



THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATOR AND FARM JOURNAL

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Number 7

COMMITTEEMAN WHEELER
WRITES BRIGHT LETTER.

To the Co-Operator and its many readers, greetings:

After an absence of three months in the interest of our grand and noble order, the Farmers' Union, I have returned to my home in Bell county, to take a month's needed rest.

In my travels I find in some localities, the union in good spirits and overcoming every obstacle thrown in its way by co-operating together in all things essential.

In other places I find the members almost as cold as the north pole.

Where I find the people reading the Co-Operator, as a rule they are doing well, from a union point of view.

I also find the opposition still growing, or to say the least of it, holding their own.

Some are holding cotton in spite of all that can be said by our enemies.

The Galveston Plan is not generally understood, but when it is understood, I think it is satisfactory.

Many questions have been asked me in regard to the Memphis and New Orleans meeting, and I will answer here that we hope that some good will come out of the two meetings.

Brethren, the future outlook for our order, is brighter than ever before in its history. Why, in the first place our enemy, the gambler, and speculators have acknowledged to us a victory, by saying, had it not been for the tenacious holding of cotton in 1907 that cotton would now be selling at 5 and 6 cents instead of from 8 1/2 to 9 cents and above.

We have maintained the minimum price on all farm products for the past three years, except cotton, and by our slow market-

County Presidents' Meeting

Ft. Worth, Tex., Dec. 1, 1908.
To the County Presidents of Texas.

Dear Brethren:

By the authority vested in me as State President of the Farmers Union of Texas, I deem it my duty to call you in conference with me during the holidays. There are some very important questions involving the policy of the Farmers Union together with the plans of co-operation.

Conditions are such I think it very important that we consult together and form definite plans for co-operation for the coming

ing we have kept the last four crops (which were at least average crops) higher than any four crops together in forty years past.

It makes but little difference how much cotton is raised; the main thing is intelligent marketing. Put the cotton on the market, only as the market demands it at a fair and reasonable profit.

Brethren, I appeal to you to stand firm, be true to your obligations, pay your dues, attend your meetings, mind how you speak and when you speak, subscribe for and read the Co-Operator, and all other papers that are advocating our cause, and take your wife and daughter to the union; and my word for it, you will be better men and much better union members.

As one of our objects is to better the condition of the human family, we can conceive of no plan whereby this can be accomplished better than through and by the smiling and refining influence of women, therefore we have thrown wide open our doors

year. Your counties must bear your expenses and come for a two days' session. The railroads will sell low rates on 18 and 19 of December and you are hereby called to meet December 21 and 22, 1908.

You must each immediately call your county *representatives* to meet January 7th and form your counties as to was done.

Yours truly,
D. J. Neill,
President,

Attest:
C. Smith, Sec'y-Treas.

and bid them welcome without fees or dues.

Brethren, bring your wife into the union; young men bring your chum's sister with you to the union and let your chum bring your sister, and let us all get into the union and have a good time.

No class of people under the sun deserve a good time more than the farmer. Are we having it? If not, why not?

If we will only co-operate together as other classes do, in less than three months we could have the world on her knees at our feet begging for bread.

Brethren, look to your interest; do your duty and all things will be well to those that love the Farmers Union.

Respectfully your humble servant.
J. A. WHEELER.

Moody, Texas.

ARMSTRONG AT BLACK HILL.

Word comes from Black Hill local, in Bexar county, that Bro. J. L. Armstrong delivered a splendid lecture and greatly revived the membership.

PANICS AND THE
PRICE OF COTTON.
BY JOE E. EDMONSON.

Ft. Worth, Tex., Dec. 4, '08.
To the Brotherhood of Texas:

You have been told by the known enemies of our great organization, that in failing to get 15 cents for the 1907 cotton crop we had made a complete failure and that your holding and slow selling of that crop had been very disastrous to the South, and to my surprise I find some good and intelligent farmers who are inclined to believe this, who never given the matter a serious thought.

While I will confess that we failed to get 15 cents for cotton yet I claim and propose to prove that we accomplished more than the Southern farmers ever accomplished before in their history, when we come to consider the circumstances, the work of the organized gamblers and the greatest of all money panics ever known in the South in times of peace. Yes, I believe that it was the Farmers Unions' plan and effort of the holding and slow selling of cotton that saved the country from bankruptcy. To prove this only requires a review of previous panics when there was no Union, and when there was no holding movement. Take the panic of 1893 and '94 for example, which was at no time as tight as the panic of 1907.

We had in '94 a little less than 10,000,000 bales of cotton which was sold at the rate of about 3,000,000 bales per month. What was the *average* price of cotton selling when money was tied up?

Cotton sold below 4 cents. The average price for the '94 crop was 5.82 cents. How about the panic of 1907? We had about 11,500,000 bales of cotton but sold it at the *average* price of about 1,000 000 per month.

(Continued on p. 2)

FINANCING COTTON.

By G. L. HISE.

Editor Co-Operator:

The question of finance is of such vast importance to the farmers, that I beg you again for room for a few expressions.

Some time since I gave the Co-Operator what seemed to me a feasible plan to finance cotton. To my mind the importance of the plan cannot be overestimated. I suggested that the plan of issuing cotton certificates as advocated by the Farmers' Union, be strengthened by the following legislation, viz; state insurance, state supervision of the issue, and state guarantee of redemption.

The above medium of exchange is equivalent to national banking currency. National guarantee of redemption is the feature that makes national banking currency acceptable. We are not distrustful of the government's ability to redeem its obligations. Hence we unhesitatingly accept it as a medium of exchange. But with propriety we may inquire what enables the government to redeem its obligations? Answer: Taxing power. What does it tax? The commerce of the nation.

Then we see that the commerce of the nation is the surety upon which our national obligations rest.

And our national government has loaned its credit, thus created, to the National Banks to create for them [the National banks] a medium of exchange, for the use of which, the people have to pay tribute in the exchange of their commodities. Here you will observe our government discriminates in favor of the National banks, and against the masses of the people. The banks use the volume of their money, manipulated by force of law, to speculate upon, thus perverting the proper use of money, which proper use is to exchange commodities.

A volume of money taking tribute in performing its function of exchange seems in the attitude of a third person taking unearned tribute, thus diminishing the value of the commodity to its creator, without adding anything to its intrinsic worth.

The justice of such a law may be with propriety questioned.

Now in defence of the cotton scrip plan, in my judgement it is without defect. With the state guarantee of redemption behind it no one would take any risk in receiving it. The state would take no risk. The actual commerce—cotton, placed in fire proof bonded warehouses, would secure the state against losses on every dollar issued. The state would assess a tax on the issue sufficient to indemnify against

cost to the state. Flexibility of a currency thus created would be of great value. This volume of money would come into existence when the necessity for it arose, and would be redeemed and canceled on the sale of the cotton upon which it was issued.

It would act as a medium of exchange between the producers and manufacturers of cotton. The manufacturer could receive it in exchange for his finished goods, for the reason that he invests it back in the raw cotton.

It would serve all the factories operating between the producer and spinner of cotton.

It would make the farmer independent of the banker, and give the farmer a medium of exchange at the government cost of creation, and would serve to exchange commodities without exacting an unearned tribute.

I anticipate that the critic will say that this method of creating a medium of exchange would discriminate in favor of the cotton producer exclusively.

Answering the objection I will say that as a cotton farmer I am advocating a cotton farmer's interest, and that I have no objections to producers in other lines adopting the same rule.

A bank of coal is always worth scrip amounting to two-thirds its current value and if miners could, under the law, issue upon it, it would give them a volume of money enabling them to conduct their own business and give them the full value of their labor's product without having to depend upon a wage master, who employs them only for the profit he can make on their toil.

This plan would serve the very worthy purpose of using the functions of government to protect the weak against the encroachments of the strong.

The plan will with equal justice apply to every line of needful industry. And if this plan were generally adopted the disparity of human effort would generally disappear. Instead of the producers of the necessities of life living on a meager wage and the Schwabs getting a million a year, the laborers would begin to enjoy the value of his products and the Schwabs would begin to work for theirs.

Now to the officials of the Farmers' Union. You and the legislative community are largely the avenue through which the organizations have to work: and we are in need of this legislation, and I urge upon you to make the most of the power you hold.

Very respectfully,

G. L. HISE,
Shamrock, Texas.

Notice to the Farmers

We Solicit Your Cotton Shipments

¶ We were endorsed first by President E. A. Calvin, and now by President D. J. Neill to store and sell your cotton and finance your crop.

¶ Your interests are our interests; higher prices for you our aim.

¶ Our 37 years experience and hundreds of pleased shippers are our recommendations to you.

¶ We are able to make liberal advances at 6 per cent interest.

¶ Mr. J. C. Albritten, the official representative of the Union is here to look after your interests.

¶ We promise to hold your cotton until you instruct us to sell; then we sell promptly, and render quick returns.

¶ Write or wire us for full particulars or further information.

H. KEMPNER. Cotton Factor, Galveston, Texas.

THE FIRST MASS MEETIN G.

Paragould, Arkansas, Setting The Pace for Better Southern Conditions.

A. S. LOGSDON,
Rooms 28-30 Bewley Building, Ft. Worth, T.
COTTON SEED
COAL, LIGNITE,
Bagging & Ties.
Correspondence Solicited.

PANICS AND THE PRICE OF COTTON
(Continued from page 1.)

The wisdom of the selection of Dr. J. M. Peerson as manager of the joint committee appointed by the New Orleans Farmers' Union meeting and the Memphis Cotton Growers' meeting, was strikingly illustrated in his efforts at Paragould, Arkansas, Saturday, Nov. 28.

The day was exceedingly disagreeable and naturally the crowd, who came out to hear the aims and efforts of the joint work explained, was not as large as it would have been under more favorable conditions. Yet he succeeded in having every cotton farmer present and every cotton producing merchant who was in attendance, sign a pledge to produce their food and feed or something other than cotton to exchange for these necessities.

The striking feature of the mass meeting was that it was representative of every interest in that community. The preacher was there, the banker was there, the editor was there, the lawyer was there, the non-union and the union farmer there, each element expressing its approval of the work and bidding him God speed.

As illustrative of the spirit which prevailed they raised for this important work \$100 and with the assurance of raising from fifty to one hundred dollars more. We hope other meetings pervaded by the same spirit will be called at once in every cotton county.

Write Dr. J. M. Peerson, Randolph building, Memphis, Tenn., and get information and arrange for meeting in your county at once. This work is of vital interest, not only to the farmer but every one in the South.

Try our classified columns when you have something to sell or want to buy an article which someone else has.

of November when the panic was at its very tightest we are told that we sold less than 2,000,000 bales. What was the effect of this slow selling?

Cotton never got below the 9 cent point at the ports, and the average price, up until we began to gather and dump the 1908 crop was 11.29 cents per pound, a difference over '95 of 5.37 cents on the pound brought about by the holding and slow selling of cotton—a difference of more than \$25.00 on the bale.

Then who can say, the Union has done no good! That it made a complete failure last year! But you are told that the panic did not last as long as in '93 and '94, and that this is the reason prices did not get as low.

Sure, I will admit that the panic did not last as long, but why? Simply because we had a Union movement of holding and slow selling and the slow selling brought better prices, better prices brought more money, more money enabled the farmer to meet his obligations and enabled him to buy more and the more money relieved the panic in the South.

By enabling the farmer to meet his obligations, saved the business man and there was not one business failure in the panic of 1907, to where there were 3 in '93 and '94. Yet, these men do not understand that the Farmers Union saved them. But this is not all; the relieving of the situation as we did prevented the prices of lands, cattle, horses and property of all kinds from going as low as in '93. In

fact as I asserted in the beginning, we saved the entire country.

Now brethren, I ask you (in view of all these accomplishments) to renew your courage to rally with your old time enthusiasm and build more warehouses, store your cotton in them and sell slowly. This was what saved us then, and it will save us again. The local warehouse is the cotton farmer's salvation. The storing and holding of your cotton in them, keeping it in a state of preservation and in readiness to be sold to the large spinner buyers through a central agency will make you the master of your own product and the maker of your own prices.

A central agency should be maintained. Bond your local warehouse, keep your central agent informed as to the number of bales stored in them to be sold through this agency and keep all cotton that can be financed at home in these warehouses, only keeping your agency informed as to the number of bales in these bonded houses to be sold at the minimum price, that this agent may be able to find you a buyer.

Brethren, this system of warehousing will do for us what the commercial world's system of warehousing has done for them. I say warehousing, because truly it is. The merchant's storehouse is only a goods warehouse, in which he keeps his goods until the world pays him his price, and the building of warehouses and storing of our cotton and other farm products and holding for fair prices, will only be the adoption of the same system ways and means of controlling the prices of farm products, that the commercial world has been using for many years in the controlling of the prices of their goods. So permit me to again urge you (each and every one of you) to renew your enthusiasm, talk to your neighbors, show them what the Union has done for our country, even under the depression of the great panic. You cannot afford to grow weary and let your local wane. Are you not proud that you are a member of that great organization that saved the South from bankruptcy?

I also want to urge the reduction of cotton acreage, and the planting of more feed crops and the raising of your own meat at home. The raising of these will bring about reduction in cotton acreage. By raising more of your living at home you will be able to hold more of your cotton, and thus get better prices but some will say, I cannot afford to reduce my cotton acreage for when my neighbor learns that I am reducing he will increase his,

and the amount will be raised as before. Suppose he does increase his cotton acreage: this increase would mean a reduction in his feed and hog crop which means that he must buy and you will find a good market for your hogs, potatoes, corn and vegetables at home. Don't work your family to death on the one crop and that crop cotton, is the man that is forced to sell, and the man that is always in a financial strait, the man that is forced to keep his children out of school and in the fields.

Brother Farmer, this dumping of our cotton on the world and forcing the buyer to do the pricing is what keeps the cotton farmers in poverty. It is what makes slaves of the hundreds of thousands of the poorest of God's people.

Husband and father will force his cotton on a depressed market at such low prices that he is not able to hire the laborer, who has gone to the city and to public works, where labor has organized and where he can get good wages, but the work in the cotton fields must be done, and since husband and father is not able to pay a wage that will get the laborer, wife and daughter must perform this labor, beneath the blazing sun, the blye winds, they toil away their vitality and become the prey of disease and many times death comes prematurely, falling the helpless victims of this vicious system of one crop and dumping. May God pity them and help you, dear reader, to wake up and see these wrongs and arouse your sense of duty and patriotism. Can it be said, that the Southern manhood has become so sordid, so deadened, that these great wrongs have no appeal to them? God forbid! No, I cannot believe that the Southern manhood will permit these wrongs to always exist. No, I believe the time has come when you are going to act, as you have never before. Let every farmer and business man who feels an interest in his country, who who wants to see the noble Southern womanhood liberated from the cotton field of woman slaughter join hands and change the devilish system.

Yours for the upbuilding of our grand and noble order.

JOE E. EDMONDSON,
State Lecturer and Organizer.

FARMERS' UNION SPEAKING

The following assignments for speaking dates for "Uncle Sam" lectures will be public, and all farmers are cordially invited to be present.

Bosque County

Iredell, Thursday, Dec. 10.
Clifton, Friday, Dec. 11.
Valley Mills, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2:30 p. m.

Mosheim, Saturday night, Dec. 12.

Coryell County

Liberty, Monday night, Dec. 14.
Coryell Church, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 11 a. m.

Buster, Tuesday night, Dec. 15.

Mt. Zion, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 11 a. m.

Ater, Wednesday night, Dec. 16.

Levita, Thursday, Dec. 17, 11 a. m.

Permella, Thursday night, Dec. 17.

King, Friday, Dec. 18, 11 a. m.

Pidcock, Friday night, Dec. 18.

Springhill, Saturday, Dec. 19, 11 a. m.

Arnett, Saturday night, Dec. 19.

All members of the Union are urged to help make these meetings successful. Bring along your neighbors and families. Don't fail to get every farmer to hear "Uncle Sam." He will tell you how to organize and stay organized, and how to put the gamblers out of business.

At each meeting a secret session will

be held wherever requested, after the public address.

By order of
JOE E. EDMONDSON,
State Organizer.

D. J. NEILL, President Texas State Union.

DATES FOR COUNTY MEETINGS

The following county Unions have agreed to allow the state officials to set the dates of their meetings and they have been arranged as given below. The object of this is to get the county meetings held in rotation so that lecturers may go from one to the other at the smallest possible expense:

Section 1
Kaufman county, first Tuesday in January.

Navarro county, first Wednesday in January.

Henderson county, first Thursday in January.

Smith county, first Friday in January.

Camp county, first Saturday in January.

Marion county, second Monday in January.

Cherokee county, second Tuesday in January.

Anderson county, second Wednesday in January.

Houston county, second Thursday in January.

Walker county, second Friday in January.

San Jacinto county, third Monday in January.

Jasper county, third Wednesday in January.

Section 2
Jackson county, first Monday in January.

F. CANNON COMMISSION CO., Cotton FACTORS, CALVESTON, TEXAS.

We solicit consignments of Cotton, and are prepared to advance you liberally against your Bills of Lading. Write us for further particulars.

W. S. Beadles & Co.

Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants.

GALVESTON, TEXAS.

Wilson county, first Wednesday in January.

Frio county, first Friday in January.
Bandera county, second Monday in January.

San Saba county, second Wednesday in January.

McCollough county, second Friday in January.

Runnels county, third Monday in January.

Section 3

Parker county, first Monday in January.

Haskell county, first Wednesday in January.

Floyd county, first Saturday in January.

CHOSE CO-OPERATOR ABOVE ALL OTHERS

Editor Co-Operator: Enclosed find one dollar for which please send your paper to Local No. 484. I sent for sample copies of seven other Union papers and our committee's report was unanimous for yours.

L. C. SMITH, Secy.
Mt. Scott, Okla.

OBITUARY

Whereas, Death has called from us Brother J. A. Whitson, on Nov. 17, 1908:

Resolved, That Guide Star Local Union mourns the death of our brother.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon our minutes and a copy sent to the bereaved family, and a copy be sent to The Co-Operator for publication.

J. W. DUNN,
C. M. THORNTON,
Committee, Dexter, Mo.

Among the Members

SPICY LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND LOCALS

INTERESTING MEETING OF INDEPENDENCE LOCAL

On last Wednesday night the Independence Farmers' Union No. 4963 met in a called session for the transaction of business and was treated, incidentally, to an able, instructive and inspiring address by the gifted lecturer, John Wesley Smith of Bell county. We had believed that the comprehensive and eloquent address of Bud Terry, lecturer of the Hill county Farmers' Union, delivered before our Union on the afternoon of the 21st inst., was exhaustive and conclusive, but after hearing Bro. Smith we were convinced the "Half had never been told." After hearing these able exponents of unionism, we do not wonder that the counties of Hill and Bell should have so far outstripped old McLennan in the interest of agricultural organizations. Nay, I am not surprised to learn that Bell county has her twelve warehouses in successful operation, and that she has her sixty-seven local Unions, with two thousand paid up members. I beg to state in this connection that Bro. Smith assures me

men with poor health and stunted souls; I will show you women, the slaves of excessive labor, more pernicious than the much condemned habits of fashionable society; I will show you children growing prematurely old, with the bright light of happy childhood effectually stamped out, and everywhere the absence of that cheerfulness that gives to life its chiefest charm. And to this one-crop theory, and hence, the lack of diversified farming, are all these domestic grievances to be charged. The man who can witness, unmoved, our country mothers and their daughters pulling their heavy cotton sacks upon and down the blistering rows in the fall, is an absolute stranger to that southern chivalry which was once our boast. May God revive among our southern industries that sense of inter-dependence, so essential to an intelligent, mutual and general co-operation! This done and industrial freedom would dominate our present vassalage.

W. O. ALLEN.

West, Texas.

WOULD CREATE SINKING FUND

Editor Co-Operator: I would like to see how many members of the Farmers' Union would be willing to pay one dollar per month for twelve months as a sinking fund to finance cotton which must be sold. I would suggest putting a fire proof vault in our warehouses and keeping this money there and having all members who have money in banks to deposit it with our warehouse companies and let this money be loaned at 6 per cent interest. Then let every farmer sign a pledge to hold his cotton for the minimum price and each one pledge himself not to plant but one-third of his crop in cotton. With this reduction and with a sinking fund like this we would be able to finance the cotton which we raise and advance the price to where it will pay.

I would be pleased to hear from others on this proposition.

A. A. SKIPPER.
Big Springs, Texas.

LOCAL DISCUSSES VARIOUS SUBJECTS

Editor Co-Operator: The Connor Creek local met on Nov. 30 and among other things discussed the proposed compulsory education law and upon a vote it was found that 19 were in favor and one against such a law.

The matter of arranging for credit accounts to become due on the first of January instead of Oct. 1 was discussed and a resolution was passed calling upon our state officials to take up the subject and bring it before the Union with a view to have a law passed or some action taken which will make accounts become due as above stated. We would like to have the views of the Co-Operator on this subject.

J. Z. CHANDLER.

Graham, Texas.

COTTON PICKING OVER

Editor Co-Operator: Cotton picking is about over in this section of the country and the most of our farmers have sold it as fast as gathered. I wonder how long the farmers will continue to make and sell cotton for less than cost of production? I am

A New Roof Over Old Shingles

Easily and quickly put on. Don't tear off the old shingles—takes time, costs money. Save both—put on "Vulcanite" right over the old shingles—makes the roof better—lasts longer. Special long nails fasten it on for keeps. "Vulcanite" is the standard of two Continents with 60 years of service to prove its superiority. No tar or paper in its makeup. Best thing money can buy for old or new roofs. Cheaper than shingles or tin—needs no annual repainting to keep it in repair; resists fire, acid, smoke, heat, cold, wet or dry. Before you build or repair you should get our prices and free samples. You want the best roofing—we'll give you several tests to prove which is best. Write today for free booklet, "The Right Roofing and the Reasons Why."

SOUTHWESTERN ROOFING COMPANY,
Dallas, Texas.

Birmingham Supply Co., Birmingham, Ala.



THE ROOF THAT LASTS LONGEST

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO, ANYHOW?

Editor Co-Operator:

Please give me space in your paper to correct a mistake made by me in a letter published in the last week's issue of The Co-Operator in stating the value of the Farmers' Union property in this county. I stated that the Union had one gin and two warehouses, which was correct, but the estimate of \$1,200 as a probable cost was not correct. A probable cost would be about \$12,000 or \$20,000.

I believe that in the history of the Farmers' Union the time has come when the Union must take positive steps. We thought that there surely would be something done at the great New Orleans convention, but it failed to give anything better than Texas had already adopted. The centralizing of our cotton at the ports for a better plan of marketing cotton.

So the Union is getting tired of so much agitation and nothing done. The time has come for marching orders. We want all the locals of the entire State to join with Live Oak Union No. 3230, San Saba county, in a petition to President D. J. Neal, that he call the State Union together in extra session, composed of one delegate from each county, with a fair number of the lecturers to act as a legislative body to formulate a plan for handling and marketing the cotton crop of 1909.

Live Oak Union favors the pooling plan as advocated by Sam Hampton. We also favor a central selling agency. We believe each State should have its own system of handling and marketing its crop, but all should, of course, have the same price. We further believe that July or August is entirely too late for the State Union to meet to do anything. You can't expect the farmers to do anything at that late hour, after they have commenced gathering their crop. We want to commence not later than the first of February.

We would like to see grand old Texas take the lead in this all-important work of incorporation, the sons of toil into a solid compact. We believe it would go far toward restoring confidence that is so much needed among the farmers.

W. T. JOHNSON.
San Saba, Texas.

BELL COUNTY UNION

Bell County Union will meet at Belton, Texas, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1909, at 10 a.m.

Let every local in Bell county elect delegates to be at this meeting. We are expecting great things to be done and will have good speakers.

J. N. GRIGGS.
County President.

Temple, Texas. State Chaplain.

DECEMBER 10, 1908

CO-OPERATIVE RURAL TELEPHONE LINES

Editor Co-Operator: I matters but little who does a thing, provided it be done correctly. Co-operation is the keynote to ultimate success. Co-operation, like nearly everything else, must be taught, and the objective method is probably the very best.

In our section of the country we have quite a number of co-operative enterprises, aside from Farmers' Union warehouses and cotton gins. The Bertram Fair Association is owned and controlled by the farmers and stockmen of Burnet and Williamson counties, and is a great success though it yields only a small dividend, and sometimes nothing, but the stockholders seem rather proud of the fact that it is not a money machine.

Then we have the Rural Telephone Union, which has no connection with the Farmers' Union except its full endorsement. This venture has proven a success from the beginning, and is gaining in popularity all the time. It was organized at Bertram only a few years ago with a small exchange, now it has between 300 and 400 subscribers at Bertram alone, with similar exchanges at numerous other places, all of which are connected by trunk lines, and they all exchange messages without any extra cost.

The system is already so extensive that the writer can talk free to four county seats and can reach points as far away as Pidcock in Coryell county.

Our service is fairly good, not as good as that furnished by a first-class standard line, but equal to the average commercial concern. But our people are progressive, or at least try to be, and we propose to go on improving as fast as we are able, besides it requires experience as well as funds to do anything correctly. This is true in everything, and instead of becoming discouraged when we make a mistake, we should make an asset of that mistake and press on to victory.

People who have not tried a rural telephone system have but a faint idea of its actual utility aside from its great importance as a lesson in real co-operation. The objection is frequently urged that it can't be properly managed; they tell us that what is everybody's business is nobody's business, and that it will end in confusion. These same people forget that the great enterprises of the country are largely co-operative. It is true that a concern which numbers its members by the thousands cannot wait for an annual meeting to have a switchboard trouble remedied, but there are responsible officials whose duty it is to take care of the business just as our railroad presidents, etc., care for the property under their charge.

That the telephone business can be managed more cheaply by the people than by commercial concerns has never been seriously disputed by any one, and that it can be done more efficiently is beginning to dawn on some of the objectors.

The original cost is not excessive, ranging from \$15 to \$25, except where very long lines with only a few subscribers are necessary. Where the people take hold in real cold earnest the cost is much lighter than where only a few progressive farmers have the great brunt to bear.

The greatest real trouble the R. T. U. has ever encountered has been from a few chronic grumblers who think \$2 or \$3 a year is excessive for a free service all over the country. There is one way to make it cheaper—starve

the people.

DEERING MERCANTILE CO.

60 Wabash Ave. Grocery Dept. 110 Chicago

ment. Fraternally, J. F. PARKER.
Liberty Hill, Texas.

HILL COUNTY MEETING CALLED

Co-Operator: Will you please publish the following:

The local Farmers' Union of Hill county will take due notice that the Hill county Farmers' Union will meet with Lovelace local south of Itasca on the Katy railroad Thursday and Friday, Jan. 7 and 8, 1909. A full delegation is expected.

Also the local secretaries' association will meet in Hillsboro Saturday, Dec. 26. All secretaries will come prepared to make their report to county secretary.

R. A. McDUFF,

President.

D. C. WARNE, Secretary.

GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATION

Editor Co-Operator: If the president is really interested in the welfare of the farmers, why don't he recommend that congress loan money out of the national treasury to farmers at same rate of interest as bankers are fully supplied? The farmers pay the burden of the tax, therefore justice and mercy demand that they receive loans especially when they offer good security. If I mistake not, representative men of the Farmers' Union last year plead patiently and long for a loan of the national funds, offering as security 8,000,000 bales of insured cotton which was stored in warehouses. Did they get any money to allow them to protect themselves against gambling exchanges, robbery, dealers in futures, etc? Not any. But George B. Cortelyou, national treasurer, turned on his heel and loaned \$5,000,000 to national bankers to hold up farmers and laboring people generally and charge illegal usury interest. Why this unjust, unmerciful, robber discrimination? The farmer has no protection by the government but manufacturers and bankers are constantly and perpetually protected, petted and financially fattened off of the farmers and other laboring people. How long, oh, echo answer how long, will such injustice continue? We trust the country commission, the president, legislatures and congress and the people will unite and fully co-operate in giving the long needed relief from unjust grievous burdens contracted and practiced by a specially privileged few at the expense of the laboring people. Fully remove the cause and the oppressive tyrannical effect will be no more. Yours for reformation.

J. TAYLOR ALLEN.
Honey Grove, Texas.

THE QUESTION THAT IS PARAMOUNT TO THE FARMERS' UNION

By agitation of many questions the Union has put many farmers to thinking and they have to become informed on many questions that tend to the betterment of the farmers. But the question of paramount importance to the Union has not yet been reached, but the writer thinks in the near future the goal will be reached. That greatest of questions to the farmer is to establish trade relations with the spinners and sell our cotton direct to them. I attended the New Orleans cotton convention of the National Union. I talked to one of the spinners that attended that meeting. I plied him with many questions. I asked him if it was a fact that the spinners and exchange men were allied against the farmers. He said by no means, that the gamblers treated the

worse than they did the

around and about.

Nothing definite has ever

farmers. I asked him if it was a fact that the spinners wanted to buy cotton direct from the farmers. He said it would be the happiest day the spinners ever saw if they could pay the farmers 15 cents for their cotton and get rid of the gamblers. I asked him what the farmers had to do to bring this about. He said if all the farmers would join the Union and sell their cotton through one agency that the spinners would pay them any price they set on their cotton, just so they could know that they could get it at a uniform price and that the gamblers could not get any of it. You remember when the big meeting was held at Atlanta, Ga., to establish trade relations with the spinners that they asked the question, do all the farmers belong to the Union? On learning that they did not and that they could not buy all from the farmers, they kept on the old way. Since that time these same spinners have been denounced by the Union papers as traitors and hypocrites.

Now, my brethren, you can see the good business sense from the spinners' standpoint. If they should simply buy the Union cotton then they would be up against the gamblers for the rest. Now if the farmers will get in shape to make this trade and the spinner can see where he can be forever divorced from the gamblers, I believe he will come across. Now if the Union officials or our cotton committee would suggest to the spinners to make a proposition to the Union I believe they would do it, and that we could sell our next crop direct to the spinners for 15 cents. This question is paramount because if all the farmers were in the Union and were compelled to stick if they sold their cotton you can see that we could control the acreage and everything else, and this Southland would prosper as never before. The certificate plan furnishes a more feasible way for each bale of cotton to finance itself. So I hope the

Union papers and the Union leaders will agitate this question, and that the farmers and spinners may soon get rid of the gamblers that are doing both a great injury. If the farmers want to trade with the spinners and the spinners want to trade with the farmers there is certainly a way for them to get together. Yours,

F. S. ROUNTREE.
Potosi, Texas.

LABEL YOUR COTTON

Secretary C. Smith has had a copper stencil made with the words "Farmers' Union, Texas," about the size to go between the ties of a bale of cotton, for use by ginners, cotton yards and warehouses, to label Union cotton. These are not very expensive and it is an easy matter to have cotton labeled by the use of these stencils and they should be used everywhere. They need not be used by Union ginners and cotton yards alone, but whenever Union men have cotton ginned, weighed or stored they ought to ask that a stencil be provided and that the Union brand shall be placed on every bale of cotton belonging to a Union man.

Read our want columns. There are things advertised there every week that interest you.

One Man and an American Manure Spreader will do more work than 3 men and 2 wagons, spreading the old way—do it better. Sold From Our Factory to Your Farm on 30 days free trial. Freight allowed. Our famous Detroit Tongueless Disc Harrow on same terms. Write today for free catalogs of either or both. Address American Harrow Co., 1334 Hastings St., Detroit, Mich.

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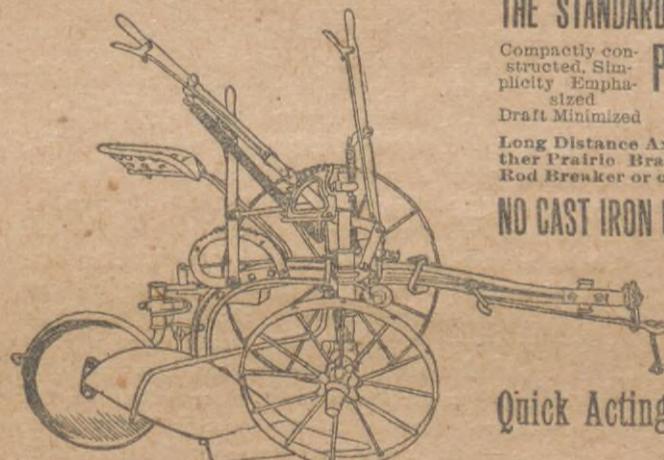
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Compactly constructed, Simplicity Emphasized, Draft Minimized, Strong and Safe. Long Distance Axles furnished with either Prairie Braker, Middle Breaker, Rod Breaker or old Ground Bottoms.

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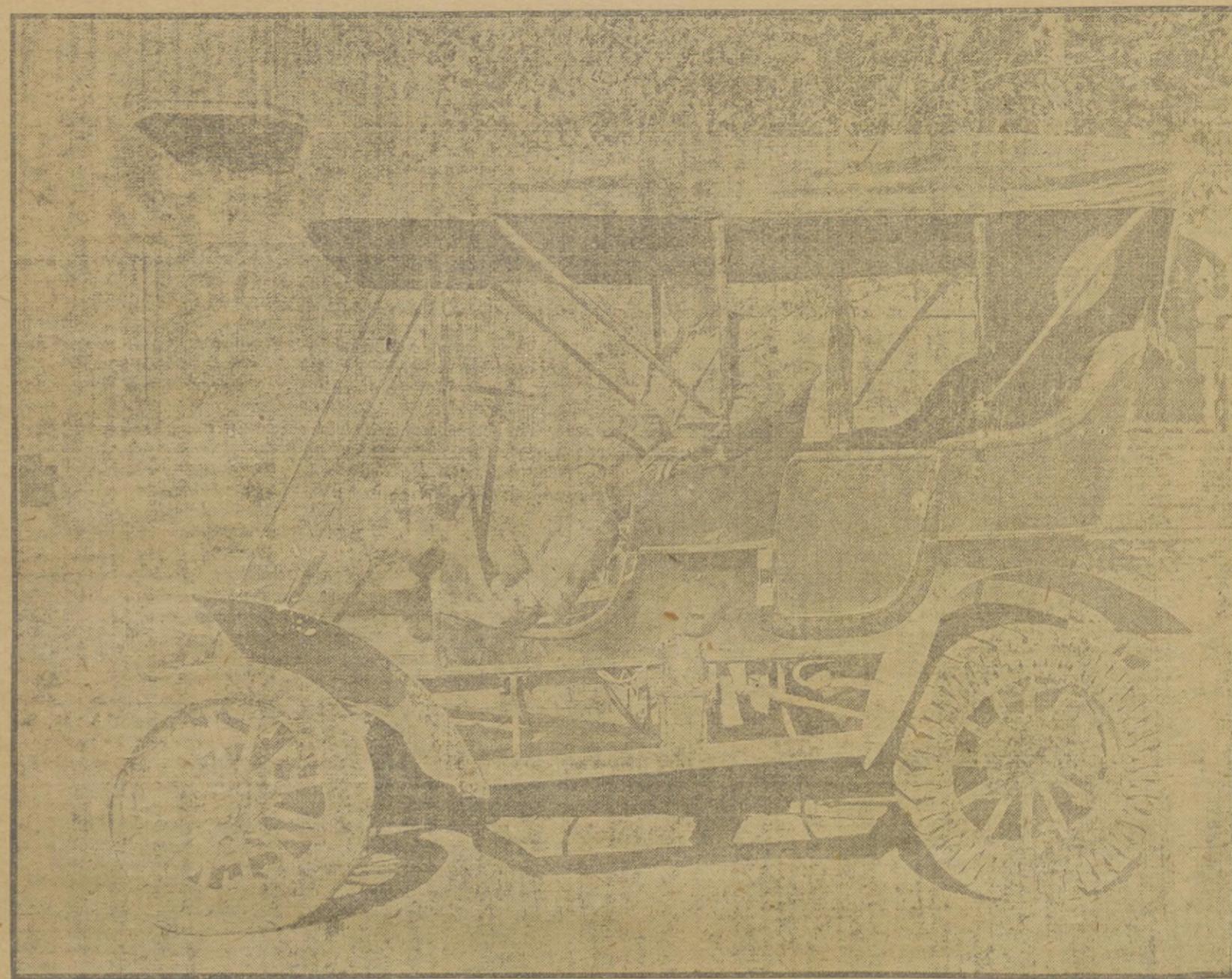
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Just the kind of plow you'd expect to get long, satisfactory service out of. Write for catalog and let us tell you more about it.

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State Agents, Dallas, Texas.



A RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN AUTOMOBILE CONSTRUCTION



The weak point in automobile opera- a jointed steel pavement. tion has always been the rubber tire. The photo shows the protectors in Inventors have been at work for years use on the rear wheels of an auto- trying to find some way of strength- mobile; on the front wheels can be- ening the tires that would not lessen seen some home-made protectors made their "resiliency," as the natural spring of the rubber is called, but deal better than nothing, but they do their efforts hitherto have not met not wear like steel nor make a neat with much success. Thus we have so appearance. The action of the steel long been used to see automobiles run tire protectors is very interesting to about carrying extra tires strapped on notice. As the wheel rolls, the weight like life preservers, that we no longer of the car keeps the treads firmly think how queer such a custom really closed up at the bottom of the wheel, is. If a farmer should carry a spare while at the top and sides they are al- wheel tied on behind his wagon, we ways open. There is nothing that would see at once that there must be wears like steel, and nothing is better something wrong about the make up for use on muddy roads. In some of his wagon. The fact that one can- cases, however, aluminum is used for not fully depend upon the ordinary lightness. The treads have a rough tires of the automobile has no doubt outer surface so that it is impossible kept a great many from investing in for them to skid or slip. Another such conveyances. This is seen to be point that the inventor values highly true when we think of the rough roads of the country and the heavy loads of the country. The man in the automobile close fit not being needful. There are goods that have to be freighted about necessary to fit any make of tire, a in the city. The man in the automobile may go 500 miles without tire trouble. 30,000 automobiles in Massachusetts and if he does he is considered lucky, alone, and many other thousands in or he may have a breakdown in the the other Eastern states. There are first half mile—or more likely about more and more coming into use in the dark at some lonely place seventeen Western states, and the number of new miles from the nearest house. In any ones turned out by the 253 manufac- case the wear and gravel of the road turers in the United States, next year, is very hard on the rubber, so that will not be less than 75,000. In a few years there will be millions in use. It will be seen that this invention—too often, and is a serious matter of expense. At last, however, a steel tire which is fully protected by United States patent—has a wide field before it. The exclusive right to manufacture of the company. After this 6 per cent the tire and at the same time is so under it is held by the BRADLEY is paid to the stockholders, all further adjusted that it yields to every TIRE PROTECTOR COMPANY, of the rubber. This is because Fort Worth, Texas, a company duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas for the purpose of buying this device on the market. The protector is not attached to the tire at any point, so that the effect is that of an ordinary tire passing over

company is capitalized at \$20,000, and has the usual right to vote an increase if necessary. The capital stock the sale of automobiles or rubber tires, amounts to 4,000 shares of the par value of \$5 per share, fully paid up and non-assessable. For the purpose of operation of the tire protector, and get his candid opinion as to the value and co-operation in the opening up of the field for use of this invention. Remember that the BRADLEY TIRE PROTECTOR COMPANY is made up of practical business people, all settled residents of Texas, who never fail to make a success of whatever they take up, and who in this case pledge you their best service in your interest and theirs. Remember also that opportunity is said to pass this way but once, and do not wait until another has seized the chance that might have been yours, but order today as many shares as you can secure. You may reap a fortune; at least you will receive good interest on your investment.

Local agents will be wanted shortly in each place. Stockholders will be considered. Send in your application to the address given below.

CUT THIS OUT

W. G. DOUGLASS, President
Suite 8, Cowden Bldg.,
Ft. Worth, Texas.

Dear Sir—Enclosed please find money order for \$..... for..... shares of the Capital Stock of the BRADLEY TIRE PROTECTOR COMPANY at \$5 per share, with guaranteed interest at 6 per cent, payable to me annually. Send stock certificate to

Yours truly,

Name.....
P. O.
State.....

County President,

Chaplain.

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Good Cabinet Photos, \$1.50 pr doz
16x20 Portrait and Frame, \$3.00

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Business Announcements

Wants—For Sale—Exchanges

The extremely low rates for advertising in this department make it very attractive to advertise anything you wish to buy, sell or exchange.

The rates are 3 cents per word for the first and 2 cents per word for each subsequent insertion of the same ad. Cash must always accompany order.

In figuring cost for advertisement, each number, sign or initial must count as one word, and the address must also be counted.

All ads in this department will be set in the same size and style type.

The rates of 2 and 3 cents per word applies only in the Classified Columns.

THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATOR,

FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

ATTORNEY

W. D. WILLIAMS, Attorney at Law, Wheat Building, Fort Worth, Texas.

SAM R. SCOTT, Attorney at Law, Waco, Texas.

C. H. JENKINS, Attorney at Law, Brownwood, Texas.

CLARENCE NUGENT, Attorney at Law, Stephenville, Texas.

MISCELLANEOUS

COLLETT & SEIBOLD, Fort Worth, Texas. Insurance on Cotton and cotton warehouses. 12-24

WANTED to buy milk and cream in large and small quantities. Shaw Bros., Box 30, Fort Worth, Texas.

Sweetheart Days Afraid to Come Home in the Dark—and 100 other popular songs, with music, for 10 cents. Address M. J. Beattie, 111 West 104th Street, New York City. 12-10p

EMPLOYMENT WANTED—I want to correspond with someone in a good locality west of Fort Worth to get employment on the farm. There are 3 or 4 work hands in the family. C. C. Hutchinson, Norphlet, Ark. 12-17 P.

PLANT BILONA—JAPANESE AND SOUTHERN wild (tree) plum crossed. Strong grower, fine flavored, very prolific. The best for table or market. Write for full description. H. A. Biles, Roanoke, Texas. 12-3-p

WANTED—Active solicitors and local organizers in every locality adapted to fruit and truck growing. For terms write B. M. Anderson, state organizer Texas Home Canners' Association, Palestine, Texas. 12-17

BUTTONS—At the national meeting, the F. E. and C. U. of A. passed a resolution to adopt as their official emblem a button with Newt Gresham's portrait in the center. This button is sold exclusively by the daughter of Newt Gresham, at 25c each. Miss Ely Gresham, Point, Texas. 10-29-1f

FOR SALE—The Texas brand of home canned goods; inspected and guaranteed by the Texas Home Canners' Association; best goods; prices right. Try them. B. M. Anderson, Secretary, Palestine, Texas. 10-29-1f

AFTER Oct. 20 I can supply my strictly pure Ribton Cane Syrup to all who want the BEST at a LIVING PRICE. No middle-man's profit. No adulteration; straight from the cane plantation to the consumer. Order now or write for Syrup Booklet. J. E. McGuire, Pledger, Texas. 10-8tf

BUY OR SELL direct from one farmer to the other. We want cane seed, millet seed and corn now. We handle everything farmers raise. The Farmers' Union Clearing House, Dublin, Texas, December 10.

30 LBS. GRANULATED SUGAR 75c
with order, other groceries equally as cheap; freight paid on all merchandise east of the Rocky Mountains. (If full amount of cash is sent with order) Free grocery list, jewelry catalog, etc. WRITE TO-DAY
DEERING MERCANTILE CO.
60 Wabash Ave. Grocery Dept. 110 Chicago

Notes From the States

REPORTS OF STATE ORGANIZERS AND MEMBERS

POLITICS AND OTHER THINGS

Editor Co-Operator: Until the politicians of this state run themselves to death, into office or out of the state, and run the F. E. and C. U. of A. into the ground, I sat in the councils of my local, county, my state and nation. I have no connection now with the Union only as a demited member, for the reason that there is no local near me to which I can attach myself, yet I am no less a Union man from out to in. Three of the best Union journals published come to me weekly and I am noting closely what is doing. I said that the politicians ran the Union into the ground in this state, I mean all that and more if you wish. In some localities, unless you are a socialist, one is expelled from membership, in another if one is not a democrat he has to go, and still in others he must be a republican if he wishes to remain in good luck.

In the three elections that have followed on the heels of each other in the last year and a half in Oklahoma hardly a man has run for anything from constable up, in or out of primaries, but that he spent almost all his time searching out leading (?) Union men and the inquiry was, what is the Union going to do? About every other candidate one would meet had on his coat lapel a Union button as large as a new moon, and the others "just wanted to know what the Union wanted," and he was standing for that very thing. And even today one can hardly pick up a Union journal that is not filled with partisan slush, editorially and otherwise. When such men as my old friend Bill Shaw gets overwhelmed in the cesspools of partizanism it is time for the small fry in the Union to stay far inland. This county had two years ago more than 1,600 members in good standing, now very few can be found.

What was that New Orleans wind-jamming worth to the Union men of America? In the Co-Operator of Nov. 26, page 8, column 1, lines 10 to 15, "Them's My Sentiments." The whole thing was to bring some fellow before the public eye so that he might be in line for some fat office in coming elections. Mr. Richardson of Vicksburg is no doubt a gentleman of the first water, a friend to good government and to count him among one's friends would be a great honor, but I hope all Union farmers will re-read his speech made in Memphis and ponder well the ring and tenor of it. W. B. Thompson of New Orleans is a gentleman I should love to be able to count among my closest friends. He, too, made an address to a bunch of Union men at that city not long ago. Now, farmers, if you want to know all about the greatness, the beauty, the wealth, the magnanimity of the New Orleans wealthy men, just re-read his address. About Jan. 9, 1908, at Memphis, Tenn., a meeting of farmers was held and a positive move was made to at once erect and put into operation two mammoth cotton mills. I have listened long for the whistle to blow in Fort Worth, but alas! the cotton mill boom has hushed and now a mammoth warehouse at New Orleans is the salvation of the cotton raiser. Brothers, will you never quit being switched around and about by the schemers? Nothing definite has ever been planned

a time. When they see you are about to realize on your assets (do something) a "great conference" is held and you, like dummies, go to them and impart all your secret thoughts and plans and at once some great undertaking is launched, just to switch you off from good designs. I note pleasantly, too, that no Texas farmer is on the conference committee.

Warehouses are very necessary, and must be had, but the farmers must own them. If half of the money that has been spent by the Union and Union men since the Memphis meeting and attending conferences had been spent securing subscribers to the stocks of cotton mills, gins and oil mills, money would now have been in hand to take over the cotton industries by the men who should own them, the producers, and all this falling of prices would not have hurt any one except the fellow who had no cotton. When the cotton producer owns every utility connected with the preparing of cotton for the consumer then, and only then, can he laugh at the Wall street gambler. The cotton man has paid for all the warehouses, all the gins, all the cotton mills in Manchester, and all the oil mills. He pays the freight "gwi-in' an' comin'." He has paid for halls of dazzling splendor in which the future gamblers of the markets sit and fix him, and yet he does not own a cent of all this value. He has given away enough on this season's crop of cotton to have built mills enough to handle two such crops in six months. There are just three classes of persons in all this wide world who are interested in cotton, in any manner. The producer, the manufacturer and the consumer. And the interests of each of them are ferninst, athwart, across and "agin" each other. The speculator is a nonentity, an unknown quantity, who just hopscotches around and gets the three together at New Orleans and skins the bunch. His most difficult task is to keep the producer and manufacturer from becoming one and the same person. Texas boasts of its 200,000 members. Let these 200,000 plant and grow one bale of cotton out of ten, place it with all the bales of his county, sell it, put the money into an \$8,000,000 cotton mill in that state and cotton will sell always at 12½c. They won't do it? Well, will 100,000? No. Then 50,000? Will you tell me that there are not 25,000 men in all this vast membership in Texas that will not put \$40 (one bale) into a \$1,000,000 cotton mill, spin and make into cloth all the cotton in the state, thereby emancipating the cotton raisers of that state? If you will not, then you should be robbed, skinned, every mother's son of you, by all the skinners that come

along. If half the money had been spent shaping these things that has been spent to "educate and co-operate" (?) the farmers would have long ago owned the tools of their industry. Well, but some one is ready to say "Brother, we must crawl before we can walk." How long, in the name of God, are you going to crawl, at the rate the Union has gone crawling? It may walk in 000,000 years. I am of the opinion that it is time to stop co-operating and educating. Get together and try "doing" a while and see how soon every farmer from Maine to the gulf will be co-operating and how soon the best educated farmers on earth will be found among the cotton raisers of the south. The last of all these big pow-wows recently pulled off will be heard in the next sixty days, so don't bother about that. Nothing doing, boys, only somebody got scared that you were going to get down to biz, and to throw you off again a conference was pulled off. Such things do good, it's true, if in no other way they educate the masses that pow-wow is no good when cotton is tumbling every day. Texas has the warehouses, now if she will build the cotton mill and the oil mill the cotton business in that state is fixed. Success to the Union and the Co-Operator.

W. H. H. KELTNER.

Leon, Okla.

MANAGER OF UNION OIL MILL DROWNED

A. J. Whitney, manager of the Farmers' Union oil well at Guthrie, Okla., was drowned on Dec. 1 while trying to cross a river on a raft. The river was up on account of heavy rains and he undertook to cross on a small craft and was drowned.

KAUFMAN FARMERS WAREHOUSE

Kaufman, Texas.—The directors of the Farmers' Union Warehouse Company met here today, and, after checking up the business to date, found they were able to declare a dividend of 20 per cent. With the construction of a railroad siding to their yards and other improvements they expect to make, they hope to receive an increased patronage next season.

WANTED—To give free consultation to every afflicted man and woman; for I am positive that my Special and Specific treatment is almost an infallible cure for skin eruptions, blotches, blood disorders, anal, rectal and contagious diseases, syphilis, scrofula, gonorrhea, leucorrhea, spermatorrhea, gleet, unnatural drains, impotency, weakened or lost vigor of the sexual organs, ovarian and womb displacements, irregularities or painful menstruations, nervousness, hysteria, scarey feelings, backaches, kidney and bladder troubles, tired and all rundown feelings. Should you be one of these unfortunate sufferers it will be to your own interest to see me. Dr. N. Bascom Morris, office 614½ Houston st., Fort Worth, Texas. Phone 1992.

Continental Bank & Trust Co.

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ALL GOOD BANKING BUSINESS SOLICITED

Farmers & Mechanics National Bank

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

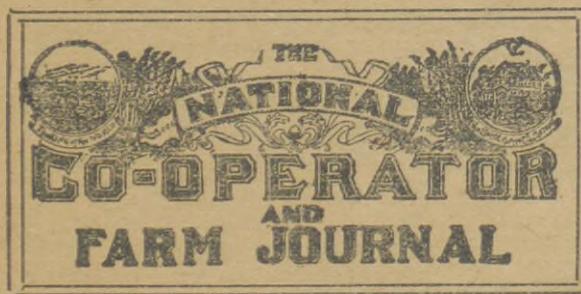
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J. T. PEMBERTON, V-PRES.

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Correspondence Solicited



Published Weekly, every Thursday, by Smith & Sweet
Office, Corner Eighth and Throckmorton
Streets, Fort Worth, Texas.

AARON SMITH
EDITOR

M. S. SWEET
BUSINESS MANAGER

Terms of subscription, one dollar a year, in advance.

"Entered as second-class matter, April 23, 1908,
at the post office at Fort Worth, Texas,
under the act of March 3, 1879."

Advertising rates will be furnished on application.



IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Take a look at the label on your paper and see when your time expires. Your paper will stop when your time expires. This is best for you and for us. Renew before your time is out. You can not afford to miss an issue. To keep fully posted on the workings of this great National organization, you must read The Co-Operator. Be sure to renew in time.

OUR AGENTS.

The regular state organizer, Joe E. Edmondson and assistants, J. L. Armstrong, and have authority to collect and receipt Sam J. Hampton, O. F. Dornblaser, Bud Terry, Peter Radford, all state, county and local officials of the Texas Farmers' Union and all duly commissioned organizers whose names are published in The Co-Operator are authorized agents of this paper for subscriptions.

All cotton speculators look alike to the editor of The Co-Operator.

Build warehouses and put your cotton in them whenever possible. If you are not forced to sell, keep it there until the price advances.

"Not every one who saith, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Not every one who denounces the gambler and speculator means what he says. It takes something more than wordy battles. Determinate action is necessary.

The corporate and business interests of the state are arranging a tax measure to be presented to the next legislature. It might be well for the farmers to ask their representatives if they were elected to serve these interests or the people.

As the time for the convening of the legislature draws near, the agents of special interests are beginning to show their hands. Each one is working in the interest of the farmers, if you will believe his story. The wonder is that so many men who have no visible means of support are well fed and clothed, perhaps even paid for their time to work in the interests of the dear old farmers. May the Lord save the farmers of Texas from some of their professed friends.

THE MAIN PURPOSE.

Among the great purposes of the Farmers' Union are education, fraternal co-operation and the cultivation of all the essential elements and principles of good citizenship. From these purposes it may be seen that the ultimate object of the Farmers' Union is the moral and intellectual elevation of the producers of the world.

But to attain this object, the material, the physical, the financial condition of the producers must first be improved. The present condition of the farming interests is rather a disease, caused by unnatural environments and influences and these must be removed before we may hope for a cure. With these removed and normal conditions restored among the agricultural classes, the farmer could reap the full product of his toil and then would come the ultimate object of moral and intellectual advancement. Hence, the main purpose, now, of the Farmers' Union is to enable the farmer to price his products.

This main purpose should be kept constantly before the eyes of every person who belongs to the movement. Every business proposition presented should be analyzed and tested with the one view of ascertaining its relation to the main purpose of pricing the products of the members. If it will contribute in any degree to that end and not conflict with any other effort, it should be accepted. On the other hand, nothing should be attempted which will not advance us in some degree toward this goal. Let the farmer have the right and power to place a price on his products which will pay cost of production and a profit on his investment and he will be ready to begin making advances along the lines which make for the higher development of the race at a pace which will astonish the rest of the world.

SOME TIMELY DISCUSSIONS.

Because they are looking to a way for the accomplishment of the main purpose of the Farmers' Union—the right of the farmer to price his own products—The Co-Operator has been pleased to publish some thoughtful papers recently, discussing the marketing of next year's cotton crop. Attention was called to some of these last week.

This week "Uncle Sam" Hampton comes in with an elucidation of his plan, and while we may not agree with him as to the price to be set, we cannot deny the soundness of his argument. It proposes a basis of co-operation which appeals to the confidence of all, and on which each may know what may be reasonably expected.

Another idea, somewhat similar to one in his plan, is that advocated in a resolution by a local Union and published in this issue. That is to raise an emergency fund to take care of distressed cotton by collecting a special monthly assessment from every member for twelve months. The writer has personally advocated this idea for two or three years past.

We believe the movement should be started, but the assessment should be made very light the first year, with a gradual increase as its purpose and benefits become recognized, until there is a sufficient fund to care for the distressed cotton. If they are really disposed to help him

In connection with financing this cotton, we have some suggestions to make relative to local warehouses and financing plans. However, mention of this will be made in a future issue. In the meantime, let the discussion go on, ever keeping in mind that the main purpose is for the farmer to price his own products.

A FARMERS' UNION HISTORY.

National President C. S. Barrett is preparing an authentic history of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union of America. The most of the manuscript for the book is now in the hands of the publishers and it is thought the book will be out of press soon after the first of January. It is to contain about 450 pages and will, perhaps, have to be sold at \$1.50 to cover expenses.

Brother Barrett is well qualified for this undertaking and we are sure that the members will rejoice that it is in his hands.

Many are responding to our propositions looking to the increase in the fighting strength of the Farmers' Union by increasing our subscription list. We hope that within the next two or three weeks every subscriber will see to it that another subscriber is added and his own figures, set one year ahead. Do not let this opportunity pass to increase your own power to price your products. Remember, our offer is extended only for a short time.

Enter your local right now for the library contest. You have been looking for something to interest your young people and we have offered it to you. It costs nothing to try for this premium, and if you fail, you will have succeeded in getting union literature in the hands of your neighbors and this will benefit you.

What the Press is Saying.

THE COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION.

Members of President Roosevelt's Country Life Commission are not apt to discover in a swift jaunt from city to city much reliable information touching the evils of country life. In the first place, they are theorists, and we find that most theorists never can know the practical side of anything, much less the practical side of farming in a field, and in a part of the country which they know nothing on earth about. Surely, if Mr. Roosevelt had intended to do more than make some political capital, to get the glory for a little more rambunctious buncombe, he would not have limited research into the cotton country to men of Massachusetts, New York, Iowa and California.

Cotton and Oil News is not disposed, however, to discourage any means that may, even through accident, tend to ameliorate the condition of the cotton raiser, but is inclined to the contrary to assist in efforts to help the movement along. To this end it suggests that the main trouble is that the raiser of cotton pays protection and trust prices on everything he buys and has no benefits of protection on anything he sells. That is to say, he is robbed, going and coming, by the tariff, for which President Roosevelt and his friends stand. If they are really disposed to help him

let them remove the tariff duties from the steel and machinery and implements and other things the farmers have to buy with their low-priced cotton.—Cotton and Cotton Oil News.

The condition of the farmers of the United States is fast assuming a marked change. For over a century the American farmer has been compelled to stand the brunt of all conditions, financial and otherwise, but today we are witnessing a revolution among the hardy sons of toil that bids fair in the end to be of untold benefit to mankind in general. It has been a remarkable fact in the past that an agriculturist was compelled to accept prices for his products as dictated by the market juggling and if he complained he was confronted with the old cry of supply and demand. But Mr. Farmer has learned that when he desired to purchase the necessities of life the law of supply and demand did not apply. Therefore, as he was compelled to accept any price offered for his product and compelled to pay any price demanded for that which he desired to purchase. Not having a voice either way in the transaction it became a question with the farmer how to regulate the injustice. So we find him today working along lines similar to the trades unions; and by co-operation and organization it is only a question of a short time until we find the farmer placing his own price upon his products, thereby insuring him a fair return for his labor.—The Labor Unit.

There is a trust adjunct traveling around over the country at the expense of the people calling itself the Country Life Commission. It recently held a meeting at Dallas. President Neill of the Farmers' Union and President Kirkpatrick of the Texas Nurserymen's association, told the kid-glove fellows a few facts that they did not relish. The United States government has allowed the trusts to oppress the people. It has allowed the damnable Wall Street gambling to oppress the farmer. It has allowed beastly compromises with the trusts. In some instances syndicates have been allowed to issue \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 worth of bonds, sell them, pocket the money and then advance the freight rates on the farmer and consumer. President Roosevelt's commission is all right in theory, but as long as trusts are allowed to rob the people it will give no relief to the man who has no graft and pays all the taxes and expenses.—Georgetown (Texas) Commercial.

Through their organizations the farmers of Texas are conducting a campaign of education among themselves that will lead to the filling of the smokehouses and corn cribs—the raising of more hogs and cattle—and the general easement of work on the farm. The cotton growers will, we think, never control the price of cotton except by reducing the acreage planted to cotton.—The Fort Worth Star.

All the amendments submitted to the local Farmers' Union were adopted by good majorities. Among them was one unrestricting membership in the Union to farmers and farm laborers actually engaged in farming and living on the farm.

There is a proviso, however, permitting a farmer to live in town and retain his membership if he has no other means of livelihood than the farm. The adoption of this amendment will rid the Union of many a self-seeking demagogue who was trying to use it for his own advantage.—Williamson County Sun.

Captain Herring, superintendent of the Texas penitentiaries, and other officials of the system oppose the working of convicts upon the public wagon roads, upon the ground that they cannot be properly concentrated and cared for. But the state last year used the convicts in constructing three railroads, besides leasing convicts for work on other railroads.—Dallas News.

Having made an unsuccessful effort to secure from Messrs. Smith and Sweet The Co-Operator, the Farmers' Union organ, Jeff Montgomery, the noted organizer and politician, announces that he will at an early day commence the publication of a farmers' paper at Dallas, with large capital.—Williamson County Sun.

"UNCLE SAM" PROPOSES A PLAN

All Farmers to Sign Pledge for Collective Sale of Cotton at the Minimum Price of 10 Cents

To the Members of the Farmers' Union of America: Will you permit your "Uncle Sam" to submit an adequate and legal solution to sell cotton judiciously and profitably? There is no sense in the co-operating farmers to be continually experimenting and speculating in handling and selling the greatest product in the whole country. Let us advance a definite plan and proceed to perfect our organization, so as to make the plan uniform in every state and county in the United States.

The power and force of this great Union must be directed so as to destroy the cowardly power that robs the farmer of a fair reward. When the problem is analyzed it is not a stupendous task at all. Just think how the millions of cotton farmers of the South, when organized, will be able to guarantee their help to each other. Think of the power and influence of three or four million organized co-operators, who are pledged to each other with a definite obligation to stand for a profitable and fair price. I suggest that we begin anew, and make the basis of our agreement 10 cents a pound, for I confidently believe every farmer in the land will gladly fall into line, with this as our "battle cry," and in a very short time we will have the grandest array of organizers and lecturers, and such a blaze of glory and enthusiasm in our Union as will arouse the sleeping millions upon the farms of our Southland, and send alarm and consternation into the ranks of the vandal hordes of gamblers and speculators that will swiftly drive them in confusion into the jungles of despair. With

now a strong organization in every cotton state, composed of the truest and bravest men and women that ever marched against a foe—men and women whose souls have been tried and approved, whose honor is unquestioned and whose courage is unquerable. We have over 20,000 local unions and several hundred country unions, and

more than sixty per cent of all the cotton grown in the South.

Now, in order to get the splendid benefits of this great army of farmers in every state, let us proceed to draw them up in line, and make a charge with this mighty army against the marauding forces of market gamblers and speculators who have committed untold wrongs against our class and are yet seeking to perpetuate their diabolical system of organized despotism over the affairs of the farmers.

Your "Uncle Sam" has a proposition of practical co-operation and unity that will mobilize the farmers of our fair Southland and rightfully enthroned them the "kings of the world."

As a watchman standing on the walls, I hereby proclaim to the co-operating farmers throughout all the ramifications of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union of America, a plan to defeat the marauding cohorts of despotic speculators and gamblers.

These exploiters have grown wealthy and arrogant by long years of rich pickings off the farmers. If each farmer who reads this will get busy and join the Union and secure as many more to join as possible, and pledge them as hereinafter stated, there will be "something doing." "In time of peace prepare for war" is advice which every farmer and union man will do well to take heed of during the time of the next six or eight months.

The proposition is so good that if the farmers throw it away they deserve to be slaves forever.

All the force of the State Unions, County Unions and Local Unions, with the help of the directing force of the National Union must be put in motion. It is not money we need so much as it is organization and loyalty, and a leadership and generalship capable and courageous enough to marshal the loyal farmers into a perfect unity. The Union must be put to work, and made to bring permanent and substantial benefits.

The definite program which your "Uncle Sam" presents is as follows:

Let each State Union proceed to circulate a pledge, similar to the one printed below, sending to every county and local Union, and get every bale of cotton produced by Union farmers, and all other farmers, pledged to the 10-cent price. Let all farmers be asked to sign up and co-operate for better prices.

This plan will, in a very short time, pledge at least seventy-five per cent of the cotton of the South, and will insure gradual and organized marketing. This plan will also insure uniform holding and farmers all over the country will know for a certainty that their brothers are holding and standing for 10 cents.

Heretofore there was no general understanding as to who was holding, and farmers in one section of the country were marketing rapidly and feeding the speculators and helping to cut the throats of their loyal brothers who were holding. As a result, a general fright was created among the farmers and heavy deliveries were thrown upon the market, and many farmers were hurt and discouraged.

This plan will give every farmer the security and confidence necessary to control, for all farmers will have a definite knowl-

(Continued on page 12.)

PRESIDENT BARRETT INVITES
CO-OPERATIONPOLITICS AND BUSINESS FRA-
TERNITY

Members of the Farmers' Union Asked to Help in His Work in Connection with the National Commission on Country Life.

To the Officers and Members of the Farmers Union—My main reason in accepting the appointment by President Roosevelt to his recently created commission on country life in America, was the belief that I could be of infinite service in this capacity to members of the Farmers' Union, as well as to every man, woman and child in our national population whose welfare will be promoted through the work undertaken by this board.

I believe that no one will dispute the assertion that I am thoroughly familiar with the personnel of the Farmers' Union. I have made it the first part of my duty to become as well acquainted with the needs and the environment of the member who lives in Texas or Washington, or of him who is steadfastly and with diligence working out his destiny in Georgia or North Carolina.

Such study and knowledge gives me the right to speak when the subject of debate or conversation is the conditions under which the rural population of the Southern and other states live, the things they lack to give happiness and completeness to their social routine and the problems which lie before them in their progress toward material and spiritual development.

My purpose in issuing this statement is to give the assurance personally to every member of the organization of which I am the executive head, that I invite and urge their co-operation in the prosecution of my labors in connection with the commission on country life.

Every investigation in which I engage in common with the other members of the country life commission; every recommendation of their making in which I concur—shall have for its ultimate object the betterment of the condition of members of the Farmers' Union, for the simple reason that the improvements which accrue to the advantage of my brethren in this organization are likewise the improvements calculated to make easier the lot and more rapid the progress of every citizen whose welfare is aimed at by the mission of my distinguished fellow commissioners.

I can best subserve the interest of the Farmers' Union, as well as those of our people at large, if you will give me your personal assistance in the development of this work.

President Roosevelt has pointed out that the purposes underlying this commission will fail of accomplishment if the people living in the country do not develop a sense of personal ownership in its deliberations. I am counting materially on the members of the Farmers' Union to convince the country that those at whose welfare these extensive investigations are undertaken, fully appreciate their part in the work.

I appeal to you as patriotic Southerners and Americans to assist me in making my connection with this commission an eminent success in advancing the welfare of the people of these United States.

C. S. BARRETT.

Get your non-Union neighbor to reading and he will soon become a member.

Editor Co-Operator:

The term politics is a most flexible one, adjustable to varying circumstances and conditions. There are those who confine its legitimate import to professional office-seeking, while others apply it to the operation of the principles underlying the due administration of the government. And still others would have it include every phase of political economy, as well as the methods pursued by the unscrupulous office seeker.

The term used in the consideration of the many farmers' organizations which have recently flourished for awhile and fallen does not seem to mean anything at all. The first of which we in this country have any personal knowledge was the Grange, which swept over the country like a cyclone was reputed to be a nonpolitical organization. It expressly declared it to be such and many people believed in the statement.

The qualifications for membership were liberal and admitted anybody who either directly or indirectly drew his sustenance from the farm and a few months witnessed long Cheap John politicians who had been left out in the cold by the dominant party not only a member but a high official in the "hayseed" fraternity.

They were chosen as deputy grand masters and enjoyed a continual picnic as long as it lasted. The second "high cockalorum" of that popular order evolved into a formidable candidate for governor of Texas. No protest seems to have been offered against the effort of its high priest to use its prestige and influence to further his political ambition. It soon became involved in internal and external difficulties which in due course of time reduced it to a mere reminiscence of its former splendor and glory.

A few years thereafter the Farmers' Alliance came on the scene as a strictly business, fraternal and nonpolitical organization. It had barely entered upon its career of promised usefulness in the promotion of the interests and general welfare of its membership when its chief officer became a candidate for congressional honors. The small politicians and grafters took absolute possession of its affairs and nothing was left of its pretensions but a painful recollection of its stupendous and costly mistakes. As is well known, it maintained and patched out a political party which completely swamped the original principles and purposes of the order.

In the early years of the present decade the Farmers' Union came on the stage of action. It was put strongly into its organic law that politics should be effectually and eternally excluded. Actual farmers, those who guided the plow and wielded, personally, and not vicariously, the hoe handle and other essentially necessary incidentals to a successful tillage of the soil, were to direct its affairs, while the politician was to take a seat away back in the rear, if admitted at all. No political section or other improper debate was to be allowed in its councils. Of course this was intended to keep down internal dissensions which disturb the harmony of the membership while uniting their energies in the promotion of the material and social welfare of the farmers, including their intellectual and industrial development in all of their legitimate phases.

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To The Farmers' Union—

FARMER TO SPECULATOR—Yes, I'm holding my cotton—20 bales—for better prices.

SPECULATOR—I'll give you 9 1/4c—that's 1/4c over the market—see here, telegram just received from New York.

FARMER—(Reaching down in hip pocket)—Yes, and you see my TELEGRAM, just received from Fort Worth. It says: "800 bales sold in Galveston yesterday at 9 1/4c—good demand—price advancing." And you can bet on what that paper says. I'm holding my cotton.

SPECULATOR (aside)—Confound that TELEGRAM; it beats me every time and nearly every farmer reads it, too; but I must buy cotton.

To Farmer: "Well, what do you want for your cotton, anyway?"

FARMER—9 1/4c cash, right now, on ground there.

SPECULATOR—Well, it's my cotton; here's your check for it. Our factory must buy cotton before prices go soaring. THAT FORT WORTH TELEGRAM is ruining us by telling you farmers about supply and demand, and every little advance in cotton, so you can hold us up on prices, and just rob us of our money.

Next day this farmer attended the meeting of the Farmers' Union and told them about selling his cotton and what the Speculator had said about THE FORT WORTH TELEGRAM. Twenty members wrote checks for \$3.25—price of THE TELEGRAM, daily and Sunday by mail, one year, during annual "BARGAIN DAYS," Dec. 1-15—and they will do it again this year. How about you? With the market reports you get a complete newspaper whose telegraph news is furnished by the Associated Press.

MONOPOLIES AND THE PEOPLE

Editor Co-Operator:

As a mere spectator I have noticed that the various legislative bodies from congress down to the municipal council or governing board, as well as the courts from the highest to the lowest, have all failed repeatedly and continuously to give to the public that relief from trust oppression which they feel that they are entitled to. I have also noticed that in all trials or investigations by commissions, courts or special committees, wherein the trust was the culprit and the public or any part of it was the complainant, that the one conspicuous fact was brought out and made very plain, and that was that in the absence of the power of the trust or combination to control transportation charges or freight rates, that the trust was without power; in other words, there was no trust. Without the power they could not exist in the form of a monopoly.

Of course the complete control of the source of production of raw material in addition to the control of the means of manufacture of the finished product, would give a monopoly, but where does this condition exist?

In the face of new discoveries of new sources of raw material, how long would such a monopoly last? There has been enough new sources of oil production in the State of Texas alone to destroy a dozen Standard Oil monopolies, but it did not do anything of the kind; it never touched them.

About the only time that they have been touched, so far as I can learn, is when some politician touched them for a loan or when some alleged statesman, acting as an attorney for them, touched them for a fee.

At the risk of making myself tiresome to you I am going to cite you to some past history, not very ancient, for it is only a few years since this government, through congress, appointed a special commission to investigate the whole subject of trusts and monopolies. That commission was given full power to summons and to compel the presence of persons and the production of papers or books that would assist in giving the desired information.

They spent several years, as well as several hundred thousand dollars, in conducting that investigation, and the final result can be summed up in a very few words.

At the conclusion of their labors the chairman of that commission stated that labor organizations, and they alone, could give the country the relief from those monopolies that people prayed for.

This announcement was all right, only for one thing; it was not true. The labor organizations did not have that power; they never did at any time have it. They are stronger today than they ever were at any time in the past, and they are still without that power. The recent election demonstrated that there was another error in that conclusion that is worthy of note, the chairman of that commission pointed out the wrong man. If he had pointed out the farmer as the man with the power and stated that when the farmer was educated up to a full knowledge of the injury that was being done to him and to his interests by those trusts and their methods of doing business with the public in general and with him in particular; that the farmer would soon find a way to do what the lawmakers and the courts had up until the present failed to do. There would have been some sense in such a statement, for the suf-

ficient reason that there would be some truth in it.

If their statement is correct the question would naturally present itself, how are you going to educate the farmers in sufficient numbers to make their action effective against the influence of these combinations of capital, with their many agencies, including a subsidized press and a well-paid corps of clever attorneys, who understand all the tricks of the profession and the art of taking refuge behind the technicalities of laws, in many instances, formulated by themselves or so amended as to enable them by pressing the letter to avoid a compliance with the spirit of the law and to defeat its apparent intent and purpose.

There is only one answer to such a question, and that is, to tell the farmer the plain truth about this matter, that concerns him more directly on account of the peculiar nature of his calling than it does the members of any other class or calling in the country. You must tell him this in as few words as possible, if you want to interest him; you must make it a pocket argument.

Enclosed herewith are three news items, the shortest of these articles consisting of three paragraphs, containing a world of information for the farmer, and it ought to serve to open his eyes.

If those coastwise lines when in actual competition, when freed from the dominating influence of the railroads, which, in turn, are dominated by the influence of trust magnates, can carry freight for 2 per cent of what they charged when the combine had no combination. Who was getting the worst of that deal, was it the fellow that had to use those lines of communication to reach a market for the product of his labor or was it some other fellow.

The other article stating the action of the court in denying an application for an injunction, briefly outlines some of the methods employed by some of those corporations to fasten a monopoly of this kind on the people.

The article referring to the New Orleans waterways convention describes in condensed form what some people have done, and what they contemplate doing to open up the rivers and possible waterways of the country.

This is a game that the farmer ought to get into with both feet and all of his hands. A little later on it would be the part of good sense and good business to let the other fellow do the boasting just now.

When these measures come up for action before congress or the State legislature, seeking appropriation for the improvements of waterways of any description for purposes of navigation or for the building of levees, the necessary provisions should be forced into those bills that would insure for all time ample protection to the people in the full, free use of their own property. These measures should not be allowed to pass in such form that a few privileged characters can at any time dictate the terms on which they will permit such public improvements to be used simply because they grabbed possession of title to land bordering on these channels, either before or after their improvement.

Trusting that you will consider this matter of enough importance to the farming interests generally to give it the attention it deserves, I am, yours respectfully, JAMES MURRAY.

Galveston, Texas.

Quality Calicoes



Our grandmothers believed in high quality—and they got it. They bought **SIMPSON-EDDY-STONE SOLID BLACK** cotton dress-goods. Standard 65 years ago—standard today. Intense fast color, and of great durability.

Ask your dealer for Simpson-Eddy Stone Prints. If he hasn't them write us his name. We'll help him supply you. Don't accept substitutes and imitations.

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O. F. DORNBLASER'S APPOINTMENTS

Texas Cotton Seed Oil and Product Market

Editor Co-Operator: We wish you to publish the following explanation and dates of O. F. Dornblaser in Erath county.

Mr. Dornblaser will commence a campaign in Erath County on Monday, Dec. 7, and speak at the following places until the Xmas holidays, after which he will take up his work again here and complete the county, leaving no one slighted. He will be at the county Union at Oak Dale, and there arrangements will be made for all other locals.

Dates as follows:

p. m.
Friday, Dec. 11, Boman Ridge, 7:30 p. m.
Saturday, Dec. 12, Clairette, 2:30 p. m.
Saturday, Dec. 12, Indian Creek, 7:30 p. m.
Monday, Dec. 14, Duffanu, 7:30 p. m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15, Sylvan, 7:30 p. m.
Wednesday, Dec. 16, Rocky Point, 7:30 p. m.
Thursday, Dec. 17, Rock Falls, 7:30 p. m.
Friday, Dec. 18, Wesley Chapel, 7:30 p. m.
Saturday, Dec. 19, Hog Springs, 7:30 p. m.
Monday, Dec. 21, North Bosque, 7:30 p. m.
Tuesday, Dec. 22, Huckabay, 7:30 p. m.
Wednesday, Dec. 23, Pigeon, 2:30 p. m.
Monday, Jan. 4, New Hope, 7:30 p. m.
Tuesday, Jan. 5, Lingleville, 7:30 p. m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6, Oak Dale, 10:30 a. m.

Mr. Dornblaser is a new man with new subjects. Come and get his new ideas. Respectfully COMMITTEE.
Per H. K. Rawlings.

FREEZE LOWERED COTTON

Will say cotton prospects have fallen 50 to 100 per cent since freeze 20 days ago. Many fields will not be picked at all and many more will not make more than 150 pounds per acre.

T. B. CALDWELL.

Frederick, Okla.

J. C. Webb's Dates.

Goree, December 15, 7:30 p. m.
Rhineland, December 17, 7:30 p. m.
Knox City, December 19, 2 p. m.
Carney, December 21, 7:30 p. m.
Pinkerton, December 23, 7:30 p. m.

PETER RADFORD'S APPOINTMENTS.

Near Baird 8, 9, 10.

Clyde, Dec. 11.

Abilene country appointments to be filled by those in charge of lecture tour, Dec. 12-14-15 at 7:30 p. m.

Stamford, Dec. 16, 7:30 p. m.
Haskell, Dec. 17, time to be fixed by the brethren.

Howard school house Dec. 18, 7:30 p. m.

Dec. 19 at some place, time to be arranged by the brethren.

F FARMS IN THE PANHANDLE COUNTRY (Northwest Texas)

Have freed from debt and brought financial comfort to the hundreds who have located there within the past three years; evidence of which was offered by the numerons

FIRST PREMIUMS
awarded exhibitors of the products of that section at the recent

TEXAS STATE FAIR, as extensively reported and most favorably commented upon by many unbiased and reliable publications throughout the State. Those not so favorably located should profit by the experiences of others and promptly avail themselves of the many opportunities still open in this wonderfully productive section whose people are broad minded, law-abiding, neighborly, co-operative, progressive, and therefore know the value to themselves of assisting and encouraging New-Comers.

Although land here has increased in value rapidly during recent years, it is still cheap for what it will produce and will be much higher in a few years; but much of it is still offered at prices and upon terms more liberal than available in other tested and proven sections of Texas.

There is still room for thousands without danger of crowding and, to encourage investigation.

"THE DENVER ROAD"
sells cheap round-trip tickets Tuesdays and Saturdays—with liberal stop-over privileges.

For fuller particulars write A. A. GLISSON, G. P. A., Ft. Worth, Texas.

"UNCLE SAM" PROPOSES A PLAN.

(Continued from page 9.)

edge that the holding extends all over the country.

This plan will give the farmers the greatest security and confidence necessary to control, for all farmers will have a definite knowledge that the holding extends all over the country.

Besides, this plan will give us the opportunity to deal with the legitimate dealers and consumers of the world, so as to eliminate the common enemy of both the farmer and the spinner—the cotton speculator, and to establish permanent trade relations, creating stability of price and making cotton a reliable investment.

This plan will give the farmers the greatest financial power, and will place them in possession of the great system of marketing.

This plan is not a trust, for every bale of cotton pledged remains the property of the farmer who produced it. It is a simple way to organize the marketing of cotton for mutual protection and benefit, and will guarantee perfect unity of price and in marketing will eliminate waste and damage and expensive machinery and profits now taken by unfair speculators and crop gamblers.

On this plan, it is so easy to control. Cotton statistics show that there are only 216 counties in the South which produce 66 2-3 per cent of all the cotton grown in the United States. Cannot the Union very well afford to pay 216 good, strong and capable organizers to invade these large producing counties and keep them there until they build such an organization, with warehouses, as will pledge and control every bale of cotton at 10 cents, and completely defeat the price fixers in New York and New Orleans.

The pledging campaign should be made sizzling hot. The time for united action is at hand. The farmers must clasp hands across state lines, and bind themselves together in a perfect working agreement, and force the world to treat them equitably.

This is no time to dally; no room for "Doubting Thomases." Every farmer must get in the game and stay in to win.

I present this plan to every officer and member of the Farmers' Union of America and guarantee its success, if the farmers will it. Ten cents can be secured for all the remaining cotton of 1908 within sixty days. On this plan every farmer in the land could withdraw from the market at a moment's notice.

If you have faith you must act. I invite every member, from President Barrett down, to consider this plan.

I am ready to help push the contest to the very remotest bounds of the Union, and thirst for other countries to conquer.

Read the pledge below and imagine how easy it will be to win, when the farmers are united.

Read on until you come to the PLEDGE. Such a "Pledging Campaign" would be inspiring, and would do more to attract thousands, and even millions, to our ranks than all other efforts, besides calling attention to the justness of our cause and creating a public sentiment in favor of the Union which would extend around the world.

Much more could be written and said in cotton, working in co-operation with the

favor of the plan, but I rest the case here, and ask you to carefully read the pledge and study the purpose. Then write me your conclusions and say if you are willing to help me make it a system of our great organization.

Cotton Growers' Pledge.

In Unity There is Strength—Divided We Fall

Whereas, Farmers cannot expect fair prices in glutted markets, and

Whereas, Glutted markets are sure to result as long as farmers rush their crops to market as soon, or as soon thereafter as harvested.

Therefore, in consideration of the facts stated above, and to secure fair prices for the 1908-1909 crops of cotton, we, the undersigned farmers, and members of the Farmers' Union, each for himself, and to help all other farmers, hereby enter into this agreement:

First, the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union of America, has undertaken to secure the co-operation and to obtain enough pledges from the cotton growers, to hold their 1908 and 1909 cotton crops for a profitable and fair price, which will not be less than 10 cents per pound, farm price, middling basis.

Second. Therefore, I hereby agree that I will not sell, promise to sell, or contract any of my 1909 or any more of my 1908 crops of cotton for less than 10 cents.

Provided, however, that if I am required to hold any part of my crop, the Farmers' Union will cause to be advanced to me through its local or central selling agency, at least two-thirds of the market value of my cotton, when the request is made and I need the advance.

Third. It is further agreed that any trade agreements, by which all or any part of my cotton can be sold to dealers or spinners at 10 cents, or above (farm price) such part or all of my crop is hereby pledged to fill such contracts.

Fourth. It is further stipulated that the title to the cotton as herein pledged, shall ever remain in me, until sold as agreed above and settlement made therefor.

Fifth. That this pledge shall remain in full force and effect until the price is reached, or should the Farmers' Union fail or refuse to make such advances to me to protect my obligations, then in that event to become null and void.

Sixth. That this pledge is made solely for the purpose of establishing gradual marketing and fair prices, and for mutual protection and benefits, and I hereby solemnly agree not to dump any part of my crop into the hands of speculators and gamblers to the injury of my brother farmers and in violation of this agreement.

Seventh. That I further agree to the system of selling cotton at the ports, through a central selling system as planned by President Neill of Texas and the Union system.

Eighth. In carrying out the above agreement it is understood that the county and district Unions shall appoint boards of control and managers, who shall be bonded, to superintend the marketing of

local warehouses, and the central selling agents at the ports.

In witness whereof I hereby sign my name, pledging upon my sacred honor to faithfully observe the regulations and agreements written above.

I do not claim perfection in the above pledge, but the idea and plan is involved in it. Some claim that a penalty should be added for the violation, but it seems to me that the reward of fair prices for sticking ought to be sufficient to bind farmers together. We are certain to have low and still lower prices unless some kind of unbroken rules are had among farmers. However, the plan has been tried and has proven a success, not only in the marketing of tobacco, fruits and grain, but organized speculators themselves have a chain of unbroken rules in order to maintain the advantage over farmers. All merchants, bankers, doctors, lawyers and labor union people are bound together in rules and regulations for mutual protection and benefit.

The Farmers' Union heretofore has been too loose an organization, and many of our most loyal members have been injured by the reckless marketing of weak members, due to a total disregard of their obligation. What we need is a Union with a backbone as strong as a Bois d'Arc rail, and, thus featured, you can rally the boys once again. But you leave the members loose to do as they please and sell when they please, at any old price they please, and no amount of lecturing and speech making is going to solve this question. What must be done is to line the farmers up on a plan that will insure them that every farmer will stick, and act in concert, and speak as one man speaks.

Such a plan I have elaborated to you in this article, and if the Union farmers have faith in it, and will help me, the plan will be made uniform in every state, and such a blaze of enthusiasm and glory in the organization of the farmers of the South will be started as will eclipse all the excitement of a presidential election.

The farmers of Texas, with the Galveston arrangement to finance and sell cotton ought not to hesitate to sign the pledge, and with Oklahoma united with Texas we could control one-third the cotton.

This plan will take care of every poor farmer's cotton, and the poor farmer will have millions of brothers to speak for them.

Everybody will be in favor of 10-cent cotton. A united stand will force the price in a very short time.

Make the plan uniform.

Make the plan unanimous.

Line up every farmer in the land and get the whole South behind cotton.

If you have any courage in faith in your cause, and in the farmers of the South, and then bring this matter before your local and county Unions. Pass resolutions and start the agitation and request your leaders to start the Pledging Campaign.

As many of the farmers who feel interested in the welfare of the greatest product in the nation write me your opinion of this plan. Something must be done.

Yours sincerely,
"UNCLE SAM" HAMPTON,
The Union Scout.

THE SOUTH'S CONDITION
AND THE REMEDY

Thomas E. Watson's Gives His Analysis and Offers Some Suggestions.

The following is an extract from the speech of Hon. Thomas E. Watson of Georgia at the New Orleans convention and deserves a careful reading, for, whatever we may think of Mr. Watson politically, we all agree that he is a close student of the times and industrial conditions:

"Last summer one of the great political parties which dominates us made a boast of the fact that it had done so much for the farmer. To what fact did they allude? To the fact that they had spent twenty-three million dollars for the benefit of the farmer in giving him mail facilities somewhat equal to those given to the manufacturer and the people engaged in inland commerce? In other words, out of the hundreds of millions of dollars which the farmer pays into the national treasury the government, after lavishing millions of it upon the steel trust—which wanted more contracts for battleships—and after spending other millions of it upon the Philippines, and after squandering other millions of it in paying the railroads the most absurd prices for hauling mail, and after squandering other millions of it for keeping up expensive custom house establishments at ports hundreds of miles from the sea coast, and keeping up other custom house establishments at seaports where no imports pass through, and after squandering other millions of it in erecting the most expensive public buildings in the city of Washington, and in almost every other city throughout the Union—actually have the generosity to spend the pitiable sum of twenty-three millions for the direct benefit of those over-taxed agriculturists who pay the greater portion of the revenues of the federal government!

"They don't even claim that they have done anything else for you. They don't even claim that they have endeavored to win for you a broader market by so shaping our tariff legislation as to conciliate foreign countries who naturally would be your customers and who are given to patronize Great Britain, France and Germany because of the provocation given to them by such infamies of legislation as the Dingley bill.

Cites the Steel Trust.

"The government has deliberately given to the steel trust such special privileges, such a monstrous monopoly, that its own reports disclose the fact that the trust during the year 1907 piled up a larger sum in net profits than all the agricultural classes had been able to pile up during the ten years from 1900 to 1900. In agricultural pursuits there was invested during that period capital in amounts ranging from sixteen billions of dollars to twenty billions of dollars. There were employed six million of laborers. Yet with all their toil and industry in bringing forth such enormous quantities of produce as were never before known in the history of the world, the records show that the farmers made only \$123,000,000—not more than living wages—whereas the steel trust, as shown by the same official record, clears every year from \$100,000,000 to \$190,000,000.

"The government has given to the

tobacco trust those laws which stifle competition and logically brought about those conditions which today are driving the grower of tobacco to desperation and night riding and have made of the retailer nothing more than a poorly paid clerk of the trust.

Oppressed Tobacco Grower.

"To the manufacturers the government has given such monstrous favors in the way of special legislation that the cotton growers of the South are pretty much in the same condition as the tobacco growers. There is no doubt that there was a conspiracy among the spinners and the speculators to keep down the price of this year's crop. The effect is the same as having but one buyer in the market.

"What is it the government could have done and has not done for the farmer? It could have kept off the robbers instead of arming them with class legislation, which legalized their robbery. It could have negotiated treaties with foreign countries which would broaden the market for cotton and by increasing the demand raise the price of cotton. Instead of this, all our treaties are made with reference to the

of this, and a very striking one, was given when the senate rejected the Kasson treaty, in which France agreed to such terms as would have enabled us to sell her each year \$20,000,000 worth of cotton seed oil. In this treaty it was provided, however, that France should have a slightly lower duty on cotton hosiery. It so happened that one New England mill was engaged in the manufacture of stockings in that sort, and rather than submit to a reduction of its profit, this New England mill made a fight upon the Kasson treaty and knocked it out. In other words, the government sacrificed the entire South to preserve the monopoly of one little New England mill.

Where South Is to Blame.

"For the position in which she finds herself the South is much to blame. We have a natural monopoly in cotton and haven't got sense enough to know what to do with it. The steel trust has a monopoly built up by bribery and all sorts of wrong, but it knows how to use it. It says to the farmer: 'Pay my price for agricultural implements of all kinds or your farm can grow up in scrub pines and jack rabbits. The harvester trust has its price and the grain may fall in the field if the farmer is unwilling to pay tribute in order to get the scythe, the plow, the mower, the reaper and the harvester, which this same harvester trust will tell to the Southern American or Russian competitor of the American farmer at a very much smaller price than the American farmer is made to pay. The meat packers have their price and the average citizen must pay it or must sit down to a meal of white side meat, black molasses and corn bread, seasoned with hopes of roast beef, veal cutlets and beefsteak which he may enjoy in the sweet bye and bye. The coal trust has its price, fixed by George Baer, the divine right capitalist, who, on being asked by a reporter if it was true that he did fix the price of coal, said angrily that it was nobody's business whether he fixed the price or not, and it was nobody's business what the price was.'

"But the farmer, having a real God-given monopoly, lets his rivals in business take from him all the advantage it gives him. For instance, in 1907, we sold abroad 9,708,000 bales of

Farms and Ranches

Large and small tracts of farming and grazing lands in Palo Pinto County, Texas. Best Watered section of the state. Fine fruit growing country. We have tracts suitable for colonies or individuals.

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Largest, brightest and finest ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE in the world for 10 cents a year, to introduce it only.

It is bright and up-to-date. Tells all about Southern Home Life. It is full of fine engravings of grand scenery, buildings and famous people. Send at once. 10 cents a year postpaid anywhere in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Six years 50 cents or clubs of six names, 50 cents; 12 for \$1. Send us a club. Money back if not delighted. Stamps taken. Cut this out. Send today.

The Dixie Home, 1010 Birmingham, Ala.

cotton. We were paid for it \$481,000,000.

"European spinners manufactured this raw cotton and sold the goods for \$1,400,000,000, a net profit of more than \$900,000,000. This certainly would seem to show that we do not get enough for our cotton. The Pee Dee mills of North Carolina have declared 40 per cent dividends right straight along for the past ten years, panic or no panic, and the stock of these mills cannot be bought at five for one. This would seem to show that the Pee Dee mills do not pay the farmer a fair price for his cotton.

Mills Make Too Much Profit.

"Two years ago I secured some inside information concerning the mills in Augusta, Ga. My informant assured me that at a cost of \$100, including what was paid for the raw cotton at 12 cents a pound, 3,000 yards of calico could be made out of a 500-pound bale of cotton. If the mills sold this calico at 5 cents per yard, a bale of cotton, which cost them \$60, yielded them in manufactured form \$150, a profit of \$90 on the bale. If they only got 4 cents per yard for calico, that netted them \$20 per bale on cotton.

"A Griffin, Ga., mill makes a bath towel that weighs one pound, and which retails in Atlanta for \$1. The wholesale price of the towel is 75 cents. It probably takes more than one pound

of cotton to make one pound of towel, but not much more. Consequently the way in which a pound of cotton, costing from 9 to 12 cents, can be turned into bath towel costing 75 cents, would seem to show that the farmer is not getting a fair price for his cotton.

"Why, then, the glut of the market with unsold cotton goods? First, because our high tariff charges provoked retaliatory tariffs aimed at us by other nations. Thus we are shut out of foreign markets, to a great degree, and the cotton market of the world is thus narrowed. A narrowing of the market, of course, means restriction of consumption, and a restriction of consumption means a lessening demand. Lessening demand, in turn, means falling price. The second reason is that because the people have not the money with which to buy these high-priced cotton goods.

"Now, the remedies: First of all is the constitutional remedy. The tariff on cotton goods should be lower so that everything entering our market that is cheaper in price, would, by the competition thus established in the American market, force the American manufacturer to reduce his price to meet the competition. The lower the price, the greater the amount of consumption. The greater the amount of goods the people can buy, the greater the amount of raw

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cotton the factories will have to purchase. Of course, as the demand for raw cotton advances, the price will naturally rise. That method, however, requires time and pressure upon congress. Consequently it does not meet the immediate necessities of the case.

Coffee Trust's Remedy.

"We should deal with the present situation as the coffee trust dealt with their surplus a few years ago. They found the country could only take about 18,000,000 bags annually. The trust found itself in possession of a surplus of 14,000,000 bags. They simply retired that surplus from the market, and kept it off from year to year. They fed to the demand the 16,000,000 bags which it needed. This not only kept up the price at the old figure, but advanced it 3 or 4 cents per pound. Thus during the years when they were holding a surplus of the market, they were making the people pay for it in the advance of the price on the 16,000,000 bales that were sold. The same principle could and should be applied to the surplus of cotton.

"Second, some relief might be given by a trial of the cotton certificate plan. It is well known that I do not believe in that kind of money. Like Jefferson, Benton and Jackson and the Democrats generally of the old school, I believe in government money—every dollar, gold, silver or paper, being created and issued by the government. I do not believe in national bank notes or in clearing house certificates. We were forced to accept clearing house certificates last year, and will probably have to accept them again. Having made us take this soap wrapper currency, whether we wanted to or not, I feel very much like feeding them with the same spoon. Turn about is fair play. They sauced our goose last winter; let us sause their gander this winter. Southern men everywhere will unite with us, for common interest unites us all.

Fight for Principle.

"Something more is involved in this struggle than mere greed for dollars. We are not gathered at this convention for the mere matter of money-making. It is a question of justice, of principle, of sacred right, of self-preservation. In effect, it is just as bad for us to be robbed by law as in violation of law. To the victim there is no substantial difference. When a sneak thief snatches your purse, the law brings its heavy hand down upon the criminal; but under the same system of government the law gives to the manufacturer and to inland commerce the power to plunder the farmers of this country to the extent of hundreds of millions of dollars per year. What are we to say about it? What are we to do about it? Are we always to submit to spoliation? Are we never to take up our arms and make a stand for home and loved ones? Farmers of the South, you are industrial slaves. Rouse yourselves and throw off the yoke. By united effort you can regain much which has been lost. Common interest says unite. Patriotism says unite. Self-preservation says unite. Be lions among lions, and not sheep among wolves.

"Spot cotton is the South's natural king. We have not served him loyally, and the result is, cotton futures is king. Let us pull the usurper down. Let us drive the pretender out. Let us once more crown spot cotton as king, and serve him so wisely and so loyally that all the world shall acknowledge him as king. In

that day the South, secure in her natural monopoly, will dictate the price to all the world. In that day the South will not be the industrial slave of the North, as she is now, but will be free once more—free as she was in the days of old, when Southern statesmen gave to this nation the best laws and best administrations and the most glorious achievements that mark the history of our republic."

SOME REAL ESTATE FIRMS NOT RECOMMENDED

The Co-Operator is very careful of its advertising columns and hence it is not often necessary to warn its readers against any person or firm advertising herein. However, in spite of all precautions frauds will slip in occasionally. We do not say that the following, which recently carried advertisements in these columns, are frauds, but we do say that upon a second investigation we would recommend that our readers have no dealings with them and if they have begun such negotiations we recommend that they be broken off.

Continental Realty Co., Houston, Texas.

Oil Opportunity Company, Houston, Texas.

C. F. Maddox, Houston, Texas.

COMBINATION OFFER

The National Co-Operator, published weekly at Fort Worth, Texas, is the great exponent of unionism in the cotton growing States.

The Union Farmer, published semi-monthly at Murphysboro, Ill., is making a specialty of looking after the interests of members in the grain and live stock region.

The two papers together make a strong team and ought to be read by every earnest, wide-awake member of the union.

\$1.25 sent to this office gets them both.

Our library contest is not limited to Texas. It is open to any local Farmers' Union anywhere.

Ask your local secretary if he is going to try to secure the library for your local. If he is not, write us, and let us enter you and furnish you agents' terms.

NO SKIN LEFT ON BODY

Far Six Months Baby Was Expected to Die with Eczema—Blood Oozed Out All Over Her Body—Now Well

DOCTOR SAID TO USE CUTICURA

"Six months after birth my little girl broke out with eczema and I had two doctors in attendance. There was not a particle of skin left on her body, the blood oozed out just anywhere, and we had to wrap her in silk and carry her on a pillow for ten weeks. She was the most terrible sight I ever saw, and for six months I looked for her to die. I used every known remedy to alleviate her suffering, for it was terrible to witness. Dr. C— gave her up. Dr. B— recommended the Cuticura Remedies. She will soon be three years old and has never had a sign of the dread trouble since. We used about eight cakes of Cuticura Soap and three boxes of Cuticura Ointment. James J. Smith, Dumid, Va., Oct. 14 and 22, 1906."

THE WHARFAGE MONOPOLY

Efforts of Transportation Companies to Control Shipping Facilities

Elsewhere in this issue is published a letter from James Murray of Galveston showing the power of the farmer and yet how special interests are securing advantages in spite of this power. The writer refers to three clippings from the daily press to show what unrestricted competition would do and some of the methods being used to prevent competition. Following are the articles:

ANOTHER CUT IN RATES

BY COASTWISE LINES

The published report sent out from New York to the effect that another cut of the rate on iron from New York to Galveston had been made by the Mallory and Morgan lines was verified here yesterday so far as the Mallory Line is concerned. The reduction is considerable, the rate now being 10c per hundred pounds on commodities that have been taking a rate of 15c per hundred. This means that the freight has been reduced a dollar per ton.

It is understood that the Texas City Steamship Company, the new line which has brought on the rate cutting, will meet the cut of the other lines. Previous to the inauguration of this line the freight rate to Texas ports averaged, it is learned, 40c per hundred pounds, or \$8 per ton.

The reduction of rates on various

commodities by the three coastwise lines is proving of benefit to all of Galveston's territory. The rates now in effect, it is said, make it possible for eastern and northern shippers to obtain much lower rates by shipping into the Colorado, Utah and Oklahoma territory and Texas through Galveston than over the all-rail route. The effect of the rates is to bring shipments from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois through the New York gateway to Texas and western points.—Galveston News.

TERMINAL COMPANY SOUGHT TO DISCRIMINATE

The clerk of the federal court in this city this morning received from the United States circuit court at New Orleans the decree denying and disallowing the application of the Southern Pacific Terminal Company et al. for a temporary injunction against the mandate of the Interstate commerce commission in reference to the Galveston wharf matter, which cause is



MEANS' IMPERIAL STRAIN Barred Plymouth Rocks

Won at Weatherford, 1908, 50 birds competing, 2nd tie, 3, 4, 5 cock; 1 cockerel; 1, 2, 3, 5 hen; 2, 5 pullet; 2, 4, 5 pen; 1st best display of Barred Rocks. 1907—1, 2, cockerel; 1, 2, 4 pullet; 1, 2 pen. Also winner at Dallas State Fair, 1908. I have bred them 10 years. This speaks for the quality of my stock. Eggs and stock for sale at all seasons at reasonable prices. Write your wants.

H. M. MEANS, Weatherford, Texas, Route 1.

Attractive Clubbing Offers

THE National Co-Operator and Farm Journal has made a special effort to secure a list of newspapers and magazines of a high-class and valuable for their news or educational features, which at the same time are in the reach of everybody. As some of the clubs offered below are about one-half the regular publishers' prices, we believe we have succeeded remarkably well. Read them over; you will find something for every member of the family.

The Co-Operator and Home and Farm, one of the leading agricultural papers of the South, \$1.25.

The Co-Operator and any 50-cent per year paper, at both for \$1.25.

The Co-Operator and the Dallas semi-weekly News or any \$1 a year paper, both for \$1.75.

The Co-Operator and Nevitt's Profitable Poultry Culture, a \$1 book of extraordinary merit, \$1.25.

The Co-Operator and Murray's Swine Breeder, \$1.15.

The Co-Operator and Watson's Weekly Jeffersonian, \$1.50.

The Co-Operator and Illinois Union Farmer, \$1.25.

The Co-Operator and Standard Poultry Journal, \$1.20.

Co-Operator and Fort Worth Weekly Telegram, \$1.25.

For the Whole Family.

The Co-Operator, Pictorial Review, Modern Priscilla and the Ladies' World, four dollars' worth of papers, for \$2.50.

The Co-Operator and Review of Reviews, Woman's Home Companion and Cosmopolitan or American Magazine, \$6 worth of reading for \$4. The Co-Operator and either of the above at a greatly reduced price.

The Co-Operator and Union Banner (Louisiana), \$1.25.

Send all subscriptions to

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known as the interstate commerce commission case.

Resume of Case

A brief resume of this case, which has attracted the attention of shipping interests all over the United States and which, it is said, vitally affects the port of Galveston, is as follows:

In February of 1907, Mr. Carl Eichenberg of this city brought suit before the Texas railroad commission complaining of the Southern Pacific Railway Company and the Terminal Company, in which he alleged that they were discriminating against him and all other exporters of cotton seed products at the port of Galveston with the exception of E. H. Young, who, the complainant Eichenberg alleged, was favored by both of the defendant companies by the fact that they had built wharves and a pier for the said E. H. Young, which he in his petition claimed relieved Mr. Young of wharf charges and gave him facilities for erecting machinery directly on the wharf for the grinding, compressing and sacking of cotton seed meal and cake.

The petitioner Eichenberg alleged that the benefits accruing to Mr. Young by his contract with the Southern Pacific people was discrimination, and made it impossible for other exporters to successfully compete.

The petition of Mr. Eichenberg before the Texas railroad commission was dismissed on the ground that the state commission had no jurisdiction over the wharves and piers at Galveston.

Mr. Eichenberg then, through his attorney, Marsene Johnson, filed a petition complaining of the above matters with the interstate commerce commission in the city of Washington.

Shortly after the filing of the petition, the interstate commerce commission sent its special examiner to Galveston, where for six days, beginning on Jan. 6, 1908, Mr. Brown, the examiner, conducted the hearing and took testimony in the United States court room in this city. The testimony taken at this hearing was thorough and when completed and reduced to writing it covered 976 closely typewritten pages.

The case was taken under advisement by the commission until June 26, 1908, upon which date that body entered a decree commanding the Southern Pacific and its terminal company to dissolve its contract with Mr. Young and to afford all exporters at the port of Galveston equal facilities for shipment of all products, on or before Sept. 1, 1908.—Galveston News.

NEW ORLEANS WATERWAYS CONVENTION

BY WALTER PARKER.

New Orleans, La., Nov.—While the fourth annual convention of the Interstate Waterways Association, to be held in New Orleans on Dec. 4 and 5, will discuss only the problems incident to the opening up of a protected navigable waterway connecting the Mississippi and Rio Grande rivers, the unity of purpose behind the efforts of the interstate and other similar associations is making for the creation of what is destined to be the world's greatest canal system. The Mississippi-Rio Grande waterway project, while of inestimable and immediate value to the people of Louisiana and Texas, is, in the broader sense, merely one link on a system which eventually will connect Boston harbor with New Orleans, Galveston and the Rio Grande.

Recently a very successful meeting

was held at Columbus, Ga., in the interest of the project to open up a protected waterway from New Orleans to the Atlantic seaboard across the northern portion of Florida, and at that meeting the project received great impetus.

On Nov. 18 the Deeper Waterways Convention, held at Baltimore, formed plans for the purchase of the present Delaware and Chesapeake Canal and the construction of a new one; for the deepening of the Hudson river to the point where it connects with the Erie canal; for the selection of a route through Massachusetts from Narragansett to Boston; for deepening of the present waterways from the North Carolina sounds to Norfolk; for the surveying of the New York, New Jersey and Florida coasts preliminary to further development.

Because of the comparatively small amount of money required—only \$4,000,000—and the fact that extensive work has already been done by the government, there is every reason to believe the New Orleans-Galveston and Rio Grande canal will be completed well in advance of the other gulf and Atlantic coast projects, and the efforts of the delegates to the New Orleans convention will, in the main, be devoted to the bringing of strong influences to bear upon the federal congress in the hope of securing early appropriations for the completion of the important work now under way.

The program will include a number of speakers who are authorities on waterway subjects, while the program for entertainment, prepared by the various committees under the direction of President Philip Werlein of the New Orleans Progressive Union, is unusually elaborate, since several special trips of inspection have been planned in order to give the delegates a practical knowledge of the value of waterway transportation facilities.

PAPER BY WALTER E. McELROY

Read Before Mt. Vernon Local of Temple, Texas.

(Concluded from last issue.)

We have some few farmers who, I fear, will not be much help to us, for when solicited to enlist with us they will say: "I am afraid you will not win." But when you get on a basis so you can win, or I see you are going to win I will join you, and not before." When would George Washington ever have given us free America and become the father of his country had our fathers been like them? They remind me of a fable I learned in childhood's happy days. A way back in the remote past there was an issue between the beasts and fowls. I do not know what it was. It might have been high tariff or the money question, anyway it seemed destined to be a bloody struggle. There was one little creature in that great throng of warlike beasts that did not know what he was. Just like these fellows, they do not know what they are—Wall street speculators or jack-leg farmers. The birds wanted him to enlist with them. He would say: "I am not a bird. I have teeth and fur." The beasts wanted him to enlist with them. He would say: "I am not a beast. Did you ever see a beast with wings?" So he would neither be a bird nor beast. The battle began. The fowls swooped down on the beasts, and it seemed that there was no chance but for them to win. Then this little creature spread wide his velvet wings and sailed proudly over, and says to the fowls: "We have just about gotten this battle won. I knew

we would win." But, alas! while he was making his boast, the king of beasts caught the bird of Jove, and furs and feathers filled the air. And on noiseless wings the fowls began retreating. Then this little creature folds its wings and marches over on the side of the beasts and says: "We have won a great victory. I knew all the while we would win." But the beasts said: "You have no part in this. Your wings betray you." So he was on neither side. So after we have fought the battle and victory is ours and these fellows gather around us, and say: "We have gained a glorious victory. I know we would win, if we would only stick." Then we will send them back to their own tribe where they can hear nothing but furs, and see nothing but feathers. But when they get back, their feathers will have lost their golden lustre and the furs will be faint and far away. And they will be on neither side.

Some have said that there was no use in rising up against the money power, and making demands. Neither would there be any use in tying a tiny thread to our great ships expecting to hold them in anchor. But enough of them twined together makes a cable sufficiently strong to hold our greatest ships secure. So if all the farmers and farm laborers would unite and work in harmony they would make an army so great that no earthly power could overthrow them.

The religious world is crying Union, as never before. They see the slow progress they are making in converting the world, divided into sects as they are. If I were a railroad man, I would join their Union; if I were a carpenter, I would join their Union; if I were a bootblack, I would join their Union; if I were a street bum, I would join their Union—if they had one, and if not I would organize as quick as I could call a meeting. But all Unions should be based on good principles, for true principles never die. But thank God one stormy night it left an empty tomb, and freed from its political body and made its way into an empty barn where a few noble

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We have had twenty-five years' experience in treating chronic and special diseases of Men and Women, and can give you reliable advice and the very best of treatment. Send for book, symptom blank and our opinion. It will cost you nothing. Learn what we can do for you. We cure many cases at home. Send for our book on Women's Diseases.

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Sons had met, and there began its work on a larger and grander scale. We may let this Union die, as we did the Alliance, but if we do it will be a long time before we can appropriately sing: ?

"No more beneath oppressive hand
Of tyranny we groan;
Behold the smiling happy land
That freedom calls her own."

And it would be mockery to sing:
"Land of the pilgrims' pride,
Land where my fathers died,
Of thee I sing."

Methinks that a voice from a thousand turned back, but pressing on—even to ours. But we are not of them who twined back, but pressing on—even to the breaking down of strongholds, never letting our banner trail, but raising it higher and higher still, until it is respected in every land and honored on every sea."

I joined your Union but a few months ago, but am with you to stay, either to a glorious victory or follow a lost cause into the last ditch."

Which is the Most Active Local?

AND

Who the Greatest Rustler?

These are questions the Co-Operator is going to submit to the membership of the Farmers' Union in Texas. And the winners will each receive a handsome prize.

For over a month past local unions, local secretaries and public spirited members have been doing missionary work by sending in lists of subscribers to the Co-Operator in order to get it before the people who are not informed in union matters. We have helped by circulating, free, thousands of sample copies.

Our work has been done none too early, for at the first evidence of a reaction in favor of the farmers all the speculative interests combined to strike a crushing blow to the Farmers' Union. Some of the same interests are at work which were in the movement to capture the legislature last spring, and they are backed by ample capital to do all that money can do. They will present false issues to the people and these must be met. There is only one way to meet them and that is to EDUCATE. Keep Union literature before the farmers, both in and out of the Union. Thousands more would think like you do, if they read what you read. We have spent hundreds of dollars sending sample copies and many of you have rendered unselfish service in procuring subscriptions. Now we are going to express our further appreciation by making the following offers:

Our Proposition

We will present free to the three local unions sending the highest number of annual subscriptions, or equivalent, in proportion to paid up membership by 12 o'clock noon, January 1, 1909, three handsome libraries, as follows:

To the local sending the largest number, fifty volumes.

To the local sending the second largest number, twenty-five volumes.

To the local sending the third largest number, ten annual subscriptions to the Co-Operator.

Each annual subscription shall count one, each three months' subscription, one-fourth and each six months subscription, one-half of an annual, so that all will count.

Any local which desires to contest for the premiums must notify us at once. A record will then be opened and every name sent in by or from that local will be recorded, with the amount paid and date. However, every subscription sent under the contest MUST BE SO STATED WHEN SENT, in order that we may give credit.

At the end of the contest this record will be submitted to the state, president and secretary and they will be asked to declare the result under the conditions herein named.

The awards shall be made to those locals which shall have sent in the first, second and third largest number of annual subscriptions or fractional equivalents, in proportion to paid up membership on the first day of October, 1908. This will put all locals on an equal footing, regardless of numbers. For instance, a local having twenty members will have to send in one more than twice as many subscriptions as a local having only ten members.

In event of a tie between three locals or less, the premiums will be combined and then divided equally between them. If more than three tie, the premiums will be awarded according to some plan to be agreed upon by the successful ones.

Locals which have sent in lists since the first of September may have them credited on this contract by writing us a special request at once.

An Agents Premium

In addition to the above premiums to the banner local, we will give a twenty-year gold filled case watch, standard make, lady or gentleman's size, to the local secretary or local agent who sends us the largest list of subscribers before 12 o'clock January 1, 1909. Following are the terms:

No general or county organizer will be allowed to contest for this prize.

First—Where a local secretary has been acting as agent, he will be recognized as the contesting agent of such local. Where local secretary does not act and no one is elected agent, the first member who writes will be appointed.

Second—To enter this contest, such secretary or agent must write at once, asking to be entered and giving his name, office, union if an officer, name of local and postoffice address.

Fourth—In event of a tie the value of the premium may be divided among those sending the largest lists or awarded in such manner as may be agreed upon by them.

Two Premiums for One List.

Under the above propositions two credits will be given for every subscription when requested. First, the local will get credit; second, the agent who sends it in. To secure these credits, however, it must be requested when subscriptions are sent in.

What the Members Get

The members of the union, the individual subscribers of the Co-Operator will be the chief beneficiaries of this campaign for subscriptions in proportion to the amount they invest. If the Co-Operator's subscription list were doubled, there would be twice as much cotton held off the market as there is now. That would mean from \$5 to \$10 on every bale of cotton yet unsold. Therefore every man who helps increase its circulation helps to advance the price of cotton, and if one-fourth our readers will secure one new subscriber each, they will make back more than the cost of their paper on every bale of cotton they sell.

Special Offer

We are going to make the subscription price cheaper, however, by sending the paper from now until January 1, 1910, to every person who pays up back subscription, and \$1 in advance.

To those who owe no back subscription and to new subscribers the paper will be sent until January 1, 1910, for \$1 in advance.

The Library

The books to be given away under this offer are printed on good paper and neatly bound in cloth. They embrace books of travel, history, romance, fiction, poetry, philosophy, and are just the thing for a circulating library for the pleasure, instruction and profit for both old and young. The locals which win them may rest assured that they will not lack for interest the coming year. Besides, the premiums of fifty and twenty-five volumes herein offered, which are purchased by us, we will secure from five to ten extra volumes of government records which are needed for reference in every local union.

The local secretary should be made librarian and each member allowed to keep a book a reasonable length of time and return it. By this means each member has the opportunity of reading every book in the library. The value of such a library is an educational factor cannot be estimated.

Books Comprising the Library

The winners of the premiums may select their books from the following list, or we will select for them, if they prefer. Note the wide range of subjects covered:

Arnold, Edwin.
Browning, Mrs.
Byron.
Cary Alice and Phoebe.
Child Harold's Pilgrimage.
Coleridge.
Courtship of Miles Standish.
Cowper.
Dante.
Emerson, Ralph Waldo.
Familiar Quotations.
Favorite Poems.
Goldsmith.
Hemans, Mrs.
Lady of the Lake.
Language and Poetry of Flowers.
Longfellow.
Lucile.
Moore.
Cushing's Manual of Parliamentary Rules.
Webster's Every Man's Own Law.

Brownies and the Farmer.

Bible Stories and Pictures.

Anderson's Fairy Tales.

Children's Life of Jesus.

Oliver Optic's New Story Book.

Our Country, illustrated.

Life of Benjamin Franklin.

Life of Daniel Boone.

Life of Patrick Henry.

Washington and His Generals.

Deerslayer, J. Fennimore Cooper.

Pathfinder, J. Fennimore Cooper.

Red Rover, J. Fennimore Cooper.

Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll.

Helen's Babbles, John Habberton.

Lamplighter, The, Cummins.

Little Lame Prince, Miss Mulock.

Prince of the House of David, Ingraham.

Wide, Wide World, Susan Warner.

Black Rock, Ralph Connor.

Bondman The, Hall Caine.

Count of Monte Cristo, Dumas.

Elsie Venner Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Guy Mannering, Sir Walter Scott.

Ivanhoe, Sir Walter Scott.

Lena Rivers, Mary J. Holmes.

Quo Vadie, Henryk Sienkiewicz.

Romance of Two Worlds.

Talisman, The, Sir Walter Scott.

Thelma, Marie Corelli.

Descent of Man, Darwin.

Koran of Mohammed.

Last Days of Pompeii, Bulwer.

Napoleon and His Marshals, Headley.

Bill Nye's Sparks.

Bitter Sweet J. G. Holland.

French Revolution, Carlyle.

Natural Law in the Spiritual World, Drummond.

Origin of the Species, Darwin.

Our Planet, Its Life History, Gunning.

Three Men in a Boat, Jerome.

Wandering Jew, Eugene Sue.

Red Headed Boy, Peck's.

Holy Living, Jeremy Taylor.

Imitations of Christ, A'Kempis.

In His Steps, Rev. Charles M. Sheldon.

Stepping Heavenward, Mrs. Elizabeth Prentiss.

Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow, Jerome K. Jerome.

Burns' Poems.

Hiawatha, Longfellow.

Prince of the House of David, Rev.

Professor J. H. Ingraham.

Get busy and receive one of these valuable Premiums. Write at once and have your local and yourself recorded as contestants. Remember you and your local may both win.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATOR & FARM JOURNAL, Ft. Worth, Tex.