

THE RURAL CHURCH

THE FARMERS THE CUSTODIANS OF THE NATION'S MORALITY.

Co-operation of Church, School and Press Essential to Community Building.

By Peter Radford, Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The church, the press and the school form a triple alliance of progress that guides the destiny of every community, state and nation. Without them civilization would wither and die and through them life may attain its greatest blessing, power and knowledge. The farmers of this nation are greatly indebted to this social triumvirate for their uplifting influence, and on behalf of the American plowman I want to thank those engaged in these high callings for their able and efficient service, and I shall offer to the press a series of articles on co-operation between these important influences and the farmers in the hope of increasing the efficiency of all by mutual understanding and organized effort. We will take up first the rural church.

The American farmer is the greatest church builder the world has ever known. He is the custodian of the nation's morality; upon his shoulders rests the "ark of the covenant" and he is more responsive to religious influences than any other class of citizenship.

The farmers of this nation have built 120,000 churches at a cost of \$750,000,000, and the annual contribution of the nation toward all church institutions approximates \$200,000,000 per annum. The farmers of the United States build 23 churches per day. There are 20,000,000 rural church communicants on the farm, and 54 per cent of the total membership of all churches reside in the country.

The farm is the powerhouse of all progress and the birthplace of all that is noble. The Garden of Eden was in the country and the man who would get close to God must first get close to nature.

The Functions of a Rural Church. If the rural churches today are going to render a service which this age demands, there must be co-operation between the religious, social and economic life of the community.

The church to attain its fullest measure of success must enrich the lives of the people in the community it serves; it must build character; develop thought and increase the efficiency of human life. It must serve the social, business and intellectual, as well as the spiritual and moral side of life. If religion does not make a man more capable, more useful and more just, what good is it? We want a practical religion, one we can live by and farm by, as well as die by.

Fewer and Better Churches. Blessed is that rural community which has but one place of worship. While competition is the life of trade, it is death to the rural church and moral starvation to the community. Fostering sectarianism is a scourge that blights the life, and church prejudice saps the vitality of many communities. An over-churching community is a crime against religion, a serious handicap to society and a useless tax upon agriculture.

While denominations are essential and church pride commendable, the high teaching of universal Christianity must prevail if the rural church is to fulfill its mission to agriculture. We frequently have three or four churches in a community which is not able to adequately support one. Small congregations attend services once a month and all fail to perform the religious functions of the community. The division of religious forces and the breaking into fragments of moral effort is oftentimes little less than a calamity and defeats the very purpose they seek to promote.

The evils of too many churches can be minimized by co-operation. The social and economic life of a rural community are respective units and cannot be successfully divided by denominational lines, and the churches can only occupy this important field by co-operation and co-ordination.

The efficient country church will definitely serve its community by leading in all worthy efforts at community building, in uniting the people in all co-operative endeavors for the general welfare of the community and in arousing a real love for country life and loyalty to the country home and these results can only be successfully accomplished by the united effort of the press, the school, the church and organized farmers.

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RAILROADS WILL HELP THE FARMER

Common Carriers Will Co-operate in Marketing Farm Products—Middle Men Charge Higher Rates for Handling Farm Than Factory Products.

By Peter Radford, Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The leading railroad systems of the nation will establish market bureaus to assist the farmers along their lines in marketing their products. Many routes have succeeded to the request of the Farmers' Union and announced their willingness to enter into active co-operation with the farmers in marketing their products.

The express companies have surveyed the field and the Federal Government, through the parcel post, has demonstrated the possibilities of the common carrier as a useful agency in marketing farm commodities.

The express action of these giant business concerns in determining to co-operate with the farmers in marketing their crops, to be the greatest product of human thought on the Western hemisphere during the past year, and it demonstrates that the educational work of the Farmers' Union has brought the nation to a clearer understanding of the real problem of the farmer.

To give information on marketing is far more valuable than to give advice on production. There is a mutual interest between the railroads and the farmer which cannot exist between any other lines of industry. The railroads are the teamsters of agriculture, and they are employed only when there is something to haul. Good prices will do more to increase tonnage than any other factor, and railroads want tonnage.

Agriculture has many inherent disadvantages which require combined effort to overcome in marketing. There are millions of producing units working independently and selling without knowledge of market conditions. The harvest is once a year, while consumption is pretty evenly distributed throughout the entire year, and most of the farmers, through custom and necessity, dump their entire crop on the market as soon as it is gathered. The problem of organizing and systematizing the markets is one in which the farmers invite assistance of all lines of industry friendly to their interests.

Farmers Bear the Burden. The business of the manufacturer lends itself more readily to organization and the facilities for studying the markets are more easily available. The result is that the merchants are compelled to handle most staple manufactured articles at very little profit, and as a consequence the merchant must look to products which he buys direct from the farm for his profits.

The reports of the Federal Department of Agriculture show some very interesting information and enable a comparison between the cost of marketing products of the farm and those of the factory. A few items will serve to illustrate the general run. The cost of getting sugar from the refinery to the consumer is 9 cents on the dollar; the cost of getting tobacco from factory to consumer is 14 cents on the dollar. In selling a dollar's worth of eggs the middleman gets a profit of 60 cents on the dollar. In selling a dollar's worth of fruit, the middleman gets 84 cents on the dollar, and on catanoupes 82 cents.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 570, published by the United States Department of Agriculture, in discussing this subject, said:

"The high price paid by consumers ranging from 5 to 500 per cent, in some cases, more than the farmer receives, indicates that there is plenty of room for lowering the cost of farm products to consumers and at the same time largely increasing the cash income per farm, without increasing farm production. This condition is undoubtedly a marketing problem which will have to be solved by better organization of farmers and improved methods of marketing."

Large Shippers Influence Rates. In railroad rates the inequalities are equally as glaring. Rate making in its primitive stages was largely influenced by demands and arguments of large shippers, but the farmers were unorganized and seldom appeared before rate-making bodies, and the burden of expense in transportation lies largely against the raw products of the farm.

In banking, our securities are discriminated against, as compared with those products of the factories and mines. The farmer is entitled to a square deal. The farmer is more interested in good prices and efficient service than he is in rates.

Proposals for Street Work

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the recorder of the city of St. Johns until Nov. 10, 1914, at 8 o'clock p. m. for the improvement of Buchanan street from the east line of Buchanan street to the west line of Burr street, in the manner provided by ordinance No. 625, subject to the provisions of the charter and ordinances of the city of St. Johns, and the estimate of the city engineer, on file.

The engineer's estimate is \$888.03. Bids must be strictly in accordance with printed blanks which will be furnished on application at the office of the recorder of the city of St. Johns, and said improvement must be completed on or before 60 days from the date of the last publication of this notice.

No proposals or bids will be considered unless accompanied by a certified check payable to the mayor of the city of St. Johns, certified by a responsible bank for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the aggregate proposal.

The right to reject any and all bids is hereby reserved. By order of the city council. A. E. DUNSMORE, City Recorder.

Published in the St. Johns Review Oct. 23, 30, and Nov. 6, 1914.

NATIONAL FARMERS HOLD CONVENTION

Government Aid Sought in Marketing Cotton—Work of Peter Radford Commended.

Fort Worth, Texas.—The eleventh annual meeting of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America came to a close in this city today. More than two thousand delegates were present, representing the various state organizations and covering an area from coast to coast and from the great lakes to the gulf.

President Chas. S. Barrett, presided over the sessions and introduced the various speakers. The keynote of the convention was the action of the convention in asking government aid in financing the cotton crop of the South.

"The greatest crisis in years, brought on by the European war, faces the United States," said President Barrett in his opening address. "There is only one thing to do and that is for the United States government to buy three or four million bales of cotton at not less than ten cents a pound from the farmers of the South to be held until a higher price may be obtained and, when sold, the profit, minus the expense of handling, to be remitted to the farmers."

The convention went on record as favoring the Henry bill introduced before Congress recently, which favors the buying of cotton by the government as a relief of the present situation. This bill was drafted with the co-operation of President Barrett, who believes that it fully covers the situation.

Provision was made for the raising of a fund of \$300,000 for the purpose of maintaining a committee to devise plans for relieving the depressing results of the European war. This committee will include a member from every organized state, together with the national officials and the national executive committee. The committee will be in charge of Peter Radford, of Texas, who was appointed chairman, and before the adjournment of the session more than \$10,000 of the fund had already been pledged.

A resolution was passed condemning the present war and recommending the establishment of an international court, looking to universal peace and good will between the nations of the world.

Child Labor Condemned. A resolution was passed endorsing the bill providing for the elimination of products from interstate commerce which are manufactured in factories employing children less than fourteen years of age or those employing children under sixteen years of age more than eight hours.

A marketing plan introduced by Harry Tracy of Texas in which a practical system of marketing farm products was outlined was heartily endorsed by resolution.

Union Officials Endorsed. Referring to the work of the officers of the Farmers' Union, Mr. Barrett paid a high tribute to the manner in which they have co-operated with him. "They have stood steadfastly by me in every call to duty," said Mr. Barrett, "and in every endeavor for the general good. They are true, faithful and conscientious men. I want to pay especial tribute to one individual, Peter Radford. If I should be asked to name one man in the Union who has done more to lighten my own load, who has done more for or about the farmer, who doesn't even wait for the distress signal, then I'd have to say Peter Radford. Most like Peter Radford keep one's faith sound, his courage high and renew belief in humanity."

Union Growing Rapidly. President Barrett stated that the Union was fast growing in numbers and in strength. Twenty-seven states in the Union are included in its membership and the total number of members aggregate more than eight million. It is the boast of the Union that all its members are men who are actual farmers and that no one who does not till the soil is eligible for membership in the organization.

The officials of the Union were unanimously re-elected for the coming year as follows: C. S. Barrett, Georgia, president; A. V. Swift, vice president, Oregon; A. C. Davis, secretary, Arkansas.

RADFORD REAPPOINTED

Fort Worth, Texas.—President Chas. S. Barrett of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America has announced the reappointment of Peter Radford as lecturer of the National Union during the coming year. Extensive plans have been outlined for publicity work throughout the nation to be carried on through Mr. Radford's department. This publicity work will be modeled on the lines of the educational work done in Texas on the subject of farm products.

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SIRES AND SONS.

Joseph Hesser jawned in New York the other morning and had to go to a hospital to get his mouth closed.

Professor Ehrlich, the famous scientist, has all the absentmindedness of the German professor of tradition. His cigar is the only thing he never forgets.

C. B. Nicholson, who will in all probability build Sir Thomas Lipton's new cup challenger, is now building a twin screw yacht for Pars Singer, which will be the first yacht to use the Diesel engine for motive power.

Sir William Crookes, discoverer of thallium, recently celebrated his eighty first birthday. Notwithstanding his age, he is among the young men of the time. He is still actively engaged in important experimental work.

Walter Barrows, succeeding the late A. S. Hanson as general passenger agent of the Boston and Albany railroad, has been in the employ of the same company since he began his railroad career. He began in 1832 as a clerk in the office of the ticket auditor at Boston.

Joseph O. Thompson, known as "the king farmer of Alabama," owns 25,000 acres in the fertile black belt, near Birmingham. To properly care for the farm he has five employees, who with their families, make a population larger than the average Alabama city. Two hundred and thirty plows are always in use.

Train and Track.

In Cleveland the cars are operated as pay as you enter in the morning and pay as you leave in the evening. This is said to facilitate transportation.

Plans for electrifying all railroads in the vicinity of St. Petersburg by harnessing the falls of a river contemplate transmitting the current at 400,000 volts, the heaviest voltage ever attempted.

Berlin is now in proud possession of the largest and best arranged street car depot in the world. It is located on the eastern outskirts of the city, where it has been in process of building for several years. Five hundred large electric cars can be accommodated upon twenty-six lines which are laid abreast.

Current Comment.

There is no fault to find with the "men behind the guns" on the Arkansas. To hit a target five miles away six times in fifty-seven seconds is marksmanship—New York World.

A French engineer tries to announce that the Panama canal is too small and And yet it proved too big for the French company which tackled the job and gave it up.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A New Jersey convention has been discussing the question whether nagging by their wives drives men to drink or drinking by their husbands causes women to nag. The answer is easy: Both!—New York Tribune.

The Writers.

J. M. Le Sage has been for fifty years a member of the editorial staff of the London Telegraph.

Miss Della Crewe, a writer of Waco, Tex., is making a motorcycle tour of the world. Miss Crewe expects to write impressions of her trip for a magazine.

Mrs. J. R. Green, who has been described as "the cleverest woman in London," was recently given the degree of doctor of literature by the Liverpool university. She is a historian of exceptional ability and has written a number of such works. Her book on Henry II. is considered to be the best life of any medieval king.

Fashion Frills

When a girl wears a low cut dress she is either coming home from work or going to a party.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A New York milliner's display of winter hats shows some with plumage nearly two feet high. Exit the hatbox under the bed as a family institution.—Detroit Free Press.

Once more the Parisian fashion makers announce that the crinoline is coming back. They may lead woman to the hoopskirt, but they have yet to make her wear it.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Aerial Flights.

The aviation death rate soars skyward.—Boston Herald.

Aviation, from the fatality standpoint, makes football seem like a parlor game.—Detroit Free Press.

When it comes to gathering them in, aviation is running the old sexton a mighty close race.—Indianapolis News.

The news on the same day of the fourteenth aviation fatality within a month and of the feat of a French aviator in flying 150 miles in an hour affords equally graphic evidence of the progress of flying.—New York World.

Science Siftings.

Blocks of wood can be hardened and waterproofed for a number of purposes by boiling for a few minutes in olive oil.

Swellish chemists have devised a way for separating from coal tar the fluidly dissolved carbon which it holds in suspension.

Water requires eight times as much heat to warm it a given number of degrees as iron, five times as much as stone and about thirty times as much as lead or gold.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County. Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is a resident of the City of Toledo, Ohio, and that he is the owner and proprietor of the Toledo Blade, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of copyright infringement that shall be proved by the use of HALL'S PATENT TYPE-SETTING MACHINE.

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