



THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation



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MORE ABOUT MEETING OF CORN BELT FEDERATION

It's No Disgrace to Be Called a Democrat, Says A. W. Ricker

Two Groups, One Supporting and One Opposing Marketing Act, Are Much Better Off Apart

By A. W. Ricker, Editor, Farmers' Union Herald

Our statement in reporting the recent meeting of the Corn Belt Federation to the effect that Hirth, Reno and Simpson are Democrats has brought out some vigorous and heated denials. Mr. Reno in a recent address at Neillsville, Wisconsin, waxed so indignant that he is denying the statement that he is a Democrat, he used the term liar in connection with the Editor of the Herald.

Now just why is Mr. Reno so aroused when his name is associated with the Democratic party?

One, to hear Reno, would think he had been charged with a crime. Since when has it become a brand of disgrace to have one's name associated with the Democratic party?

A long list of illustrious patriots without whom the history of this nation could not be written, were Democrats.

And an equally long list of living Democrats grace the pages of "Who is Who in America."

At one of the meetings of the Corn Belt Federation a poll of the members present was taken for the purpose of proving that we were men of all parties. As names were called the members present answered and gave their political affiliations.

When F. W. Murphy answered he said "Republican." Milo Reno responded "Democrat." William Hirth answered "Democrat." Ye Editor answered Farmer-Labor and so on through the list.

Mr. Simpson was not present at that meeting. But Mr. Simpson was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Houston in 1928, and as such was made a member of the platform committee. One would assume that such service on behalf of the Democratic party would serve to classify Mr. Simpson as a Democrat. There was nothing which Mr. Simpson did at the Houston convention for which he need apologize. Ye Editor voted for Al Smith in 1928 and has no apologies to offer because he did so.

Long ago we ceased to have any national party brand. We have concluded that a man who is serving a farm organization ought to take the same position as Jay Gould, who owned the Erie Railroad. When asked his politics by a congressional committee, Mr. Gould is reported as saying, "In a Republican district I am a Republican. In a Democratic district I am a Democrat. In a doubtful district I am a doubtful. But I am always for the Erie Railroad."

In voting we try to be as sensible and consistent as Jay Gould, remembering that it is our solemn duty and our personal interest to vote for agriculture. So long as we are able to go to the polls we shall follow that policy.

It was not by any means in our thinking when we said that Reno, Simpson and Hirth were Democrats to cast reflections on their characters because they were Democrats.

What we meant to imply was that their Hirth, Reno, and Simpson's hatred of President Hoover has influenced their attitude toward the marketing act and the Federal Farm Board.

It is our contention that they are like the "bar burners" of our early political history of whom it was said they would "burn the barn to get revenge on the rats."

The simple facts about the Corn Belt meeting at Des Moines are these: There were forty-three organizations and officers holding membership in the old Corn Belt Federation present at the meeting. Forty-two of them answered the roll-call. Illinois arrived late and after the test vote had been taken.

The test vote was taken on the question of admitting new members. Hirth brought with him from Missouri six delegates representing subsidiary organizations affiliated with the Missouri Farm Association. This was the first time that Hirth had ever permitted other delegates to attend a meeting of the Federation, with one exception, that exception being Young from the East St. Louis Livestock House and when the question of affiliation with the Farm Board livestock sales agency became an issue in 1930.

Iowa, of course, brought a battery of subsidiary organizations prepared to bombard the marketing act.

While no signed and sealed agreement had been made between the (continued on page 4)

F. U. LIVESTOCK TO BROADCAST OVER WIBW, TOPEKA, JUNE 26

George Hobbs, Manager of the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company, will have charge of this week's Farmers' Union hour program, which will be broadcast over station WIBW, Topeka, on Friday night, June 26th, at eight o'clock.

An interesting program has been planned and it is hoped that all of the Farmers' Union members in the state, as well as those who, although nonmembers, may be interested in the Farmers' Union program and purposes, will tune in on this feature.

Gothenburg Leads Field In May Honor Roll Race

Winner Has Eight Loads for Month, While Three Have Six Each For Second

The Gothenburg Shipping Association of Gothenburg, Nebraska, set the pace in the May Honor Roll contest among shipping associations by shipping an average of two car loads of live stock per week, or a total of eight for the month, to the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Co. Paul Pogendorf is the well known manager of this well known live stock shipping association and is a consistent winner of Honor Roll honors.

Three associations came in together to share second honors for May. Ames Shipping Association, shipping from Ames and Clyde, Kansas, managed by Edward Gerner; The Cozad Shipping Association of Cozad, Nebr., Edward Nielson, manager, and the Frankfort, Kansas, Farmers Union Shipping Association, with Glen Leupold, manager, were tied for second, with six loads each during the month.

The Frankfort organization has a well established habit of placing at or near the top, and the Ames outfit is another one that can be depended on to ship a lot of live stock out of its community. The Cozad gang is rapidly coming to the front and is becoming one of Nebraska's principal contributors to the Kansas City market.

Following closely on the heels of the three second place winners were three more who tied for third place with five loads each for the month. These three were the Farmers Union Grain and Supply Co., of Blue Rapids, Kansas, managed by D. O. Wannamaker; the Lowry City, Mo., Farmers Exchange, L. C. Cleveland, manager, and the Page City, Kansas, Farmers Union Live Stock Shipping Association, managed by Emil Gustafson.

Four shipping associations finished in fourth place, with four loads each during May. They were as follows: Almena Shipping Association, Almena, Kansas, C. V. Roberts, manager; Downs-Cawker Shipping Association, shipping from Downs and Cawker City, Kansas, Herman Raymaker and Bert Moeke, managers; Erie, Kansas, Shipping Association, George Lockwood, manager; and Holbrook Farmers Union Live Stock Shipping Association, Holbrook, Nebr., managed by C. L. Frack—Cooperator.

NEW FARM BODY PARLEY TO UNITE BOARD SUPPORT

"National Agricultural Conference," Result of Des Moines Split, Will Have First Meeting June 29

Wish to Keep Farm Board Issue Out of Politics

WASHINGTON, June 19—(A. P.)—The first meeting of the new National Agricultural Conference in Chicago, June 29, is expected to start the race between friends and enemies of the farm board for power to rewrite the agricultural marketing act.

President Cal. A. Ward of the Kansas Farmers Union plans to be in attendance at this meeting.

The announced purpose of the meeting is to corral 3,000,000 farm families and an annual business of \$700,000,000 behind a national campaign for co-operative organization. The political significance of such an accomplishment suggests great voting strength for support of the current farm relief program.

"By Its Friends, Not Foes"

Membership of the conference embraces the Farmers' Union, American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, and the several national co-operative marketing associations set up under auspices of the farm board.

Both President E. A. O'Neal of the Federation and L. J. Taber, national master of the Grange, have said that if the agricultural marketing act is amended "it will be done by its friends and not by its enemies."

Would Shun Platforms

The Farm Bureau and the Grange which, together with farm business groups, represent approximately half the American rural population, are allied sympathetically with the new National Committee of Farm Organizations which split at Des Moines May 6 with the Old Corn Belt Committee.

It seems to be the desire of the majority faction of organized agriculture to keep the farm board out of the 1932 campaign. Officials say they will try to get both the Democratic and Republican parties to avoid referring to it.

Expect Trouble

Nevertheless, friends of the board are "keeping their powder dry" lest the traditional "pointing with pride" and "viewing with alarm" creep into the national platforms.

Editorial farm opinion says the National Committee of Farm Organizations will have won a real victory for itself if it keeps the farm board issue out of politics.

Mrs. E. L. Bullard and family gratefully acknowledge and thank the Farmers' Union friends of Kansas for the kind expression of sympathy shown in the time of loss and bereavement.

Yours truly, H. J. BULLARD.

FARM BOARD STANDS BY FORMER STATEMENT

No Change in Policy as Announced March 23rd. Farm Leaders And Many Farmers Were of the Opinion a Definite Statement from Farm Board, That Present Holdings of Stabilization Corporation Would Not be Offered for Sale Until Wheat Reached a Minimum Price at Chicago of Eighty or Ninety Cents Per Bushel or Better, Would Strengthen Price Levels in Wheat to be Marketed This Season.

Chairman Stone keeps a promise made at the Manhattan meeting that upon his arrival in Washington, he would present this matter to his Board and give us an answer. The answer comes to President Cal. A. Ward, a copy of which was mailed to Senator Arthur Capper. His letter follows:

"On my return to Washington yesterday I brought to the attention of the board the suggestions made to me at the luncheon at Manhattan, Kansas, last Friday, recommending that the board issue a statement saying that the grain stabilization corporation would not offer for sale any of the wheat which it now holds until after the 1931 crop of wheat is harvested and sold, unless the Grain Stabilization corporation could sell its holdings at 80 to 90 cents a bushel, or better.

"The board's whole object is to do what we think is to the best interests of the wheat producers of the country. As you no doubt realize, there is a very wide difference of opinion among wheat growers themselves in various sections of the United States as to what should be the sales policy of the Grain Stabilization corporation. We have given consideration to all suggestions made to us in relation to the disposition of the Grain Stabilization corporation's holdings and have arrived at the conclusion that it would not be to the benefit of the wheat growers of the country as a whole for us to change the statement made on March 23, 1931. I quote that part of the statement in relation to it:

"Stabilization supplies of wheat will be handled in such a way as to impose the minimum of burden on domestic and world prices."

"Enemies of the agricultural marketing act and of the activities of the farm board misconstrue every statement we make, and I firmly believe that it is to the best interests of the wheat growers that we stand on our March 23 statement and go ahead and handle the business in a business way to the interests of the people we are representing. It is my opinion that the less the question is agitated the better it will be for the wheat growers."

The above letter referring back to the statement of March 23rd, which is as follows, "Stabilization supplies of wheat will be handled in such a way as to impose the minimum burden on domestic and world prices," is self-explanatory. From Chairman Stone's statements at the Manhattan meeting, the writer is confident beyond any doubt that it will be the policy of the Farm Board to protect the marketing of the present crop to the fullest possible degree.

The statement of the Farm Board is flexible enough to carry out the above referred to policy. The Board has also allowed themselves enough latitude in which to dispose of their present holdings, especially so if an abnormal domestic and world condition should prevail. At the Manhattan conference, Chairman Stone, because of his apparent fairness and openmindedness, accompanied by his frankness, was well received.

The writer arranged this meeting at the urgent request of many of our Kansas farmers and leaders of prominence, of the state. In an introductory statement at the beginning of the conference, I made it clear that we were not there to intimidate or discredit the Farm Board in any way but rather in the interest of helpfulness and cooperation. It is common knowledge to those who have given the Farm Board and its program any thought that all organized agricultural groups in Kansas are backing up this program in a constructive way.

In addition, may I say that the enemies of this program, including at least a part of the independent grain trade, have not demonstrated good faith in their proposal to be of help in the developing of this program. Many leaders in Kansas, including the writer, held very definite convictions relative to the disposal of the present holdings of the Stabilization Corporation. The writer has given expression to these convictions, and he is sure that no one will charge him in any way with joining the ranks of those who are enemies of the program.

I was of the opinion that a statement from the Farm Board, definitely setting forth that present holdings would not be offered below a certain minimum price, would have a strengthening influence upward in price trends for this year's crop. I may have been mistaken in this but I am sure that the Manhattan conference was very effective and left a good impression upon all those in attendance.

It is a known fact that present stocks of the mills are the lowest of many years. The orders usually placed by the mills at this season of the year are perhaps the lowest in the history of their business. The question, of course, is taking all these facts into consideration, "Would a statement from the Farm Board as referred to in this article be more beneficial looking toward better prices than their statement of March 23rd?" The Farm Board apparently has come to the conclusion that their former statement would best meet the situation.

The writer has given a lot of thought to this whole situation. Numerous proposals have reached my office, but in almost every instance, these proposals applied themselves more or less to local conditions, while of course, it must be remembered that the Farm Board must necessarily analyze and consider from a National and even an International viewpoint.

The enemies of the Marketing Act and the Farm Board have drawn this affair into politics and are always in readiness to misconstrue any statement the Farm Board makes. So, in fact, the fight is on, and while we may have views in variance with those of the Board, yet for one, may I say that I have enlisted for the war. I may have some criticism, but it will be of a constructive nature and the Kansas Farmers Union will continue to join hands with those groups who are looking toward constructive ends that through organization and cooperation, farming and agricultural conditions may be brought to a profitable basis and placed on a higher plane.

CAL. A. WARD

STOCK AND ACREAGE PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN KANSAS

Number of Farms Increase

According to a bulletin recently issued by the Bureau of the Census, showing both State and County Statistics, there was an increase in the number of farms in Kansas from 165,286 in 1920 and 165,879 in 1925 to 166,042 in 1930. The total number of farms in Kansas includes 42,920 having from 100 to 174 acres, 38,385 from 280 to 499 acres, and 19,226 of from 50 to 99 acres. There were 19,762 farms having 500 acres or more.

Of the 166,042 farms in the State in 1930, as reported in the census, 94,762 were operated by owners, 954 by managers, and 70,326 by tenants. The land in farms decreased from 45,425,179 acres in 1920 and 43,729,129 acres in 1925, but increased to 46,975,647 acres in 1930. The value of farm land and buildings decreased from \$2,830,063,918 in 1920 to \$2,197,951,619 in 1925, but increased to \$2,281,101,631 in 1930. The value of farm implements and machinery in 1930 was \$167,785,230 as compared with \$111,288,030 in 1925 and \$154,716,977 in 1920.

John A. Simpson, National President, to Address Allen County Meeting

A Farmers Union meeting will be held Wednesday evening, July 8th, at 8 p. m. in Moran City Park. The program will be as follows: The Moran Band will give a short concert followed by a short address of welcome by N. A. Peck of Moran and then Mr. Simpson will give the principal address of the evening.

Mr. Simpson was for fourteen years President of the Oklahoma Farmers Union. When he became President, there were 200 members in the state, now there are more than 20,000.

He recently attended the Institute of International Agriculture held in Rome, and at the same time toured most of the countries of Europe. Since his return he has been attending Farmers Union meetings in New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska. In Oregon he attended the state meeting and their convention endorsed the National Program and commended Mr. Simpson for his work.

Mr. Simpson will probably tell us of farmers and their Cooperatives that he visited in Europe.

This will be an open meeting and we are expecting a large crowd as Moran has good roads leading from all directions. Everyone from surrounding counties should plan to come to this meeting.

Robert A. Meliza, Co. President. C. A. Houk, Co. Secretary.

LOOKING AHEAD IN FARM MARKETING

By Vance Rucker

Extension Marketing Specialist, Kansas State College

It appears as though the Kansas sheep man had best market his lambs as soon as possible, even though they may be somewhat light.

The outlook seems to favor steady to lower prices toward the first of July. This is to be expected. The normal decline is usually 20 per cent lower than best spring lamb prices. With a heavy native lamb crop, it would seem advisable to market them.

Third K. C. Board of Trade Membership Bought By F. U. Jobbing Ass'n

Large Number of Elevators Affiliated With Jobbing Association This Year

With what is likely to be the second largest crop of wheat ever harvested in Kansas just on the verge of moving to market, the Farmers Union Jobbing Association is ready to take care of the largest volume of business in its history. The Jobbing Association is assured of a larger business than it handled last summer, and it is to be remembered that last summer's business was the largest ever handled up to that date by the Farmers Union firm.

One step taken recently by the Farmers Union Jobbing Association in preparation for the large volume of business was the purchase of another membership on the Board of Trade, bringing the total memberships up to three. Jack Stevens is the new floor man, by virtue of the purchase of the new membership. Harry Witham, manager of the Jobbing Association, and Roy Crawford, are the other floor men. The volume of business this year (continued on page 4)

FRENCH FARMER PROTECTED AS MATTER OF BUSINESS

Ninety-five Percent of Exportable Wheat Surplus Represented at Recent London Wheat Conference

By Sam R. McKelvie

An international conference is a meeting where all speeches are made twice, at least, and each nation in best diplomatic terms puts its own interpretation on what each other nation says. I arrived at this conclusion after representing the United States as a member of the Federal Farm Board at the World Conference of Wheat Exporting Nations in London.

Eleven nations representing ninety-five per cent of the exportable surplus of wheat in the world gathered 'round the council table to see what could be done about it. Wheat growers know best what is meant by "it". Other conferences have been held prior to this one but the United States had not been present. On this account and for the more important reason that the Federal Farm Board is the only agency of any government that has been grappling seriously with control of the surplus, there was a distinct backwardness of speech until the state- (continued on page 4)

COOPERATIVE BUYING MAKES FARM DOLLAR GO FARTHER

Radio Talk by R. J. Ackley, of Garden City, over WIBW, Topeka, May 22nd

Members of Garden City Cooperative Oil Company are Saved \$57,000 in Twenty Months

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, fellow farmers and Cooperators of Kansas.

I feel that this is a very special privilege to address you tonight, and to have the opportunity of telling you, briefly, about the possibilities of the Cooperative oil movement; as I see them, and to also tell you something of our accomplishments at Garden City through the Cooperative purchasing of petroleum products.

We farmers as a class are finding ourselves today in a pitiful financial condition. While much of this condition can be attributed to general economic conditions, yet I believe, we have ourselves to blame for a portion of it. Not so many years ago we paid cash for the things we bought. We did not need to consider our credit. We made some money from our long hard hours of work from early morning to late at night, and with the money we made it was our policy to pay cash for the things we bought.

Then things began to change. Even though we worked just as hard and just as long, we began to find it necessary to borrow money to pay a part of our bills. Our purchasing power was gradually growing less and the things we had to sell were not bringing as much as heretofore.

It was not long until we were forced to buy on the installment plan with its high financing charges. We could no longer buy the things we needed outright, but could see our way clear to make regular monthly payments. The scarcity of money made this about our only choice, and consequently we paid someone else a high rate of interest.

Conditions today are still worse and we find it necessary to curtail our purchases. It is even necessary in some cases to deny ourselves and our families part of the things we need. Gradually the farmers purchasing dollar has become smaller and smaller, until it has become inadequate to provide for him.

I have said that general economic conditions are responsible in a measure for the plight in which we find ourselves, but that we ourselves could have avoided some of it. What I have in mind is this: Have we in the past several years, built our purchasing (continued on page 4)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We, here in the State Headquarters of the Farmers' Union of Kansas, know that to many of you, payment of your dues this year will mean, and in many cases, has meant, a very real financial sacrifice. But, this year, of all years, the Kansas Farmers' Union needs the support, both financial and moral, of every person of its membership, down to the last man, woman and child.

During the days of the American Revolution, patriotic Colonists gave everything they had to the Cause—leaving themselves without the barest necessities, in many cases. Their wives gave their jewelry, the family silver and pewter-ware, to be melted and made into bullets, that the cause of freedom might be furthered. To them, victory meant far more than their gifts, whose monetary value became negligible beside the end toward which they were working.

So it should be with us, today—victory in agriculture's struggle against peonage and ruin, should and does mean infinitely more than the comparatively—trifling amount of our yearly dues.

We, on American farms, today, are in the same position as were our embattled fore-fathers in 1776. A fight is being waged and will be waged to the bitter end, by the foes of Agriculture—Big Business and the organized money power of the east. In order to survive, the forces of the farm must have financial support.

ARE THE DUES PAID TO THE FARMERS' UNION WASTED?

Thirty years ago, the leather workers in our nation were paid the munificent amount of nine dollars a week—out of which they paid to their Union—weekly—one dollar, or one-ninth of their income! Has their loyalty to the support of their Union been rewarded? Today, the leather-worker is paid from \$50 to \$60 weekly—an increase of almost 600 per cent.

Because of their members' generous support, this Union was enabled to secure these increased wages, with the resulting higher standard of living.

The printer, thirty years ago, received about \$1.25 a day. Today, he receives about seven dollars for each day's work. Out of his earnings, he pays about four dollars dues each month into his Union. The printer pays this sum, over forty-eight dollars each year—gladly and cheerfully, knowing that if it were not for protection which his Union affords him, he would be living today on a starvation wage, in fear of discharge every time his employer might find himself able to secure a cheaper workman.

Were the dues paid by the leather-worker and the printer, in the early days of the Union, wasted?

Does anyone imagine that the moneyed classes, as exemplified by the leather-worker's and printer's employers, would have increased the wages paid these men six or seven hundred per cent, of their own free will?

We could go on and on with examples like this. The Farmers' Union can and will obtain like benefits for its members—the farmer—if it can secure and hold his whole-hearted support. It can secure cost of production plus a profit—for the farmer—but it must have YOU back of it—with YOUR faith and loyalty.

The Farmers' Union owes allegiance to no one—save our members, to whom we pledge ourselves anew. Plan to pay 1931 dues at your next Local meeting. If you're back a year or two, plan to pay the dues which are in arrears, and include those for this year!

The plight of the farmer may be summed up in the words of a famous American—"We must all hang together, or we'll hang separately." Your organization—The Farmers Union—merits any sacrifice you may find it necessary to make. We need your help. Will you give it?

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

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SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1931

THE FARMER OUT ON A LIMB

The refusal of the farm board to declare a definite policy of not competing with its tremendous stocks of old wheat against the new crop at present prices puts the very marketing machinery sponsored by the board in an embarrassing position. That machinery is the co-operative association of the farmers who are just now beginning to receive the wheat of their members. It is such groups of farmers, with other friends of the farm board, who are insistent that a definite marketing statement by the board would be helpful to the price of wheat.

The refusal of the board is made in the face of declarations by board members and other agricultural officials of the government that the price of wheat is almost bound to go up. They base this prediction on short crops in the American Northwest and Canada and smaller acreages in other exporting countries. One official believed a 15 to 20-cent advance was not unlikely, while Chairman Stone says the price has three chances to one of rising.

Yet the farmer associations of the Southwest now must base their prices upon a market depressed by the fear of unloading by the farm board. As a result, the 35 to 40-cent price expected for the new crop is below cost of production. Those marketing associations which sell their members' grain over a period of time, making an advance against it at time of delivery, are considering a 15-cent drawback as the smallest possible safe margin. With a 35-cent price ruling on the farm, such associations could pay their members only 20 cents a bushel upon delivery.

Early wheat marketed in Texas opened firmer than expected, because of insistent mill demand. Prevailing prices were reported at 40 to 50 cents on the farm. That such strength will be maintained when the combine harvesters begin unloading their vast production on the market is unlikely.

A definite statement by the farm board that it would hold back its wheat until the price rose, or until a period after the new crop had moved, has been urged upon the board by its friends as a means not only of capitalizing for the farmer the short supplies of old wheat held by the consumers, but also as a means of capitalizing expected rises in price later.

This policy would be a continuation of wheat stabilization operations, with no expense to the treasury except the cost of carrying the wheat. Not even the farm board has been able to show that this could do the farmer harm. The farmer believes it would do him much good.

In defense the farm board argues that it does not wish to tie its hands in selling its wheat and that its March statement it would handle its supplies with a minimum effect upon the market should be trusted as meaning the wheat would be treated in the interest of the farmer. With all due respect to the board, such a vague statement is not enough. The board is a great government agency, susceptible to political influence, and it has sole jurisdiction over between 200 and 300 million bushels of wheat, one-third to one-half an entire winter wheat crop. In the past the board has switched policies so unexpectedly that an industry with millions of dollars at stake cannot afford to trust in ambiguity—K. C. Star.

KANSAS WHEAT FIELDS

The prairies are moving. If you will climb to a hill at the edge of town just before dusk you will see them moving with rhythmic, unhurried motion toward the sun. You remember the slow cadence of the Negro spiritual. "The old ark's a-moverin', a-moverin', a-moverin'. The old ark's a-moverin', a-moverin' along." Just so the prairies are a-moverin' when wind and sunlight touch the ripening wheat.

The sea is tumultuous always, lashing in fury at its confines, restless even in its quiet days. And the mountains are terrible with storm. But in the fields of wheat, when the wind takes them, there is peace. Slowly they move, ripple upon ripple of green changing to gold, untroubled, without haste. What will be, will be. The twilight will be. The harvest will be. Summer, winter and another spring will be.

There the gold of the wheat turns to warm rose in the light of the lowering sun. There the waves break against a fence, noiselessly as green surf might break in a dream. Here a cloud shadow passes, sinister as a premonition of evil days. But what will be, will be. And the wheat flows endlessly, inevitably toward fruition.

Steadily, inexorably as time itself, the prairies are a-moverin', a-moverin', a-moverin'; the prairies are a-moverin', a-moverin' along. Marian Ellet in Concordia Blade.

AGRICULTURE AND THE DOLLAR

The wealth of agriculture lies not in dollars. Its resources are the soil and the climate and the products thereof. Its riches are the dirt and the sky. The very abundance of their gifts, both crops and live stock tend to reduce the farmers' dollars both in number and value.

Today sons of toil have dug on their farms in the hope of finding dollars. They have got the same reward—abundant crops with surpluses but little coin.

"Aha!" says the philosopher, "The farmer is independent. He raises his own living. It makes little difference to him whether he has ready cash or not."

The farmer needs the dollars to buy the products of industry—the rugs and draperies and furniture for the home; the clothing readymade or tailored from modern products of the loom; the labor-saving machinery of the farm and the home; the tractors and automobiles; the supplementary feeds which help his live stock to turn the products of dirt and sky into marketable form.

Between agriculture and the dollar there seems to be fixed a great gulf. Within the depths of the gulf lie stranded business and economic prosperity. Agriculture must have its dollars. Until the farmer gets adequate returns on his investment and for his labor, there can be no recovery from depression.

Prosperity comes from the soil and the climate and their ultimate products. We plead for fair prices for these products.

A BROADER VISION

It occurs to the writer that either by reason of not reading our agricultural news or from a condition of apathy or unconcern, those who are now, so to speak, out of touch or lack that aggressive spirit of defense are the ones who today who are hindering the more rapid development and final stabilization of our industry.

Brother, out in that fault-finding column of the unconcerned, let us look at this matter from a real point of vision of accomplishment and investment.

Do you realize this agricultural movement, the marketing feature of the farmer, is the biggest institution in these United States, or for that matter, in the world? The local county elevator where you live, with a limited membership, marketing their product to the best advantage possible as an individual institution; while doing its best, is only a single link in the chain, but as such, is holding the chain together, is only a step toward an end. Added to this is the regional elevator with greater capacity, which in turn is another link in the chain of investment. Then, and finally, the terminal storage, from which your produce finds its way to all known markets of the world. And as though these were not enough, the entire investment of every farmstead in the United States the owner, or even part owner, or renter if you please, is assembled behind this five hundred million dollar investment by the farm organizations, for this is not a gift, neither a subsidy, but simply a loan, millions of dollars of which have already been paid back, with interest at a low rate.

But we do not stop here for underneath all this are the elements of courage, sacrifice of time, money, labor, and, in fact, all that depend on the success of the farmer. Do you get the magnitude of the investment in this enterprise? And as if this were not enough, the welfare of the rural sections, with their schools, churches, social and fraternal organizations, are all linked up with this new idealism. A better agriculture, better home life, better boys and girls; in fact, these are a few of the things, but by no means not all, the success of which rest on the final triumph of this undertaking.

We are prone to look upon our great factories and their output, the railroads, the banks, steamship lines, and a myriad of minor enterprises, that seem to overshadow all else, but even these singly, although huge, or all together do not compare with the invested wealth of agriculture, aside from the produce that originates in the soil and becomes the vital element in the maintenance of human life, but as well ALL LIFE animate or inanimate, for we hear much said about the life of business, (hence this last expression).

Now we wonder if you have ever taken a similar view of this determined effort, and its present achievements, and its objective. Let us try to get a broad view of OUR business as the grain dealer, or the railroad magnate, or the subsidized steamboat idealist, whose position has been handed down after dole, and tariff after tariff, while the farmer has been kept busy feeding the whole gang with a scant living, with the burden of public expense piling high and still higher until a halt had to be called. Yes, Mr. Farmer, whoever you are, we are appealing to you, the fellow that stands by the wayside, doubting, fearful of the venture, while his neighbors go marching by, bent on bettering themselves as well as the one gazing at the procession.

No, these farm organizations are not selfish, although exclusive in their membership, neither are they a bunch of crooks, else they would not have accomplished so much in so short a time.

Sure, there have been failures, so have these occurred in every other occupation, yet these do not discourage those who choose to go straight. Then too, it seems those who hesitate, do so until this cooperative set-up succeeds.

This is hardly a fair attitude to assume for certainly you would help a neighbor when his house was afire, or if he were sick and helpless, you would not see him and his family or stock suffer, yet this is the thing you are hesitating to do when not only one neighbor is affected, but the entire Agricultural Family, and this means YOU.

Now, let us reason together. We are hoping this will be read by at least a few of the audience to which this is addressed, for we certainly are encouraged to find many of the outsiders coming into the farmer's camp of organized agriculture, and we shall make it pleasant for you, and really are anxious to have you counted as one who desires the progress and welfare of his neighbor as well as himself, for remember you can't fight the combined opposition with its organizations backed up by millions, which has been telling you what you should have for your wheat or hogs or butter.

Let us support the organization which stands for your welfare, and not give all to the other fellow. Come in, Buddie, with your neighbor.
FRANK A. CHAPIN.

The Insurance Corner

By CHARLES A. BROOM, Secretary

Death has again invaded our official family by removing by means of a tragic automobile accident, one of our directors, Mr. E. L. Bullard, of Vassar, Kansas. Mr. Bullard was elected a member of the board in January, 1927, and re-elected in 1930. His services have been of great value to our organization. This is the second loss by death on the board since April 13, when Mr. Kilian passed away.

Many of our best men in the Kansas Farmers Union have been taken during the past five years, which means that others must be pressed into service to take the place of those who have left us.

Many persons think that the way to sell anything is to discredit the competing factor and we want to caution our people in doing this thing. Sell our insurance on its own merits and let the competition take care of itself. This is the only way it can be done successfully, and if sold on the basis of cost, service and safety there will be no undesirable after effects.

In Memoriam

E. L. BULLARD'S PLACE
WILL BE HARD TO FILL

I have known Mr. Bullard for the last seven or eight years in Farmers Union work and this co-operative movement.

I have known him to be a tireless worker, absolutely honest and sincere in his convictions. His advice and judgment were always sound. He was always ready and willing to drive night and day to further the movement and in the interest of the farmer or producer.

He was one of the best students of the cooperative movement I have ever known, kept himself informed up to the minute in regard to what was going on. Was a man highly respected for his high ideals and sincerity of purpose.

I realize that his place in the Farmers Union is going to be hard to fill.

H. E. WITHAM.
Sec'y-Mgr. F. U. Jobbing Ass'n.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Whereas it has pleased the Supreme Being in His infinite wisdom to call from our midst our brother, E. L. Bullard,

Resolved, that the removal of such a life and the absence of an earnest coworker whose counsel and help in the work of our organization will be greatly missed.

That the Franklin County Farmers Union, extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in their hour of sorrow.

Also that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, one to the Kansas Union Farmer and one spread on the minutes of the County Union. MRS. HARRY MORGAN, Sec'y.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas death has stricken one of our beloved leaders in the work of uniting the farmers of Kansas, and

Whereas we feel that his loss is irreparable to the Farmers Union of Kansas and to his family, therefore be it

Resolved by Bellview Local No. 2042 of Kincaid, Kansas, our sympathy is extended to the bereaved family of our late Brother E. L. Bullard and his young son; that we mourn with them the irreparable loss; that copy of these resolutions be sent to Mrs. Bullard and that they be spread on the records of this local.

G. S. Irwin
J. T. Anderson
M. O. Pierce, Committee.

FARMER HIT AGAIN

Proposed Freight Rate Increase To Cost Him 100 Million Annually

Two Pounds Required to Pay Freight Bill Where One Did It in 1929

Washington, June 18.—The proposed 15 per cent increase in freight rates will cost the American farmer more than 100 million dollars annually on the products he markets.

According to the department of agriculture this is nearly one-sixth the total additional burden the railroads would place on the shippers of the country should the interstate commerce commission grant their plea for increased rates.

The class 1 railroads last year collected a total of \$674,744,333 for the transportation of farm products, and a total for all commodities of \$4,200,495,870. According to the department of agriculture this includes most of the railroads' freight revenue.

How much additional freight the farmer would be compelled to pay under a 15 per cent increase in rates on what he buys has not been determined by the economist of the department of agriculture.

An Unpopular Move

"About the most unpopular thing among the American farmers," Carl Williams, acting chairman of the farm board, said today, "is increase of freight rates on farm products. The farmer believes his freight rates are too high now; that rates should come down rather than go up. His chief complaint is that the price of raw materials he raises have gone down more rapidly than the finished products he buys. I think there is a good deal of justification in the farmer's attitude."

The farm board member asserted the index figure on farm commodities had declined 50 per cent since 1929, and to pay his freight bill the farmer now had to give two pounds where he formerly gave one.

Every increase in freight rates will turn the shippers to cheaper methods of transportation, Williams declared. He said the shipment of livestock and cotton by truck was increasing rapidly; that in sections served by good roads one-half to two-thirds of farm commodities adapted to this form of transportation now were being hauled by truck. The exception, he said, was grain, which was shipped in bulk from the local elevators.

A Conference Tomorrow

The interstate commerce commission today announced a conference here Saturday with representatives of the state public service commissions to determine what procedure should be followed in hearing the rate increase case. It is to be decided, whether the states shall intervene to protect their rights on interstate rates or the commissions act as a unit. When the increased rates were granted in 1920 each part of the country had a representative sitting with the commission.

"A Boom" Argument

A Chicagoan wrote the commission the increased rates given in 1929 started the business recovery of 1921. This is one of the arguments advanced by the supporters of the increase; that the rush to get shipments moving before the increased rates became effective may start a nationwide business revival. The main argument, however, is that with weekly carload loadings now down about one-fourth million the increased rates are the only means of saving

many lines from bankruptcy, which in turn might wreck banks and endanger the security holdings of insurance companies.

Whether the interstate commerce commission will have prolonged hearings, which are unnecessary in view of the fact a blanket 15 per cent rate increase is asked—not a readjustment of rail charges—has not been determined. There is strong financial pressure, particularly from the holders of rail securities, for increased rates, and support is being given by the railroad workers. Doubt is expressed that if an increase is granted the entire 15 per cent will be allowed, particularly on agricultural products.

Kansas Will Fight Freight Rate Increase

Kansas will resist to the utmost the application of the railroads for 15 per cent increases in freight rates, and will work to force early decision in the courts on the decrease in grain rates ordered by the interstate commerce commission.

Governor Woodring announced last night that he has directed the state public service commission to use every means in its power to prevent the increases asked being granted. He will send one of the members of the commission—either Chairman Jesse Greenleaf or Thurman T. Hill of Independence—to Washington to represent Kansas before the interstate commerce commission in opposing the asked-for increase.

"Emergency Exists"

Governor Woodring last night also issued the following statement setting out the interest of Kansas in the matter, and giving his reasons why he believes the increases are unjustified: "The farmers would be justified in insisting upon decreases instead," the governor notes. His statement follows:

"The state of Kansas will resist with every agency at its command the action of the steam railroads in applying to the Interstate Commerce Commission to increase all freight rates 15 per cent. I am instructing a member of the Public Service Commission to go to Washington to appear before the Interstate Commerce Commission in the interests of the people of Kansas. We will conclusively show that an emergency exists in agriculture far more serious than any that may be claimed by the railroads, and we shall demand the fullest investigation of conditions before any action is taken.

"Livestock Prices Low. "Agriculture in Kansas is prostrate and business generally is going through a period of painful readjustment which is nationwide.

"The price of wheat in Kansas is today 69 per cent less than the pre-war price, while railroads are rying charges for wheat are still 47 per cent above the pre-war level. Moreover present indications are that the price of wheat will show a decline when the crop movement gets under way, although it is well known that now far below the cost of production. The value of livestock in this territory has declined seriously since last year and has placed the live stock industry in a serious situation. Assuming that the increase will be granted, it will require more than four times as much wheat to buy as much transportation as one bushel bought in 1914. If the 1931 crop of wheat in Kansas is shipped under the proposed new rate, it will add 2 cents per bushel to the cost to the farmer, or a total of approximately three million dollars.

Wheat 50 Cents a Bushel

"The price of wheat this week fell below 50 cents on the Kansas City market which indicates an average price of 33 cents in the country points, a price so low that no price analysis is necessary to show it is below the cost of production. Notwithstanding this, the executives of the railroads say they must have an increase of 15 per cent in the rates on grain. This increase on wheat moved to Chicago would exceed 10 per cent of the farm value and if carried to the seaboard would represent 18 per cent of the indicated farm prices. The railroads in other words, are demanding that freight rates be increased to a point where they will be 69 per cent in excess of the pre-war rates.

"The state of Kansas is especially concerned over the suggestion that the Interstate Commerce Commission act upon the application of the railroads as an emergency and without the customary thoroughness of investigation. The unfairness and unreasonableness of this suggestion when applied to struggling agriculture is perfectly obvious. In all fairness it would seem to me the railroads should be willing to absorb their losses, if there are such, during the present depression, the same as agriculture has no means of obtaining increased prices to place the industry on a basis above the cost of production.

Hardly Playing Fair

"The railroads are hardly playing fair with Kansas; the net income from their Kansas operations in 1930 was 98 per cent of the income of 1928. During the first four months of the 1931 operation the reduction in the income on these Kansas lines was only 21 per cent, whereas it was 35 per cent for the total of the Western district; 39 per cent for the Southern district, and 41 per cent for the Eastern district. It might not be amiss to call attention to the fact that it costs less to operate railroads in Kansas than in any other state in the union. They have accumulated large surpluses in recent years. Do the executives of these railroads really feel that it is proper to further harass prostrate agriculture? I should like to inquire, too, if the railroads are denied this increase in rates if they propose to ask for a reduction in the wages of their employees?

Ask for an Emergency

"The railroads in their petition ask that an emergency be declared and point to the depression (continued on page 3).

KANSAS UNION FARMER WEEKLY

EXCHANGE. If members of the Union have anything to sell or exchange, they should advertise in this department. Rate: 5 words a word per line. If run of time, send word for the four issues. Count words in heading, ad. "For Sale," or "Wanted to Buy," and each initial or figure in the address. Compound words count as two words. CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. TRY THIS DEPARTMENT—IT WILL PAY YOU.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

SEEDS AND PLANTS

FOR SALE—1 LaCrosse 4-bottom tractor, 3 braker bottoms extra.—Frank Flaughier, Quinter, Kansas.

O. L. C. Bird gifts, pigs, Peterson and Sons, Oaage City, Kans.

WANTED

WANTED—Position managing elevator or Helper. Any place, ten years' experience. Will take stock. Address O. G. Hamm, Norton, Kansas.

WANTED—Position as Manager of Farmers Elevator. You will make no mistake by giving us a chance at it, or we have had years of experience in the grain business and all the side lines. Have been employed but the firm has sold out just lately. Can give bond and good references. Give particulars in first letter. Address J. D. M., Kansas Union Farmer, Salina, Kansas.

UNCLE ANDY SAYS:



"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey
Where wealth accumulates and men decay
A hardy yeomanry the country's pride
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

—Goldsmith.

Centralization of wealth goes on apace. Farm bankruptcies and foreclosures increasing. Prices for farm products steadily falling and no one seems to know what to do about it.

Attending a Farmers' Union quarterly meeting the other day in Marysville, our Congressman Strong delivered his regulation address. Among other things he recounted the almost fifty laws that had been passed for farmers. A stalwart hard working farmer got up and lunged out at Jim, saying, "I don't care if you had passed a thousand laws, the fact remains that my taxes are about due and I haven't the money to pay them, and banks refuse to loan tax money. What good are all your laws, and farm boards if farmers are facing ruin and tax default?"

Of course, that farmer's question wasn't answered. That is the burning question that must be answered if farm ownership is to remain as a factor in our national structure.

We are attending the national meeting of cooperative specialists at Manhattan this week. Every one has his special hobby which he is riding quite joyfully, apparently oblivious of the fact that the bottom is threatening to fall out of the whole farm structure.

The matter of excessively low prices for farm products is being skillfully skirted by the specialists, or, if mentioned at all, is regarded as unavoidable, just as something of course that happens no one knows how or why.

The spirit of fatalism is rampant in this gathering of specialists. They are subscribing to and registering on the pages of fate's desk book unwillingly as it seems. A "world depression" and "over-production" are the two favorite scapegoats on which they are loading the sins of the system.

Of course the best of us need a scapegoat once in a while for we are all more or less sinners and fall short of giving the best that is in us, but loading our shortcomings on the goat won't buy a dress for the baby, nor pay for the one it has.

The "sacred ox" of the Hindoos is a privileged brute. It has the free run of the country. No matter if it is eating up the gardens or razing the wheat fields, it must not be touched because it's sacred.

It looks as if we, too, have our "sacred ox," but of a different breed, that mustn't be touched or even talked about, it's so sacred. No matter if it's robbing the hen roosts, or lapping the cream from the milk pail, or devastating our grain fields, or making a nightmare of our stock pens, it's all right with our fancy specialists. It is fate, and sacred, untouchable.

How about it, farmers? Don't you think it time to get after this brute and put him to rout? The ox in this little simile is the organized money power that is deflating prices, destroying land values, preventing distribution, destroying buying power and causing under consumption.

The overproduction cry is nothing new. It's been the old alibi of all our past panics. It's the whine of the inefficient statesman when things break down. Hunger and want on one hand, and too much of everything on the other; a disgrace to our civilization and a menace to the stability of our institutions. But the sacred ox of Wall Street must not be disturbed, or even talked about.

As a result of past "notes" I have a lot of letters which I intended answering in this issue, but writing away from home and mixing with fancy experts, I just got off on the wrong foot, and will try and answer next time.

Junior Cooperators by Aunt Patience

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS DEPARTMENT
Any boy or girl between the ages of six and sixteen, whose father is a member in good standing of the Farmers' Union, who writes a letter for publication, can be a member of this department, and is entitled to a pin. In order to receive a book, he must signify his intentions to study the lessons and send them in. We cannot send out books to those who do not intend to study the lessons. The address to which all Juniors should send their letters is: Aunt Patience in care of the KANSAS UNION FARMER, Salina, Kansas.

Dear Juniors: I've not written all of you a letter, like this, for a long time—and I know you know the reason, which is, our being so crowded for space.

I couldn't resist doing so this week—I wanted to call your attention to a brother Cooperator, Emil Deines, who sends us SEVEN applications for membership—all at once! Isn't that splendid? Here are their names:

Oscar Deines, Collyer, 15 years old.
Ida Mae Food, Collyer, 8 years old.
Haley Beaver, Quinter, 14 years old.
Bernadine Beaver, Quinter, 12 years old.

Elwin Todd, Collyer, 10 years old.
Albert Harvey, Collyer, 14 years old.

Beulah Todd, Collyer, 12 years old.
All of the above signified their intention to study the lessons and send them in. I'm going to send each one a note book and pin but I expect each to write me—when I receive his note book—and give me his birthday date, and tell us something about himself.

Emil made an application blank for each one, which I thought was an awfully good idea. This is the way it looked:

**APPLICATION FOR
Junior Cooperators' Club**

Name _____
Age _____
Address _____

Mark x in space if you want to send in the lessons and get a note book. ☐ ☐ ☐

TOWN _____

STATE _____

Victoria, Kansas, April 30, 1931.
Dear Aunt Patience: How are you getting along? My brother asked me to join the Club. I am ten years old. My birthday is February 21. We have seventeen little kittens. For pets I have a little wooly puppy, his name is Spot. Our school closes April 30, 1931. I am glad, I hope to be in the fourth grade next year. I guess I will have to close for it is late and I am getting tired and cross of writing and it is also bedtime.
Your friend,
Cyrilla Miller.

Dear Cyrilla: I'd like to see seventeen little kittens together, all in one place. I imagine they have lots of fun, playing. He has a little white Collie puppy, too. He has a dog house and a dog house. I think it's just a dead animal. Be sure to watch for the lessons and write soon.
Aunt Patience.

Home, Kans., May 1, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience:
How are you? I have a sore throat. I suppose you have forgotten me. I never wrote to you for a long time. We have three little kittens. We had four but one is gone. We have eight calves. Altogether we have 17 and milk seven. We get 3 rails of milk. My sister Helen is working in the central office. My little sister Mary is real dark complexioned.
I only saw one lesson in the paper, that was Nov. 27, 1930. How come there isn't any lessons?
I never wrote to my twin for a long time. She sent me a letter when her sister was sick and I wrote one back to her but she never answered yet. Well, my letter is getting long so will close.
Your niece,
Leona Binger.

P. S. I am sending in my essay.
Dear Leona: No, indeed, I haven't forgotten you but I've been so long answering your letter that I imagine you thought I had! Who is your twin? We're going to have another very soon.
Aunt Patience.

Arkansas City, Kans.,
B. R. No. 2, May 1, 1931

Dear Aunt Patience:
How are you? I am just fine, and hope you are the same. My birthday is February 9. I have not found my twin yet. My father belongs to the Farmers Union. Thank you very much for the pin and book. Our school is out. How do you like the weather? It is raining here. We are going to have a birthday dinner Sunday. I will close now.

Yours truly,
Alice Bossie.

Dear Alice: I'm fine, too, but awfully hot. I'm so glad you liked the pin and book. Have you found your twin yet? Please write again soon. Aunt Patience.

LaCrosse, Kansas, June 3, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: I am sending in my grades. I hope you think that my grades are pretty good. I would like to get a book and pin. We have 47 little ducks. Pretty soon we will have roast ducks. I wish you could have a dinner with us some day. I would like to meet you some day and all the Juniors. My birthday is May 4th. I am 11 years old. Yours truly,
Regina Kuhn.

Dear Regina: I surely did wish your grades were good. I sent them some time ago. My, I wish I could have a meeting with you some day. Wouldn't it be nice if the Junior Cooperators could have a meeting some time? I'm having it sent back to you today. Thank you for letting me see it—your department grades were splendid and I was glad to see that you weren't tardy once, all year!
Aunt Patience.

Bison, Kans., June 4, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: Just a few lines to let you know that I am going to tell you that I have found my twin.

My twin is Mary K. Wickstrom, Conway, Kansas. She is ten years old and her birthday is August 26, 1931, and my birthday is on the same day, but I am 14 years old and she is only ten. Does that have anything to say that she is not my twin? I think I must close for today because it is too hot and there is too much work.
Yours truly,
Dominic A. Strenel.

Dear Dominic: Congratulations—I'm so glad you've found your twin. No, you can be two, although you're not really the same age. I suppose you've written her by this time—I hope you'll both keep up the correspondence.
Aunt Patience.

Axtell, Kansas, April 24, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: I received my book and pin. I think they are very nice, and thank you for them.
I asked my little sister, Lucille, to join and she is joining. Do I not get another star? I am going to try to get some others to join also.
Are your fruit trees in bloom? Our cherry trees are but the others have lost their blooms because they bloomed before. Goodbye, I will close.
Yours truly,
Ethelyn Conable.

Dear Ethelyn: I'm glad you liked your book and pin. I hope you'll get a star for Lucille. I've been so late with your letter that my cherry trees have not only bloomed, but have several pies from them, by this time! They were good, too. Please write again.
Aunt Patience.

Axtell, Kans., April 24, 1931.
Dear Aunt Patience: I received my book and pin. I think they are very nice, and thank you for them.
I asked my little sister, Lucille, to join and she is joining. Do I not get another star? I am going to try to get some others to join also.
Are your fruit trees in bloom? Our cherry trees are but the others have lost their blooms because they bloomed before. Goodbye, I will close.
Yours truly,
Ethelyn Conable.

Dear Ethelyn: I'm glad you liked your book and pin. I hope you'll get a star for Lucille. I've been so late with your letter that my cherry trees have not only bloomed, but have several pies from them, by this time! They were good, too. Please write again.
Aunt Patience.

Codell, Kans., May 7, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: My brother, Alfred, took me to join the Club. How are you? I am fine. I hope you are the same. My sister, Lorraine, is going to be in the third grade. I am going to be in the third grade. My brother, Alfred, will be in the sixth grade. I am going to be eleven years old. My birthday is November 17. Have I a twin? Please send me a pin and book. Well, I will have to close.
Your niece,
Marie Rohleder.

Dear Marie: We're glad to have you in our Club—what a nice letter you wrote. Your pin and book have been sent already—watch for our next lesson.
Aunt Patience.

Codell, Kans., May 1, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: How are you? I am fine. I hope you are the same. I have found my twin. She is Effie Lutter. Her birthday is on the fourth of May. I am going to be in the sixth grade next year. Our school was out the 30th of April. I am sending my letter with my sister's. Well, I will have to close.
Yours truly,
Alfred Rohleder.

Dear Alfred: I'm glad you found your twin and I hope you'll write me another, often. Congratulations on getting a star for your little sister. Write us again.
Aunt Patience.

Green, Kans., May 1, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: How are you getting along now? It is sure fine weather, isn't it? I never did find my twin. I am 10 years old. My birthday is June 28th. I am sending my essay. It may be too late but I was so busy with my school work I overlooked the lesson. Well, I will have to help my mother now and get this letter off. I have not written a letter to you for a long time so I thought I would write a little with my essay. Well, I must sign off for now.
Your niece,
Helen Moon.

Dear Helen: I have sent your essay to our Junior Instructor—the results of that contest will be announced soon. I'm very glad you thought to write me when you sent your essay—please write again.
Aunt Patience.

Elmdale, Kans., April 30, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: How are you? I am fine. It rained here this morning. We have two dogs, their names are Tip and Buster. Benna Cook's birthday is the 22nd of July. Mine is the 11th of July. Do you think our birthdays are too far apart to write to each other?
We have a mother cat who has four kittens. There are two white ones, a gray and a gray and white.
Your friend,
Mary Wells.

Dear Mary: No, I don't think it would be lovely for you and Benna to write each other. It isn't necessary to have just the same birthday. You know—you can write anyone whose letter interests you, or anyone you think you'd like to know better. How are the kittens by the time?
Aunt Patience.

Victoria, Kans., April 30, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: I am fine. I hope you are the same. My brother and sister were sick last week, but I never was sick this winter. We had a rain last Wednesday. I am glad because our school ends April 30, 1931. The children are all so glad. I am going to be in the sixth grade next year. I will send in my letter every month this summer if I can. I did not have any time this winter. I guess I will have to close because I am getting sleepy tonight.
Your friend,
Rita Miller.

Dear Rita: I was so glad to hear from you—vacation is fun, isn't it? What are you planning to do with yours, this summer? I hope you'll keep your resolution to write often this summer.
Aunt Patience.

Bison, Kans., June 4, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: Just a few lines to let you know that I am going to tell you that I have found my twin.

My twin is Mary K. Wickstrom, Conway, Kansas. She is ten years old and her birthday is August 26, 1931, and my birthday is on the same day, but I am 14 years old and she is only ten. Does that have anything to say that she is not my twin? I think I must close for today because it is too hot and there is too much work.
Yours truly,
Dominic A. Strenel.

Dear Dominic: Congratulations—I'm so glad you've found your twin. No, you can be two, although you're not really the same age. I suppose you've written her by this time—I hope you'll both keep up the correspondence.
Aunt Patience.

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Yours truly,
Ethelyn Conable.

Dear Ethelyn: I'm glad you liked your book and pin. I hope you'll get a star for Lucille. I've been so late with your letter that my cherry trees have not only bloomed, but have several pies from them, by this time! They were good, too. Please write again.
Aunt Patience.

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Your niece,
Marie Rohleder.

Dear Marie: We're glad to have you in our Club—what a nice letter you wrote. Your pin and book have been sent already—watch for our next lesson.
Aunt Patience.

Codell, Kans., May 1, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: How are you? I am fine. I hope you are the same. I have found my twin. She is Effie Lutter. Her birthday is on the fourth of May. I am going to be in the sixth grade next year. Our school was out the 30th of April. I am sending my letter with my sister's. Well, I will have to close.
Yours truly,
Alfred Rohleder.

Dear Alfred: I'm glad you found your twin and I hope you'll write me another, often. Congratulations on getting a star for your little sister. Write us again.
Aunt Patience.

Green, Kans., May 1, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: How are you getting along now? It is sure fine weather, isn't it? I never did find my twin. I am 10 years old. My birthday is June 28th. I am sending my essay. It may be too late but I was so busy with my school work I overlooked the lesson. Well, I will have to help my mother now and get this letter off. I have not written a letter to you for a long time so I thought I would write a little with my essay. Well, I must sign off for now.
Your niece,
Helen Moon.

Dear Helen: I have sent your essay to our Junior Instructor—the results of that contest will be announced soon. I'm very glad you thought to write me when you sent your essay—please write again.
Aunt Patience.

Elmdale, Kans., April 30, 1931.

Dear Aunt Patience: How are you? I am fine. It rained here this morning. We have two dogs, their names are Tip and Buster. Benna Cook's birthday is the 22nd of July. Mine is the 11th of July. Do you think our birthdays are too far apart to write to each other?
We have a mother cat who has four kittens. There are two white ones, a gray and a gray and white.
Your friend,
Mary Wells.

Dear Mary: No, I don't think it would be lovely for you and Benna to write each other. It isn't necessary to have just the same birthday. You know—you can write anyone whose letter interests you, or anyone you think you'd like to know better. How are the kittens by the time?
Aunt Patience.

FARMER HIT AGAIN

(continued from page 2)

In transportation as justification. It would not be amiss to call the attention of Kansas agriculture to the attitude of the railroads toward the depression declared to exist in agriculture by congress when it passed the Hoch-Smith resolution. When the cases that followed as a result of that resolution were heard the railroads sought to help agriculture by proposing increases ranging from 30 to 50 per cent. It might not be out of place for the farmers to meet the contention of a depression in the transportation industry by proposing reductions of like amounts.

"The railroads ask that the matter be set down for immediate consideration and that the increases be granted after brief hearings in order that the rates may become effective at a very early date. Surely the task of examining into the reasonableness of the carriers' charges is one of as great magnitude as that which confronted the carriers in publishing the grain rates required by the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission a year ago. The Interstate Commerce Commission might well follow the precedent established by the railroads and delay the decision indefinitely."

Demands of the railroads for a 15 per cent increase in freight rates at this time are declared "astounding, short-sighted and inopportune" by Senator Capper in a letter to Chairman Ezra Brainerd of the protesting commerce committee. The increase is being granted.

Senator Capper's letter, in part follows:

"The demand of the railroads for an increase in freight rates at this time is astounding, short-sighted and most inopportune. I earnestly hope that the application of the carriers for a 15 per cent increase in freight rates as filed with the commission will not be granted. Agriculture has taken seven times as heavy a blow as the railroads have taken from the depression."

The price of wheat in Kansas City yesterday was below 33 cents. This means a bushel of 33 cents a bushel for Kansas wheat growers, even less in the western and larger part of the Kansas wheat belt.

The carriers are proposing in their application to charge 25 cents a bushel for Kansas wheat to Chicago from central Kansas. That is within seven cents of the present price farmers are receiving for their grain.

Then the roads are proposing to charge 47 cents a bushel to transport wheat to the seaboard—or 143 per cent above what the growers are receiving for it.

Rates Already Too High
The price of wheat today is 61 per cent below the pre-war level; present freight rates are 57 per cent above the pre-war level. The wheatmen are striking disparity between the rates for wheat to the seaboard and the rates for wheat to the Gulf.

This would make the value of wheat, in terms of railroad transportation it can purchase, 23 per cent of the pre-war value. It will require four bushels of wheat to pay for transportation that one bushel of wheat would purchase in 1914.

The commission's findings in the grain rate case, for recall the transportation charges on grain for this western territory were already too high, by approximately 21 to 25 million dollars a year.

Farmers Getting Less
I believe this demand for increased rates is largely of Eastern origin. So far as the Kansas railroads are concerned, the records do not show they are in need of higher rates. I am informed by the rate department of our state public service commission that their Kansas operations in 1930 were within 98 per cent of their income in 1928.

Kansas farmers are getting 50 cents or less for wheat—paying 17 cents of that for railroad transportation. Cattle are bringing 8 cents, eggs 6 cents, butterfat 14 cents, hogs 9 cents—and paying transportation costs out of these prices, in most instances. Taxes are three times as high as 10 years ago on Kansas farm land.

This production region cannot afford to pay the present freight rates on grain and livestock, to say nothing of a 15 per cent increase. If the carriers are to get nearly one and one-half times as much for hauling their grain to consuming centers of the East as the farmer gets for growing it—the railroads are short-sighted in asking for such a ruinous sacrifice. If the asked-for increase is granted, there will be wheat-acreage reduction with a vengeance, and the roads will be first to suffer from that reduction and that suffering will be severe.

I feel that the demand for increased rates shows a lack of consideration for the public interest that is almost incomprehensible. The carriers could not afford to take the increase if they were granted.

Quinter, Kans., June 19, 1931
Kansas Union Farmer,
Salina, Kansas.

Dear Editor:
The county meeting at Grinnell the 17th was attended by about 60 members. Mr. Shippy and Mr. Shook made interesting talks, also Mr. Harrington and Mr. Roesch.

It was decided that we become a member of the State Board of Agriculture. A chicken dinner was served at 5 o'clock. The next meeting will be at Grinnell in September.

We have a good meeting whenever we get out a crowd. Let us plan to have a crowd at our next meeting.

Fraternally yours,
Henry Sprengel.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

MEETINGS CAUSE MUCH INTEREST

Quinter, Kans., June 2, 1931.
Dear Cooperators: Today dry, hot, windy weather here from west to east to fine, in other words spotted—yet if farmers could get anything for products crops sufficient over state to create a wave of optimism. This p. m. will mark my seventh meeting this week. Much interest being shown. Hat times makes cooperators and teachers Mr. Farmer his powerlessness against big business combines and trusts. On Monday night I spoke to about fifty at Gove. Tuesday night over 300 at Penokee. Mr. T. N. Drieling, Manager of F. U. Elevator, sure did a wonderful job. Ice cream, lemonade and cigars were plentiful. It was Mr. Drieling's contribution to co-operation. He made a fine short talk and read his ten-year report, one to be proud of. John Richmeyer over at Morland, another successful operator and cooperator. The speakers of the state are real ones. Wednesday night Bee Hive school southwest of Studley, good crowd of good people. Wednesday afternoon Gove County meeting Grinnell. Several present and a keen interest manifested. Thursday night St. Peter, a real enthusiastic group of probably more than 100—10 new members added. Friday night Bow Creek northwest of Studley, small crowd owing to a fatal accident in neighborhood. Booked there again Saturday afternoon at Grinnell. Every night next week except Friday dated and all looking forward to some lasting benefits. (Organization Cooperation) the key to our agricultural problems. We own the foodstuffs, let's control the price, do ourselves. Let's not only talk but act. I've lost twelve pounds past eight weeks and will soon be down to where I can sock 'em and get away—swat the enemy of agriculture with Farm-er-owned and Farmer-controlled marketing agencies. They have served their time. Have seen their best days, and like the old grey mare, they ain't what they used to be. They taught us how to systematize, production? No! distribution.

In closing, a word to the 4-H Club. BOYS and GIRLS, you are learning cost of production and have taught mother and father along the way. Just study along with this Cooperative Marketing, apply it and agriculture will be lifted out of the mire, be placed on a basis of economic equality with other industries, and you girls and boys can enjoy happy homes, free and clear. Let's make our meetings a little more Mother and Daughter, Dad and Lad affairs.

With best wishes to all.
J. E. SHIPPS.

FRANKLIN CO. UNION NO. 72

The County Union met with the Hawkins Local Tuesday evening June 16th. During the business session several items of interest were discussed. The president appointed members to serve on the various committees to help prepare for the county farm organization picnic which will be held at Ottawa Tuesday, August 4th.

A very impressive memorial honoring the late E. L. Bullard was held. Mr. H. B. Whitaker gave a sketch of Mr. Bullard's life and the prominent places he so nobly filled in the Farmers' Union. The 23rd Psalm was read in unison and Elton Thayer gave a prayer. A vocal duet, "Whispering Hope" was given by Mrs. Don Beck and Miss Lynn Walker, accompanied by Mrs. L. O. Gaddis.

The tragic death of Mr. Bullard and his son brings sadness to us all. Mr. Bullard was with us at our April meeting and we trust he realized how much we appreciated his earnest appeal for the closer organization of agriculture.

Whitaker said, it would be Mr. Bullard's wish that each of us try just a little harder to do our part in the Farmers Union cause. The other numbers of the program were: Singing—The More We Get Together.

Solos—The Argentine, the Portuguese and Greek, and parody—In the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Recitation—My Doctor's Telephone.

Solo—O Sole Mio. Miss Lynn Walker Solo—Sailing Home. Howard Vick Recitation—Sister Sue. Ernest Nesbit Solo—In the Garden of Tomorrow.

Mrs. Don Beck Solos—Sauerkraut, and parody to In the Gloaming. Mr. C. E. Pingree Mr. Pingree had been absent for several meetings but redeemed himself by singing for us. It must have been Farmers Union "kraut" he was advertising as he said, "Jimmy Xmas" it was fine. Zerbe's Orchestra had a little hard luck but when the string was repaired, did as usual, played every chance they had.

Mr. H. B. Whitaker made a short talk giving a brief outline of the purpose of the National Dairy "set up" and how a plan could be worked out to handle the grain of the members through the National Grain Corporation. We were pleased to have Mr. Whitaker with us and we are sure with more time he could have told us many things of interest.

Re freshments of fruit salad and cake were served by the Hawkins Local to the 180 present.

July will be a very busy month for the most of us, and we won't try to do much more after the picnic. Time and place to be announced later. Will expect you all to attend the picnic and do your part to make it a success. If any one is uncertain just what it is, Mr. A. C. Scholl is singing lately it is, "Will There Be Any Cherry Pies at the Picnic?"

Mrs. Harry Morgan, Secy.

FARMERS UNION MEETING

The second quarterly meeting of the Marshall County Farmers Union was held in Marysville, Tuesday, June 9, and was attended by 54 delegates from nine locals and about one hun-

dred visiting members. After partaking of a splendid dinner served by the ladies, the meeting was called to order by President Scholz at 1:30 o'clock and opened by all singing "America," followed by music by Paecenia's orchestra. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the executive committee's report was adopted as read. It was decided to hold the County Annual Picnic in the Scholz Grove some time in August, the date to be decided later, and President Scholz appointed the following committee: Speaker and dates, H. A. Waters and H. J. Feldman; Grounds, Sn. Creek and Hopewell Locals; Supervisors, Earl Bullock and A. D. Fitch; Stands, Midway Local, William Taylor, as chairman; Program, Fred Pralle, Jack Randolph and Henry Rombeck; Sports, J. M. Stiles; Entertainment, J. M. Stiles; Refreshments, Mrs. Fitch, Mrs. Frost, Mrs. Crome and Mrs. Chase.

The resolution committee reported the following resolution:

No. 1. Resolved, that we accept John A. Simpson's solution of the controversy as he stated in the Kansas Union Farmer of March 5, 1931. Further, that if accepted by the county as a whole we push this idea further to state and national unions.

Whereas: an embargo should be placed upon foreign wheat and the Department of Agriculture be authorized to have charge of the marketing of wheat, and further this would involve the licensing of all purchases of wheat such as elevators and mills, no one else would be permitted to purchase wheat for milling purposes. After much discussion the resolution was adopted.

No. 2. Died for want of a second. No. 3. Tabled until our next meeting. No. 4. While not perfect, we strongly insist that the Farm Marketing act and the Farm Board shall be continued and the price of wheat for many months, averted as experience teaches. Cooperative Marketing has been given a great impetus. The National Grain Corporation and the National Livestock Marketing Association and other Farm Cooperatives have grown into great and useful agencies, and farmers are coming into control of their products as they must, in order to secure a fair return. The Stabilization Corporation by holding up the price of wheat for many months, averted a panic, saving not only farmers but banks and the public. Resolution adopted.

No. 5. The farm surplus problem is becoming more chronic. It is high time the remedy of limitation and regulation of production was being studied and applied. We ask our State Farmers Union to confer with other farm organizations, and in co-operation with the Farm Board and the government, work out a plan to prevent the ever recurring glut in markets that is bringing ruin to agriculture.

No. 6. In view of charges being publicly made of extravagant and illegal charges for service by county officials, we demand a public, fair and non-partisan investigation of these charges. Adopted.

This was followed by musical selections by the orchestra. A recitation by Bonnie Randolph, and a few comic stories by Jack Randolph.

Richard H. Mackey was elected as crop reporter for the County Union to make reports to the State Board of Agriculture.

Congressman Strong was called to the floor and gave us a splendid talk for about an hour. He was followed by Andrew Shearer who gave us a very good report of the meeting of the Corn Belt Committee in Iowa a short while back.

The following committee were appointed for our next meeting at Beattie. Hall, Lyle Cassidy; Dinner, Mrs. Chase, Mrs. George Scholz, and Mrs. Cassidy; Program, George Rombeck. Resolution, Joe Chase, Chas. Masi and J. E. Hibbard. Good of Order, John Stolz, Conrad F. Crome and A. D. Fitch.

No further business, adjourned.—Richard H. Mackey, Secretary.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

Whereas Our Heavenly Father in His Infinite Wisdom has called from our midst Harold Adams, son of Brother and Sister Mr. Wm. Adams.

Now be it therefore resolved that we members of the Kansas Farmers Union herewith respectfully pay tribute to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy.

Be it furthermore resolved that we cause copies of these resolutions to be sent to the family of the deceased that they be spread on the minutes of the Local and copy printed in the Kansas Union Farmer.

C. A. Westermann, J. A. Adams, W. L. Habiger, Committee.

PEET-THOMPSON

The commodious home of Mr. and Mrs. George P. T. of this city, was the scene of an assembly of interested friends Tuesday evening June 16, to witness the marriage of their only daughter, Violet May, to Jesse R. Thompson, of Eureka.

As the clock sounded 8:30, Miss Eddy Sheets sang "At Dawning," with Miss Pearl Brumbaugh playing the organ accompaniment. Then, during the rendition

MORE ABOUT MEETING OF CORN BELT FEDERATION

(continued from page 1)

member organizations as to restricting voting to members of the Federation, there was a gentleman's understanding between Hirth and the writer that the constitution and by-laws would govern the proceedings of the convention.

When Talbot made his motion to restrict voting to members of the Federation the test of who was FOR the marketing act, and who AGAINST was brought squarely to an issue. If any one present failed to understand that this was the issue, he was, to use Vice-President Curtis' expression, "just too d—d dumb to understand." On this test of support for and against the marketing act, this is the way the delegates voted:

For the marketing act:
C. E. Huff, Legislative Committee.
M. W. Thatcher, Farmers Union Terminal Assn.

C. A. Talbot, N. D. Farmers Union.
A. W. Ricker, secretary, Federation and member of legislative committee.
A. N. Young, president, Wisconsin Farmers Union.

C. A. Ward, president Kansas Farmers Union.
A. M. Kinney, Kansas Creamery Association.

J. T. Kelly, president, Montana Farmers Union.
C. B. Steward, secretary, Nebraska Farm Bureau.

Chas. E. Weller, member legislative committee.
Ralph Snyder, president, Kansas Farm Bureau.

Chas. E. Hearst, president, Iowa Farm Bureau.
Geo. C. Lambert, Minnesota Agricultural Council.

C. G. Huppert, secretary, Wisconsin Farm Bureau.
Wm. Stahl, Central States Soft Wheat Growers Assn.

I. C. Grimes, South St. Paul Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company.
Wm. Settle, President, Indiana Farm Bureau.

Clifford Miller, Kansas Farmers Union Jobbing Assn.
M. R. Miller, President, Missouri Farmers Union.

Total 19.
Against the marketing act:
Wm. Hirth, president, Federation.
Milo Reno, president, Iowa Farmers Union.

John Simpson, member legislative committee.
H. G. Kenney, president, Nebraska Farmers Union.

E. E. Kennedy, member legislative committee.
T. C. Cashman, member legislative committee.

Tom Cheek, president, Oklahoma Farmers Union.
F. B. Young, manager, East St. Louis Livestock Commission Co.

E. H. Everson, president, South Dakota Farmers Union.
Albert Fickler, manager, Chicago Farmers Union Livestock Commission House.

C. W. Croes, South Dakota Wheat Growers Assn.
G. H. Duis, North Dakota Wheat Growers Assn.

Member representing Iowa State Grange.
C. F. Bloss, Ottumwa Dairy Marketing Assn.

J. T. Reynolds, Sioux City Farmers Union Livestock Commission Co.
Emil Becker, Omaha Farmers Union Livestock Commission Co.

P. G. Gue, Iowa Corn Growers Assn.
T. E. Howard, Colorado Farmers Union.

Paul Moore, member standing committee.
Member representing Colorado Beet Growers.

Total 20.
Not voting:
J. S. Jones, Minnesota Farm Bureau.

John Veceky, Kansas Wheat Growers Assn.
Hemming Nelson, Minnesota Farmers Union.

J. R. Callahan, president, Illinois Farmers Union, (arrived about ten minutes after vote was taken.)
Total 4.

Of the four who did not vote, three participated in the set up of the new organization, namely Jones, Veceky and Callahan. This leaves Hemming Nelson of Minnesota out of the question, which is proper because his state board has since decided by official action to refrain from joining either organization.

Every original member or organization affiliated with the Corn Belt Committee was represented at Des Moines with the exception of five, namely, The South Dakota Farm Bureau which has since given notice of its intent to affiliate with the new organization; J. J. O'Shea, whose position is well known; F. W. Murphy, position undetermined; Chicago Milk Producers Assn., position unknown; Iowa Threshermen's Assn., Against Summing up, therefore, with the roster of membership all present with the exception of five, and including the five absent, we have the old Corn Belt Federation on record as follows:

Against the marketing act.....21
For the marketing act.....24
Position unknown or undetermined.....3

As to the numerical strength of the organizations as reported in the Herald and with which Mr. Reno takes issue, here is how it was arrived at:

During the session of the National Committee of Farm Organizations, each representative to report the membership for his organization.

The secretary recorded the figures as announced by those reporting. If Mr. Reno wishes to question these figures his quarrel is with the officials of the organizations who reported them, and not with this writer.

Mr. Reno has much to say ABOUT the Farm Bureau and more to say AGAINST the Bureau. Mr. Reno should remember that it was none other than Milo Reno himself who sent out the call for the first meeting of the Corn Belt Committee which assembled in May, 1925. It was Mr. Reno who invited the state Farm Bureau Federations to participate in that meeting.

It was due to the fact that this meeting was called, that it actually took place, that this writer became the secretary of that Federation, that he was able to get acquainted with the leaders of the Farm Bureau and with its national officials.

Acquaintance with men like Settle, Snyder, Hearst, Steward and Sam Thompson grew into friendship, esteem and confidence. We found that these men of the Bureau had an interest in the welfare of the farmer equal to our own.

If we have indulged in some criticism of the Bureau in the past, and this we frankly admit, we have overdone our prejudice, and while we still believe that the Farmers Union is the best farm organization—best because it confines its membership to farmers—we are able now with better understanding and an enlarged viewpoint to cooperate with the Bureau, the Grange, or any other organized group of farmers. We have reached a point where we believe we could become a member of the Bureau or the Grange without committing a sin.

On a recent visit to Kansas we found farmers holding membership in the Grange and the Union, also the Bureau and the Union.

There should come a time when there will be one big general Union of farmers in the United States. We shall hasten that time by charity and fellowship toward and between farm organizations. We may retard such a development by hurling bricks at each other. Mr. Reno may have the bricks if that suits him best. We will travel the other road.

The plain facts about the matter are that the two groups at Des Moines, one friendly to, and supporting the marketing act, the other hostile to and opposing the marketing act, were compelled to separate. Had we stayed together we could not have agreed. Our time would have been spent in contention. We are both better off separated because we were and are, traveling in two different directions.

We are now in no way responsible for the acts and utterances of Mr. Hirth and Mr. Reno, nor are Mr. Hirth or Mr. Reno responsible for what our group does. We are standing by the marketing act, always with the avowed purpose of improving and strengthening the act.

Not only this, but we are prepared to seek every advantage for agriculture which opportunity affords. We are not tied to any political party and we are in a position to cooperate with senators and representatives of both, and all parties.

The other group would destroy the only constructive piece of legislation placed on the statute books of the Federal government since the creation of the American Republic. Perhaps not all of those joined with Hirth and Reno would agree to go to the extremes that Mr. Hirth would go, but for various and sundry reasons they are not willing to endorse or give any support whatever to the marketing act and the Federal Farm Board.

Is it not plain, therefore, that separation was the wisest, the only course to follow? Very likely we all followed our convictions in arriving at our decision. If this be true and if both groups acted on principle and conviction, there is no justification for one group questioning the motives or the honesty of the other.

THE RESULT WAS INEVITABLE: TOO MUCH WHEAT.

In view of these facts, all clearly borne out by statistical data, we could see no good in playing the "wheat card" should be urged to reduce acreage. This the United States had done. At the same time extensive stabilization operations had been carried on with the government funds to relieve growers pending the period of readjustment. The Grain Stabilization Corporation had acquired large supplies of wheat. Marketing of these supplies had been done very carefully and assurance was given that this would continue to be the policy. There would be no "dumping" of stabilization wheat.

The delegates were visibly bored by the relation of the simple facts that came to hear that. Perhaps they knew all about it but they had not emphasized it to their growers. Rather they had blinked it while following the easier course of leading their farmers to believe that the situation could be met by some magic of politics or government. So they seized with avidity upon our statement regarding stabilization. That was fine. Delegate after delegate arose to continue it to mean that we would continue to "hold the umbrella". To quote it meant an allocation of funds in unanimous accord. That was the big idea the great dissident, the rabbit out of the hat, that would save wheat growers everywhere. Comment flowed freely and favorably and each speaker made two or three times the English speech was made three times in their own language, French and English.

It was a veritable love feast until we asked for an elucidation, a statistical exposition, of this quota business. How would it work? How would the quotas be arrived at? What countries? The machinery or the authority for putting it into effect? Who would finance the carrying of supplies? "We cannot," said one after another, except Russia. Yes, they could do it and they were for it. All they requested was a quota equal to the pre-war exports of about 164,000,000 bushels per year compared with limited post-war exports until the first of last July since which time they have shipped out less than 100,000,000 bushels. Of course they would have to be financed. A mere incident.

If quotas were to be made even moderately effective it would be necessary to return to substantially a pre-war production basis, at least during the disposition of the present abnormal surplus. The United States not only had signed its willingness to do this, but had set about it. There fore on the basis of quantities it was necessary to discuss the Russian proposal. But what of Canada, Argentina, Australia? Also, if the Russian quota were accepted, the Balkans must be similarly recognized and that meant still larger reductions in the western hemisphere. There the discussion stopped except for recurring interpretations of the American statement in which it was assumed that the Federal Farm Board would refrain from exporting any of its large supplies and would buy and hold more. Finally we reached this way to depart from diplomatic usage and make it clear in understandable English that the opinion of any or all countries notwithstanding stabilization wheat would be sold when, where and as The Grain Stabilization Corporation saw fit, and the only thing to influence this would be the interests of our own growers just as it had been in the past.

When the Conference finally settled down to discussion of practical objectives, resolutions were passed recognizing the soundness of reduced surpluses through acreage contraction. Each country must approach this in its own way, but where they will or not, economic necessity will be a compelling force. Already it is taking place in Canada, United States, Argentina and Australia. How far other countries than our own will go in urging Russia will not be so and they so in about the present world situation. They are not getting enough exchange from what they sell, and their dumping policies are being frowned upon by importing countries. Even England, which features cheap bread for its laboring class, knows that it is only a step from dumping wheat to dumping butter and wool and that means serious complaint from farmers in the British Isles. Already it is taking place. But Russia, with her five-year plan, and under labor and need for exchange, will continue to be a serious menace in the world agricultural situation.

The Conference recommended the establishment of a clearing house of statistical information among exporting countries. The form this may take remains for a special committee of the Conference to recommend to the participating nations. The purpose is to know more about acreage, crop conditions and supplies in all countries. Some countries have been very backward in developing such information. This imposes a highly speculative element in the markets and growers suffer from it.

It was proposed also that efforts would be made to find new markets and new uses for wheat. China is a potential market when the conditions of their government and exchange enable its development. Someone had the temerity to suggest that Russia had very good markets for all her wheat at home. In view of our declining consumption of wheat I was impressed with the encouragement that is given to "bread-eating" in England, Scotland and France, all importers of wheat. On every table and at every meal, bread is the first thing on the table and there is no charge for it. It was so in this country before the war, but the campaign to conserve wheat during the war gave restaurants, hotels and dining cars excuse to impose an extra charge for bread and they have been doing so ever since. This seems to me regrettable.

From what I learned at the London Conference and elsewhere, I am convinced that the American farmer can place little dependence on the hope of help from other countries. We need

COOPERATIVE BUYING MAKES FARM DOLLAR GO FARTHER

(continued from page 1)

and marketing associations stronger, we would have been in position to have demanded more for the things we have had to sell, and to have purchased to better advantage. To increase our purchasing power, we must work together and in large numbers. A few of us cannot build a big cooperative organization, but the cooperation of many of us is what we need.

If we are to increase materially the value of the things which we purchase, it will take the united effort of all of us. On the other hand we must be ready to target the farmer, to lead him back to the majors and destroy his own cooperative. Once this was accomplished, would they continue to be enough interested in the farmer to sell him gasoline at a low price? Or would they shoot the prices back up to the former high levels before the Cooperatives appeared on the scene?

The farmer has paid too much to the other fellow for years. At the same time he has not received enough for the things he has had to sell. The situation has gradually become more acute until today farmers as a class are financially embarrassed. They do not have a bank account, they cannot borrow money, and not even do they have an income on which they can depend to buy the things they need.

This situation has not come about in a day. It has been gradual, while everywhere outside interests and big interests of big business men have become wealthier and wealthier at the farmers' expense—and most outstanding among these are the big oil capitalists of the East.

For several years farmers have been using petroleum products in large quantities. There has been a constant drain on rural communities, for on every gallon purchased from an Old Line Company, a wide margin of profit has gone to those who are already wealthy. The chain gasoline stations have grown faster than any other chain system in the United States. Today there is a total of over 71,000 of these stations.

Several years ago farmers began organizing and operating Cooperative oil companies. They did so not to get into the oil business, but to protect themselves against the enormous amount of profit they were paying someone else. Today Cooperative oil companies offer one means of keeping more money in the rural community where it is needed more than ever before.

If you are operating a Cooperative oil company and are not distributing Union Certified, the Cooperative brand, I want to appeal to you to join the Union Oil Company (Cooperative) North Kansas City, Missouri. We need your volume to pool with ours and the more than 100,000 other farmers who are buying through their own company and saving the profits for themselves. To the farmers who are not patronizing a Cooperative oil company, but are buying from one of the Chain oil companies, may I appeal to you to patronize the Cooperative oil company in your community.

If there is not a Cooperative oil company in your territory, there is a splendid opportunity for you and the other consumers in your territory to save money and help to build the Cooperative movement. The Union Oil Company (Cooperative) North Kansas City, Missouri, will give you full information about organizing and the possible savings you can make. Cooperative buying will increase the purchasing power of the farmers' dollar not only in our splendid state of Kansas but throughout the Middle-west.

In Garden City we do business a little differently than most other so-called farm organizations. We open the doors to any and all users of petroleum products. At the end of the year we send all who buy from us their prorated profit. Thus they have their dividends thrust upon them. Our friendship is established. They come

not entirely abandon the export market for wheat but we certainly can make no money in offering the quantities and qualities we have been offering in export markets.

In normal times we should be able to export from 75,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels of high quality wheat, mostly of the varieties but we are not present circumstances even this cannot be done at a profit to the grower.

I cannot conclude without leaving this thought to the American farmer: If you doubt the efficacy of a tariff on agricultural products, consider two countries, Great Britain and France. There is no better husbandman than the Scottish farmer. He is industrious, thrifty and capable. The same may be said of many English farmers, but baronial estates have not encouraged the development of agriculture in England as in Scotland. No surpluses are produced in these countries but free trade has left the attitude of the farmer with the world. A moderate tariff would have made them secure and in turn would have added greatly to the stability of the British Isles without imposing any hardship upon the consuming classes and with no offense to the farmers. As it is, these farmers are at their wits' end.

In France the reverse is true. The French farmer has prospered since the war. The government protects its agriculture. Tariffs have been substantially increased since the war. Unsettled conditions in the industrial regions are offset by the stability of agriculture. This is not to say that world depression is not being felt by the French farmer too. Population in France is about equally divided between agriculture and all other classes. This may have something to do with the friendly attitude of the government toward the farmer, but I believe the reason lies deeper than that: It is regarded good business policy. That was the interpretation put on it by Mr. Tardieu, Minister of Agriculture, in a talk I had with him. He is among the strongest and most popular of French statesmen.

I have been president of our local company since it was organized, and during all our dealings with the Union Oil Company (Cooperative) have had a very high regard for the management and operation of the company. The past five months I have served as a member of the Union Oil board. Since becoming acquainted with the other twelve directors and the officers of the company, I can heartily recommend them to all Cooperatives in the United States. We have laid the foundation for a large, nation-wide cooperative oil organization and with the united support of those who are interested in the cooperative purchasing of petroleum products, we can have much to say in the future, about what farmers shall pay for their petroleum products, the cost of which enters so largely into the production cost of his crops.

The recent situation created by the introduction of "blue" gasoline by the Majors, furnishes a vivid example of why we must cooperate. It is known that the Majors have become alarmed at the large volume being bought by the Cooperatives, and we do not doubt for one minute that they would go almost any limit to gain back this volume lost to them because the farmer is purchasing cooperatively and in large quantities. In offering their cheap, blue gasoline, is it not just the things he has had to sell. The situation has gradually become more acute until today farmers as a class are financially embarrassed. They do not have a bank account, they cannot borrow money, and not even do they have an income on which they can depend to buy the things they need.

This situation has not come about in a day. It has been gradual, while everywhere outside interests and big interests of big business men have become wealthier and wealthier at the farmers' expense—and most outstanding among these are the big oil capitalists of the East.

For several years farmers have been using petroleum products in large quantities. There has been a constant drain on rural communities, for on every gallon purchased from an Old Line Company, a wide margin of profit has gone to those who are already wealthy. The chain gasoline stations have grown faster than any other chain system in the United States. Today there is a total of over 71,000 of these stations.

Several years ago farmers began organizing and operating Cooperative oil companies. They did so not to get into the oil business, but to protect themselves against the enormous amount of profit they were paying someone else. Today Cooperative oil companies offer one means of keeping more money in the rural community where it is needed more than ever before.

If you are operating a Cooperative oil company and are not distributing Union Certified, the Cooperative brand, I want to appeal to you to join the Union Oil Company (Cooperative) North Kansas City, Missouri. We need your volume to pool with ours and the more than 100,000 other farmers who are buying through their own company and saving the profits for themselves. To the farmers who are not patronizing a Cooperative oil company, but are buying from one of the Chain oil companies, may I appeal to you to patronize the Cooperative oil company in your community.

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NEW METHOD OF ESTIMATING WEIGHT OF HAY IN THE STACK

In the Western and Great Plains States, where range stock is brought into the valleys in the fall to be wintered on alfalfa stubble and hay, cattlemen customarily buy hay in the stack. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has found that the usual methods of estimating the quantity of hay in the stack are inaccurate and it has formulated a new system of measurement.

W. H. Hosterman, hay marketing specialist of the department, has classified haystacks into three types, according to their general shape, and employs width, length and over measurements in obtaining estimates. The over measurement is the distance from the ground on one side over the