



THE KANSAS FARMERS UNION



Co-operation

Education

Organization

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F. U. Conference at Omaha, Nebr. on Legislation

Will Try to Decide on Good of Bills Pending Before Congress

How to siphon out the good from the mass of farm legislation now before Congress was to be discussed at the Farmers Union legislative conference in Omaha, Nebr., March 14 and 15. Expected at the meeting were members of the various committees, spokesmen from state-wide grain cooperatives, state Farmers Union officials, and various committees, according to John Vesceky, National Farmers Union president, who returned to Salina March 10 from a two weeks' stay in Washington, D. C. Miss Pauline Cowger, state secretary, attended from the Kansas Farmers Union. The Senate bill S. 1405, introduced by Senator Josh Lee, Oklahoma, which was expected to embody the program adopted by the Farmers Union at its national convention at Madison, Wis., includes changes most objectionable to farmers' marketing cooperatives. Wheat and cotton would be disposed of through the Commodity Credit Corporation for consumption in the United States, which would probably wipe out the cooperatives, built by many years' effort. The Lee bill has not been reported in committee yet.

The Frazier Bill S. 570, according to Mr. Vesceky, gives the Secretary of Agriculture too much power. There is strong disapproval of the workings of the present farm program, but proper corrections apparently will come very slowly.

Mr. Vesceky reports that at the recent St. Paul Farmers Union meeting a new approach was considered, and that a study is being made from the angle of parity income instead of parity price. This study is made, he said, to give information on possible means of leveling the present income of farmers with the income of other classes. Farmers are approximately 25 per cent of the national population, but farm income makes up less than 10 per cent of the national total, and up and down, the regulation will do no good unless it provides a certain level of income.

"Five dollar wheat is just as bad as 50 cent wheat if the farmer can sell just a few more bushels," Mr. Vesceky explains.

For Average Farmer

Farmers operating a family sized farm would receive larger benefit payments for compliance with the AAA programs under an amendment to the farm act introduced March 7 by Representative Ed R. Rees of Kansas. Big scale farmers would be limited to \$1,500 a year in payments. Under the Rees amendment, the farmer who receives \$25 under the present law would receive approximately \$31. If he receives \$35 he would receive \$45. If he receives \$100 now, he would receive approximately \$115 under the amendment.

It gives the farmer who receives small payments a better break than he had before," Representative Rees told the House. "It ought to be more. We hear a lot about the 'forgotten man'. He is the farmer who tries to take care of his family on a small farm. He is the farmer who has to take care of the big operator all right, but we have certainly forgotten the small, independent farmer. We have to do more than have him pay the cost of production. We have to stimulate enterprise and experiment in agriculture, to draw to the national center the results of individual skill and observation, and spread the collected information far and wide throughout the nation."

His Frazier Bill

Representative Frazier of Kansas, ranking minority member of the house agriculture committee, believes the "cost of production" bill before his committee would increase materially production of farm products. He also contends the measure would increase the price of commodities at a time when people cannot purchase them at present prices and that if a price is fixed on cotton it would be necessary to set a price for all competing commodities within a year.

Representative Hope also expressed the opinion that Congress under the measure the cost of production would not be given the farmer because it would be an average cost of production. In figuring the average, he said, officials would consider large scale farms under which products can be produced cheaper than by the independent "small" farmer.

PLAN POULTRY CONGRESS

Kansas Legislature Makes Exhibit Appropriation of \$7,500

An appropriation bill of \$7,500 for a Kansas state exhibit at the World's Poultry Congress and Exposition to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, this summer has been signed by Governor Ratner.

Exhibit space at the Congress will be a sell-out, it is reported from Congress headquarters. Already Main Hall is completely sold out with not a single foot of space available. North Hall has only one booth left; South Hall is well sold; and the Upper and Lower Levels of the Hall of Industry are rapidly filling up.

The American Manufacturers Association has approved an appropriation of \$5,000 for the purpose of presenting an exhibit.

The popular program section of the Congress will be from July 28 to August 7. Herbert Beyers, Salt Lake City, general manager of the Northwestern Turkey Growers Association, will speak on "Trends in Turkey Marketing." Head of one of the largest turkey cooperatives in the nation, an organization composed of 10,000 growers located in 12 western states.

The program section will take the form of a six-day short course in practical poultry production and marketing. Speakers will be outstanding authorities in their field.

TO BANK MEETING

H. E. Witham and J. P. Fengel Will Speak at Wichita

The Wichita Bank for Cooperatives will have its annual stockholders' meeting in Wichita, March 17 and 18. John P. Fengel, state Farmers Union president, and H. E. Witham, manager of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, Kansas City, are speakers scheduled on the program. Mr. Witham has for his subject, "Light Along Our Way."

As is one of the four permanent units of the Farm Credit Administration at Wichita, and extends credit to farmers' cooperative organizations in Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas.

DOUGLAS CO. FARMER DIES

James W. Anderson, 66, Was Loyal Farmers Union Worker

James W. Anderson, 66, prominent Douglas county farmer and Farmers Union county president for many years, died March 9 at his home after a long illness. Farmers Union members throughout the state will extend their sympathies to the family. Mr. Anderson has long been active in the Farmers Union. Besides being county president, he served one year as chairman of the resolutions committee at the state convention. According to the constitutional committee at another. His home farm is near Clinton. He was a staunch Republican party worker.

Besides Mrs. James Anderson of the home, he leaves three sons, Arthur Anderson and Clarence Anderson, both of Lawrence, and Cyrus Anderson, of the home, eight daughters and two sisters.

RUCKER TO WICHITA BANK

Extension Grain Marketing Specialist Is New Secretary

Vance M. Rucker, extension marketing specialist of Kansas State College since 1920, is the new secretary of the Wichita Bank for Cooperatives, one of the four permanent units of the Farm Credit Administration. Mr. Rucker succeeds A. A. McPherson, who died last December. According to Ralph Snyder, bank president, Mr. Rucker would assume his new duties March 15.

Working with various types of cooperatives, Mr. Rucker has given particular study to grain elevators. Because of the outstanding service to Kansas associations he has been called to other states, particularly Oklahoma, Colorado and Nebraska for similar positions. For the last several months Mr. Rucker has served in a joint capacity with the Kansas Extension Service and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

The Rucker family will move from Manhattan to Wichita after the close of the spring school term. In the family in addition to Mrs. Rucker are Mary Lou, 8, and Chancey, nine months old.

Sponsor University Quartet

The Kansas Wesleyan University Quartet are to be heard in a new Sunday afternoon radio program which started last Sunday afternoon, from 2:15 until 2:30 p. m., sponsored by the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company, over KSAL, Salina, 1500 Kilocycles.

U. S. Agriculture Had Its First National Appropriation In 1839

George Washington, that practical farmer and persistent experimenter, urged, in his annual message to Congress in 1796, a federal appropriation to stimulate enterprise and experiment in agriculture, to draw to the national center the results of individual skill and observation, and spread the collected information far and wide throughout the nation.

Prosperity for Manufacturers

But the seed sowed by Washington fell on barren ground. Hamilton's party, engrossed with subsidies, tariffs and tariffs in aid of commerce and manufacturing, gave no serious thought to the wise suggestion of the planter-President. His competitor, Jefferson, who in 1800, felt satisfied with the existing knowledge and understanding or at all events preferred to leave the cause to state action and private patronage.

Accordingly for half a century after the adoption of the Constitution, the curious philosophy of Manchester held sway whenever the federal government considered agriculture; each farmer, relying upon his instincts and following his nose amid the common places of life, he knew what was best for himself and need not aid from government effort and no illumination from universal experience. During this period, Congress gave no direct assistance to the agricultural arts and the states did little more than bestow an occasional blessing or a petty appropriation upon local agricultural societies.

It was almost by inadvertence that the first slight department was made in an action recalling the initiative of that restless genius, Benjamin Franklin, who, while in England, had kept his eye open for better seeds, plants, trees, and domestic animals than the common stock afforded and had started the practice of sending good things across the sea.

Inspired by this example, American consuls, after the establishment of the federal government, casually continued the custom; while the patent office in the Department of State on its own motion distributed the agricultural products sent in by its agents abroad.

40 Years Ago

At last in 1839 Congress, largely in response to insistence on the part of the commissioner of patents, appropriated one thousand dollars for "the collection of agricultural statistics and for other agricultural purposes." From time to time small appropriations were made for chemical analyses, the assemblage of data, the purchase of seeds, and special investigations.

Nothing of note was done, however, until the swelling tide of farmers enrolled under the new Republic.

Esther Ekblad Will Speak On NBC Broadcast

Junior Leader of KFU on National Farmers Union Program With Mrs. Edwards

Miss Esther Ekblad, junior leader of the Kansas Farmers Union, will speak Saturday, March 25, over the National Broadcasting Company's Farm and Home hour, 11:30 to 12:30 noon. Miss Ekblad and the national Farmers Union junior director, Mrs. Gladys Tabbutt Edwards, will discuss "Problems of Rural Youth." It is the regular fourth-Saturday-of-the-month Farmers Union hour.

Becoming interested in Farmers Union work through taking part in essay and four-minute speech work, she proved her interest in leadership to such an extent that she became State Junior Leader while she was in the junior high school. She is the youngest member of the Council and the youngest state leader.

National Junior Council

There are five members of the National Junior Council. In addition to



ESTHER EKBLAD

Miss Ekblad, there are Mrs. Edwards, national leader, Mary Jo Upstolz, North Dakota; Mrs. Mildred Stolz, Montana; and Paul Ericson, South Dakota.

Miss Ekblad lives on a farm near Leonardville. Her home atmosphere has that true rural hospitality which makes any guest truly welcome, commented the National Union Farmer, edited by John Vesceky, national president.

"Esther's work in the counties throughout her home state is carried on much as the work of the pioneer school teacher. She is a County organization, who are un-derstand, she is entertained in the homes of the members and is thus brought closer to them and their problems than would otherwise be possible.

"Upon the shoulders of this young girl rests a heavy responsibility, the responsibility of arousing the farm people of a state to the necessity of an education not found in the schools. With her eyes forward and chin up, she is carrying that responsibility."

Loss Money Control

Our first departure from the original plans to maintain an equality for all of our people was when we departed from the Constitutional idea of our money and farmed out to private interests the control of our money and credit systems and we as a people have suffered because of it.

Time should have been learned by this time that we can not borrow ourselves into prosperity as a nation any more than an individual can go into debt and expect to get out of debt. We should have also learned by this time, bond issue prosperity can not be returned by taking the laborer or the home owner or the owner of capital, because prosperity can only be restored when industry is active and labor is gainfully employed and the farmer can enjoy an equality in purchasing power through the sale of the products of his farm.

We have also experimented with our Agricultural legislative program for the past several years and have failed to halt the foreclosing of farms, the reduction of farm income, and the misery, feed the undernourished and clothe the thinly clad, while we do continue to grapple with a surplus, while more than half of our farmers are deprived of the bare necessities of life.

Equity for Farmer

The unsatisfactory condition is the effect of certain causes, and the cause is lack of purchasing power in the hands of the farmer and until the disparity can and will be removed, as between the return from his farm and investment, compensation for his labor and the return to his family.

In the United States as well as in the federal sphere, swelling pages of the statute books and mounting appropriations for boards and departments of agriculture recorded the nursing of agriculture by the government.

In the twentieth century was well out on its course, farmers, while rejecting the doctrines of socialism, were, like all other powerful groups, in practice making use of the government to promote collective advantages and to force other interests into acceptable lines of action.

Though the fickle tides of populism flowed and ebbed, the volume of farm legislation and the activities of administrative agencies showed no signs of retreat. Agriculture had passed out of the age of mere uproar into the age of constructive measures. That too was something to be observed by those who searched for omens—From the Rise of American Civilization by the historians, Charles A. and Mary R. Beard, published in 1930.

Need Take Action

By J. P. Fengel President, Kansas Farmers Union

We have been told by those who are in a position to know that "America is at the cross roads and that America as a nation must choose." A very large majority of our citizenry is very much disturbed when they ponder and make comparison of the past with the present and then judge the present trends as compared to the past generation and then contemplate what the future might hold in store for unless there is to be a change in our national policy as it affects the masses of our people engaged in industry and agriculture.

As we incline ourselves to a study of history of the great and powerful nations of the earth that have arisen to their zenith in power and advanced in their civilization, we have found their progress was marked and measured by the wealth and the first sign of disintegration and delay of these great nations was first indicated by the decline of agriculture as an industry and the passing of the ownership of the land from the hands of those who tilled it, into the hands of those who exploited not only those who tilled the land but those who owned it. During these modern times the decline of agriculture has continued unrestricted until it has caught up to those who are employed in industry and reduced them and their income to the level of the farmer.

Stop Special Privileges

This process being established it does seem very necessary for "America to choose" and to depart from the old and established practices of the past and do some constructive planning for the future that will guarantee the stability and continuation of American ideas and ideals, right now today for we have no promise of a tomorrow.

In the development of this new economy "Let us think and be sober" and settle once and for all the practical principles of a new order for all the special privileges for none of our citizens, which can only be accomplished by removing the special privileges as they apply to classes and industries, or, extending the same privileges to every class and industry.

Competent authorities inform us of the fact that practically sixty per cent of the nation's wealth is owned and controlled at least in part by the hands of these United States and since there is just so much property and no more to be owned or controlled, the rest of us only control the other ten per cent of the property and wealth.

Because of the unequal distribution of wealth, we have a very wealthy minority and a poverty stricken majority of the people who are underprivileged, thinly clad and poorly housed in a land that has an abundance and to spare in huge surpluses of all the necessities and comforts of life.

We do not have the right to confiscate property, but we do have the right to repeal special privilege enactment of law, or extend the same rights and privileges to all of our people.

Checks In Mail for 1937 FUJA Pat. Dividends

Checks are going out through the mail this month from the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, Kansas City. They are the first of a series of payments on 1937 business. Savings of 1937 total \$96,782.85 by the big grain marketing and farm supply organization. In 1938 a still bigger record was made with the savings of \$118,382.52. The Jobbing Association handling \$,996 cars of grain.

The grain patronage dividend amounts to one cent a bushel, totaling \$76,239. Twenty per cent of patronage dividends is given in stock in the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, half of the balance is now being mailed out, and the other half will be paid next year.

Of the total 1937 savings of \$96,782, distribution was made as follows: patronage dividends \$76,239; interest on stock, \$3,362; and to surplus \$17,181.

Pride was expressed at the organization's annual meeting in Kansas City that operations were being carried on without any borrowed money. The Farmers Union Jobbing Association is a cooperative regional that does more than talk about a "cash basis"; its financial position is one which every patron and Farmers Union member may be proud.

BIG TWO YEAR CHANGE

Association Makes Progress Under D. E. Wallace

Delphos—Two years ago the Farmers Union Jobbing Association here was in a bad state. Today this picture has changed. The financial statement of last December 31 shows a surplus of \$621.74.

In addition over one thousand dollars in bad assets have been taken off the books. Payment was made for over two thousand bushels of stored wheat of which there was no record. Stockholders now number 224.

D. E. Wallace is manager and he is a loyal booster of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, shipping grain to this Farmers Union cooperative since March 1, 1937, formerly being manager at Miltonvale.

J. W. Kline is president of the board of directors. Other officers are: Harry R. Bice, vice president; Ray Halberstam, secretary; M. E. Griffin, Ed Kiser, Rolla Durst, Forney Davis, Carl Rolph, and T. J. Hart.

Manhattan—The Farmers Union Elevator Association here reports 1938 net savings of \$2,891.26 from the grain business, and \$7,317.11 from the oil department. A patronage refund of \$5,464.19 has been declared. Harold Westgate is manager.

Burns—The Farmers Union here will go on a strictly cash basis July 1, according to the decision of the stockholders at the recent annual meeting. Two hundred and fifty members and their families enjoyed an oyster supper.

F. U. Managers Plan Series of District Meetings

Nine Dates Scheduled for Study of Problems of Co-op Grain Marketing

A series of District Managerial Meetings will be held through the remainder of this month, sponsored by the Farmers Union Managerial Association, which will well attract not only all elevator managers in a particular territory, but directors and members.

"Managers are urged, and directors invited to come, and others interested in problems concerning cooperative marketing associations will be welcome," it is reported. They are all day meetings, starting at 10 a. m.

The schedule of meetings is as follows:

March 20	Winifred
March 21	Winifred
March 22	Winifred
March 23	Winifred
March 24	Winifred
March 25	Winifred
March 26	Winifred
March 27	Winifred
March 28	Winifred
March 29	Winifred
March 30	Winifred
March 31	Winifred

Problems of mutual interest among managers will be taken up. Grain marketing is the general subject for study and discussion. Speakers will approach farm cooperative marketing from various angles.

Good Speakers Scheduled

The Farmers Union Jobbing Association will have two representatives at each meeting, one will be Tom Hill who will discuss the results of a survey made of member elevators of the Jobbing Association and the membership problems. Otto Fenger, manager of the Kansas City Farmers Union Elevator Company, will have as his topic "Wheat Facts."

Vance Rucker, new secretary of the Wichita Bank for Cooperatives, will talk on "Business and Wheat Outlook in Relation to Elevators."

Warren Mather, marketing specialist of the state extension service, will talk on the "Summary from Elevator Records." "Business and Wheat Outlook," is scheduled, is scheduled to attend meetings of the second week.

John Fengel, state Farmers Union president, will attend the meetings. Officers of the Farmers Union Managerial Association are C. B. Thowe, Alma, president, and T. C. Belden, Kansas City, secretary.

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LEGISLATIVE FUND TO \$142.50

President Fengel Urges Immediate Support From Members

"The hearings before the committees of Agriculture of the Senate and House in Washington on our Agricultural legislation is drawing near each day," comments J. P. Fengel, state president of the Kansas Farmers Union. "And if the Kansas Farmers are to be represented and our farmers protected we should have your contribution to our Legislative fund right away. Other states are ahead of us with their contributions. May we have yours right away, so you can be heard?"

The special Legislative Fund has reached a total of \$142.50. The Kansas Farmers Union is building the fund by contributions from Locals, business associations and individuals. Recent receipts are as follows:

Burns local, Ellsworth county	30
Liberty local, Stafford county	1.00
Bunker Hill local, Mitchell county	3.00
Crawford county Farmers Union	2.50
Vicksburg local, Jewell county	2.00
Excelsior local, Washington county	2.50
Scandia local, McPherson county	5.00
Rush county Farmers Union	5.00
Albert Jones, Clarence Bamfield, Carlton	25
Total to date	\$142.50

Life Insurance Company Starts a Volume Drive

Neil Dulaney Is Hired on Full Time as Special Fieldman Over Local Agents

Neil Dulaney has been hired to work full time in Kansas by the Farmers Union Life Insurance Company. He will work directly under Rex Lear, Kansas manager of the Farmers Union life insurance company having headquarters at Des Moines, Ia. Mr. Dulaney will be a special fieldman and will work with local insurance agents.

Mr. Dulaney has resigned his position with the state Social Welfare Commission under whom he has had charge of a large warehouse at Dodge City. He will move his family to Salina as soon as the school term is out. Mr. Dulaney has a large experience writing for the Farmers Union on a commission contract at Winfield before starting in the Social Welfare work for the state.

For many years Mr. Dulaney was president of the Dodge County Farmers Union, and is well known in Farmers Union circles. Mr. Lear is confident local agents will be benefited by this new plan, using a special fieldman. The plan is now used in Iowa and Nebraska.

Is Well Qualified

"His experience and training in life insurance and Farmers Union work qualify him for the position," Mr. Lear commented. "There is no question but what he will be a great help to local agents for the Farmers Union Life in planning a large volume of new business on the books."

The Farmers Union Life Insurance Company, now in its 17th year, is starting an aggressive drive for an increase in volume of business. It has made a steady and persistent growth since its organization in 1922. The 1938 annual reports show good gains in assets, volume of insurance in force, and increase in surplus.

The mortality experience of the Farmers Union Life Insurance Company is proof of the fact that farmers are preferred risks for life insurance. Tables of the U. S. Bureau of Census show that the country in the city at all ages from birth to ninety.

The Farmers Union Life Insurance Company has a record of the lowest ratio of actual to expected mortality of any life insurance company in America operating through the last 18 year period.

Because of this, the Farmers Union company has a dividend record which is also outstanding. The company has paid more dividends back to policy holders than the total amount of death claims to beneficiaries. The total amount paid to policyholders and beneficiaries since 1922 is now over one and three quarters million dollars.

Dividends are paid on insurance policies. Savings in death losses are a principal item that go into the surplus fund from the life insurance premium which make dividends possible.

VOLUME OF \$235,000

Clay Center Association Prorates 8 Per Cent Dividends

Clay Center—Business volume totaling \$234,925.87 and a net gain of \$18,206.21 was announced for the year 1938 at the annual meeting, February 15 of the Farmers Union cooperative Association. Dividends of \$13,290.45 were paid out 7 1/2 per cent patronage and 8 per cent on stock. Savings from petroleum products showed \$3,442.33, and from the produce department, \$8,817.88. The association has 501 stockholders.

Officers are J. A. Engert, president; Ernest Small, vice president; W. F. Hammill, secretary; Fritz Meenen, Everett Ahlquist, manager, and Clarence Ahlquist, bookkeeper.

Lancaster—The Farmers Union Elevator Association here made annual net savings from the beginning of the business to the present of an amount ranging from \$800 to \$3,200, according to Alvin Lord to the recent annual meeting. In addition, he said, the elevator had paid at least two cents a bushel more for grain than neighboring elevators privately owned. Besides handling grain, the association operates a large feed and coal business.

Many Send Their Congratulations to Jobbing Ass'n.

Splendid F. U. Volume and Savings Record Brings Praises From Afar

Congratulations on the sound development and progress of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, and comment on the "fine Annual Meeting held February 3, continue to come, according to H. E. Witham, general manager. A letter from S. D. Sanderson, FCA cooperative bank commissioner, Washington, D. C., is thought to be especially timely and particularly sage advice.

"I note from your annual report and your letter of February 23 that you are celebrating your Silver Jubilee Year," he writes.

"Allow me to congratulate you and your coworkers for the progress in making particularly with reference to your 1938 operations. I am particularly pleased that you are adding to your net worth position each year."

"You are to be commended on this progress for I feel that the cooperatives are business institutions and should have ample capital to carry on the normal flow of their business. If every cooperative had sufficient capital of its own to conduct the normal season's operations and was in a position to liquidate all borrowings once a year, they would be in a much better position to build and maintain the confidence of their members and the business world with whom they deal."

For Conserving Finances

"In other words, I feel that the membership ownership is the foundation of a cooperative and if each member is willing to build his proportionate part of the capital structure, he will have extra funds, he will naturally take a keener interest in the operations of the organization all the while. On the other hand, if the members do not make any contribution towards building up the capital of their own organization, they do not, as a rule, have very much interest in the cooperative and are prone to want to impose unduly on the association."

"With best wishes for the continued success of your association."

From Vera McCrea, director of the home department of the Daughters of the American Revolution, National Headquarters, New York: "I have read with much interest your report of 1938. It does give a picture of worthwhile accomplishments and proves the power that cooperation can be when it is operated intelligently."

L. S. Herron, editor of a Nebraska Union Farmer, writes: "Congratulations on your very interesting and attractive booklet on the Silver Jubilee of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association! You are making a very remarkable record in the handling of grain, and we rejoice with you."

D. L. O'Connor, president of the Farmers Union Terminals Association, St. Paul, Minn.: "I received the copy of your Annual Report. I have not completed reading it yet, as it has been making its way through the office. But this is a very fine little pamphlet and contains a lot of information. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the showing you have made this year."

Commend Witham Highly

E. A. Syfstad, general manager of the Farmers Union Central Exchange, Inc., St. Paul, Minn.: "You, (Mr. Witham) your Board of Directors, and the membership affiliated with the Jobbing Association are to be congratulated on the fine record that you have established since the organization of the Jobbing Association. I sincerely hope that the next 25 years will find the Jobbing Association rendering the same excellent service for the farmers of Kansas and other areas in which it operates, and at the end of the next 25 years I sincerely hope that the financial report will show bigger and better results as a result of the fine cooperative work done by the people associated with the Jobbing Association."

Sam L. Hassell, with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, formerly with Farmers National Grain Corporation, write to Mr. Witham as follows:

"I thank you for inviting me to attend the dinner and meeting of your organization which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee Year in 1939, and which has had nearly a quarter of a century of steady progress and success."

Junior and Juvenile Department

Juniors from 16 to 21

Juveniles from 6 to 16

Junior Motto: "He Loves His Country
Best Who Strives to Make It Best"

MARCH

The stormy March is come at last,
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
I hear the rushing of the blizzards,
That through the snowy valley flies.

Ah, passing few are they who speak,
Wild, stormy month! in praise of thee;
Yet though thy winds are loud and bleak,
Thou art a welcome month to me.

For thou, to northern lands, again
The glad and glorious sun dost bring—
And thou hast joined the gentle rain,
And wearst the gentle name of Spring.

And, in thy reign of blast and storm,
Smiles many a long, bright sunny day,
When the changed winds are soft and warm,
And heaven puts on the blue of May.

—William Cullen Bryant.

YOUR LEADER'S MESSAGE

Esther Eckblad

THE WAYS OF PEACE

In government circles two words, "foreign policy," are causing much contention these days. Congressmen and Senators are waging word battles over what is called the "President's Foreign Policy." From one camp comes the battle cry for a greater navy, more airplanes for the Army Air Corps, to fortify Guam—all these as measures to keep U. S. at peace with the world. On the other hand we have leaders who declare that to prepare for war is eventually to have war. What shall we believe to be right?

Recently a war referendum was introduced in the Senate. History reveals that government leaders cannot be fully trusted to keep nations out of war, so to check the power of the President and Congress in declaring war, the referendum amendment is being proposed. The referendum would give the power of decision to those who make the greater sacrifices in war, no foreign war could be declared unless the people approve it in a nation-wide vote. Those who do the actual fighting would be given a vote.

Yes, war referendum could be a safe-guard of peace if it is possible for us to keep our heads should a war emergency arise, and not be completely swept off our feet by the war propaganda which would reach us through the radio, the press, and the movies.

The ways of peace are many and our interests are affected, one way or another, by all methods proposed. Let us show our concern by writing to our Congressmen and Senators, asking them for bills of war legislation and by giving them our opinions on the war referendum amendment and other measures related to foreign policy. May we always keep in mind that a solid foundation for peace is not laid in legislative halls; that will only be done when we build a truly Christian democracy with economic justice and security for all.

JUNIOR BROADCAST

Mrs. Gladys Talbot Edwards, our National Junior Leader, is in charge of the Farmers Union Hour on the NBC network, Saturday, March 25th, 11:30 to 12:30 noon. Mrs. Edwards has asked us to assist in the broadcast, so before the next issue of the KUF is out, we will greet you from Chicago. We trust that you will be listening as the broadcast will be of special interest to Juniors and Junior Leaders.

NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Rural youth and youth leaders will gather in Washington, D. C., April 24, 25, and 26 for a nation-wide conference on problems of rural youth. The conference is being sponsored by the Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, the Grange, and by the American Vocational Association and the Land Grant College Association. Each organization will be represented by five youth and five adult delegates.

This is the first conference of its kind in the interest of rural young people and we shall watch its development with much interest. The plan is to bring all organized farm young people of the United States together in sort of a federation where they will have an opportunity to discuss their mutual problems. The conference is very important in that the findings will be held up before the nation as the picture of rural youth today. We are glad that the Farmers Union will have equal representation with other organizations, so that we might assist in formulating such an important program. We will give you news of our part in the conference as plans develop.

SPRING-SUMMER-AND CAMP

With spring just around the corner we know that summer can't be so far away, and on the summer calendar will be a red letter week for the second Kansas Farmers Union Camp. Now before the spring rush, discuss camp in your class meetings, and make plans as to financing the camp trip. If the Juniors want to go to camp this summer and are willing to pay their own way, well and good—and if so, it would help, you know, to start putting away nickels and dimes now. Young people between the ages of 14 and 24 whose parents are members of the Farmers Union, and leaders both active and potential are eligible to attend the '39 camp. Further announcements will be made later.

NEWS FROM JUNIORS AT NO. 8

Marquette, Kansas

February 25, 1939.

Dear Esther:

I am writing to you to tell you of our Junior Farmers Union meetings. We are really going to have this time. Mrs. Rawson is a very fine leader and is very much interested in the work. We have about sixteen members and we are trying for more. We are studying parliamentary procedure and "The Cooperative Movement—Yours and Mine." We meet every two weeks and have had four meetings. We are planning to have a program for our parents a week from Tuesday.

Thais Haywood has a fine class of seven juveniles. We shall really have fine classes when we get good and started.

Ida Mae Carlson,

Reporter.

At Your Service

Farmers Union Cooperative

Educational Service

Gladys Talbot Edwards

Director

"Education—A debt due from the present for future generations."

Nothing Sure But Death and Taxes

At this time of the year when the fifteenth of March approaches, everybody is talking about taxes. Legislatures are working out new tax plans or raising the levies on the ones we already have. Newspapers are full of the tax problem, and Mr. Average America sits at home with his shoulders hunched, wondering how much more of his income he is going to have to pay out. The whole problem of taxes is a lot like the weather—"everybody talks about it, nobody does much about it."

Montana and Wisconsin fought against the sales tax again this year. North Dakota battled against a three per cent increase on a two per cent sales tax. Several years ago this writer pointed out that a sales tax is a sure sign of a decadent economy. They are put on first as an "emergency measure" with the plea that they will be taken off as soon as the emergency is passed. But the history of sales taxes has been that they are not removed, but increased. The first step toward being able to do something about the tax problem is to know something about it. We have some excellent material on taxes. They are all small pamphlets that treat the subject in a manner which anyone can understand. You can go through any of them in an evening and you will be much better equipped to discuss and understand the tax problem after you have read any of these pamphlets.

Why Pay Taxes (Pamphlet) 10c
Our Taxes—And What They... 10c
Buy 10c
Your Taxes 13c
Why Pay Taxes (David Cushman Coyle) 25c

Everybody Sing

Everybody has been singing—to such an extent that five thousand copy edition of the song books, "Farmers Union Favorite Songs," which were published last September has to be re-run. We are happy about this because the singing of the same songs is bound to build a feeling of fellowship between all the states in the Farmers Union. These songs are being sung from Canada to the Gulf. A galley sheet is a long, narrow strip of paper about six by thirty inches in size. On it is printed the first proof of a book or pamphlet. This office is now wading in seas of this proof on Harold Knight's new book, "The Consumer Awakens." By the time you have read a manuscript, prepared it for the printer, and then read yards of proof on any book or pamphlet, you usually know it by heart and are thoroughly sick of it. In spite of all this, we still think "The Consumer Awakens" is good. It is an excellent survey of the cooperative achievement in the United States written in the dynamic style which readers of Harold Knight's columns in many states will easily recognize. "The Consumer Awakens," 25c.

Is Health Insurance

Does your oil station have one of the big gold, green and red placards on its wall? The stations which pay their educational fund are entitled to receive from their state office this big placard which tells the world that they believe "Education is health insurance for cooperatives" and in proof of that belief they have paid an educational fund from their net earnings to the county and state educational organizations.

Mrs. Edwards will go to Washington, D. C. for a meeting of the Plan Committee, a committee appointed by President Roosevelt to function under the Children's Bureau, on "Problems of Children in a Democracy." Madam Frances Perkins, chairwoman of this committee, and Katherine Lanroot, head of the Children's Bureau, are secretaries. This committee will meet to plan details of a general conference which is to be held at the White House on April 26. We believe it is significant recognition of the work of the Farmers Union that in this committee, European countries, not democracies, are solving the problem of their children by putting them into infant battalions. We do not want that heretofore children's education, understanding, safeguards for health, decent homes,

a chance to plan, and as they grow older, an opportunity to work. March Farmers Union Broadcast. The National Junior Director and the youngest of all the state leaders, Esther Eckblad of Kansas, will discuss your problems on the Farm and Home Hour over NBC, 11:30 to 12:30 central standard time, on March 25.

We have at this office a most interesting book on the gigantic business called life insurance. It is easily read, and contains facts of extreme importance to all those who either carry life insurance or contemplate carrying it.

Life Insurance—Investing in... Disaster 75c

Attempt Control of Farm Prices in Foreign Lands

Soviet Union, Germany and Italy Extend Planning Into Whole Economic System

It is possible to discern general trends and to draw certain conclusions from agricultural price control in foreign countries, according to the publication "Foreign Agriculture," issued monthly by the Department of Agriculture. The February number describes "some of the more important developments in the field of agricultural price control in foreign countries and attempts to evaluate the results thus far achieved from the standpoint of the consumer as well as of the producer."

Trends are being taken in diverse forms, but it is possible to distinguish two broad types: (a) prices fixed by the state, which may be mandatory for all transactions, or merely minimum or maximum prices; (b) prices guaranteed by the state or by a collective contract between producers and some industry regulating the product.

Price control has reached its greatest development in authoritarian or totalitarian countries like the Soviet Union, Germany, and Italy, where it extends not only to agricultural products but to the whole national price structure and forms a part of a state-regimented economic system.

1. Direct price control of agricultural products, however, has not been in totalitarian countries but has been employed in a peaceable fashion and on an individual-commodity basis in many other countries. The latter were motivated by the desire to protect agricultural prices against depressing influences or even to increase them and by the prevalence of price-bolting practices in manufacturing industries—practices that placed agriculture, because of its highly competitive character, at a disadvantage. These countries have also been motivated by political and military considerations, which have sometimes outweighed economic factors in the development of agricultural policy.

2. Complete regimentation. From the standpoint of workability and achievement of desired prices, the schemes have been most effective in the totalitarian states. To assure effectiveness, however, it has been necessary to regiment both producer and consumer, and, in fact, the entire economic structure.

3. In a nonregimented economy, the schemes have been less effective, as the underlying supply and demand conditions are seldom controlled. Price regulation, as a rule, therefore brings to the fore the problem of control of supplies and consumption.

4. Selective price control, whereby prices of only one or a few products are fixed, sometimes results in a dislocation of the price structure and leads to demands for fixing prices of other products.

5. Producer-dominated schemes of price control may, and frequently do, go beyond the redress of inequalities between agriculture and industry and the disadvantage to the consumer and the general taxpayer.

6. Price control of commodities on an import basis has frequently been used to stimulate domestic production. In such cases, prices tend to exceed world levels, thereby imposing an additional burden on consumers.

7. Price-lifting measures for export products tend to perpetuate or even increase the surpluses that are causing the price-depressing factor causing employment of price-control measures in the first place. Control of production, therefore, is necessary to avoid this vicious circle, but it has seldom been used; and price-fixing schemes in exporting countries as a result have frequently caused heavy financial losses to governments.

Is Compulsory Planning

Direct price control has reached

its greatest development, of course, in authoritarian or totalitarian countries like the Soviet Union, Italy, and Germany, where it transcends the idea of farm relief and extends to the whole national economic structure, forming an integral part of a general system of compulsory national economic planning.

In such cases, price control involves a considerable regimentation of the producer as well as the consumer. In Germany, for instance, farmers can sell livestock only after notifying the proper authorities of their desire to do so and obtaining the Government's permission. The Government not only indicates the price that the farmer is to receive but also specifies the particular point at which the stock must be delivered.

Grain growers are required to deliver to the authorities all the bread grain produced over and above the quantities actually needed for seed and bread making on the farm. The authorities specify the rate and final date of such deliveries, the delivery points, and the prices to be paid.

German farmers producing more milk than is required by their own families as fluidmilk must deliver the surplus at fixed prices to creameries. There is considerable rationing in the sale of foodstuffs to consumers.

In the Soviet Union, the acreage sown and the production activities are regulated by the Government plan. The peasants, grouped in collective farms, are required to deliver specified quantities of their output (as, for instance, a certain amount of grain per acre) at fixed, usually low, prices to the Government, which has a complete monopoly of all but purely local trade.

A Government Monopoly. In addition, farmers must pay in kind for the use of the Government-owned tractors and combines and for compulsory delivery and varying prices of wheat and different industrial crops with the quantity delivered.

The situation in Italy with respect to price fixing of agricultural products is the same in principle as in Germany, although it does not appear to be quite so inclusive with respect to products covered. For many agricultural products, the government agency specifies how much farmers may produce, where they may produce them, and at what prices they may sell them. There is practically a Government monopoly in the production and distribution of wheat, corn, hemp, wool, silk cocoons, and certain other products.

Farmers producing these commodities must deliver them to Government agencies rather than to the market. The retail prices of all agricultural products are fixed by the Government. In the case of surplus production, which sometimes occurs with respect to wine and certain fruits and vegetables, the Government also regulates the quantities to be marketed.

LITTLE PRICE CHANGE

Grain Market Continues Dull, Reports

FUJA Market Letter

"Writing a market letter these days is somewhat similar to a task which might confront a motion picture critic who is asked to give a review of each week for Sunday papers but the picture was carried over and the show didn't change," comments the March 10 market letter of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, Kansas City. "We might send out our letter of February 24 again today, and it would probably cover the situation just as well as it did at that time."

"Prices are a little lower, specifically 5/8 to 7/8 of a cent, on Kansas City futures the past week. Liverpool market continues to decline although losses are not heavy at any time. Argentine surplus continues to pile up and because of the failure of the country to move at least a part of their surplus, their rather limited storage facilities are blocked and at least a partial embargo is now in effect."

"There has been very little change in the winter wheat crop condition; perhaps a slight betterment because of improved top soil moisture. "Government loans to producers will soon begin coming due in volume. This will result in Uncle Sam coming into ownership of additional amounts of cash wheat. From the belief that these supplies will not be pressed for sale and thereby upsetting the price and premium structure which we now have."

"Primary receipts from Southwest have not increased or decreased much and we see no reason why we should have any material increase of farm to market movement prior to the new crop."

"Grains at Kansas City are unchanged to 1/4 cent higher for the week with the improvement chiefly in high protein wheat of light test."

weight. It hasn't been possible to make any headway in advancing the basis on ordinary, common, type wheat. Probably due to the fact that elevators continue to sell any kind of wheat under 15.00 per cent protein at pretty big discounts under replacement values.

"Liquidity has taken place in corn futures to a certain extent and that cereal seems to not have many friends at least at present. We would say lack of export demand is the chief cause for these prices drifting lower. The trading basis on cash corn in our local market is fractionally better—probably 1/4 to 1/2 cent."

"Other grains seem to be pretty well stabilized—barley and milo being up about 1 cent a hundred while value of oats, rye, and barley vary very little."

IS DANGEROUS BILL

Kansas Legislature Considers Hog Cholera Virus Measure

House bill No. 497, pending in the Kansas legislature relating to the sale of hog cholera virus, even used in connection with serum and other products containing virus which is used in the production of not such as abortion vaccine and similar products, leaves stockmen, the druggist and the manufacturers of products at the mercy of whoever may make the rules and regulations under this law.

The bill would require persons, firms or corporations selling or offering for sale hog cholera virus or any other live virus for any other purpose, even though no disease could be produced by its use, to have a permit issued by the state live stock sanitary commissioner. The permit would be issued on the payment of a fee of \$10 annually. The live stock sanitary commissioner would be given authority to make rules and regulations covering the use and sale of such products and make anyone who violated any regulations promulgated was liable.

The bill, like others which have been presented in various states recently, apparently would have the effect of preventing live stockmen from buying products containing virus direct from manufacturers for the treatment of their own animals and, according to some opinion, would serve to create a possible monopoly in the hands of veterinarians.

Restrict to Veterinarians. The bill is not specific and is rather all-embracing. Dr. J. H. Osterhaus, public health officer, referring to the cause in the bill, "or any other live virus for any other purposes."

"There are now several, and prospective increases in the number of specific viruses which do contain viruses with a degree of life, but which are not disease-producing," he said, "and several are in general use by the live stockmen. The bill, as it is, is rather absurd to prohibit a vehicle which might deny the owner of live stock the right to use such products, or even the right to learn about such products, as the bill contains the words 'or offering for sale' unless the information comes from Kansas State College, which is exempted from all provisions of this section."

Doctor Osterhaus pointed out that if a bill is intended only as a revenue measure, it might be well to eliminate the provisions which leave it to one man to formulate rules and regulations under which the sale of live stock is prohibited. He said the wording of such regulations might easily preclude any firm, other than those selling the veterinarian, from even soliciting business, or from obtaining a permit to do so. From Daily Drivers Telegram of March 8.

NEW TWO-PRICE PLAN

Government and Grocers Work Out Relief Program

Varying from the so-called "two-price" plan suggested by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace some months ago, a new stamp plan for distribution of surplus commodities to WPA workers and those on relief and pension rolls is receiving favor from business executives in the food industry.

While observers agree that the suggested program is full blown, they believe it is a narrowing of margins on many food lines, the argument is advanced that increased profits through increased volume will be realized, reports Advertising Age. Officials declare that it will permit increased consumption per dollar of government funds spent, probably reducing federal costs in this field.

More Food to Relief. Experts in the food lines have told the departmental officials that the new program will mean more normal pricing, less market disruption, an even greater sale of the surplus, and a narrowing of relief buyers' bases of probable advertising drives keyed to the surplus food movement.

The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce and the National Food and Grocery Conference Committee are having meetings for consideration of the new plan.

These points are involved in the new plan:

1. It is entirely optional with the relief recipient or WPA worker.

2. If he accepts the plan, the relief recipient or WPA worker will take his food money—or that portion of his pay which he expects to use for food—from the government in the form of stamps.

3. Acceptance of these stamps, which will be colored orange, will entitle him to another set of blue stamps valued at 50 percent of the amount represented by the orange stamps.

4. The orange stamps will then be accepted by grocers and other food dealers as cash for any product in the store, excepting liquor, candy and cigarettes. The blue stamps will be accepted as cash for any product in the surplus commodity classification.

5. Grocers may immediately redeem these stamps for cash from the Department of the Treasury. Local agencies are to be set up to facilitate redemption.

At present, surplus commodities are distributed through the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. Proponents of the new plan assert that the present technique lacks efficiency and that it also deprives the food dealers of the profit that will be available to them in the new plan.

Full operation of the plan, it is claimed, will produce a 50 percent increase in food expenditures by the 20,000,000 relief clients. Broader ramifications envisage it as a sales stimulant to certain products formerly in the "luxury" class for this

Spring Fashion Book

For a pattern of this smart model, send 15c in coins, your name, address, pattern number and size, to Kansas Farmers Union, Box 296, Salina, Kan. Our new Spring Pattern Book is now ready, with more than 100 charming new fashions that you can easily make for yourself. Pattern Book alone, 15c. One Pattern, and one copy of Pattern Book, ordered together, 25c.



8429. Tot's Pantie Frock. Designed for sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5 years. Size 3 requires 2 1/2 yards for the dress and pantie. Price 15c. 8428. A Slender Afternoon Frock. Designed for sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Size 38 requires 4 1/2 yards of 39-inch fabric with short sleeves. With three-quarter length sleeves, 4 1/2 yards. 2 yards band to trim sleeves and collar. Price 15c.

type of food budget. Current statistics show that the individual on public relief or on WPA now has about \$1 a week to spend for food, or \$4 for a family of four.

Lower Prices Generally. This family budget totals \$16 per month. Use of the proposed plan will increase it to \$24. It is also claimed that the increased sale on the surplus commodities will result in lower average prices for these products to the non-relief purchaser as well as to the user of the stamps.

A Conference March 13 was expected to determine six or seven cities which will be used to test the plan. These cities will be scattered from coast to coast and will average about 100,000 population. Anticipating that the tests can be started within 30 days, it is hoped that the plan may gain national scope within as short a time as three months. In Chicago, J. Frank Grimes, president of the Independent Grocers' Alliance and chairman of the Food and Grocery Conference Committee, said that he had yet to determine any unfavorable reaction to the plan, either from his own organization or from others in the food field.

"The plan may prove to be one of the major moves in bringing about recovery," he declared, "and it is certainly one of the finest moves the administration has made to inspire cooperation between government and business. It is bound to increase confidence throughout the country."

Sabetha—The Nemaha Cooperative Creamery Association made 3,169,415 pounds of butter for a gross business of \$838,863.77 in 1938.

Conway Springs—M. F. Weaver is the new manager of the Farmers Union oil station, coming from a similar job at Rollo.

Local Supplies

Below is a Price List of Local Supplies, printed for the convenience of all Local and County Secretaries in the Kansas Farmers Union.

Cash Must Accompany Order. This is necessary to save expense in postage and mailing.

Application Cards, 20 for 5c
Constitution 5c
Credentialed Blanks, 10 for 5c
Local Sec. Receipt Book 25c
Farmers Union Watch Fob 50c
Farmers Union Button 25c
F. U. Song Leaflets, dozen 10c
Farmers Union Song Books 20c
Farmers Union Song Books 50c
Business Manual 25c
Delinquency Notice 100c
Secretary's Minute Book 50c
Book of Poems, (Kinney) 25c
Above, lots of 10 or more 20c
Above, lots of 100, each 15c
Militant Voice of Agriculture (John Simpson) each 75c

WRITE TO

Kansas Farmers Union

Box 296 Salina, Kansas

A LOW COST TRACTOR

Henry Ford Hopes to See More Intensive Farm Production

Henry Ford hopes to see his dream of more intensive farm production brought a step nearer realization with the introduction in the near future of his low-cost tractor. A price for the new farm vehicle has not yet been announced.

He has made it clear, however, that so far as he is personally concerned a profit on the sale of the machine is decidedly a secondary consideration.

"I know what an acre of land can do; I know that any man with a farm of modest size can make a living from it," the motor magnate said recently. "More than that, however, I firmly believe the greater use of tractors by farmers who normally could not afford their ownership will contribute to the lasting prosperity that can come only with the most intensive development of the soil."

SEEK ARMS SWAP

May Exchange Cotton and Wheat for Strategic Munitions

The house military affairs committee has approved a plan authorizing the United States to negotiate with foreign governments for strategic materials of war, either as part payment on their war debts or in exchange for this country's surplus cotton and wheat.

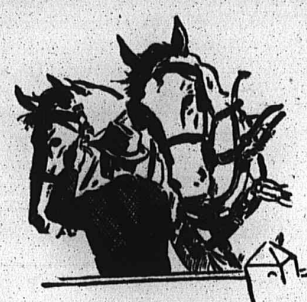
The plan has the approval of the departments of state, treasury and agriculture and is expected to be passed by Congress. The scheme was inserted in a bill authorizing the war department to spend 100 million dollars over a 4-year period for reserves of manganese, tin, chrome ore and other minerals in which the country is deficient.

Into "Consumer Reports"

The Federal Trade Commission has filed a complaint against Albert Lane, New York, publisher of pamphlets now known as "Consumers' Bureau Reports," and formerly as "Consumers' Preference." The FTC charges that Lane threatened that if manufacturers whose products he sought to list in his publications did not purchase copies of his magazines, their products would be disparagingly listed therein.

Columbus, O.—The name of the Cooperative Life Insurance Company of America has been changed to the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, according to a recent announcement.

The amount of high-pressure salesmanship being used to sell hybrid seed corn makes it necessary for farmers to be on their guard, and be reasonably sure they are getting a good adapted hybrid, comments L. S. Herron, editor of the Nebraska Farmer.



Timely Prevention Methods Will Prevent SLEEPING SICKNESS

This new vaccine for prevention of Sleeping Sickness (encephalomyelitis) in horses is very effective, and can be supplied at a price which makes its use justified.

The dose of this new (embryo) vaccine is smaller and yet contains many times more protection than the brain tissue vaccine; and is most convenient. It affords protection which appears to last easily for the year, and apparently is effective a year following vaccination; therefore vaccination may be done early in the spring or a few weeks before the disease makes its appearance in your herd.

Vaccine is simple to administer, just inject the dose (10ccs) well under the skin in a part of the body that will not interfere with the horse's saddle, using any good hypodermic syringe; then after one week repeat with the second dose. For colts under one year old, half doses should prove sufficient.

One-treatment package (2—10cc doses) \$2.00

Five-treatment package (10 doses) \$10.00.

This Vaccine is not returnable—so order only treatments needed.

KANSAS FARMERS UNION

Box 296, Salina

a WORLD OF FOOD

by MARJORIE THORP

THE GREAT BULK OF OUR DAILY COFFEE COMES FROM BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, CUBA, EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA AND VENEZUELA.

WHILE COFFEE IS GROWN IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, THE PRODUCT FROM THESE COUNTRIES IS CONSIDERED THE BEST.



MILK-FED CHICKENS ARE CHICKENS THAT HAVE BEEN FED FOR TWO WEEKS BEFORE KILLING ON A MIXTURE OF GRAINS AND SOYBEAN MEAL. THEY ARE TENDER, FLAVORFUL, AND PRODUCES WINTER, MORE TENDER FLESH AND GIVES A FINE FLAVOR.

1000 POUNDS DAILY PRODUCTS 55¢
193 • FRUITS & VEGETABLE

How State Laws Stop Commerce in Farm Report

Legal Crazy Quilt Described in Study for Secretary Wallace

Repeal of many state laws by way of facilitating interstate commerce is suggested in "Barriers to Internal Trade in Farm Products," a special report to the Secretary of Agriculture by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, reports Advertising Age in a review of the report.

While many of these laws had their genesis in a desire to protect inhabitants of the state passing them, they have been kept on the statute books for less altruistic motives, the report charges.

Discuss Dairy Marketing

Most of the 104 pages in the new report, however, are devoted to less controversial subjects. Discussing the marketing of dairy products, the report recommends that at least state laws be amended to provide that inspection of milk in the state of origin be accepted by authorities of the state in which the milk is sold. Under some conditions, milk is inspected by several different sets of state officials.

One of the chief objections to over-regulation is said by the report to be "refinements which are not required regularly at one and two cents a quart more in some cities than in others," excluding many low-income families from the market.

Though declared harmful by no less an authority than the Supreme Court of the United States, margarine is pictured a favorite object of discrimination by law and taxmakers. The report lists numerous states which have taxes on all margarine or on some types. Most of this legislation is designed to protect the dairy industry, and hence is unconstitutional, the report says.

Defense by Taxation

The situation is even more confusing in regard to motor truck regulation. Some states do not discriminate against interstate truckers as long as they do not engage in intrastate business, but many others require practically all out-of-state trucks that come across the line to register and pay fees. An alternative is to charge them higher ton-mile taxes than trucks having domestic licenses.

The establishment of good roads has tended to bring the itinerant merchant back into business, but the report finds that retailers are so well organized that the modern merchant-trucker has little chance of doing business when the former's will is reflected by legislative action.

Finally, the multiplicity of grading, packaging and labeling laws is such as to fill the breast of the national marketer with awe. One instance indicates the point. Federal barrel standards provide for a cubic content of 7.056 inches but Delaware's specification is 5.194 cubic inches and Maine's 7.000. Crates and boxes remain undefined by federal action, and lack of uniformity in state standards is startling, the report points out.

SIGNS INDUSTRIAL BILL

Gov. Ratner Would Round Out A State Economic Plan

Governor Payne H. Ratner signed into law March 13 the administration bill providing for a program of industrial development in Kansas. "We must look forward to an orderly development of these resources which our state possesses, to a steadily increasing share of the nation's business, to an opportunity to utilize Kansas labor and Kansas capital in the processing and manufacture of Kansas products right here at home to the benefit of the Kansas farmer, working man, industrialist, merchant and every citizen of our great state," commented Governor Ratner.

The measure provides an appropriation of \$60,000 for the next biennium, beginning July 1, and \$5,000 to finance the work until the next fiscal year begins or a total of \$125,000.

It empowers the governor to appoint by April 1, a non-partisan nine-member commission representing a cross-section of the social, economic and geographic conditions of the state to undertake immediately the compilation of a catalog of Kansas' resources and a study of how they may be developed commercially. The commission will meet monthly to outline the industrial and advertising plans which will be carried into effect by a director at a salary to be fixed by the commission.

"We now have taken a preliminary and definite step toward a coordinated program of action which we all hope will result in the proper and wholesome industrial development of our state," said Governor Ratner.

Not a Doubt! Is Wheat Surplus

Surplus, surplus, surplus! Farmers are sick of the word, but agricultural reporters and economists continue to harp on it. R. J. Hoyland describes the world wheat situation in the Kansas City Times of March 12 as follows:

The United States, Canada and Argentina are wrestling with unwieldy surpluses of wheat for which there is only a limited outlet. Each country is attempting to maintain prices at artificial internal levels by absorbing losses on exports, but the effort is proving difficult and expensive. Prices in all three of the leading export countries are well above the world level and each country is concerned with selling its wheat without further widening the spread.

Importers naturally are well aware of the situation and are playing the big supplies against the world price level and buying only on a hand-to-mouth basis. This has caused increased uneasiness on the part of the exporters. When one of the exporting countries makes an attempt to dispose of any important quantity of grain, the importers duck, and the world market trembles and prices dip. Importers know the grain must be disposed of and that the surpluses cannot be made impotent market-wise without a big cut in world prices. At present there is no indication that a scarcity will develop any time soon.

The situation in Argentina is the most acute and importers and exporters alike are watching developments in that country with interest.

The crop there was large and the government has been paying a minimum price of 59½ cents a bushel to farmers, or some 15 to 20 cents more than the grain will bring on the world market. The government's policy

of not pressing the wheat for sale and the slow foreign demand have resulted in the situation at present and interior points that it has been necessary for the government to discontinue purchases in some instances.

May Have To Sell

Fears are expressed the South American country will be forced to press its large supply of wheat more freely or abandon its minimum price policy altogether. Either step probably would weaken world prices. With the corn crop coming on there, the situation may clarify soon.

The following summary of world supplies and prospective distribution gives an idea of the situation. Large crops throughout the world, added to a carryover of nearly 600 million bushels from the previous year, reach the huge total of 5,050 million bushels, exclusive of Russia and China. The Soviet is expected to export around 40 million bushels, which would make a total of 5,090 million. Figuring home needs of the various exporting countries and an estimated world demand of 544 million bushels for the season, there would be a world carryover of around 1,230 million bushels on July 1. Such a quantity probably would exceed the total production of the United States and Canada next season.

Argentina in the present season had a surplus of more than 200 million bushels; Canada, 271 million; the United States, 385 million; Russia and China, 100 million; Australia, 100 million; Rumania, 40 million, and Danubian countries around 50 million, a total of 1,046 million, or nearly double the estimated world demand. It can readily be seen that a short crop in the United States to offset the influence of the large world surplus.

CUT INTEREST RATE

Wichita Bank Makes Reduction of Half of One Per Cent

Interest rates on commodity loans and loans for operating purposes, made by the Banks for Co-operators, a cooperative marketing and purchasing organization, have been reduced one-half of one per cent, according to an announcement by Ralph Snyder, president of the Wichita Bank for Co-operators, 1001 Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico.

The reduction follows a drop in the discount rate of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, and will be effective on all new money lent on or after February 24, Snyder states. The lower cost of money, resulting from the demand for short-term agricultural paper, is being passed on to farmers' associations obtaining credit through the Banks for Co-operators.

The reduction now puts the interest rate on commodity loans at 1½ per cent, and on operating capital loans at 2½ per cent, Snyder states. The rate on facility loans made by the Co-op banks will remain at 4 per cent.

The Banks for Co-operators are a part of the Farm Credit Administration. The interest reductions are being put into effect simultaneously by all 12 district banks and the Central Bank at Washington, D. C.

INTRODUCE BANKING BILL

Voorhis Claims Support of Measure by Leading Economists

A banking and monetary bill purportedly endorsed by more than 100 of the nation's leading economists was introduced March 16 into the national House of Representatives by Representative Voorhis of California, Democrat.

The bill follows closely a proposal introduced in 1934 by the late Senator Foraker of Ohio, and is based on study of monetary reforms by leading economists. Voorhis asserted. Only ten of 165 economists polled on the program disapproved it, he said.

Voorhis' bill calls for the purchase by the government of the capital stock of the twelve federal reserve banks, abandonment of fractional reserve system, a return to the practice of checking the gold and silver coinage, and control of the volume of money and demand bank deposits by the federal reserve board and the secretary of treasury.

WOULD CURB POWER

Former Treasury Employee Attacks Devaluation Policies

T. Jefferson Coolidge, one-time treasury official who quit the administration, urged Congress March 14 to curb the president's monetary powers, according to the Associated Press. Coolidge told a senate banking and currency sub-committee that "our banking system is overflooded as a result of a gold devaluation policy," and he declared, the president's power to devalue the dollar still further should be allowed to expire June 30.

Even under the present situation there is danger of depreciation of money and unfortunate expansion within our banking system," he said. Coolidge is one of several men who have left posts in the treasury after policy disagreements. He was the department's undersecretary for a time and now is a Boston banker. He testified in opposition to a bill that would extend dollar devaluation power and the \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund until January 15, 1941.

CAN'T MANAGE PRICES

Federal Reserve Board Disapproves Money Control Plans

The Federal Reserve Board advised Congress March 12 that it disapproved legislative proposals which would empower it to manage price levels through control of the volume of money and credit.

The board expressed its views in a general statement given to the press and sent to congressional committees, considering price-management bills.

Senator Thomas, Democrat of Oklahoma, has introduced a bill to give the reserve board power to act as a monetary authority to return prices to the 1926 level. Similar legislation has been proposed by Senator Logan of Kentucky. The board, however, did not specifically mention these bills.

Hindrance Instead of Help

"The board believes that an order

by congress to the board or to any other agency of congress to bring about and maintain a given average of prices would not assist but would hinder efforts to attain business conditions," the board said.

"The board does not favor the enactment of any bill based on the assumption that the federal reserve system or any other agency of the government is in jeopardy in its management of money and credit, and thereby raise the price level to a prescribed point and maintain it there."

Although declaring itself "in complete sympathy" with the desire to prevent booms and depressions, the board said:

"Experience has shown, however, that: (1) Prices cannot be controlled by changes in the amount and cost of money; (2) The board's control of the amount of money is not complete and cannot be made complete; (3) A steady average of prices does not necessarily result in lasting prosperity; and (4) A steady level of average prices is not nearly so important to the people as a fair relationship between the prices of the commodities which they produce and those which they must buy."

Lasting prosperity and price stability is achieved, the board brought about by action of the federal reserve system alone, because they are affected by many factors beyond the control of the federal reserve system.

No Control in Currency

Contending that "Cash and prices do not move together," the board said that from 1926 to 1929 there was no change in the amount of currency but there was a drop of 5 per cent in prices. From 1929 to 1933, there was an increase of 60 per cent in currency, and a decrease of 20 per cent in prices.

In explaining "why the amount of currency does not control prices," the board said currency is "the small change of business."

It pointed out that more than nine-tenths of the bills in this country are paid by checks drawn on bank deposits. These deposits "as well as the currency outside of banks, need to be considered as money."

"Whether prices and the volume of money do or do not move together depends on many other conditions, such as weather and the size of harvests, inventions, foreign trade, government spending, taxes, wages and the general attitude of business," the board said.

13.56 Per Cent Protein

Average protein content of 820 cars of wheat tested by the Kansas City office of the Kansas State Grain Inspection Department during February was 13.56 per cent, and on 584 cars inspected by the Missouri Department the average was 13.20 per cent. The combined total of 1,404 cars tested by both departments for the month was 13.41 per cent, compared with 13.09 per cent on 1,342 cars in February a year ago.

Adverse Weather Brings Most Loss

To Wheat Crop

Although the nation's wheat crop faces many hazards each season, including insect pests, plant diseases, and fire, the greatest cause of loss is adverse weather conditions, according to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

The Corporation's findings indicate that bad weather—drought, too much rain, hail, hot winds, storms, cold

New Trucking Regulations

But Apply Neither to Farmers Using Own, Nor to Truckers Within One State

Another step in the regulation of livestock hauling by truck was taken by the Interstate Commerce commission last week. Since March 1, all interstate truckers, except farmers using their trucks for their own convenience, have been subject to new rules regarding safety and maximum hours of service. This has no relation to regulations of the federal highway law which went into effect last year.

I. C. Peterson and A. J. Snedeker, representing the ICC, explained the new regulations to about 125 Kansas livestock haulers gathered at a meeting in the Kansas City Live Stock Exchange building Monday night. Other truckers who wish information on the subject may obtain it by writing the Bureau of Motor Carriers, 912 Baltimore avenue, Kansas City.

Peterson and Snedeker pointed out that the new rules applied to all truckers hauling all commodities for hire in interstate commerce but did not apply to truckers whose trans-

waves—is responsible for about 73 per cent of all wheat crop losses. Droughts alone account for about 38 per cent of total wheat crop losses and thus are the major hazard facing wheat growers. Other weather losses and approximate percent of damage attributable to them: Freezes, 14 per cent; too much rain, 8 per cent; storms and hot winds, 7 per cent; hail 4 per cent; floods, 1 per cent; and other weather, 1 per cent.

Insect pests were rated as causing about 9 per cent of total crop damage and plant diseases were charged with 17 per cent.

More than 112,000 wheat growers have insured themselves against unavoidable losses in 1939 by taking out crop insurance policies which guarantee them up to 75 per cent of their average yield.

Centenarian Wisdom

In 1922 the late Senator Cornelius Cole was 100 years old, and Los Angeles gave him a banquet, at which his mind as alert as ever, he spoke.

He said according to the Saturday Evening Post, that he had only one message for those present, and that it had been impressed on him through long experience; namely, that human liberties were won in this country at heavy sacrifice of blood and fortune; that liberty is easily lost; that we must be ready to fight again if necessary to keep it; that we must never suffer any man to arrogate to himself the powers of a king, emperor or dictator.

At that banquet was Paul G. Hoffman, now head of the Students for a Free Speech in New York recently. Mr. Hoffman recalled Senator Cole's statement, and said:

"We listened tolerantly because he was an old man, but privately most of us thought he was living in a world of ideas belonging wholly to the past. What did an old man's warning have to do with us? We had just finished making the world safe for democracy."

"I have thought of that address a thousand times. The old senator was not in his dotage. It was we who were blind. Do I need to ask you to think of the countries where in recent years civil and religious liberty has vanished? Do I need to ask you to think how seriously at this moment our liberties are in jeopardy in democratic countries?"

"Why are they in jeopardy? Because of pressures operating against free enterprise. Those pressures come from two sources. One is the money power, the other is the planning men, but who have something in mind quite different from planning—namely, government control of the processes of production and distribution; secondly, from minority special privilege is an invitation to government control, and no business can long survive bureaucratic domination."

Shamrocks by Mail

St. Patrick's Day creates a lively demand for shamrocks, both plants and foliage, with a preference for shamrocks "from the old country." For several years Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has modified its procedure slightly to make easier the entry of shamrocks—which cannot be propagated in parcel post packages. Shamrock plants, however, must be free from soil.

The current annual report of the Bureau tabulates parcel post inspections of plant material in 30 leading post offices where inspection is maintained, and covers the year including St. Patrick's Day, 1938. Although its procedure is for the greater part as accounting for more than a small fraction of the number of packages inspected, in Boston and Chicago shamrocks constitute more than one-quarter of all import packages inspected under plant quarantine provisions. At New York more than half the inspected packages contained shamrocks—92,900 out of a total of 166,644.

The rush season is the first half of March, and entries include both commercial shipments for resale, and thousands of small packages mailed as gifts to friends and relatives in America.

Farm Income Shrinks

Total cash income of Kansas farmers declined 61 million dollars last year, compared with 1937, according to federal and state departments of agriculture. Cash farm income, including government payments amounted to \$322,732,000 in 1938, compared with \$301,740,000 the preceding year. It was a drop of 23 per cent.

Income from crops declined 35 per cent from \$135,558,000 in 1937 to \$87,363,000 in 1938. The market decline in income from wheat was an important factor in reducing the 1938 cash income in Kansas. Cash income from sales of livestock and livestock products dropped about 14 per cent, from \$149,670,000 in 1937 to \$128,013,000 in 1938. Government payments totaled \$17,356,000 in 1938 and \$18,512,000 in 1937.

Poker Face

Dad—"Son, I never knew what it was to kiss a girl until I courted your mother. I wonder if you will be able to say the same to your children?"

Son—"I think so, Dad, but not with such a straight face as yours."

Who Should Speak For Agriculture?

Obviously the recognized leaders who have been chosen to represent the various organized groups of agriculture and those who direct the affairs of these organizations should be the ones to speak for farmers when their needs are being considered. But too often when the claims of agriculture are being presented and considered, self-appointed spokesmen, representing interests in conflict with agriculture, reach the public ear. Announcements of what they think and propaganda in favor of their views get into the headlines, not because they know the needs of agriculture or have given them serious study, but because their names happen to be among those that "make news" or because their ideas happen to coincide with those of the newspapers printing them. All too often city newspapermen lend support to biased propaganda on agricultural questions, while facts and authentic information coming from the farmers' own spokesmen are ignored or even suppressed.

As a result of giving only part of the information that pertains to the agricultural situation or of giving expression to biased opinions and inaccurate information, they mislead the public. There are literally hundreds of thousands of people in our country today, particularly in our cities and towns, who have been led to believe that the farm program now in force is a total failure. They are told on the one hand that surpluses have piled up because the program was not effective in curtailing production. On the other hand, they are told that crop restrictions are a national evil and should be done away with. But one thing that they are not told is the fact that no control program was in force when the crop acreages resulting in these surpluses were planned and planted.

Corn Farmer Fails Hopper By Seedling

Grasshopper attacks on corn in preference to sorghum is one of the reasons why many farmers show a preference—they plant more sorghums and less corn. Egg surveys in the fall make it possible for entomologists to give warning as to the danger of grasshopper outbreaks the following summer, and many farmers west of the commercial corn areas plant accordingly—more sorghum and less corn in grasshopper years.

Corn strains differ widely, too. Some corn varieties come through a grasshopper attack much better than others, and corn breeders are finding ways to breed for hopper resistance in hybrids intended for planting where hopper trouble is frequent.

In 1936, a bad hopper year in Kansas, Arthur M. Brunson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and R. H. Painter, of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, observed the comparative injury to scores of hybrids and standard strains in the plantings at Manhattan, Kansas, and Kansas hybrids were not injured so severely on the average as strains and hybrids from the States where there is ordinarily less trouble with hoppers.

Science has not yet discovered why grasshoppers prefer corn to sorghum or the secret of why some corn varieties when other corn varieties are ruined. Generations of natural selection probably account for the greater resistance of the Kansas strains. Over the years, persistent hopper attacks have killed out strains most likely to be injured and have left the corns that have the qualities—what they are—that resist hopper injury.

With further study it may be possible, Brunson and Painter suggest, to increase, hopper resistance and make this an added good feature in the best of the hybrid corns, particularly in hybrids developed for areas where hoppers are often destructive.

The Secretary of the United States Treasury assures congressional committee that the national debt will reach \$50,000,000,000 and can do so without danger to the country's financial structure. The hard-pressed taxpayers would like to know what assurance they have that when the debt reaches \$50,000,000,000, it will stop there. A little assurance that the federal government was going to economize, would be more reassuring than the opinion that another \$10,000,000,000 of peacetime debt will not hurt the country—R. M. Hofer, Jr.

Have You Read?

MANKIND—YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW—Morris Erickson \$.25
FORGOTTEN MAN'S HANDBOOK—Thomas R. Amle (Questions & Answers) .40
THE FLIVVER KING—Upton Sinclair (Story of Ford's Millions) 20
PRIMER ON ECONOMICS (Social Action) 25
UNCLE SAM AND THE FARMER (Social Action) 10
YOUTH IN THE WORLD TODAY—(Problems of Youth—Unemployment, Etc.) 10
ASSOCIATED FARMERS—Who Are They? 10
PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT—Peterson 25
CASTAWAYS OF PLENTY—Hawkins (Parable of Capitalist System) 25
DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY—Sherwood Eddy (Delta Cooperative Farm and Tenancy) 15
THEIR BLOOD IS STRONG—John Steinbeck 25

Order from the Kansas Farmers Union
Box 296
Salina, Kansas

Small wonder, therefore, that most of our city cousins fail to understand our principal economic problem or even know of our distress. Farmers and farm leaders have done all in their power, perhaps, to counteract this misinformation, but they labor under the handicap of having no medium through which they can effectively present actual facts to the urban mind. Though farm groups and their leaders recognize the need of balancing production with effective demand, the critics of the principle continue to sound a cry of alarm at any effort to curtail production. If at all possible, they try to convey the impression that there is dissatisfaction within the farm group itself and that there will be rejoicing in the agricultural camp as soon as the whole program can be swept out of the way.

To demonstrate what has just been said, it is only necessary to remember what happened a few days ago when the United States Chamber of Commerce called together representatives from various groups to discuss the farm problem. The report immediately went out that the agricultural leaders present were opposed to any curtailment of agricultural production. Several of the group later protested in a signed statement that the report given out was not authorized.

It is high time that we are hearing more of the farmer's side of the story and fewer rumors coming from other quarters. The public must be enlightened as to the real facts so that it will learn to discount or ignore biased propaganda instigated by interests in direct conflict with agriculture. The spokesmen for agriculture should be its own chosen leaders and all groups should have a chance to hear them.—C. S. S. in The Utah Farmer.

Labor Over Seven Million

Members of the labor organizations in the United States, including the railroad brotherhoods, number 7,705,000, according to statistics published by the Locomotive Engineers Journal. This is about 22 per cent of the 35,000,000 wage and salary workers eligible to belong to trade unions.

Farm organizations, generally, are pretty quiet about the number of members they have. Only the Nebraska Farmers Union gives its paid-up members twice a month. The rest around it, it is hardly probable, however, that all the general farm organizations together have 22 per cent of the farmers as members.

But farmers' organizations do not correspond closely to trade unions. Any total of organized farmers would properly include all farmers who are members of co-operatives for selling farm products and buying farm and household supplies.—Nebraska Union Farmer.

Hillsboro—The Marion County

Cooperative Creamery Association more than doubled 1937 net earnings in 1938 with a return of \$21,509.80, comparing with 1937 earnings of \$10,432. In 1937 a total of 496,023 pounds of butter was manufactured, while in 1938 the total jumped to 1,087,132. Harold Hansen, the manager, has attained international distinction as a buttermaker, having been one of the exhibitors in the World's Dairy Congress at Berlin, Germany.

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Make EVERY DAY COOPERATIVE DAY

Farmers Union Jobbing Ass'n.
KANSAS CITY—LD 340
SALINA—LD 4

How About Farmers? Kansas is getting industrial-minded, thanks to the Kansas state chamber of commerce and supporting interests. The population of this state should be increasing in place of decreasing. Henry Ware Allen, known for his single tax ideas, writes that Kansas can get industries if she will do the thing that other states are compelled to do to attract industry.

In a recent letter Mr. Allen says the climate of Kansas is favorable, with each of the four seasons having a charm of its own. The soil, too, is favorable for producing crops of all kinds.

"All that is necessary to be done in order to attract outsiders to Kansas," he says, "is to follow the example of other states which have done the same thing and then go one better. Rich men have been attracted to those states which have no tax upon inheritances, no income tax and no sales tax. First of all we should repeal such taxes in Kansas. It is also noted that corporations as well as individuals are extremely sensitive to taxation. Factories employing thousands of working men are constantly removing from places where taxes are heavy to locations where taxes are light or where they are entirely eliminated for a term of years."—Winfield Courier.

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