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Do Polk County Farmers Have as Good Markets as They Want? If Not, Why Not? Think About It!

POLK COUNTY NEWS

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OUR COUNTY AGENT'S DEPARTMENT

Some Timely Talks to Polk County Farmers, and others, on Timely Subjects, by County Agent, J. R. Sams.

White Oak Township.

Last week White Oak township was the center of attraction in the Polk County News. Yes, she is a red soil township. There is but little land except the red clay and that of a good quality. White Oak, like Cooper Gap township is washed no one side by Green River and the other edge perches on the "high peaks" in the "Land of the skies" From the foot of the mountain to the lower section of the township, the land is hilly and rather steep along the creeks and branches, and there is a lot of good bottom land along these creeks and branches. And all this bottom land was once valuable for the production of corn, potatoes etc., but much of it is now of little value under present management. The trouble is this, which can be easily corrected with different treatment.

The present system of cultivating these steep lands, year after year, causes such erosion by the heavy rains that come in Polk County that the soil and much of the subsoil is carried down and deposited in the bottoms which fill the creek and branch runs, and cover the land so deep with the dead clay from the hillsides, that nothing will grow on the hills from whence the clay came, and on the bottoms where deposited.

It seems so strange to me that otherwise sensible men will pursue such a destructive course. There is a remedy for all this, and the remedy is easy. The only trouble in the way is that to apply the remedy will require a change in the habit and manner of living among the people, and habits and customs of people in any community are hard and require a long time to change.

If our forefathers had caught a vision of beautiful fields of living green pastures and fat cattle browsing on their hills, all would have been better, but since they did not so choose; but on the contrary chose to grow altogether cotton and other cultivated crops; we find conditions as they are. So the only remedy is to go back to where the evil started and correct this evil.

The soil must be rebuilt and as fast as rebuilt, sown to permanent pastures. This is the only policy that can ever reclaim the country. This will do it and do it rapidly and then it will stay built. When the hills of White Oak township are rebuilt and the bottoms reclaimed, and the farmers become interested in purebred cattle, hogs and sheep, then and not till then will the people understand what a delightful country they do have. Perhaps the denizens of White Oak township would feel like crucifying me if I were to say that Cooper Gap and Greens Creek can beat them growing sweet potatoes; but they can. But on the other hand White Oak is a great township for growing the clovers if they only knew it. All the farmers have to do to grow the clovers in old White Oak, is to learn how, and to learn how is easy if they just wanted to. And I will say incidentally that White Oak township will never be what she ought to be until her farmers begin to grow the clovers, and other legume crops and sow the grasses on the rough and wet lands and use lime. Of course the township is

so versatile in its productive power that it would take a book as big as an old style family Bible written in small type to tell the half of what she could do. Ye Saluda and Cooper Gap apple fellows, don't grow ashy when I say White Oak township can produce just as fine apples and peaches, grapes, strawberries, etc., as any country anywhere. Mili Spring the capital of the township is the seat of the White Oak community club that is doing so much for the uplift of the township. They have already organized their fair for this fall and are laying plans for other projects that will be uplifting to the entire community. Taken all around White Oak township is a great place to live and enjoy life as you go along.

A Message to Polk County Farmers.

My dear friends:—For I regard every man and woman in Polk county, regardless of religious or political affiliation or business calling; but this message is especially to the farmer, and please lend me your ears this one time if never again.

Now we have been discussing ways and means by which the farmers of Polk county can organize in an orderly and brotherly, yet strictly a business way by which they may better their marketing conditions and by so doing greatly benefit themselves and put no other class of men and women at any disadvantage; but on the contrary be of better service to the consuming population of our county who are not producers of farm products.

Our plan has been set forth in these columns and in public meetings; but we find so many farmers who have not even heard there is any plan of any kind being spoken of that we feel to present it again. It is simply this: 1st. Raise capital stock in shares of \$50 each, every farmer in Polk county to take one or more shares. 2nd. When ten thousand dollars are subscribed; organize under the cooperation laws of N. C., by electing a sufficient number of directors who in turn will organize and elect a business agent or manager, whom together will conduct the entire business, which should consist of cooperative selling all farm products as far as consistent with good business principals and buying in bulk and car lots all kind of supplies that can be purchased and handled as we may find profitable and in accord with good business.

The plan would in the beginning contemplate the location of a warehouse at or near Tryon, N. C., through which we can expedite business rapidly in car lots and even larger quantities; and later, if found desirable; locate a farmers exchange or clearing house through which farmers can sell and exchange commodities of their own production or with other friendly farmers organization or with the outside business world. All these things in the opinion of the writer can be carried out on strictly business principals by adhering strictly to business principals, working out every detail as it occurs. Now farmers, for the first pull; we are at present, so far as any plan or system of marketing our products or obtaining heavy farm supplies, in object slavery. Now shall we continue in a state of slavery, or will we rise up and

shake from our limbs the fetters that have so long bound us in commercial slavery? Shall we or shall we not? What say you? The books are now open, It is up to you Mr. farmer. Who is willing to take his stand faithfully by the side of his brother and pledge his faith and his little cash to carry out this gigantic undertaking and who among all of us will be stockholders in this the greatest movement and opportunity for service which has ever come to Polk county farmers? This burden is weighing down heavy upon me as your county agent, and if you let it fail I shall take it as an indication that you have lost faith in my judgment and leadership; and my stay in Polk county will cease. The campaign for the necessary capital stock is on and must-not and shall not fail; because it would mean further and deeper commercial slavery in the future than in the past. All progressive counties around us will organize and take over their marketing problems and then what will become of us when all markets are taken from us, when all other counties will be marketing cooperatively and we still slashing each others throats go-

Do We Want It?

Believing that one of the first needs of Tryon in the interest of the young people of the community in the establishment of a local moving picture concern where clean, interesting and educational entertainment can be had. A number of ladies and gentlemen have set on foot a movement to that end.

An adequate building for this purpose is at hand, and the promoters have been at pains to secure estimates for its reconstructions and the installation of a complete cinema outfit together with seating accommodations etc. They have also partly completed arrangements to secure from a first class source a supply of films superior to any ever shown in this part of North Carolina. These films, including the work of some of the greatest cinema stars, and travel and other pictures of educational value will be had direct from the producers, the choice to be entirely that of the local manager who will therefore be relieved of the necessity of being compelled to accept arbitrary offerings as the case would be was the proposed enterprise on a circuit.

Saluda Township

ON TOP. In the Land of the Sky and Sunshine, as well as clouds and rain. Famous for its Fancy Apples and Truck of all kinds. The town of Saluda is the principal sea port and shipping point. Two banks and many hotels, boarding houses, Schools and Churches. A great place to be in summer. Lakes, waterfalls, etc., close by. Green River Cove just in the back ground. Health and a good time for all who come.

ing on in the old individualistic way of dumping our stuff on the market as beggars, and kneeling supinely at the mercy of all the world and furnish the shears with which everyone may help himself to a liberal share of our fleece.

Now again I say it is up to us, to be free men and women commercially, or continue to be slaves. Which shall we be?

Reception to Summer School Students

From 8:00 until 9:30 Thursday evening June 2, 1921, the instructors of the summer school at Round Hill, received in honor of the summer school students in the lobby of the girls' new dormitory.

The guests were met at the door by Miss Pearl Harrelson and Mamie Moore, who had a cherry word of welcome for each one.

The hour was spent in conversation, contests, music and laughter, after which delicious ice cream was served. A number of cheers were given for each instructor to show how each one present honored them and how each appreciated all kindness shown, not only during the evening but during the three weeks of the school.

NANNIE SUE BLANTON, Student of the summer school.

Tryon's recent experiences with moving pictures have not entirely been happy but with the proposed concern in the hands of local management and with the selection of the films a matter of local taste the promoters believe they will be able to give Tryon and it's tributary territory an entertainment which will add to the tourist reputation and be a source of entertainment for persons of all ages.

It is the present idea to form a small stock company to float the enterprise, selling the stock at a low figure to as many as possible in order to increase the interest in the success of the enterprise. Those who have already moved in the matter have pledged themselves to head the subscription list with such sums as they are able to give.

A committee will presently circulate this list and explain the details of the organization to those who may wish to support its worthy object. There may also be some informal luncheons at which the matter will be discussed.

This may be said to be the first, if not one of the most important, moves for the betterment of conditions in Tryon and the cooperation of all citizen is asked in order to insure its success.

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY

Items of Interest Gathered From Various Sections of Polk County by Our Corps of Faithful Correspondents.

Tryon Route 1.

W. C. Edwards, departed this life June 11, 1921, age eighty-three years. Uncle Watson was a confederate soldier, serving well the cause of the South and suffered all the long years hence from a wound he received thereby. But first and last a good soldier of Jesus Christ, ever trying to bear the banner of the great captain on to victory. His funeral was conducted by Rev. Womack, (another confederate soldier who daily walks with God) in the presence of a large concourse of sorrowing friends. He now sleeps beneath the beautiful flowers at Bethlehem church. The orphan children of Joseph Edwards, of whom uncle Watson fathered and grandfathered were brought from the orphanage to spend with him the last few days per his request, also Ooscar Allen, of Georgia, uncle Garner Clark and wife of New Prospect, and Mr. Brannon and family, of Spartanburg, attended the funeral.

Jack Guffey and baby, Samuel, spent the week-end at Walnut Grove.

Misses Pearl and Essie Edwards left last week for summer school at Brevard.

Mrs. Lola Mull and son, Murphy, Jr., Mrs. Cora Shankle and little boys, Henry, Jr., and Sam Boone, spent the week-end with their aunt, Mrs. E. B. Edwards.

Hurrah! for Mill Spring, she is coming to the front. Just watch her athletic association.

Mill Spring Route 1.

Rev. W. W. Womack preached a very interesting sermon at Lebanon last Sunday.

Several people from here went to Bethlehem Sunday afternoon to the burial service of W. Edwards.

Misses Maye and Odessa Searcy spent Sunday with Miss Mary Willie Whiteside on Broad River.

Harley Shultz and Talmage Allen attended services at Lebanon last Sunday.

Miss Dorcas Edwards returned to Burnsville last Wednesday, after spending a few days with home folks.

James Egerton, of Mill Spring, spent Sunday here.

Rev. W. W. Womack and wife were the dinner guests at J. T. Edwards last Sunday.

Bob Lynch, of Ruhterfordton, attended preaching at Lebanon last Sunday.

Ralph Edwards and wife spent Sunday on Route 2.

Pea Ridge.

We were glad to have a shower of rain after being dry so long.

Mrs. Corner and son, Benny, went on a business trip to Lynn Sunday.

Miss Addie Philips gave a party Saturday evening.

Miss Mary Mills spent Friday with Misses Maggie and Julia Byars.

Myrtle Mills was the guest of Eva Byars Sunday.

Lindsey Garrett and wife were the guests of the latter's parent's N. G. Thompson and wife, Friday.

Miss Louise Mills is visiting home folks for a few weeks.

Misses Gertrude and Gladys

Phillips were the guests of Miss Nettie and Clifford Davis, Sunday.

Weldon Green spent Sunday afternoon with his brother, Walter.

Mrs. W. A. Mills was the dinner guest of Mrs. Armandice Corner Sunday.

Johnie Byars spent Sunday night with Lewis Mills.

Mrs. A. Valleton is on the sick list this week.

Little Alma Phillips is visiting her sister, Mrs. Joe Prichard, of Landrum.

Mrs. Ebe Cochran is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Laura Griffon, of Spartanburg.

Miss Minnie Hodge has returned home from Greenville, S. C.

W. A. Mills was the guest of A. J. and J. W. Prichard Sunday.

Safety First or Perhaps You Next?

23 persons are accidentally injured every minute.

1,380 persons are accidentally injured every hour.

33,120 persons are accidentally injured every day.

12,088,800 persons are accidentally injured every year.

A person is twice as liable to die from sickness or accident as from old age.

Every five minutes one person is accidentally killed.

One death in every nine is due to accidental causes.

One person out of every eight suffers disability during the year.

At The Congregational Church.

Rev. W. A. Black, A. M. Pastor.

Bible School Sunday morning at 10.

Public Worship and Sermon at 11.

Bible Studies in Acts Wednesdays at 4. p. m.

Tourists and all citizens cordially welcome.

News Dots Here and There.

Mrs. Mary McSwain had a ten acre old fashioned Polk county cow pasture with three strands of barbed wire around it that would not hold one cow, while a modern Polk county pasture with two wires safely keeps two cows for her, and only two acres in it. Do you see the point?

W. F. Grant near Hickory Grove church is delighted with the little experience he is having with building pasture. When he turned his cow into his modern pasture her milk flow was more than doubled and it just keeps flowing.

Go where you may in Polk county and ask anyone who has sown grass on his farm and ask him if his land was washed by the late big hail and rain storms. Then look about and see what happened to the lands on which no grass seed has been sown.

Mr. Chitwood near Hickory Grove church is having a hard time coaxing bermuda grass to grow in his pasture. Keep right on brother Chitwood, and bye and bye you will succeed.

When loafing some day call around and see Crowel Bridges' pasture. It is only a small-one, but it will show you what a big one will do and how very easy you can have one.

From the calls I am now having to aid Polk county farmers in making home pastures, it will not be long until every farm in the county will be provided with

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