



THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-Operation

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THE GREAT POLITICAL DRAMA IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The following address was delivered by William Hirth, Publisher of The Missouri Farmer, and Chairman of the Corn Belt Committee, at the great conference of farm leaders which took place at St. Paul, Minnesota, on July 11th and 12th:

"If it is possible for those who have embarked on the silent march to penetrate the mists that separate the great mysterious Shadowland from this troubled vale of tears in which we have our being, then I am quite sure that at this very moment Phineas T. Barnum is watching the drama that is being enacted in the Black Hills with profound interest—for upon the outcome of that drama depends how nearly the famous old showman was right when he said that a new sucker is born every minute. Mr. Coolidge succeeds in the object that caused him to select these beautiful, though lonesome hills as a summer retreat, then it means that old Barnum was almost criminally conservative—then it means that we have come upon a time when a President of the United States who garbs himself with a cowboy hat and a tight little New England smile can make suckers out of the sovereign citizens of a great American commonwealth. And in his most reckless moment old Barnum would never have believed possible. Aye more than that, not only does Mr. Coolidge expect to make suckers out of the farmers of South Dakota, but at the same time he hopes to soothe and chloroform Agricultural discontent throughout the Northwest and in the great Corn Belt of which it has been proudly said for many years that it is the 'bread basket of the world.'"

Hardly had the President vetoed the McNary-Haugen Bill when it was whispered about in Washington that he would spend his vacation in the Central West in order that he might study the Agricultural question first-hand and thus endeavor to reach a sound understanding of what the actual conditions are and what is necessary to remedy them. And on the face of things this vacation in the Central West in order that he might study the Agricultural question first-hand and thus endeavor to reach a sound understanding of what the actual conditions are and what is necessary to remedy them. And on the face of things this vacation in the Central West in order that he might study the Agricultural question first-hand and thus endeavor to reach a sound understanding of what the actual conditions are and what is necessary to remedy them.

But when the time came for Mr. Coolidge to choose a location for the summer White House, he did not select a friendly and spacious front porch amid the great cornfields of Iowa or Illinois, or even the wheat fields of Kansas or Nebraska, realms which may truly be said to be the very citadel of Agricultural discontent, and where "economically unsound" farm leaders are as thick as fiddlers in Hades—instead he chose a retreat that is quite a bit removed from the big pot that simmers and boils in the mighty Corn Belt. And when I make this observation I don't mean for one moment to imply that identically the same Agricultural problem does not exist in South Dakota that exists in Iowa, Illinois, Kansas or Nebraska, but what I do mean is that if the President really had blood in his eye and if he was looking for a chance to smite those who, agriculturally speaking, are alleged to be economically unsound, then he would be domiciled in the heart of the Corn Belt at this hour. And in the meantime I am sure I do simple justice to the intelligence of the farmers of South Dakota when I remind them that Mr. Coolidge is sojourning out in the beautiful Black Hills today, not to angle for mountain trout, but to angle for the delegates of South Dakota to the coming National Republican convention.

Some days ago the newspapers announced that Mr. Coolidge had accepted an invitation to appear at several public gatherings, and among them a great farmers' picnic. But if these press dispatches are to be believed, the President accepted these invitations with the distinct understanding that he would not be asked to make a public address. And I wonder why? After having vetoed the McNary-Haugen Bill in one of the most scathing and voluminous documents that ever emanated from the White House, I wonder why he should be reluctant to explain and amplify the views expressed in the document before an audience of farmers anywhere in the United States? If today Theodore Roosevelt were the President who focused the National attention upon the Black Hills instead of Mr. Coolidge, can anyone imagine the immortal Rough Rider dodging a great public question in this fashion? Or, for that matter, reaching back to the hallowed days of George Washington, have we ever had an occupant of the White House until Mr. Coolidge entered it who would have hesitated to discuss any great public question at any time, anywhere?

The simple truth of the matter is that Mr. Coolidge does not trust himself to a frank and open discussion of the Agricultural question before an audience of farmers—evidently and with good reason he and his advisers have the fear that some courageous,

self-respecting farmer would ask certain questions that Mr. Coolidge would find exceedingly difficult and embarrassing to answer. And therefore the stage has been set with a degree of skill that might well arouse the envy of a Belasco or a Griffith—apparently the plan is for the President to wear his cowboy hat and a rakish angle, to brag on the Black Hills which are dear to the heart of South Dakota, to smile as nearly as he knows how to smile, to shake hands and be a "regular guy" and last but by no means least, to invite to the summer White House from time to time certain so-called farm leaders who will declare with profound finality that the McNary-Haugen Bill is a delusion and a snare, and who will commend the President for having protected the farmers of the Nation against a measure so wholly inequitable, "economically unsound" and vile. Already a number of these stool pigeons for the Industrial East have said their little pieces and no doubt others of similar kidney will follow in due time. And thus the newspapers are declaring in flaring headlines that Mr. Coolidge is "Winning the West" and that the McNary-Haugen Bill is dead—a discredited and repudiated nightmare of the past, etc., etc.

This is the kind of carefully planned propaganda that is emanating from the summer White House, and if the farmers of South Dakota and of the United States will be deceived by it, then the cause of American Agriculture is hopeless indeed. First and last, without an honest and open performance of the duties of the President, it is the most remarkable spectacle in the history of American politics—it is the first time that the great office of President has been used in a gigantic bunco game, and without the slightest hesitation I make the charge with reference to the performance that is now transpiring in the Black Hills! Naturally the people of any state are proud to entertain a President and to do him homage while he is in their midst. But the price that Mr. Coolidge expects to exact of the farmers of South Dakota for the honor which he is conferring upon their commonwealth is, as I have said, their endorsement of him for a third term in the White House—and I submit that they cannot pay this price without an utter loss of self-respect, and without striking in the face the farm leaders of the Country who have spent five long, weary years in battling for Agricultural justice in Washington and who in the face of the vast power exerted against them by the great Coolidge machine, smashed that machine into kindling wood and won the greatest victory that Agriculture has ever known.

A Master Politician
Mr. Coolidge has well earned the title of "Cautious Cal" and it is true that he would conscientiously strive to carry out this solemn pledge. But time has proven conclusively that the President regarded this pledge as nothing more than so much political applesauce—it was merely intended to catch the farm vote, and it served its purpose most admirably. Of course the President heroically poses as a great friend of co-operative marketing, but no one knows better than he that under existing conditions this is harmless and will not assure the farmer of a dollar of 100c purchasing power—no one knows better than he that this will not make the tariff effective on our surplus farm commodities or ratchets to Agriculture "equality with industry." The President moved Heaven and Earth for the passage of the Fess Bill which was a meaningless sop to co-operative marketing, and which proposed a new loan of \$100,000,000 to farmers and farm co-operatives—and yet he knew perfectly well that what the farmer needs is not a chance to go deeper into debt, but such a price for the fruits of his toil as will enable him to pay off some of the crushing debts he now owes.

There is no higher authority in the Republican party today than Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury. (Continued on page 4)

STATE FIRE MARSHAL DEPARTMENT
TOPEKA, Kan., July 3.—Kansas continues to reduce its fire losses as compared with a year ago. In June, 1926, there were 236 fires reported to this department with a loss of \$544,895. The reports for June this year show a total of 154 fires with a loss of \$227,890, a reduction in the state of \$317,005. Nearly one-half of last month's fire loss includes the burning of three stores. These were: Arkansas City, \$25,000; Eureka, \$40,450; Fort Scott, \$10,176. A church at Plainville was destroyed, valued at \$30,000. But for these four big losses, the reduction for the last month as compared with a year ago, is outstanding. It shows that the people of Kansas are becoming aroused over the needless waste of their property by fire.

And here let me say that while the President has acquired an outstanding reputation for political caution and cunning, he is not without a degree of daring—for I submit to you that it takes a pile of nerve to maneuver for a third term endorsement at the hands of the farmers of South Dakota in the face of the broken pledge he made to them on behalf of Agriculture four years ago—it takes a pile of nerve to angle for a third term endorsement at the hands of a group of farmers who have lost scores of millions of dollars in depreciated land values since the close of the World War, and who during this time have had thousands of farms sold by the sheriff and who have seen the doors locked on 296 erstwhile prosperous state banks—it takes a pile of nerve to assume that these South Dakota farmers will forget these wrongs which cry to high Heaven, merely because he has established in the summer White House in his midst. If, for instance, Mr. Coolidge had treated the steel mills and the coal operators of Pennsylvania as he has treated the farmers of South Dakota, does anybody believe for one moment that he would, through similar official flattery, make a bid for the great Pennsylvania delegation that he would not dare play in Pennsylvania? Because from time out of mind the farmer has been regarded as a sort of half-wit who does not know his rights and whose discontent can be quieted at the proper political baby rattles, and a little flattery from the thin, hard lips of the mighty! And if there is any red blooded American left in the farmers of South Dakota, then when the time comes they will resent this reflection upon their intelligence and patriotism in a manner that the Country will not soon forget!

The President's Broken Pledge
And now I want to remind the farmers of South Dakota that when Mr. Coolidge asked for their endorsement four years ago, he did so upon the following specific pledge to Agriculture:

"The Republican party pledges itself to the development and enactment of measures which will place the Agricultural interests of America on a basis of equality with the other industries, to insure its prosperity and success."

And was humbug language ever more plain? Was not the adoption of this plank by the National Republican Convention in 1924 a frank acknowledgment that the farmer was not on a basis of equality with industry? And when Mr. Coolidge accepted the nomination on this platform, did not the farmers of South Dakota and the rest of the Country have a right to assume that, if elected, he would conscientiously strive to carry out this solemn pledge? But time has proven conclusively that the President regarded this pledge as nothing more than so much political applesauce—it was merely intended to catch the farm vote, and it served its purpose most admirably.

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These are some of the questions that are always confronting the Board of Directors of the F. U. Creamery and the answer to those questions by the board has always been "yes." Equality and justice to members of the Farmers Union Co-operative Produce Association cannot be meted out however, where one group receives one price for their products and another group or groups a different price. We all recognize that a co-operative business cannot be run on a competitive basis and still retain any of the earmarks of co-operation. Our competitors ask for nothing better than for us to try to conduct our business on a competitive basis with them for by so doing we will defeat every objective of our organization and the co-operative plan.

The board feels sure that the membership want justice done and so in order to more surely accomplish this resolution was passed on Tuesday, July 19th, while the board was in session to the effect that on and after August 1, 1927, the management of the Farmers Union Creamery at Kansas City will be required to demand of all station operators handling eggs for the Creamery that the price paid for those eggs shall be in all cases the card or station price.

We cannot in justice to either one, "rob Peter to pay Paul," none of the members want to be placed in the position of either Peter or Paul in this instance. Just as in the early history of the Western States Co-operative Egg and Poultry Producers Association the members were offered prices far in excess of actual market values by those whose sole object was to destroy the co-operative plan so our members have been tempted this summer by those who have amassed fortunes in the handling of eggs and poultry. Why? Because they love you so. And they sure want you to know that they are your friend so true. And they're doing it for you, for you. Is that so?

E. L. Bullard.

:: Neighborhood Notes ::

MEMBERS OF THE FARMERS UNION CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION RECEIVE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

Distribution of final settlement checks on last year's deliveries of eggs is now being made to members of the Farmers Union Co-operative Produce Association.

The distribution of checks is being made through the medium of meetings instead of being sent through the mail. At these meetings, moving pictures featuring co-operative organizations in action and a one-reel comedy for the children are being shown by Mr. Francis, field superintendent, and the distribution of checks is made by Mr. Bullard, president of the association.

This method of making distribution has been chosen in order that proper explanation might be made regarding the activities of the association. It also affords an opportunity for members to ask any questions they may desire concerning the organization and get first-hand and direct information.

Meetings have been held and distribution of checks made at the following points: Ottawa, LaPorte, Harris, Burlington, Olsburg, Westphalia, Waverly, Overbrook, and Baldwin.

Meetings are scheduled for future dates at points as follows: Paola, Friday, July 29th. LaCygne, Saturday, July 30th. Olathe, Monday, August 1st. Wellsville, Tuesday, August 2nd. Pomona, Wednesday, August 3rd. Centropolis, Thursday, August 4th. Blue Mound, Friday, August 5th. Meetings will be arranged and distribution of checks made to members at other points just as rapidly as possible.

R. F. Anderson of Phillipsburg was an effective witness in the grain rate hearings at Wichita Saturday. He and Ralph Snyder, president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, came up as far as Salina with C. E. Brasted and C. E. Huff, going to Manhattan via Union City. From Manhattan Mr. Anderson returned to his home. He is manager of the Phillips County Farmers Union.

MRS. L. C. GRETTEN OF ANDERSON COUNTY IS AGAIN ABLE TO BE OUT

We have received a letter from Mrs. L. C. Gretten, who has been ill for many weeks. We think the most delightful thing in her letter was the statement that she was again able to drive her car. That means that she is regaining her health rapidly now. She spoke of their coming county meeting which is to be held at the Van Sickle home at Garnett, with a great deal of enthusiasm, saying that there would be more than sixty present besides the men. In regard to the Women's Auxiliary in that county she said that Mrs. C. G. McCall and she were planning to call on every woman in the county and make an intensive campaign, before the state meeting. We wish we might hear as good news from every organized county in the state.

COWLEY COUNTY MEETING

Cowley county will hold their county meeting with the Kellogg Local No. 1809, Thursday, August 4th. This Local is near Winfield and the meeting is to be a night meeting. State President C. E. Huff will be the speaker of the evening.

TWELVE "IFS"
If you want to be respected, you must respect yourself and others.
If you want to control others, you must learn to control yourself.
If you want friends, be friendly.
If you want love, don't be stingy with your own love.
If you want justice, be fair with others.
If you want consideration, be considerate.
If you want to be great, be simple and humble, but firm.
If you want courtesy, be courteous.
If you want to be strong, be quiet but unafraid.
If you want to keep your character and reputation above suspicion, keep your legs quite frequently while loading the wheat into the barge as it came from the elevator mouth. I was young, only 10, the skinner I had in soon healed. While I panted and sweated, the thistles brushing against my bare legs made me realize I was not paralyzed.

FARMERS GROWING POORER
Official government statistics show that the farmers of the country are growing poorer, and that their incomes have shrunk to an average of \$853 a year, and that the aggregate revenues from agriculture in 1926-27 declined 20 per cent. Loans made on farms are generally regarded as "frozen credits," and a great number of banks have been closed down because they have tried to help the farmers through their difficulties.

And still a lot of politicians and swivel chair editorial writers continue to ask what the farmers are kicking about.

RENEWING THE NOTES.

Not one borrower out of ten who went to the bank and secured money on his soldier bonus renewed his note when it fell due. As a result the government is taking up the loans from the banks and the veterans will lose the accumulated benefits which they would secure if they had protected their certificates at the banks.

To err is human; to forgive Divine.
—Pope.

ESTABLISHING TWO SYSTEMS FOR THE COST OF ONE

By Milton O. Glessner, Salina, Kansas.
When I was a boy on a Rush county, Kansas, wheat farm, bounded by other wheat farms, my thoughts and actions were influenced by wheat. My first harvesting job lasted 10 days and consisted in loading both header-barges for one header. I was paid \$7.50 for my labor. I used a short-handled fork and managed to prick my legs quite frequently while loading the wheat into the barge as it came from the elevator mouth. I was young, only 10, the skinner I had in soon healed. While I panted and sweated, the thistles brushing against my bare legs made me realize I was not paralyzed.

On Borrowed Capital
But the farmer I was working for seemed to be worried over something that was pricking him deeper than pitchforks or thistles. Why should a man worry when the "best wheat in the world" was being harvested by cheap labor and the machinery he used was of the very best? Little did I realize the silver dollars I had in my pocket had been borrowed at the bank. All the money required to put that wheat in the stack had been borrowed at 10 per cent interest. A note given at the bank, with the signature of the farmer guaranteeing payment in a short time after harvest, was the thing that was pricking the farmer so deeply. The thing that was worrying the farmer was debts.

Debts, how could they be eliminated? During the noon hour I could hear plans being made for getting the wheat threshed as soon as possible after harvest so that the debts could be paid. Interest! What a demon it was! Eating into the farmer's wheat crop both day and night. I have heard harsh words said about the banker and his system of charging interest.

Paid 36 Per Cent Interest
One of the neighbors told how he had borrowed money in an earlier day and had been compelled to pay three per cent per month, or 36 per cent interest per year. I wondered if that had anything to do with his hair turning grey or whether that caused his face to be wrinkled. If you doubt this statement, write to Ed Baker of Bison, Kansas.

Mortgages! What could there be about a mortgage that would make an old soldier shed tears, when he had fought for four years on the battlefields of the south, spent five months in Libby prison and heard the cry of the shell and the cry of the wounded and dying in the still hours of the night on many battlefields? "Can't you wait until we can sell the wheat?" Who was it calling on the farmer and urging him to hurry and dispose of his crop? Mortgages and debts were the heartless wretches. There seems to be only one sure way of disposing of these heartless home-wreckers and that is by doing away with the credit and mortgage system.

A Tremendous Task
When we undertake to overthrow a system that has fastened its talons into the very heart of the nation and "has cowed down the farmer until he must crouch and cower like a belated hound beneath his master's lash," we meet the opposition of the education and the uneducated, the master and the slave. It is a battle of right against injustice.

Business on a cash basis eliminates credit and mortgages. Can the cash system be established without cost or sacrifice? He who thinks that it can reckon without the enemy that is as old as civilization. In order to establish a cash system of business we find it necessary to establish a system of marketing.

All attempts on the part of farmers to establish a system of marketing, even in a small way, have met the determined opposition of the money lenders and the grain brokers. The money lenders know that as long as the grain brokers operate in such large swarms, and continue to harp in the farmer's ear the old song of "competition being the life of trade," that a system of marketing is deferred and the money lender is safe.

An Interwoven System

The grain brokers know that as long as the money lenders can keep the farmer in debt and compel him to dump his products on the market in an effort to pay high interest rates, the grain brokers are safe. Local co-operative elevators were opposed by local grain men to quite an extent, but as long as money had to be borrowed at the local bank at a high rate of interest, to carry on the operations of the elevator, the banker only opposed the effort because it tended to disrupt the business already established.

When we had taken the first step in co-operation and learned that competition among ourselves was the chain that was binding us to the credit and mortgage system, we cast our eyes in the direction of the terminal market and in the direction of war. Many farmers do not today know that when the first marketing agreement was written for the Kansas Wheat Growers' Association that that was a "declaration of war" on the credit and mortgage system.

How Bankers "Co-operated"

Did the battle begin? Ask some of the directors of the Kansas Wheat Growers' Association. Was it war on the part of the bankers to the point of extermination when they compelled the farmer who wanted to cash a draft on the association to make the grower sign a note securing the bank before the draft would be paid? When the directors were required to give their personal notes for money to start operations of the pool, was that any evidence that the bankers

were fighting the idea of co-operative marketing? Did the bankers advise the growers to stay out of the pool for the sake of the farmer or was it not for the purpose of continuing the credit system of high interest rates?

The grain men scoffed at the idea of "eliminating competition among farmers" by co-operative marketing. Did the grain trade try to disrupt the morale of the farmers by striking at the very foundation of the movement, the co-operative elevators? Who sent the circulars to the elevators belittling the efforts of farmers if it was not the dealers? Who spent money in buying farmers, by paying them more than the market price for their wheat, in an effort to discourage them in their efforts at co-operation?

Demands Sacrifice

The battle continues. The Kansas Co-operative Wheat Marketing Association has taken the banner of justice from the hands of the Kansas Wheat Growers' Association and the Farmers Union pool and is marching on. Our ranks are thinned. The battle-scarred veterans of the past five years have their faces toward the enemy. No brass band is cheering for their wheat, in an effort to discourage them in their efforts at co-operation?

Our neighbors are looking on with trembling knees. Will they enlist in our ranks, lending courage and strength to the cause, or are they so conquered and subjugated that the blood is frozen in their veins and they stand like fat oxen waiting for the butcher's knife? When we look about us and see the weak-kneed brothers deserting us on the grounds that the fight was misrepresented to them, or that they are in debt and must have all their money when they thresh their crops, we almost lose heart in the struggle. But for the fact that the struggle is international and knows no defeat we would bow our heads to the guillotine.

Canadian Farmers Winning

In Canada our brothers are winning. They send us word to hurry us to fight on. They are displacing the brokers and money changers. Their premises are enlisted in their ranks. They are operating nearly on a cash basis. Their payments from the crop deliveries are paying harvesting and threshing expense. Debts are being wiped out. Farmers are hopeful that they shall "sit beneath their own vine and fig tree and none shall dare to make them afraid."

We are establishing two systems: A system of marketing and a system of financing. All the cost of establishing these two systems must be borne by the system of marketing. If we fail to realize this and undertake to compare the price that we get for our wheat with the price the man gets who sold his wheat to the enemy, we may find that we are short some few cents per bushel. If we are expecting to establish two systems for the cost of one and then beat the strongest opposition in the world in getting a price, we have our expectations screwed up to the limit.

Growers Must Pay

We have to furnish our own ammunition, which consists of publicity, lectures, and organization workers. We must keep a complete record of every member's deliveries, elections of directors, board meetings, and every step the organization has taken has to be paid for by us. There have been no donations. We must pay for these things if we would have them. Because of the efforts of the association to stabilize the markets by marketing orderly, and because the opposition has wished to discredit the efforts of farmers toward co-operative marketing, competition or war as to price was waged last season at the time of the greatest delivery period, with the result that the market was forced up. The farmer who was compelled to sell to satisfy his needs, incurred at harvesting time received the full benefit of the raise, which is estimated at from five to 15 cents per bushel for wheat.

Many Things to Consider

Figuring the price which my wheat brought on the average, considering the fact that we are establishing two systems which are essential; considering that we are making a fight against the strongest organizations on earth; considering the fact that a handful of farmers in Kansas are waging the fight of all farmers in the United States, and further considering the fight as being the deciding factor for years to come as to whether we shall be bound and gagged by the credit system or freed by a cash system, I am willing to be beaten by several cents per bushel by my weak-kneed neighbors, for they won't hardly have the nerve to mention it and can claim no credit for getting it.

We have plenty to brag about if we are so inclined. Interest rates have been reduced through our efforts. Terminal elevators have been bought and operated. Direct sales with millers and exporters are now a common practice. The fact that payments on last year's crop are helping to harvest this year's crop proves that the cash system is possible, and that we are establishing two systems at the cost of one.

Whoever is contented is rich.—Burdett.

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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.

Change of Address—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 including advertising, should be in seven days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handled up until noon Saturday on the week preceding publication date.

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.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1927

FROM THE BLACK HILLS

The background for the new farm bill is being carefully built up at the summer White House in the Black Hills. Editors, politicians, business men, a few tame farmers, call to discuss the state of agriculture. After each conference, the press is informed that progress is being made on the farm bill that the administration is preparing.

Meanwhile, Secretary Jardine has the complete bill in his pocket. It was drawn up long before the presidential vacation was started. Its provisions have been explained to at least one farm group. The conferences in the Black Hills are apparently just stage setting to make the announcement of the measure more impressive when the time is right.

It is in the new bill? One of the "economically unsoundness" of the McNary-Haugen measure. It appropriates \$300,000,000, just as the farm bill did, but provides that losses of the marketing corporation set up under the act may be paid out of this appropriation. The McNary-Haugen bill had the equalization fee take care of the loss. The administration measure follows the easier practice of taking it out of the public funds. And yet supporters of the McNary-Haugen bill were accused of trying to "loot the treasury."

The farm controlled board is absent from the new bill. So is the equalization fee. In other respects, it follows along much the same lines as the farm bill. Would it be worth anything to the farmer if it passed? Not very much. For a little while, if the bill were well administered, corn, tobacco and cotton prices might be helped. At the end of that time, the appropriation would be exhausted; congress would not be inclined to throw more money in the pot; production, unchecked by the equalization fee, would have increased; the final state of the farmer would be worse than the first. The hog producer, of course, could profit not at all through the Jardine bill.

But would the act be well administered? The south, to whom the bribe of a gift from the treasury is directed, remembers what a Coolidge appointee, Eugene Meyer, did in the cotton crisis. Instead of using his powers to support the co-operatives in handling the cotton surplus, he turned to the private traders. There is not much chance that the new bill, if it passed, would be used to strengthen the real co-operatives.

The new Jardine bill seems like the old Curtis-Crisp bill, the old Fess bill, and the rest of the political farm bills of the past. It concedes much to the farmer, everything, in fact, except the essentials. The administration has forgotten about economy, about economic soundness, about holding down production; it is proposing to scoop money out of the treasury with both hands; it says: "Take this, and please be quiet." But loans and gifts will not settle the issue. Even though the administration does not care for economy, or economic soundness, or production control, the farmers do. They want a measure that will not waste federal funds, but one that will help to regulate production, that will help, not for a season, but for as long as the tariff helps the manufacturers or other legislation act help other classes.

In other words, agriculture asks simply a square deal, and will not be satisfied with political subterfuges. The farmers of the country insist that the question of agricultural relief be solved on the right or wrong of the matter and not on the basis of political expediency; that the republican party, represented by a president elected on its party platform, make good its promises to agriculture instead of standing in the way of their fulfillment. Publicity, recommending purely political measures, emanating from the summer White House in the hills of South Dakota, after conferences with those who have been consistently opposed to agricultural relief, will not satisfy the farm folks or the business men who know the problem.—Wallace Farmer.

ARE THE RAILROADS TO PROSPER FURTHER AT THE FARMER'S EXPENSE?

The rate hearings at Wichita involve many other angles of rate-making than the proposed increase in grain rates. For example Kansas City is prepared to spend, and probably will spend, \$25,000 in an effort to secure favorable rates for that point as against other markets, or to retain such rates where already effective. Whether the rate is high or low is of no concern to them. No doubt there are many cases where the existing rates discriminate against communities. State boundary lines are only imaginary lines so far as the traffic is concerned, but the rate may vary several cents per bushel on grain in a few miles. Such variation cannot be justified by any physical facts upon which handling

costs and charges must be based. They are artificial and unfair.

But the Farmers Union and the other farm organizations with which we are affiliated in this fight, are concerned almost wholly with the proposed increase in rates on grain. The conditions under which farming is being carried on, and the prosperous situation in which the railroads undoubtedly find themselves would amply justify a reduction. The carriers doubtless recognized this fact, and filed application for increases averaging nearly 50 per cent over present rates, not expecting to secure the increases but hoping to make the fight sufficiently vigorous to use up the fighting strength of farm organizations. In this they may be successful. It is certain that the farmer cannot enter the fight on any comparable basis. Against the wealth of the carriers the farm organizations must match their meager funds. Against an array of legal and expert talent the farmers must present their numerically small forces. Right and justice are on the side of agriculture in this contention, and that is something.

Clyde M. Reed is entitled to the gratitude of every farmer in Kansas for the work he has done in preparation for this case, and for the manner in which it is being conducted. His effort has been out of all proportion to the fees paid him. Many others are working heroically to prevent this further toll being taken—a toll hardly short of robbery.

WHAT GOOD IS A FARM ORGANIZATION

To err is said to be human. To undertake what has not been done before, or to undertake to do it in a better way, is to risk a larger chance for error. One of the fine things about the farm movement has been the spirit of adventure which characterizes it. Was it not the same fine daring which led Lindberg to test his belief that he could cross the Atlantic alone by airplane, which also led a little group of farmers in Rooks and Phillips counties to borrow \$50.00 from the bank and start an insurance company? And they also landed safely. Some of the facts in co-operative success read like romances. There have been some errors, and some failures. There have been very prominently played up in many localities. Not a few persons in the great state of Kansas have the impression that little or no value attaches to the farm organizations. A smaller number believes their chief value lies in the fact that they afford salaried jobs for a few "friends" of the farmer.

I do not want to overdraw this picture, but if the grain rate case turns out in the way in which I anticipate—the retention of the present rates at the worst, and a fair reduction at the best—it will be largely to the credit of organized farmers in Kansas. That saving alone, over what would probably have resulted in this case but for them, will be millions of dollars per year. And in that saving every farmer will participate, whether he joined a farm organization, paid his dues and played his part, or whether he remained outside.

Members of the Farmers Union, some of whose money is being used here in a fight for justice and right may resent the fact that others share equally in the result. We ought not to resent it. The Good Samaritan was a poor boob in the eyes of some, but he made the world a better place in which to live. And the story says that the chap he helped came to his senses after awhile and appreciated what had been done for him. It might happen again. Stay with your organization. Pay your dues—they are not a very heavy burden. The Farmers Union is worth to you in money every year as much as your dues in a lifetime.

TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE RAILROADS

Cliff Stratton is entitled to credit, even to praise, for the manner in which he is treating the Wichita hearings in the Topeka Capital. The farm organizations do not deserve quite fully the credit he gives them in these paragraphs, but the fight they are making is an earnest one and is being directed more from a defensive attitude to an offensive one. Some credit is due elsewhere. These are facts, nevertheless.

It is a far-flung line, this grain rate hearing before Balthaser H. Meyer, interstate commerce commissioner, at the Broadview hotel here.

Seven Kansas farm organizations, plus one four-state organization, the Southwest Co-operative Wheat Marketing association—Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Nebraska—are taking advantage of this rate hearing to read into the records the unbalanced economic structure of the United States which makes the farm problem.

Also they are showing why this farm problem is more than a farm problem. It is a problem affecting the entire Mississippi-Missouri valley, farmers, bankers, business men, the auto industry, the corner groceryman, the newspapers, the wives, sons, daughters—everyone in this entire belt.

From Defensive to Offensive

Also these farm organizations are going to do something that the state public utility and service commissions in the past few years have lacked the vision and the backbone to undertake—they are going to check to the interstate commerce commission demand for decreases in rates on farm products, instead of simply remaining on the defensive against increases in rates.

Homer Hoch, congressman from Kansas, has made it possible for the farm organizations to take the offensive in the fight for reasonable freight rates, through the Hoch-Smith resolution, empowering the interstate commerce commission to investigate the entire rate structure, with special reference to rates on farm products.

Has Power to Reduce Rates

Under this act, the interstate commerce commission, if a proper showing is made, has the power not only to refuse to grant the increases asked by the railroads, but also to order the reductions in rates that the farm organizations will demand before the hearing is completed.

GLIMPSES OF CO-OPERATION

NOT AFRAID ANY MEMBER WILL KILL HIM, EITHER

The Farmers Union Creamery at Superior, Nebraska, has applied for a \$5,000 policy on the life of its manager, in favor of themselves.

There is a growing tendency for business institutions to insure the lives of their valuable employees, and Mr. Norgaard is a highly efficient manager of one of the strongest and most successful creamery co-operatives in Nebraska.

He and his splendid organization showed the true spirit of co-operation when they placed this policy with their own Farmers Union company. If all Farmers Union members would do the same it would not be long until they would be reaping

"It is apparent that the co-operative movement must be considered one of the permanent forces in American life. Co-operative business already aggregates two and one-half billion dollars a year and it is only at the beginning of its growth."—Secretary Holman, American Institute of Agriculture.

"The things that must be done for agriculture must be done largely by the farmers themselves," declared A. J. McGuire, Minneapolis, Mr. McGuire is General Manager of the Land O'Lakes Creameries, a service and sales organization for 400 co-operative creameries of Minnesota and adjoining states handling the cream produced on 80,000 farms.

"The remarkable degree of success enjoyed by Land O'Lakes Creameries is due in large measure to the nature and form of the organization and the spirit of its people," he continued. "Our farmers have been co-operating for thirty years in the manufacture and marketing of butter so they have the extremely important factor of knowledge and experience of time to assist in the business."

"I do not think there is a better group of salesmen on the Kansas City Market than those of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission," said Walter Barth, of Henry county, who recently had a car of fat cattle and a car of hogs sold by this co-operative firm. Mr. Barth ships regularly to this firm, and is well satisfied with the service rendered.—Secretary Cowden in Missouri Farmer.

EQUITY EXCHANGE OPERATES OIL STATION

In addition to operating a big grain elevator at McCook and another at Perry, the McCook Equity Exchange, McCook, Neb., also conducts a coal business, a lumber yard, and a gasoline filling station. The filling station, which has been in operation one year, is said to be one of the finest oil stations in that section, the building and equipment being valued at \$16,985.

Accounts for the oil station were kept separate and sales for the year amounted to \$63,423, with a gross trading profit of \$20,465. Operating expenses came to \$8,890. After deducting \$1,040 for interest on the investment at the rate of 7 per cent, there remained a net profit for the year of \$10,445. Of this amount \$4,482 was refunded to members as a patronage dividend, at the rate of 16.46 per cent, and \$1,504 was returned to certificate holders, at the rate of 12.35 per cent on the business done at the filling station.

Sales of the elevator and lumber-yard amounted to \$214,400, with a net income of \$11,196. Total sales for all lines of activity for the year were \$277,826, and net earnings, \$21,641. The year has 178 members and its net worth is \$107,897, representing a value of about \$164 per share of capital stock outstanding.

FIRST CO-OPERATIVE BANK IN IOWA

The first co-operative bank to be established under the new Iowa co-operative banking law, began business in What Cheer on June 28, taking over the business of a small savings bank which had the confidence of the community but needed more capital. The new bank is capitalized at \$25,000 and has 77 stockholders many of whom are members of the Farmers Union.

Dividends on capital stock are limited to 8 per cent. Earnings, after paying interest on capital, must be placed in a reserve fund until the fund equals half of the amount of the capital stock. Any further earnings, after payment of dividends and setting aside a reserve, may be distributed as patronage dividends or credited on account in proportion to interest received on deposits and interest received from borrowers on loans. Each stockholder

WINNOWNING THE NEWS

Why is a Farmer?

"Why is a farmer?" asks Arthur Brisbane. Taking government reports of farm income as a basis, the famous editorial writer points out that the average farmer can make more money driving a street car. At the same time he would be getting regular sleep; would not be worrying about the weather, lame horses, sick cows, rust on wheat; bugs on potatoes, blight in the orchards, etc.

Six hundred and twenty-seven dollars is not much money to cover one's own wages, and food and clothing for one's family for an entire year. That is what the average farmer received during 1926-1927. In an age of question-popping, the prize query of all certainly must be: Why is a farmer?

LIVESTOCK RAISERS SEEK CO-OP AID

Coolidge Petitioned to Support Efforts of Stockmen to Rehabilitate Industry.

With 75 per cent of the cattle raisers bankrupt since the break, following the war, co-operative marketing of livestock is the one means of stabilizing the industry, according to Paul H. Martin, president of the Western Stock Marketing Association.

Mr. Martin recently called upon President Coolidge in order to ask federal aid for the establishment of cattle co-ops. Mr. Martin explained that although the cattle situation has improved somewhat this year, there is much aid still needed; and that because of the fact that cattle marketing presents a peculiar problem, government assistance is to be desired.

"We appreciate," said Mr. Martin, "that the cattleman is about as great an individualist as there is, and that it will be difficult to get them all to sign up to an agreement to market through only one agency at a minimum price, but that's where the government comes in. We need assistance."

REFLECTIONS

COOLIDGE HEARS FARMERS' PLEA

Producers Claim Their Expenses Greater Than Selling Price.

RAPID CITY, S. D., July 20.—A figure purporting to show that it costs the farmer much more to produce his crops than he gets for them were presented to President Coolidge Tuesday in the course of two conversations held by him on the agricultural situation. The corn belt committee, headed by Mr. Coolidge, a table of statistics showing that it costs the farmer an average of about 79 per cent more to produce than he receives for his products. At the end of the thirty minutes' conference the committee's representatives declared the president "expressed himself very favorable" toward the suggestion that a broader co-operative marketing system must be arranged.

The spokesmen of the corn belt committee, which represents thirty-six state farm organizations, principally in the middle west, told the president that a remedy would be provided in a system of co-operative marketing broad enough to include all farm products. Those who saw the president were E. E. Kennedy of Pontiac, Ill.; W. R. Crouse of Des Moines; and D. D. Collins of Belle Fourche, S. D. They made no mention of the McNary-Haugen bill in their conference.

Estimating that it cost the farmers of the west \$1.42 a bushel to produce corn, \$2.42 for wheat, 79 cents for oats, \$16.32 a hundredweight for eggs and 61 cents a dozen for eggs, the committee held its conclusions on the ground that the farmer should get a return of 5 per cent on his real estate investment, 7 per cent on his investment in personal property and equipment, and that the farm operator should get a salary of \$1,800 a year. The farm operator, however, would work 365 days a year and from this salary would pay \$300 annually for house rent and pay all products raised by used by him.

The Kansas Farmers Union is making every effort to have Mr. E. E. Kennedy appear at Wichita in the rate hearings. He prepared tables showing Kansas' production costs a year or two ago, under direction of President Tamm, and should be a valuable witness.

IF THE WORK WAS WELL DONE

It is reported that about 500 missionaries remain in China, outside of Shanghai and other protected ports. There were 8,200 before the revolution, if this warfare may be called that. One of those remaining is quoted as saying "As a matter of fact, some of us are just beginning to live."

Missions in China are different, which proves that they are fully alive." If the work of past years was well done surely there will be a large enough native body of converts to insure the future of the Christian religion in China, and to give competent support to these missionaries who have dared to remain on the job, far from the protection of gun boats.

WE JOIN IN THE LAUGH, THO IT IS HARDLY A LAUGHING MATTER

The Nation for July 13 has this editorial:

We confess to a bit of unholly glee at the demonstration in Los Angeles that patriotism is still the last refuge of some scoundrels. The Better America Federation of California has been one of the very worst of the 100-per-cent-patriotic organizations bent on pursuing all radicals, yes, even mild liberals, in fact any one who did not agree with them at all points. They had their share in enacting the infamous Syndicalism Law under which men were liable and some were sent to jail for fourteen years merely for membership in the I. W. W. or Communist Party. The "Better America" in the federation's name spelt a tyranny by this organization over workers and workers' organizations, teachers, and dissenters of every variety, avowedly for the improvement of the country, but in reality for increasing the stranglehold of big business upon the community life and—in the interest of the open shop—of the poisonous molding of the entire life of Southern California under pretense of protecting everybody from Bolshevism. It is all wonderfully portrayed in that extraordinary new novel of Upton Sinclair, "Oil." But not even so great a novelist as he could have imagined that no less exalted a personage than the President of the Better America Federation himself should be indicted for usury in connection with a company that issued illegally 1,000,000 shares of stock and defrauded several hundred thousand innocent investors. Among those indicted are three leading bank officials, two of them vice-presidents of the First National Bank, charged with taking jointly \$100,000 for obtaining a loan of \$385,000 from one of their banks, and with embezzlement on other counts.

How zealous these patriots have labored to better America—and their bank accounts!

CLIPPED FROM THE PRESS

Governor Johnston of Oklahoma gave an instructive parallel at the railroad rate hearing when he pointed out that the average farm income is 3 1-2 per cent, while some of the rail-

roads are earning 14 per cent. The farmer, however, is unable to employ rate experts.

Prices paid Oklahoma farmers for agricultural commodities in April, 1927, were 112 per cent of pre-war prices," he testified. "Prices to New York farmers, located near the coast, summing center and for whom freight rates do not play a vital part in prices received, were 147 per cent of the pre-war basis. In other words, the prices which the New York farmer was receiving for his products were 4 points below the prices of things he had to buy in April, while the prices which Oklahoma farmers received were 28 points below the prices of the things he had to buy.

Building Material Higher
"Oklahoma farmers received only 131 per cent of the pre-war price for his wheat in April, 1927, which had a purchasing power of only 87 cents. In buying building materials the farmer found that his bushel of wheat would purchase only 77 per cent of the amount of the same material it would buy before the war.

"Land values over a period of time unquestionably reflect the present and prospective economic status of the farming industry. Since 1900 all Oklahoma farm land has declined in value 23.1 per cent, or in other words only 76.2 per cent of its value in 1920. At the same time stocks of 20 railroads in the United States rose from an average value of \$7.33 in December, 1919, to \$136.94 in June of last month."

BUT THIS IS NOT CLIPPED

Governor Henry Johnson of Oklahoma came to Wichita and testified very effectively in behalf of agriculture in the rate hearing. His testimony was clear, emphatic, well-prepared. His personality and prestige added to its weight. The state of Oklahoma is a very active in this case, their work being carried on at state expense under the direction of Mr. Paul Walker. They seem to be under the illusion that the purpose of government is to protect its citizens. Kansas also has a governor. He is said to be combining business with pleasure, attending the meeting of governors in Michigan and testing out the relative merits of worms and flies as fish bait. Kansas has a Public Service Commission. The Commission has a chairman. The chairman has been "resigned." But he hangs on until August first. Some members of the Commission are attending the hearings, but what can they do, however willing they may be? It is right—some, not much. If Kansas was ever in a sorrier fix politically than it is now the matter is not of record.

farmers of Kansas bought twine from the penitentiary on the same terms as they bought it last year and at a lower price.

The statistical report of the wheat and corn crop gotten up by the Farmers Union has done more to advance the price of wheat and corn than anything else. If the Union didn't compile a correct statistical report, stating that Kansas wouldn't have to exceed 40,000,000 bushels of wheat (which is true), Coburn's report of 80,000,000 wouldn't be changed. In a very short time after the Farmers Union report was published, Coburn's report of 80,000,000 bushels, the high price of wheat at the present time is the best evidence we can offer to prove the correctness of our report.

I could name many other instances where the Union has been very beneficial to the farmers and its usefulness is only commencing. Our greatest efforts in behalf of the Union this year have been principally directed towards putting the Union in its proper light before the people, and we are pleased to say that our efforts have been rewarded. Today the Union principles are endorsed by several county papers; and only a few days ago we received an invitation from the Farmers Mail and Breeze to write a communication for publication in that paper, setting forth the principles of the Union and the work it is accomplishing, not only in Kansas, but in the Nation. We will at the earliest convenience write such a communication.

The publication of the aims and purposes of the Union in a paper having 100,000 readers will bring the Union principles before more people than could be done in most any other way, and in the name of the Union of Kansas we thank the management of the Mail and Breeze for this privilege.

Co-operation is the coming way of doing business; and we are mighty proud of the great advancement the Farmers Union has made, along that line, in the short period of two years; and we will be very much disappointed if the advancement in the next two years won't more than triple that of the past two.

One of the greatest factors in building up the Union in Kansas has been our paper. We believe it has done more than anything else. Another factor is the beautiful friendship that has existed among its officers—not a word of discord, or dissatisfaction has been spoken. We seemed to be all imbued with the same idea—namely, the building up of the Union and our members, after reading this short history of the organization and the work it has accomplished, can judge for themselves.

We expect to publish a complete report of the business interest of the Union in a short time and then we will go into detail.

Taking the early history of the Union in Kansas, it is really surprising that it has done as well as it has, during the last two years. Now that it is on a solid basis it ought to make great strides in the future both in membership and business extensions. If all of the present members would exert themselves to build up the Union during the next three months, the membership would be greatly increased by our next State meeting. Will you do it?

There may be splinters in the ladder of success, but you don't notice them unless you're sliding down—Exchange.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

The Farmers Union, Salina, Kansas, Vol. 4, October 1911.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FARMERS' UNION IN KANSAS AND WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED

(Continued from last week)

The Union has certainly done a great deal of good in the south where its membership is great enough to carry out its plan of co-operation. At its first session, the cotton was selling as low as 5 cents pound, 5 cent cotton is on a par with 40 or 50 cent wheat. Today cotton is bringing from 12 to 15 cents a pound, and that too in the face of one of the largest cotton crops ever raised. Everybody gives the credit for being the means of this great advance in cotton.

To give a detailed history of the influence for good to the southern farmers, by the adoption of the principles of the Farmers Union, would require more time and space than we can spare at this time.

We will cite one more instance where the benefits the Union has been in the South. The farmers of the state of Texas have paid off 59 percent of their indebtedness in the last 5 years and what is true of Texas is true, to a greater or less degree, of all the Southern states.

Only by a comparison of all the conditions of the Southern states now, and their condition a few years ago, one sees the splendid influence for good, in every respect, brought about by the Farmers Union.

The Farmers Union of Kansas has at this time between 7,000 and 8,000 members in good standing. It is very difficult to accurately estimate the exact membership, but taking the new mailing list, as reported by the secretaries of the Locals, the membership is about the above. It may be more at this time, because the membership is increasing rapidly. There are a couple of thousand more who claim to be members of the Union, but they don't contribute to its support. We don't consider them as members.

If all dues were eliminated from the Union, and we enrolled as members all who believe in its principles, we would have an immense organization; but any farmer, who is so close fisted as to remain outside the Union, because he would have to pay a quarterly dues of 30 cents to maintain the state and National organization, is of too small to be any benefit to it; and that same fellow will, more readily accept any benefits, occurring from the Union that the man who helps to maintain it.

The financial condition of the State Union is very satisfactory. We expect to have \$2,500 and possibly may have \$3,000 dollars in the Treasury at our next state meeting. Kansas has at this time over 30 chartered co-operative stores doing a general mercantile business. Some of these stores are carrying stocks of goods varying from 1,000 to 40,000 dollars. All of the stores are doing a very satisfactory business and paying (some of them very large), the others good dividends.

When these co-operative stores were started some wise acres limited our business career to 6 months. No failures yet, and some of these stores

have been running almost two years, and one or two much longer.

Some of the wholesale houses were very dubious about the advisability of selling us goods when we first started, now our business is solicited as eagerly as is the business of the other merchants.

A large number of the Locals, and several of the County organizations have no established places of business; but yet are doing business in a larger sense than the places that have established business places. Take Marion County for example. (See brother Shields report in another place in this paper). There are several other counties doing business in the same way. How Marion county is doing, but not quite as much. About 100 of the Locals are buying their supplies either through the State business agent or on their own responsibility; and all of this, without exception, are saving the savings good money. Some of these places are now making ready to establish regular business places.

A number of places have elevators either owned by the members or have rented elevators that are all making some claim as high as 7 cents a bushel, others 3 to 5 cents on both wheat and corn, above the old way of selling to the organized mill or elevators companies.

The farmers have made a bigger gain in the handling of cream, than most anything else. I don't know the number of cream stations, but there are quite a number.

In a business way the Farmers Union of Kansas has made great progress in the last two years; and the prospects for an increasing business are very bright at this time.

One of the things that pleases us, more than anything else, is the change for the better in the attitude of the general public towards the Farmers Union; and as our organization increases in number our standing in the community, state and nation will advance in influence for good.

Even at this time, with only a small membership in proportion to the population, the state Farmers Union has done a good deal of good that wouldn't be done if we hadn't an organization.

A few years ago the officers of the Penitentiary threatened to shut down the twine plant. We all know what effect that would have on the prices of twine. The Union took it up, and the result is that the twine plant has been running, over time since, and the quality of the twine is much better, and the price lower.

Again this spring the directors of the penitentiary made a ruling that no twine would be sold direct to farmers, or to farmers organizations that had no established place of business. This ruling means that farmers would have to buy twine from local dealers, which meant a much higher price for twine. We took this matter up with Governor Stubbs. The Governor seemed very much incensed at the injustice of such a ruling, and disclaimed any knowledge of it; which we believe was true; and our belief has been confirmed since, by the friendship the Governor has shown towards the Union, in more ways than one.

The ruling was reversed and the

(Continued from page 1)

Ever since the Civil War the farmers of the great grain and livestock producing states have cheerfully s

Also the President expressed great fear that the proposed Federal Reserve Board might in time come to exercise bureaucratic tyranny over the activities assigned to it, and as one commentator templates the vast authority exercised by the Federal Reserve Board, the Interstate Commission, and the dozens of other boards, bureaus and commissions which encumber the payrolls

But I will not weary you with further recital of the President's

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We are changing the policy of this department, beginning the first of the year. The Meeting Notices that we appeared here to fore were 100% locals for 1926. At this time we are showing only those that are 100% for 1927. All 100% locals for 1927 that wish their meeting notice to be published will receive this service free of charge. Local that are not paid up in full but want their meeting notice published can have space in this department for One Cent per word per week.

We sold 8 loads of native lambs yesterday at the extreme top of the market and realize that I had no right to attack in this way a legitimate business or Glory! glory, hallelujah! While V
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KANSAS CITY MARKET

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