



# THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation

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## The Loyal Support of the Local Business Associations Will Make Your Jobbing Association One of the Biggest Business Institutions in the United States.

Interesting History of the Organization as Told by W. C. Lansdon, Vice-President of the Kansas Farmers' Union in His Address Before the Stockholders At Their Annual Meeting in Topeka, On January the 16th

It is a great gratification to your Board of Directors to be able to come before the representatives of the shareholders of the Jobbing Association and report that on the year's operations we have made money. Such a report has been made only once before in the history of the Association—at the end of the first year's activities.

At the Wichita Convention I am frank to say that the directors thought the "big" was up and that the only thing to be done was to liquidate and get out, paying our debts as soon as possible; but the members of the Association and of the Farmers Union had more confidence in the organization than some of the directors, and they refused to let it die. They started a movement at Wichita, which resulted in two or three thousand dollars of additional capital. At that meeting further evidence of faith was shown by the re-election of the outgoing directors at that time. We have not at all times been without your confidence you have given us; but you have kept us on the job and your confidence has made us more determined to succeed. Through that confidence, the membership imposed an obligation on the board of directors to do whatever we could to re-organize the enterprise and put it on a money making basis. We believe it is now on a sound financial foundation.

As Mr. Corporon stated in his report, every single doubtful item of any consequence has been taken from the assets and the statement as presented is as clear as such items as any report ever presented to the shareholders. We take no credit for the going value of the concern. The actual value of this concern as a going proposition, measured through its good will and indicates that the stock is equal or better than par at the present time; because we all know that no business enterprise with \$100,000 paid up capital and annual turnover of nearly \$4,000,000 can be organized, stock sold, business set up and business obtained without an expenditure of a good deal more than \$26,000, the margin as shown between our assets and liabilities as presented today.

Pursuant to the vote taken a year ago, the Association has gone entirely out of the merchandise business insofar as maintaining a warehouse in Kansas City is concerned. Such merchandise orders as are received are attended to in a satisfactory way by placing them with concerns transacting business along that line. We are working largely toward carlot business. During the year, we have handled four thousand carloads of commodities going and coming. Sales were made by and for members that would make one hundred freight train loads of forty cars each, which is a considerable volume has been wheat consigned to the Association for sale by customers in the different territories of the state. This wheat trade has resulted in the largest single item of income, something like \$57,000. This sounds big; it is big, and it is also gratifying to the officers of the association and to the membership, but after all it is not one-half or even one-fourth of the business we had a right to expect from the membership of the association.

If the elevators that are members of this association (some owning stock to the thousands of dollars) had supported the association with one hundred per cent of their consignments, instead of earning \$57,000 in commissions on the grain trade, we would have earned \$157,000 or more during the year, and we would have been able to present a report showing stock worth one hundred cents on the dollar, with the money for distribution among the various elevators that had given us that business. Instead, for some reason many of our own managers throughout the state have never been convinced that the Jobbing Association can sell wheat on the Kansas City market as well as any other firm. Our records are open, and we ask any elevator manager or any person outside of the organization to investigate the sales that have been made. We can show that we have made as good or better sales than any other house on the market in Kansas during the past twelve months. We had a concrete illustration of that fact:

An arrangement was made with the Kansas Wheat Growers Association to sell their consigned wheat on the Kansas City market and after they sent us nineteen cars they quit. We didn't know why they quit but finally found that some of them alleged we couldn't get the prices they were entitled to. We had anticipated that such a point might be raised and we had kept a detailed account of these cars showing wheat test, price obtained and everything connected with the sales. Rather than rest under the im-

putation that our salesmen were incompetent we compiled our figures and went to Wichita to compare that statement with sales made by other houses. The members of that Board of Directors admitted that Mr. DeVoss was receiving from three to five cents more than they were getting through other agencies. It seems to me that the time has come for the membership of the Farmers Union throughout the State and the shareholders in the various co-operative elevators throughout the State that are stockholders in the Farmers Union Jobbing Association to assert themselves and say that "By the eternal God we are going to support our business." We have an agency of our own on the Kansas City market that can prove it does as well or better than any other grain house on the market. Can't we have the support of our own members and elevators during the next twelve months?

Some extraordinary things have been reported to me that I believe are true. One Farmers Union Elevator in this state changed managers. The outgoing manager had been supporting the Jobbing Association and did not send us incoming money. One of our representatives called on this manager and wanted to know why the Jobbing Association was not getting his consignments. The manager's reply was—"Of course I'm not consigning to the Farmers Union Jobbing Association. When I came in and looked over the records I found that everything had been going to the Jobbing Association and that seemed to be an indication to me that there must be a nigger in the wood pile somewhere. I took the business away from the Jobbing Association." The Board of Directors should have looked after that matter. The elevator owned six or eight hundred dollars of stock in the Jobbing Association and this manager was diverting trade from their own Association. Let's have the support of the members of the Association.

The net profit of ten thousand dollars on that year's operations that involved millions of dollars of transactions, is insignificant in amount and if that was the only good result the farmers had obtained by dealing with the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, it wouldn't be worth all the labor, loss of sleep and anxiety caused; but I am going to call your attention to a few of the invisible dividends earned by the Jobbing Association, and which could not have been earned without the Jobbing Association.

In 1917 when Herbert Hoover was Food Administrator, he sent agents out to ask our people to put in more wheat. Every farmer sold a bushel of wheat from the 1918 harvest for as much money as it cost him to make it. They made that crop as a patriotic service. They were perfectly willing to do anything and everything that the country asked them to do. You would have thought that when such sacrifices were asked of agriculture, that every farmer with farming would have been willing to cooperate in every way possible, but not so. About the first of May, 1918, the International Harvester Company and other companies that controlled the supply of blader twine in the west announced that the price of twine would be twenty-nine cents per pound, which was going pretty strong for a product that had been selling for seven cents only two years before. However, we had made arrangements and the very day the trust announced the price to be 29 cents per pound, we were able to announce that we could purchase twine for 22 cents for Farmers co-operatives. Not enough twine was sold for 29 cents in 1918. The co-operatives saved seven cents by contracting with the Farmers Union Jobbing Association. Seven cents doesn't mean much, but when you consider that Kansas is the greatest wheat state in the United States and we sell one-fourth of all winter wheat made in the United States and using approximately twenty million pounds of binding twine each year, it doesn't take you long to figure the saving made to the farmer in one year. The farmers realized \$1,400,000 as a twine saving in one year, because the Jobbing Association was there. That profit remained in the pockets of farmers

and they didn't have to pay income tax on it either.

We did almost as well this year. Our contracts enabled us to supply twine in such a way as to have the price fixed at 8 1/2 cents per pound. I suppose there are men here who bought it for 8 1/2 cents or less. I have travelled in fifteen or twenty states during the past year and have inquired the price of twine in different states. The usual minimum was twelve cents. Some that had co-operative competitors sold for eleven cents. I found many places where twine was as high as sixteen or seventeen cents. We don't know what it would have been in Kansas had it not been for the co-operatives in this state. It is very conservative to say that we saved the farmers four cents a pound on their binder twine in 1922. That is \$800,000 or an 800 per cent on the capital invested in the Jobbing Association. The truth of the matter is that we are now fixing the price of binder twine in Kansas. Twine is one of the biggest single items of expense that the wheat growers have in the state. We have already sold nearly three million pounds of twine for this next year's use and the contracts have in a large measure been accepted.

The Farmers Union Jobbing Association has proved its worth in other ways than saving the farmers a great deal of money on twine. Unfortunately, we disagreed with the policy of the Kansas Wheat Growers, with whom we had hoped to cooperate, and want our way and they want theirs. We thought we were entitled to the business whether or not we had a co-operative organization; but we were a Farmers co-operative organization; but we found that they were determined to do the bulk of their business through the Bank of Kansas City. But at the time we were disagreeing with the Kansas Wheat Growers, we entered negotiations with the Nebraska and Colorado Wheat Growers; and with the exception of fifteen cars that were consigned to the Minneapolis market early in the season, we have handled all of the Nebraska and Colorado wheat. The wheat we have in storage in Kansas City now is the wheat of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association. We have their storage and secured money for them to advance to growers at six per cent, and I don't believe anyone else has been able to do any better than that. They are entirely satisfied with our sales and the way in which we handle business in Kansas City.

You have stood by our organization with extraordinary loyalty during the past eight or nine years we have been in existence. We are seeing daylight now and if you give us the support we are entitled to, we are going to have

one of the biggest, strongest institutions engaged in business in the United States. The Directors can't give us that support; the managers can't do it; there is only one body of people in this world that can bring about the result so earnestly desired. That is the membership, the people back on the farms; people who are members of the Union and of the Jobbing Association. They can bring it about and in another twelve months we can make such a splendid report that you will hardly recognize it is the same organization providing we get that support, but I say to you that it is not a matter that can be worked out by higher-ups. The truth is that the farmer is not quite hard boiled enough; he is a little too easy to divert. I sometimes think he is a kind of quarter horse. He goes away and he gets away under the wire pretty fast, but his wind gives out in about four hundred yards.

We must realize that this is no joking matter in which we are engaged. It is a matter upon which depends the very existence of agriculture. The farmers of the United States are in a bad shape at this time. Fifty-seven years ago at the end of the great war between the States our fathers and grandfathers came back after fighting with General Grant and General Lee and put on their overalls to go to work, this was a mighty poor country, one of the poorest nations in the world. There was not more than thirty billions of dollars of national wealth; but during this fifty seven years a great enterprise or firm as we may call it, has been established. That firm is comprised of three partners—Land, Labor and Capital, from which comes all the wealth of this world. That partnership has accumulated billions of dollars in amount; from being the poorest of all nations we have become the greatest of all powers of the world. We have more wealth than France, England and Germany put together. This wealth amounts to more than six hundred billions of dollars at the present time.

How much has agriculture? The census of 1920 said that the agricultural wealth of the country amounted to seventy-seven billions of dollars. Assuming that to be a fact, that is a comparatively insignificant amount of the profits made by the firm Land, Labor and Capital, during the past fifty-seven years, but the census figures are misleading. Forty per cent of the agricultural lands of the United States are operated by tenants and share-croppers. From the best information we can get, the debts on agriculture at the present time—long and short term mortgages, open accounts at the store and other obligations amount to at least twelve billions of dollars. Another thing: the census was taken in 1920 and the values people thought were in farm land in 1920 were written into those valuations. Land was selling very high at that time and when you come to re-duce the thing to substantial facts, the truth is that the farmers of the

United States at the present time are not in possession of more than thirty billions of dollars worth of property, or one twentieth of the unencumbered profits made by the firm of Land, Labor and Capital.

In 1865, although the country was poor, agriculture owned one-half of the wealth of the country. Today we own only one-twentieth. The situation is not improving. The truth is that in fifty-seven years of operations the farmers of the United States have lost little to forty per cent of their lands and have gone in debt, twelve billions of dollars. That is a very discouraging balance sheet for any business man to have to face. It is about as bad as any balance sheet this association ever had. If agriculture were a single business there is not a judge on any bench that wouldn't say "You'll have to wind up your affairs." Whose fault is it? Some say the Republican Party is to blame, I don't say that. Other people say it is the Democratic Party, some say it is the banks and others say it is the laws. I am going to tell you who is to blame for this condition of agriculture. YOU ARE THE FELLOWS. The farmers of this condition of agriculture because for these fifty-seven years they have been taking whatever was offered them. The farmers have been buying on the market where prices were stated and were fixed for them—nothing to say about the prices either way. By selling their commodities in competition with each other to organized business, they destroyed all hopes of profit.

There is only one answer to this problem and that is self-help. There must be an organization of the farmers to protect themselves. We have asked for this and that form of legislation. We have a protective tariff on farm commodities that might help greatly if we had sense enough to use it. The manufacturers are going to realize large profits out of the protective tariff. They are going to make immense fortunes on the commodities which they manufacture. If the wheat or any other group of producers in this country will get together and work together, they can get the benefit of the protective tariff. But they can't do it as individuals. There are immense possibilities of profit in the tariff for American farmers and it is up to them to get that profit. We must organize so that we can fix a profit-making price on commodities we sell in the United States, making sufficient money to enable us to absorb the losses on what we send abroad.

How long can farmers go on selling for less than it costs them to produce, as they have been doing now for many years? If those conditions continue, there is going to come a time when we can't produce this volume of agriculture, no matter how big-hearted and generous we may be. It is impossible to do it. This condition of agriculture is going to result in a decrease in agricultural production in this country and instead of having a surplus to send abroad we won't be producing enough to take care of our home consumption. The industrial world should be vitally interested in having agriculture restored to a profitable basis for the farmers. The farmers can get along somehow or other as they have done in the past. We have fifty thousand members of the Farmers Union in this

state. We have 169,000 farmers in the state of Kansas and those farmers must be organized if they are going to re-establish agriculture in this state. If the Farmers Union can't render the service and if it has not the plans to effect an organization for agriculture, some other farmers' organization will have to do it for that is the only way it can be done. No other state in the United States has a better foundation for co-operative business—a better starting point, than Kansas.

We are setting up a Wheat marketing association in Kansas under more favorable conditions than any other Marketing Association was ever organized. We have the wheat and the men who produce it. We have the local elevators and the terminal marketing agencies. When our Wheat Marketing Association is organized and ready to do business, we will not have to hire a single additional man or raise anybody's salary; nor will we have to buy anything. We are ready to go to work without incurring any additional expense, and no other Marketing Organization in the United States has been able to do that. They have had to experiment; we are ready to start to work. We have the foundation for this work. In all probability the union is doing the same thing in Nebraska that we are doing in Kansas.

I know a good many people are so broad-minded that they think these benefits of organization should be thrown open to everybody and that all such organizations should work together. God knows the Farmers Union has tried to work with other groups in the state of Kansas, not only during the past year, but ever since it has organized. I don't know whether we are wrong or whether the other fellow is wrong, but I do know that we have never had much luck with the exception of our business relations with the Missouri Farmers Clubs. I believe the Farmers Union is better equipped by its constitution and in its ability to deal with the various problems than any other organization in the United States. It stands higher in Washington than does any other agricultural body represented there. Our president of the National Farmers Union who has dedicated his life to the work is the most powerful individual representing agriculture in the United States.

This is no time for us to weaken in this fight. A good many of these things haven't much to do with the Jobbing Association, but the Jobbing Association is one of the agencies through which organized farmers must look to solve their problems as the present time. If there was one good reason for setting up the first local of the Farmers Union down there in Raines County, Texas on the Second day of September, 1902, there are one hundred better reasons for maintaining and strengthening that organization at the present time.

What I said about invisible profits of the Jobbing Association if the early part of my report applies equally as well to practically every one of the co-operative associations functioning throughout the State. There are any number of co-operative associations which for one reason or another have not made sufficient cash income to distribute to co-operative earnings and a great many of those shareholders come to the conclusion that they are failures; but I want to tell you that as a result of the organization

of our co-operative associations in Kansas that are marketing wheat, you are getting an average of from fourteen to twenty cents per bushel more for your wheat than you could possibly have obtained had it not been for this movement for self-help. You don't have to go to statisticians to prove that. There is not a wheat growing locality in this state that has no co-operative, where the farmers are compelled to market through an old-line elevator, that does not prove it.

I recently attended a meeting at Hackney, Kansas. Their elevator had had a very successful year and at that all day meeting they distributed between sixteen and seventeen thousand dollars of profits as dividends—with a turn-over of about 188,000 bushels of wheat. Everybody joined in the testimony that the manager had paid the average market price for his wheat and that he had not purchased at a low price. That very day I was informed that in that same neighborhood and not more than fifteen miles away where the farmers were not organized, they were taking twelve cents less per bushel for their wheat. You will find illustrations of this kind throughout the state. Every one of these co-operatives, even if they haven't put checks in your bank account and money into your pocket coming through the officers of the Association, has been of value in some other way and there isn't a one that has lost money for its shareholders.

I thank you for your attention, and I hope the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, during the past twelve months, has in some measure justified the faith you have had in it, and that during the next twelve months it will grow in usefulness to the members of this state.

### CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY HAS 1,000 PATRONS

One of the largest co-operative creamery organizations in the United States, with 1,000 patrons scattered over a territory that is fifty miles wide and one hundred miles long, is the achievement of the Danish Creamery Association in Fresno, California, organized in 1905. Twenty-five trucks are required to haul the cream to the two plants. More than 8,000 pounds of butter are made daily, on which the co-operators realize \$30,000 a year in profits which they divide up according to good co-operative principles. The Danish Creamery Association, in co-operation with six other co-operative creameries, has established a central selling agency in Los Angeles. During 1921, it sold 6,850,000 pounds of butter for over \$3,600,000. This was an increase of 10 per cent in the quantity handled in 1920 and made possible a decrease in the cost of selling from 1.8 cents a pound to 1.5 cents in 1921.

From one end of the country to the other, from New York to California, such producers' organizations as the New York Dairy and Ice Cream Co-operative Association and the Danish Creamery Association of Fresno, California, are making remarkable strides in emancipating the consumers of the country from the exploitations of profit making middlemen and in winning for the producers a fairer return for their labor.

Whenever you send in a change of address for your paper be sure to mention your old address as well as the new.

### THEY GROW HEAVY WHEN YOU CAN'T LAY THEM DOWN



## 19% Dividend Checks on All Commissions Sent Out By F. U. Live Stock Commission

Non-Members Have Opportunity To Share In Profits By Complying With Rules of Company—Eight Per Cent Paid On Capital Stock.

The FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION has mailed out dividend checks to the amount of 19 per cent of all commissions paid during 1922. Besides this they have paid 8 per cent interest on capital stock, and according to their by-laws have placed 10 per cent of all net profits for 1922 in the reserve fund for the protection of their business.

However, several men who shipped livestock to the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission during 1922 have not yet received their dividend because they have not filled in and returned the application blank sent to them by the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission, January 1, 1923. Customers of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission should bear in mind this fact; that the distribution of that firm's profits rests with the members of the commission in accordance with the by-laws of the United States ruling (Packer and Stockyards Act, 1921) which says that in order to participate in the profits of a corporation you must be a member of that corporation.

If you are eligible to become a stockholder in the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission under their by-laws, that is if you are a member of a state wide farmers organization in good standing, notify the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission of that fact, mail them a check or instruct stock in that company or instruct them to deduct from your patronage dividend for that stock. In that case you need not deduct from your patronage div-

idend to issue you stock if you do not instruct them to do so.

On the other hand if you are not a member of a state wide farmers organization in good standing, but have shipped livestock to the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission during 1922, you may still draw a dividend for 1922 business by instructing that company to deduct \$1.00 from your patronage dividend as annual dues under the provisions of the Packer and Stockyards Act to participate in the earnings of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission.

Bear in mind this fact. This company must have the status of its customers before it can act on this position. All that is necessary is to write them stating whether you are a member or not a member of a state wide farmers organization in good standing and instruct them to make you either a stockholder under their by-laws or a member under the government ruling. Your dividend will then be forthcoming.

If every male member of the Union would spend fifty cents per year in the advertising columns of the paper it would be more than half supporting the state organization would have additional funds for use in organizing new locals, and reviving old ones.

Egg and chick season is here. The classified columns of the paper should be crowded with Union want ads, thereby aiding the cause of co-operation and helping one another.



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W. C. LANSDON, Associate Editor  
DON C. ESTES, Director of Advertising

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

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

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

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

### ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1923

### SLACKERISM AT THE POLLS

The able bodied male citizen who evades military duty when his country is in peril is called a slacker. Patriots denounce him as a coward. He is shunned by all the good folks who pride themselves on their love of country and of duty. Mobs of exasperated neighbors daub yellow paint on his barns, houses and automobiles. He is an undesirable citizen and no one is at all measly mouthed in telling him so.

The country is always in more peril in peace than in war. No nation ever has much trouble in getting plenty of fighting men to offer their lives in its service. There are many dangers now threatening the republic that are ten fold more menacing than any enemy that our country ever had in time of war. Cannon and warships are our defense in battle. The ballot is our weapon in times of peace. It is in the hands of every citizen but in times of real danger about one half of all voters are slackers.

Last fall there was quite an exciting election. Nearly every one was more or less stirred up but when the issues were finally joined at the polls in November nearly one half the voters of Kansas were so busy, so indifferent, or so unpatriotic that they did not take the trouble to go to the polls and do their bit in the never ending war for human rights.

When the votes were all counted and the results in the several counties totaled it was found that Jonathan M. Davis had received 271,658 votes and that W. Y. Morgan got only 252,602. So Davis was elected. A great victory, nearly 20,000 majority the newspapers show. But what about the folks who stayed at home? There was a big lot of that sort of people. There were 983,547 qualified voters in Kansas on January first 1920 and certainly that many, probably a few thousand more in November of 1922.

It is hard to realize that after one of the most bitterly contested campaigns ever fought out by the two great contending parties in Kansas there were 459,237 voters who stayed at home. Were they republicans or democrats or were they just plain slackers unworthy of the privileges and opportunities of American citizenship? If the slackers had all gone to the polls and voted for Morgan he would have been elected by a majority of about 430,000. Or if that same bunch of political and civic loafers had all voted for Davis his majority would have been about 480,000.

Many good folks are worried about the dangerous elements in our citizenship. A lot of good men are afraid of the foreign born voters but there are only 100,000 of them in Kansas. They are outnumbered nearly nine to one and certainly cannot do much harm if the native Americans all get on the job. Other equally good people are alarmed over the activities of the Knights of Columbus but that order has not more than 20,000 members in Kansas. Then there are the timorous souls who tremble with fright every time the Non Partisan League is mentioned. That association in its most prosperous days in Kansas never had 10,000 followers in this state. Organized labor scores quite a few but less than 30,000 Kansas voters are members of trades Unions. Organized agriculture keeps a few patriots awake at night wondering what will happen if the farmers finally get control of the government.

If all the foreign voters, the Knights of Columbus, the Labor Unions, the organized farmers and the Ku Klux Klan should get together and vote one ticket solidly their combined strength would not enable them to elect a congressman, a senator or a governor in this state if all the other folks voted the other way. The slacker who stays at home on election day is the real enemy to free institutions. Is there any way to stir our loafers and shirkers up so that they will take the trouble to do some voting the next time we have an election?

### WHAT INFLUENCES LEGISLATION?

Not very many bills have yet been enacted by the Kansas legislature, not more than a dozen in all up to this time. Not one of the bills that has become a law was asked for by any considerable number of people of the state. Not one tenth of the measures that will be enacted before adjournment have been asked for by any one outside the membership of the two houses.

The bills that no one but members are interested in have no trouble in getting consideration. The bills that large groups of citizens desire to see enacted into laws are fought from start to finish. The amendments to the road laws, the cooperative banking bill, the bill to abolish the industrial court, the bill to combine the industrial court and the Utilities Commission, the bill to make it a misdemeanor for public officers to spend more than their appropriations, the bill to make the tax commission elective by converting it into an ex-officio body composed of the governor, the attorney general, and auditor of state and scores of other propositions backed by great groups of taxpayers and citizens have already been killed in community without consideration or must face determined opposition on the part of unfriendly forces in each house.

Is a member of the legislature a lawmaker on his own account or is he a representative of the real lawmakers, the taxpayers of Kansas?

### BANKING IS A CLOSED SHOP

Nearly every banker in Kansas belongs to some organization, a bankers association, a chamber of commerce or some other association that is determined to impose the open shop on American industry. At the same time the bankers themselves are so compactly organized, are so strongly entrenched behind ramparts of legislation, judicial decisions, and convention that they have made their business a closed shop that is the admiration and the marvel of all those who believe in that particular type of monopoly.

The farmers and the workmen of Kansas are anxious to go into the banking business on the cooperative plan. They have heard of the great results of such enterprises in other countries. They need financial institutions of their own to serve their own needs, to give them a place for the accumulation of their small savings, to provide an investment for their own small surplus earnings. For ten years this wish on the part of the farmers and the wage workers of this state has been presented to the legislature and in each instance the bill providing for such organizations has been defeated.

This year the cooperative banking bill is again before the legislature for consideration. It is Senate Bill No. 27 by Senator Green of Elk and House Bill No. 108 by Representative Culp of McPherson. It is a good constructive measure. It provides safe guards for shareholders and depositors that cannot be established under any of the provisions of the existing banking laws. It should be passed without a single dissenting vote in either house.

Instead of receiving the treatment it deserves this bill has been referred to committees in each house that are made up largely of bankers who are determined to maintain their business as a closed shop, who are ready to do everything in their power to block this wholly reasonable and proper request that is being made by a very large proportion of the voters of Kansas. The House Committee on Banking is very likely to make an adverse report on the measure and the only way to get any consideration for it will be through the adoption of a minority report by the house of representatives. The Senate Committee on Banking probably will make no report on the bill unless it is ordered to do so by a majority vote of the senate.

The voters who are interested in this bill must do something about it if they desire favorable action from the legislature at this time. Every Farmers Union and Trades Union local in the state should make its wishes known through petitions and letters to senators and representatives.

### CRAWFORD COUNTY ROADS

Crawford County has just completed twenty-eight miles of hard surfaced roads. The greater portion of this new highway mileage is concrete construction but a few miles is of monolithic brick laid on a concrete base. Nowhere in the United States is there a better road. The culverts and bridges, twenty-nine in number, are of cement or concrete. The grades are easy, none greater than two per cent. There are no dangerous curves. The whole mileage was built for about \$200,000 less than the engineers estimates. There appears to have been neither waste, incompetency, nor graft in this fine piece of road building.

Crawford county now has one hard surfaced road through the entire length of the county including about five miles of Pittsburg pavement. There are also several short lines connecting Girard and other towns with the main line. What has it cost the people already and how much will it take to pay the interest on the bonds and the roads completed is \$1,262,676. The government upkeep charges? The total cost to date for the aid already received or due on this construction is \$289,950. This leaves the net cost to the local taxpayers \$979,726 for the 28 miles of road or \$34,991 or in round numbers \$35,000 a mile.

One half the local cost or \$17,500 is provided for by a county bond issue and county tax, one fourth or \$8,750 per mile falls on the townships through which the line passes, and the remaining one fourth or \$8,750 per mile on the lands within the benefit district. There are about 224 quarter sections in the entire benefit district to absorb the benefit district share of the construction bond which amounts to about \$1,100 per quarter section. Interest and safe provision for sinking fund requires an annual levy of about nine per cent so that the benefit district taxes alone for this improvement will amount to \$99.00 a year for each farm of 160 acres. To this of course must be added the county and township taxes for the same purpose and the annual levy to provide for maintenance. Probably the entire cost of the improvement is inside of an annual payment of one dollar an acre on the lands in the benefit district for a period of twenty years or a total of \$3,200 a quarter section.

The lands outside of the benefit district but within the townships through which the road runs must bear the next heaviest charge and all the lands within the county as well as all other proper-

### THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

ty must be taxed to pay the fifty per cent of the cost that is represented by county bonds. It is difficult to figure just how much this will increase the tax rate in the county but no trouble at all to learn that the total final cost of the road distributed over a period of twenty years will be \$3,000,000 divided into twenty annual payments of \$150,000 each. This is a lot of money but it must not be forgotten that its expenditure has resulted in building about thirty miles of road that with reasonable care should last until the bonds are paid when another issue of about equal amount will be necessary for reconstruction. Also it must not be overlooked that by saddling themselves with an obligation of three millions of dollars the taxpayers of Crawford county have had the privilege of using almost one tenth of that amount of federal funds.

The road will not break any one up in all probability. It is within the resources of the taxpayers and they will meet their obligations. Of course this road is only a beginning, however, and others must be provided. The completed highway lies within six miles of the east line of the county except the Girard spur. Already plans are afoot for another road to run east and west from Pittsburg to the west line of the county and for gravelling the Jefferson highway from the Bourbon county line to Girard. Someone would better keep on the job of looking after these projects or one of these days Crawford county will have a tax bill equal to the combined income of all the farmers.

If every member of the organization will get just one new member this year for their local. The Farmers' Union will be so far out in front of all the other farm organizations that you will not be able to see it for the dust.

Whenever you find a good live local you will find that there are a considerable number of women's names on the roll. They are not content to sit idly by and let "George" do it but are always planning ahead to make the organization a place of instruction and amusement.

The members of the organization should be sending in their ads to the paper. This is the time of the year to sell your eggs for hatching and to secure orders for baby chicks.

### WOMEN IN UNION WORK

There were more women delegates and visitors at the Annual Convention last week than ever attended any other state meeting of our organization. They took part in the discussions and in the other work of the meeting. They missed no sessions. They were all in deadly earnest and each one was determined to do something and to learn how to do something more in the interest of our great program of organization, education, and cooperation.

The women delegates themselves decided against the organization of a separate incorporated and chartered women's auxiliary. They went on record in favor of women's clubs in connection with the locals with membership in a regular Farmers Union Local.

Right now the big important thing to do is to get the wives of all dues paying members into the locals. This costs no money—only a little work which the men and women now in should be willing to do. There are thirty or forty thousand women in Kansas—wives and daughters of men members who are eligible for membership in the organization and who will come in if they are invited. Get them in right away. Just as soon as they are on the rolls something will start. The average women cannot tolerate doing nothing. She will insist that the Local get busy, that the men get to work and that they themselves have duties in connection with the organization.

Whenever a dozen or more women are members of a local they should form a "Union Farm Women's Club." This Club will have its own special work to do. It will hold meetings frequently, perhaps weekly whether the Local meets or not. It will soon prove itself of so much value and interest that the wives and daughters of farmers who are not Union men will want to get in. To get in they will see to it that their fathers, brothers and husbands qualify them for membership by joining the Union and taking the obligation.

This paper will soon print a model set of by-laws for such organizations and will also provide programs and directions for the work. Whenever the women get to working in the Locals and in their own clubs there will be renewed interest in the organization. No Local with twenty or more women members will be unprepared at the next annual Convention on account of lack of funds to pay a delegate's expenses. The women will work out a way to raise the money and when they do so no one can blame them if they elect one of their own number to go to Emporia.

Boy and Girl club members should send in stories of their endeavors. These will be published every week in The Kansas Union Farmer and should prove to be interesting to all readers as well as promoting the cause of cooperation.

The Farmers Union Live Stock commission is planning to make the year 1923 the banner year of its existence. It is up to the members of the live stock shipping associations to help them realize this. It can be done if every shipping association will practice Cane and say "Every month we will ship more and more."

### QUESTION FOR LOCAL DEBATE

Do you have debates at the meetings of your Local? If not you are overlooking one of the best ways in the world to develop and maintain interest. This question is suggested for discussion:

Resolved, That all federal judges should be elected by the people.  
If that one does not appeal to you try this:  
Resolved, That government participation in highway construction should be limited to building and maintaining interstate roads independent of the state governments and owned by the nation.

### Killing Proposed Legislation

May very properly be regarded as one of the best things done by the senators and representatives at Topeka. Too many bills are introduced, so many that the average member is unable to master the details of only a very small number and must be guided by the reports of the committees. Too many bills are passed. A very considerable portion of the time of each legislature is taken up in repealing laws that were passed in previous years.

Two years ago the senate used a lot of time in framing, debating and finally passing a measure to divorce the industrial court from the Public Utilities Commission. It is already evident that the same senators will use even more time this year in the debate over a proposition to reamortize the institutions that were divorced after a fair trial in open court only two years ago.

### Spending The Public Money

Is a very popular pastime all over the country. There is never any shortage of loyal and patriotic citizens willing and anxious to play that game. It is the theory that no public officer shall spend more money than the legislature appropriates for his use or the use of his department. In practice many departments and officers spend all the funds provided and then go on spending more with the almost certain assurance that there will be no serious objection to a deficiency appropriation to pay the debts against the taxpayers that have been piled up by officials spending funds not yet provided for their use.

Senator Gates of Stafford county does not like deficiency appropriations. He believes that a public officer, just like a private citizen, should live within the income provided for his use and that he should be punished if he runs the state in debt and asks for a deficiency appropriation. Gates introduced a bill making it a misdemeanor for any state officer to ever spend his appropriation and providing for the punishment of that misdemeanor, upon conviction, by forfeiture of office and by a fine or double the amount of the deficiency created.

Looks like a good bill but the Senate committee on State Affairs killed it and so prevented its consideration. The time will come when the members of that committee will be required to explain to the voters why it is wrong to hold a public officer down to the spending of only as much money as the legislature has appropriated for his use.

### Property May Be The Keystone

Of civilization. Many of the best people of the world believe it is. Human rights are also highly cherished. So far as bills except the soldier bonus that have been enacted by the legislature deal with the safeguards for property and not one has the defense of human rights as its chief purpose.

It is an easy matter for a lawyer to get a statute changing the procedure of probating wills, of recording and validating titles, or of court practice. It seems to be impossible for a farmer or any group of farmers to make a fair start in securing legislation to provide for a fair distribution of grain cars among local elevators. The railroads are right on the job to protect their property from being interfered with in the interest of human rights and the millers are also there to aid and assist their allies in the fight to destroy cooperative elevators that have been established to promote agricultural prosperity and human happiness.

### The Recall Constitutional Amendment

Was adopted by the people of Kansas quite a good while ago. So far the legislature has refused to enact any laws to make it possible for the voters to discharge an unfaithful, incompetent or dishonest county or state officer. Frank Fields of Reno county, leader of the minority party in the House of Representatives, presented a short workable bill to give life to the recall amendment. Such a bill was surely entitled to consideration by all the members of the house but it was killed in the

### ANNUAL MEETING OF RUSH COUNTY

Report of the annual meeting of the Rush county Union of the F. E. & C. U. held at LaCrosse, Kansas, January 8, 1923.

The meeting was called to order by President Art. Glessner. After the routine business the following committee was appointed: Archie Wilson, Eldridge Shank and John Vesceky. While the committee was working the following officers were elected: President Arthur Glessner; vice-president, W. B. Romeiser; secretary, John Vesceky; room man, Mark Harmon; treasurer, Herman Timken; doorkeeper, M. Danke; delegate to state convention, Art. Glessner. Executive committee: W. B. Romeiser, M. O. Glessner, Alex. R. Wilson.

After the election of officers the following resolutions were adopted: We, as farmers of Rush county, Kansas, and delegates to the Rush county Union of F. E. & C. U. are opposed to the present law in regard to the County Agent system, under which a minority can vote taxes on the taxpayers, and we demand that the law be changed so that it will require a majority vote of the tax payers to inaugurate it in a county, and that it may be abolished by such a majority vote.

We are in favor of the passage of

## Some Observations on the Kansas Legislature

committee and so nine tenths of the representatives will go home without ever having a chance to consider a measure that was intended simply to provide a method for carrying the constitution into effect.

### \$60,000,000 For Paved Roads in Kansas

Will be provided for if the bond issue bill presented by Senator John Gray of Phillips county is passed. For a long time it seemed that the roads boosters would be unable to find either a senator or representative willing to introduce such a measure but all his heart in hard surfaced roads accepted the responsibility of fathering the measure and it is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Highways.

The idea is to use the income from the automobile tax to pay the interest and provide for the sinking fund for such a bond issue. Probably enough money can be secured for such a purpose in that way. The roads would be built by the state and without any interference or obstruction by the local or county authorities. So far no very strong sentiment in favor of the measure has developed in either house and no one would be very much surprised if the legislature should refuse to authorize such a bond issue or to submit a constitutional amendment for such a purpose.

### Debates In the Kansas Senate

Are always interesting. There are several men there who are able, eloquent and well informed and are willing to talk on any subject that is up for consideration. The proposition to authorize the State Business Manager to drill for oil or gas or both on the state property at Winfield started a real argument that lasted almost an entire legislative day.

The discussion brought out the facts that the state owned land at Winfield in what oil men call wild cat territory; that a producing well in that district is always about 2,500 feet deep and that the state spends about \$25,000 a year down there for oil and gas for its own use in the school located at Winfield. Several Senators wanted to authorize the senate to lease the land to wild catters but that proposition was abandoned when some senator proved by the statistics that such authority already existed.

Several gentlemen who are known to hold rather strong opinions as to the evil effects of speculating in grain or gambling in other forms expressed themselves in favor of having the state take a flyer in oil prospecting at a probable cost of at least \$25,000 with only the average wild catters chance of striking pay sand. The bill has not yet passed but a majority seems to be in favor of Kansas getting into the oil drilling business.

### The School Code Commission's Report

Has been reduced to a single bill of many sections which has been introduced into the senate by Johnson of Brown and into the house by Walker of Norton. Senator Johnson asks that the farmers and their representatives in the legislature refrain from opposition until they learn just what is proposed. The School Code Commission is made up of able and thoughtful citizens of the state. Much time has been given to investigation, to the construction of the report and to framing the bills to enact the commissions recommendations into law. The school laws of Kansas are in a frightful mess. Something should be done to simplify and make more effective the provisions for public school education in this state. Especially is it necessary that something be done to provide the country children of Kansas with equal educational opportunities.

Senator Johnson, who is the author and sponsor of the proposed legislation, is himself a farmer and has been a country school teacher. He says that he has eliminated every provision to which the farmers can reasonably object. If the commission has done something that will give the farmers children better schools without depriving the tax payers of democratic supervision and control of those schools every one will wish it success. On the other hand if there are covered up and camouflaged provisions that are intended to centralize school administration and set up over head

boards and officers to exercise the powers now lodged in the annual school meeting the farmers are certain to be right unfriendly to the report and to any legislation designed to carry it into effect.

### Manary Member of the House

Of Representatives from Morton county recently a pint of bottle booze, drank himself into irresponsibility and made a disturbance in a Topeka hotel. He was arrested, thrown into jail and taken into police court. Released on bail after he had sobered up he found that his escapade had furnished material for a lot of newspaper stories and that every one in three states knew all about his trouble. Unable to face the sympathy of his friends or the censure of others Manary shot himself and now lies in his grave in a Wichita Cemetery.

On the first report of the incident the newspapers reported that the leaders of the house of representatives were considering Manary's expulsion. That report probably caused the suicide. After the man was dead the legislature voted \$1,500 to pay his funeral expenses, adjourned for the funeral which was held in representative hall and sent five members to Wichita to attend the funeral. All of which raises the question as to whether a little charity in thought and action to men yet alive might not be much better than any posthumous eulogies.

The Topeka newspapers played a very sorry part in this unfortunate incident. The story was brutally written up and was given the widest possible publicity for the apparent purpose of discrediting the administration of Mayor Corwine who had just announced that he would be a candidate for reelection.

### Visiting The State Institutions

By members of the two houses of the legislature has come to be a custom that appears to be sacred. Senators and representatives on their duty are kept away from their proper jobs in Topeka for varying lengths of time. They get some information about the schools, the prisons, and the charities of the state. They get acquainted with a lot of nice folks who love the old flag and want increased appropriations, and they return to Topeka fully prepared to act on the big appropriation bill.

Until the state evolves some better way of preparing and passing on the budgets of the institutions that it supports by taxes there will be an annual increase in appropriations far out of proportion to the increase in service. If a budgetary system with adequate powers is possible under our constitution it should be established by this session of the legislature.

### Office Seekers Crowd the Streets and Hotels

Of Topeka. They are underfoot anywhere and everywhere else that they can find lodging, food, and friends to endorse their claims for consideration at the hands of the governor. It is reported that there are now 178 good republicans serving the state as deputy grain inspectors. It is a good many but Kansas raises lots of wheat and it must all be graded. Governor Davis and Wilson, the new Chief Inspector will not have any trouble in finding plenty of democrats to take the places of the 178 republicans now on the job. There are at least five thousand democrats in the state any one of whom is not only willing but anxious to inspect wheat.

So with other places. What the governor now needs is some sort of an inspection of the candidates for inspectorships and other offices. It would be very unfortunate if some man anxious to grade grain should by mistake be appointed to inspect oil, gas, or hotel sheets. A man might as well qualified to determine the flash point of gasoline and not know a thing about the absolute necessity for nailing fly screens on toilet room doors or the immense importance of sheets nine feet in length.

For the good of the state and of the grand old and always untimely democratic party Governor Davis should be mighty careful. He cannot afford to assign any expert in toilet rooms to the even more important duty of counting up the bin berry berries in a sample of Kansas wheat.

The one-acre farmer produces more gold-values than Andy Mallen, or J. D. Rottenfeller.

The medium for mental enslavement is a diploma in theology.

If we put the profiteer at useful labor poverty would vanish.

If you farmers would like a nice, sweet, juicy slice of Mellen (melon), call on Wall street's secretary of the treasury.

The O. B. M. of the producers of the U. S. A. is the royal road to prosperity.

Law up to date is the creation of and by the rule of gold, the breath of life has been breathed into the nostrils by the dominant profiteering clan.

—A Rube Member, Local 261, Corinth.

WHO WANTS A JOB  
Wanted—A Real Rough Guy— "I want a cow-hand who knows cows, not under thirty-five years old, not over fifty. One who smokes, drinks, swears, tells the truth and hates sheep herders.—Classified Ad. in the Ajo (Arizona) Copper News.

USE UNION WANT ADS







