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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.

To Polk County Farmers.

Last week we thought together a little about the Farmers Program for the next year. We must never forget that simply stated the Farmers Program will always be, soil building, soil conservation, crops and disposition of crops. Last week the disposition of crops was barely mentioned. This week lets think together at greater length on this part of the program. Some crops from their very nature must be sold directly from the farm to the consumer. For instance the cotton crop must find its way directly to the manufacturer of cotton and other manufacturers of fabrics for human clothing etc.

The corn crop, however may go directly into the markets of the world, or be fed to cattle, hogs or sheep and marketed in an entirely different way, so of the sweet potato, wheat, barley and many other field crops; but it matters not whether the crop of the farmer goes directly or indirectly to the markets; the selling or disposing end of the crop is of equal importance to the farmer as the production end of the business. Now farmers; I am not talking to the average farmer in intelligence and on down to the ignoramus who neither reads nor thinks for himself. I am making this appeal to the average farmer in intelligence up to the man who thinks things for himself and is willing to help think out and help those of his calling who will help think for themselves. It is the disposition of the crops I want us to think together about this week. Now really farmers, who in the past has been marketing your crops for you? What have you had to do or say in fixing the price of your farm products? When you plant your cotton, corn or wheat, do you know where or how you will sell it? Are you satisfied with this state of affairs? I think not and certainly I feel that no farmer should be content to let this condition be passed on to your children's children forever. Can this condition be changed? Yes, easy enough. How? Simple and easy enough. Just let all Polk county farmers like one man get behind the Farmers Federation which a few of the progressive farmers have gone forward and organized and had incorporated and make it a success and then you will be your own salesmen, just as all other business classes of men market their products. Never before in the history of the world has the banker, the merchant, the rail roads and consumers of all classes been willing to help the farmer organize as they are now, and why is it the farmer will hesitate and stand aloof from his own only chance to save himself from further bankruptcy, poverty, shame and degradation. As stated before, this appeal is not to the ignoramus who does not think nor care; but to the intelligent thinking farmers of Polk county to come together like intelligent thinking people of other lines of business and let us work out our marketing problems to the very best advantage to the farmer who makes the stuff, the men who handle the stuff and the people who consume the stuff. The way to do that is for the

farmers to make and bring their stuff together at a common warehouse so the consumer will know where it is and what price he can get it—our plan is to get seller and buyer together. The Federation warehouse plan is the only plan where so many different commodities are produced as in Polk county. Let us all work and think and pray and act.

Agricultural Facts of North Carolina.

Selected from the recent address by J. W. Bailey at the North Carolina State meeting of the Farmers Union.

Total Value of Farm Crops, 1919 \$503,000,000

Total Value of Farm Crops, 1920 \$403,000,000

On the basis of 20 cent cotton and 25 cent tobacco the average net income per year for a North Carolina farmer is \$650; \$400 of this is cash and \$250 in home consumed products.

Each member of the farmer's family earns 70 cents per day for his labor.

For each member of a farm family (5 to the family) there is an annual income of \$50 for home-produced goods and \$0 in cash.

Improved land in farms in 1910 8,813,056 acres

Improved land in farms in 1920 8,198,449 acres

Decrease of improved land in ten years 614,647 acres

Mortgage debts in 1910 \$9,958,389

Mortgage debts in 1920 \$32,969,275

Increase in mortgage debt 221 per cent.

Percentage of farm operated by owners:

- 1880—66 per cent.
- 1900—58 per cent.
- 1910—57 per cent.
- 1920—56 per cent.

In 1910 there were 107,287 farms operated by tenants.

In 1920 there were 417,459 farms operated by tenants.

In 1910 there were 80,000 farms rented on shares.

In 1910 there were 44,000 negro tenants.

In 1920 there were 53,917 negro tenants.

In 1910 there were 63,148 white tenants.

In 1920 there were 63,542 white tenants.

Not Familiar Situation.
Tramp (to comrade)—"Say, I have dreamed twice lately that I have been at work. If it happens again I shall buy a dream book to see whether it means anything."—Karikaturen, Christiania.

The Latin Quarter of Paris.
The Latin quarter of Paris lies on the south side of the Seine. It is the center of institutions of learning, and in this section live the thousands of students who study in Paris.

To Clean Sewing Machine.
Use sewing machine oil on soft cloth to clean the wood parts of a sewing machine. It looks as if polished, also keeps it from cracking up and makes it look like new.

Counting Currency on High.
In the Treasury department at Washington are women employees who can count paper money at the rate of 1,000 notes in five or six minutes.

"Light of the World."
The "Light of the World" was a title conferred upon Sigmund (1411-1437), emperor of Germany, because of his enlightenment and intelligence.

Compensation.
The man with the narrow mind generally possesses a wide mouth.—Boston Transcript.

Machine Skins Animals.
A motor-driven knife has been invented for skinning animals.

Small Sized Cards and Envelopes.

During the holiday season large quantities of very small envelopes and cards are put into the mails with the result that all postal work is very much retarded and mail disfigured and mutilated.

This is not generally known to the public and we want you to help us do a little educating. The minimum size of cards and envelopes should not be below 2 3/4 by 4 inches for the following reason:

1. Addresses will be obliterated by cancellation mark.
2. Too small to be run through facing table, necessitating three extra handlings with consequent delay not only this but other mail.
3. Delay in cancellation because of awkwardness in putting through cancelling machines.
4. Delayed through difficulty in sorting.
5. Liability to loss or damage as small sizes do not fit letter packages and can not be tied securely.

These odd and diminutive sized pieces of stationery have come into use in the past few years and only appear now in any quantities at Christmas time when the whole postal institution is keyed up to top speed and trying to keep on top of the load.

We will greatly appreciate, therefore, your cooperation in helping us to get the public to use stationery of the proper size in order that the handling of all mail may be expedited.

Christmas Placards.

FIRST ASST. POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Washington, November 5, 1921.

Placards urging patrons to "Mail Early for Christmas" are now being distributed to all first, second, and third class offices. Requisition for additional placards should be made, as the supply will be exhausted when the distribution is completed.

At the larger offices it is believed that a sufficient number have been furnished to enable their display in the larger department stores, etc., as well as on mail wagons and automobiles.

When not too badly damaged or soiled, these placards should be taken down immediately after Christmas and preserved for future use during the holiday season.

Hard Times—Fewer Funerals.

Undertakers interviewed by our representatives report business very dull. They say that the death rate has diminished substantially of late and give plausible reasons for it. There is less intemperance and dissipation of every sort than there was when things were booming. Fewer persons are indulging in strong drink or eating too much or otherwise "living high". The fever funerals the better, but we wish there were some other reason than hard times.

—National Stockman and Farmer.

The News \$2.00 a year.

The Test Of Community Organization

"The measure of value of community work is not the degree of efficiency on the part of paid workers in doing things for the community but the extent to which volunteer leaders leaders for community work have been developed and participation secured which will ultimately enable the community itself to climb higher and higher levels of community achievement. A willingness to leave the final authority with the people themselves is essential in community building which aims at Democracy."

Notice!

The Directors of the Polk County Farmers Federation will meet at the Court House in Columbus, N. C. on next Monday December, 5.

Very important that every member of the Board attend.
J. R. SAMS,
County Agent.

Even brilliant men can't shine in dull company.

When jazz hits the feet it goes straight to the head.

The black sheep of the family is usually made the goat.

Samson's wife probably was the original exponent of bobbed hair.

John Barleycorn continues to be one of the world's most expensive outlaws.

With practically all of the leading admirals and generals of Great Britain, France and Italy coming over here, some of those German junkers may be itching to start something.

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY

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

Fishtop

A few days of dreary weather the last of week.

A nice enjoyable time here Thanksgiving day with preach-four singings by the Mountain Grove choir.

I. Henderson went horseback to Saluda Saturday.

T. M. and I. B. Brady attended the singing at Mountain Grove Sunday.

Rev. Bud Jackson attended the Thanksgiving services here.

Newton Case and Posey Alford of Landrum, S. C were here today.

Many of the fruit trees have bloomed this fall 4 apple trees are in full leaf of new growth now. We fear for the next crop of fruit.

Melvin Hill

We sure have had a spell of wet weather for the past week.

O. R. Steadman lost a fine heifer with rabbies recently.

A couple of fine hogs have been bitten by mad dogs and had to be killed in this section. And there are reports of mad dogs running loose still.

G. C. Feagan is making some additions to his residence.

There was no preaching service here Sunday night on account of rain.

Elder C. B. Miller contemplates a tour of Bible teaching and other religious work soon.

Elder Geo. A. Branscom returned from a trip into Tennessee where he attended some church business lately.

Quite a number of young people enjoyed a cotton picking at Mrs. Callie Johnson's Saturday night.

G. A. Painter has erected a big new barn on his estate.

The boll weevil is a common thing here this fall; and it is feared that he will be more common next fall. Some philosophers, scientists prophets or what ever they may be called are sounding a note of warning to the cotton growers of this section, that if they plant cotton at all it should be with fear and trembling, and with great apprehension as to the outcome of such a venture.

P. S. Wish these philosophers scientists or prophets would explain how in the world folks are going to get gasoline if they cant raise any cotton to bring in the money with which to buy.

Aboline

Rev. S. L. Blanton filled his regular appointment at the Green River church Sunday. After driving thirty miles through rain and mud. The attendance was very discouraging on account of the rain.

Miss Eva Davis returned to her school at Columbus Monday, after spending a week at home.

Misses Carrie Walker, Annie Davis, and Pauline Wilkins returned to their school after spending Thanksgiving at their homes.

Ed Watson and Oland Wilkins have put up a grist mill, which is a great convenience to the people of this community.

Green River school is progressing nicely, with an almost perfect attendance.

The box supper given at Green River school Saturday night, was

a success, proceeds being \$31.40 which will go to put paint on the school building.

Lynn

No services last Sunday the weather too bad.

Thanksgiving day was observed by most of the people in Lynn, W. T. Hammett spent Thanksgiving with home folks at Inman.

W. F. Swann spent last Sunday with his family.

Thomas W. Cannon spent last week-end in Spartanburg.

We notice in article Polk of last week that R. S. Alexander was clerk court 31 years it should have been R. S. Abrams. Columbus Mills was named for Columbus Mills and not Christopher Columbus who discovered America as stated. Columbus Mills lived and owned the property now known as the Mimosa. The writer will please pardon these corrections.

Mrs. M. C. Covil died at her home near Columbus Saturday evening. Mrs. Covil had been in poor health for some time but had not complained that day any more than usual up and doing attending to her domestic affairs.

Mr. Covil left about eleven o'clock to go to Tryon. Mrs. Covil was taken quite sick about 2 p. m. A messenger was sent for Mr. Covil and the doctor but before they arrived she had passed to that great beyond.

Mrs. Covil was laid to rest in Tryon cemetery Monday. Rev. A. S. Caldwell conducting the services. A husband and 9 children survive her the youngest about 18 months old. The whole community sympathize in their sad bereavment.

Honor Roll for Lynn Music Class for month ending November 25, Inst music Star pupil

- Edith Rhodes
- Grace Panther
- Sarah Elliott
- Bessie Swann
- Robert Capps.
- Public School Music
- Dean Howard.
- Burlin Johnston
- Edith Justice
- Ray Panther
- Edith Rhodes
- Buford Howard
- Donnie Hudson
- John Henson
- Robt Capps
- Sydney Panther
- Alice Johnston
- Grace Panther
- Alta Henson
- Bonnie Howard
- Woodrow Harden
- Rosa Henson
- Sarah Elliott
- Walter Newman

The sale of the Tuberculosis Society's Christmas Seals will begin directly after Thanksgiving. These little stamps or stickers sell for 1c each and may be used to decorate packages or letters but should not be put on the face of either. The money received from the sale goes to care for the tubercular in our own state, and if we have any work of this kind in our locality we may keep a certain per cent right here. A house to house canvas will be made, but if you are not at home or do not get all you can use at this time, they can be purchased at Missildine's Pharmacy at any time after Thanksgiving. It is hoped that everyone will take as many as possible and help a worthy cause.
LILY W. GRADY, Chairman.