Is there any foundation in fact for this indictment against the fixedness of purpose, firmness of mind, persevering resolution and unchained determination of the American farmer? When we consider him from the standpoint of a business man, candor forces us to admit there is some grounds for the accusation.

Why this lack of "stickability?" Is it characteristic of the men whose brain and brawn causes the farms of the United States to produce more than \$8,000,000,000 of farm products

annually? It certainly is not. Touch any of the cherished rights of the American citizen and you will find the tillers of the soil ready to sacrifice time, money and, if need be, life itself. The question may be asked, why then do they not revolt and see to it that our present system of distributing farm products, which allows the producer less than half of what the consumer pays, is so amended as to eliminate all useless dealers, thereby bringing the producer and consumer closer together the result of which would be a saving of millions of dollars to each? There can be but one answer to this query? They do not fully realize that they are being systematically robbed. They have become so accustomed to turning over the products of their labor to some local dealer, where it is lost from their sight, and have gotten so deep into the old rut, if sounded to the bottom, it will be found they really doubt that a more satisfactory and economical system can be put into operation.

So many are short-sighted, indifferent and selfish that were it not for the faithfulness of those who are satisfied to know that some day some one will reap a harvest from their sowings, we think it is not extreme to say, civilization itself would perish.

No vocation or profession is free from drones. In every walk of life men may be found who do not think it worth while to strive for improvement. A vast majority are content to stagnate year after year. Men of broad mental equipment whose energy and ambition prompt them to strive faithfully for the betterment of their fellow men and for the stamping out of all inequalities are comparatively few in number. But upon their faithfulness and truthfulness depends the life and usefulness of all movements for the common good. Development and progress are governed by laws as fixed and regular as

those which rule the physical world. Where there is no constant effort there is no progress; where there is no progress there is stagnation.

It is the mission of the Farmers' Union to so educate the farming class that a better system of farming, a better system of marketing, (buying and selling) and an improvement of farm life conditions will be a matter of course.

The man who expects all farmers to join in this work, take a part in the program and prove themselves valiant soldiers will be disappointed. Many men who are in some degrees thoughtful and progressive will not associate themselves with the organization. Many who do enlist under its banner will prove to be weaklings. The final results depend on the faithfulness of the faithful.

Fortunately, there are a few in each community whose minds are receptive and who are willing to accept the benefits of scientific research. These men are on the look out for new ideas and developments and are not unwilling to forsake a well beaten path if the fact that there is a better road can be demonstrated. They are the pioneers of thought following the blazed trail of the explorers who believe there are yet new productive and commercial worlds that may be discovered. These local leaders are the ones who introduce new machinery and improve live-stock, and it is they who foster and encourage all movements looking to the uplifting of their class. They are the ones who persuade the timid, stimulate the sluggish and create enthusiasm in the minds of those who are indifferent or doubtful; these are the men who by their influence and activities build better school houses and better churches and put into them more efficient teachers and more able preachers. The majority who year after year find themselves enjoying the pleasures and conveniences of improved conditions seldom stop to consider why the changes or what part they played in bringing them about.

It is well to remind ourselves of the fact that it is not absolutely necessary to have the co-operation of even a majority before progress can be made. A few earnest, energetic men can by persistent effort, interest enough of their fellow men to make some advancement along most any line of general betterment.

In all history we find no record of an organization that aroused, animated and inspired the farming class as the Farmers' Union has done. Into whatever community it enters it instills into the minds of the patient, long-suffering "Man with the hoe" a desire for better conditions and a hope of obtaining them. It strives to educate him and lead him onward into a wider range of thought that he may develop mentally and get into possession of a great number of useful facts and significant truths from which he may learn important lessons and get a clearer view of the tendencies of life.

Thus the Farmers' Union has multiplied the number of thinking farmers. Thus millions of farmers have come to know that for a hundred years this government has been more favorable to commerce and manufacturers than to agriculture. And as a result of the work done by this organization millions of farmers,

through their committees, are knocking at the doors of our national congress and our State Legislatures and demanding a square deal for American agriculture.

All honor to the faithful few in each community. It was their constancy, faithfulness and fixedness of purpose that has made it possible to build up and maintain the Farmers' Union. The future influence, powers and usefulness depends on their continued loyal support.

PRESIDENT RHODES' ANNUAL ADDRESS TO TENNESSEE FARMERS.

The annual address by L. M. Rhodes, President of the Tennessee Division, Farmers' Union, delivered at the opening of the State Convention, Thursday, was as follows:

At a time when the Farmers' Union of Tennessee is more prosperous and powerful thrills me with pleasure to greet and congratulate its representatives in annual convention. You are the authorized spokesmen of the most important farmers' organization ever assembled in our State. We had a good organization in Tennessee one year ago. We have a much stronger one today. As we look back over the long, hard road we have traveled and the obstacles we have overcome, I am sure you rejoice with me today over the victories won and stand ready to meet, with absolute confidence, any opposition that may obstruct our pathway. Hours like these of good fellowship and victories are the golden strands that the flying shuttle of time weaves into our lives. But the roses of pleasure are not without their thorns of disappointment. Today we miss the manly form, hearty hand-clasps and cordial greetings of some who were with us a year ago. They have gone to their abundant reward. Let us treasure their memories; let the good they did live after them to bless those who are to come; let us write their faults upon the sands and their virtues upon the tablets of remembrance and love.

One year ago, when you made me your president for the third time, I promised you with all the earnestness of my soul that if you would give me your loyal support the Farmers' Union in Tennessee should continue to grow and prosper. While I do not claim a more lofty patriotism than that which actuates other public men, and I hope I shall never feel an impulse to draw around me a robe of self-righteousness, I do claim to have been industrious, unselfish and faithful. Since the last State Union I have written 1,800 letters, made 160 speeches and traveled 2,700 miles. I have willingly lost sleep, undergone privations, endured hardships, worry and heartaches. I have almost forsaken home with its ties of confidence, love and devotion, and deprived myself of the sweetest joys of the human soul.

But the race has not been run, the battle has not been fought alone. I feel it my duty to say that your State Secretary-Treasurer has stood by me like a brother. With an energy that knows no fagging and an enthusiasm that knows no discouragement, he has labored to build up and strengthen our organization. Sometimes when the burdens have seemed too heavy for my shoulders to bear I have shifted some of them onto him and he has borne them willingly and without an exception. Your Vice-President and Executive Committee have never failed me, and much of our success is due to their wise counsel and timely aid. I am not indulging in idle flattery when I tell you that no body of men could have stood more nobly by me and no truer, more loyal or faithful men and wo-