



THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation

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Labor Organizations Enlist In Fight Against The Ship Subsidy

Despite Fact the People Declared Against This Measure at Recent Election, the Powers That Be, Will Try to Force Its Passage.

"A raid on the public treasury to create another privileged class of profiteers" is the cry of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and other labor and civic organizations characterizing the ship subsidy legislation which President Harding is attempting to foist on the American people in the extra session of Congress called on November 20th. "The measure would simply place a premium on inefficiency, be a source of untold corruption, bring no economic advantage to the country as a whole, and only increase the tax burdens of the people for the enrichment of a favored few."

"The ship subsidy bill demanded of Congress by the President," the statement continues, "is the most vicious piece of legislation sought by special privilege in a decade. An attempt is being made to secure the enactment of this bill by methods which are repugnant to every believer in honest government, regardless of his personal views of the subsidy. The whole principle of a ship subsidy has been repudiated by the voters both in the primary election and on November 7th, when Brookhart, Howell, Frazier, La Follette, Ashurst, Ralston, Ferris, Shipstead, Wheeler, McKellar, King, Kendrick, and a host of other progressive senators and congressmen were elected on the very issue of opposition to the ship subsidy. Yet in the face of this plain mandate from the people, President Harding calls together the old Congress, many of whose members met sudden and complete political death in the last campaign, and tells the party leaders his ship subsidy bill must be enacted before the new Congress on March 4th, whether or not the people want it. He is determined to give untold millions of the tax payer's money to a few of the boys who filled his campaign chest and to whom he is evidently still indebted."

How the Ship Subsidy Bill Mulcts The People.

A study of the terms of the proposed shipping bill reveals a raid upon the public treasury which pales into insignificance the hundreds of millions handed by the government to the railroads under a contract which Senator Canning himself declared "shocks the moral senses of mankind." The bill provides that merchant ships which have cost the tax payers three and one-half billion dollars to build are not only to be given away at panic prices, but the big ship owners are actually to be paid for taking them. The Shipping Board proposes to sell the best of the government ships for an estimated \$150,000,000 and then pay the purchasers \$300,000,000 in subsidies within the next ten years, or twice the purchase price of the ships. Furthermore, these ships are not to be sold by competitive bids, but a price fixed by the Shipping Board, which, according to its own estimate, is from ten to fifty dollars less than replacement prices in the United States and Europe. This is not the worst. The subsidy bill also provides that the Shipping Board be given \$125,000,000 from the treasury to be loaned out by it at 2% to the ship owners for fitting out and constructing ships. The government is now borrowing money at 4 1/2%, so that this generous 2% loan to the big shippers will cost the tax payer an additional \$3,125,000 annually.

The provision of President Harding's subsidy bill indicates that it is drafted from first to last in the interests of the big ship owners, while the small boys get only a few crumbs. For instance, the smaller vessels get a subsidy of but 1/2¢ per gross ton for each one hundred miles traveled, while the big ocean greyhounds receive 2 1/2¢ per gross ton for the same distance. As if this favor were not enough, the bill brazenly provides that all ships from 1,500 to 5,000 tons shall be lumped together, and the subsidy paid as if they were all of 5,000 ton registry. Here again the big shippers not only get all that is coming to them, but even as much as three times what is coming to them on vessels larger than fifteen hundred tons.

This direct compensation is to go on until the ship owners make a net operating income of more than 10% per year on their actual investment. Even the railroad magnates ask only a 6% guarantee. But the ship owners' subsidy is to continue even beyond the 10%, with the provision that they shall go halves with the government on their excess profits. How much there will be for the government after big salaries and other padded expenses are paid is amply indicated by similar contracts with the railroads and the federal reserve banks.

Generous Indirect Subsidies. In addition to these generous bounties paid directly from the government treasury, the ship owners are to be given such sweeping indirect aids as exemption from taxation on all profits, if used in building and outfitting new ships, up to two-thirds

of the total cost; a further exemption of all shipping corporations from income taxes up to 5% of the total value of all goods they ship; a complete waiver of all income taxes when the amount of the tax is invested in half the cost of the new ship construction; and, as if this tender solicitude for the profits of the shipping corporations were not enough, they are given a complete monopoly of all trade with the Philippines and all travel by government officials. Finally—one of the fattest plums of all—the Harding ship subsidy bill abolishes army and navy transports, and provides that all troops and war supplies shall be transported for the government in private vessels at the public's expense. Imagine what a rich graft this will be in time of war! And then, just to appease the railroad companies, they are especially permitted to own ships engaged in foreign trade, and otherwise combine with the steamship companies in order to get their share of the loot.

Shipping Board Given Enough Power.

The public funds for the benefit of the ship owners are to be dispensed by the Shipping Board. The bill proposed by President Harding gives this Board such tremendous power that it can easily build up a huge political machine. The Board may give or withhold loans from shippers at its arbitrary discretion; it may double loans to its favorites; it may take loans away from its enemies. It is, moreover, given absolute control over all existing contracts between common carriers by land and water. It may even declare shipping agreements void, regardless of court decisions. No other administrative body in the government has ever been given such complete control over the treasury, for the benefit of its henchmen. The Shipping Board receives carte blanche to scatter the tax payer's money among its political friends. Nor is this the past history of the Shipping Board, but such as to allay our fears that this colossal power will be abused. The direction and handling of these funds will be entrusted to A. D. Lasker, head of the Shipping Board, a lackey of the shipping interests, a former publicity man who knows almost nothing about shipping but much about politics.

What the Public Gets.

Somebody has to foot the bill for the more than fifty million dollars a year to be handed out to the ship owners by Mr. Harding's subsidy bill. That somebody is the public. And in return the public gets no guarantee of improved shipping conditions. It has no assurance of lower freight rates or of good service. Indeed, the shipping companies which benefit under these generous gifts from the public treasury are under no obligation at all as to service. They do not even have to pay the nominal purchase price for their ships, but may run them for ten or fifteen years, and then pile them up on the beach when profits no longer suffice.

Getting Out by Going Deeper.

Mr. Harding's justification for the ship subsidy is that it will "take the government out of the shipping business." It will do no such thing. The Shipping Board has already stated that only the best ships will be sold, and that a large number of less valuable ships amounting to from five to seven million tons will be left for the government to operate or dispose of at a further loss. Instead of taking the government out of the shipping business, the ship subsidy bill puts the government in deeper!

Forcing the Farmer.

The farmer is being told by the ship subsidy advocates that he must support the subsidy in order to secure an American merchant marine to ship his goods abroad. There may be farmers dense enough to swallow this bait whole, but we doubt it. The economic unsoundness of such a proposal ought to be apparent to a school boy. The transportation of the farmer's export crops will go to ships which can be chartered at the lowest rates, and a subsidized industry has never yet been known to offer the cheapest rates or the best service to its customers.

For more than a century our enormous and profitable trade, extending to every shore of the high seas, was built up by efficiently operated ships without a penny's subsidy. There is nothing to indicate that a subsidy is essential now, except the clamor of the shipping interests for easy money from the public treasury. (Continued Next Week.)

PROFITS IN CO-OPERATION

That the amount of profits piled up for distribution at the end of the year is not necessarily a measure of the success of a co-operative enterprise must have become impressed upon anyone who has followed the reports of co-operative associations published in this paper from issue to issue. What a co-operative enterprise saves its members is a better measure of success, and this may not be revealed in dollars and cents in the profit showing at all. A co-operative elevator or store

Life Insurance For Union States

National Convention Just Closed Appointed Committee To Work Out Plan.

(By W. C. Lansdon.)

The Eighteenth Annual Convention of the National Farmers Union was called to order in the auditorium of the Virginia Hotel at Lynchburg, Virginia, at ten o'clock in the morning of November 21st. President Charles Barrett of Union City, Ky., presided over the seventeenth consecutive time. All the states with working state unions were represented. The middle west has been the rule for several years had the largest number of representatives in attendance. All of the officers and directors of the organization were present.

The president's annual report reviewed the activities of the organization for the year with some special references to legislation effected or now pending in the congress. He gave it as his firm conviction that agriculture now has the greatest opportunity in the history of the country to get remedial laws. Secretary A. C. Davis presented a membership and financial statement indicating that the organization had just about held its own during the year preceding. Some new work is being done in Maryland and Minnesota with a strong probability that there will be at least one more state union before the next annual convention.

The report of the Lecturer was for the most part a review of the history progress and prospects of agricultural co-operation in the United States. This report, together with others presented by officers will be printed in full in the official bulletin proceedings which will be ready for distribution about three weeks. The report of the Board of Directors summarized the activities of the organization for the year.

The work done by the various committees was more than ordinarily constructive. The committee on co-operative banking of which Dr. George L. Sands of Arkansas was chairman made a report that is a very real and valuable contribution to the literature of co-operative finance. The committee on grain marketing endorsed the necessity for educational and propaganda associations of farmers to assure successful co-operative marketing.

The committee on livestock marketing of which President C. J. Osborne of the Nebraska Farmers Union was chairman reviewed the development of co-operative live stock commission business on the Missouri river and in other parts of the middle west. More effective co-ordination of the different houses and better control of the deliveries to stabilize prices

might make great savings for its members and show only a small profit, or even a loss.

For example, there is an elevator association in Nebraska in which the stockholders have expressed themselves as caring for neither patronage dividends nor interest on their stock. They are out to make a good market for grain in their town. By increasing its interest to pay all he can for grain, consistent with playing safe. Of course, this elevator association does not show big profits, but it is making good savings for the farmers of the community.

In another Nebraska town is a co-operative store that usually shows only small profits, and sometimes it is slightly "in the red." The stockholders are not worrying about it. They know by investigation that they are getting goods at lower prices than prevailing in the town. By increasing their selling margins they could accumulate profits, but they hold that their store is accomplishing what it was organized to do—that it is saving farmers money.

Now, it may not be wise to "give dividends at the scales," or to operate a co-operative store on margins so narrow as to preclude profits. It would be safer to take wider margins and return any surplus savings as patronage dividends at the end of the year, or use the savings to build a surplus for future expansion. But the point we are making is that so long as some associations follow the practice of taking their savings in prices, instead of dividends, the profit figures are not a standard by which comparisons can be made or success measured.

A Chicago grain paper recently referred to a report of the Indiana state securities commission which showed that of 11 farmers' elevators chartered in that state since the commission has been in existence, seven have incurred losses. This was paraded as proof that co-operation is a dismal failure. We know nothing about those Indiana elevators, but if they are anything like the average run of Nebraska farmers' elevators, the money they lost is in the pockets of the patrons, and they have been successful in making better local prices for grain.

It is better, of course, to conduct a co-operative enterprise that it will not have losses; but when losses occur, it does not necessarily indicate that the enterprise has failed in its mission of saving money for its members. This is a fact that should be grasped by co-operators, as well as by those outside of the movement who are throwing bricks at it.—Nebraska Union Farmer.

ADOPT KANSAS PLAN

New Jersey farmers have adopted the Kansas plan of saving a short railroad. They propose to buy and operate it. The line runs from Hightstown to Hightstown 20 miles, and is perhaps the shortest railroad in the country. Motor freight trucks have driven it almost out of business. Four years ago the big railroads bankrupted the Leavenworth & Topeka railroad and it was ordered junked. However, the farmers along the line raised enough money to buy it and it is now paying its way.

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Progress Of Co-Operative Report Portrayed At Recent Convention

Better Food, Better Prices, Better Wages, Better Living Conditions are Some of the Milestones Along the Co-Operative Road.

(By W. C. Lansdon.)

"I am very optimistic concerning future co-operation in the United States. I feel that this convention will do much to further its interests. The movement has been pretty well sifted. This will make possible national co-operation of a cohesive nature." This prediction of T. D. Stiles, manager of the Penn Central Co-operative Association of miners' stores, proved true. Milestones in economic progress were recorded at the Co-operative Congress held in Chicago on October 26, 27 and 28.

Mr. Stiles was right. The co-operative movement was thoroughly "sifted." For the first time in the United States since pure co-operation was a clear field. The "shell game" operators, falsely calling themselves co-operators, have either been run to cover or to jail. The various so-called "American plan" co-operatives—highly centralized organizations with chain stores—have proved unsound and unsuccessful.

Seventy delegates from sixteen states, representing about 700,000 members, thirty fraternal delegates from the leading labor and religious organizations, representing millions of members; foreign delegates from Poland and Russia, were all assembled at the congress. Cables and letters of greetings were received from eleven national co-operative unions in European countries. In this country all the strong co-operative consumer societies have "finally joined their forces with the Co-operative League of America—many agricultural societies also. Co-operative solidarity was the achievement of this congress. This is basic, for in no country in the world did co-operation really take hold and progress until standards and policies were agreed upon and adhered to, and until a national effort was effected for unity of purpose and action. Let it be understood that the purpose of co-operators is for "no patch-work modification of present-day society, no infusion of a better spirit into old industrial forms. We co-operators are laying the foundation for a new industrial civilization."

Who were at the Congress the bidders of this organized society? W. C. Lansdon, national organizer of the Farmers' Co-operative and Educational Union, spoke for many thousands of farmers organizations, which carry on an annual co-operative trade of five billion dollars. He spoke in no uncertain language. "There are six million farmers in the United States, all poor today. During the past three years, they have sold their crops for less than it cost to make them. However, after fifty years of groping around for some workable system of co-operative business, real progress is beginning to be made." The Danish system of co-operative marketing of farm products has been widely adopted recently. The fruit growers of California, the wheat growers of the North, South and West, the cotton and tobacco growers of the South, about four hundred associations altogether, with nearly half a million members—have all bound themselves to pool and sell their entire product through non-profit co-operative associations.

Finance and credit are the backbone of business. Warren Stone and Walter McCaleb, president and manager, respectively, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' Bank of Cleveland, believe in strengthening the backbone of co-operative business. The B. L. E. Bank, established in 1920 with resources of \$650,000, in less than two years has increased its resources to \$10,000,000. Eight other co-operative banks have been established during the past two years. Many more are being organized. McCaleb stated, "I am convinced that the destiny of the common man turns on economic mechanisms, not on politics. We must have a national banking law which will enable the people freely to organize fifty to one hundred thousand of these co-operative banks." Eighty-six people's banks, or credit unions as they are called in the United States, were reported in New York, eighty-two in Massachusetts, twenty in North Carolina. John Walker, president of the Central States Co-operative Wholesale Society as well as of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, reported that "one of the greatest advantages that can come from the co-operative movement, is the development of the capacity of the workers to manage and to operate industry successfully themselves—a powerful factor in rural industrial democracy."

Mayor Daniel Hoan of Milwaukee aroused enthusiastic interest by his description of co-operative housing in Milwaukee. This is the first large-scale attempt in an American municipality to meet the housing crisis on a strictly co-operative basis. Twenty-eight acres of land have been purchased; ninety homes are already nearing completion; a thousand, all told, will be built within the next year. Union labor has erected these houses, the different teams competing wholeheartedly on the job. Loans were obtained from the city, the coun-

ty, and from individuals, at 5 percent. The tenant members buy stock in the association, equivalent to the value of the property they are occupying. They obtain a perpetual lease but do not have title to the property. For a home and garden valued at \$4,500 they pay a monthly rent of \$50 which is gradually reduced, as the loans are paid off, to \$22. Through co-operation garden planning, parks and playgrounds, milk sewage and sanitation, and beautiful homes have been made possible.

"From an idea of 'locked-out' milk drivers to the most modern milk-distributing plant in the Northwest—that is the story of the Franklin Co-operative Creamery of Milwaukee. Six thousand shareholders, twenty-five thousand families, \$700,000 in assets, and an annual business of one and a half million dollars—all this co-operative organization has developed in eighteen months. Three co-operators, although distributing the purest milk at only ten cents a quart are paying the farmers more than they are ever received before. With each bottle of milk sent out by the manager goes this message: 'Remember that in addition to its purity; in addition to the message it brings of health, strength, and energy, this milk-bottle brings a message of fair wages and decent working conditions, of industrial peace, a message of the future when service shall be the sole object of all business transactions.' Encouraging stories of co-operative bakeries, restaurants, laundries, and stores were told, and of coal secured direct from the mines and sold to the consumers at a saving of more than \$100,000 in eight years."

"Here is a group," said a keen observer, "who are bucking down to do the things the world needs to have done: simple deeds, yet behind the doing is the biggest idealism any of us are capable of. In this age when all of us are groping for the way out, most of us take it out in talking. But you couldn't sit in that congress of the Co-operative League and not realize that the daily lives of these men and women are the translation into idealism."—Agnes D. Warehase in New York Nation.

MUSCATINE COUNTY CALF

Wayne Probst, 12 years old, of West Liberty, Iowa, and James Shepard, 11 years old, of Muscatine, put on a demonstration in the pavilion in the cattle barn recently that was a credit to Muscatine county. Their instructor and themselves dressed in white uniforms with white caps. James opened the demonstration with a Shorthorn and an Angus he steer in the ring by giving a lecture on the proper killing calf, pointing out on the Angus steer the best cuts of meat and put it on a paying basis. Boys showing how he was well supplied with the higher priced cuts, calling particular attention to the loin and quarters, using the Shorthorn to show lack of these cuts.

The boys then demonstrated cutting up the beef, having for this purpose a half beef. Jimmie did the dissection like an experienced butcher while Wayne lectured on the different cuts, telling what it is called, its value as compared with other cuts, explained the marbling, etc. The boys won a great deal of applause during the demonstration and after they were thru they invited the audience to ask questions which met with a hearty response. The first question asked was: "Where do you get your beef?" Answer: "On the farm." 2nd: "Have you any calves working in a butcher shop?" Answer: No. 3rd: "Where did you learn how to cut meat?" Answer: By watching the butcher. 4th: "How did you happen to go to the butcher shop to watch the butcher?" Answer: Mr. Merrill took the class there to watch the butcher. 5th: "Then that is part of the club work?" Answer: Yes. 6th: "What is the best part of the beef?" Answer: The loin steak. 7th: "Which calf of those two has the most high priced cuts?" Answer: The black one.

There were numerous other questions asked and answered after which the boys had their pictures taken with their table of meat. Such demonstrations are interesting to watch but the big thing is the fact that it is a living demonstration to the boys and it is an established fact that those boys will never be satisfied to raise low grade cattle. They have learned the lesson and learned it well.—Aberdeen Angus Journal.

Hot bread is often thought to cause indigestion, but the United States Department of Agriculture says that when it does so it is because it lacks some of the characteristics of good bread, not because it is hot. Large or thick biscuits, whether raised with yeast, baking powder or soda, are likely, if cooked only a short time, to be soggy on the inside, and this, when it happens, is the objection to them, rather than the fact that they are served hot.

The Kansas Union Farmer

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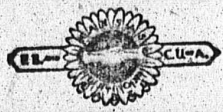
Notice to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1922

NATIONAL UNION RESOLUTION.

1. Better credit facilities to secure funds for farming operations and for advances to grower members of co-operative associations in furtherance of the orderly marketing of farm products are an immediate and most urgent need of American agriculture. We believe that the Norbeck-King bill now pending in Congress is a safe and workable measure that violates none of the established principles and usages of our financial system and that it offers the minimum relief that we may justly demand and we ask its prompt enactment without material amendment. We are convinced that the business operations of American farmers demand the organization and maintenance of a financial agency for American agriculture entirely separate from the whole system of commercial banking and with the same redemptive and issue features through which the Federal Reserve system renders such efficient service to all non-agricultural business activities but we are willing to accept the Norbeck-King bill as first step in the development of such a financial system for the use of the farmers.

2. The principles of representative government require that law making should follow, respond to and conform with the decisions of the people as registered in election results. Senators and congressmen whose commissions have been cancelled by their constituencies and parties whose policies have been repudiated at the polls should have no further participation in legislation. We strongly believe that no law making body should be allowed to function for a single day after an election or the choice of its successor has been held. We therefore urge the adoption of an amendment to the federal constitution providing for the termination of a congress on the day that its successor is chosen and for the inauguration of the president and the organization of each incoming new congress on the first Monday of January succeeding a general election.

3. Import duties on agricultural commodities can be made effective in the interest of farmers only in proportion as advantage is taken of the opportunities so created to establish a monopoly in full enjoyment of the privilege of supplying food and the raw materials for clothing to the consumers of this country. In order, therefore, that agriculture may be assured of its rightful proportion of benefits under the operation of the American tariff system we urge that all producers of farm products speedily perfect organizations to end competition among themselves, to promote and carry on agencies for orderly co-operative marketing of all their staple products and to regulate and control the volume of agricultural production to conform to the reasonable requirements of accessible markets.

4. Neither the funds nor the instrumentalities of the public should be used in the interest of private associations. We congratulate Secretary Henry C. Wallace on his announcement of the complete withdrawal of the activities of the American Farm Bureau Federation. In order that this decree of divorce may become effective we urge the inclusion of rigid restrictive provisions in the Agricultural Appropriation act to prohibit the payment of any money therein appropriated to any agent, employee or official of the Department of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Colleges, or the Agricultural Extension Service who devotes any part of his time to the service of the American Farm Bureau Federation or of any other purely private association of farmers, except as provided for by law.

5. We regard the free distribution of seeds as an insult to the good sense of the American farmer, as a costly public contribution to the campaign expenses of congressmen and senators otherwise unable to establish personal contact with voters and as a fruitful source of fraud in determining railway pay for the transportation of the mails. We ask congress to make no further appropriations for this purpose.

6. We are convinced that existing limitations on the lending authority of the Federal Land Bank System interferes with the service and the

usefulness of that agency for the relief of agriculture and imposes hardships on many thousands of farmers who must fund maturing and current obligations or lose their lands and homes. We ask congress to save this situation by increasing the limit of individual loans thru the Federal Land Banks to \$25,000.

7. The rapid development of the bureaucratic features of the federal and state governments, the constantly increasing centralization in government agencies of powers rightfully and often specifically reserved to and inherent in the people, the insidious bribery of the citizenry of the various states thru the agency of cunningly contrived federal laws that offer the people their own tax raised dollars with one hand and withdraw liberty, initiative and the fundamental rights of self determination and self government with the other threaten the very foundation of our free institutions. We therefore oppose the new too popular game of dollar matching between the states and the federal government to secure subsidies for educational work, for road construction or for any other activity or purpose that should be the sole concern of the state and the minor municipalities.

8. The transportation situation has become intolerable. The huge losses agriculture has suffered from extortionate freight rates, from car shortage resulting from inefficient private operation of railroads and endless disputes between unions of operators on the one hand and working men on the other have brought our business to the verge of bankruptcy. The attempt to enforce uniform freight rates throughout the country has resulted in inequalities of service to the public and of earnings for the railroads. Temporary relief may be secured thru the repeal or the substantial amendment of the Cummins Esch Act and the restoration of rate making and regulatory powers to the state railway commission. We are convinced, however, that our transportation problem, so essentially and inseparably related to the public interest, can never be solved under private operations. We therefore renew our support of the principle of public ownership with properly worked out provisions for ultimately converting our entire transportation system into one unified wide co-operative enterprise conducted for service only.

We hold that public subsidies for public business enterprises are inconsistent with legitimate governmental functions and therefore we are opposed to ship subsidies or to any other federal appropriations designed to support failing private enterprises at the expense of the tax payers.

Cheaper nitrates are essential to agricultural prosperity in time of peace and to public security and national safety in time of war. Believing that such a desirable result can be so obtained we urge congress to accept the Ford proposal for the completion of the Muscle Shoals Project.

A life tenure for judges is a menace to liberty. The history of the federal courts of this republic justifies the general distrust of a judiciary not responsible to the people. We approve and endorse the proposed constitutional amendment, now pending in the United States Senate, providing for the election of all federal judges by the people.

No punishment is too severe for the man who enriches himself thru fraudulent business operations with his country in time of war. While the flower of American manhood was offering life itself in the service of liberty a group of traitorous slackers and thieves plundered the republic of countless millions. We insist on the vigorous and earnest prosecution of all persons and firms that robbed our government during the great war. Congressmen Royal C. Johnson of South Dakota and Roy Woodruff of Michigan have the gratitude and thanks of all good citizens by their work in uncovering and exposing the thefts of war grafters. We endorse their course and also that of the American Legion and our secretary is hereby instructed to send copies of this resolution to Mr. Johnson, Mr. Woodruff and the American Legion Magazine.

An inheritance tax is the only one that cannot be shifted in part or entirely from the payer to the consumers. The enormous war debt of the republic amounting to more than \$24,000,000,000 must be paid. The just obligations of the country to the service men who served and saved our free institutions in the great war must be acknowledged and discharged. A graduate inheritance and gift tax law that would take all of an estate in excess of one million dollars would pay a generous bonus to our soldiers and retire the whole national debt within twenty years. We ask that congress immediately enact such legislation.

Agriculture more than any other industry has suffered from the effects of the policy of credit deflation and currency contraction during the past two years. No material improvement of the farmers business condition is possible except thru increasing the prices of agricultural products. We ask that congress, in the exercise of its constitutional authority, authorize an issue of full legal tender treasury notes in sufficient volume to pay an immediate and generous bonus to the American soldiers who served in the great war.

The homes of many thousands of Union farmers in Washington are jeopardized by a shortage of water for irrigation purposes. To assist our brethren of the west and to reclaim new and fertile areas for agricultural production we ask the national House of Representatives to concur in the appropriation providing for a survey of the "Columbia Basin Irrigation Project" which has already been approved by the senate.

Our organization is the hope of American agriculture. Its message and its agencies for self help should be carried to all farmers. We recommend that our National Executive Committee use every possible effort to extend the Union thru organizations in other states during the coming year.

As there is some effort being made to merge

KANSAS UNION FARMER

large packing interests at this time, Be it resolved:

That we oppose the merging of any great packing interests which would have a tendency to eliminate competition on the terminal markets for live stock.

J. M. Collins, Chairman,
President Colorado Farmers Union.
W. C. Lansdon, Secretary,
Vice President Kansas Farmers Union.

PREPARE FOR STATE CONVENTION

The first and most important thing to do in preparing for the State Convention of the Farmers Union is for each unit of our organization entitled to representation to elect a delegate and provide the money necessary to pay the expenses of that representative. All of the active local and county Unions should have plenty of money on hand for this purpose. It can not be spent in any better way.

Locals that are without funds, and that have not sufficient income from dues to pay a delegate's expenses should plan to raise the money in some other way. This can be done by giving a pie social or some other form of entertainment that will bring in enough money and at the same time give every one a chance to have some real fun.

Each Farmers Union business enterprise that is incorporated under the laws of Kansas is entitled to a delegate. Not enough such representatives have attended our conventions in the past. There should be a full representation from all our co-operatives. These delegates should be selected either by the share holders or the directors and their expenses should be paid out of the funds of their associations. In general it will be found advisable to have delegates to the annual meeting of the Jobbing Association also accredited as representatives to the State Convention.

Voting in the State Convention is an individual matter and cannot be done by proxy. One man may represent and vote for many associations or shareholders in the annual meeting of the Jobbing Association but no one can vote more than once or represent more than one organization in the State Convention.

Each local and county Union, and each incorporated business association is entitled to a delegate to the State Convention. If interest throughout Kansas is as great as the importance of the coming meeting justifies there should be at least two thousand delegates in Topeka. Elect the delegates and arrange for their expenses. It can be done and it will pay to do it.

PAY YOUR DUES THIS MONTH

There are still a good many members of various locals who have not yet paid their 1922 dues. They are members of the Union. They so regard themselves and they are so considered by the officers. They have enjoyed all the benefits of the organization including subscription for this paper for twelve months without contributing anything to the good of the cause. They should pay up at once and to prove that they are in earnest they should pay their 1923 dues at the same time.

The activities of the Farmers Union rest on a very slight financial basis. No other effective organization in this whole world collects as little money from each of its members. There are only one or two state organizations of the Union where the fees and dues are as small as in Kansas. Our work is carried on not because a few men pay more than it is worth to them but because many men pay less than it is worth. That is right. No organization can base its usefulness on the amount of annual dues collected from each of its members. Many members paying small sums are worth far more and can accomplish far more than a few members paying large sums.

If all delinquent and tardy paying members will settle with their secretaries right away the Kansas Union will go into the January convention in good shape, in as good condition as in any year in its history.

SECRETARIES SHOULD GET BUSY

Every local secretary will have plenty to do during the next few weeks. Here are some of the things that should be looked after at once:

1. Every member who has not yet paid this year's dues should be called on and given one more opportunity to square himself with the organization and then if he fails to do the right thing he should be given another chance.

2. Just as soon as possible complete reports with the proper remittances should be made to the State and County Unions. The State Union needs all its money to pay current expenses. The county Unions have plenty of use for their funds, including among other things the payment of delegates expenses to the State Convention.

3. Check up the lists and see that every paid up member is on the mailing list of the Kansas Union Farmer.

This is a lot of work but the success of our organizations depends on how promptly and how well it is done during the next few weeks.

INDEPENDENT VOTING INCREASES

The results of the elections of 1920 and 1922 indicate that there is a great and rapidly growing body of independent voters in this country who are doing their own political thinking. The great republican majorities of two years ago and the even more amazing democratic strength of this year's elections in no way show the relative strength of the two political parties that are still basing their right to live largely on the achievements and traditions of a past that has been in its grave for a long time.

Political platforms had little to do with last week's results. Great masses of the voters have lost confidence in both parties. Regardless of party names the independents are supporting men whom they believe to be desirous of advancing the public good.

Clemenceau

As Was Anticipated
In having a rather strenuous time in this country. Both his motives his facts are being questioned. The truth is that the French Tiger is here to make a case in justification of the militarism of his country. He tells us that Germany is not only unrepentant and revengeful but is even now preparing for a war of retaliation.

Several United States Senators including Borah and Hitchcock, one a supporter and the other an irreconcilable opponent of the League of Nations have taken issue with our French visitor. It is by no means certain that international good will between the two greatest of modern republics can be established by the acrid disputes that result from the activities of Clemenceau.

Ireland

Is Still Torn by

Civil war and all the attendant ferocities of domestic conflict. Five executions of republican adherents by the Free State government have occurred during the past two weeks. The death of Erskine Childers, the distinguished Englishman who renounced his own country and allegiance to support the cause of De Valera and the Irish republic, has startled the world.

Pictures taken in Ireland indicate that the great majority of the soldiers in the two contending armies are mere boys. It is a sad commentary on human nature that nearly all wars are fomented and declared by men whose age exempts them from the dangers of the battle field and that the fighting ranks of all armies are made up of young men with the young men and the poor men on the other side whom they kill in battle.

Carter Glass, Senator From Virginia

Made no great hit with the eighth annual convention of the National Farmers Union recently in session in his home town of Lynchburg. He called attention to what he regarded as the invaluable service rendered agriculture by the Federal Reserve Banking system, which he is virtually not yet ready to repudiate.

The farmers present, not yet ready to repudiate the Federal Reserve policy of deflation and contraction inaugurated by the Federal Reserve Board in 1921, were somewhat inclined to criticize the statements of the distinguished Virginia senator. The Federal Reserve System may be all right for the purposes for which it was designed but it was never intended to finance agricultural operations.

Ship Subsidy

Will Be Approved

By the federal house of representatives before this is read by the members of the Kansas Farmers Union. Although the voters expressed themselves with considerable emphasis and feeling in opposition to this pet administration measure Mr. Harding and congress are going right ahead with the bill that will take the money of the farmers to pay the losses of the ship owners.

There is every reason to believe that the subsidy bill will have enough support to get through both houses of congress and that it will be a law long before the new congress has a chance to assemble. Farmers who oppose this measure would do well to write some strong letters to their congressmen and senators.

Lausanne

Is the World's Capital

For the present. Delegates from the allied nations that were partners in the World War are attending the sessions of a conference called primarily to determine the terms of peace between Greece and Turkey, England and France are having most to say but the rejuvenated government of Italy demands considerable consideration.

The United States is represented by Richard Washburn Childs, an American novelist and story writer who has published more worthless fiction than any other American man of letters. Our country will not exercise much influence on the results of the conference.

Ludendorff, Defeated German Leader

Is still telling the world why he did not win the war for his imperial commander, the half witted German butcher known to the world forevermore as Wilhelm the Damned. Nothing that the Germans can say at this time will throw much new light on the history of the war but Ludendorff has his dose a little straighter than many others who have been trying to tell what happened and why.

It is the opinion of the American chief of staff that the American shooting young men of this republic determined the outcome. Ludendorff may not be the smartest man in the world but he knows what licked him.

England

Also Objects to

Clemenceau's statements made in his lectures to American audiences. The Frenchman has more than intimated that the scuttling of the surrendered German war fleet at Scapa Flow in British waters was connived at by the English naval authorities. The British government denies that it had any part in the proceeding and states that the sinking of the German battleships was done by their own crews and was possible because the English could not furnish enough men to take over the vessels as soon as they were surrendered. No one needs to apologize for negligence that resulted in the destruc-

COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

tion of battle ships. If all the other dreadnaughts in the world could be destroyed as quickly and as effectively as was the German fleet there would be much brighter prospects for peace.

Strawberries

Produced in Florida

Are now selling at \$4.25 a quart. Any nation that can furnish a market for strawberries at that sort of a price must be quite a country. Such sales indicate prosperity both for the buyers and the producers of berries.

Trouble is that this kind of prosperity is restricted to a few dozen producers and a few score consumers who have plenty of money but very little sense.

Virginia

Stagnant All Business

On Sunday except traveling on the railway trains, eating at the hotels and sale of newspapers. And why not? Is there any good reason for all the activities that distract the Sabbath day in almost every American city? There may be some light excuse for Sunday amusements and diversions for those who are deprived of all opportunity for recreation or rest during the week but certainly it is wise and right to stop all painful occupations for at least one day of the week.

Working and money making are all right but neither is worth while simply as an end to itself. It is the purpose and not the act that counts. No one should live without a part in honest work but no one should live for work alone. The chief purpose of life is not to labor nor to grow rich but to live.

Packers

Are Planning a Merger

That will never come off. In the first place such a combination of capital and business is dangerous. In the second place the company without such a merger would be less refuses to go in. Wilson & Company has the smartest manager in the packing industry. The old companies dread his influence and hate his methods. They hope to bring themselves by arranging for Wilson to join them but there is every reason to believe that he will refuse to play their game.

Live stock producers are interested in the proposed merger because they believe that it will result in a more competitive buying on the terminal live stock markets. They have the right dope but would a very change existing conditions very much? Is there any considerable amount of competition among the packer buyers in existing conditions?

Football

Is the Greatest Sport

Of the college world. It is too good to be destroyed and too bad, as now practiced to be tolerated. Football must be cleaned up if it is to be permitted to schools that are supported by the public. It is now rotten to the heart with practices that are as unsportsmanlike as they are dangerous and degrading.

To deserve the support of right minded people college football must be played only by real college students. The great majority of all the stars of the game are in school to play football and for no other purpose. They may not receive regular salaries but they are taken care of by loans, by light employment greatly over paid, and in plenty of other ways well known to the loyal alumni of the institutions that always have winning teams.

The colleges themselves will never clean up inter-collegiate athletics. The pressure for victory is too strong and the rewards of championship are too big. It is time to turn this victory over to some impartial and courageous commission who will the stock and quality of the meats.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the policy holders of the FARMERS UNION MUTUAL HAIL INSURANCE COMPANY OF KANSAS, will be held in Salina, Kansas, January 4, 1923, in the Chamber of Commerce rooms in the city building. Five directors are to be elected and other business of great importance will need the consideration of the policy holders. Every policy holder who can arrange to be present should attend the meeting if possible. Each policy holder is entitled to as many votes for directors to be elected and all votes must be in person. Agents and policy holders are urged to attend this meeting to hear and study the annual report covering the business of the company for the past year, and in other ways inform themselves on the business affairs of their own organization.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the policy holders of the FARMERS UNION MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF KANSAS, will be held at Salina, Kansas, Thursday, January 4, 1923, in the Chamber of Commerce rooms in the city building at 10 o'clock a. m. Five directors are to be elected, and there will be other business of importance for consideration by the policy holders, and every agent and every policy holder is required to attend the meeting if possible. It is very desirable that a splendid representative attendance of agents and policy holders from all portions of the state meet together so that they may all become personally acquainted with the details of the organization and get first hand information as to what their own institution is accomplishing. Detailed reports of the business of the company for the past year will be given.

Every policy holder is entitled to as many votes as there are directors to be elected and an equal additional number for every \$500.00 that he has insured in the company (after the first \$500.00), and he may cast the same by proxy or in person, distributing them among the same or a lesser number of candidates. He may be elected, or concentrate them on one candidate, as he may see fit, and a plurality shall elect; provided that no member may hold and use the proxy of more than twenty-five policy holders.

Any policy holder who cannot attend in person may arrange for his proxies to be voted by some other member. However, the proxies must be filed with the secretary of the Insurance Company at Salina, Kansas, at least ten days before the date of the annual meeting. Accordingly, all proxies must be filed with the secretary of the insurance company at Salina, Kansas, on or before December 24, 1922. In addition, every proxy must have a ten cent revenue stamp attached. Unless the two above provisions are complied with the proxy is not valid.

Keep in mind the date of the annual meeting and arrange to be present if possible.

PROXY.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I hold policy No. _____ in the FARMERS UNION MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF KANSAS, and I do appoint _____ as my representative and authorize him to vote for me in the annual meeting of the stockholders of the above named Insurance Company, at Salina, Kansas, January 4, 1923, Signed _____

NOTICE: Attach a 10c revenue stamp. This proxy must be filed with the secretary of the insurance company at Salina, Kansas, on or before December 24, 1922.

Center College, Kentucky

Of Danville, Kentucky that has a big foot ball team. It might happen once in a great while that a championship team could be selected from a student body that never numbers more than two or three hundred men. A winning team representing such a school year after year fools nobody who is familiar with college athletics. It cannot be on the square.

The income from the foot ball games played by the Center team is probably twice as much as all the other receipts of that college combined. More than \$100,000 was paid to see the game with the Harvard Eleven. It is a reflection on the good sense of the public to pretend that such a team represents the student body of a small cross roads college.

Voting

Is Not Much Work

But many people dread to go to the polls. There are almost a million qualified voters in Kansas. A little under half a million voted in the November election, that is just about one-half the people who live in this state refuse to take any part in running its affairs.

In nearly every election, regardless of which party is successful, the majorities are more representative of the voters who shirk their job and stay away from the polls than they are of the people who actually do their duty. Liberty will never be safe until free men and women are willing to take the necessary trouble to preserve their rights.

Tobacco

Is Made for Burning

But a lot of English smokers declare that they have never smoked another cigar or cigarette until the price is reduced. Tobacco growers are doing well this year. Sales on the open market of Virginia up to date this season average six cents a pound higher than for the corresponding period of last year when there was a much smaller crop. Co-operative marketing is responsible for the better returns that growers are getting. It would seem that the English co-operators should be willing to help American producers get living prices for tobacco but not so. The British are planning boycotts to bring the price of smokes down to a reasonable level just at the time when the farmers are forming combinations to enable them to earn reasonable wages for working in the tobacco fields.

PREFER AMERICAN CORN: FEELS TO HONDIRAN RAZOR BACKS

With herds of hogs running around over the corn fields with every check in the middle having its two or three razor backs, the natives of Honduras are willing to pay from 75 to 95 cents for a pound of American bacon or ham. Favorable climatic conditions for the raising of hogs, cheap lands excellent natural feeds and a stimulus to induce the Honduran butcher, cure and market his own product, but such is not the case, and little effort has been expended to build up a domestic meat industry. Practically all of the pork imported into that country comes from the United States, says Consul Sloan in a report to the Department of Commerce. No concerted attempt has been made to improve the common razor-back variety, but in the few instances where experimental cross breeding with imported stock was tried a great improvement was shown in the size of the stock and quality of the meats.

