

## The Farmer as a Church Builder

BY PETER RADFORD,

Lecturer National Farmers' Union.  
**T**HE 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.

**Farmers Great Church Builders.**  
 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 22 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 power-house 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.

### Functions of 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. Petty 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.

### Co-operation.

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.

### Unique Environments.

Here in the United States is one place unique in its environments. This is on a spur of the Carrizo Mountains, where four of our states meet. It is the four corners where Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona touch. The point is difficult of access, and yet a monument stands on it erected by the United States

surveyors and inscribed with the names of the states which there meet. An earlier monument was destroyed by Indians and was replaced by the present one.

### UTILIZING ALL THE MANURE

Value of the Mechanical Spreader in Avoiding Waste.

BY E. NEWBEGIN,

General Manager R. M. Wade & Co.

The approximate value of wasted manure in the United States in one season is \$50,000,000, a conservative estimate based on figures from the leading experiment farms and agricultural colleges. Experiments have been conducted for many years to ascertain the value of manure as compared with mineral fertilizing agents. In each case it has been found that the cumulative effect of manure increases more rapidly than that of any other fertilizer.

The claim is substantiated by statistics that manure possesses a greater value than would be indicated by its chemical composition in its physical effect on the soil.

Experiments by Federal farms throughout the United States to compare the relative values of manure and other fertilizer agents have brought to light the amount of chemicals carried by the different manures. Cows and steers fed in a stable with hard floors that hold the water from seeping produce not less than half a ton of manure each month. This varies with the feed and the general health of the stock, but the estimate is low enough to allow for any condition which may arise. A ton of stable manure has been analyzed at one of these farms, and a table giving the chemical value in fertilizer agents has been compiled. In the 2000 pounds of apparently useless material are 9.92 pounds of nitrogen; at 15 cents per pound this would bring \$1.49, 4.74 pounds of phosphorus, at 7 cents, \$3.318; 9.46 pounds of potassium, at 6 1/4 cents, \$5.67, or a total value of \$2.39 per ton. This value varies with the feed and condition of the stock, but may be figured as a safe basis to work on. Thus it will be seen that a season's manure runs into considerable money, too much money in fact to disregard any convenient method of taking care of it.

Manure, when thrown from the stable, contains 70 to 80 per cent water. This water holds in solution a large part of the salts which give the manure its value for fertilization. If the material is exposed to rain under conditions which allow the escape of the drainage, fully one-half of its value as a crop increaser will disappear in a few months.

If it were possible to construct a bin large enough to hold all the manure accumulations of the season so moisture would not escape it would allow the farmer to wait until the opportune time for spreading it. The cost of this bin would be large and the labor of carrying to and from the bin would be almost prohibitive. Farm experts have considered this matter from every angle, every known method of taking care of this valuable agent has been investigated. The nearest approach to ideal economy in the preservation of manure is to haul it daily from the stable to the field and spread it at once as uniformly and in small particles as can be conveniently accomplished.

In some of the model farms conveyors are used to carry the manure from the stable to a platform, where a mechanical manure spreader is stationed. This arrangement saves time and labor, and the manure loses none of its value, as it can be hauled to the field at the most convenient time and automatically scattered evenly and at any desired thickness where it is needed the most.

As soon as the advantages of the mechanical spreader were fully established many of the most progressive farm implement firms engaged in its manufacture; many different styles, each one with slightly different ways of doing the same work, were invented. The one object of all being to scatter the material evenly at least expense, waste of manure and to break the manure into small enough particles. There has been a growing demand in the last few years for a lower machine than those generally in use. Several of the best makers are manufacturing a machine which supplies this demand in one way or another.

### May Curtail Cotton Crop.

As a result of conferences among Congressmen from nine cotton states, Senator Sheppard, of Texas, sent requests to Governors of those states to meet in Washington and discuss the question of curtailing next year's crop.

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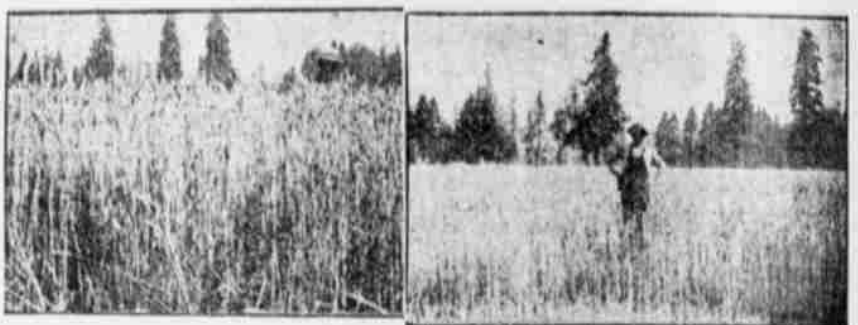
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A LITCHFIELD CROP NO LITCHFIELD—NO CROP  
 Actual photograph taken on farm of F. B. Marshall, Albany, Oregon, showing two fields—one where Litchfield Manure Spreader was used, and one without.

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N. Dakota	Fargo	National Grain Grower	40,000
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Utah	Lehi	The Utah Farmer	16,623
Total			490,823

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