



The Kansas Union Farmer

ORGANIZATION

EDUCATION

COOPERATION



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FARMERS MAY STRIKE FOR BETTER PRICES

SEEK SOME METHOD TO BRING FARMERS PRODUCTION COSTS

Farmers' Holiday Movement Started in Iowa Spreads to Other States and Gains Momentum

KANSAS HAS AN IDEA

Clay Bank Local Says Sell Only through Cooperatives or Direct to Consumer; Would Help Cooperation

BULLETIN

August 15 has been set as the date for the inauguration of the "Farmers' Strike" in Iowa. This decision was reached at a meeting in Des Moines on July 30, of the Farmers' Holiday Association. According to the provisions made at the meeting, the "strike" may be called on twenty-four hours notice if the executive committee of the group should deem it advisable.

With the prices of virtually all farm products far below the cost of production, and with no relief in sight through legislative channels, thousands of farmers throughout the United States are taking the matter into their own hands, and are encouraging a movement which amounts to a producers' or farmers' strike. In places where the farmers are getting well organized behind this movement, they are surprising even themselves with the strength they are showing, and with the influence they are having.

The movement had its inception some years back and in 1927 the corn belt committee in a resolution said that when legislation fails the farmer and other hope is abandoned, then they should, in an organized way, refuse to deliver the products of their farms for less than cost of production.

Some months ago the farmers of Iowa organized the Farmers' Holiday Association, which stands for the principles embodied in the resolution mentioned above. They went a little farther than the corn belt resolution when they adopted the slogan: "Stay at home—sell nothing."

Farmers of other states have taken up the idea. The Iowa organization first thought they would start enforcing their idea, and that they would be sufficiently organized to make it effective, by July 4. Time was extended in order to wait until after Congress had adjourned, for it was felt there was a possibility that something definite might be done for Agriculture. The spread of the movement to other states also was a factor in postponing the beginning of the holiday action, it is said. It was thought that with other states in the movement, it might be more effective.

The South Dakota division of the Farmers Union, by action of its executive board, passed a resolution took up the idea, and brought it up to date by adding a little to the slogan. "Stay at home—sell nothing" took on this form: "Stay at home—sell nothing—except to consumers or cooperative associations."

A report of this action within the Clay Bank Local was given in the Kansas Union Farmer a few weeks ago, along with comment to the effect that this idea is entirely in line with the policies and preachings of the Farmers Union, and that this policy, if carried out to its completion, would place marketing on a complete cooperative basis.

Mr. H. P. Anderson, president of the Clay Bank local and an enterprising citizen, collaborated with other farmers in his neighborhood, and prepared a paper which was circulated generally among the farmers there. This paper contained an explanation of the new Farmers' Holiday plan. Farmers were invited to sign the paper if they approved the idea of withholding their products from the market, unless it be through cooperative marketing channels. Relative to this action, Mr. Anderson writes: "So far every reader of the letter has signed his name. We believe that what is true in one community is true over the entire state. Therefore, we believe some such plan as given in the letter would be favored by the farmers of the state."

Get Control of Products

Mr. Anderson recommends that the officials of the Farmers Union and of other cooperative organizations get together and petition their members not to sell any products from their farms for thirty days at least, and; "if they must sell anything, let it be as little as possible and only to consumers or to cooperative associations."

Mr. Anderson goes on to say: "Our idea is that we must get control of our own products. The only way we can do this is to use the Marketing Act to sell cooperatively. If we do not use the Marketing Act, surely our enemies will have the act repealed in the next Congress. I do not think the farmers of this country should let this Marketing Act be repealed or even amended by our enemies. I think it is important that we try to get control of production for our products. To do this we must retain ownership of our products, from producer to consumer."

Mr. Anderson was born in Denmark, and has studied cooperation as practiced by the farmers of that country. "When I was a boy in Denmark," said Mr. Anderson in his letter, "the conditions there were practically the same as they are now in this country. But the farmers of that country cooperated one hundred percent, and by this cooperation made that country one of the most prosperous countries of the world. They cooperated by retaining control of their products from producer to consumer."

Praises Kansas Co-ops.

Writing of the situation in Kansas, Mr. Anderson said: "We have made a good showing in Kansas through our cooperative activities. We have paid back a great deal of money to our co-ops. But we haven't gone far enough. The fact remains that a few large packing companies in Chicago set the price of our meats. A few other men control the prices of our other commodities."

"If we are going to get relief, we must organize a hundred percent. We have been waiting patiently for Congress to give us relief. We have made up our minds that relief is not coming that way. We can see no way to get relief, except for the farmers to do it themselves."

"We believe in the farm organizations of this state. We believe they will cooperate on something like the plan we have mentioned. In this manner we might be able to restore the buying power of agriculture—by getting cost of production for our products. We believe the lives of our farm organizations depend upon the farmers getting cost of production. It seems there are many farmers at present able to pay other organizations dues, but who cannot pay the farm organization dues. Farmers must pay up their organization dues, so this work can go on."

South Dakota Resolution

A resolution passed by the executive board of the Farmers' Holiday Association (continued on page 4)

Kansas Farm Strikers to Meet

The most recent development in the Kansas farmers' "strike" which is sponsored by the Kansas Farmers' Holiday Association was a meeting of that recently formed Kansas organization on July 24 at Neosho Falls. The meeting was called by H. P. Anderson and R. A. Wright, president and vice president, respectively, of the Kansas Farmers' Holiday Association.

The Association went into definite action at this initial meeting. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Wright are active Farmers Union men, both being members of the Clay Bank local near Neosho Falls in Woodson county. One of the first things done at this meeting was the formation of a Woodson County committee. This committee is made up of farmers and business men, indicating that the movement is to receive support and encouragement from all classes of people.

The president of the county committee is H. Brugeman, Piqua. Other officers are W. A. Habiger, Piqua, vice president, and A. D. Gordon, Neosho Falls, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Gordon is mayor of Neosho Falls and is secretary of a building and loan association.

Mr. Gordon writes the Kansas Farmers Union secretary that a county meeting has been called to meet at the court house in Yates Center, Woodson county, on Thursday evening, August 11, at 7:30 o'clock. At this

ANSWERS PRIVATE LIVE STOCK MEN'S ATTACK ON CO-OPS

Denman, Live Stock Member of Farm Board, Points Out Fallacies of Charges Trumped up at Shannon Hearing

DEFENDS MARKET ACT

Says Only Shippers of Live Stock to Say Whether Private Firms to Remain in Business or Not

Last week it was intimated in these columns that the ardent with which the private live stock dealers on the Kansas City market attacked the Agricultural Marketing Act and the farm board, sprang from their animosity to cooperative marketing. Cooperative marketing of live stock existed years before the Marketing Act was passed. The dealers are camouflaging their attack on cooperative marketing by calling it an attack on the farm board and Marketing Act.

The daily press played up on the front pages the attacks made by the enemies of cooperative marketing; but when these attacks were answered, evidently the big dailies thought the answers were not interesting. Reading, for, as in the case of the Kansas City Times on Monday, August 1 the cooperative side of the argument was hidden in the inside pages.

The article referred to is a letter from B. Denman, live stock member of the Kansas Union Farmer are interested in the cooperative side of the argument, so the letter is reproduced here, in part, with credit for its original publication given to the Kansas City Times:

Denman's Letter

To The Star: Press reports concerning statements made by the live stock interests before the Shannon house committee investigating the activities of our government in business have attracted my attention. The farmer nor the consumer is responsible for the decline in livestock values. That, of course, is not any news. It has been a statement of fact since the government were in the cattle business, it was responsible for the increase in price the last few weeks. The passage of the agricultural marketing act by congress, to provide a means of assisting the producers of livestock and other commodities for the development of a system of marketing their products, was because of the disparity between what the consumer paid and what the producer received for his product. Neither the farmer nor the consumer was responsible for this disparity; handlers of farm products took the toll.

When the drastic decline in live stock prices occurred in 1930, the farm board issued statements publicly attacking the maintenance of high retail prices far out of line with live stock prices. Subsequently retail prices of meat were reduced.

In the Shannon hearing, witnesses were quoted as saying the farm board had lent the National Live Stock Marketing Association \$5,221,000. Of this \$5,221,000 lent to the national organization, \$2,300,000 has been used to assist farmers and ranchmen and their associations to capitalize six livestock credit corporations, at Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. Farmers and ranchmen and their cooperative associations supplied about \$400,000 for the initial capital to build these credit corporations provide the farmers and ranchmen a line of credit with the federal intermediate credit banks and furnish them a source of funds at reasonable rates for carrying on their feeding operations. The federal intermediate credit banks were functioning several years before the agricultural marketing act was passed and there was nothing in that time, nor is there anything now, to prevent those who are clamoring against the assistance given the cooperatives, to put some of their own money into credit corporations and supply the need.

About Financing

When a credit corporation is formed, like the National Live Stock Credit Corporation at Oklahoma City, which discounts its paper with the intermediate credit bank at Wichita, it is given a line of discount against its capital not to exceed ten times its unimpaired capital surplus. This money is obtained by the federal intermediate credit bank through the sale of debentures, and since these debentures are bought by the investment loans, they must be based upon sound loans. The money is not furnished by the government.

In seven states tributary to Kansas City, more than 6 million dollars of loans to livestock producers under this

TO THE MEMBERSHIP

During the last few weeks we have had a forceful demonstration of the fact that serious minded farmers all over the United States, recognize the soundness of the Farmers Union program and that all that is needed to arouse them to action is to go to them and tell them the truth.

The radio is providing the vehicle to bring the message to the people and we could follow up the work I have been enabled to do over the air, the Farmers' Union would very soon become, not only the most outstanding, most militant and most progressive organization of which it is now, but also the strongest numerically.

Over three thousand new names were added to the permanent mailing list of those who asked for copies of the radio talks. In the six months I have been active along that line, thousands of farmers have been set to thinking and now the results show up in the most gratifying manner.

In the state of Pennsylvania, five counties sent in applications for charters together with dues for two hundred and five members last week, all the result of radio work, followed up by correspondence.

In the state of Michigan, a group of farmers from near Hermansville heard the broadcasts, wrote for information and then proceeded to organize themselves into the Cleveland Farmers Union Local Number One, with a charter membership list of seventeen.

This gives us a membership in two states where the Union has never had an organized membership. Men and women who organize themselves into a Farmers Union are of the type which I am friendly to cooperative marketing. He recommended Mr. Strong's work in Congress as being favorable to farmers and to cooperative marketing.

Reviewed Legislative Fight

President Simpson gave a review of legislative efforts of the Farmers Union in Washington during the last session of Congress. He spoke of the efforts to obtain passage of the Wheeler bill which would have re-negotiated silver and would have broadened the money base. He also spoke of therazier bill which would have made possible the refinancing of farm loans at a low rate of interest. He spoke of the fact that this legislation was lost because the farmers are not organized as thoroughly as they should be. He spoke of the last legislation as a battle lost, but reminded his listeners that the war is not over, and that the loss of one battle does not mean loss of the cause.

Mr. Simpson devoted a good deal of time to the discussion of the Farmers Union Allotment Plan, contained in the three-point farm relief bill which was defeated in Congress. He says the Farmers Union will be fighting for that bill in the next session of Congress, making an effort to secure for the farmers cost of production.

Mr. Simpson branded the international bankers as a set of criminals, who hog the good things of the land for themselves. The international bankers have committed every known crime and have bribed foreign officials by having them get their influential money men to issue bonds and sell them to unsuspecting friends in America. He said the unsuspecting individuals in many cases were Kansas farmers. Mr. Simpson pointed out that 80 per cent of the wealth of the United States is controlled by four percent of the people. It is legislation to correct such conditions that the Farmers Union is fighting for, he said.

Other Speakers

Robert Luerance, steer salesman for the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Co. at Kansas City, was present at the Marshall county meeting and made a plea from the platform for the farmers to patronize their own cooperative live stock commission firm, and to refrain from helping to break the hog market by shipping direct to the packers.

August Wempe, who presided during the speaking program, presented Glen Loupold of Frankfort, introducing him as the champion cooperative live stock shipper, shipping to the Farmers Union firm at Kansas City from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma or Colorado. Mr. Loupold manages the Farmers Union shipping association at Frankfort.

Others introduced were H. E. Witham, manager of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, Rex Lear, Kansas manager of the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Co., and Floyd H. Lynn, Kansas Farmers Union secretary. "Uncle Andy" Shearer of Frankfort also was on the platform.

Mitchell Co. Picnic

The Mitchell county Farmers Union picnic was held at Beloit in Chautauqua Park, on Friday, July 29. Roy Bailey, editor of the Salina Journal, was the principal speaker. Mr. Bailey filled the place on the program which was originally meant for M. W. Thatcher of St. Paul, national representative of the Farmers National Grain Corporation.

The Mitchell county picnic was arranged on very short notice. Many of the Mitchell county folks wanted to hear Mr. Thatcher, and the picnic was arranged in order that he might attend while already in Kansas. However, it was learned by Mr. Thatcher (continued on page 4)

Are True Cooperatives

Another statement was to the effect that organizations to which the (continued on page 4)

LYNN ON RADIO FRIDAY

The Farmers Union radio program, which is a weekly feature over radio station WIBW, Topeka, each Friday evening, will be under the direction of Floyd Lynn, Kansas Farmers Union secretary, on Friday of this week. The Farmers Union half-hour period will begin at 7:30 o'clock. All Farmers Union members and all friends of organized agriculture are invited to tune in.

COUNTY MEETINGS INDICATE RETURN OF OLD INTEREST

Meetings in Marshall and Mitchell Counties Last Week Were Well Attended, and Enthusiasm Was at High Pitch

JOHN SIMPSON SPEAKS

National President Headliner at Marshall Co. Meeting; Roy Bailey, Salina Editor Talked at Beloit

Two lively county meetings of county Farmers Union organizations were held last week, and the attendance seems to indicate a renewal of interest in Farmers Union affairs, following the usual summer "let-down." The meetings referred to were held in Marshall and Mitchell counties.

The Marshall county meeting was held in Sholz's Grove, near Beattie, on Wednesday, July 27. John Simpson, national Farmers Union president, was the principal attraction. Over two thousand people were present. An added feature was the presence and short address of M. W. Thatcher, representative of the Farmers National Grain Corporation. A great deal of interest also centered in the short talk by Congressman W. P. Lambertson, candidate for Congress in the First District, opposing Congressman James Strong. Strong and Lambertson formerly were in different districts, but when the state was re-districted, both were thrown in the same district.

President Simpson declared himself in favor of Congressman Lambertson, while Mr. Thatcher's talk favored Congressman Strong. Mr. Thatcher's remarks recounted the progress being made by cooperative marketing, and particularly by the large cooperative known as the Farmers National Grain Corporation. He pleaded with the voters to vote to send a man to Washington who is friendly to cooperative marketing. He recommended Mr. Strong's work in Congress as being favorable to farmers and to cooperative marketing.

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VOTE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT KANSAS FARMERS UNION HAIL INSURANCE LOSSES

Although hail insurance losses are not necessarily payable until October 1, the Farmers Union Mutual Hail Insurance Co. voted Monday, August 1, to pay such losses immediately, in full. This action was taken at a regular meeting of this mutual company in its offices in the Farmers Union Insurance Company's building in Salina.

"We realize that farmers generally are in need of funds, so we decided not to wait until the regular lawful due date. We are fortunate enough to have this money ready for our policy holders, so we are mighty glad to get to send it to them ahead of time," said Mr. Ward J. Spencer, president-manager of the company.

This action is characteristic of Farmers Union institutions. They exist as a cooperative proposition, for the protection of their own members and co-operators.

The following directors of the Farmers Union Mutual Hail Insurance Co. were present at the Salina meeting: C. J. Diederich, Sheldon; W. C. Whitney, Phillipsburg; E. E. Whitney, Speed; O. E. Gartrell, Speed; Grant Bliss, Woodstock; Arthur Glesner, Beloit; Paul Lyttell, Topeka; George Peak, Erie; George Bushby, Belleville; H. M. Travelute, Bremen; F. J. Kingston, Hoisington, and W. J. Spencer, C. C. Cole and Anna Baird, all of Salina.

THE FARM PRICE INDEX GOES UP FIVE POINTS

An advance of five points was registered in the index of the general level of prices of farm prices from June 15 to July 15, according to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This resulted from a sharp upturn in prices of hogs, cattle, eggs, and cotton and of minor advances in five other farm commodities.

The July 15 farm index, compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, stood at 57 per cent of the pre-war average, the increase since June 15 having been the largest recorded in a month's time since July 1929. Hog prices advanced about 50 per cent during the period; cattle were up 19 per cent; eggs gained 13 per cent, and the farm price of cotton was up 11 per cent. Prices of small grains declined.

The bureau points out that the index on July 15 was 22 points below that of a year ago, and less than one-half of the average of July indexes for the preceding five years, but that "there is some compensation in this somewhat discouraging picture" in that there were sharp declines in prices of commodities that farmers buy and in the wages of hired farm labor, during the past year. The index of prices paid by farmers dropped about 18 points from July 1931 to July 1932.

The feeding of corn to hogs is now more profitable than at any time since April, 1927, on account of the sharp advance in hog prices and only a small increase in the farm price of corn, says the bureau. The hog-corn ratio was 4.41 on July 15 as compared with 9.5 on June 15.

WARD HAD TONSIL OPERATION

Cal Ward, president of the Kansas Farmers Union, is now in Excelsior Springs, Mo., where he reports he is making good progress toward recovery from his recent extensive illness. He left his home in Salina the last week in July, accompanied by Mrs. Ward in the hope of becoming cured of the effects of inflammatory rheumatism which had kept him confined to his home for several months.

Mr. Ward had his tonsils removed at an Excelsior Springs hospital on Tuesday morning, July 26, and reports that he came through the operation in fine shape and that he is beginning to feel better. He expects to be back in Salina within a comparatively short time. He is able to walk now, with the aid of crutches.

Let's Consider the Facts

"The Agricultural Marketing Act," says Peter B. Carey, president of the Chicago Board of Trade and leader in the movement to force farmer cooperative organizations to pay tribute to private grain firms for the privilege of trading on the Chicago Board, "became a law June 15, 1929, and under that act the farm board was created. On June 5, 1929, cash wheat sold at Chicago for \$1.23 3/4. On July 7, 1930, cash wheat sold at Chicago for 88 3/4 cents. On July 6, 1931, cash wheat sold at Chicago for 56 cents; on July 5, 1932, cash wheat sold at Chicago for 48 3/4 cents a bushel. It would appear from the foregoing, and the record of previous depressions, that something more than a business depression has been wrong with wheat prices."

Mr. Carey's purpose, undeniably, was to leave the inference that the Marketing Act and the Farm Board would be to hold the Marketing Act and its administration responsible for the world-wide increase in grain acreage and production, the world-wide economic debacle and its accompanying tremendous fall in the value of every form of security, and the world war, which destroyed the world's buying power.

From every unbiased source that speaks with authority the truths concerning the fall in prices of farm products can be obtained and these truths do not coincide with the statements of those whose purpose is to deceive farmers.

From the research division of Ernst & Ernst, nationwide accounting and auditing firm, comes the following analysis of the world situation with respect to wheat:

"Wheat producers of the United States are forced to market their surplus in a highly competitive world market. They are compelled to accept for their wheat a price which is determined by the 20 per cent exported. Export competition is growing keener. Importing countries are restricting imports. Prices have been falling for five years. . . ."

"There are several reasons for this drop in prices, one of the most significant being world business conditions. Of major importance, however, is the increase of 19 per cent above pre-war levels in world wheat acreage which was not accompanied by a corresponding increase in consumption."

Admittedly during the last two years prices of grain have fallen to almost starvation levels. To place the responsibility for these low prices on (continued on page 2)

TOM WELLS SPEAKS ABOUT ADVANTAGES OF GOOD INSURANCE

Represents Farmers Union Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Talk over WIBW, Topeka, on Friday Night

100 CENTS ON DOLLAR

Says Farmers Should Take Advantage of Farmer Insurance at Farmer Cost; Can't Afford to Do Without

Tom Wells of Elmdale, Kansas, one of the outstanding Farmers Union members of Kansas, made a strong appeal for investment in life insurance benefits, over radio station WIBW, Topeka, last Friday evening. Mr. Wells pointed out the advantages of a policy written by a farmer-owned company for farmers. Mr. Wells was speaking as a representative of the Farmers Union Mutual Life Insurance Co., of which Rex Lear is the Kansas manager.

"I am glad to assure you that there is one thing which is worth a hundred cents on the dollar today. In these hectic times, when stocks, bonds, in fact values of all kinds have tumbled, many of them having passed out of existence, the only relief to turn to a good legal reserve life insurance policy, such as that issued by the Farmers Union Mutual Life Insurance Company, to find that your cash values, your extended insurance and paid up insurance have increased in value. In fact your cash will today buy from two to three times as much of other commodities as it would a year ago." The balance of Mr. Wells' talk follows:

My friends, it is literally true that every man or woman, I care not what kind of property they own, or how careful they have been with that property, is worth much less today than a year ago; while on the other hand, if they had invested in a legal reserve life insurance policy, their wealth would be materially increased. It seems to me all should be attracted to the one thing that has stood up when all else has failed, totally or in part, practically the world over.

Legal reserve life insurance has been a good thing in our most prosperous times, but in times of distress it stands out in bold relief to shame mankind for his indifference, neglect, extravagance, unwise investments, and reckless spending in times of exceeding prosperity, which has left in its wake a trail of sorrow, indebtedness, bankruptcy and loss of homes and real estate, such as the world has never known before. We should have had a Joseph, in the years of plenty, to have laid up stores in the store house of legal reserve life insurance. That would provide for us now in the hour of reconstruction after the World War.

I cannot help but think what a difference there would be in this old world, if we had saved the money that was spent, in the World War and put the smallest fraction of it in legal reserve life insurance. Can you imagine what a changed world we would be living in?

Kansas has what is known as the blue sky law. It may have done a lot of good. I hope it has. I know that it has done a lot of harm. A lot of salesmen have gone over the state selling all kinds of stocks, bonds and securities, telling the people that they had met all the requirements of the blue sky law, and many have bought what has proven to be worthless stuff, that they would not have bought had it not been that they were misled, thinking that they were protected by this law. If we are to retain this law, it should be strengthened by requiring a deposit with the state of the profits of the statements made were to defraud purchasers. What we needed (continued on page 2)

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

All copy, with the exception of notices and advertising, should be in seven days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handed up until noon Saturday on the week preceding publication date.

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SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1932

POLITICS AND FARMERS UNION

By the time this reaches our readers, the results of the primary election will be known. Many candidates will have been disappointed, and many will have won nominations. The winners will begin planning their campaigns for the general election, and the losers will be wondering how they had better line up.

The thing that is generally done—which is the right thing to do—is for the losers to line up behind the candidates who beat them in their own party. However, some of the primary campaigns have been so bitter that it may be difficult for the losers to line up with the victors.

Naturally, the Kansas Union Farmer has maintained a position of neutrality as far as partisan politics are concerned. The Farmers Union is an organization has no part to take in partisan affairs. The Farmers Union of Kansas has a great interest in politics, but not from a partisan standpoint. The organization is interested in politics which will react to the good of agriculture, regardless of whether or not it reacts to the good of any particular political party.

There has been a bitter fight in the First Congressional District of Kansas for the nomination of the Republican candidate for congress to go before the voters in the general election. This fight became almost national in its influence. Let us hope that it will not involve the state or national Farmers Union in partisan politics.

Whatever may be the result of the primary election—which, of course, will be known by the time this paper reaches its readers—let us continue to keep the interests of the Farmers Union and organized agriculture upmost in our minds. We have in the Farmers Union good democrats, good republicans and good socialists. The members of the different parties naturally do not see certain issues or certain policies in the same light; yet that is no reflection on any of the members of any of the parties. Each man, no doubt, has a good reason to believe the way he does. The man who honestly disagrees with us is more pleasure to us than the man who apparently agrees with everything we say.

The intense feeling which has been generated by this campaign will subside as soon as the elections are over. It has always been that way, to a large extent, at least. So, in this campaign let us not be diverted from our true course of cooperation. Let us remember that regardless of the success or failure of any particular party or candidate, the Farmers Union remains militant for the farmers' interests, and that as an organization we have much work to do. We will continue to work with the government, and will seek to receive de-

served beneficial legislation, no matter what party may be in the ascendancy.

Let us realize the fact that when we fail as an organization, we fail because of our own lack of sufficient organization. We cannot, with good grace, lay the blame on any political party or any political leader or leaders. The blame comes right back home to us. We have failed to interest our neighbors, perhaps. It may be that some of us have even failed to keep our own memberships in good standing. It may be that some of us have failed to preach the Farmers Union gospel as vigorously as we should. Perhaps some of us have not patronized Farmers Union business or marketing organizations as faithfully as we should have done. If we find that any of these possibilities are true, then we must admit to ourselves that we are more to blame for lack of Farmers Union success than is any party or party leader.

There is one way to correct this condition; and when this condition is corrected, the whole country will be thereby much nearer the end of this distasteful depression. The one way to correct this condition is for each of us to pledge ourselves anew to support our class organization, the Farmers Union, one hundred per cent; then follow this pledge with definite action. Definite action means immediate payment of dues, and immediate campaign work among our neighbors in the interests of our own organization.

Such action, we intimated, will help bring the end of this depression. Such action will place agriculture, because of its complete organization, in a position to make demands for proper recognition among industries. We will therefore be in a position to place agriculture on a more secure footing than it now enjoys. Farmers will be given cost of production when they organize sufficiently, and will thus regain their purchasing power. With this purchasing power regained, they will begin buying more manufactured goods. Factories will open, and the millions out of work will be given employment and an earning power. The purchasing power of this class, then, will be restored. The depression will evaporate.

Investment in Farmers Union membership is your best investment.

PROBABLY ALREADY CRAZY

It is reported from Regensburg, Germany, that a farmer named Poepel, attended the meetings in his district of all the political parties in the last three elections and finally went insane and died in the lunatic asylum. The cause of death was officially described as "election psychosis."

"PUBLIC-BE-DAMNED BUSINESS HEAD"

President Carey of the Chicago Board of Trade may win the contention of that privately run public grain market in the courts, where the right and power of the board to exclude from its clearing house privileges the Farmers National Grain Corp. is on trial, but objection can be taken to his offensive reference to the government, says the Topeka Capital.

Some time ago the head of the Navy League resorted to similarly objectionable language in reference to the President of the United States, without adding to the general respect for the Navy League for good sense or good manners. President Carey does not appear to have learned anything from that episode. "The decision," he says, "was not unexpected. The commission is composed of President Hoover's jobholders. Naturally they would not decide against the subsidiary of Mr. Hoover's pet Farm Board, the Farmers National Grain Corporation." The commission is composed of the Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Agriculture and Attorney General of the United States. Their offices as "jobholders" are certainly as worthy of respect and of respectful courtesy as Mr. Carey's as head of the Chicago board of trade.

The cabinet commission in charge of regulation of grain markets has before it the law, which gives the farm co-operation access to grain markets and marketing. When Mr. Carey's private organization of grain brokers ousted the Farmers National Grain Corp. and refused to give it the privileges it claims under the law, the commission ordered the board of trade to rescind its order, on pain of being closed up.

Whether it discharged its duty under the law is a question to be determined by the courts, in the event that the grain exchange stands by its order. That the members of the cabinet are the President's "jobholders" has nothing to do with the merits of the issue. The judges who will decide this question are also "jobholders" in the same sense. The president of the board of trade is a "jobholder" of that organization who does it no credit by publicly expressing contempt of the government of the United States.

TAX RELIEF DEPARTMENT

By John Frost
Blue Rapids, Kansas

Number 46

THE DOCTRINE OF EXEMPTIONS FROM TAXATION

This doctrine is very comforting to those receiving the exemptions. Without exception the recipients of these special favors are sure it is right, positive it is for the general good of all, and piously hold that the exemptions are a part of the Lord's providential interposition in the affairs of men. 'Twas ever thus. Some of the properties for which exemptions are claimed, and sometimes secured are: Money, loans, accounts, insurance policies, idle land, stocks, bonds, vacant buildings, improvements on land, new capital for investment in the state for the first five years.

The State protects all property without exception. The State encourages all business without exception. The State is founded, as all republics are founded, on the principle of equal rights for all and special privileges for none. The laws of the State call for obedience from all, whether rich or poor, and without regard to race, religion, color, or caste. How then can it be reasoned that the property of some citizens should be exempted from paying taxes to support the government that protects their property and strives for their prosperity?

Every business has overhead expenses that can not be avoided. No business could call in its laborers and announce that it would not or could not pay for labor, and that pay for labor had been suspended or exempted. That business would immediately have no laborers. No business claims exemption from payment of rent or interest or freight or any other overhead expense—save one—that overhead expense of taxes due the government that guards its very existence and welfare. With specious arguments some patriots declare they are too good to contribute to the maintenance of their government. If any man thinks that the government furnishes no service, let him remove to central Africa, where there is no government to harass him with taxes, and let him operate his business from that vantage point.

"But why penalize my business by taxes—why not encourage it by tax exemption?" argues the defender of special privilege. Well, why penalize any business by requiring it to pay for labor? Why not make labor free and encourage the precious business? We can not encourage any business by tax exemption without discouraging every other business by piling on its

back the tax burdens exempted to the favored business.

"But loans should be exempted from taxation to lower interest rates and help the poor debtor," and tears come to the pleading eyes of the money lender. Why then should not clothing be tax exempt, so that clothes may be cheaper for all of us poor mortals? Why not exempt the groceryman from taxation, so that groceries may be cheaper? The answer is, 1st, that experience has demonstrated that neither the money lender nor the clothing merchant nor the groceryman nor any one else will sell their wares any cheaper than competition compels them to sell, regardless of the tax exemption, and 2nd, there are a lot of excuses but not one real reason, for taxes are a part of the overhead expense of every business.

Vote for the income tax amendment, and pull for a graduated income tax that levies on every income, "from whatever source derived," a tax in proportion to ability to pay, alike fair to all and without exemption to any.

AND THE FARM BOARD'S OUT

As far as the wheat holdings are concerned, the Farm Board is virtually out of the picture. It is not a factor in the surplus market any more. The "show window" wheat, that mythical shadow raised to depress the price of the commodity has disappeared.

And the farmer, looking at the wheat market, is beginning to wonder. He is tempted to ask many questions.

First, he recalls that not long ago officials of the Chicago Board of Trade said that if Farm Board wheat was out of the way or if they could have the remaining stocks to dispose of, they would speedily advance the wheat price a considerable amount. But they could not do it with the shadow of that farm board wheat hanging over the market.

That statement was made some little time ago and it has also been some weeks since the Farm Board holdings fell to such an insignificant figure that they had no effect any more. But where is that boost in the wheat price?

Saturday there was an interesting news item. It said that for the first time in quite a while United States wheat prices had sunk to the Liverpool price basis. In other words the United States grain went upon the world wheat price.

There was tremendous criticism of stabilization. There is yet today. It was shown at the time and later, that stabilization was only an emergency measure and admission of weakness, not by the Farm Board or personally interested parties, that the stabilization corporation, by getting into the market, prevented a disastrous crash by preventing the wheat market from going below the loan figure on the wheat. It is estimated that this move saved a tremendous number of loaning institutions, besides the benefit it gave to farmers. Then, for months, the American wheat farmer found himself getting about 20 cents more for his wheat than he would have received if stabilization had not been attempted.

But even when stabilization did about the American market higher than had always been a trifle lower. In other words the American wheat market, low as it was, was kept a little above the world basis. Now the Farm Board stocks are out of the show window, and the American wheat market is back to the world basis.

No wonder the farmer is beginning to wonder what has happened to that improvement Chicago Board of Trade officials promised as soon as Farm Board stocks were eliminated. If the grain trade does not want the commodity allotment bill or some similar measure adopted at the next session of congress, it had better get busy pronto and show that it can redeem the promises of much higher prices for its wheat.

Prohibition is a success, according to Mr. Ford. "There is not one per cent of the liquor done in the United States that was done formerly," he declares.

He refutes charges that prohibition is responsible for crime and contempt of law. "Anyone who charges it to prohibition will be nearer the truth if he charges it to liquor. And the cure is not more liquor but less," says Mr. Ford.

The movement against liquor, he adds, is now world-wide. If repeal agitation is made a national issue, he believes that the prohibition law will be overwhelmingly endorsed. "We shall see a hundred years of national conscience rolled into one indignant act that shall silence the question for all time," he maintains.

His own contempt for alcohol is stated without mincing words. "I have never known a drinker," he says, "even a moderate one, if there is such a thing, who has stood the test of crisis."

The machine age made prohibition a necessity, in Mr. Ford's view. "No one wants drinking men to be at the mercy of machinery," he says, "and no one wants to be at the mercy of any machine in the hands of a drinker. I have never heard anyone suggesting that we repeal the law that drinkers shall not drive cars."

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

THOUSANDS ATTEND MARSHALL COUNTY UNION GATHERING

The annual Marshall County Farmers Union picnic held at the Scholz grove north of Frankfort, was attended by a crowd estimated at 5-6000 people. Men, women and children were in attendance from adjoining counties and several Nebraska and Missouri cars were parked in the grove. Hundreds of people came in the forenoon bringing well filled baskets, the contents of which were served cafeteria style on four large tables.

The program for the day consisted of athletic contests for the youngsters, musical selections, song and dance numbers, and several other numbers besides the speakers. The Marysville band gave a concert following the speaking. The closing feature was a ball game between the east half of the county and west, which was won by the east.

President Wm. Taylor presided over the opening of the program and August Wempe introduced the speakers. The principal speaker and main attraction on the program was John A. Simpson, National Farmers Union president, who reviewed his efforts as legislative representative of the Farmers Union at the past session of Congress. The prolonged cheers which followed several of his statements showed that the crowd was in sympathy with his ideas. Other speakers included W. P. Lamberton, vice president of the Kansas Farmers Union, and representative of the First congressional district; M. W. Thatcher, St. Paul, now Washington representative of the Farmers National Grain Corporation; Robert Lierurance, of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission company; Floyd Lynn, Kansas Farmers Union Secretary, and George Bunker, Topeka. Others introduced were: Harry Witham, Kansas City; Rex Lear, Salina and Glen Leupold, Frankfort.

Much credit is due the Scholz Bros. and the Snipe Creek local for their efforts toward making the picnic a success.—O. W. Dam, Co. Secretary.

LETTER FROM SHIPPS

Belleville, Kan., 7-10-32

Dear Cooperators: I am indeed glad to note our state president, Carl Ward, is on the mend. I know it has been a very trying ordeal for one of his makeup. Over a year ago through the columns of this paper I warned against over-indulgence in our work. But few men can stand more hardship than I, and I keenly felt the need of a short rest last July 1st.

We, in my opinion, have passed the most strenuous time we will probably experience for some time to come. I feel certain that while we note a falling off in dues, those who now feel unable to pay will keep up the fight morally. In all my experiences, and they have been a dollar, was never so much appreciated as now. I do not measure deeds by dollars as much as do some, but dollars are mighty handy things to have around. I am enclosing a few short shots as they occur to me these days:

Better times ahead—what's the hurry? You may pass 'em unknowingly.

Promises from some politicians are about as hard to swallow as those given your best girl years ago.

This depression has surely made an impression.

To fool part of the people part of the time, is a man's job these days.

Bulls are higher, due extra baloney being fed.

Our national income O.K. The division thereof is bunk. Only about a 7 per cent deal to farmers.

Few years ago food was served on Haviland china. Today any old buck-eter or lard can will do.

Think it over—cooperate.

J. E. Shipps

LET'S CONSIDER THE FACTS

(continued from page 1)
sumption. Consequently world wheat stocks have reached record levels. "Wheat exporting countries have boosted their combined acreage 25 per cent above prewar levels. Importing countries likewise have added to their acreage by an average of 5 per cent. Nevertheless, American producers and American business men must face the consequences of this upward trend of world wheat production which has intensified the downward price trend. The world now produces over five billion bushels of wheat a year, a little more than is used, even at present prices."

According to Dow Jones the average price per share of thirty of the leading stocks on September 3, 1929, was \$381.17. By November of 1929 the average value of these stocks was \$199 per share. On May 12, 1932, the average value per share of these same stocks had dropped to \$54, wiping out billions of dollars of private fortunes. A little more than two years ago United States Steel was selling \$261.75 a share. As of the middle of May of this year it stood on the market at \$27. American Can at \$35.75 a share reflected a drop from the boom market price of \$184.50. American Telephone at \$94.25 was selling \$26.17 a share. As of the middle of May of this year it stood on the market at \$27. American Can at \$35.75 a share reflected a drop from the boom market price of \$184.50. American Telephone at \$94.25 was selling \$26.17 a share. As of the middle of May of this year it stood on the market at \$27. American Can at \$35.75 a share reflected a drop from the boom market price of \$184.50. American Telephone at \$94.25 was selling \$26.17 a share. As of the middle of May of this year it stood on the market at \$27.

Thus, since last Oct. the value of the nation's leading stocks underwent slashing cuts overshadowing the fall of wheat values. For these drastic declines neither the Farm Board nor the cooperatives can be blamed. Opponents of cooperative marketing conveniently forget them, however or minimize them and point only to farm commodity price declines.

TOM WELLS SPEAKS ABOUT ADVANTAGES OF GOOD INSURANCE

(continued from page 1)
in the days of our prosperity, was not a blue sky law, but a stop light if you please. If but a small part of the like under this law had been placed in paid up life insurance, Kansas people would have plenty of money today.

Will Rogers' Idea
Will Rogers has this to say about life insurance. "What is life insurance going to cost you? Nothing, if you take it but your entire income to your family if you don't. When you buy insurance you not only know where you are, but if you die your family knows where they're at."

We are at this time, in the midst of a Presidential campaign. Many of us are working ourselves into a white heat, believing that the results of the coming election will be of vital importance to us. Friends, I am one that believes that it is the duty of every American citizen to inform himself and vote as his conscience dictates. However, it is far more important to us as individuals to provide protection for the future of our families, which can be obtained in a legal reserve life insurance policy, than to elect a certain party as president.

Governments can not do for you what you can do for yourself, and it should not be expected of them. The responsibility of Government in every department has been materially increased, in caring for the poor and unemployed. It is the budget that has increased, regardless of the effort to hold it down. Here is a place where Government has an interest in the saving of the individual. Life insurance is something that the old adage applies to. Where there is a will there is a way. There are but few people who could not provide protection for their declining days, if they had the will to do so.

It has been my privilege, a number of times, to deliver a check for a life insurance policy, into the hands of those who had lost the only bread winner of the family. That money came to the family when needed as never before. It was used to pay off the mortgage in some cases. No one having the experience in life insurance that I have had can fail to be a firm believer in the same. It has given relief when all else has failed.

Can't Afford to Do Without.

Men have told me many times, that they did not need insurance as they had plenty of property to meet the requirements of their families. But alas—how many of them have seen their property disappear like mist!

Men of wealth who were careful, conservative business men, have lost all and died in poverty. What a calamity all of which could have been prevented if only a small part of their money had been invested in life insurance.

Some will say that they cannot afford life insurance. But I say that you cannot afford to do without it. Others will say that it costs too much. Do you realize that at age twenty you can have an ordinary life insurance policy in the amount of a \$1,000 in the Farmers Union Mutual Life Insurance company for the cost of five cents a day, the price of a package of chewing gum? At the age of thirty five you can have a twenty pay life policy of \$1,000 for less than the price of two five cent cigars a day. Why should one fail to take advantage of a sure proposition of this kind?

Life insurance is the only thing that you can buy on the installment plan, with a small amount of money, and in case of your death all of the installments are paid in full.

Our life insurance is just one of the many lines we have to offer, to the farmers and common people. A farmer-owned and farmer controlled legal reserve mutual life insurance company, writing as good insurance as money can buy, at cost to the policy holder. The legal reserve going into our own investments, in the way of carefully selected farm loans; the best security in the world today, as it always has been.

We contend by our own experience and Government statistics, that we have a lower death rate and thereby a lower net cost. Therefore there is every reason why people who are eligible to our insurance should avail themselves of the opportunity to secure the insurance that is designed to benefit our class and build for its permanency.

Life insurance by its very nature is cooperative. It is the plan that is better calculated to bring about the independence of the agricultural classes than any activity that the Farmers Union has ever undertaken, and for that reason should have the hearty support of its friends and the entire membership.

But few people realize the real worth of life insurance policy or what it really means to them. It is an important document. Many do not read their policies, and for that reason they do not know what they contain. This should not be the case. One should be familiar with its provisions. The Farmers Union policies are all plain and easy to understand.

I am personally acquainted with the officers at the Home Office at Des Moines, Iowa. They are a fine lot of fellows, who are anxious to render the very best service possible to the policy holder. Mr. Rex Lear, our state manager, at Salina, Kansas, is a real cooperator and stands ready at all times to give you any help in his power.

I want to give you one of the many experiences that has come to me. In the first place let me say that I should never have written life insurance had it not been for the Farmers Union, and my knowledge of the possibility of its building up enormous reserves, to bring about the emancipation of the great agricultural class through life insurance reserve. I wrote up a young friend, who did not believe in life insurance. In order to get rid of me, he told me to make it for as small an amount as possible, which I did, with the agreement that he would take the trouble to read his policy. The result was that in a short time, he came to me and told me that he wanted to increase his insurance to \$5,000, which he did. The result is today he has over \$600 in cash value. This young farmer who has this insurance

has just about as much other property as the other farmer who has carried no insurance, and therefore has no cash value. Their indebtedness at the local bank is about the same amount. The man with the \$600 cash value can meet his obligation any day, which is not true of the other party. Bankers are like the old Dutchman however. They seldom want their money if they know that they can get it any time.

In conclusion let me say that mankind has not developed a more efficient scientific, financial agency than the highly developed legal reserve life insurance policy.

Poverty is a severe handicap to the individual, to the state, and to the nation. It has been the curse of all times. To overcome it should be the ambition of every good citizen of the country.

Friends, I know of no way as sure or as easily within the reach of the great mass of our people, to relieve this condition, as some one of the many forms of legal reserve insurance policies written by the Farmers Union Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Conditions will improve and times will get better, and when they do, let us not forget the lesson that we have learned in part by our own folly, in not providing in the years of plenty for the lean years that often follow.

DON'T MARKET HALF-FAT HOGS

Now is a good time to move those marketable pigs that were held over last spring, we are told by Vance M. Rucker, Extension Marketing Specialist Kansas State College. Hog prices bid fairly to take a downward swing in August. How much and how fast depends upon whether or not continued dumping on a declining price, as in the past week, continues. A second upturn to a peak in late August or early September should come later, about one-half of the years since 1894 have this double, summer peak. The first peak centers around the first or second 10 days of July. The low that follows centers about the first 10 days to the second 10 days of August, with the second high peak centering about the first to the middle of September. Bad business conditions may push this second peak back into late August. With the 7 per cent smaller spring pig crop and heavy May slaughter this year, there is ground for predicting that 1932 will be a year with a double peak in summer prices. With this in mind, there is no need for rushing to market with half-fat spring pigs that are not ready.

FIGHT NEXT YEAR'S WEEDS

Many times the late summer garden is observed to be overgrown with weeds and grass, particularly those parts from which the crops have already been harvested. Such a procedure insures a crop of weeds and grass in the spring of several years, and especially for the following says Henry L. Lobenstein, Extension Horticulturist, Kansas State College.

Freedom from grass and weeds in the garden can soon be achieved if the gardener prevents weeds and grasses from reseeding. Weeds and grass should be killed even though the immediate crop has been harvested. By keeping the garden plot occupied with a growing crop until the advent of frost, it is much easier to cultivate. Weeds and grass growing around the edges of the garden and along the fence rows should be kept from reseeding, for their seeds are easily spread over the garden.

FARM POPULATION GAINS

The increase in farm population in 1931 was the largest and most significant in the ten years in which the United States Department of Agriculture has been estimating changes in population. For seven years of this period the annual decrease in farm population has been estimated at 100,000. On January 1, 1932, the farm population was 30,612,000 persons as compared with 30,612,000 on January 1, 1931, a gain of 645,000, according to department estimates.

SUSPICIOUS FIRES

Checking abruptly, after a series of monthly fire loss increases, the June fire loss report issued by Douglas A. Graham, state fire marshal, shows a decrease in loss cost compared with the loss for June 1931. The loss for June of this year was \$190,223, compared to a total for June, 1931, of \$268,098. Of the 194 fires for June 64 were listed as "cause unknown." These 64 fires resulted in total damage of \$124,589. Three fires known to have been of incendiary origin, caused damage of \$4,200 and several of the 64 of unknown origin may be listed as "suspicious."

TRENCH SILO DOES THE JOB

Mrs. Clara M. Keller is enthusiastic about trench silos. On her Cheyenne County, Kansas farm, she makes use of this type of silo to furnish green feed the year round for her herd of 40 Holstein cows, 40 Hampshire brood sows, and 700 laying hens. The first trench silo she built was not very successful. The greatest trouble was that the walls did not have a slope to them. The silage settled away from the walls and resulted in spoilage of the silage. The walls saved off during the first summer, and that made it impossible to feed out the air.

But Mrs. Keller remedied these wrongs when she built her next trench silo. She made one with 1 foot of slope to each 4 feet of depth in the walls. The trench is 90 feet long, 12 feet deep, and 8 feet wide at the bottom. Now she has a most economical means of storing green feed for her livestock.

Fires in the national forests dropped 46 per cent in acreage burned over for the first half of this year as compared to the same period in 1931, according to the forest service. Altogether 51,514 acres have been burned over as against 96,228 acres the first half of last year.

