



# THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-Operation



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## THE SURPLUS CONTROL BILL

This Bill Was Introduced in the Senate by Chas. L. McNary of Oregon and in the House by Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa. It Has All the Aims of the McNary-Haugen Bill of Last Session. Has Been Simplified and Made More Plain Without Losing Any of Its Strength.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 3, 1927.

Dear Sir:

The SURPLUS CONTROL BILL was introduced in the Senate on December 14 (S. 4808) and in the House on December 20 (H. 15474) respectively by Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and by Congressman Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture.

It will be taken up shortly after the Christmas recess by both committees. Chairman Haugen has set January 6 for the House Committee to consider the bill. In view of the extended hearings on surplus control legislation that have occupied months of time in both committees during the past three years, it is the expectation of the chairman that neither committee will hold prolonged hearings.

This measure has the same aims as the McNary-Haugen bill of last session, and contains all its essential features. It has been greatly simplified in form and some of its provisions have been clarified to avoid misconstruction. Some non-essential features have been eliminated to remove opposition which was directed to form rather than to substance. The changes and omissions do not weaken the bill.

The farmer-controlled board, the equalization fee and the revolving fund remain practically unchanged. The equalization fund becomes the stabilization fund, but its use remains the same. The tariff yardstick is removed, but the aim to maintain "advantageous domestic markets" remains. Instead of one National Advisory Council, separate Advisory Councils are provided for each commodity. Cattle is omitted and rice added to the list of basic commodities. A new provision authorizes a per cent loan to co-operatives handling any commodity (whether basic or not) to assist in handling surplus. The bill provides a surplus control plan through an equalization fee for five products, cotton, corn, wheat, hogs and rice; and in addition will do for all other commodities what has been done for the basic commodities through loans. Also a \$25,000,000 fund for 20-year loans is provided for co-operatives to acquire facilities.

A detailed analysis of the new bill is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

North Central States Agri'l Conference, George N. Peek, Chairman.

Bulletin—No. 19

The Surplus Control Bill cannot be considered apart from the condition in agriculture it is aimed to correct, which is this: The number of acres which under normal conditions will grow just about what is needed during the year, will under other conditions, grow more or less than the market can absorb at prices that will yield a profit above cost of production. Or, sometimes when we grow more of a crop than the home market requires, we find that conditions wholly without the United States restrict, establish the price even of that part we sell at home.

If the farmers could get together and grow just what could be sold at a fair price, and no more, there would be no need for this legislation. But this is impossible for two main reasons. In the first place, our great crops are grown by millions of farmers thousands of miles apart. They cannot come together in a combination like the U. S. Steel Corporation. In the second place, weather and pests, not acreage alone, determine the total yield. Even if the farmers could exactly fix the total number of acres to be planted, the yield would vary hundreds of millions of bushels of grain, or millions of hogs of cotton, one year with another.

In consequence, there is no real stability in agriculture. Prices may be smashed to ruinously low levels by the production of one season's excess supply which the next season's market might absorb at a fair price. It is impossible to preserve an advantageous domestic market if conditions outside the United States send world prices tumbling—and the American farmer tumbling with them.

The Surplus Control Bill proposes a way to meet this situation—not by government subsidy, not by government price-fixing, and not by government buying and selling of farm commodities—but by making it possible for buying, storing and selling organizations created and managed by farmers themselves, to do the job.

II. Before getting into the mechanism of the bill, it is well to state its three broad relations to agriculture in every part of the country.

First—It provides definitely for dealing with the surpluses of wheat, cotton, corn, rice and hogs (called "basic" agricultural commodities) to distinguish them from other bill and is discussed at greater length in III and IV.

Second—It provides for assistance to co-operative associations in handling

ling surpluses of any agricultural commodity, whether one of the five basic commodities or not. This assistance may take the form of four per cent loans to such co-operatives to assist in managing the surplus.

Third—It provides for loans to help co-operative associations construct or purchase facilities "to be used in the storage or processing" of any agricultural commodity. These loans may be paid off by installments over a period of 20 years. The bill limits the aggregate amount of such property loans to \$25,000,000.

Thus, in addition to its provision for cotton, wheat, corn, hogs and rice, the measure provides for service to co-operative organizations in every branch of agriculture, and in every state in the Union. The same plan of surplus control that is provided for growers of so-called "basic" commodities, might readily be applied to other crops. There seems to be no reason, for example, why it could not be applied with good results to tobacco when the growers desire it.

The Surplus Control Bill establishes a Federal Farm Board of 12 men in addition to the Secretary of Agriculture, an ex officio member. Members are appointed by the President for six-year terms, one from each Federal Land Bank district, from nominations made by nominating committees selected by farm and co-operative marketing organizations in each district. In order to insure close co-operation with the producers, the Board's first duty is to create a non-salaried commodity advisory council to speak for the producers of each of the basic commodities—cotton, wheat, corn, hogs and rice.

The Board's operations with any commodity depend on its finding:

(1) that there is, actually or in prospect, a surplus of any of the basic commodities; and

(2) that the organizations representing the growers of the commodity, and the commodity advisory council, want help in managing the surplus.

The Board can neither buy nor sell. It can make it possible for other agencies set up by the farmers themselves, to do the buying, storing and selling that is necessary to stabilize markets or it can be done through processors when necessary and desirable. If there are no such co-operative corporations other agencies may be used. Cotton, wheat and rice have such organizations, or can perfect them at once. Corn and hogs could be quickly organized, with such a service to perform.

With this machinery, the Board and the producers trading organization for a commodity would agree on steps to take whenever necessary to preserve market stability in the face of a surplus. This producers' organization might buy and store for later re-sale at home or abroad in any amount necessary to carry out the program of stabilization or it might continuously divert surplus to export. It might make it worth while for farmers to hold stocks back on the farm.

These operations would be made possible through use of the "stabilization fund" raised for each of the five commodities from the commodities themselves. That sounds mysterious, but it isn't. In every sense this measure is a regulation of commerce in basic farm commodities. The ones who benefit primarily from this program of farm stabilization are the men who produce the crops. So, as each bushel of grain or bale of cotton moves in commerce, a contribution is collected from the most convenient point—from the miller on milling, or the railroad on transporting, or the purchaser on buying.

The bill calls this contribution the "equalization fee," because by means of it the expense of an operation which benefits alike all producers of a crop is carried by them in exact proportion to the benefits received.

III. A "revolving fund" of \$250,000,000 is authorized. This is needed because, when the board starts to operate, there will be no money in the cotton stabilization fund, because the equalization fees are yet to be collected. The board simply loans from the revolving fund to the stabilization fund, and amounts as are called for, and then when the equalization fees are collected, the revolving fund is replenished by repayment of the loan.

IV. The "equalization fee" is simply the contribution each unit (bushel, bale or pound) makes to a common fund for the commodity. This (stabilization) fund for wheat, for example, makes it possible for an agency set up and controlled by wheat growers, to say how much of the surplus of wheat shall be for sale in the market at any time. Within limits dictated by business sense, it enables wheat farmers to adjust the supply of wheat to the needs of the domestic market at an American price. It would mean the same with rice. Such a fund for cotton would make it possible for cotton growers to feed cotton into the markets of the world as fast as the world wanted it at a reasonable price. American cotton

exports are nearly two-thirds of the world's international trade in cotton. The Surplus Control Act offers a sensible, practical method for the stabilization and valorization of cotton, and not by the government, but by the cotton growers themselves. There are differences in operation, but the same principle applies to each of the five commodities. Notwithstanding the tremendous up-and-down movement in corn prices, we produce on the average little if any more corn than we need here. Variation in corn yields keeps the farmer in the corn belt in an endless see-saw between corn and hogs. To help check this is one of the purposes of the Surplus Control measure.

V. Section 1—Is the declaration of policy, as follows:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to promote the orderly marketing of basic agricultural commodities in interstate and foreign commerce and to that end to provide for the control and disposition of surplus of such commodities to prevent such surplus from unduly depressing the prices obtained for such commodities, to enable producers of such commodities to stabilize their markets against undue and excessive fluctuations, to preserve advantageous domestic markets for such commodities, to minimize speculation and waste in marketing such commodities, and to encourage the organization of producers of such commodities into co-operative marketing associations."

Section 2—Establishes the Federal Farm Board of 12 members and the Secretary of Agriculture (ex officio member) and provides for a nominating committee of five in each Federal land bank district, four of whom are chosen by the farmers of that district. The nominating committee in each district nominates to the President three men from the district from whom that district's board member is to be named.

Section 3—Provides six year terms for board members, and salaries of \$10,000 a year.

Section 4—Grants the general powers to a government board.

Section 5—Grants special powers to enable the board to keep informed of all factors influencing supply, demand and price of farm crops, and to assist producers in adjusting their production to secure the best results.

Section 6—Is the vital operating section. It names cotton, wheat, corn, rice and swine as the "basic" agricultural commodities.

It provides a way to advise congress when other commodities should be included in the list.

It names the conditions under which the board shall undertake operations in any commodity. It provides that decisions to operate, or to cease operating, in any commodity must be made by a majority of the board members representing districts that produce half or more of the nation's crop of that commodity. It defines the nature of the contracts the board shall make with co-operative agencies, for removing, withholding or disposing of surpluses.

Section 7—Requires the board to establish a non-salaried commodity advisory council for each of the five basic commodities, to be composed of seven men chosen by the board from lists submitted by organizations representing growers of the commodity. This section defines the duties of the advisory councils.

Sections 8, 9 and 10—Provide for the collection of the "equalization fees," in amounts and for periods determined and published in advance by the board. These fees are collected as a regulation of commerce, on transportation, or processing, or sale as the board determines in case of each commodity. No more than one fee can be collected on any one unit (bushel, bale or pound) of a commodity.

Section 11—Provides for the "stabilization fund" for each basic commodity, to be administered exclusively by the board. All the fees collected on wheat, for example, go into the Wheat Stabilization Fund. Provision is made to transfer money from the Revolving Fund to each stabilization fund as needed to finance operations until the equalization fees are collected to repay the advance.

This section provides for the payment of costs and losses under contracts with the agencies engaged in handling the surplus as provided in Section 6.

Section 12—Provides a per cent loan to assist co-operatives in marketing the surplus of any agricultural commodity whether defined as "basic" or not.

It provides \$250,000,000, which may be loaned to co-operative associations to purchase or build physical facilities for their operations, repayable as the board directs, in installments over not to exceed 20 years.

Section 13—Provides a comprehensive system of audits of the books and accounts of the board.

Section 14—Provides for co-operation with the board with other departments of government.

Section 15—Contains definitions of special terms used in the measure.

Section 16—Authorizes the appropriation of

NOTICE OF MEETINGS.

The Third Annual District Stockholders' meetings of the Farmers Union Co-operative Producers Association are to be held as follows:

District No. 1—Johnson county, Miami county. Meeting place, Grange Hall, Spring Hill. Time, 1:00 p. m., January 19.

District No. 2—Anderson county, Linn county, Neosho county, Allen county, Bourbon county, Crawford county. Meeting place, Court House, Garnett. Time, 1:00 p. m., January 21.

District No. 3—Franklin county, Osage county. Meeting place, F. U. Hall, Pomeroy. Time, 1:00 p. m., January 20.

District No. 4—Douglas county, Wabunsee county, Morris county, Shawnee county, Dickinson county. Meeting place, State House, Topeka. Time, 1:00 p. m., January 20.

District No. 5—Marshall county, Riley county, Clay county, Cloud county, Brown county, Pottawatomie county, Washington county. Meeting place, L. O. F. Hall, Leonardville. Time, 1:00 p. m., January 21.

District No. 6—Coffey county, Butler county, Woodson county, Greenwood county, Chase county, Cowley county, Marion county. Meeting place, L. O. F. Hall, Madison. Time, 1:00 p. m., January 21.

District No. 7—Trego county, Norton county, Ness county, Phillips county, Ellis county, Sheridan county, Saline county, Thomas county, Graham county, Gove county, Roberts county. Meeting place, Court House, Wakeeney. Time, 1:00 p. m., January 19.

The territory represented by the sign-up has been distributed in accordance with Section Two, Article Six of the by-laws of this association. All stockholders are requested to attend their respective district meeting for the purpose of:

Nominating one individual as a member of the board of directors of the association;

Electing one delegate for each county; and

Electing one delegate for each twenty contract signers or major portion thereof in the county.

Those chosen are to attend the annual stockholders' meeting to be held in Kansas City, February 2, in accordance with Section One, Article Four of the by-laws of this association.

Representatives of the association will be present at the meetings to advise the membership concerning the activities of the association during the past year.

A. W. SEAMANS, Secretary.

PIONEER ACTIVITIES AND ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS IN CHICAGO

(By C. F. Lowrie, Sec. Farmer-Labor Exchange)

The big "Jim Hill" brand of the "world's finest apples" from Farmers' Union members from Wenatchee, Washington, will be marketed to the customers of Chicago under the union label has called attention to the pioneer activities of the Farmer-Labor Exchange in Chicago.

In November, 1922, Mr. G. A. Koger, one of the Non-Partisan League farmers from the state of Idaho, came to Chicago with a carload of Idaho honey belonging to himself and neighbors. The big spread between the price paid to the producers and the price that the consumers had to pay was so great that ordinary consumer could not afford to buy honey.

To attempt a specific solution of this marketing problem, a committee composed of prominent labor men and organized farmers was formed under the name of Farmer-Labor Exchange. It was decided to go directly to organized labor. Organized labor responded splendidly. The result has been that seven carloads of this honey have been sold to the consumers in Chicago at a price that was a living wage to the farmers and a price that the consumers could afford to pay.

Publicity on Honey Deal

This was so remarkable a record that a story about the handling of this Idaho honey was sent out by the All-American Co-operative News Service of Cleveland, Ohio, to the farmer and labor press of the country. As a result of this publicity, the Exchange was requested to extend its service to many other farm organizations.

Carloads of Produce

The following list of carload shipments that have been received by the Exchange is an indication of the need of this kind of service:

40 carloads watermelons from Texas.

16 carloads vegetables from Texas.

12 carload cabbage from Wisconsin.

20 carloads coal from Illinois.

8 carloads Irish potatoes from Oklahoma.

1 carload sweet potatoes from Arkansas.

8 carloads cantaloupes from Arkansas.

7 carloads honey from Idaho.

2 carloads grapefruit from Florida.

1 carload oranges from Florida.

3 carloads butter from Kansas.

Pecans from Texas.

Limburger cheese from Minnesota. The following states have furnished the greater percentage of this business, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, Florida.

Promote the Union Label

In addition to marketing produce for the farmers, the Exchange has acted as buying agent for co-operative stores, buying clubs, trade unions, farmers' unions, etc. It is the policy in buying to give preference to co-operative wholesalers, co-operative factories and concerns fair to union labor and the farmer. Among the merchandise bought in this way has been tea from the British Co-operative Wholesale (in co-operation with the Central States Co-operative Wholesale), gloves and cigars from co-operative factories owned by labor unions, and Union Label Goods of various kinds.

The organized farmers selling their produce through the Farmer-Labor Exchange to trade union consumers have appreciated this service so much that they have reciprocated by giving large orders for the famous Herrin union-mined, union-owned coal. The following quotation from The Iowa Homestead aptly describes the situation:

"Co-operation Brings Union Coal to Chicagoans"

"Coal mined by union men in pits owned by the Illinois Mine Workers' union is being distributed to organized consumers on farms and in the cities by the Farmer-Labor Exchange, 179 W. Washington St., Chicago. Lower prices for consumers and trade union conditions for producers are assured by this venture in direct marketing. Strangely enough, the war-scarred town of Herrin furnished the coal. The black diamonds come from that fateful strip mine where the efforts of a non-union operator intruded low wage standards, precipitated the riots of 1922. Finding it impossible to operate profitably with public sentiment ranged against him, the operator sold out and the Illinois United Mine Workers are now directly in charge of the property."

Union Coal for Union Halls

Better market for many carloads of this coal to union farmers and many thousands of tons to union consumers in Chicago, the campaign is on to supply trade union halls and labor temples with hundred per cent union mined coal, as fast as possible. The leading organization in developing an industry that gives such promise of the future success of this important department of organized workers' activities.

THE NEW YEAR

Through all this coming year, I pray I shall find some thing every day, to gladden me and make me know that blessing sweet and true shall flow.

Through every hour and every day, if we but seek them on the way, Too often with unseeing eyes with bitter heart that never tries to look for things of joy and cheer, we go along through all the year, nor see the hundred pleasures small that fill the way for one and all.

Unmindful of the things we hold more precious far than gleaming gold we fume and cry, we chafe and fret for something that we have not got, and spend without a passing thought sweet homey pleasures that are nigh.

How many times in other years, I mustered troubles doubts and fears and would not raise my eyes to see, the pleasures that awaited me the hundred blessings, I could find if sought with open heart and mind.

I shall resolve this coming year, I'll seek the divine grace through cheer.

The share I am entitled to that is my own my honest eye, I would be foolish most unwise, to pass such wealth with blinded eyes.

—Selected.

JOHN VECESKY GIVES SOME INSTRUCTIONS TO MANAGERS IN THE HANDLING OF POOLED WHEAT.

There seems to be much discussion and misunderstanding about how to handle pooled wheat in the elevator. It is not much trouble if you will start out right. Handle the pooled wheat just the same as you handle your own wheat. We have had managers write in and ask if we expect the pooled wheat to be separate. It is not fair to expect the elevator to handle the pooled wheat different than his own.

Another thing. The bookkeeper. It is easily done if you do it right away. When the man delivers the wheat do not forget to take a sample of the wheat and know it is a fair sample. Make out a ticket on the book furnished by the pool. Give him a copy and you keep a copy. When he delivers all his wheat and wants his draft, do not forget when you make out a draft and the other papers to send the yellow one to the Association headquarters at Wichita. It saves lots of trouble if you will send that yellow copy the same day you give the draft to the man who brings in the wheat. When you ship a car of wheat, mail the bill of lading immediately. It is hard for managers of elevators to get all of the things done in time. The minute you get your bill of lading seal it up in the envelope and mail it direct to Wichita.

Another thing, with the bill of lading make out that advise of shippers and be careful to put in the grade that you expect that wheat to grade. If you think that wheat is 3 or 4 do not put down No. 2. Put exactly what you think it will grade. If you think it is No. 2, put No. 2.

Exhibit at Streater

There will be an exhibit of the first boxes of apples ever marketed stamped with the union label—both the farmers' union and the allied print-

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FARMERS UNION INSURANCE COMPANIES

Meeting Was Held in Salina, January 6th. Meeting Well Attended. Audit Shows an Increase of Volume That is Particularly Gratifying. Mr. E. L. Bullard Takes the Place of Mr. Norman Flora on the Board. Chas. A. Broom Was Appointed Secretary.

The Farmers Union Mutual Fire Insurance Company and the Farmers Union Mutual Hail Insurance Company held their annual meetings Thursday, January 6, 1927, with a goodly number present. The meeting was held in the offices of the Insurance Company in the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Building at Salina, Kansas.

The auditors report showed a very substantial growth in volume. Also, that the losses have not been excessive, thereby showing a very healthy growth, adding about 6 1/2 million dollars in risks and about \$47,000.00 better condition financially compared to risks than the last annual statement.

In as much as we have been able to refund to the policy holders on his cash premium on the 5 year contracts one-third of the premium for the last 5 years and those contracts being sold for \$25.00 for a \$1,000.00 combined policy and at the expiration of those contracts one-third or \$8.33 was returned to the policy holder leaving a net cost of \$16.67 to him for the policy. Then, January 1, 1925, we began selling the same contract for \$20.00 or \$5.00 less and it was the sense of the Board, after considering the Auditors report, that we should refund, until further change has been ordered by the Board, so as to leave the same net cost to the policy holder or \$8.33 on the \$1,000.00 five year combined contract expiring at this time.

In the election of the five directors,

the expiring terms being Art Glesner, Norman Flora, E. E. Woodman, W. J. Spencer and C. E. Braisted, all were re-elected except Norman Flora who was not present at the meeting and is absent from the state. E. L. Bullard of Vassar being elected in the place of Mr. Flora.

After the policy holders meetings, the Board of Directors held a meeting. Newly elected Directors were immediately qualified. The Board organized by electing C. E. Braisted President; C. C. Kilian, vice president; C. A. Broom, secretary; Grant Bliss, treasurer and Chas. Simpson as Field man. In the organization of the Board of Directors for the Hail Insurance Company, the same officers were elected to like positions.

In review of the business, it was evident that the Insurance Companies had had good loyal support in the last year from its agents and the members of the Farmers Union, which we feel is one of the largest contributing factors that made it possible in the last year for the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Companies to send back to their policy holders in the form of rebates \$25,000.00 notwithstanding their low rate; and to rebate back to the policy holders of the Hail Insurance Company a little over \$4,100.00. And, with a continuation of that support, the officers of the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Companies believe that they will be able to carry on and show as gratifying results for the year 1927.

re-inspection and that costs considerable.

If we could know exactly how much wheat there is in each elevator and what the grade is it would be possible for the sales agency to sell to mills near by. We have no way of knowing grade you have and how much. Then, we do not know until you have shipped it out. If we could have some knowledge of about how much the wheat would grade, and how many bushels we have, we could sell it at an advantage many times.

Now remember, take sample of wheat so the farmer is satisfied. Send yellow slip and copy of certificate that accompanies draft. Send notes of card that is loaded with bill of lading. Then we can promptly make return to you. If any of you managers of elevators have questions to ask on how to do this work, take it up with me here during this meeting, or write to the office at Wichita or Kansas City. If there is any way the work can be made lighter for you, let us know and we will take it up. Every dollar we can save for the farmer in handling the wheat is just another dollar he will have for his family with and he needs that goodness only knows.

FARMERS' CO-OP. PROFITABLE

Toronto, Canada.—The United Farmers' Co-operative Company of Ontario has, according to the reports submitted at the last annual meeting held recently, had the best year since the Company was organized in 1920. Total profits for the year ended September 20, 1926, were \$172,000, of which \$60,000 will be available for a four per cent stock dividend. There have been paid out \$82,000 to shippers to egg pool.

"The total value of business this year," states General Manager H. B. Clemes, in a letter to the shareholders, "will amount to about \$20,000,000 or considerably more than a year ago. We handled a good deal more grain, totalling over 60 cars in all. A good deal of this was sold through the Canadian Wheat Pool.

ANOTHER TAX PROBLEM

Mr. H. H. Ashmore of Pittsburg, Kansas, writes of a Tax Problem that they have in their county with reference to a Street Car System, that has paid no taxes for two or three years. This is in Crawford county but across the line in Cherokee county, they have paid taxes each year. It seems that their excuse is that they are in bankruptcy. This causes the property owners of Crawford county to have an extra burden to carry.

SIX 100% LOCALS THIS WEEK

Six locals have reported as being paid up 100 per cent since our last issue. These come from every direction. Saline county reports Bavaria 1978; Woodson county, Liberty 2148; Smith county, Oak Creek 1185; Ellsworth county, Prairie Star 944; Wabunsee county, Chalk 1580 and Johnson county, Sharon 1744.

MOTORISTS SPEND MILLIONS

Ottawa, Canada.—Automobile tourists from the United States entering Canada in 1926 left a gross revenue in the Dominion of about \$194,000,000, according to a careful estimate made by A. W. Campbell, Dominion Commissioner of Highways. In 1925 the estimated gross revenue from this tourist traffic was \$188,555,540.

A good farm record book accurately kept will enable a farmer to really know his business.

## The Kansas Union Farmer

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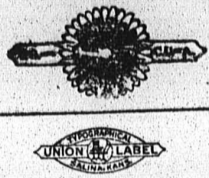
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Notice to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

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

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

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



THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1927

### MORE ABOUT COTTON FARMING.

The low price of cotton affects our British cousins in at least two ways. For a long time they were the greatest of all manufacturers of cotton fabrics which they sold to all parts of the world at prices that made for fortunes for spinners and weavers of Manchester and the other textile towns. The war disorganized that industry, deprived England of her monopoly of world markets, and raised the price of raw cotton. English statesmen and economists got busy and planned for the production of this essential staple in Egypt, India and Australia in such quantities that Manchester would become independent of the American south. The following editorial reprinted from a leading farm paper discusses some phases of the cotton situation that are as interesting as they are important:

"England believes growers of this country set out to over-produce cotton with a view to smashing prices and putting overseas competitors out of business. The notion is absurd, of course, as southern cotton growers, a year ago, had no intention of putting anyone out of business. Little did they think they would all but put themselves out of the running, but that's what they did with an 18,000,000-bale crop, despite repeated warnings that the acreage should be reduced. Now they're paying for their lack of control in both marketing and production by increased indebtedness and a still lower standard of living. No one can read current news dispatches without knowing that the cotton-growing area is in distress, but when an American industry, on which the world depends largely for its clothing, furnishes active competition for a people who can live on 20 cents a day, then that industry must be profoundly prostrate. India, which is a British subject, is second to the United States in cotton production. Farm laborers in India are paid 20 cents a day. The laborer can live for 10 cents a day, while for 20 cents per diem he can support a wife and two children. It is hard to believe we are furnishing competition for a nation that lives and produces so cheaply, but the belief is general in England that we are and that we are doing so on purpose. Seldom, if ever, is there cotton enough between crops to keep the looms of the world running for 90 days, and one would naturally suppose that growing cotton would confer great prosperity upon producers; but the illiteracy and the living standards of the rank and file of American cotton-growers are a shame and a disgrace to this nation. That they have not prospered may be better understood when one realizes that more than 75 per cent of the crop is produced under mortgage. While the industrial east is talking of prosperity, and while dividends are being distributed to rejoicing stockholders, the cotton peasant of this country is mortgaging his future in order to barely subsist, until another crop is produced. How long will it last? How long can our cities, which have grown top-heavy at the expense of agriculture, continue to enjoy their present degree of prosperity? The farmer remains the shock-absorber for the nation. Other industries can add enough to their prices to cover losses, but the farmer cannot pass his losses to others. He must absorb them because he is unorganized, which means a low standard of living and a mortgaged future. But when the industry as a whole sinks to the place where it menaces a similar industry in a county having the lowest imaginable living standards, then the problem ceases to be of concern to southern growers alone and becomes a pressing problem to all classes of society."

The purchasing department of the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation, Indianapolis, handled 16,881 tons of fertilizer for its members this fall, compared with 15,841 tons a year ago.

### WILL PROSPERITY CONTINUE?

Industry had a big year during 1926. Dividends, the greatest in the history of the country, will be distributed during the early months of the New Year. The main question now is whether business will be as good, better or worse during the next twelve months. Profits in manufacturing and commerce of course depend very largely on "buying power" and it is without question that many great groups of our people have little or no such power at this time.

Nearly 2,000,000 farm families depend for the

cash income on the sale of cotton. This year's cotton crop will all be sold for less than the cost of production. That means not only that there will be little buying in the agricultural south but that supply merchants and bankers will be unable to collect their accounts and notes for funds advanced in the past and in order to save themselves will be forced to make heavy additional advances next year. The corn and wheat sections are slightly better off but even in the most favored localities most of the net income from farming operations will be used up in unavoidable payments for dead horses and most families will be compelled to wear their old clothes and forego new purchases either for use or pleasure.

The east is always advertising and boosting business prosperity but the following short editorial reprinted from the New York World indicates that a lot of business men even in that section would do well to watch their steps:

"This is the season when bankers, captains of industry and business statisticians are urged to come forward and tell us what to expect in commerce and industry during the coming year. Within the next ten days we shall be deluged with reviews and forecasts. A few observers have already put themselves on record. Charles M. Schwab finds our present prosperity greater than this or any other nation has ever shown before, but he says that to maintain it we must develop efficiencies and economies on a progressive scale. Henry Ford believes that 1927 will be "a year of normalcy," but he adds that 1926 has been one of abnormal activity, leaving us with a large surplus of raw and fabricated materials and also with a large surplus of debt. This surplus of debt he attributes to installment buying concerning which he is far from optimistic.

"Col. Leonard P. Ayres, a recognized statistical authority, also believes that business will slow down somewhat in 1927, but that the recession will not be sufficient to cause serious unemployment or a real bear market for securities. Underlying conditions, Col. Ayres believes, are sound, and the only immediate danger is seen in the possibility that business men may resort to unwise efforts to stimulate activity to the peak of last spring. Such an outcome, however, he deems improbable, as bankers have not forgotten the extension of credit beyond what experience has shown to be safe.

"The underlying idea in these opinions is that the prospects for 1927 are not unfavorable, but that in planning for the coming year business men should season their optimism with a grain of caution."

Nine thousand tons of fertilizer was purchased and distributed in 1926 by the Agricultural Societies United of the Province of New Brunswick, at an average rate of \$49 per ton. The association was organized in 1914 for the purpose of buying and distributing fertilizer chemicals among the various agricultural associations. Substantial rebates have resulted from the reduction of overhead costs and the farmers are very appreciative of the services rendered. Orders are now being taken for 1927 supplies.

### THE LEGISLATURE AND TAXATION.

The Kansas legislature will assemble in a few days. There are many matters of importance to be considered but surpassing every other subject in interest to the farmers is the matter of tax reform. It may as well be taken for granted that there will be reduction in the amount of appropriations that will be made for various state purposes. In fact it is as certain as death that almost every one of the institutions, activities and governmental functions conducted, carried and discharged by the state will ask for and will receive more money than has ever been appropriated for such purposes.

There being no prospect of any reduction in total state expenditures and a practical certainty that there will be an increase all along the line it becomes surprisingly important that the required funds should be raised in such fashion that burdens of government shall be equitably distributed among all who receive benefits from the multitudinous activities of the state. Under our existing tax laws this is impossible. All our public revenues come now from only a few sources, such as direct taxes on tangibles, fees imposed for certain services rendered by the state and various institutions that it operates, and a tax on the sale of gasoline. Inasmuch as the fees for registration of automobiles and from the sale of gasoline are all dedicated to the single purpose of highway improvement this part of our state income may be disregarded for general revenue purposes. As the laws now stand the great part of all our state revenues arise from direct taxes on tangible property and as nearly all of such property in this state is in the shape of real estate or railroads the owners thereof bear the weight of state expenses.

The real estate consists of farms and city property. The railways and the owners of city property are all engaged in selling services or goods upon which they are at liberty to fix their own prices and as a matter of business do fix their prices to include and absorb all their payments of taxes for public purposes. Farmers on the other hand, under existing marketing and business conditions have no power to put a price either on the products that they sell or the commodities and services that they buy. They are the one class in the state that cannot engage in the pleasurable and profitable pastime of shifting their tax burdens to others. The result of this situation is that practically all agricultural net income is directly or indirectly paid out for taxes and the costs incident to shifting the taxes to them. In thousands of instances these imposts and extortions are greater than income and in effect and fact are levies on the capital without which farm income cannot be produced.

In these circumstances all Kansas farmers should unite in demanding the enactment of tax laws that shall redistribute the burdens of government. There are several sources from which large revenues may be obtained. Our state is rich in natural resources that are being exploited and exploited and exhausted without any return to the commonwealth. There should be a reasonable tax on production from the mines, oil and gas wells and other mineral resources. Such a tax is imposed by numbers of other states with results that free tangible property from all direct imposts for state purposes.

There are many thousands of well-to-do Kansans in the enjoyment of incomes sometimes running into five figures that pay little or nothing for the support of the state government. All net incomes in excess of \$1,000 a year should be taxed and if the constitution permits these taxes should be graduated in such a way that the men who have most will pay in larger proportion than those who have least.

A general sales tax would be resented by most people in Kansas although it is at least debatable that such an impost is an equitable way to raise public revenues and one that distributes the burdens of government among citizens in rate only as to their paying ability. There are certain articles, however, that may well be taxed for the public interest. The use of tobacco is an enjoyable practice that adds to the comfort of many and contributes to the discomfort of not a few. It can hardly be argued that tobacco in its various forms is a necessity but it is used by a great majority of the men and probably by a good many of the women of Kansas. Other states are taxing tobacco for general or special purposes. There is no good reason why the anti-cigarette law should not be repealed. It serves no good purpose and is so constantly violated in every city in the state that it is a joke. It should be wiped off the statute books and the sale of cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and snuff should all be taxed for the benefit of the state revenues. A ten per cent impost on the sales price would not be unfair or unduly burdensome and would raise enough revenue to ease the burdens of direct tax payers.

Taxation of intangibles is not yet satisfactory in this state. It may be that the direct tax is too low or that such property escapes taxation. The legislature should consider this matter and make such readjustments as are necessary.

For a good many years these conditions that make tax paying so obnoxious to the owners of tangible property have existed and nothing has been done about it. Nothing will be done this winter unless the farmers unite in a demand for tax reform and in some way show that they are in earnest. The farmers of Virginia revolted against a state tax on lands not many years ago and now have a state income tax law that raises all revenues for state purposes and at the same time reserves to the counties and other local units the right to tax land per local purposes. Kansas remains one of the few states that relies largely on land taxes for state purposes. Why not make a change that is so essential to the prosperity of more than half our people?

NOTE—The above article probably will not meet with the approval of all the readers.

We take this opportunity to remind you that this is the page used by the Associate Editor W. C. Lansdon.

This article reflects his point of view, but in no way commits the Kansas Farmers Union to the same view.

C. E. Brasted.

The bet way to get economic justice for Kansas agriculture is to double the membership of the Farmers Union during the next three months. Nothing is easier if each member of the organization accepts his responsibilities and presents the matter to his neighbors.

### A FOOLISH PROPOSITION.

The school teachers of this country have a big job on their hands and for the most part they are doing it well. The rank and file work hard and get results priceless beyond measure by money. The leaders, however, seem to have too much time on their hands. They use up a great deal of energy and gray matter that belongs to the taxpayers in devising schemes to make themselves more important and to secure higher pay.

Just now all the master pedagogues of the country are united in an attempt to persuade congress that education is entitled to a seat in the president's cabinet. No more foolish project was ever conceived or promoted. What the government of the United States, under the constitution, has to do with popular, elementary education or any other kind of tax supported public instruction is just nothing at all. What it will have to do with teaching even down to the queen and her subjects in the little red school house if congress listens and acts on this proposition can hardly be imagined but it will be enough to deprive the patrons of our rural and other schools of all authority in the management of their own children and the employment of teachers.

With a pedagogue in the cabinet, there would follow various plans for improving public schools through governmental aid and appropriations. Uncle Sam has developed a system of looking after his dollars. Every school, no matter of what grade that receives a subsidy of any sort from the federal treasury must be prepared to carry on under federal supervision. Such a change in our educational policy would result in about ten thousand new jobs for educators who are now utterly worthless as teachers and would bring our entire educational system, now managed by states, districts and town into a federal bureaucracy.

Every farmer in Kansas should take time right away to send a short and exceedingly emphatic letter to his congressman and to both of our senators. In that letter he should make it perfectly plain that he is opposed to federalization of our schools and is not at all friendly with any statesman who supports or votes for such a silly and dangerous project.

A juice extractor for household use has been developed by the Florida Citrus Exchange, Tampa. By holding the patent rights on the extractor the Exchange is able to insure its being offered for sale at a low price. It is expected that the extractor will result in an increased consumption of citrus fruits.

### QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE.

Resolved that every member of the Farmers Union should bring in two applications for new memberships before the first of March.

Resolved, that the legislature should repeal the anti-cigarette law and impose a ten per cent tax on the retail sales price of all forms of tobacco.

Orders for 15 car loads of steel posts, barbed wire, nails, etc., were received recently by the Farmers' Union State Exchange, Omaha, from Farmers' Union grain elevators, co-operative stores, and co-operative associations.

## Comment On World's News For The Week

### Primary Elections Are Under Fire.

The system of direct nominations does not bring the results expected by its enthusiastic inventors and advocates and it cost both candidates and taxpayers a lot of money. It is not by any means certain, however, that with all its faults there is not yet much more virtues in the primary than in the old convention system. In his final message to the legislature of Pennsylvania Governor Pinchot who knows something about the high cost of primary elections said:

"The direct primary must not be destroyed. Whatever its faults, it is the only system of nomination yet devised which gives the people a chance against the politicians. Without it the women of Pennsylvania would lose their best chance to count in public affairs.

Attacks upon the direct primary in this state come principally from the men who have had a hand in debauching it. These persons (some of them in official life), whose candidates have profited by excessive expenditures of money for the securing of votes, now demand the elimination of the direct primary because of offenses that were committed against it. It is as though a man were to throw a handful of sand into the works of a piece of machinery and then complain because it no longer ran as smoothly as it should.

"The reason the politicians want the direct primary abolished is because it is less trouble for them to control nominations under the convention system. That is the best of reasons why the primary should be retained.

The Ohio man who was convicted of bigamy, sentenced to the penitentiary, paroled, divorced and married all in one day established a record for strenuous activity that few will surpass during this year of which so much is expected.

### Senators Have Not Yet Decided.

What to do about Colonel Smith of Illinois if and when he presents his credentials as a senator-designate from the state that knows all about him and yet is willing to take a chance that he can worthily fill the seat once held by Stephen A. Douglas. Some believe that Smith should be met on the front steps and by the aid of a bully persuaded to go home. Others think he should be allowed to take the oath, set long enough to appreciate the grand glorious privilege of being on the most august legislative bodies on earth and then fired out on his neck. The Public Ledger of Philadelphia thus jesterly discusses this very serious matter:

"If Colonel Smith, of Illinois, continues to keep the Senate in tormented suspense, most anything may happen in that august body. One day it is ready to bar him from its doors and chase him down the Capitol steps when and if he appears. The next day word goes around that he is to be admitted. Soothingly he is told. Twenty-four hours later he is not to be admitted, his credentials are to be discredited and he is to be hustled back to Illinois after a sort of Senate court-martial. Meanwhile, Colonel Smith says nothing in several different languages. His present and future intentions are the best kept political secrets of the hour. It is this when and-if situation that is tormenting the Senate, well-nigh beyond its endurance. Some of the Senators are so full of burning words that they are at the point of explosion. There is a touch of hysteria about this grave and potent body as it sits waiting for the knock at the door. There, however, no real reason why the Senate should be crossing this bridge a dozen times before it is reached. It has something else to do while waiting for Colonel Smith, and it may as well get on with it.

### D. G. FRANCIS TELLS OF HIS TRIP IN THE EAST.

Mr. Thomas asks me to tell you of the good and the bad of what I think about you managers.

If I do not know just what I am to say, we find that it depends on their attitudes and humor when we go to sell them this stuff. One man will not handle Success (tangible and another won't handle anything else. That is why we are up against. One man told me the other day, you do not know anything about selling wheat, and not much about coal and not much about flour but after I talked to him a while he says, you have the best thing in the world. Just a little while before that I had talked to a manager who would not have Success (tangible at all. After all, the farmers are not paying a great deal of attention to the brand of stuff you sell. The manager has a lot to do with it. Some times you may have some particular brand of merchandise because maybe one or two or three large consumers in their neighborhood might demand that particular brand but most of the time the farmers do not pay so much attention to the brand. There are a few people who buy highly advertised brands.

In your getting together and distributing these cars, I think that is a good point and can be worked out more than it is at the present time. In almost any community or county we have enough Farmers Union units or other men who might be in business in towns near by where that man would save a car of feed, tankage, etc. If you will just get together and think of that and talk it over. If you will just get together and talk it over I think you will work out many of these problems. It is not what might come to pass but it is here at this time.

England once punished rabbit poachers with death, but it remained for the government of the United States, as conducted by Wayne B. Wheeler, to impose and administer the death penalty for the violation of a sumptuary law.

### Trees Are One Crop.

That can be raised on a good many millions of acres of American lands that are worth little or nothing for any other purpose. Also it is not open to question that trees are something that the country badly needs now and is certain to need even more keenly in the not distant future. Worn out farms, cut overs, reclaimed swamps, rough areas along streams, and the slopes of hills and mountains should be planted with forest trees. The following states that some men and some states are doing the right thing in this matter:

"During this year the conservation department of New York State distributed for planting 20,500,000 trees, double the number called for last year, says the San Antonio Light. In Pennsylvania, more than 50,000,000 young forest trees have been planted in the last three years, and next spring 20,000,000 more will be available.

In the California redwood belt, the lumber companies are engaged in planting 30,000,000 young trees, to supplement natural production.

"A growing custom in New York State is the planting of municipal forests, by cities and towns. There are now 217 such forest areas in that Commonwealth.

"These figures may appear great to some, yet they are but a drop in the bucket in comparison with the needs. At the same time, they are an encouraging indication that the public is being slowly aroused to the danger of extinction now threatening our forest areas."

### Reckless Automobile Drivers.

Continue to destroy property and lives at a rate that makes them a greater menace to public security than ever was the bubonic plague, Heretic cholera, or the Spanish influenza. Nearly 30,000 lives were lost in automobile accidents last year. A hundred thousand persons were more or less seriously injured, and several millions of dollars worth of property was destroyed by fast driving fools during the past twelve months. For its own safety society must do something about the reckless, careless, ignorant and heartless imbeciles who go careering over the roads and streets in their death dealing chariots of speed and here is the plan that will be attempted in Massachusetts and some comment version by the Washington Post:

"Massachusetts hereafter will license no motor vehicle until the owner thereof has posted a substantial bond to cover accident liabilities or has exhibited an insurance policy covering the same risks. This is the first compulsory automobile law in the country, and the experiment is being watched with a great deal of interest.

"Compulsory automobile insurance is an attempt to establish the owner's financial responsibility should his vehicle cause bodily harm or property damage. The day of the irresponsible motorist in Massachusetts has passed. If an individual can not afford to insure his car against liability, he can not drive. No one can deny that in theory at least the scheme is right, for whoever operates an instrument as potentially dan-

gerous as a motor car should be both competent and responsible. Experience alone will prove the practicability of the legislation. Possibly it will result in an extraordinary number of improperly founded claims for damages, or even a wave of irresponsible driving by operators who feel that all personal responsibility has been transferred to any insurance company. In the main, however, it would seem that these difficulties would be matters of temporary importance, and that once the plan has become established it will create an improved situation. Should compulsory insurance work out well in Massachusetts the plan undoubtedly will be copied throughout the country."

So long as we continue the rather selfish policy of charging the cost of convenience and facilities for our enjoyment against the income of future generation it would seem all right to plant a few trees and make some other provision for increasing that income. It is hardly fair to pass mortgaged estates and resources on to our children without some slight provision for funds to lift such encumbrances.

### Exports Are Usually Regarded.

As essential to national prosperity. The nation that buys more than it sells must, in long run, go broke. For a long time we have been selling more than we have bought and have made quite a lot of money. Now the tide seems to be turning and here is the way an eastern paper explains that perhaps we shall prosper even if our imports should exceed our exports in value:

"American exports during 1926, valued at about \$4,800,000,000, were only about \$350,000,000 above imports. This is a rather narrow margin. For the five years 1920-1925 it averaged about \$947,000,000. But, as it pointed out by Dr. Julius Klein, director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the smallness of this 'favorable trade balance' is not to be taken as a symptom of declining economic health.

"It is not difficult to see that during a period of prosperity the Nation tends to consume more of its goods at home, thereby diminishing exports, while at the same time we buy more from abroad. The margin moves toward the vanishing point. Conversely, a falling off in domestic consuming power might make us sell more abroad and buy less, thus increasing the 'balance'.

"Price movements also play an important part in these exports. The value of exports for 1926 was about 2 per cent less than that for 1925, while imports fell off 5 per cent. Yet Dr. Klein observes that, in respect to the actual quantity of goods exported, they were large as compared to the year in our history, with the possible exception of 1919."

"It is plain that, in the worldwide competition for markets which is becoming more and more keen, the United States is holding its own, with something to spare. As a creditor nation with a living standard higher than that of any other country, we naturally buy more from the rest of the world. So long as we keep expanding our foreign markets, therefore, even the entire wiping out of our 'favorable' merchandise balance would not necessarily be injurious. Domestic prosperity tempers many an imagined ill wind."

Restrictions on the production of industrial alcohol for power and other useful purposes deprives the farmers of the country of source of income from which they could pay all their debts within ten years.

ferred that 1c or 2c more a bushel were it not for the fact that the cars run nice and smooth. Neither would you, as manager of the Farmers Union institution, be offered to sell wheat for a little more than your Jobbing Association can get for it. That is what you are up against. Get your boys together in your counties. Stay by your state wide institutions because it is the only way to succeed in the co-operative movement.

### WHEN A MAN'S A MAN.

When a man's a man, he doesn't lie and he will not play the cheat, And he doesn't look with a scornful eye at the beggar on the street; And he doesn't brag of things, he's done or talk of his lands or gold, When a man's a man you will find, my son, he's gentle with the old.

When a man's a man you will find his friends not all of chosen few, He never talks of the help he lends or the good deeds he may do, He never jests with a woman's name, never sneers at the men who fail, And a dog a pat from his hand may claim, if he only wags a tail.

When a man's a man he will never shirk the task that his hand may find, He never too big for the long day's work, too busy to be kind; He never sneers at the faith you hold, never needless hurt he gives — When a man's a man it is plainly told by the gentle way he lives.

The dusting method of treating seed wheat with copper carbonate for prevention of stinking smut is very convenient because the seed can be treated during slack periods, before seeding.



# PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

GUY WEBSTER

## ATTEND YOUR DISTRICT MEETING

This week's issue of the Kansas Union Farmer carries a notice of the time and place of the various District Meetings of the Produce Association.

The following extracts from the By-laws and marketing contract of the Produce Association are printed for the purpose of recalling to your mind the provisions of the By-laws in regard to the district meetings and the annual meeting:

**ARTICLE IV.** Section 1. The annual meeting of the stockholders shall be held on the Wednesday preceding the first Thursday in February, of each year at ten o'clock a. m. at the office of the Association in Kansas City, Kansas, or such place as the Board of Directors may designate for the purpose of electing directors, and the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting.

Section 2. Every member holding common stock shall be entitled to one vote only, regardless of the number of shares owned by him.

Section 7. Whenever any producer holding common stock shall be unable to attend on the day of the stockholders' meeting, such producer may vote by proxy by authorizing in writing some other producer to vote his name and stand with the same effect as if he were present.

**ARTICLE VI.** Section 1. The purpose of nominating Directors, the entire territory included in the marketing contract of producers shall be divided into as many districts as the By-laws provide for directors. At least thirty days before each annual meeting of the association, the directors shall adjust the districts in such manner that there shall be approximately an equal number of stockholders in each district. Not less than ten days before the date of the annual meeting, the stockholders of each district shall hold a primary election at some convenient place in the district for the purpose of nominating one person to be the director for that district for the succeeding year. At such primary conventions, the stockholders from each county within the district shall also select one delegate at large and one additional delegate for every twenty stockholders or major fraction thereof, who, together with the nominee for district director, shall attend the annual meeting of the stockholders and the annual meeting of the directors.

Section 3. The directors nominated in the district conventions as above mentioned shall be elected at the regular annual meeting of the stockholders.

The management and the Board of Directors want every member possible to be present at the district meetings. These meetings are important because, from them, come the expressed will of the members for the conduct of the business of the association. The nomination of a director to represent the district on the Board of Directors is one important piece of work to be done by the district meeting, for the By-laws provide that this nominee shall be elected at the annual meeting.

**ROSE VALLEY NO. 257**

At the last regular meeting held Dec. 28th, of the Rose Valley Local No. 257 of the P. E. & C. U. of A., the question of state control of roads was discussed after which the following resolutions were adopted:

We the members of the Farmers Union Local No. 257 are heartily opposed to the state control of roads and want the control of same left with the county commissioners as it is at present.

And be it further resolved, That we send a copy of these resolutions to our representative and one to our state senator, and one to each of our county commissioners.

**TIERRA PROST, Secretary.**

We the following named members wish to state that we are strongly in favor of the above resolutions and will act accordingly.

Messrs. P. K. Kuiken, John Huitings, Fred Fritchen, Jack Humes, Justin Miller, Thomas McKenna, Geo. Simmelink, Harm Kuiken, Theron Frost, Ben Kuiken, E. W. Runft, John Ramaker, F. F. Reddick, John Poppen, John Otte, J. B. Reddick, J. W. Condesmas, John Ramaker, Theron Frost, John Otte, Ernest Runft, Fred Fritchen, F. F. Reddick, Bess Reddick, Emma Humes.

**JOEL STRAHM WRITES OF HIS BELIEF.**

Editor Kansas Union Farmer,

I am an ardent reader of the Kansas Union Farmer. I would not trade it for any other because I think its policies are right. Its readers can profit greatly from it. I have read it for years. I read a good many different farm, news and party papers. I used to think that I was a fairly good democrat, but of late I sometimes think that I should be a Republican. However, after analyzing my thoughts I cannot understand how anyone else can boast of belonging to the G. O. P. that has been the dominating party for the past 40 years. Since we read that our population has increased only 70 per cent while crime and fraud of every description have increased 700 per cent in the same period of time and I am not sure during this time that conditions would be any better. And as to become a St. Johnist is a questionable idea, for then we would probably be under a set of laws that would undermine the statute of liberty for there would likely come reformers of every description. It might be a St. Johnist church that I would be asked to attend or stay at home when I would rather take my rod and tackle and go to some stream close to nature's offerings, or I might be forced to go to a St.

Johnist eating house where they would tell me what to order. Or it might be that I would have to trade with the St. Johnist store where they would sell me no tobacco. And in time the St. Johnists party might put in a grist mill that would grind out more hypocrites than has ever been known in the world's history. So after all I have come to study my own self, I find that I am somewhat of a socialist, but I must tell you of just what brand. I claim that everyone should have what he honestly earns and have the right to call that earnings his own, and direct his own work as he sees fit. I have never seen a man with a view to help his fellowmen and not only for his personal gain or selfishness. With that spirit in mind there would be no room for complaint for each would have his just dues and good will of his fellowmen because under such a treatise there would be nobody to take the major part of the earnings from the wheat grower because he would get most of production, and that would be the case of any producer.

There wouldn't be any need for any price fixing legislation for each would help the other to take care of his surplus. Neither would we need their bureaucratic department for each would look for the welfare of their fellowmen, which would compound confederate in his country, its citizens and its government. It would eliminate the gambler, the speculator and there would be no watered stock among corporations, because everything would be under a true earning base. I am well aware that someone may say that if we had no speculators, no gamblers, no users or extorters, there would be no money. However, a happy, peaceful nation would soon overcome that part of the argument. For it is written that the user or extorters is condemned to go to hell, but when we come to study the latter closely we will find that if we had no extorters or users we would have no use for any hell. But, hark—I hear someone say that I was ready to go to heaven. No, they are all wrong, for under a system of cooperation as indicated, I want to stay right here.

Yours truly,  
Joel Strahm, Bern, Kan.

**WASHINGTON CO. MEETING.**

Barnes, Kans., Dec. 31, 1926

Editor of Farmers Union paper, Salina, Kansas:

The following officers were elected and recommendations an resolutions were passed at the Washington Co. Farmers Union annual meeting:

Walter Stolz, president; John Scruby, vice-president; J. T. Poland, secretary-treasurer; Fred Stolz, conductor; W. L. Clark, doorkeeper; B. P. Bollinger, A. H. Hien, C. E. Wilson, ex. committee; H. F.

The Produce Association has been fortunate in choosing efficient help, each man particularly fitted for the work he has to do. A really good field superintendent for the Creamery can't be picked up every day but George Walter Hatch has proved to the Board of Directors that they made no mistake in making him field superintendent of our Creamery.

Mr. Hatch's experience as field superintendent dates back to 1910 when he became a superintendent of the Blue Valley Creamery Company in Nebraska. After seven successful years, George changed employers and became one of the large creameries in Omaha. His work with that company was principally installation of equipment and establishing cream and butter routes. Some years later, he moved to Kansas City where he was employed by one of the local creameries and was engaged by the Farmers' Union Creamery.

George's first big job with us was to install the equipment in our creamery; then he had a real job in equipping and starting out our new cream stations. As field superintendent, his work has to do with inspection, keeping up equipment, and helping the local station operator in the best ways of handling cream in order to secure as high uniform quality as possible and with as little shrinkage as possible.

We have 81 stations and George takes care of all of them. This would be an impossible situation in an old line company where 25 to 30 stations are considered a load for one field superintendent. You can guess at once that Hatch keeps on the job. George says that one reason it is possible for him to work such a large

number of stations is because the station operators as a group are a better type of operator than the old line group and as a rule they are genuinely interested in co-operating to secure as good returns for their customers as possible.

When asked if shortages that show up between the producer and the creamery were due to carelessness or questionable practices, Mr. Hatch said, "Shortage is a disease, and it is a contagious disease because all stations are effected by it at some time or other; but being a disease, it can be reduced both as to severity and frequency by more careful handling of cream all along the line from the cow to the churn."

## NOTES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Mr. D. G. Francis brought up the question of the advisability of the Creamery going into the poultry business. He was being told that the Creamery was not going into the poultry business, he insisted that it had already started because they already had a Hatch down there at the Creamery. Mr. Bullard remarked that that Hatch had been there long enough to be grown up if it (he) were ever going to.

(Editor's Note: Our contention is that if that Hatch ever got into a real hatch (fried or roasted), the real hatch would go into that Hatch.)

The question of advances to be paid on delivery of eggs was up for consideration, and it was voted that the advance should be determined by the Kansas City office since it was in closer touch with the market. It was agreed that this arrangement should be effective until the next meeting of the Board at which time the matter would be taken up for further discussion in the light of a few weeks shipping on that basis.

Mr. Seaman presented some figures compiled by Mr. Schell, Office Manager of the Creamery, in regard to the selling price of butter. The first ten cars of cream sold with an average of 42.35 cents per pound. Creamery averaged 42.35 cents per pound for the same period was 46.06 cents per pound, our cars selling for an average of 3.20c under Chicago Standard. The last ten cars sold averaged 44.2c per pound as compared with 44.2c per pound for the same period.

In other words, our selling price has increased 3c per pound in relation to Chicago Standard. This speaks well for our Sales Department and the satisfaction we have given our customers. The cars were sold through a commission firm and the last ten were sold through our own sales agent, Mr. C. B. McDaniel.

Mr. C. B. McDaniel was present at the last meeting of the Board. He was on the way back to Philadelphia after spending the week with his mother and had stopped in Kansas City to attend the Board Meeting and to plan for selling eggs as well as butter in the East.

**Wesche, Barnes delegate, and Wm. Stewart, Washington alternate to state-wide business association meeting to be held in Kansas City.**

**Recommendation.**

We, the Washington Co. Farmers Union, assembled in regular session, Recommend that each county in Kansas whose members own stock in the different state-wide business associations.

That if they cannot attend annual meeting in person that they elect a man from each county and that the stockholder and their proxies with him to vote at said annual meeting.

**Road Resolutions.**

Whereas an unlimited amount of propaganda has been circulated favoring state control of roads for the purpose of building hard surfaced highways.

And whereas certain interests have attempted to question the honesty, ability and good faith of our county commissioners in their handling of roads within the several counties—

And whereas we elect three men, having faith in their honesty and business ability, therefore we would rather trust them to expend the eighty or ninety thousand dollars of our road money on the highways of Washington county than to have three men appointed by the government to expend the same money on the highways of Washington county.

Whereas we are opposed to a bond issue for road building purposes.

That our state senator and representative be and they are hereby requested to work against any repeal of the present road law. That our county secretary be instructed to offer these resolutions for publication in at least one county paper, the Farmers Union state paper, the Kansas City Star and that a copy be submitted to the 1927 Legislature.

J. T. POLAND, County Secretary.

The kitchen window should be made to open from the top to let the hot air out and the cool, fresh air in without causing a draft directly on the workers. No one thing will cause the housewife to feel as tired and disagreeable as the lack of fresh air in her workshop.

# STOCK MARKET

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 6, 1927.

May it bring you every success, not only in a business way, but in good health and a contented mind. View the present year with optimism, and by co-operation we can all make progress. Do not allow alarmists to disturb you—most forecasters are of pessimistic tendencies, and rarely ever predict good things. Do not dwell on the past—look to the future. Good luck.

**STEERS:** We are pleased to report a higher market on all fat cattle. Packers are holding good orders for all well fattened cattle, and are also showing preference to cattle weighing over 1000 lbs. Good quality short-fed cattle weighing 850 to 100 lbs. are neglected and we have been forced to sell them for feeders. Best heavy choice beef cows \$5.00 to \$5.50; fancy heavy 7 cwt.; right good cows 5.25 to 5.75; medium 4.75 to 5.25; plain 4.25 to 4.50; canners 3.75 to 4.00. Stock cows 4.25 to 5.00. Good feeding heifers around 7 cwt.; stock heifers 6.00 to 6.50, medium around 5.50.

**COWS, HEIFERS & MIXED YEARLINGS:** Topp mixed yearlings in good demand at \$9.50 to \$10.25, with real good kinds at \$8.75 to \$9.25, pretty good \$8.00 to \$8.50. Medium and in-between grades sell very uneven at \$7.25 to \$8.25. Bulk of fed heifers \$8.00 to \$8.75. Right heavy choice odd head at 9 cwt. and above; medium \$6.50 to \$7.25; common to plain 5 to 6 cwt. Butcher market closing fully steady with prices 10 to 15 lower than high time last week.

**CALVES AND BULLS:** Killing calves 50 cents to \$1.00 lower Monday but steady since. Top veals 12.00, same as Chicago; heavy calves 7.50 to 8.50; stock calves 5.00 higher; calves 17.00 to 20.75 to 11.50; short horns 6.75 to 7.50. Bulls 15 to 25 lower, good heavy weight bolognas 6.00 to 6.50, cornfed up to 6.75.

**HOGS:** Higher last two days. Market 10 to 15 up today, top 11.50. Dec. 17.00 to 20.75 to 11.50; 13.50 to 16.00 to 11.75 to 11.90, 20.45 up 11.50 to 11.75. Packing 10.25 to 11.00. Stags 10.00 to 10.50. Stock pigs 11.25 to 12.00.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS:** Market steady today. The western feeders 12.00. Top natives 12.00. Fat ewes 6.00 to 6.25. Feeding lambs 11.50 to 12.00. Yearling wethers 9 to 10 cents. Cull sheep, canners and bucks 1 to 3 cents.

**FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION, CHICAGO**

**A Record For 1926**

Thursday, Jan. 6, 1927—The following figures were reported for the year 1926 in all departments during 1926. Figures taken from official record of Union Stock Yards Company compared with our records show:

Cattle receipts at Chicago market increased about 10 per cent.

**FARMERS UNION CATTLE RECEIPTS INCREASED ABOUT 25 per cent.**

Hog receipts at Chicago market decreased about 12 per cent.

**FARMERS UNION HOG RECEIPTS INCREASED ABOUT 5 per cent.**

Sheep receipts at Chicago market increased about 11 per cent.

**FARMERS UNION SHEEP RECEIPTS INCREASED ABOUT 28 per cent.**

Total number of cars Stock at Chicago increased 1,000 or 1 1/2 per cent.

**FARMERS UNION INCREASED IN CARS HANDLED 726, or 12 per cent.**

Additional cars divided among 110 other firms 715.

From these figures it will be seen that **FARMERS UNION** received over half of the increased business at Chicago market this year and LEADS all other agencies in **GROWTH** and **EXPANSION** during 1926. That's that.

**Cattle Market**

Cattle receipts have been light this week. Demand improved for choice heavy cattle and well finished yearlings which look 50 to 75 higher than last week. Top prime heavy cattle \$11.75. The right kind of load yearlings would bring \$12.50. If these improved prices do not bring an over supply of cattle, we look for continued good markets. Butcher stock shows an advance of about 25c for the week.

**Hog Market**

Strong demand from Eastern shippers coupled with small rains boosted hogs to \$12.10 top in active market this week. Light hogs meeting best demand and topping the trade although selected middle weights and heavies about same price range. Bulk \$11.75 to \$12.00.

**Sheep Market**

Lamb market improved slightly from the low spot but still 25 to 50 cents under last week. Top fat lambs selling from \$12.50 to \$13.00, bulk of sales from \$12.25 to \$12.75. Good demand for fancy light feeders also for fat ewes and breeders.

**Cattle Survey Being Made**

Farmers Union is having survey of the future cattle market made by a group of livestock experts familiar with market conditions from the broadest possible view point. These experts will be free to charge to any one who has cattle on feed. Write us or tell your neighbor about the bulletins as they should prove helpful in marketing your cattle this year. Ship to your own firm.

**FARMERS' UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION.**

**KANSAS CITY HAY MARKET.**

Monday of this week, there were 230 cars of hay on this market, 160

# Department of Practical Co-Operation

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL NO. 2148\*\*\*\***  
Meets the second and fourth Friday of the month. Ray Wilson, Sec.  
**HERBERT COUNTY**  
**NEUTRAL LOCAL NO. 2108\*\*\*\***  
Meets the first Tuesday of each month. C. A. Atkinson, Secretary.  
**ELIZABETH COUNTY**  
**LIBERTY LOCAL NO. 925\*\*\*\***

Meets every first and third Monday of each month. Ed Mog, Sec.  
**TRIVOLI LOCAL NO. 1001\*\*\*\***  
Meets the first Monday evening in each month. W. H. Fleming, Sec.  
**GREENWOOD COUNTY**  
**NEAL LOCAL NO. 1313\*\*\*\***  
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. J. C. Graves, Sec.

**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
**SHARON LOCAL NO. 1714\*\*\*\***  
Meets the last Friday evening of each month. Mrs. Gussie K. DeVault, Sec.  
**RUSH COUNTY**  
**SAND CREEK LOCAL NO. 804\*\*\*\***  
Meets the first and third Friday of each month. A. R. Wilson, Sec.

of which were alfalfa. Since that time receipts have averaged around 65 cars a day. The receipts today were 35 cars of Prairie, 57 cars of alfalfa, 2 cars of Timothy and 1 car of Straw, a total of 95 cars.

After many weeks of steady or fairly firm prices, the market on alfalfa declined fifty cents a ton today on Number One and all lower grades. Choice and select Dairy were steady. Brown alfalfa is somewhat drab at this time, and as we anticipate fairly heavy receipts of this grade of alfalfa for some time we do not expect prices to improve much. Starting Monday Straw has been lower every day except one, and is now quoted from \$8.00 to \$8.50. Upper grades of Prairie have been steady, but medium and low grades have been irregular. Following are the quotations at the close of the market today.

Select Dairy	\$24.00—27.00
Choice	22.00—23.50
Number one	20.00—21.00
Standard	17.50—19.50
Number two	15.00—17.00
Number three	12.00—14.50

**PRAIRIE—**  
Number one \$15.00—16.50  
Number two 13.50—14.50  
Number three 10.00—13.00  
Packing 7.50—9.50

**TIMOTHY—**  
Number one \$16.00—17.00  
Standard 15.00—15.50  
Number two 13.50—14.50  
Number three 11.50—13.00  
**STRAW—** \$8.00—\$8.50

Our hay consignments since the first of the year have been very good and we want to take this opportunity to thank our shippers. We are doing our best down here to obtain the highest possible price that can be obtained for your hay, and we certainly appreciate your consignments.

Yours for service  
R. H. Crawford,  
Hay Department.

## RESOLUTIONS FROM GOVE CO.

We, your committee on resolutions, beg leave to report the following:

Be it resolved that we, the members of the Farmers Union of Gove county, at our regular county meeting held in Grainfield, Kans., Dec. 8th, go on record as opposing the issuing of any bonds to build state roads or highways. We further oppose the state taking over the building of roads and highways. And we recommend that the road building be left to the county commissioners of each county, and that the tax money be retained in each county to be used in each county for road construction in each county. We further oppose the road problem being left to the vote of the people as the vast half of the state being in the minority.

We also recommend no change for the present in the banking laws and that we ask our representative to work to that end.

W. E. Roesh,  
W. A. Shirley, Committee.

## WOODSON COUNTY.

The Woodson County Union will meet at Neish's Falls Saturday, Jan. 13, at 10 a. m. The Woman's Auxiliary will meet at the same time and place. Every Union member that wants to see our Union grow and our co-operative undertakings succeed, should be there that day.

S. C. Cowles, President.  
L. L. Byfield, Secretary.

## PRES. TROMBLE TELLS OF EXPERIENCE WITH BIG MACHINERY INTERESTS.

I do not want to take your time but you brought something up. In the fall of 1918 your Jobbing Association took on the machinery and implement contracts. Many of you remember that. The idea was if the farmers would concentrate on one machine, then the other fellow would have to sell his machine to some one in some way. He could not sell it to himself or in town. He must sell it to the farmer and the farmer would concentrate on that machine, they would force the manufacturer to reduce his price. They would force down the price of machinery. We would take the excess profits they got for selling their machinery in spite of the dickens. Now, when I and some more of you went out and put over those machinery contracts some of you, all you could talk to me about would be a McCormick or John Deere or Deering. They thought they could not work without those machines. They were all good machines. They were used to that machine and they thought it was the only one they could use. About a month ago one of the International Harvester Company men came out from Chicago and asked for a conference with me. There were two of them and Mr. Brasted and I in our office in Salina. It took us half a day or more. Here is what they said to me. You fellows absolutely had the International Harvester company broke if you had stood by that contract you had. You had them so scared, worse than they had been before or since. Do not get it into your head that you have to have a certain brand of any one thing. That will not work. You can use some other brand that is just as good. Do not get a notion that you cannot use anything else. Those big corporations are scared of you concentrating on one firm to manufacture products for you. They know you can make them come to time if you will concentrate all your business through one line.

## USE LABOR RADIO TO LINK UP FARMERS.

By Federated Press.

CHICAGO—(FP)—Having pioneered for a number of years in political co-operation between farm and labor groups through various means, the Chicago Federation of Labor is launching out on a new tack by bringing farm producer and worker consumer together on a direct basis.

The federation is giving its labor radio hour one night a week to speakers from farm unions, co-operatives and from the union-owned Herrin coal mine. These speakers are booked by the Farmer-Labor exchange which handles their products, distributing them to unions and their numbers.

This week Senator M. L. Bowman of Iowa is talking on the Iowa Farmers Union marketing plan. Last week the chief inspector of the Wendell (Wash.) Dist. Co-operative Association explained the careful grading methods used in marketing the Jim Hill apples. The Farmer-Labor exchange is aiding in handling 100,000,000 of these apples this year. Every case bearing both the farm union label and the allied printing trades label. The inspector told of the economy to consumers of buying through the exchange, which delivers a case of 150 apples of 5c quality anywhere in Chicago for \$3.

The radio talks begin at 6:15 p. m. every Wednesday. By tuning in on WCFL, 491.5 meters, farmers and workers within a radius of several hundred miles can hear about the achievements of the farm organization and of the marketing economies of the Farmer-Labor exchange.

Farm organizations that will have speakers on succeeding Wednesdays are the Kansas Farmers Union, the Missouri Farmers Association, the American Union of Miners and the Dakotas. Co-operative societies to be booked include the Co-operative Trading Co. of Waukegan, Ill., the Co-operative Wholesale of Superior, Wis., the Roseland Co-operative Association of Chicago and the Czechoslovakian and Italian co-operative stores of Chicago. The full schedule can be obtained from the Farmer-Labor exchange, room 703, 166 W. Washington St., Chicago.

## Lithuanian Executes Laborites Before American Can Protest.

CHICAGO—(FP)—While feverish preparations to register American protests against the death sentences were under way, the clerical-fascist dictatorship of Lithuania lined up four prominent labor men, one a former American, and shot them. They had been condemned by court martial the day before for membership in the Communist party of Lithuania, as cable dispatches to Vilnius, the Lithuanian daily of Chicago, relate.

The American in the quartet was Charles Giedris, formerly a union printer in Philadelphia. He and the other three had been imprisoned several years ago by what was then the constitutional reactionary government of Lithuania for running a party ticket. The succeeding socialist administration had released them but the recently established dictatorship lost no time in putting them to death. Protests will be made nevertheless. It is stated in Lithuanian labor circles in Chicago, and it is hoped they will have an adverse effect on the proposed American loan sought by the Lithuanian fascist government. Proceeds of the loan will be used, it is charged, for the still bloodier repression of trade unions and labor political activity in that country.

## Coal Storage Yards Bulge With Strike Reserves.

CHICAGO—(FP)—The stocking up of bituminous coal as a reserve for the expected miner strike in April is reaching the bursting point. Figures of the National Coal Association show that the 3rd week in December produced 13,600,000 tons, about 1,000,000 tons less than the 1st week. The production was nevertheless about one-third above the normal weekly output of about 10,000,000 tons.

## "CANADA'S FINE EXAMPLE"

(Reprinted from the Boston Post)

"Not all of America's debtors are asking for repudiation or cancellation of their debts. In 1926 some \$182,000,000 of foreign loans fell due and were paid without protest of any kind. In 1927 the total of debts falling due amounts to approximately a quarter of a billion, and this money will also be paid without protest.

"Of the amount coming due in 1927 Canada owes about \$100,000,000. This little item appears in an obscure corner of the financial news section, and yet it has a good deal of significance in the whole foreign debt situation.

"In the United States the blame for the great war, Canada would be the last country that anyone would select as the instigator. Yet Canada lost as heavily in men and money, proportionally to her population, as any country engaged, and has anyone heard of Canada trying to wretch on her debts?

"She has paid her bills without a whimper, restored her currency to par value without aid, and asks no odds of any other country for the future."

The addition of chopped alfalfa hay and oilmeal to a ration of yellow corn and tankage for hogs greatly increases the efficiency of the ration.

## SOIL SURVEYS FURNISH FOUNDATION OF FARMING

A foundation for studying farm problems of Kansas is given in a thorough knowledge of the soils which is gained through soil surveys maintained Prof. E. S. Lyons, of the department of agronomy at the Kansas State Agricultural college. Mr. Lyons worked with a Kansas soil survey party last summer.

Three Kansas Survey Parties

Ten counties of Kansas have been surveyed in detail and a reconnaissance soil survey has been made of the 46 western counties. A detailed survey is made by examining the land in every part of the county, the subsoil as well as the surface soil being studied. A reconnaissance survey renders generalized soil and agricultural information.

Soil survey parties usually consist of two men, the bureau of Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural experiment station of the state co-operating and furnishing one man each. The parties are made up of men in every part of the county, the subsoil as well as the surface soil being studied. A reconnaissance survey renders generalized soil and agricultural information.

## Reports Give Valuable Information

Survey work in Kansas was begun in Allen county in 1911. Since then detailed surveys have been made in nine counties in the following order: Brown 1906, Riley 1906, Shawnee 1911, Reno 1911, Greenwood 1912, Jewell 1912, Cherokee 1912, Montgomery 1913, and Leavenworth 1919. Field work for a detailed survey has been completed in Clay, Wilson, Doniphan, and other counties but the report of the work has not yet been printed.

Reports of these soil surveys are available in the libraries of most of the colleges of Kansas and in the larger city libraries. Copies may be obtained through the State Agricultural experiment station. Such surveys are particularly valuable to the farmers in the respective counties, to the prospective land buyers, and are of assistance in outlining extension service and irrigation projects by the state agricultural experiment stations. Often also sources of road building materials are located in this way.

## CAREFULLY PREPARED EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

The December, 1926, issue of the Texas Outlook, the official Texas State Teachers Association publication, is largely concerned with the report and proposals now ready to present to the governor and fourth Texas legislature by the Texas Educational Survey Commission. This Commission was created as a result of legislative enactment in Texas in 1923 that the state school system might be analyzed; it was continued in force by the following year's legislature for the purpose of drafting legislative measures to make effective the recommendations made to the governor and State legislature in 1924 by the educational survey report of that year.

The legislative report of the Commission is submitted under four main headings, which provide for eleven amendments to the State constitution and twenty bills pertaining to education. These constitutional amendments and bills have been prepared for the following purposes: 1. Stabilization of the income of the schools. 2. Reorganization of the administrative bodies of control. 3. Equalization of educational opportunity (provides for the reorganization of administrative units and the distribution of school funds upon basis of needs). 4. Equalization of the burden of supporting the educational program of the State. One or more amendments or bills under each of these main heads provide in detail the necessary legislation or carrying out the recommendations submitted for the improvement of the Texas school system by the educational survey report.

## RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE

More than one-fifth of the rural population of the Nation are without library service and 1,160, or 37 per cent of all counties in the United States, have no public libraries within their boundaries, according to a study show that there are over seven and one-half million negroes in the Southern States