

## Times and Trials of the National Farmers Union

Some of the Outstanding Work Accomplished by the Organization Which Was Started Twenty-one Years Ago as Told by National Secretary A. C. Davis Before the Farmers' Union Educational Assembly At Salina

I am glad to be with you Kansas people today. I have been here many times before. A great many times before. In Kansas things have not always run so smoothly. Not by considerable. They asked me to speak to you on "Times and Trials of the National Farmers Union." If I told you the troubles we have had in putting over this Farmers Union co-operative program it would scare you to death. You folks who are all getting in the band wagon now, weren't there 21 years ago, this month. The co-operative idea was not quite so popular then as it is now. Now it is the thing. Everybody shouts for it.

We ought to go back a little and review the situation that caused this co-operative movement. Most of the farm organizations begun in the South. I have been asked why that was so. Why it was that these movements begun in the southern states. Conditions in the southern states were such as to give rise to some sort of movement or reversal. Get a picture, if you can, after the unpleasantness of the sixties, when they stop ped Lee and some other fellows down there, it left us in sort of a mess. See if you can find the mortgage on their homes in ashes. A problem confronted them. They were without credit, without standing and confronted with the problem of rebuilding an empire. The shyllocks put the shackles on the white man instead of on the black man.

The white man was simply mortgaged. That doesn't mean what you folks understand. That was the mortgage proposition. It was put there because of southern conditions. Shyllocks put on the southern people the chains they had taken from the black race. They loaned to the people down there money for their crops and accepted a mortgage on the crops that were not raised. Every human being must, on their honor, pay off those mortgages. Agriculture was saddled with that sort of thing. Small wonder some of the farmers began to ask, what will you give me for this stuff. They bought it for the same price they had bought it before. You produced much more stuff. It is a fact that the small crop brings much more than the big crop brings.

We got together in the national organization and we began to spread out and we landed in Kansas. It would not do to tell what happened in Kansas. You were a contrary bunch. They would stand up and fight it out right in open meeting. Later on, you got in such a mess we had to suspend your state charter. Then they found a little Irishman out here near Salina who said he would undertake the job of making this a go. That was Maurice McAuliffe. You may have some differences of opinion with him but he did a fine thing. To him goes the credit of this great co-operative movement you have in Kansas today. You have things to show for what you have done. You have a great co-operative movement in this state.

How many of us realize what co-operation means. Knows really what it is and what it means. I want to give you a homely little illustration. You farmers are all familiar with lots about the farm. There is a sow coming in with a litter of pigs. In the spring and summer they lay scattered around the lot sunning in the sunshine. A little later in the fall the wind comes up a little chilly in the North. You will see these pigs get together a little closer and as winter comes on they will crowd together closer, and closer. Its pretty cold now and one of the pigs on the outside climbs over them and snuggles down in the middle. That is co-operation. He did not get in there to warm the others. That little pig crowded into the middle to warm himself. That is what co-operation is. A self-help organization. You cannot help yourself without helping the other fellow. You have to get in a farm movement where the farmer can help himself by helping the other fellow.

The farmer has no marketing agent. They know nothing of the value of their stuff. Most farmers do not know anything about the grade of their products. They trust the other fellow to hand out what they want to.

**National Organization Formed**

The co-operative movement swept over Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Georgia and Alabama and finally these states got together and formed the national organization in Texas. They found out that the problems of agriculture were not different nor the conditions different all over the country. They found that the North, West and East and other sections were very much alike and not getting what they ought to out of the things they produced. They were trying to raise two blades of grass where one grew before. They were told if they wanted more money they must produce more stuff. They went to the buyers and asked, what will you give me for this stuff. They bought it for the same price they had bought it before. You produced much more stuff. It is a fact that the small crop brings much more than the big crop brings.

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We were beset on every hand by fellows who wanted to destroy the movement among the farmers. Regardless of all of the talk handed out to you, there is not much more sympathy for the farmer today than there was 21 years ago. Don't you let any flatterer put you on the back and make you think there is. One of the troubles with the farmer is we have been ready to set at the feet of the demagogues and vote for them. You know that they are lying but you like to hear them do it. When are you going to stop liking it?

I am not going to take your time to tell you the difficulties that have strewn our pathways. Mr. Barrett and myself have been together at the head of this machine a long time. Mr. Barrett said to me not long ago in Washington, Mr. Davis, what do you suppose the experiences we have had would be worth if we could cash in on them? I believe if we could cash them, they would be worth a million dollars. I don't come around and feed you a lot of taffy. What you need is a dose of quinine. You need to hear the truth. Do you know who is responsible for the conditions of agriculture. The fellow who is most responsible for the fix you and I are in now. The fellow who is most directly responsible. Well, you can see him by looking in your looking-glass.

**Need of Legislation**

We decided we had to have some sort of legislation. We could not get away from the idea that somebody could do something for us. We floundered around in Washington and found out some things. That was 16 or 17 years ago. We have been finding them out ever since. That was the first time in the history of America when anybody had the nerve to go to Washington and represent agriculture. That is the organization you are in today, the Farmers Union. We went up there and marched up Capitol Hill and said "wont you please help us out of a bad fix." Yes, they would help us. It gave some of these politicians a cue to be elected repeatedly. You have some fellows who represent you in this country who are just as bad as they are.

We got into the grain business. We said, we will all go up there and get them to work on and get rid of the Board of Trade of Chicago and the Cotton Exchange. We will have a brotherly love feast and agriculture will bloom like the rose and everybody would get together and every thing would be lovely. We have changed a great many laws in this country. We have put over a great many things but we have not done enough. The Chicago Board of Trade and the New York Cotton Exchange are still functioning. They never made a market for a bushel of wheat nor a bale of cotton. They bet they bet the farmers of Kansas will act the fool like they did last year and will dump all of their wheat on the market and they win their bet nine times out of ten.

Your record is that you will sell your wheat crop within 30-60 or 90 days after harvest. We are not trying to market our stuff orderly. We believe in the theory of conditions. We market our stuff and expect somebody to take care of it. You never sold a bushel of wheat in your life. Not a farmer in the south has ever sold a bale of cotton under the present system. We deliver it to somebody who has already sold it and we take what he offers for it. What a bright thing for the American farmer to do.

We found that the American farmer would not organize in times of prosperity. You have to get him to the grindstone before he will organize. Maybe some of you folks will wake up and get into an organization. There is nothing to talk about except organization. You heard what Senator Capper said this morning about the Farm Bloc. The theory of Communism is that individuals composing that country will be represented by the men who make the laws. If you are under the impression that the man you elect to represent you always do, you are mistaken. They put through the laws they want. 90 per cent of the laws of America are put through by people particularly interested by that law and they are forced through the legislative bodies.

The farmers of this country, when they want legislation must go get it. You have to do like the other fellow. You have to have an organization behind you. I question whether this method will long survive. If it does, I question whether the Republic will long survive. Little bunches can now force through all laws. We are on a mighty dangerous ground. I take off my hat to Senator Capper and other men in the Farm Bloc. The whole thing is wrong. It is out of tune. We are confronted with that situation. Bloc's have been in Congress for 30 years. Agriculture must progress for 30 years. We depend too much on legislation. We think that we must run to Uncle Sam when we are in a fix like we are now. All the functioning they ought to do it to remove that which restricts us from functioning as a business organization. We pile up too much expense in centralization.

What with Germany in 1914. A country which lost sight of the local community. The only thing they wanted was to make central government the thing. We differ in the idea, although we are trying to make all the roads lead to Rome. Every Republic that has ever been started has faced this situation.

**Organization is the Thing**

They are led on to decline and downfall through the autocratic leaders in its government. We differ. We differ with the tide and we do not try to steady the tide. The popular trend is not to advance new ideas but to get in the band wagon and ride. Organization is the thing. Every industry is organizing to protect itself. I take off my hat to organization. Any man who says he can destroy these trusts and combines doesn't know what he is tackling. Agriculture must likewise organize. The statesman of the hour is not the one who can destroy these organizations but the one who can make every thing of these things that mean for the advancement of our civilization work for the good of all the people instead of a few.

The Farmers Union movement was founded on principles. Equity, justice and the golden rule. We believe that the time will come when men will have a different idea of the functioning of their business institutions. They will believe in the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. We think about it. We hear it everywhere and yet in practice we pay no attention. I told you this was a get together movement. It has millions of dollars invested in its co-operative interests. There was a turn over last year of 1 1/2 billions of dollars. The co-operative movement covers 25 states and we have not scratched the surface of the country. It is a day to get together and the farmers are getting together. The farmers are doing business.

This is an age of getting together. Co-operation and co-operative movements. Men have tried to destroy it. From the outside and from the inside. I know hundreds of men who have dropped by the way side in this movement. You have the privilege of seeing the only two who have come down all the way with this movement. Mr. Barrett and myself. Some of the state leaders had to protect themselves when we made the attack on the New York Exchange. The change represented to them that the farmers lives were in danger. Mr. Barrett and myself have been in places where we had to give the countersign to see the state president. Men know that the only way to destroy a farm movement is to get some little pin headed fellow on the inside to work against it and, you fellows in Kansas, your organization will live so long as you can keep that fellow out. When you turn it over to some fellow who wants to destroy it and is on the inside, he will lead you astray.

The first organizers profited by the other organization faults. Your constitution says the organization shall be non-political. Whether he is a democrat or a republican, it makes no difference. You work to the interest of the Farmers Union, whatever party you men belong to. Your constitution does not prohibit an organization and as individuals, it does not hold to that theory. It holds that the thing for us to do is to take the society as we know it and gradually bring about a process recognizing the individual as paramount and make our institutions conform to a policy that will perpetuate. The individual composes the government and not the government being paramount and the individual a cog in the wheel.

Some of us have thought about the Farmers Union as something to play with. We have a program ahead of us that is a big program. Some of our folks know nothing about what it means. We have stuck to this proposition through all these years, despite all the temptations. We have told hundreds of leaders. Some one afraid of the leader, says, we will run you for congress for senator, for state legislature, etc., and most of them fall by the way side. We are finding out for ourselves that co-operation is the salvation. That is the solution to the situation. That is the reason Senator Capper could stand before you as he did and say that Chas. S. Barrett has more standing and influence in Washington because he represents this organization than anybody else. They recognize that the farmer is a power. Take over what is the matter. Nothing is the

matter with agriculture except we have not the sense enough to run it. Agriculture has been our life. Agriculture has not been ready for the transformation that has come to the world. Agriculture has not come up with the procession and it must move up if it is to function. We tried to speed it in the grain industry, in the cotton industry and every other industry of this country. The ills of agriculture are alike in one place as they are in another. From the home of the millionaire in the East to the wigwam of the Indian in the West, from the Igloo of the Esquimaux in the North to the shanties of the negroes in the South. Even in Kansas you are like they are every place else.

You have heard about the writing of the first bill in Congress for agricultural interests. It is the function of the government to show the fellow how to market this grain. A new theory. Hard fighting to put it over. However, we did not get that first bill through. They are a lot of fine fellows in Washington but there are a lot of men who are afraid of each other. Jealous Jealousy, lots of it. The chairman of the Committee would not let that first bill through. It was not his idea. The recognition we got was an appropriation of \$50,000 to test out the theory of the Bureau of Markets. What I wanted to do was to put over something to give the farmer an avenue for marketing in this country. Whenever you do that you can wipe out every gambler agency in this country. You have to take it over yourself. The government can remove the restriction. They can eliminate the thing that stands in the way. Then it is up to you to put in the ticks that will make these markets.

**Communism vs Co-operation**

I hope to see the farmer have what he wants in this country. The co-operative movement is a good remedy for the political ills. Russia is trying to take existing society and destroy it absolutely and rebuild from that wreckage a system in which the state will be paramount and the individual a cog in the wheel. Co-operation that the Farmers Union represents does not hold to that theory. It holds that the thing for us to do is to take the society as we know it and gradually bring about a process recognizing the individual as paramount and make our institutions conform to a policy that will perpetuate. The individual composes the government and not the government being paramount and the individual a cog in the wheel.

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agriculture and put it on a plane with business activities. Bring about conditions when we can remove that dark gloom that surrounds us and bring to our farmer life that which makes for peace and prosperity.

Realize one thing. If the men who are now in power and working in cities were without agriculture, civilization would suffer greatly. When American agriculture begins to approach it from that viewpoint and in your care and keeping is the key for all time and ages and that it is up to you farmers and your state, not as servants but as free born American citizens that bind perpetuation of our free institutions. When we have done that we will be in shape to take care of our business and be for peace and happiness. I do not tell you these things to get your vote. I am not running for Congress or the Senate, or any other of your political jobs. I would not run for office. I do not want any office. I am trying to tell the progressive Americans as I go about the country what I believe to be a remedy of their conditions.

If you are not a member, we invite you to come in. If you are a member, we hope you will go away from this series of meetings with the determination to get all your neighbors into the movement so Kansas will be 100 per cent Farmers Union. I thank you.

The Farmers Union Assembly, which closed in Oakdale park Friday afternoon, resulted in this movement, Mr. Landson asserted. For the purpose of taking charge of the organization of the bank committee composed of E. C. Crowl, Erie, Senator H. R. Green Elk county; C. B. Huff, Norton county; C. L. Brasted, Saline county and Clifford Anderson was named to take charge of the organization of the bank.

**Result of Assembly.**

The officers of the Kansas Farmers Union are pledged to use their influence to establish a woman's auxiliary to the organization and to bring the subject before the next convention of the Union to be held at Emporia next spring. This step with many other important progressive steps of the Kansas Union resulted from the assembly last week, and was recommended at the conference Friday afternoon.

This recommendation came from Mrs. Emma Hull of Junction City, at her round table discussions. The house believe that an auxiliary, with state officers would be a very important forward step in helping the cause of the union.

For the purpose of increasing the membership of the Union W. C. Landson's recommendation that the local unions take charge of the membership increase, and the collection of dues, was endorsed. Mr. Landson's ideas will go before the state convention.

The conference also recommended that the month of the state convention be changed from January to October.

**Assembly Success.**

"While we did get as large attendance as we expected," Mr. Landson stated Saturday "I consider that the meeting was one of the most important that state organization of Farmers Unions ever held. We brought here some of the very best men of the country, and we gathered a fund of information, that should be of lasting value to us. Many of the good suggestions that the speakers recommended will be put into operation at early dates."

### Surplus Fund Is Very Essential

President J. M. Collins of Colorado Stresses This Point in Short Address Before Assembly

I had a little speech prepared but you have heard a number very much along the same line I had. I am not going to pay any attention to it but will talk 5 or 10 minutes and then sit down while I have a chance.

One thing we must do and that is keep up the parent organization regardless of the other organizations. We have our community organizations in Colorado. The important thing is to keep alive and in good condition the parent organization, the Farmers Union. Another thing I have learned along the economic side is that when we make some earnings in our elevators, stores or live stock commission we are too ready to pay out money back in dividends and not lay aside a surplus fund. I do not care what kind of business you are engaged in, some time you are going to have reverses. If you don't, you are not living true to color as business goes. That being the case, why not lay our plans and lay up our surplus fund in every business we are conducting. I believe it is the duty of that company to build up a surplus. If for no other reason than to fight your enemies.

There is no question in my mind but that the commercial business of the country is laying for you and me. I notice that more, being in a weaker state than you do here. You are strong enough here to force you way ahead. In Colorado, we have a small number of farmers compared to what you have. Corporate interests are

fighting us more there. Possibly I realize the necessity of building our business organizations on a sound business basis and that is building up a surplus fund. We need surplus also for educational purposes. That should be the foremost thought in our minds.

In the commodity marketing movement at the present time, we are floundering more or less. We have not gone far enough with it to know exactly where we are. I say that for the information we have up to the present moment, we are floundering to a large extent. We must carry on a more thorough line of education and if we ever needed funds in all of our lives for educational purposes, we need them now. Let us not forget this. Whatever capacity might be, whether store, elevator, cream station, live stock commission or what we must insist that we have a surplus fund built up as the stockholders see fit. You may have to use it to fight the other fellow.

Last week the Merchants and Manufacturers organization held their state meeting in Ft. Collins. I just want to read to you from a clipping. You will see they are strongly opposed to us. "We must fight the spread of co-operative marketing if it threatens to invade our business." How far or how strong this fight is going to be we do not know. One reason why they are going to fight in Colorado is because of the strides you are making here. They see what you have done and they think we are weaker in our state and they can stamp us out before we get so strong.

I want to thank you for the privilege of being here. I came here to attend the national board meeting and also to take part in this meeting and I have enjoyed being here very much. If you ever have a chance to visit Colorado I hope you will do so. I thank you

### A Call to the Union Colors

The Kansas Farmers' Union operating through a period of eighteen years has made a record of achievement in which all its members are entitled to have a just pride. It has stopped local speculation in farm products. It has secured fair prices for the crops and live stock of all farmers of the state. It has saved many millions of dollars for its members and other farmers by reducing the cost of farm supplies and farm insurance. It has been a wholesome, sane and helpful influence in shaping the public affairs and policies of the commonwealth. It has advanced the interests of agriculture, inculcated and practiced the principles of self help, and has increased the self respect and the dignity of all the farmers of Kansas.

With such a record, now a part of the imperishable history of the state and with its pledges and programs for still more constructive and helpful purposes in the future the Kansas Farmers Union has a right to ask for the support and co-operation of all the farmers and of all the business interests of the state. The two things that the organization needs most at this time are more members and larger financial resources to enable it to round out and carry on its plans for a complete system of co-operative business and service for Kansas agriculture. Additional membership will provide all the funds required without increasing the fees or dues for individual members.

The Union is now planning a statewide campaign for the collection of dues from delinquent members, for the restoration to active duty of those farmers who have dropped out of the organization, and to secure the many thousands of new members to which its principles, its policies and its records entitle it. This campaign will be successful if the accomplishments and the further purposes of the organization can be presented to the farmers of the state. This can be done only through the co-operation of all the members, all the officers and all the business organizations that believe in the principles, know the record, and are in sympathy with the purposes of the Union. The state officers and the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Union therefore call into service during the month of October all of the Union members, officers and organizations with full confidence that each one will remember his obligation and make the sacrifices of time and money necessary to present the merits of the organization to every farmer in Kansas.

C. E. BRASTED, Secretary      JOHN TROMBLE, President.

### THEIR OWN BANK AT KANSAS CITY S. F. U. PLAN

Kansas Farmers Union Names Committee to Organize \$75,000 Institution

IS RESULT ASSEMBLY

Will Make the Bank as Near Co-operative as Bank Laws Permit

The board of directors of the Kansas Farmers Union, at a meeting Friday night, authorized the establishment of a bank at Kansas City, Kan., with a capital stock of \$75,000, it was announced Saturday. The bank, it is planned to make as near possible co-operative, as it is possible under the laws of the state of Kansas. In principal it will be a state bank.

"We believe that the establishment of a Farmers Union Bank at Kansas City, Kan., is a very good move, and we have almost enough business in that city and Kansas City, Mo., to support the bank alone," W. C. Landson, vice president of the Kansas Farmers Union and national lecturer stated. "Our live stock business in the two Kansas Cities is into the millions, and we are close to the top of the business in those two cities in volume of business. It amounts to a million dollars a month, while the Jobbing Association is handling one tenth of all the grain business of the two cities. We feel that the move to establish a bank in Kansas City is a good move."

### Fair Prices for Farm Products

Senator Arthur Capper Tells Assembly Audience This Is Absolutely Necessary

Senator Arthur Capper told 250 members of the Farmers Union today his ideas for improving the agricultural situation and his purposes in Washington to try to accomplish what could be done toward this by legislation. At the end of his address in Oakdale park pavilion he enumerated three principal legislative needs of the future. They were, first, lowering railroad rates; second, acceptance by the government of Henry Ford's offer for Muscle Shoals; third, passage of the "truth-in-fabric" bill.

"The most important relief measure," he said, "is removing the burden of high transportation costs from the farmer and the shipper. Three years ago the railroads were entitled to friendly consideration of their claims for higher rates. Today they are carrying more freight and at a higher level of rates than ever before in history."

"I doubt that consolidation of the lines is practicable. It tends too strongly toward monopoly."

"The government should dispose of its billions of investment in the Muscle Shoals project. It would have no immediate benefit to the farmers in

(Continued on Page Three)



## The Kansas Union Farmer

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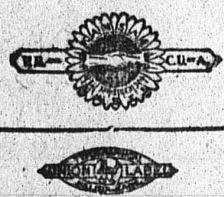
Notice to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

All copy, with the exception of notices and including advertising, should be in five days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handled up until noon Monday on the week of publication.

Change of Address—When change of address is ordered, give old as well as new address, and R. F. D.

Communications and Questions—Communications are solicited from practical farmers, members of the F. E. & C. U. of A., are at liberty to ask questions on any phase of farm work. Answers will be either published or mailed.

### ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1923

### WAR FINANCE CORPORATION PROFITS

One of the features of the Farmers Union Credit bill, commonly known as the Norbeck-King bill that was considered by the last congress was a provision for taking over the assets of the War Finance Corporation into the new concern and the final conversion of the proposed credit agency into a purely co-operative concern functioning in the interest of agriculture. Co-operative control was to begin when the profits under government operation amounted to a sum sufficient to retire the stock subscribed for by the national treasury.

In the course of the hearings on farm credits before the senate committee on finance Senator Pomeroy of Ohio asked this writer how long it would take the proposed co-operative credit association to earn enough profits to absorb the \$200,000,000 treasury subscription of for stock. The reply was that the War Finance Corporation has already accumulated a surplus of almost \$100,000,000 and that it should not take more than three or four years to earn as much more. This statement was made in the presence of Eugene Meyer, the chairman of the War Finance Corporation and was not questioned.

When the intermediate credits bill was finally forced through congress in the closing hours of the session all provisions looking to future co-operative control were eliminated. Nor is there any reference as to what shall be the final disposition of the huge sum that the War Finance Corporation has earned in its operations. The presumption is that the profits of that enterprise will be paid into the treasury when the affairs of the concern are finally liquidated.

Here is a great sum of money which together with the nearly \$60,000,000 of profits earned by the United States Grain Corporation amounts or will amount on March 1st next year to very nearly \$200,000,000 that in all equity belongs to the farmers of the United States. It is sufficient to capitalize a real co-operative credit association for agriculture but one part of it has already been dissipated in uncollectible loans and there is not now the slightest prospect that the profits of the War Finance Corporation will ever be employed in the interest of farmers.

There is only one fair and honest way for the government to dispose of this money. Let congress authorize the incorporation of a federal credit association entirely distinct from the Federal Reserve Banking System and the Federal Farm Loan System to function exclusively in the interest of agriculture. Pay the profits of the War Finance Corporation and of the Grain Corporation into the treasury of the new concern to be used as its operating capital. Issue stock to borrowing co-operative marketing associations equal in amount to the interest that such organizations pay on loans to assist in orderly marketing and finally convert the enterprise into a co-operative credit association to be managed exclusively by the borrowers. Radical? Not any more radical than the exclusive privileges enjoyed by the existing national banks.

### BETSY AND ANOTHER BEAR

The American Farm Bureau Federation has made quite a reputation with the uniformed by claiming credit for scores of accomplishments in the interest of agriculture with which it has had nothing to do. The Bureau assumes responsibility for all the many fine things that have been done by county agricultural agents and other persons and agencies that are a part of the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture, that are supported by taxation for the benefit of the whole people.

Certainly very sensible man knows by this time that the Federation not only deserves no credit for the work that has been done by the Extension Service but that it is solely responsible for the distrust, suspicion and lack of support on the part of the farmers that is so seriously interfering with the usefulness of a splendid body of public servants who have an opportunity to help the farmers of this country. The Federation is responsible for a good many blun-

ders. It has made more mistakes than any other farmers organization in the world and many of its errors have been exceeding costly but the greatest of its sins is the disrepute into which it has brought the Extension Service with a great majority of the farmers.

Just recently Gray Silver, the legislative agent of the Federation at Washington, has made a report of his activities and of the achievements of the organization since he began to assist it with his very acute and effective intellect. Silver says that before anything could be done with agriculture it was first necessary to learn just what is wrong with the patient. Accordingly the Federation secured the appointment of the joint committee of the two houses of congress known as the Agricultural Inquiry Commission.

That statement will fool a lot of folks who want to be bamboozled by Silver and his outfit and it will mislead a good many others who do not know the real facts. The Man in the Moon and the Farm Bureau Federation share equally in the honor of having secured that congressional investigation. Mr. Silver never gives any other man in this world the slightest credit for assisting him in his work but he should not hesitate to acknowledge his obligation to one who cannot claim any part of the glory in any mundane publication.

The real truth of this matter is, as any one can learn without trouble, that the National Farmers Union alone and unaided in any way by the Federation or any its agents prevailed on congress to adopt the joint resolution that provided for the Agricultural Inquiry Commission. For what ever good, if any, was done by that investigation the Union is solely responsible.

In April 1920, President Barrett who sensed the deflation of agriculture that was impending at that time, called a special mass meeting of the National Farmers Union at Washington. The farmers situation was discussed at that meeting. Some of the sessions and conferences were attended by a great number senators and congressmen. The president and the leaders of each house were interviewed by committees appointed by President Barrett. No member of the Federation nor any of its paid agents attended. The Union asked for a complete investigation by congress of the conditions of agriculture.

Almost at once Congressman Strong of Kansas presented a resolution in the house of representatives asking for such an inquiry and authorizing a commission to be created by the two houses. That resolution was supported and adopted through the efforts of the senators and representatives who had been in attendance at the special meeting of the National Farmers Union. So far from either originating or assisting in the matter the Federation was unfriendly to the idea and its agents did everything in their power to prevent any real investigation even after the Commission had been constituted.

So far the results growing out of that congressional inquiry have been of so little value to agriculture that it is strange that any body of farmers should care to assume responsibility for it. The record is plain, however and whether the investigation was serviceable or useless to the farmers of the United States the Farmers Union cannot disown its own child and must accept the consequences of bringing it into the world.

### FEED LOW GRADE WHEAT

The "Eat More Wheat" campaign accomplished wonders. It called attention to the big surplus produced this year and in about three weeks knocked an average of ten cents a bushel off the price of all grades. By that time it was pretty definitely determined that consumers could not be persuaded to eat more than is good for them today just for the privilege of paying a higher price for what bread they might really need tomorrow.

The "Feed More Wheat" movement had hardly gotten underway before it was plain enough that it would bring the right answer. Of course the millers and the bakers were opposed to it. Grain converted into meat, eggs or milk offered them no opportunities for profit. But the farmers who had more wheat than they could sell at a decent price saw the point and have been unloading their surplus into the hog pens. The market has already felt the effects of that sensible policy and is advancing with as much prospect of ultimate recovery as could be expected of a patient so low.

There may not be very much direct profit in converting low grade wheat into feed but there are certain to be indirect gains that are well worth while. Every bushel of wheat that goes into the feed barrel reduces the surplus and increases the value of the high grade grain that should go into storage and wait for consumption to catch up with supply.

### STORAGE OF HIGH GRADE WHEAT

It is undoubtedly true that a great proportion of the relatively small amount of high grade wheat is going into storage to wait for better prices before it is offered to the millers and exporters. The only trouble is that the most of such grain has passed out of the ownership of the growers and most of the gains will be made by the wheat merchants who have taken advantage of the low prices of the past few weeks to fill their elevators.

The pooling associations that are holding their wheat will get higher prices. The individual farmers who are able to take care of their grain in their own bins will get higher prices. It is a fact, however, that a great volume of grain has been thrown on the market by producers who were forced by their financial condition to sell and who had never been converted to the pooling idea. The only way that a wheat farmer

can hold his crop and at the same time get money to meet his pressing obligations is through membership in a pooling association.

It is true, of course, that every one of the pools has sold some grain on the low markets that have prevailed since threshing began. This does not mean, however, that growers will be paid the current price at the time of their deliveries when their final developments are made. If wheat goes to \$2.00 a bushel before the storage grain is sold every pooler will share in that advance because his final settlement will be based on the average price obtained by the pool for the grade of grain that he delivered.

It is not yet too late to put this year's crop in the pool if it is still unsold. The Kansas Wheat Growers Association and the Farmers Union Wheat Marketing Association are in position to handle all the grain delivered by their present members and twice as much more. They have money for advances, they have storage facilities and they have all the other necessary means for merchandising instead of dumping grain.

### RESULTS OF CO-OPERATIVE SELLING

The Burley Tobacco Growers Association in two years of operations has added \$50,000,000 to the income of its members. The other tobacco marketing associations have done about as well. Each of them is signing up thousands of new growers.

The Georgia Cotton Growers Association made a profit of about \$30 a bale for its members in the first year of its operations. It began business in 1922 with 13,000 contracts. It now has more than 35,000 members.

The Arkansas Farmers Union Cotton Association is now settling with its members on a basis of almost thirty cents a pound for middling cotton for last years deliveries which represents a profit of nearly \$50 a bale made by co-operative marketing. That association will have no trouble in getting thousands of new members.

The Georgia Co-operative Cane Growers Association more than trebled the price of sirup in its first year of operations. Its membership will soon include all the cane growers in South Georgia and additional associations are being planned in north Florida and southern Alabama.

Measured by results already obtained contract marketing has much more than justified the hopes and promises of those who backed the plan from the first. The only thing that prevents wheat farmers from rendering the same sort of service to themselves is disinclination to put their names on the contracts of the various pools that are organized and conducted just as efficiently as any of the other commodity marketing associations of the country.

### SUPPORT YOUR OWN CHILDREN

There is not a manager of a Farmers Union elevator in Kansas who does not believe that he is entitled to the business of every shareholder of the association. Every time he sees a load of wheat delivered to a competing elevator he sees red and indulges in language that it would not do at all to print in these columns.

There are more than three hundred Farmers Union elevators in Kansas that are shareholders in the Jobbing Association. Not one-tenth of them is giving a one hundred per cent support to their own business in Kansas City. It is mighty disagreeable for the salesman of our association to face the smiles and jeers of our competitors who daily see twice as many samples of Union wheat on their own tables as are displayed by the Union.

Every time a shareholder in a local Union elevator sells a load of wheat to an opposition grain merchant he voluntarily adds to the strength of the often repeated charge that "the farmers will not stick." Every time a Farmers Union elevator consigns a car of wheat to a house in competition with the Jobbing association he helps to prove that "farmers will not stick" and at the same time strengthens the resources of the men who are determined that co-operation will not succeed.

### GRAVEL ROADS IN KANSAS

There are several thousands of miles of Kansas highways that be improved out of the mud. The costlier types of road construction—concrete, tar and bound macadam, and brick—cost more than the people can afford to pay. Highway engineers must develop some cheaper style of serviceable good roads.

In southeastern Kansas there is an enormous supply of cherts and coarser broken rock, a by product of the lead and zinc mines. It is the finest sort of road material and there is enough of it our state and just across the line Oklahoma and Missouri to gravel every county road south of the Kaw river and east of Emporia.

The Flint hill country has abundance of gravel for use on the roads, a material that can be used economically as far west as Wichita. In other sections of the state there are great beds of road making gravel and of course sand that may be used with clay where other construction is impossible. Sand and clay are usually found in close proximity. Clay roads need only a mixture of sand to make them good and sand roads are easily, cheaply and effectively improved by the application of clay in sufficient quantities.

If the paved road obsession has run its course in this state it is time to begin a sensible highway construction program based on the needs of the people and corresponding to their ability to pay. Gravel and Sand-Clay roads can be built and maintained by county labor under the direction of competent county highway engineers. Under existing laws half the cost of all such roads as of standard dirt roads is provided by the federal government. Let us plan to use our federal aid on thousands of miles of properly built dirt, gravel and sandclay roads instead of on scattered stretches of concrete and brick pavement that usually begin and end nowhere.

## COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

### Washington Is Considerably Worried

Over the agricultural situation President Coolidge, good man that he is, wants to know all about the farmers and just what can be done for them by governmental agencies. He has been talking such matters over with advisers from various parts of the country and the things that he hears do not make any sense.

Senator Cameron of Arizona, a millionaire who is getting along all right, says that leadership is the only thing that is wrong with agriculture. He thinks the farmers are more prosperous than usual, that their troubles are all mental suggested to them by radical and selfish leaders. Cameron admits, however, that the wheat growers are in considerable of a mess but does not believe that it is the duty of the government to take any measures in their interest.

### Peter Norbeck

Is of a Different Opinion

From Senator Cameron, Norbeck represents the great agricultural state of South Dakota in the United States Senate. His constituents grow wheat, corn, cattle and hogs for the market and are prosperous or poor as the prices of these products soar or sag. He is the man who stood sponsor for the Farmers Union Credit bill during the last session of congress.

Norbeck spent most of the summer among his constituents and he has just told the president that agricultural has gone to the "demination bow wows" in the central northwest and that the public safety requires some governmental action in the interest of the farmers. He believes that a big government corporation along the lines of the Norris proposal rejected by the last congress might do something for the wheat growers.

### Sidney Anderson

Also Visited the White House

Last week, Anderson represents the congressional district that lies in the extreme southeastern part of Minnesota. His home folks raise very little wheat for the market but for some reason, probably because he deserves it Anderson has come to be regarded as the only real wheat expert in the congress. He is a sort of professional chairman for all the general conferences and conventions called to deal with agricultural problems. Only the most captious of critics would deny that he is good at the job that seems to please him most. Anderson presided at the agricultural conference called by President Harding in January of 1923, was in the chair at the recent Conference held in Chicago and is Chairman of the permanent Wheat Council that was the out growth of that meeting.

Congressman Anderson may not have solved the whole problem but he has devoted a lot of time to the agricultural situation and especially to the plight of the wheat growers. He has told the president that the one thing needed at this time is an increase of the tariff on Canadian wheat from thirty cents a bushel to forty-five cents a bushel, a change that may be made by the president, on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission without consulting congress. It would seem from this that Anderson believes that Canada is not only able to undersell us on the European wheat markets but can make crops so cheaply that that American farmers cannot compete on the Minneapolis Board of Trade.

### Canadian Wheat Troubles American

Politicians a good deal of American farmers not a little. Land is cheap in Canada. Also there is a lot of it already in cultivation and probably nearly twice as much more that has not yet been reclaimed from the virgin sod. Canadian farmers have made as much as 400,000,000 bushels of wheat in a single year. That is a lot of grain and means an exportable surplus of nearly 300,000,000 bushels annually if production is stabilized at that yield.

It is certain, however, that Canada will increase the wheat area and production during the next few years. Diversified farming will have a slow growth in the wheat belt of that country. Other crops can be made but it will take quite a while to develop herds of live stock and the feed that such an industry must have. Within ten years it is altogether likely that Canada will be able to make all the wheat needed to supplement the home production of western Europe.

This means as Sidney Anderson points out that the export market for the Wheat of the United States is practically at end. Does it mean that without a higher tariff the Canadian farmers can put American wheat growers out of business at home?

### Canada Produces Good Milling Wheat

In greatly increasing quantities. No section of the United States, except a few districts in the north and northwest can compete with Canadian farmers in producing high grade milling wheat. That is the reason why Canadian wheat comes into this country in spite of the tariff of thirty cents a bushel. On Saturday of last week December wheat was quoted at \$1.02 1-2 in Kansas City, \$1.15 1-4 in Minneapolis and 93 7-8 cents in Winnipeg. If any Canadian wheat comes to the United States it must pay 30 cents a bushel duty and a freight

rate of about 15 cents a bushel which would make grain from Winnipeg cost around \$1.38 a bushel in a Minneapolis, a price that would be prohibitive if it were not for its very high milling value.

Congressman Anderson is probably right about the tariff and the export market. The demand for foreign use of American wheat is gone and the only way that growers in this country can hope to get a fair price for their grain is to reduce production to domestic demands and market the entire crop through their own pooling organizations.

### Boys

In and Around Kansas City

Are developing great proficiency in handiwork. Several banks have been robbed by desperate criminals around eighteen years of age. It is very likely that the masked robber who held up the box office of the Newman theater a few months ago was a cadet in one of the Missouri military schools who has just been captured after robbing the Quindaro State Bank of Kansas City, Kansas. Just what has come over the rising generation in the cities is a question big enough to command the talents of wise and good people everywhere. What influence in our modern life has convinced so many boys that they must have money in large amounts entirely regardless of how it is obtained? Is it possible that the style of living, the unethical methods of business, and the artificial demands of city life have converted a great body of young men into actual or potential criminals?

There are too many young fellows who seem to prefer crime and motor cars to honesty and travel afoot.

### Lloyd George

Fears That Democracy

Is seriously threatened from at least two directions. He regards the Bolshevik movement as a menace to the accepted institutions of representative government and is equally fearful of the results of the Fascist uprising in Italy and Spain. One substitutes class rule for democracy and the other submerges representative government under reactionary bureaucracy set up and maintained by dictators who ignore all the sanctions and safe guards of constitutionalism.

Here in America the dangers to constitutionalism may not be so serious but they are sufficiently threatening. On the one hand the great vested interests and the federal courts are destroying the faith of the people in judicial remedy for social wrongs. On the other extreme there is a growing body of restless men and women who seem determined to seek redress for real or imaginary grievances through what amounts to practical revolution.

The farmers of the United States should be the great progressive force in this country. For the most part they are devoted to the democratic institution of America and if they are permitted to form their own organizations and work out their own problems they will save the country from the reactionaries and the revolutionists who are equally dangerous to the institutions of representative government.

### Governor McCray

Of the State of Indiana

Has committed two colossal blunders since he assumed office less than a year ago. He vetoed the wheat marketing law which the farmers of his state needed for their own self protection and he has failed in his own business and is now bankrupt. The leaders of the republican party of his state held a meeting last week and decided that he must resign. In some states it seems that a religious test for public office, in spite of the constitutional provision to the contrary is being required of all candidates for the public service. In others there is a property requirement for office holders. Among politicians the constitution of the republic no longer seems to have very much meaning.

### Italy Has Played a Sorry Part

In her demands on Greek people. Her navy bombarded the unfortified and undefended island of Corfu and killed a considerable number of children, women and unarmed men. Just drive the national honor that had been affronted by the unlawful acts of bandits who may or may not have been Greek subjects is beyond the comprehension of decent men.

After loudly proclaiming that he could not pay any attention to the suggestions of the League of Nations Premier Mussolini finally accepted the recommendations of that body and has withdrawn Italian troops and ships from Corfu. The Italian bounty-hunter commission that was assassinated by Albanian bandits and the innocent and unresisting inhabitants of Corfu who were murdered by Italian guns are still dead but by acting the part of a bully in the first instance and of a coward in the wind up Italy professes to have cured the hurts to her national honor.

### Governor Walton

May Be Impeached by a

Rump convention of the Oklahoma House of Representatives before this paper reaches its readers. A majority of the members of the lower house of the legislature have decided that they have a right to meet and consider the conduct of the governor. The constitution of the state

provides for special sessions of the legislature only on call by the governor. Also it provides that the House of Representatives shall have the power to impeach the governor for wrongful acts.

Now the legislature asks how it can impeach without meeting and the governor asks how it can meet without his consent. Needless to say that there are eminent lawyers in Oklahoma who opine that the legislature is right and equally eminent lawyers in the same state who hold that the governor is right. The average man in the country is quite willing to obey the laws but the lawyers are never able to agree on the law.

### Pinchot

Has Not Announced

That he will be a candidate for the GAI—3—FARMERS UNION 6—presidency but the Pennsylvania senators have declared that they cannot come out for Coolidge while their own governor is a possible candidate.

Gifford Pinchot has many qualifications for the presidency. He is progressive. He has ability and courage. He has reorganized the state government of Pennsylvania and cut expenses \$40,000,000 a year. He has settled a big coal strike. He can secure the support of the Market Indians of his party in the northwest. The leaders of the republican organization do not want him for their candidate but they do want to win the election and therefore he is likely to be nominated.

### Four Year

Gubernatorial Terms

Without eligibility for re-election appear to work pretty well. There are a great many people in the United States who do not know what Jack Walton is trying to do. The one thing that is certain, however, is that he is not playing politics to secure a second term as governor of Oklahoma.

### SHANBERG BACKS PLAN TO RAISE FUND FOR SEED WHEAT

The unfortunate wheat farmers of southwestern Kansas have learned that the motion picture industry is a real friend in their hour of need. It was learned today that M. B. Shanberg, managing-director of the Midland Circuit of Theaters, which operates theaters in Wichita, Hutchinson, Newton, and in Salina under the management of H. D. Keefer, is laying plans for a "Seed Wheat Day" in all of the motion picture theaters of Kansas.

Mr. Shanberg, who is the moving spirit behind this scheme of securing seed wheat for the distressed farmers, is chairman of a committee of thirteen of the leading exhibitors of Kansas, all members of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners Association of Kansas which organization is responsible for the move.

"The wheat farmers of Kansas," said Mr. Shanberg, "are facing a very dismal prospect for next year, unless the public steps forward and gives them aid. This is especially true in the sixteen southwestern counties, where a total crop failure was suffered."

"The farmers of this district are mostly young men just getting a start in life. They have the will to succeed, they have the implements to till their land, and nature apparently is trying to undo the damage it has wrought, by giving them an abundance of rain, putting the soil in fine shape for planting. But they have no seed, and lack the purchasing power necessary to secure it."

"The motion picture industry, and especially its Kansas representatives," continued Mr. Shanberg, "as in every instance where their services have aided in the relief of the unfortunate are planning now to swell the funds being gathered by the Central Seed Wheat Association."

"Our proposal is to set aside one day and designate it as 'Seed Wheat Day.' On that day the total gross receipts of the theatres belonging to our association will be turned over to this fund. We have selected Tuesday, October 9th as the day to be devoted to this purpose, and it is our earnest desire that the public join in the spirit of this movement and favor us with heavy patronage that the fund may be sufficient to buy seed for every needy farmer in the stricken area."

Mr. Shanberg estimates that at least one hundred of the leading theatres of the state will enter into the venture, and states that he expects \$20,000 will be raised in this manner.

All of the money taken in on that day will be turned over to J. C. Mohler, secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, who is also president of the Central Kansas Seed Wheat Association, a corporation chartered under the state laws and organized recently in Dodge City for the purpose of giving aid to the distressed farmers of the southwestern counties of Kansas.

### CO-OPERATION IS GROWING

According to Joseph Passonneau, state market director, up to July 31, 1923, Colorado shipped 35,500 car loads of potatoes as against 47,000 car loads at the same time in 1922. Price are somewhat lower than last year at this time. About 25 co-operative marketing associations have been organized under the new marketing law, and 19 of these are of potato growers. One each of dairymen and the growers of beets, vegetables, fruit, pears and lettuce.







# ....The Kansas Farmers Union Has Made Good....

## WHY SUPPORT EXPERIMENTAL AND UNTRIED ORGANIZATIONS?

Every Union Member in Kansas is Asked to Join in a Campaign to Get Members and Collect Dues

### THE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

#### LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

The Farmers' Union has established more than 700 incorporated co-operative associations with a combined capital of more than \$10,000,000 and with an annual business turnover of not less than \$300,000,000. All these enterprises that have had the support of a courageous and loyal membership have been successful.

#### PROFITS FROM CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATORS

Through a Local Co-operative Elevator System the Kansas Union has abolished profit taking by local grain dealers and has added an average of 15 cents a bushel on the day of sale to the price of all wheat and corn marketed in the state. In this single field of activity the Union has increased the cash income of Kansas farmers more than \$30,000,000 annually.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATIONS

Union Local Live Stock Shipping Associations have eliminated local buyers and speculators in livestock and have secured fair prices and fair treatment for all small producers of meat animals in Kansas. The profits from this single department of Union co-operative activities amounts to many millions of dollars annually.

#### JOBGING ASSOCIATION RESULTS

Through its Jobbing Association the Kansas Farmers' Union has established a great grain marketing agency on the Kansas City market and for five years has fixed the price of binder twine at a figure that saves the wheat growers of the state more than a million dollars annually. It now handles one-tenth of all the grain receipts of the Kansas City markets.

#### THE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION COMPANY

The Farmers' Union Live Stock Commission Company has become the largest house on the Kansas City market and this year will sell nearly 10,000 car loads of animals for its satisfied patrons in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado and will pay very substantial shippers dividends at the end of the year and better than any cash returns it has secured a fair deal for all farmers producers form all live stock dealings.

#### RESULTS OF CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE

The two great Insurance Companies established and conducted by the Kansas Farmers Union have forced a reduction of rates for protection of farm property against fire, lightning, tornado and hail that makes an enormous annual saving for farmers and has paid co-operative dividends and established reserves that amount to almost a million dollars.

#### THE CO-OPERATIVE AUDITING ASSOCIATION

The Farmers' Union Co-operative Auditing Association has

standardized co-operative accounting, has supplied its members and others with efficient, impartial and rigorous auditing services at reasonable rates and by establishing better business methods in all Union co-operative enterprises has reduced the chances for failure and increased the opportunities for success.

#### THE UNION WHEAT POOL

The Farmers Union Wheat Marketing Association has pooled a large and constantly increasing volume of Kansas wheat production and is now selling the grain delivered by its members in an orderly and economic way that is certain to yield very large returns in profits and satisfaction to the growers who signed its wisely worked out marketing contract.

#### THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

The Kansas Union Farmer, the official organ of the Kansas State Farmers' Union is the only paper in the state that owes no allegiance to any political party and that it is under no obligations to any of the great organized commercial, financial and transportation interests. It exists only to tell the truth, to advocate and discuss the principles of co-operative business and to serve the members of the Union in all possible helpful ways.

#### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Kansas Farmers Union has built up more than two thousand local and county organizations to serve the members as community centers for educational and social activities. Through these groups the farm people of Kansas have been trained in better business methods and taught to use their power and influence in public affairs.

#### UNION HAS SAVED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Farmers' Union has prevented the destruction of the independent rural school district and the creation in its place of a county system of school administration designed to deprive parents of every vestige of democratic control over the education of their own children and has steadfastly advocated a better system for raising distributing funds for elementary education.

#### UNION AND PAVED ROADS

Through its educational agencies and the activities of its legislative representatives the Farmers Union has checked the construction of costly paved roads and prevented the waste of public money for improvements too expensive for the resources of the taxpayers but has consistently advocated highway improvement within the means of the people.

#### UNION HAS CHECKED EXTRAVAGANCE

The Farmers' Union has waged a never ceasing war against waste, extravagance and graft in public expenditures for state, coun-

ty and local purposes and has prevented the legislature and the other money spending governmental agencies from levying many millions of dollars of wholly unnecessary taxes.

#### KANSAS CO-OPERATIVE LAWS

The Farmers' Union secured the enactment of the co-operative laws of 1913 and 1915 defining and authorizing the organization and operation of Rochdale business associations in Kansas and of the Standard Marketing Act of 1921 which provides for the orderly marketing of farm products through growers co-operative agencies.

#### PREVENTED BAD LAWS

For more than ten years the Farmers' Union has been able to prevent the passage of laws intended to cripple co-operate business and restrict the activities of co-operative insurance companies.

#### ACTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Co-operation with other bona fide self help farmers' organizations, has always been one of the policies of the Kansas Farmers' Union. The relations between the Union and the Grange are entirely friendly and the wonderful growth of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Company at Kansas City is largely due to close affiliation with the Missouri Farmers Association.

#### EFFECTS ON FARM FINANCES

The beneficial effects of the co-operative agencies established by the Kansas Farmers' Union are fully demonstrated by the fact that Kansas has a smaller volume of farm mortgage indebtedness than other agricultural state with equal investments in farming facilities and corresponding value of annual crop production.

#### WORKS ONLY FOR PUBLIC GOOD

The public and legislative activities of the Kansas Farmers Union have always been in the interest of all the people. The organization has advocated and secured legislation designed only to serve the public good and has uniformly and successfully opposed all proposition of self help movements. Not a single Farmers Union law or proposed law has ever asked the legislature of the state for the appropriation of one dollar of public funds.

#### UNION HAS PROVED ITS VALUE

The Kansas Farmers Union has proved the merit and the usefulness of its program of Organization, Education and Co-operation. It is engaged in the great work of establishing a system of co-operative business and service for Kansas agriculture which will not be complete until marketing associations for all staple farm products have been organized a complete structure of co-operative banking and credit agencies has been formed.

Members are Urged to Use the Membership Applications Printed in This Issue of the Paper---Every Member Can Get FOUR NEW MEMBERS Before October 31

## Department of Practical Co-Operation

#### SPEAKING DATES.

State speakers will be present and address Farmers' Union meetings as indicated below. Requests for speakers within this date list should take into consideration the schedules already made.

#### JOHN TROMBLE.

October 10-11-12 Kansas City, Mo., International Farm Congress; M. O. GLESSNER October 4-Axtell.

#### AT STRONG CITY OCTOBER 6TH

The Quarterly meeting of the Chase County Farmers Union No. 62, will be held on Saturday, October 6, 1923, at 2 o'clock p. m. at Strong City, Kansas. All locals are urged to send full delegations as all the officers for the ensuing year will be elected at this meeting.

J. E. STOUT, Sec.-Treas.

#### AT MINNEAPOLIS, OCTOBER 17

The Ottawa County Farmers Union will hold meeting in Minneapolis, October 17th at 8:30 p. m. All locals are requested to have a full delegation present as there are some matters to be discussed that should be attended to at this time. There will be eats furnished by the County Union and Mr. M. O. Glessner, state lecturer will be the speaker and possibly Mr. W. C. Lansdon National Lecturer will also be with us.

A. E. WATTS, County President

#### ROUND TABLE RESOLUTIONS

To John Tromble, State President: We the members of the Round Table of Presidents of County and Locals beg to recommend the following:

First: How far should a candidate for election chosen from the Union go in expressing his beliefs.

Second: That all Local Secretaries send State and County dues to the State Secretary and that the State Secretary in turn remit to County Secretary.

Third: That the date of the annual State Meeting be changed to the third Wednesday in October and bylaws be changed accordingly for the election of delegates.

JOS. H. SHAEFFER, Chairman.

### Pool News

#### POOL IDEA CONTINUES TO GROW

Another notch has been cut in the co-operative stick. Another step has been taken in getting the ideals of co-operative marketing, spread among the members of Kansas and other states.

The Farmers Union Assembly conducted by the Farmers Union at Salina has demonstrated the popularity of the pool idea. The fields of Kentucky where the blue grass has won a reputation for the State, is now the scene of a big pool drive, in signing up the wool, poultry and eggs and dairy cows, 600,000 chickens, 32,000 cows, 50,000 sheep are the results offered as evidence that the pool idea is acceptable.

Missouri has declared in favor of the pooling of farm products at her meeting at Sedalia.

Senator Capper in making his address before the members of the Farmers' Union Assembly voiced his approval of the commodity marketing idea. Legislation is beneficial. Finance is important but the solution for the farmers problem is marketing. Often was the statement made. It is recognized from the President of the United States down to the bootblack on the street. Accepted by and practiced by all well organized business concerns. Its merits doubt-

ed by none except by the farmer, the one that could be most benefited by a united effort. Leaders who have pioneered the co-operative move among farmers, told of their hopes, their faith, their unflinching trust in the great principals of co-operation while the tears ran down the cheeks. Where is the man that can still refuse to join his neighbor, his brother, in a mighty effort to shake from his wrist the shackles that bind him in industrial slavery. Let us profit by the experiences given us by the Union men from all parts of the country, and roll up a wheat pool that will give a boost, to a renewed effort to dislodge the mortgage from the old homestead.

Several men at the Assembly showed a willingness to try their hand at soliciting for pool contracts. We expect to have one or two at work in the near future.

Dad McClelland of Waubesaunee county, is going out with his son, J. W. McClelland and preach pool among the neighborhoods. No one would have the heart to turn him down and refuse to sign a contract, which means so much for the farmer, and neighbors just naturally hate to refuse to help one another. For that reason and the fact that the McClellands are natural born co-operators we expect a good showing from Waubesaunee.

N. J. Kaiser anticipating a heavy run on his supply of contracts left Salina with a pocket on each side of his coat bulging with contracts. A fine showing has been made in Miami

county and that "Go get 'em look" was on Dad Kaisers face when he turned his face toward the land of the rising sun.

C. C. Killian, the man with the perpetual good nature, is able now to things stirred up in the county of Clay soon. Killian has been writing to all the catalogue houses getting prices on wooden legs for the past few weeks. In a move that was supposed to be graceful a large patch of hide and some of the bone was scraped off as his leg slipped past the end of a plank. The laws of nature prevented him from spending his money for a sapling.

A. P. Hotten has his eye on a bunch of new fellows that he is slipping up on. He had a list of signers that was as long as the Declaration of Independence that he exhibited here that took the slack out of anybodys mind that thought that they couldn't be signed up.

The recent rain had ought to have considerable affect on the farmers that are sowing wheat. No man could remain out of humor long when a rain that was general over the state, and which was needed to put the wheat ground in shape, fell on the pooler as well as the non-pooler. Blessings it seems always come just in time. With the prospects for

a good crop of wheat in sight and a pool of his own to sell the wheat, the farmer is almost, it seems, overwhelmed with blessings.

Without the rain the crop is a failure. Without the pool the price is a failure. Without either the farmer is a failure. Without the farmer civilization is a failure. An awful lot depends on the pool.

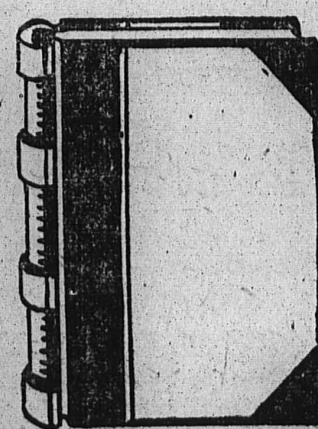
M. O. GLESSNER.

#### BETTER SHEEP RESULT OF STATE WOOL POOLS

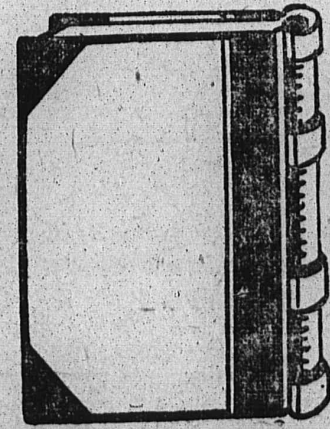
Marked interest in better bred sheep is a direct result of wool pooling in Minnesota according to Alex Huddleston, president, of the Minnesota Co-operative Wool marketing association. The association, acting through R. E. Jones its sales manager at Wabasha, has been giving considerable attention to obtaining purebred rams for wool growers, the association's interest being in raising the average grade of wool grown in the state. The association already has supplied many rams and expects to place scores more before the next lambing season.

Minnesota Growers may expect their pooled wool to sell on a basis of 45 cents a pound for Clear Bright Medium at Wabasha, Mr. Jones says.

## Let Us Keep Your Books Straight



Phone  
570



THE KANSAS FARMERS' UNION  
Room 317 Farmers Union Bldg. Salina, Kansas

## Three Things

You Are  
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When You Ship to the

## Farmers Union Live Stock Commission

THE FULL STRENGTH OF THE MARKET—  
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