

A WORKING PLAN FOR BOYS' CORN CLUB AND GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL CLUB WORK.
Yalobusha County, Mississippi.

Organized under the direction of Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work
Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Thos. A. Early,
Superintendent of Education,
Yalobusha County, Mississippi.

The Working Plan of the Boys' Corn Club and the Girls
Industrial Club Work in Yalobusha County, Mississippi.

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During the month of March, 1908, there was organized in Yalobusha County, Mississippi, a movement looking toward the betterment of methods in farming in that section and the stimulation of interest in all agricultural matters. It was called the Yalobusha Farmer Boys' Club.

Nobody, probably, foresaw the results that have already flowed from this unpretentious little organization. But the idea caught among the boys of Yalobusha. They came together and talked it over. They dug up such literature as was available and posted themselves regarding the most approved methods of growing cotton and corn and the hundred other products of the soil that thrive in the fertile loam of Yalobusha County. A new pride in their calling and in their county has already manifested itself. Farming is being invested with an atmosphere of interest and romance and rightfully its own, and the allurements of the city are fading out of Yalobusha's perspective. Farmers and farmers' boys are slapping each other on the back and thanking God afresh that they are farmers and farmer's boys--and that they live in Yalobusha County.

PURPOSE OF THE CLUB

The avowed purpose in the formation of the club was to provide for contests in the growing of cotton and corn, after the plans of Dr. S. A. Knapp of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, Farmers's Cooperative Demonstration Work. Nearly 300 of the most enterprising and wide-awake boys of Yalobusha County were enlisted in the work. Each boy was urged to thoroughly prepare a plot of half an acre, which he was required to cultivate individually. Each boy was furnished with data regarding the best qualities of seed and was admonished to make his own selection, bearing in mind the qualities of his soil, the climate in which his products were to be grown, etc. Each boy was urged to give the young plants the very best care until late in the season. In a word, each of the contestants was instructed to surround his little crops with the most favorable conditions known to scientific farming, and thus to put into a practical experiment the vaunted theories of the agricultural colleges.

The results were at once gratifying to the projectors of the club and a delightful surprise to its members. It has been demonstrated to these boys that the production of every acre of land in the county can be doubled by the proper mixing of a little skill with their methods. This, it is believed, will go to the root of most of the supposed inabilities of the farmers to build good county roads, comfortable country homes and adequate rural schools; for whenever the people become more prosperous they will at once begin to make these improvements.

Similar organizations have performed a wonderful amount of good in the states of the North and West; then why not, it is argued, for "Old Mississippi?" The principal object is to begin early in life to create in the young people a respect and love for agricultural pursuits; to give them agricultural training along with their literary studies and to fit them to begin the battle of life equipped with knowledge that future success will demand.

The purposes may be summarised:

1. To give our boys a more practical education.
2. To make farm life more attractive and farming more profitable and thus check the flow of our young men to the city.
3. To assist our schools to teach agriculture and extend the work of the Agricultural and Mechanical College and Experiment Station.
4. To dignify farming and enable our people to take advantage of our schools by making them more prosperous.
5. To encourage soil study, soil improvement, better cultivation, plant study, improvement, etc.
6. To teach the coming generation of farmers to get the best results from his labor and soil by intensified farming.

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The members were required to cultivate at least a half acre. A smaller plat would not be practical to give results from their experiments. For instance, a boy could cultivate very highly a few stalks and, perhaps, win one of the best prizes but would fail to get the benefits in an agricultural education that a boy with a plat would get. Absolute honesty and fairness were urged throughout the whole work. Every precaution was taken to have the right spirit shown.

The boys did their own work and kept a record of same. These records were handed in with their prize ears of corn October 20, 1908. It is a rule of the club that all bulletins from the Department be read carefully and a complete record be kept. A number of personal letters were sent out to the boys during the spring and summer calling their attention to the various phases of the courses of study.

During the month of August an institute for members of the club and the farmers was held in Coffeeville. The leading planters and a goodly number of the boys were in attendance. The instructions were given by Prof. H. E. Savely, of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work, and Supt. W. H. Smith, of Holmes County, Mississippi, who was conducting a similar boys club in that county. The work was full of interest and all attending went away feeling that they were better farmers. There are always social features in a meeting like this that awakens a spirit of good fellowship among the farmers.

KEEPING UP WITH THE WORK.

We kept up with the boys through the teachers and by correspondence. Most of the plats were visited and we then came in personal touch with the boys in their own homes. When the results were known, the yield of several boys showed that by their individual efforts the results were almost incredible. Over one hundred and twenty bushels were produced by one of the boys and several produced more than a hundred bushels per acre. The measuring and harvesting of the crops were done in the presence of disinterested parties, and in most instances, the yield was more than twice the accustomed number of bushels.

A public exhibit was held in October and right there did the movement assume its importance in the eyes of the whole county. Visitors from the county and the adjoining counties came in troops to inspect the products of these ambitious young farmers. Not only the country people, but the town folks showed their interest, realizing that the prosperity of every interest in the state would always be linked with those who till the soil.

It is believed that the movement is a thrust at the very root of the evil--the lack of beautiful country homes, good country roads, and adequate churches and schools. When our boys grow up to be prosperous, scientific farmers with an appreciation of these prerequisites; of what it requires to make a great nation, they will

become exponents for these all-important improvements. The science of home farming is the secret of Mississippi's prosperity and content.

A Word to the Promoters.

There is no greater work being carried on in the South to-day than that of Dr. S . A. Knapp and his corps of earnest agents assisted by the school men who are able to foresee the great upheaval of untold good that will in time revolutionize farming, which will cause the whole country to blossom with prosperity. How much greater our country would be if our products were doubled! We would be no longer fighting against want, but could spend the surplus toward these internal improvements. The fraternal spirit should appeal to any man who has an unselfish interest in common cause of uplifting our fellowman, to lend a helping hand to our future leaders. In other words, improve this glorious heritage given us by our fathers and pass it along to generations to come greatly enriched.

YALOBUSHA FARMER BOYS' CLUB.

Organized under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work, Washington, D. C.

Rules of the Club:

- Rule 1. All members must be between the ages of ten and twenty-one years.
- Rule 2. Each member must cultivate at least one-half acre located in Yalobusha County according to instructions given by the FARMERS' COOPERATIVE DEMONSTRATION WORK, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
- Rule 3. Each member must grow either corn or cotton, but cannot contest with both.
- Rule 4. Record (No. A 53) must be kept of all work to be handed in with the exhibit.
- Rule 5. All bulletins from the Department must be read carefully.
- Rule 6. All exhibits will be judged by experts.
- Rule 7. No member shall receive more than one of the prizes offered. To give every member a fair trial in winning something.
- Rule 8. All exhibits must reach this office by Saturday, October 18, 1908, to give the committee time to arrange for judging.
- Rule 9. The exhibits shall be numbered by the committee and the judges will not know the name of the owner of the exhibit.
- Rule 10. Exhibits of corn will be ten well selected ears and one well developed stalk with ears intact.
- Rule 11. Exhibits for cotton must be three well selected stalks.
- NOTE. Will furnish any other information on request. Will take pleasure to explain any detail.

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE GIVEN BY OCTOBER 1, 1908, FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CLUB.

Yalobusha County-----\$50.00	
Thos. A. Early.....\$25.00	Wagner & Co.....\$25.00
E. Newburger.....20.00	A. E. Jennings & Co....10.00
Hotchkiss, Parsons Jew Co.15.00	J. W. McLarty.....10.00
R. R. Pate.....10.00	J. T. Quick.....10.00
B. Leland & Co.....10.00	M. E. Goodwin.....8.50
Water Valley Fur. Co.....10.00	J. D. Peacock.....5.00
Sam B. Herron.....5.00	A. G. Neudofer.....5.00
G. I. Griffin, Jr.....5.00	D. E. Parks.....5.00
H. A. Lee.....5.00	I. T. Blount.....5.00
H. H. Creekmore,.....5.00	Progress.....5.00

R. F. Kimmons.....	\$5.00	W. H. Kisner.....	\$5.00
W. L. Addington & Bro.....	5.00	J. V. Blackmur.....	5.00
Coffeeville Bank.....	5.00	G. W. Armstrong.....	5.00
Turnage-Atkinson Drug Co.....	5.00	N. A. Pittman.....	5.00
W. L. Kennedy.....	5.00	Buckley Bros.....	3.00
A. B. Terry.....	5.00	W. I. Stone.....	2.50
H. E. Savely.....	2.50	E. McLarty.....	2.50
W. L. Brannon.....	2.50	J. M. Walker.....	2.50
S. S. Spencer.....	2.50	Moore & Co.....	1.00
A. S. Meharg.....	2.50		
T. H. Brewer.....	10.00		

This movement will appeal to any progressive business man and all the necessary funds can be easily raised by private subscription. Prize money is an essential thing to make the work a success. Nothing stimulates boys so much as the hope of being rewarded by a medal or some honor.

CORN PRIZES FOR BOYS.

PRIZES	FOR WHAT GIVEN	DONOR	WINNER
1. \$20.00 in gold	For the best work and results in the growing of corn. The largest yield per acre. The best developed stalks and ears, And the best exhibit to be considered by the Judges.	Yalobusha Co.	R. T. Vick
2. \$10.00 in gold	For the second best	B. Leland & Co.	Martin Adams
3. 5.00 in gold	For the third best.	W. L. Addington Bro.	Peter Wilbourn
4. 3.00 in mdse.	For the fourth best	Buckley Bros.	Lloyd Gordon.
5. 10.00 Suit clothes	Best ten ears	R. R. Pate	Clayton Goad
6. 10.00 Vulcan plow & harness	Best ear	Thos. A. Early	Claude Bates
7. 500. lbs. V. & C. Fertilizer.	Best-Corn grown with V. & C. Fertilizer.	Wagner & Co.	Harvey Johnson
8. Cultivator..	Best work & results in Sup. Dist. No. 1	G. W. Armstrong	Dan & Arthur Pittman
9. Oliver plow.	Supervisors Dist. No. 2	Wagner & Co.	Thos. Edwards.
10. \$8.00 Gun	" No. 3	M. F. Goodwin	Claud McCracken
11. 15.00 Watch	" No. 4	Hotchkiss & Parsons Jewelry Co.	Gray Harrison
12. 5.00 Bank acct.	" No. 5	Coffeeville Bank	Clarence York

COTTON PRIZES FOR BOYS.

PRIZE	FOR WHAT GIVEN	DONOR	WINNER
1. \$20.00 in gold	For best work & results, yield per acre, best developed stalks and bolls, and the best exhibits considered by the Judges.	Yalobusha Co.	Selma Eubanks.
2. 10.00 in gold	For the second best.	A. B. Jennings & Company	Paul Tate
3. 5.00 in gold	For the third best.	Turnage-Atkinson Drug Co.	Clarence Carithers.
4. 3.00 Mdse.	For the fourth best	Yalobusha Co.	Albert Rodgers.
5. 11.00 John Deere Plow	Best five stalks	Wagner & Co.	Braxton Harbor
6. Combination Planter	Best stalk	Wagner & Co.	Luther McKee
7. 500 lbs. Fertilizer	Best cotton grown with this fertilizer	Wagner & Co.	Asberry Fair
8. Combination Cotton Chopper & Cultiv.	Best work and results in Sup. Dist. #1	Couch Bros. Mfg. Co.	Willie Bell
9. \$15.00 Watch	Sup. Dist. No. 2	J. T. Quick	Willie Ward
10. Comb. Brinley Plow	Sup. Dist. #3	(Brinley Plow Co. Thos. Mc.) (A. B. Jennings Cormick	
11. Rocking Chair	" #4	Water Valley Fur. Co.	Dogan Boys
12. Williams Cultivator	" # 5.	(Evander Williams (J. W. McClarty	Chester Denly

THE GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL CLUB.

A similar organization to that of the boys was organized among the school girls of the county during the autumn of 1908 to promote the interest of Industrial Science. It is easy to get the girls interested as they take up this work with so much enthusiasm and their products make such a fine showing at county and state fairs. First, second, and third prizes were offered for the following:

Cooking of Corn Products.

Cooking of Corn Cakes.

Needlework, including plain sewing, embroidery, crocheting, patching, button-holes, and fancy work.

House Ornaments.

Basket work with raffia and reeds.

Flower growing, chrysanthemums and other autumn flowers.

A BOY ON A FARM.

One day last week I went over to Johnsons Landing to see my Nephew and talk with him about life on the farm. He met me at the front gate and when I was 10 feet away he reached out his hand and said, "Hello! Uncle John! How are you? Glad to see you; I want you to go out to the crib and see my corn," just like a boy. Since he made 104 bushels of corn on an old worn-out acre of land he has been so full of the subject that he can not open his mouth without saying "Corn."

We shook hands, went to the well for a drink of fresh water and then took the path to the corn crib. As he threw the door open and I caught sight of the golden ears I exclaimed, "My! That is fine corn. Such splendid ears; well filled and solid as a rock."

"Do you know, Uncle John, I am offered two dollars ~~cash~~
^{Cash} a bushel, for half of it for seed?"

"That is a good price," I replied, "but it is worth it. Now, let us see what you are making. If you sell one half at two dollars a bushel for seed, and the other half at fifty cents a bushel for feeding, you will get one hundred and thirty dollars for the crop. How much clear profit will you make on this acre, Nephew?"

Nephew "Near as we can reckon, it generally costs us seven dollars an acre to make corn. Last year, before I joined the Corn Club, I made a better crop than usual and we gathered

fifteen bushels on an acre. At fifty cents a bushel we cleared just fifty cents an acre, not allowing anything for the use of the land."

"Did this large yield cost you any more for the acre?" I inquired.

"Of course it cost some more," he said. "Near as Dad and I could make out, about ten dollars an acre more, or seventeen dollars in all for this acre. But Dad thinks the extra fodder and the better condition of the land will make up for the extra cost."

"Let us be liberal in our estimates on this yield," I remarked, "and allow seventeen dollars as the cost of making the acre of corn. This will give you a net profit of one hundred and thirteen dollars for the corn on one acre. You state that before this year you did make fifteen bushels on an average one year and cleared that year fifty cents an acre above cost. One hundred and thirteen dollars cleared this year is 226 times fifty cents, the amount you made clear last year. Suppose your father had worked all his crops equally well as this acre of yours ever since he commenced to farm, what would he be worth now? He has been farming for himself 30 years and in that time he has laid up about two thousand dollars. If he had worked his whole farm every year as well as you have worked this acre he would have cleared 226 times two thousand dollars, or \$452,000."

"You don't mean it! It can't be possible! That is an

awful pile of money! Why! if we had that money we could buy the big bottom farm of Sam Jones and live in his fine house and we could buy half the township besides. Yes, Sir! and we could own the bank ~~business~~. You are gaffing me, Uncle John! It could not be! All that money out of this farm! Dad has worked on it 30 years and he has got only two thousand dollars out of it. You say there are four hundred and fifty thousand dollars in this farm that he did not get. It must be there yet and I am going to get it. Dad offered to sell the whole farm for four thousand last year. I'll buy it and have that money. Do you suppose there is any more down there?"

"Plenty of it," I replied, "if you just know how to get it. You did not know till this year that there were 104 bushels of corn in that acre waiting for you to find it. There are other things down there waiting for a boy to find them - apples, peaches, cherries, berries of all kinds, grapes, plums, oats, hay and most everything wanted. Why did your acre of corn this year produce so much more than in any former year?"

"It ought to have produced! I worked that land till it was like powder. I fertilized it well and I got the best seed in the whole country. There is a lot in good seed. I selected two or three bushels this year out of my crop and you bet I will not sell it for big money. I've hid it. Don't you tell anybody, Uncle John. It is upstairs under my bed. Then I harrowed the land before planting and after planting, and worked it every week. Then Sunday afternoons I used to go out and see

it grow. I am on to the job of making corn all right."

"If you are on to your job," I replied, "you have found out the secret of making money out of the farm. A Farm is just like Aladdin's Lamp."

"What is Aladdin's Lamp?"

"You will recall," I answered, "the story of Aladin and his wonderful lamp in the Arabian Nights, a book most every boy has read. The boy Aladdin had a wonderful lamp, and if he rubbed it the right way he got every thing he wanted. Just so with a farm, if you rub it (work it) wrong you get nothing, but if you rub it right every thing will come to you that you want - houses and lands, horses and carriages, gold, silver, etc."

"You don't mean to say that if you rub the farm right all these things will come right up out of the soil!"

"Yes," I replied, "they come right up out of the soil. At first what you see after rubbing the farm right (working it) are wonderful crops of grass and grain. These go off the farm and pretty soon they send in their place houses and lands, horses and carriages, gold and silver, and other things desired. But the most wonderful thing is what you can bring out of the farm if you rub it right - everything good to eat, drink and wear - beautiful houses, gardens and parks - lovely flowers - precious books and paintings - a life of comfort and the home of a king. All these are in the farm, and they are yours if you rub the soil right, and you wanted to sell the privilege

of owning all these for a chance to go to the city and drive a cart. You won't do such a foolish thing, will you?"

We shook hands on it, and took a drink of well water to bind the bargain.

UNCLE JOHN.

Uncle to all the boys on the farm
because every farmer is my brother.

A BOY ON THE FARM RECEIVES A LETTER.

Dear Nephew:

For some time it has been my intention to make you a visit and talk over matters about the farm.

I thought we could go out and sit on a log under the old oak tree when we would not be distrubed and have such a good talk. I hear such interesting reports about you that I can not wait for the visit and must write you a letter all about it.

You will remember the the last time I saw you, you were full of the notion of leaving the farm as soon as you were old enough, and getting a job in town. I recall what you said just as if you said it yesterday. The weather was pretty warm and we had been out to the well to get a drink of water. Something appeared to be on your mind, and I asked you what it was. You said, "Uncle John! I am going to quit the farm just as soon as I am old enough." You said farming was a hard life - all work and no play - long on drudgery and short on comforts; little schooling; poor clothes; no cash in the pocket. To clinch the argument, you told me that your Mother thought so too. She wanted to seallthe farm and move to town so the children could have a chance. Just like the sweet mothers. They are always thinking about helping the children in some way.

You will recall what I said to you in reply. I remember that I felt rather sorry for you because I knew you had been thinking of it for a long time and were very much in earnest.

I put my arm about you and said: "My boy; listen to Uncle John. It is not the farm nor the life of a farmer that is to blame. It is the way you farm. Your teams are not strong enough to do good farming; your farm tools are out of date - man-killing implements that ought to have gone to the scrap pile years ago; you half prepare the soil; you never select your seed till you have sold or fed all the best; you cultivate your crop as if it was a clear gain to reduce the day's work devoted to it; you sell the best and keep the poorest to eat, to plant or to use; you never have raised half the crop any year that land could produce if you gave it a chance. You want a fine home, good stock and plenty of money, but you do not go to work the right way to get them."

This seemed to touch a raw spot and you replied, rather snappy: "I don't see how we can have all them things without money, and Dad says there aint any money left after the crop is sold and the debts are paid, and yet he lays up some money efery year."

"Your crops does not pay you the cost of making it any year," I replied. "The money you invested in alnd was taken out of what ought to have been paid for family comforts and improvements; for clothing, for schooling, for household and farm equipment to do better work. I don't call that laying up money, I call that laying up a stock of discontent and trouble for the future. Now, if you really want to own the best farm in the United States, with fields that ffairly groan under the

weight of the harvest, have a beautiful home with every comfort, drive the finest horses, own the best stock, have a plenty of money in the bank and be a lord of the soil, I can tell you how, but before I tell you must do something on your own account so you will be prepared to understand.

"I want you to join the Boys' Corn Club, and make more corn to the acre than any one in the neighborhood. Then I will tell you some more about how to make money on the farm."

You promised me you would try. This was a year ago. Last week Mr. Davis, your next neighbor, was over and told me you made a hundred and four bushels of corn this year on one of those acres where you used to gather twelve bushels of nubbins. You have won your first victory over the farm. *and it made you tired and sore* Before this the farm has always been on top of you; now you have commenced to get on top of the farm, and according to my promise I will be over and tell you how you can own the best farm, drive the finest horses and live like a lord of the soil.

Affectionately yours,

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By
Thomas A. Early
Superintendent of Education,
Yalobusha County, Mississippi.

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The results were at once gratifying to the projectors of the club and a delightful surprise to its members. It has been demonstrated to these boys that the production of every acre of land in the county can be doubled by the proper mixing of a little skill with their methods. This, it is believed, will go to the root of most of the supposed inabilities of the farmers to build good county roads, comfortable country homes and adequate rural schools; for whenever the people become more prosperous they will at once begin to make these improvements.

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It is believed that the movement is a thrust at the very root of the evil-- the lack of beautiful country homes, good country roads and the adequate churches and schools. When our boys grow up to be prosperous, scientific farmers with an appreciation of these prerequisites, of what it requires to make a great nation, they will exponents for these all-important improvements. The science of home farming is the secret of Mississippi's prosperity and content.

A WORD TO THE PROMOTERS

There is no greater work being carried on in the South today than that of Dr. S. A. Knapp and his corps of earnest agents assisted by the schools and men who are able to foresee the great upheaval of untold good that will result and in time, revolutionize farming, which will cause the whole country to blossom with prosperity. How much greater our country would be if our products were doubled! We would no longer be fighting against want, but could spend the surplus toward these internal improvements. The fraternal spirit should appeal to any man who has an unselfish interest in the common cause of uplifting our fellowmen, to lend a hand to our future leaders. In other words, improve this glorious heritage given us by our fathers and pass it along to generations to come greatly enriched.

YALOBUSHA FARMERS BOYS' CLUB

Organized under the direction of the United States
Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, Farmers'
Cooperative Demonstration Work, Washington, D. C.

Rules of the Club.

- Rule 1. All members must be between the ages of ten and twenty one years.
- Rule 2. Each member must cultivate at least one-half acre located in Yalobusha County according to instructions given by The Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work, Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.
- Rule 3. Each member must grow either corn or cotton, but cannot contest with both.
- Rule 4. Record (No. A 53) must be kept of all work to be handed in with the exhibit.
- Rule 5. All bulletins from the Department must be read carefully.
- Rule 6. All exhibits will be judged by experts.
- Rule 7. No member shall receive more than one of the prizes offered. To give every member a fair trial in winning something.
- Rule 8. All exhibits must reach this office by Saturday, October 18, 1908, to give the committee time to arrange for judging.
- Rule 9. The exhibits shall be numbered by the committee and the judges will not know the name of the owner of the exhibit.
- Rule 10. Exhibits of corn will be ten well selected ears and one well developed stalk with ears intact.
- Rule 11. Exhibits for cotton must be three well selected stalks.
- NOTE. Will furnish any other information on request. Will take pleasure to explain any detail.

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE GIVEN BY OCTOBER 1, 1908, FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CLUB.

Yalobusha County.....	\$50.00
Thomas A. Early.....	\$25.00
E. Newburger.....	20.00
Hetchkiss, Parsons Jew. Co.	15.00
R. R. Pate.....	10.00
Wagner & Co.....	\$25.00
A. E. Jennings & Co....	10.00
J. W. McLarty.....	10.00
J. T. Quick.....	10.00

B. Leland & Co.	10.00	M. R. Goodwin	8.50
Water Valley Furn. Co.	10.00	J. D. Peacock.....	5.00
Sam. H. Herron.....	5.00	A. C. Neudorfer.....	5.00
G. M. Griffin Jr.....	5.00	D. R. Parks	5.00
H. A. Lee	5.00	I. T. Blunt	5.00
H. H. Craekmore	5.00	Progress	5.00
R. F. Kimmons	5.00	W. H. Kisner	5.00
W. T. Addington & Co.	5.00	J. V. Blackmur	5.00
Coffeaville Bank	5.00	G. W. Armstrong	5.00
Furnage Adkinson Drug Co... 5.00		N. A. Pittman	5.00
W. L. Kennedy	5.00	Huckley Bros	3.00
A. E. Terry	5.00	W. I. Stone	2.50
H. E. Gately	2.50	E. Mc Larty	2.50
W. L. Brannon	2.50	J. M. Walker	2.50
S. S. Spencer	2.50	Moore & Co.	1.00
A. S. Meharg	2.50	T. H. Brewer	10.00

This movement will appeal to any progressive business man and all necessary funds can be easily raised by private subscription. Prize money is an essential thing to make the work a success. Nothing stimulates boys so much as the hope of being rewarded by a medal or some honor.

THE GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL CLUB.

A similar organization to that of the boys was organized among the school girls of the county during the autumn of 1908 to promote the interest of Industrial Science. It is easy to get the girls interested as they take up this work with so much enthusiasm and their products make such a fine showing at county and state fairs. First, second and third prizes were offered for the following:

Cooking of Corn products.

Cooking of Corn Cakes.

Needlework, including plain sewing, embroidery, crochetting, patching, button-holes and fancy work.

House ornaments.

Basket work with raffia and reeds.

Flower growing, chrysanthemums and other autumn flowers.

(16)

THE BOYS' CORN CLUBS UNDER THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE.

By SEAMAN A. KNAPP.

A few days since two very interesting young women were escorted to my Office by Chief Clerk Jones of the Bureau of Plant Industry and introduced with the explanation that they wanted to know something about the Boys' Corn Club Work. I was about to excuse myself, owing to pressure of business, when one of them remarked that she was a school teacher from New York; knew something of practical life; managed her own farm; and as a teacher wanted to use any knowledge she might obtain of the Boys' Corn Club work for the benefit of the boys of her State. This won me and I discovered suddenly that I was not so pressed for time as I had supposed.

"Kindly commence at the beginning" said the teacher, "and tell us something of the origin of these clubs; how they are organized and instructed, and what you expect to accomplish by this work." "Rather of a long story" I remarked, "but I will tell you some of it."

"The Boys' Corn Club work was organized under the United States Department of Agriculture to enable the common school teacher to teach real agriculture."

"Can't real agriculture be taught in the schools by the use of good text books?" hesitatingly asked the teacher.

"No, not real agriculture. Good text books give a great many valuable suggestions about agriculture but the real science

can only be learned by practice upon the farm. The laws in a number of Southern States required that agriculture should be taught in the common schools, but compliance with the law was mainly zero. The difficulty was increased from the fact that nearly three-fourths of the rural teachers were women. The difficulty was met by organizing the Boys' Corn Clubs. The County Superintendent of Public Instruction and the rural teachers select the boys and organize the clubs. The Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work of the United States Department of Agriculture furnishes the plan and the instructions; the teacher sees that each boy thoroughly understands them, and the County Farm Demonstration Agents assist in supervision of the field work. Each boy takes one acre upon his father's farm and works it under the instructions and at the end of the season he must furnish a complete account of each field operation and its cost, for the prize is for the largest yield at the lowest cost per bushel. The bankers and merchants furnish the prizes. There is also a special honor prize. The boy who wins in his County is awarded a diploma by the Governor of the State. The boy who stands highest in the State is given a free trip to Washington and is awarded a diploma by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

"The Boys' Corn Clubs have accomplished more than was deemed possible. They have taught the boys how to study agriculture and how to apply written instructions to the farm; they

have given the boys a new and larger view of the possibilities of the soil and they are filled with an ambition to become great farmers because they have achieved something of note and they see a great future in the vocation. The boy in the club has learned one thing well and he will strive for the rest.

"There is more in this Boys' Corn Club Work than merely learning how to produce a good crop of corn; it has suddenly transformed boys into men and in some cases into heroes. It has also been a most potent instrumentality in influencing their fathers to adopt better methods. There are some farmers who will not accept a modern system of farming. They persist in using implements and methods antiquated a thousand years ago. But when their boys make a great corn crop and bring home the prizes, they mellow and "come across."

The boys have solved the problem of cheaper food for the masses: more corn and how to raise it. Nine Southern States, - Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas, produced in 1910 over 158,000,000 bushels more corn than in 1909. To 46,225 boys in clubs, studying and making corn is due a large measure of credit for the achievement.

The Boys' Corn work for 1910 is showing some wonderful yields. In one club of 48 boys in Mississippi the average was 92 bushels per acre. Nineteen boys in South Carolina received certificates from the Government for great yields. Many boys in the different States produced over 150 bushels per acre

and a few went beyond 200 bushels to the acre. Jerry H. Moore, of Florence, South Carolina, 15 years of age, son of a country Methodist preacher, holds the record for the highest yield for the year, 228-3/4 bushels, weighed and measured by three responsible men.

"Where teachers did not organize a club, in some cases the field agents of the Farmers' Demonstration Work organized them. James H. Kelly, of Alcolu, South Carolina, formed a club and in his final report gave the following instance:

"One boy in our club was very anxious to work an acre in corn. His father gave him one on condition that he dig out the pine stumps and pay all expenses. After the boy had gotten out nearly all the stumps in the field, the father took that acre and gave him another, upon the same condition. The boy went to work, cleaned this new field and plowed it. Then I advised him to plow it again. When the boy wanted some fertilizer his father refused to permit him to buy till I went security and promised to make good all losses, if any. The boy's corn was measured this week and made 84 bushels to the acre. His father's corn, on three sides of the boy's, made 9 bushels per acre. When the corn was weighed and the father's went to the pigs and the son's sold for seed corn at \$2.00 per bushel, the father changed front. It was rich to hear him talk about his son's crop. He said if he had known how to make corn twenty years before he would had had decent clothes now and

be rated as somebody."

"In Clarendon County, South Carolina, there were 142 members of the Boys' Corn Club and the average of all was 62 bushels per acre. One little girl, fourteen years old, Hannah Plowden, of Manning, South Carolina, wanted to join the club. She made 120 bushels and was lionized by her neighbors. Among other honors the County sent her to the great corn exhibit at Columbia, South Carolina. While there a stalwart Senator was introduced to her and remarked that he felt like hugging any girl that could accomplish so much, and banteringly said "I know a dozen boys in my county who want to marry you." The girl replied "There are a hundred boys waiting down in Sumter County."

At Rogers, Arkansas, Earl Hopping, a boy 15 years old, joined the Boys' Corn Club but his father was unable to furnish him a horse or mule to work his acre and he broke a goat to harness and did all the work with it. Note the determined look of the boy, in which the goat shares. Also observe the plow adjusted to the goat and the cart for hauling fertilizers.

I paused a moment in my rapid outline of the Boys' Corn Club work and the teacher remarked: "How interesting! I should like to learn the yield of corn per acre of some of the boys."

"I will give you the names of the winners of the first prize in each State" I replied.

Secretary Wilson gives no second prizes. A diploma is given by him to the winners in each State.

"You will note that the extraordinary yield of Jerry Moore was secured at a greatly increased cost per bushel. This follows past experience that excessive yields are not so profitable as medium yields. Probably 100 to 125 bushels to the acre would, on an average, yield a larger net income than two hundred bushels or over. The product of Archie Odom, 177-3/4 bushels at 23 cents per bushel is really more of an achievement than that of Jerry Moore, 228-3/4 at 45 cents.

"You observe that the yield on the boys' fields is far in excess of the men's demonstration farms. The reason is that the boys follow instructions closely; the men think they know how to make a corn crop and they are guided largely by a personal experience of little value.

"The crop of corn produced in a State has been affected more readily by the work with the boys than with the men. When the boy wins, the father, mother, sisters and neighbors soon know it and become converts.

"It is a wonderful work. The magnitude of it is scarcely conceivable." exclaimed both visitors.

"Does the Department of Agriculture do all this for the people, without aid?" was the next question.

"By no means". I replied. "In Virginia, Governor Mann and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Eggleston are most influential supporters, and the State Government is back of the Boys' corn movement. In North Carolina and Georgia the State Colleges of Agriculture are cooperating financially and

influentially; in South Carolina the State Commissioner of Agriculture is a most efficient supporter and that State directly gives aid; in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas the State Colleges of Agriculture, the State Commissioners of Agriculture and the Superintendents of Public Instruction are efficient cooperators. In Oklahoma and Texas the agents of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work organize the Clubs."

"It must cost a large sum of money." remarked the teacher.

"Not as much as you would suppose. The General Education Board of New York contributes liberally; States, Counties, corporations and individuals lend financial aid and have reduced the expenses to 30 cents for each boy's farm worked under demonstration."

"The whole story sounds like a fairy tale," said the teacher. "Are you sure it's real?"

"It is intensely real to the boy who toils under a sultry sun six days in the week to work his acre and in silent solicitude watches its growing on Sunday; it is a welcome conclusion to the doubting father; it is the fruition of a dream to the fond mother; it is simply a novel to such as hear the tale but never saw the boy."

As I bowed the ladies from my Office they remarked: "This is one of the stories of real life which comes to us clad in fiction; but it is interesting. Thank you for the pleasant and instructive hour."

VISIT OF THE CORN CLUB BOYS IN WASHINGTON.

The visit to Washington this week of the prize winning boys from eleven Southern States is the crowning event of the year's work of 46,225 boys. These boys are members of the Corn Clubs under the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work of the United States Department of Agriculture.

About a year ago, all of the members of the Corn Clubs agreed to work one acre of corn in accordance with the instructions of the Department. Merchants, bankers, and other public spirited citizens offered more than \$40,000 worth of prizes, consisting of cash, farm implements, trips, poines, pigs, bicycles, watches, and many other things calculated to gladden the adolescent heart. Government agents, public school officers and teachers cooperated in the organization and instruction of clubs in nearly 600 counties. The names and addresses of the members of the clubs were filed with the United States Department of Agriculture. Circulars of instruction, prepared by Dr. S. A. Knapp, in charge of the Demonstration Work, were mailed to all of the boys at various times during the year. When the boys studied seed selection, the whole county got interested. When they took up the preparation of the soil, there was a general movement for better preparation. The prize winners now in Washington plowed their acres from 8 to 16 inches deep and thoroughly pulverized their seed beds. When the subject of fertilization came up, the general knowledge about nitrogen, potash, and phosphorus was increased, leaves and wood mould were sought to increase humus, and stable and poultry houses

were cleaned out for the benefit of the prize acre. Shallow and frequent cultivation was kept up during the spring and summer, because the boys had learned that the roots of the corn must not be broken, and that the corn must have a good dust mulch in order to conserve moisture.

According to the regulations making awards of prizes, the following points were considered; yield, cost per bushel, best ten ears and written history of crop. Not all of the boys who won prizes made the largest yields in their states. The economical side must be considered. The farming must be profitable. A record must be kept and a good exhibit made at the County Corn Show or Fair.

A year ago, Secretary Wilson gave diplomas of merit to four boys who came to Washington. At that time there were 12,000 members of the clubs. This year business organizations and individual citizens gave prize trips in eleven Southern States. Governors and Superintendents of Education are also giving diplomas of honor to all boys who produced 75 bushels per acre, at a reasonable cost. It is a common occurrence for 500 to 1000 people to witness the awards of 15 or 20 certificates at a county seat. In one Mississippi county 48 boys averaged 92 bushels per acre. In one South Carolina county 20 boys produced 1700 bushels of corn on 20 acres. In another county in the same state 142 boys averaged 62 bushels per acre.

This work is having much to do with the increased averages of the Southern States in corn production. It will have something to do with reducing the cost of living also.

The following are the names and addresses of the winners of the trip to the Capital of their Country, and also the yields of their respective acres and the cost per bushel:

Name.	Address.	No.Bu.	Cost.
Hughey A. Harden,	Banks, Alabama.	120	32¢
Ira Smith,	Silver, Arkansas.	119	8¢
Joseph Stone,	Center, Georgia.	102-5/8	29¢
Stephen G. Henry,	Melrose, Louisiana.	139-8/10	13.6¢
Wm. Williams,	Decatur, Mississippi.	146-4/7	18¢
W. Ernest Starnes,	Hickory, N. C.	146-2/7	38¢
Floyd Gayer,	Tishomingo, Oklahoma.	95-1/12	8¢
Jerry H. Moore,	Winona, S. C.	228-3/4	43¢
Norman Smith,	Covington, Tenn.	125-1/2	37¢
Wm. Rodger Smith,	Karnes City, Texas.	83-1/9	13-2/3¢
Maurice Olgers,	Sutherland, Virginia.	168	40¢

In addition a second prize was given from South Carolina, and one from the Sixth Alabama Congressional District. These were won by,

Archie Odom,	Bennettsville, S. C.	177-3/4	23¢
John Williams,	Tuscaloosa, Alabama.	83-3/4	49¢

Secretary Wilson will award diplomas of merit, the distinguished visitors will be presented to the President, and then Prof. O. B. Martin, Assistant to Dr. S. A. Knapp in the Demonstration Work, and in charge of the Boys, will show them the city. They will visit Congress, Mt. Vernon, the various Department, the Zoo, the Library, and other attractions. When they return to their homes they will have something to tell to their families and friends.

On the morning of August 18, 1908 I took an early train from Grand Junction, Tennessee to Durant, Mississippi and was half dozing in my seat when I heard a clear, cherry voice calling, "How do you do Dr. Knapp? I looked up and saw a clean cut nicely habited young man with outstretched hand. "I am Thomas A. Early of Yalobusha County, the one who has been conducting the Boys' Corn Demonstration Work for you." This aroused me. I had been anxious to meet Mr. Early because of the energy, tact and breadth of purpose with which he had organized 250 school boys in Yalobusha County, to work half acre demonstration plats on their father's farms under my instructions. A grip next to me was removed and I asked him to take a seat. "I am on my way to Lexington, Holmes County, Mississippi to attend a Farmers' Congress. Prof. W. H. Smith has been doing for the school boys of Holmes County what you have done in Yalobusha and I promised to attend this meeting of farmers and the school boys with out Agents." This is most fortunate, "he replied?" I am on my way to the same meeting and expected to see you there, but I recognized you by your photograph as soon as I entered this car. We had a "round up" of our boys work at Coffeenville, in Yalobusha about three weeks since - It was great. The boys were there proud as Turks, with specimen stalks of their corn and cotton;

Their mothers and sisters came in their best Sunday clothes, and looked as if they each expected a gold medal, and the fathers drove their best teams and were all hand ready to back up Jim, Jack or John as the smartest boy in the whole county.

It was a two days meeting and I was afraid we should lack speakers, but State Agent, H. E. Savely and Prof. Smith were there and made some very interesting and practical addresses to the boys and then talking was easy after the meeting was well started, and everybody got enthused; the meeting did its own talking; no trained speakers necessary; any little old "Hill Billy" farmer could get up and talk like Demosthenes. It reminded me of a camp-meeting. The problem was not who should talk but how to shut them off. They all wanted to be on the floor at once and tell their experience, and it was all about farming and what the boys had done. Finally I called to order and said. "It is time to give the boys a chance" and they were encouraged to explain what they had done and give the reasons. The intelligent answers the boys gave in that hour would have made a pretty good textbook on elementary agriculture - better than some that have been published.

a Report of meeting of
The boy that made 120 bushels of corn per acre when the average for the State was only 14, was called out - "Richard," said Mr. Savely, "Have you followed the Government plan in

early this by

making your corn? Richard, "Yes sir! "Did any one oppose your plan? Richard - "Not exactly, Dad thought I spent too much time preparing the land for planting, and he thought the seed corn furnished was not quite as good as his own, and when it came to cultivation he said that my working was too shallow and too often. I told him I had signed a contract to do just as the Government said and I must live up to my agreement." Prof. Early "That is fine - Now, Richard; you have made a success can you tell us what you think were the principal causes." Richard. "That deep breaking did a lot of good, my corn did not dry up like some. It grew every day. Then I worked the land before planting till it was fine as a garden. There is a heap in that. I had a good seed and I planted shallow. After it was up I worked it for all that was out, you bet. I was up and at it by sunrise and Sundays I just went out to see it grow. Dad says I got the best piece of corn in the County, and he owned up to the neighbors that he was licked- He wouldn't say nothin to me about it.

Prof. Early, " Now for questions, I see half a dozen hands up. What is it Tommy Jones? Tommy Jones- "He did not say anything about spacing his rows nor the corn in the rows, I should like to know about that." Prof. Early, James Watson what is your question? "I want to know what per cent of nitrogen there was in the fertilizer he used and

how much he applied to the acre." And thus the questions flew and the answers were promptly returned till the hour expired. Just before the close of the meeting, a tall, angular gray haired veteran arose and reaching out his hand for silence said - The bible says, "out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast found strength." I never thought before that it referred to farming but I have heard more good sense about cotton and corn talked by these boys to-day than I ever heard before in any agricultural meeting in my life. Brother farmers; we have got to get a move on ourselves or we shall soon be back numbers. Formerly when anyone told us about some new way of farming, we just called it "Book farming" and that was enough to beat anything. There is no use in flouting this Boys Demonstration Work for the boy will pull you into the field and say "Dad" there are the cotton and corn to prove I am right." A man is pretty low down to deny that a plan is right when it has been worked out on his farm under his own eyes, and he is carrying the answer in cold cash around in his pocket-book." At the conclusion of Prof. Early's statement I said to him, "That is a wonderful story you have just related."

On my arrival at Lexington, I was greeted by some of the Mississippi Captains of our Cooperative Demonstration Work, all of them men of which we are very proud. H. E. Savely, R. S. Wilson, H. D. Tate, B. L. Moss, A. L. Meharg, J. W. Willis

and W. D. Clayton. All but one graduates of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi, under that able President, J. C. Hardy. Most of them cancelled their monthly bills while in college by a draft on the bank of daily toil, demonstrating problems on the soil and their vigorous manhood showed it.

The afternoon session in the Courthouse dissipated any fears I had entertained as to the wisdom of calling a four days meeting in a comparatively small place to discuss agriculture. The stage back of us and in front was covered with a great variety of products of garden and field, all excellent of their kind, and the seats of the large auditorium were filled with the finest samples of that superlative product of the farmers, men, women and children. Besides the farmers and their families there were the common school teachers of the County and prominent business men of the town - all eager listeners. Prof. Smith called to order in a few appropriate words and asked State Agent, H. E. Savely to take the chair. Mr. Savely briefly outlined the objects of the meeting. He then called upon J. W. Hamilton of Houlka, to explain how to build up worn out farms and make them pay. Hamilton was appointed an Agent of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work for Chickasaw County, on the recommendation of the prominent farmers and business men of that section and

the indorsement of Congressman Candler, but mainly because of his achievement. He had taken a farm so worn out as to be unprofitable and brought it to a high state of fertility, making it a profitable investment from the first. He had position and influence as a farmer - Hamilton told his story in a masterful way, clear, simple, concise and forceful. No trained speaker could have told it better - Questions in quartettes were put to him from every part of the room and were answered as promptly and when he sat down all felt they had learned something.

W. B. Lundy, of Lexington followed making a very clear statement of what the farmer must do to secure the best seed corn by selection. Lundy resides near Lexington, is one of the most intelligent and progressive farmers of Holmes County and has charge of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work in the County where he resides.

R. S. Wilson of Columbus followed with one of his excellent talks on the selection and care of cotton seed. It is always a delight to listen to Mr. Wilson - He is large mentally and physically and what he says is in proportion.

H. D. Tate made a most interesting statement about Demonstration Work with the Boys Clubs, organized by the County School Superintendents and was followed by B. L. Moss, of Jackson with a very instructive talk on commercial fer-

tilizers, their uses and their value, and the session closed with a talk by O. L. Kennedy of Lee County, on how to make cotton without the use of a hoe. Kennedy is unique. He possesses genius and carries it in an original package. When State Agent Savely and District Agent Tate were looking for an Agent to establish the Demonstration Work in Lee County, everyone said O. L. Kennedy is your man. They visited his home - The delightful grounds, the neat, comfortable house and the fertile, well tilled farm proves the statement.

Mr. Chairman, said Kennedy, I used to think there was no way to make cotton without using the hoe and I generally chopped my cotton twice and hoed it three times. This was a pretty costly way to make cotton and I asked District Agent, Tate if there were not some plan that would make a good crop at less cost. He told me to space my cotton seed in the row at planting so as to avoid chopping and to use the spike harrow for the first tillage of the cotton instead of the hoe. I tried it this year and it worked to perfection. I have the best field of cotton on my farm I ever raised and I have not used the hoe on it. This plan reduces the cost of cultivation about one-half. I like the Demonstration Work and my people like it; it does the job - I have made cotton from my boyhood and I did not believe any Government Agent could tell me anything about making cotton, but I

have learned more about the cotton plant, how to manage it to get the largest crop and how to maintain the fertility of the soil than I learned before in all my life. My people think the same. It is the first time in the history of this country that a Government Agent has travelled the by roads of my County to offer help to the small farmer, on his lonely farm, who finds his load too heavy.

Wilson:- "Probably Mr. Kennedy in his travels did not meet with the same reception given me on one occasion when I was in charge of Congressman Hobson's District. My local agent took me to a farm house where several neighbors had assembled and introduced me as a Government Agent. I noticed they acted rather cool- did not even offer a hand and pretty soon they all slipped out and made for the woods - My Agent rushed after them, calling loudly "Come back: come back: This man is no revenue officer. He is just a farmer." "Gradually they returned a little sgamefaced and we talked Demonstration Work to them."

After this session closed I asked Mr. Tate to give me a full account of how he came to secure such an Agent as O. L. Kennedy. He replied that he and Mr. Savely were hunting good men for County Agents. At Tupelo, every inquiry of farmers or business men was answered by saying " O. L. Kennedy is your man"- He is a good farmer, represented the County in the State Legislature twenty-two years and he is a natural leader." We visited his home - A neat, painted

house, in the midst of a large and well kept grove of oaks, a well tilled farm; in the house we sat down to a dinner that was a dinner - no apology- all products of the farm. This settled it. After dinner we told Mr. Kennedy what we wanted and urged him to accept the position. He replied, "Gentlemen! It is a great work and I allow it ought to be done but I am not the man for it." However, after much persuasion he consented and he has more than met our expectations. He does his full duty and heaps up the measure. He is as full of old fashioned good sense as an egg is of meat. Hamilton and Lundy are of the same type and were secured in a similar way."

"Have all our Agents in Mississippi proven equally good in your judgment?" I inquired " - They are all very superior men for the work said Savely. " I doubt if a better body of men could be secured in any State." " It is evident," I remarked, that not all the great men have been sent to Congress. There are plenty of men on the farms who are natural leaders and have the ability to go to the front if the door of opportunity is opened to them."

"By the way," said Savely, "Lundy wants all our Agents to dine with him at his home to-morrow."

The next morning at lecture hour the audience room was well filled with teachers and citizens. My topic was, "How the teacher of a rural school can be a strong factor in the uplift of country life." Then followed short speeches

by the teachers. In which they showed appreciation and ability. The meeting won increasing interest and power for good. As soon as a session closed little groups gathered to discuss the topics that had been under consideration and everyone wanted to talk at once. The colored teachers of the County were holding an Institute a few blocks away and asked for speakers-- Our young men volunteered to keep them supplied and did so to their entire satisfaction.

DINNER AT LUNDY'S.

Some one took me by the arm and called out "all ready for Lundy's," and two coach loads of men left the hotel with empty stomachs, but full anticipations for Lundy's home is noted for its rural hospitalities. The house, the farm and all equipments are up to date.

A cordial greeting by Mr. and Mrs. Lundy and we were conducted to the dinning room. The meal was a banquet with a wonderful variety of everything that could tempt the appetite and climb top of good resolutions, and all produced upon his farm, from the beef, ham, pork, sausage and fried chicken to the canned fruits, jellies, wines and soups. For many years at every meeting I have urged farmers to raise their home supplies, but in future I shall say, "Do not raise quite so many as Lundy, unless you intend to invite your enemies to dinner with you."

Other meetings followed and the interest increased.

At the close a number proposed that we hold an agricultural camp-meeting on work every year in Mississippi.

The public meetings were only a part of each day's work. Every moment between the public sessions was occupied listening to farmers in regard to their crops or Agents about their work. On one of these occasions I said to the Agents, "I am especially interested in the production of cotton and corn, in the field meetings, the gardens, the success of the farm canning outfit and just how you visit a demonstration farm and inspect it. We have full reports on the cotton and corn, tell anything that will throw side lights on the others. Of course, you follow instructions and after you notify a demonstrator that you will visit him on such a date; you write to twenty or thirty neighboring farmers to meet you there. After you arrive what occurs? Wilson:- The demonstrator generally takes us to his field and we compare his plot worked upon the demonstration plan with other fields, tilled in the usual way- He is then asked to explain how he prepared the land, how he planted the seed and how he has worked his crop; then questions are asked. The crop shows for itself and as a rule everyone is surprised at the extreme simplicity of the process by which such marvelous results have been obtained and generally some one breaks out in this way. "Dave! You have got a good crop, how much

cotton do you think you will get to the acre? Dave:- I can't say; most farmers think it will squeeze close to $1\frac{1}{4}$ bales. I had $1\frac{1}{3}$ of a bale on this land last year. Another exclaims, "Dave! You're mighty proud of that cotton. You must have slept with it them cold nights in the spring, when the frost was round." Two or three at once. "Dave! what will you take for some of that seed this fall? Be sure and save me some." Thus the seed is promised the neighbors and the work expands. At the close of a field meeting I generally talk a few minutes about the cooperative plan and how to make a crop of cotton or corn three or four times as large as usual. We then take a photograph of the group and go to the house where we are generally refreshed with water-melons or peaches."

I then turned to H. D. Tate and said, Mr. Tate, you have had some experience with field meeting, give me some instances. Tate:- "About the 17th of July last, Mr. Savely and I went to New Albany, with the intention of visiting the demonstration farm of D. A. Holland, two miles south of that town. At New Albany quite a number of business men and farmers joined us. Among them I recall Mr. Wylie Robbins and Robert Robbins - also Messrs. Owens and Wilson, editors of the two leading papers of Union County. Mr. Holland lives in a neat cottage; well painted; all farm buildings and fences in excellent repair. His model garden, orchard and vineyard were objects of special attention. The farm is a

stiff red clay soil, slightly rolling; has been in cultivation seventy-five years and was considered worn out and unfit for cotton at the time of his purchase, a few years since. At the demonstration plot everyone expressed surprise at the excellent condition of the crop.

Editor Owens! "Mr. Holland" How much cotton do you expect to get per acre on this piece of land? Mr. Holland! "With a favorable fall I think I shall make two bales per acre. Three years ago this land produced less than half a bale and I counted myself a good farmer." Owens! "I wish you would tell me just how this result has been brought about." Holland! "In the first place this land had not been broken more than two inches deep before I bought the place. Since then I have been going gradually deeper, but for this crop I broke four inches deep in the fall and subsoiled four inches more, making eight inches in all. Then in the spring I worked the land till it was just like a garden. I used the best seed, no weak, gin run variety, I gave the plants more space and worked the crops twice as frequently as usual and at least two weeks later in the season. Two workings after most people lay by the crop will frequently add a quarter of a bale to the yield." All present expressed satisfaction and a number related their experience with the demonstration plan and illustrated its advantages."

During one of these free for all conversations, the subject of farm gardens was mentioned by Agent Moss, and he expressed surprise at the unanimity with which the demonstration farmers complied with our request to raise their food supplies upon their farms and stop buying any the farm can produce. "Farmers used to raise cotton and buy food, clothing and everything with the proceeds of the crop." said Moss. "It is not so now? winter and summer gardens are common, people live better and pay out less money." "Live better I should say," remarked Savely. "When I was a boy on the farm in North Mississippi, we did not have any great variety. We had potatoes, green corn, beans, tomatoes, peaches and apples in their season, but the seasons were mighty short I used to think and then we waited till the next year. Now farmers have nearly every variety of fruits and vegetables that can be produced in this climate and they have them every day of the year.

"How is that, Savely? inquired Clayton. Savely! "In the old times we had too much, in the season we could use a little and the rest rotted on the ground. We use to fatten hogs on fine peaches and then buy canned peaches or go without till the next crop. Now our demonstrators are using these little farm canning outfits and saving what formerly went to waste. Neat tricks those farm canning equipments. Farmers now can sweet potatoes, peas, beans, strawberries, dewberries, blackberries, peaches, pears, grapes, figs, apples, etc., and they have a surplus when they go to town they sell some instead of

buying. I tell you, gentlemen, a southern farmer can live like a King with plenty of fresh vegetables the year around in his garden, a few barrels of corn syrup in his storeroom, made on the farm, plenty of milk, eggs and fried chicken."

Wilson interposed, "Savely stop right there. It makes me hungry, lets go to dinner; it will kind of ease our minds if it is a hotel fare and make us believe we have had something to eat."

The meeting was closed and we were waiting for conveyance to the station; Kennedy came around for a last shake of the hand. No use in any one going to a farmers meeting in Mississippi unless he has a right ^{hand} well seasoned to the grip, better practice before he goes. Well I saw Kennedy pointing towards me. I knew what to expect. He wanted to shake hands three times a day regularly and twice between times, just as a reminder. He got hold of my hand, as he shook he said., "Doctor I want to thank you for all your lectures but there was one that sticks to me closer than the rest, that one about the dignity of farm life and how honorable it is to be an American farmer. You said he was a King. I always knew it. I felt that way but I could not tell it. I can now. I am going home and tell my people that Dr. Knapp said we were Kings and that they must hold up their heads and act like Kings. That is it, we are Kings, Don't forget us, come again as soon as you can." As I left that town I could not shake off the il-

lusion that I had known those people a life time instead of four days, and I have failed everytime I have tried it since.