

# THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation

NUMBER 50

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SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1924.

## A Trip Through Europe and a Study of Co-Operative Movement

President E. L. Harrison, of Kentucky, Describes His Trip to Rome as a Delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture.

International cooperation is gaining favor every year. This is evident by (1) rapid growth of cooperation since the European War. (2) The meetings of representatives from the leading cooperative countries of the world in annual Assemblies, Exhibitions, Congresses and Conferences. (3) The direct study of cooperative societies and the individual members in their countries, which go far toward building up an International Cooperative Association, which is now in the limelight and will in all probability materialize within the next two years.

The leading governments of the world are realizing that first hand information obtained through representatives sent for specific purposes into other countries is the greatest stimulus to thorough education, and the development of a successful nation.

An example of this work is the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, Italy, which is composed of delegates from 72 countries of the world with a General Assembly held bi-annually to outline the policies of the institute and a permanent committee of state and a permanent committee of state and a permanent committee of state.

In a small town in the suburbs of Naples we passed an Italian macaroni factory and later in the morning we drove through Herculaneum and arrived at Pompeii which was covered 1900 years ago with ashes and dust from an eruption of Vesuvius. For 170 years excavations have been made and are still being made. It was marvelous to walk the silent ways or streets, peering into deserted houses, glimpsing bright frescoes, marbles of curious perfection and study the ruins of living in the ancient days.

Herculaneum can not be excavated because it is covered with lava. At noon we had lunch at the Vittoria Hotel in Sorrento, a most beautiful seaport town, and then we began a cross country drive to Amalfi and Salerno where the wonderful Italian lemon groves were studied in the terraced minuscule farms of the high hills and mountains.

At the second day a large farm of 1650 acres was visited near Salerno (a description of the farm and the lemon groves will be given in a later issue). Returning to Naples late in the afternoon we took the train for Venice, the Queen of the Adriatic. Venice or Venezia is a most interesting city with its water streets as the main thoroughfares and shorter streets paved with stone blocks for walking. Beads, lace, fancy glassware, pretty scarfs and shawls, and numerous souvenirs of the native people are found in all the stores.

Venice is on European city where a peaceful sleep may be without the usual disturbance by street cars, automobiles or truck drivers. A gondola ride is worth the time by any of our Farmers Union members who may see Europe in the future.

The country from Florence, Italy, by way of Venice to Vienna, Austria, is more beautiful than many sections of southern Italy. The farms are larger and better managed. Austria was more beautiful, we are told, before the war than now. Its currency is so low that it takes 69,600 kronen to equal one dollar of American money.

(To Be Continued)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article by Mr. E. L. Harrison President of the Kentucky Farmers Union, is a story to his study of agricultural conditions while visiting the different European Countries. His business across the water was to attend the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. There will be a continuation of these articles from time to time clipped from the Kentucky Union Farmer.

FINDINGS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SOUTH ST. JOSEPH FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION CASE

Proceedings.

On February 25, 1924, the St. Joseph Live Stock Exchange of South St. Joseph, Missouri, filed a complaint under the Packers and Stockyards Act 1921, with the Secretary of Agriculture, against the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission in which it was alleged that the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission was engaged in the commission business at South St. Joseph, Missouri, and that it was not a cooperative association of producers within the meaning of said Act and that it had distributed excess earnings on or about January 1, 1924, to shippers who were not entitled to participate in such distribution. A copy of said complaint was duly served on the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission and it filed an answer thereto denying each and every allegation set forth therein.

On May 23, 1924, the case came on to be heard in the assembly room of the Livestock Exchange Building at South St. Joseph, Missouri, before L. S. Hulbert, an Examiner under said Act, each of the parties thereto appearing by counsel, and continued until May 28th, 1924, at which time each of the parties thereto rested.

Findings As To Facts.

1. The St. Joseph Stock Yards at South St. Joseph, Missouri, is a stock yard within the meaning of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, and was duly posted accordingly by the Secretary of Agriculture on November 1, 1921.

2. The Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska was duly registered as a market agency operating at the St. Joseph Stock Yards, South St. Joseph, Missouri, on the first day of December 1921, under the name of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission.

3. The Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska is a corporation substantially composed of and controlled by producers.

4. The Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska has been operating a cooperative market agency engaged in buying and selling livestock on a commission basis at the St. Joseph Stock Yards, South St. Joseph, Missouri, under the name of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission.

5. The Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska, operating under the name of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission, at said stockyards, on or about January 1, 1924, distributed excess earnings to certain shippers of livestock who were not members of that organization and hence were not entitled to receive them.

Recommendations.

1. That the Secretary of Agriculture issue an order directed to the Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska, operating at the St. Joseph Stock Yards, South St. Joseph, Missouri, under the name of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission, directing it to cease and desist from refunding or remitting excess earnings to those shippers thereto, who are not under its charter and by-laws, members thereof and producers of livestock.

L. S. HULBERT, Examiner.

THE BIGGEST BUSINESS

More than 8,300 cooperative organizations report to the Government. Nine-tenths of them deal in farm products, and do a business of about 1,500 million dollars a year. Co-op marketing has reached its greatest development in California. Problems of production are mainly solved. Problems of distribution to consumers are steadily getting further from solution. The greatest opportunities are in distribution—short-cuts between producer and consumer, eliminating superfluous middlemen.

## Notice To The Voters Of The State Of Kansas

I take this opportunity to request the farmers of this state to see to it that every farmer and his wife in the state go to the polls August 5 and vote for the candidate, irrespective of party. After carefully scrutinizing the record and finding out what they stand for and their attitude towards agriculture, then vote for the man that they believe will work for the best interests of agriculture.

Working for the best interests of agriculture will not only be help to agriculture but will in turn help the whole business world. As we all know, agriculture has been made the goat of and put in a position of bankruptcy. Although the newspapers and all of the periodicals circulated tell you what a great bumper crop we have this year and it is going to pay off the farmers debts, but you get your pencils and do a little figuring and you will find your debts will not be paid while you are here on earth and the burden will be passed on to your posterity.

If there ever was a time in the history of this country, now is the time that agriculture must take a stand for men selected in respective offices who will give them a square deal. It is necessary at this time for every farmer and his family who are voters to go to the poles and vote.

Hoping you will take this seriously and not neglect your duty as American citizens I am,

Very respectfully,

JOHN TROMBLE,  
President Kansas  
Farmers Union

A CALL TO THE COLORS.

July 15th, 1924

Farmers Union Members,

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Your bank and my bank—The Farmers Union State Bank—opened for business promptly on the first day of July.

This date will be a memorable one in the history of our Union, a date that will, no doubt, be set aside and celebrated by farmers of generations to follow, for it means a new Declaration of Independence on the part of the members of the Kansas Farmers Union. A Declaration of Independence of the money trust.

We all know that before our present financial depression, the moneyed interests gave every business man an opportunity to protect himself, except the farmer. The farmer was squeezed—his property was depreciated in value more than fifty per cent, and even now the farmer's dollar is worth less than sixty cents. The central money kings did this. In the language of one prominent banker, "The only way to handle the farmers is to treat 'em rough."

And they sure did. These fellows are organized, their wealth is pooled, and as long as we permit it, they are going to do the same thing over and over. Suppose that at the beginning, and during this financial depression, the farmers of Kansas had had a strong financial institution behind them such as we can make, "The Farmers Union State Bank?" Suppose they would have had a financial "dad" to go to? One who would have taken a fatherly interest in their financial affairs—one who would give sound advice and unselfish service—one who the farmers of Kansas would have suffered as they have? Think it over.

Your Bank and my Bank. What are we, as members of the Farmers Union, going to do? We told the State Executive Board to start it. Now what are we going to do? Shall we continue to travel the same old rocky trail and permit the money centers to soak us in the same old way, or shall we take this new road that leads in the same direction as the Farmers Union Livestock Commission, the Jobbing Association, the Farmers Union Insurance Company, and other successful Farmers Union enterprises—the road that leads to a better, happier, more prosperous condition for the farmer.

Shall we permit a few to carry the load, or shall we all get behind it and give it a great big boost. Say, it won't be any load at all after it once gets under way good, and before very long you instead of you pushing it, for it can't help but benefit every farmer, whether he does business with it or not.

What do you say? How much can you deposit? Can you spare \$10.00, just to let the boys know you are with them—or \$50, or \$100, or more? Come on, folks. Up in the collar now, and let's make our bank the strongest financial institution in Kansas.

Sincerely yours,

Cliff Henderson,  
Kincaid, Kansas.

Member State Executive Board 3rd Dist.

P.S.—Make all remittances to The Farmers Union State Bank, Elks Building Kansas City, Kansas. If you want a share of stock, say so. You can get it. YOUR BANK AND MY BANK.

BOOST KANSAS WHEAT

Designs to be Printed on Every Kansas Flour Sack

Hutchinson—Every sack of flour milled in Kansas will proclaim to the world: "Kansas Grows the Best Wheat in the World."

Arrangements have been made with the millers of the state, Woody Hockaday, who is pushing the wheat slogan campaign, said, to have the insignia printed on all the flour sacks, so that every sack of Kansas flour going throughout the world will tell of the fine wheat grown here.

It is also the plan, Mr. Hockaday said, to have the automobile tags of Kansas next year bear this same slogan. And millions of sheets of writing paper, used in the hotels of the state will bear the neat inscription on every sheet of the stationery.

The committee is also planning to have big cards placed in hotels, restaurants and lunchrooms with the inscription: "We Serve Bread from This Famous Kansas Wheat. Kansas Grows the Best Wheat in the World."

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The increase in dairy production is reflected in market receipts and prices. The heavier production and receipts and the downward price tendency indicate the advisability of caution in expanding dairy production excepting where farm products can be marketed only in the form of livestock products. Production of milk should be looked upon very cautiously.

MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. LOUIS MILLERS UNUSUALLY LEAVY FOR KANSAS WHEAT

Nearly all of the sales of Kansas wheat pooled so far this season have been to Minneapolis, Chicago and St. Louis Mills. Mills of the spring wheat territory are buying the new crop hard winter wheat out of both Oklahoma and Texas on considerably larger scale than at this time in many years, according to reports from milling sources.

The bids from buyers for northwestern mills are averaging 5 cents to 7 cents a bushel above the basis at which export operators at the Gulf are seeking to buy, thus diverting a movement of any volume from the Gulf indicative of the buying by northwestern mills of the wheat from the southwest is the statement by the Oklahoma and Texas pooling associations that their sales recently to spring wheat mills have averaged 150,000 bushels daily. Northwestern mills are bidding sharply above the delivery basis for high protein new wheat.

Mills of the east and central states also are buying considerable new wheat from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Demand for new grain from the outside milling sections is remarkably heavy in view of the comparatively small volume of flour sales on mill books for scattered deferred shipment. The heavy buying indicates the important reliance being placed upon the southwest as a source of new wheat.—Wheat Growers Journal.

A WORTHWHILE RESOLUTION PASSED BY AN OKLAHOMA LOCAL

Whereas: The teaching of agriculture in our schools has brought about a wonderful change in farming of all kinds and it will still make a greater change, and,

Whereas: Modern inventions of our present day are continually making changes of all kinds. New ones are added and old ones are being improved so it is with agriculture, now, and,

Whereas: We farmers through education and modern methods have learned to grow practically all the products needed in this country and some to be exported, but,

Whereas: We have not been getting a fair price for the products that we have to sell, as compared with the price the consumer has to pay, and,

Whereas: On the other hand we have to pay entirely too much for what we buy. The chief cause for this being speculation and in many cases these things go through too many hands before they reach the consumer. Therefore,

Be It Resolved: by Red Land Local number 222, of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, meeting in regular session this 11th day of April 1924, that we respectfully ask that both cooperative buying and selling be taught in all the rural schools of this country. Fol-

lowing to some extent the principles used in the schools of Denmark. It was not many years ago when the teaching of agriculture was first started in this country now since it has proven so successful, we believe the time is here where cooperation should be taught in the schools thus keeping up with the changes of time. We therefore ask that every local of this union and every other farm organization and all others that are doing real thinking to help us get on operation into our own hands. Unanimously adopted and approved.

Signed,

Marvin Finney, President.

W. R. Hewitt, Secretary.

FARM FIRES COST \$61,000 DAILY

Farm fires cost \$39,460, 524 for the four years to the National Board of Fire Underwriters. This was the rate of \$61,274 a day. The farm fire losses in the state of Indiana for 1923 were put at \$3,593,614 by the state fire marshal of the Hoosier state. The lack of a water system is largely responsible for such huge losses, according to the research department of the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers, which has launched a cooperative movement with departments and farm engineering divisions to stop the terrific fire and health losses from lack of proper water supply systems for the average farm homes. Less than one farm in ten has running water in the home, according to the U. S. Census figures, and even the water used for cooking, laundry and scrubbing must be carried in this primitive way by the farm women as in the days of their grandmothers.

FARMERS MUST ORGANIZE.

Forty years of wandering in the wilderness, during which time he has sought various methods of relief should be sufficient to convince the American farmer that his only avenue for receiving an adequate price for his product is through intelligent production and co-operative marketing. Those who would deny the farmer this right are standing in the way of progress and helping to make ineffective for him the very instruments of organization and cooperation, that they have used to place their own business affairs on a sound basis.—Southwest Wheat Grower.

WOULD ABOLISH FARM FORECLOSURE.

SEATTLE.—Foreclosing of farms and homes by moneylenders should be forbidden by law, declares Joel Shomaker, Farmer-Labor candidate for governor of the state of Washington. "The man who forces the farmers from his home because he cannot pay his debts should lose his money and be denied the rights and privileges of citizenship," Shomaker says.

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## Prosperity of Farmer is Essential to Good Business Conditions

Closer Coordination Between Farmers and Business Men Will Increase Spending Power of Community, Says Head of Rubber Company

"We business men have got enough of our own. Why should I bother my head about cooperative marketing?"

The man who asked this question is a merchant—a fairly prosperous merchant in a fairly prosperous Colorado town.

"I know the farmers have got their troubles," he went on, "but it's none of my business. The farmers will have to find their way out just the way I have to. As long as they pay their bills, I'll do business with them, and as long as I can sell my stuff as cheap as Jones across the street, I'll get my share of the business. I don't care whether they try cooperative marketing or not."

He is a fairly prosperous merchant, the man who made these remarks. He is a representative business man in the community he serves. He belongs to all the local clubs; he is considered a man of broad and public-spirited vision.

Absorbed in Own Cares.

There is nothing unusual about his attitude toward the farmers either. It is the attitude of thousands of other business men in every part of the state. Why should they meddle in other peoples troubles? Why should they find any interest in what the farmers are doing or trying to do? Their chief job is to keep as much business as possible from going to their competitors.

But how about their business? Are they passing up any chances of increasing their profits by not taking more of an interest in the farmers' troubles?

Charles G. Gates, president of the Gates Rubber Company, thinks that they are. Not only that, but Mr. Gates can take out his pencil and prove that Mr. Representative Merchant is losing dollars and cents. In other words, Mr. Representative Merchant can build up his business faster by cooperating with his farmer neighbor than by competing against the other merchants.

Lacks Harmony With Competitor.

"Why is it that the merchant doesn't always show an interest in the farmers' problems?" asks Mr. Gates. "It is because he thinks he is competing only with the man across the street. He is busy trying to take business away from Jones. Instead of that he ought to make himself a part of the general program to increase all their business—Jones, the farmers, and his own."

"The prosperity of his town—whether it's measured in increased bank deposits or increased purchases of shoes—is gauged by the spending power of the community. That means that both the banker and the shoemaker are interested in the net income of the farms around their town."

"Suppose that the merchant we are talking about has taken away all of Jones's business. Suppose he has a monopoly on his particular town. He is as far as increasing his business by competition goes. From then on his business will increase only as far as the purchasing power of his community increases."

Spending Power Increase Vital

Increasing the spending power of your community is the one way that can be absolutely counted on to increase business, in the opinion of Mr. Gates.

You can't count on getting Jones's business; you can't count on the tourists. But if you increase your community's spending power, you increase the prosperity of your community, and you can't do that without improving your own business.

Cooperation Chief Need

It is a simple proposition, but it is one that Mr. Representative Merchant often overlooks. And Mr. Gates believes he is making a mistake in overlooking it. "There is a great deal," he says, "to be accomplished by a closer coordination between farmer and business man."

"I don't care whether it's selection of better seed, or more extensive use of live stock, or cooperative marketing. The cooperative program of closing coordination between the business man and the farmer pays profit. The business man is warranted in taking a greater interest in the farmer than he has."

The day of cooperation is coming; the day of individualism is going. And the great success of the future are to be gained in direct proportion to the degree of cooperation.—Wheat Growers Journal.

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An Oasis At Last





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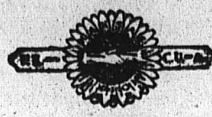
Notice to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

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

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, JULY 24, 1924.

### SAVING COOPERATIVE ELEVATORS.

Many Farmers Union and other cooperative elevators are in financial distress. They have lost money and are threatened with bankruptcy for two reasons. They have not been loyally supported by men in whose interest and for whose protection they were organized and they have done too much speculating and have rendered too little service as parts of a real marketing agency for farmers.

A cooperative elevator should not buy grain at all and above all things it should not buy from farmers and others who are not shareholders. It should act only as a handling and shipping facility, a service station for its members, whether they pool their wheat or sell it as individuals to the mills or through commission houses on the various Boards of Trade.

It is an easy matter for the grain trade to destroy a cooperative institution that engages in speculative business. It is wholly impossible for the grain trade to injure an elevator association that uses its facilities for the service of its members only.

### CASH OR CREDIT.

Too many cooperatives have all their capital loaned to their members and others in the shape of charge accounts on the customers ledger. There is no more uncertain asset on the books of any business house than the accounts receivable. Men who are entitled to credit should get it from the banks.

Every Kansas cooperative, almost without exception, that has stuck to the cash payment system is successful. Scores that have given credit have gone out of business. Before the beginning of another business year every cooperative in Kansas should go to the cash payment plan and stick to it even if some trade is lost. It is much better to lose a customer than it is to wreck a business enterprise created by farmers for their protection and profit.

### VOTE AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION.

The first Tuesday in August comes at busy season for the farmers. Probably that date was fixed with design by the politicians who framed our primary law. People who live in towns and cities can always find time to vote but it is often at least a half day's job for the farmer and one that compels the neglect of work that seems more important than helping to select candidates for office.

Every farmer should realize that nothing is as important as the selection of the right sort of public officers. It is useless to vote in November if bad candidates have been nominated in August. All farm work in Kansas should be suspended on primary day and all farmers and their wives should spend that day at the polls and in getting out a full vote.

No Farmers Union Local can render any more valuable service than getting all its members to vote in the primary. As long as the agricultural state of Kansas is dominated by men who live by exploiting farmers there will be no better administration, no more equitable tax laws, nor no measures for the restoration of the prosperity of the state.

Farmers can protect themselves against bad government, higher taxes, and inefficient administration only doing their duty at the polls.

### SAFETY THROUGH SAVINGS.

There are plenty of folks in Kansas who have made enough money to secure themselves against all the uncertainties of the future. It is comparatively easy to make money but very hard to save and invest. Too many people do not know how to treat a dollar as a hired hand.

The Farmers Union State Bank of Kansas City through its savings department can take care of money and pay interest on it. Also through its service department the bank can assist and advise in the investment of savings in such a way that they will earn constantly increasing dividends.

Every member of the Union should plan to start a savings account in the new bank and to keep it growing until the accumulations mean safety and freedom from fear.

### THE VANISHING WHEAT SURPLUS.

The last government report on wheat indicated a surplus of only 40,000,000 bushels from this year's harvest. Of course that is no surplus at all. Much more than that quantity of wheat will be wasted or lost through unavoidable depreciation and deterioration before all the processes of harvesting, threshing and marketing are completed.

American wheat farmers need not worry over surplus production. This country is now on a wheat importing basis. That means that domestic producers, if they have the courage and the common sense to protect themselves through organization can fix the price of their own crops about sixty cents a bushel above world prices.

Higher prices cannot be secured by marketing as individuals through the agencies of the grain traders but depend altogether on the efficiency of the organizations that farmers establish and operate in their own interest. It will be easy to get a good price for American wheat if the growers will get together and sell their own crops cooperatively and collectively directly to the mills.

### THE JOBBING ASSOCIATION.

More than two hundred and fifty Union cooperative elevators are members of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association. If each such elevator will give the Association all its wheat consigned to the Kansas City market that institution will have the most prosperous year in its history.

Local cooperative elevator managers believe that they have a right to expect the undivided support of their own shareholders. They have and if they fail to get it they cannot prosper. The Jobbing Association has the right to expect the support of every organization and every individual that wears the name of the Union. It does co-operation infinite harm for Union wheat to be sold over the tables of men on the Board of Trade who fight every attempt of farmers to protect themselves through self help organizations.

Good sense, sound business, and loyalty to the cooperative movement demands that every car load of wheat consigned to the Kansas City Market shall be sold by the Jobbing Association.

### THE IMPOSSIBLE IS IMPRACTICABLE.

There is nothing impossible in the Farmers Union program, therefore no part of it is impracticable. The members who complain that our organization does nothing do not realize that they are demanding results that no agricultural organization can get.

The Farmers Union goes ahead on the plain old fashioned idea that it is wise to do the next thing at hand if possible. That policy has stopped the exploitation of farmers by local grain dealers, local live stock buyers, old line insurance companies, speculative grain commission houses, and other forces that have always done well for themselves out of the products of the farms.

There are many defects in our financial system. The Union has pointed out these faults but very wisely does not waste its energies in battles that cannot be won in a day or a year. The dollar should be stabilized and the Union has done its part to secure that result which may be long delayed. In the mean time it is highly necessary that farmers receive more dollars for their crops even if that coin does have a fluctuating value.

If all the farmers of Kansas will work together in support of the possible improvements that may be made in business and government the things that are now impossible will become less difficult and in time may be taken up and solved. No real wise man ever refuses bread because he cannot get cake.

### ROADS AND TAXES.

The next session of the Kansas legislature is certain to enact some sort of a road law. This state must have better roads. All are agreed on that point. The questions that the legislature must determine are—what kind of roads and who shall pay for them and when; and who shall pay the bills.

If left to themselves to have their own way with the legislature the roads boosters would have concrete highways paid for with bonds and the interest and the principal of the bonds provided for by taxes on the tangible property, principally the farms of the state. This plan would double the cost of the roads since only half the revenues for highway purposes could be used for construction because the other would have to be used for interest payments. This would be unfair as it would put the cost of such improvements on property instead of requiring the users to pay for it.

Kansas can raise plenty of money for highway construction and maintenance without adding a dollar to the tax-burdens that already rest on land and other tangible property. There are now about 350,000 motor vehicles operated in this state. These cars and trucks should be required to pay into the road construction fund an average of about ten dollars each per year. This would raise \$3,500,000 exclusive of the maintenance funds. These motor vehicles use an average of about three gallons of gasoline and one quart of lubricating oil daily for each engine. This is a total annual consumption of at least 400,000,000 gallons of gasoline and 30,000,000 gallons of lubricating oil. A tax of two cents a gallon on gasoline and ten cents a gallon on oil would raise nearly \$10,000,000 a year for road building purposes or a total, including license fees of about \$14,000,000.

With such an income the state can build all the good highways necessary in about ten years. All the money used will be used for construction. The road users will pay for the roads. Finally no debts will be created for children now in the cradle to pay.

This sort of a program is fairly well agreed to by great numbers of our people. The only hitch is as to who shall build the roads and spend the money. One group believes that all construction should be directly under the supervision and control of the counties. Others are certain that the best results can be obtained only by giving the whole program over to the state highway department. The discussion this summer and fall and

next winter during the legislative session will be on the question of local or state control and direction.

### KINDS OF PUBLIC ROADS.

It is 706 miles from Salina, Kansas, to Balsam Lake, Wisconsin. The roads are good all the way. This writer has just made the trip in a car of the 1917 vintage and got through easily in three days. Naturally a lot of folks wonder what kind of roads there are that permit such driving.

From Salina to Omaha over the Meridian Highway to Fairmount and the Detroit, Lincoln and Denver Trail from Fairmount to Omaha there are dirt roads only with the exception of about twelve miles of concrete in Ottawa county, Kansas, and a few miles of brick near Lincoln and Omaha in Nebraska. The dirt roads in Nebraska are all of standard construction and are well maintained, a little better kept up in fact than in Kansas. They are so well graded and drained that rain seldom interferes with traffic more than a few hours.

From Omaha to Denison, Iowa the Lincoln Highway is a modern dirt road, well built and well kept. It will be surfaced in the near future, probably with gravel of which there is an abundant supply in Iowa. From Denison, Iowa to Balsam Lake, Wisconsin through Spirit Lake the road is gravelled all the way except perhaps twenty miles of concrete. The gravelled roads in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin have regular maintenance and are fine for driving except near the larger cities where heavy truck and car traffic makes it impossible to maintain a smooth driving surface. These gravelled roads are all of standard construction and all received government aid to the amount of fifty per cent of the cost which averaged for grading, bridges and surfacing about \$20,000 a mile.

The concrete roads in Minnesota show signs of deterioration already. The thawing of the ground in the spring buckles and checks the paving so that it takes a good while and quite a lot of expense to fill all the cracks with asphaltum to keep out the water and maintain a smooth driving surface. The maintenance cost of the concrete roads is probably considerable greater per mile than for gravelled roads.

### WHO IS JOKING THIS TIME?

There have been several announcements recently that four or five of the great terminal houses including Armour and Company and Rosenbaum Brothers are soon to be merged and taken over by the farmers for their own operations. It is reported that the American Farm Bureau Federation is interested in this project and will undertake to raise the necessary funds, about \$15,000,000. Nearly all the stories about this proposed merger say that it is another step towards completing the machinery for the cooperative marketing wheat and other grains.

If there is one thing that is more unnecessary to cooperative marketing of wheat than the ownership of terminal warehouses it is the operation of a large number of memberships on the various Boards of Trade. The purpose of cooperative wheat marketing is to establish agencies that will be able to sell the growers wheat directly to the mills and exporters without any intervening transfer of title. The plan announced from Chicago would provide speculative agencies for the purchase and resale of wheat to consumers or to other speculative concerns and would set up machinery both costly and dangerous that cooperation cannot use without violating its own basic principles and ideals.

The real truth appears to be that even in its present immature state cooperative marketing has so reduced the profits of a considerable number of great grain speculating concerns that they are planning to unload their investments, plants and Board of Trade memberships on the farmers who need the mas little as a wagon needs another wheel. If there is one certain thing about cooperative marketing of grain it is that it must be absolutely divorced from every form and type of speculation.

If the American Farm Bureau Federation is really considering this proposition it is about to make another mistake that will go far towards destroying the prestige and confidence that it now enjoys with the farmers of several states tributary to the Chicago market. Terminal elevator space for the use of cooperatives can be leased much more cheaply than it can be owned. The only use that cooperative associations can possibly have for Board of Trade memberships is to sell the grain of their own members in the sample markets as an outlet for that which cannot be directly delivered to mills and exporters.

If left to themselves the farmers of this country will engage in no movement to save the failing fortunes of the Rosenbaum Brothers and Armour and Company.

Perhaps few fortunes of the first magnitude have been based on savings from small incomes from day to day but millions of men have piled up a safe and adequate competency for old age by looking carefully after the loose change. Every person connected with the Farmers Union should plan to start a savings account with our new bank at the very earliest possible time. Savings are the best possible form of old age and unemployment insurance.

The man who evades military duty is regarded as a coward and a traitor because it is obligatory on every citizen to serve the republic in time of danger. The man who evades or neglects his duty at the polls is seldom punished for a sort of treason that is very dangerous to free institutions. It is strange that we demand the punishment of war time slackers and tolerate the negligence of voters who do not realize that freedom is more seriously threatened in peace than in war.

The country had only a few hundred slackers during the World War but it had thirty millions of them at the election of 1920.

## COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

### Democratic National Conventions

Have now been held for almost one hundred years. The first one was in 1830. Martin Van Buren was nominated for president and later the people elected him but refused him a re-election in 1840 when the first Whig, General William Henry Harrison was successful. Since then five nominees of democratic conventions have been elected, James K. Polk in 1844, Franklin Pierce in 1852, James Buchanan in 1856, Grover Cleveland in 1884 and 1892 and Woodrow Wilson in 1912 and 1916.

In addition to nominating Martin Van Buren the first democratic national convention adopted the two-thirds rule, that is that a majority of two-thirds of the delegates shall be required to make a nomination. For a long time there has been a demand that this rule be abolished and nominations made by a simple majority vote. To one who has studied the history of nominating conventions on a far larger number of candidates than had ever been presented to any previous nominating convention of any party.

After considering the claims of the governors of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Nebraska and Colorado; of senators from New York, Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Indiana; and of five former cabinet members from North Carolina, Ohio, Iowa, New York and California, the convention finally selected a candidate from private life who has never been known very widely as an office seeker or office holder.

All of the men considered by the convention are worthy of the honor conferred on them. Several of the candidates have the highest statesmanly qualities. Could harmony have been secured there was not a man who received a single vote in convention who would not have made a worthy candidate and a good president.

### Davis Nominated for President

On the one hundred and third ballot taken by the record breaking democratic convention it was a very able man, from his earliest manhood those who know him best have believed that he is destined to reach the presidency. He has been a professor of law, a successful practicing attorney, a member of the West Virginia legislature, a representative from West Virginia in the congress of the United States, a high administrative officer while Wilson was president and the American Ambassador to London.

Several men who have reached the presidency had previously served the republic as ministers to foreign countries. John Adams was the first United States Minister to Great Britain; Thomas Jefferson was our first minister to France; James Madison had diplomatic experience before he became secretary of state in the Jefferson administration, John Quincy Adams was minister to Russia and European countries, Monroe was a trained diplomatist; and James Buchanan had been Minister to one of the great European powers.

### Davis Has Held High Office

But he has always been regarded first of all as a lawyer. In the practice of his profession he has been retained by client of widely varying wealth and influence. He was attorney for Mother Jones when that militant lady got into trouble with the law on account of her activities in a West Virginia coal strike. He has represented many labor unions. Also Mr. Davis has served the rich and the powerful. Many of the biggest corporations of the country have been his clients and the law firm with which he is now associated is counsel for the U. P. Morgan banking interests. It was because of his

business relations with corporate interests that many people who know the ability of John W. Davis hesitated to support him for the presidency. Several months ago a friend told Davis that if he would resign his place as of the counsel for the house of Morgan he might stand a first class chance of being nominated for the presidency. He replied that to take such a step would be a business of which he was ashamed. He made it perfectly plain that he is proud of being a lawyer and said that no client, rich or poor, had ever influenced or sought to influence him in his political or personal relationships.

### Corporate Influence in Politics

Are greatly dreaded by the average plain citizen and with much reason. Since the Civil War and especially during the last thirty years the great corporations of the country have developed almost invincible strength both in business and in government. It is not likely that Davis would be influenced in the slightest degree in his discharge of the duties of the presidency on account of his long continued relationship with corporations. He is not that sort of a man. It is certain, however, that many millions of voters in the west and north will be inclined to withhold their support from the democratic ticket because it is headed with the name of a man who has been in the employ of Morgan. Those who know Davis best are sure that he is not a corporation lawyer but an eminent attorney who has been employed by corporations. It is certain that he was the only man considered by the convention, with the exception of Smith, who would have had the same chance to carry New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Maryland. It may be that Davis cannot do so, but if not no other democrat could do so.

### LaFollette Is an Avowed Candidate

For the presidency. Electors in his interest will be nominated in every state and he will receive votes in large numbers. The plain common folks of this country like him and will vote for him in numbers that will astound the average politician.

There seems to be, however, no chance for the election of the great Wisconsin senator. Coolidge is stronger with the masses of the voters than any other leader since Roosevelt. He appears to have a better chance than Davis to carry the pivotal and determining eastern states. If he can do that and hold the republican port of the middle west and the west he will be elected. If the republicans cannot carry the big eastern and New England states then Davis will be elected unless La Follette secures enough electoral votes to throw the contest into the House of Representatives.

If the election should go to congress Charles W. Bryan has at least as good a chance as either Coolidge or Davis to be the next president. As now constituted the national House of Representatives cannot elect a president, nor can the senate elect a vice president without a coalition of the progressive and farmer-labor members either with republicans or the democrats.

### Bryan And General Dawes

Will be the two vice presidential candidates between whom the senate must choose if the electors fail. No second place nomination has been made by the progressives and if made such a nomination cannot be considered by the senate which must decide between the two having received the highest number of votes.

It is scarcely likely that the progressives will support Dawes. It is in fact practically certain that given such an opportunity La Follette and his group in the senate will elect Bryan. This means that if the electors and the House of Representatives each in turn fails to elect a president that Governor Bryan is almost certainly on the road to the White House. If such a strange and unexpected thing should happen would President Charles W. Bryan be justified in making his brother William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State?

### Bryan Was Selected

As the candidate for the vice president.

### "YE CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS."

The one crop system, practiced by farmers throughout the country for past 140 years, in electing to the Congress and the legislatures, corporation lawyers, has proven more disastrous to the agricultural interests of the country, than pestilence, war, hail, cyclone, drought, insect pest, boll weevil, hell and high water.

The fact that a lawyer can represent two masters, it becomes necessary to prove the fallacy of the statement made by the Master "Ye cannot serve two masters." Not one state ment made by him has been proven to be untrue. In the 2000 years approximately, since his birth. Not one incorrect statement made by him. Why farmers will entrust their most important interests to men who are bought and paid for to represent the other crowd, is past finding out; unless it is a fact that the farmer is the most gullible animal on God's green earth. The corporation lawyer sells his fealty to the corporation that

hires him, and he usually bends every energy and uses his intellect to serve, not the people who elect him to office, but the crowd that pays his fee. Hence the burden of government falls heavier on the fellow least able to bear it—the farmer, who is penalized for improving his property by higher taxation; brought about by the tax adjuster increasing the valuation for tax assessment. In the same way as the freight rate is advanced; not by increasing the rate, but by raising the classification. This method of increasing the freight no doubt suggested by the corporation lawyer, hired to represent the railroad.

The lawyers cannot escape the responsibility for the evil that at the present time harrass the nation. Lawyers enact the laws; lawyers construe the laws, and lawyers enforce the laws. It has been said that wise men sometimes change, but fools are donkeys. It does seem that 140 years is quite long enough for the farmers to remain in the donkey class; if only for the sake of a change, they might try some other method than the election of the employees of the other crowd to make laws for the farmer.

The evils of government of which we have a just right to complain, have been brought about by looking at a law, from a legal, rather than a right point of view. Whatever is legal to

the democratic ticket by John W. Davis. Those who are wise as to political motives see two reasons why Davis preferred Bryan to Johnathan Davis. The Nebraska governor is well advertised. He not only does things, in which he has no advantage over governor Davis, but he sees to it that all the world knows what he does. He has the best known name in America and he is well known on his own account. Then, of course, Mr. Davis wants the support of the older Bryan who has himself been three times nominated for the presidency.

It is a peculiar combination. The west is inclined to distrust Davis. The east has no use for Bryan, either on account of his records and views or by reason of his relationship to the Commoner. It is very plain that the eastern voters must get better acquainted with Bryan and the western voters with Davis if the democratic party is to have any chance in November.

### Politics Never Made Stranger

Combinations than we have in this country at this time. Each of the two great parties has its conservative and its progressive wing. The conservatives were able to nominate republican candidates for both places on the republican ticket. Disappointed in securing either a candidate or the recognition of their principles in the platform the progressive republicans in large numbers, especially in the northwest, will support Senator La Follette for the presidency. The democratic national convention undertook to placate and please the progressives by naming one of their number as a candidate for the vice presidency. It remains to be seen whether this strategy will succeed. Will the progressive western democrats vote for a conservative for president because he selected a progressive for second place or will they join the republican liberals and vote for La Follette.

If the democratic and republican progressives and the independents all get together and support La Follette the conservatives of the country with their strength divided between Coolidge and Davis may wake up to a strange situation on the day after election.

### Labor Will Play a Great Part

In the American political drama during the next few months. The organized trades, especially the railway brotherhoods wanted McAdoo. They are now practically united in the support of La Follette. If labor can be persuaded to vote together it will cast four or five million ballots, enough to decide the contest between the two dominant parties if thrown solidly to either of them but not enough to elect La Follette.

It is certain, however, that regardless of who may be elected to the presidency Labor will decide many congressional and senatorial elections and that the next congress will have a largely increased number of Labor or Farmer-Labor members. The Labor victory won in the English elections last year was not likely to be repeated in America but must wait the union of agriculture with the forces of the workingman. This union is not so likely now as it has been at several times in the recent past. The Farmer-Labor movement, except in a very few states is made up almost entirely without farmers.

### Corn Will Bring High Prices

Next year. There are no reserves from last year's crop on hands. The government reports that this year's crop will fall below that of last year by at least a half a billion bushels. The price of corn has passed the dollar mark on the Chicago market. There is every reason to believe that it will remain as high or go higher during the next twelve months.

High priced corn should result in higher prices for hogs. It is certain that farmers cannot afford to feed dollar corn to hogs that must be sold around seven dollars a hundred on the central markets. If hogs advance in price corn will go much higher. Can any one solve this price puzzle? Wheat selling below the cost of production, hogs bringing equally unsatisfactory prices and corn the only grain crop that a farmer can sell for money and break even on the expenses of raising it.

The lawyer is right. The teaching of the Master has been subverted by the lawyer, and the judge on the bench charges "caveat emptor," instead of "caveat actor." If the "doer" gets by legally, he is exonerated of all censure or criticism, under the charge of wrong doing, hence the scandals in high places, and the increasing tendency of the courts to decide cases on a legal technicality, thus defeating justice, and encouraging appeals from the written law to the natural rights of man. Due to the practice of the courts, to decide cases on legal technicalities, we are in very great danger of having the whole foundation swept from under, with nothing on which to stand. The courts by their decisions in many cases have forfeited the respect of the people and it is a bad day for our country when men no longer respect or esteem our judges. That which is eternally right, as proclaimed by the Master is the only foundation on which we can build permanently.

G. T. McELDERRY, President Alabama Farmers Union.

Six thousand one hundred eighty-six South Dakota boys and girls are enrolled in agriculture and home economics clubs carried on under State College extension auspices this year.







# Department of Practical Co-Operation

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE F. R. & C. U. OF A. OF KANSAS  
Allow me to call your attention again to the Board of Directors have authorized me beginning July 1st, 1924, to remove from the mailing list the names of all those members whose 1924 dues have not reached the Secretary's office.  
C. E. Brasted, State Secretary

**UNION MEETING NOTICES**  
Notice of Farmers' Union meetings will be printed under this heading without charge. Secretaries should send in their copy at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.

The regular meeting of the Crawford County Farmers' Union will be held on the last Tuesday of each month throughout the year except when this date falls on a legal holiday.  
A. O. BROWN, Co. Pres.

**SILVERDALE LOCAL NO. 2051.**  
Silverdale Local No. 2051 meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Silverdale School House.  
J. F. Lewis, Sec.

**NEWBERRY LOCAL NO. 1922.**  
Newberry Local No. 1922 meets regularly, the first and third Monday nights of each month. The members make the union what is in. You help make it a success in every way by doing more than your part and attending these meetings.  
R. J. Muckenthaler, Sec'y-Treas.

**UNION LOCAL NO. 2019.**  
Regular meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, at 7:30 p. m.  
Geo. Speed, Pres.  
Alice Kendall, Sec.

**CARLETON LOCAL NO. 1911.**  
Regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.  
J. Humberger, Pres.  
E. J. Logan, Sec.

**CLEVELAND LOCAL NO. 964.**  
Cleveland Local No. 964, Neosho County, will hold their regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. Come out and boost. Don't stay home and kick.  
George J. Schoenhof, Sec.

**PLEASANT VALLEY LOCAL.**  
Pleasant Valley Local Union No. 1908 meets every first and third Wednesday evening of each month.  
E. J. Kinsinger, Pres.  
W. T. Flinn, Sec.-Treas.

**NEOSHA COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETINGS**  
The regular quarterly meetings of the Neosha County Farmers Union will be held in the I. O. O. F. hall in Erie, Kansas, on the second Saturday of the following months: March, June, September and December.  
E. G. Clark, Pres.  
J. O. Foust, Sec.

**LIVINGSTON LOCAL NO. 1984.**  
Livingston Local No. 1984 meets regularly on the first and third Friday nights of each month at Livingston School House. A short program is prepared for each night.  
Clyde B. Wells, Sec.

**GIRARD LOCAL NO. 494.**  
Girard Local No. 494 meets in Union Hall over the Crawford County State Bank in Girard, Kansas on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p. m.  
W. D. McClaskey, Pres.  
Roy W. Holland, Sec.

**BROGAN LOCAL NO. 226.**  
Brogan Local No. 226 meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Visitors are always welcome.  
George Baumgartner, Sec.

**PRETTY CREEK LOCAL 1652.**  
Pretty Creek Local No. 1652 meets every first and third Wednesday of each month at the Hinerville School house. Come out. Don't stay home and kick.  
H. C. Mathies, Sec.-Treas.

**FONTANA LOCAL 1789.**  
Fontana Local No. 1789 will meet the first and third Friday nights regularly.  
All members should be present.  
W. A. Booz, Sec.-Treas.  
W. H. Slyter, Pres.

**UNION VALLEY LOCAL 1679.**  
We meet every two weeks on Tuesday. All Farmer Union members welcome.  
Owen Hunsperger, Pres.  
I. M. Wagner, Sec.

**UNION LOCAL NO. 273.**  
Regular meetings on second and fourth Thursday each month.  
Charles Crossard, Sec.

**HONOR ROLL.**  
The following secretaries of Farmers Union Locals have reported to the state office every member on their rolls paid up in full for the year 1924.  
Bellview — 2042—John T. Anderson, Sec. 52 paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Burnsister — 948 — Roy Hunter, Ellsworth sec. 24 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Athelstone Central—1171—Ralph Heikes, Wakefield, Sec. — 12 members paid for 1924—100 per cent.  
Summit — 1574—Mrs. Alice Ames, Madison, Sec. — 30 paid for 1924—100 per cent.  
Pleasant Valley — 1804 — Frank R. Erbert, Ellis, Sec. — 18 paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Fairdale — 927 — Carl W. Mayer, Brewster, Sec., 13 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Rydal — 763 — G. S. Dunham, Beeville, Sec. 31 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Prairie College — 1227 — I. P. Bruening, Robinson, Sec. 29 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Catherine — 834 — Wm. R. Staab, Sec. 7 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Hays — 1180 Mrs. Everett Alquist, Sec. — 75 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Sylvan Grove—1555—J. A. Reichard, Minneapolis, Sec. — 11 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.  
Point Lookout, 1072, Jno. Hoffmeyer, Sec.—all members paid for 1924—100 per cent.  
Neural, 308, John Costello, McClure — 11 paid for 1924—100 per cent.  
Independence, 1419—Hugh Winslow, Sec., Wellington, Kans.—19 paid for 1924—100 per cent.  
Liberty, 925 — Ed. Mog, Sec. — 42 members paid for 1924. 100 per cent.  
Twelve Mile, 2003 — R. L. Pearce, Sec., Downs—12 paid for 1924—100 per cent.  
Walnut Grove — 1808—Robert J. Meyer, Girard, Secretary—100%.

Victor—1516—W. G. Harris, Burrton, Secretary, 5 members—100%.  
New Hope—1884—S. Tibble, Cedar Point, Secretary, 8 members—100%.  
Gem—1659—C. E. Weir, Pittsburg, Secretary, 10 members—100%.  
Survey — 84 — Grant Bliss, Woodston, Secretary, 9 members—100%.  
Star—831—Willis J. Billings, Linn, Secretary, 6 members—100%.  
Olive Hill—1120—J. F. Braun, Clay Center, Sec.—38 members—100%.  
Coin—1657—S. M. Benson, Orion, Secretary—7 members—100%.  
Bushong — 579 — H. C. Harder, Dunlap, Secretary, 10 members—100%.  
Hunt — 1107 — J. L. Kongs, Cornsling, Secretary — 19 members—100%.

Santa Fe—1717—Marion Johnson, secretary, Lyons. Thirteen members—100 per cent.  
No. 5—781—Clarence W. Smith, secretary, Phillipsburg, six members—100 per cent.  
1809—Maple Grove—Howard Timbman, secretary, Hepler, Five members, 100 per cent.  
1985—Kaw Valley — Jerome Van Hise, secretary, Belvue, 10 members, 100 per cent.

1689—Highland—Roy L. Lee, secretary, Paola, 80 male members, 56 female members, 100 per cent.  
1684—Prospect, Martin Roha, Jr., Secretary, 29 members, 100 per cent.  
Prairie Star—944—E. W. Podlanski, Secretary, Wilson, 15 members, 100%.  
Haystack—427—Henry Eden, Sec. 13 members, 100%.  
Koerber 914—F. A. Korber, Seneca, secretary, 21 members, 100%.  
Hobo 1497—W. C. Coffman, Madison, secretary, 22 members, 100%.  
Eagle Star—923—C. G. Conrad, Du Bois, Nebraska, secretary, 21 members, 100%.  
Eureka—911—Harvey Strahm, Sabotha, Kansas, secretary, 37 members 100 %.

**A PLEA FOR LEADERS.**  
We are scattered over the state in widely separated communities are often given to pessimistic periods, when we feel that the eyes of justice are surely blinded. We look around us at the apparently ever increasing distress and financial one-sidedness of things in general, and sigh, and sit down with a muttered "what's the use?"

We make a mental comparison of conditions today, of high taxes, high costs, mortgage foreclosures, and the other ill omens of the day, with those other days we have known, five, ten, or twenty years ago, and decide that the world, as far as the agricultural industry is concerned, has gone to the demnation how-wows. While in this mood we are apt to kick the dog, abuse the children and quarrel with the wife.

But this mood cannot last, the blood of our ancestors who helped to bring the race of men to its present standing, will not permit it. The spirit which prompted a world to overthrow militarism in the last war, the spirit which won personal freedom for all men in our Civil War, the spirit which prompted the gaining of political freedom a hundred and fifty years ago, and the spirit which years before that, caused men to suffer all forms of privation and torture for religious freedom, arouses us.

Does anyone think that a nation which originated from such a sturdy stock of pioneers as ours, a nation which has conquered a continent and produced its Washingtons and Lincolns can in such a few generations reduce itself to the production of sluggards and helpless peons? No! We answer emphatically and arouse ourselves.

We open our eyes and see the approach of a new dawn. We see great shafts of light shooting across the sky from the East.

We see England throwing off its reign of reactionism, France again controlled by a liberal party, and Germany struggling for justice to her workers. And as we look around ourselves more and more closely we see the great trend in this country toward true democracy.

We see the ever increasing activity of the various farm organization, the ever increasing amount of products being handled through cooperative channels. Then as we become more thoroughly aroused we hear all about the warning to those greedy ones, that no nation can long endure with one part of her citizenry corrupting themselves in ill gotten gain and nine parts existing in want.

It has been my pleasure to hear within the last few days, three addresses by educators who are in no wise conversant with agricultural conditions, yet who all have felt unconsciously the high change which is coming over our land, and just as unconsciously sought their hearers to respect and to support those things which must come about if we are to endure.

Now if these things are true, and an almost superficial study will show that that they are, then what am I doing to advance this great movement? What are you doing, Tom and Bill and

John?  
Are you boosting cooperation as you should or are you just hanging on the outskirts of the pack, in hopes of deriving all of the benefits possible, without announcing your stand or exerting any effort? Heaven forbid that you are one of those, but if you have been, then let that day be past, and today, solemnly vow that from now on you will put your strength on the right side even though it calls for sacrifice. Always remembering that no worthy cause was ever won without great sacrifice.

If you are right individually, how about your local organization? Does it function? Have you the right leaders, and do you support them? If leaders aren't right get them out and put in ones who are right. If they are the right brand then get behind them and push for all you are worth. We need leadership today, big men, broad enough to see and grasp an opportunity.

Taken in groups the American farmers will run about the same in all localities, as regards to boosters, knucklers, and drones.  
Leadership has but little effect on the drones in any community but it can often convert knucklers into boosters.  
Now boys let us remember that it is not nearly so hard to do a thing as it is to make up our minds that want to do it, and just as soon as enough of us make up our minds that we are going to put our plans across the thing will be accomplished. If we men, who are in an organization and believe in cooperation fail to boost as we should we need not expect success. So let's put our shoulders to the wheel and push. And if the Editor will allow the space I will try to tell you later how I think we can advance ourselves.

In the meantime I would like to hear personally from some of the Brothers.

C. H. GREENLY in Colorado Union Farmer.

**PAYS TO BREAK LAND EARLY**  
(By W. J. Green in Oklahoma)

Farmers' Stockman  
I learned a lesson on our farm last year. Or, perhaps, I had better say, we had an old lesson impressed upon us a little more deeply.

This lesson was not a new one by any means. It was one that we folks in the wheat belt of Oklahoma have had brought to us practically every year since the country was opened to settlement. The lesson is that it does not pay a wheat farmer to do anything else but break his wheat ground, if he can possibly do so, right after harvest.

Last year we prepared as much ground as we could with one tractor and took the other with the separator to thresh for the neighbors. The result was that the dry weather struck us before our plowing was all done, and some of our wheat ground was not prepared until after the rains in the middle of September. I am satisfied that we would have made more money by devoting our time to getting the ground ready for the next crop than from the threshing.

Last year we had so much rain in the fall that there was not so much difference in yields on early and on late prepared ground, but even at that, there was a difference in 99 cases out of every 100.

There is considerable difference of opinion as to the best method of breaking stubble ground for wheat.

We have tried all sorts of ways, plowing listing and disking. Our experience has been that, taking one year with another, early plowing is better than listing, but early listing is better than disking up the stubble and sowing the wheat without further preparation except perhaps a harrowing.

I was on a neighbor's farm this summer just a short time before harvest. I noticed a field where part of the wheat was much better than the rest. Upon inquiry I found that the poor wheat had been sowed in disked stubble ground while the good wheat was on early plowing. The same thing has happened all over the wheat belt this summer.

Early plowing gives the weeds and stubble a chance to rot in the ground before fall, but the big thing in it is the fact that it helps to save the moisture and thus gives the crop a good start. It conserves the moisture by killing out the weeds that use up so much of this valuable material, by loosening the surface so that it will catch any rain that might fall during the summer months, and by forming a dirt mulch which holds the water already in the soil.

We have found that it pays a man to rush his plowing as much as he does his harvesting. It is no time loss for loafing or taking things easy. Our man runs a tractor from 7:00 a. m. to 7:00 p. m., when he is relieved by another who stays on the job until 7:00 the next morning. Last year we listed one farm at night while we were harvesting. We headed the wheat hauled it to the separator where it was threshed and that night we used the tractor that pulled the header, the tractor that pulled the lister, the wheat was standing on the field one morning and the next morning ground was broken for another crop. This year we are plowing instead of listing at night while threshing.

Some folks object to working at night but I can see no reason why the man who is farming on a large scale should not do so. Factories, mills and other industrial plants operate on a 24-hour schedule during the winter season. If it pays them to do that, why should it not be profitable for the farmer?

If a man has such a large acreage it plowed before the ground dries out it will pay him to disk a part of the

land and leave it until the last to plow. The disking forms a dirt mulch that will keep the soil from drying out that there is danger of not getting too rapidly.

Last year we tried the plan of pulling a disk behind a binder. It worked fine. The only objection that we could find was that the binder shocked on the disked ground seemed to take up a certain amount of loose dirt, especially during a rain, and caused some trouble in threshing. This trouble, however, was much more than offset by the advantage of holding the moisture in the ground until we could plow.

Some folks make the mistake of taking a rest between harvest and plowing, or of getting a job with a threshing outfit with the idea of earning a little ready money before starting preparations for the next crop. Many a man has had his balance on the wrong side of the ledger the next year because he neglected his business to earn a little money. If the ground is in condition to be plowed, his time is worth much more in the field with a plow than in hauling bundles for a threshing outfit.

Early plowed ground should be broken to a fair depth. Our experience has been that six inches is about right under average conditions. There does not seem to be enough advantage in deeper plowing to justify the additional power needed. Another thing that should be kept in mind is that the ground should be plowed much deeper than an inch more than it was before. Turning up the subsoil is likely to give the crop a poor start.

A number of years ago we rented a field to a man who was a crank on deep plowing. He hitched six horses to a sulky plow and set it in to the beam. The yield the next year was not as great as it was the previous season. Later, however, the yields increased and the results of that deep plowing could be seen for several years. It seems that the soil that has never been stirred is what we might call "dead." It must be acted upon by the weather so that the plant food in it can be acted upon by the soil bacteria and made into a form that can be used.

Sometimes the ground is not moist down enough so that it can be plowed as deep as it should be. In that case it is usually best to break the ground as deeply as possible rather than wait for a rain that might not come until fall. Ordinarily shallow early plowing is better than deep late breaking.

Another question that sometimes arises is whether it is better to plow dry ground with a disk plow or to wait for a rain. Our experience has been that dry plowing is not as good as moldboard plowing, but that early dry breaking is better than deep late breaking of any kind.

The important thing about seed-bed preparation for wheat is not so much the method that is used as is the time. Getting the job done at the proper time makes the difference between success and failure in the next crop.

**FARM VALUES LOSE EIGHTEEN BILLION DOLLARS**

"Farm land values have dropped more than eighteen billion dollars since 1919," says a recent report of the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation.

"This big slump involves all states except three, but the greatest loss has been felt in the Midwest, where grain and livestock are the principal crops and where the greater bulk of the food supply of the United States is produced.

"Good plow lands in Iowa that averaged \$257.00 an acre for the entire state five years ago, are now valued at an average price of \$169.00 an acre. Good plow lands in Ohio shrunk in value from \$132.00 per acre down to \$96.00 during the same period. The equivalent figures for Illinois are \$213.00 in 1920 and \$148.00 in 1924. South Dakota shows a shrinkage of 59 per cent.

"Western irrigated lands made the best showing taken as a whole. Several of these states have nearly held their own as to land values. This is largely due to the new irrigation projects that have been going through the improvement and investment stage during the past five years.

"A number of the southern states also have made a good showing. Texas and Oklahoma are cited with average land values slightly higher than the 1920 estimates. New Jersey edges her way into this class also. The strictly cotton producing southern states, like Georgia and South Carolina, have shown, however, declines in land values, despite the high price of cotton."

The eighteen billion dollar shrinkage is figured on the basis of the 1920 census valuation. The total value of farm lands and buildings for that year is given as \$68,316,000,000. The 1924 value as estimated from the report of the Department of Agriculture figures at about 72.5 per cent of the 1920 valuation. This gives a total calculated shrinkage amounting to \$18,287,000,000.

This decline brings farm land values back practically to the 1916 level. The last nine years have shown practically no increase in farm land values in the better farming regions. The temporary rise in 1919-1920 benefited no farmer unless he sold and is no longer a farmer.

Dairy Cow Population Lags.

Dairy cow population in the United States has not kept pace with human population. Less than a million dairy cows have been added to the American herds during the past five years, in spite of all the attempts to stimulate the dairy industry.

Made to stimulate the dairy industry according to the Sears-Roebuck agricultural Foundation.

In 1920 there were 23,722,000 cows, while on January 1st, 1924, there were only 24,675,000—an increase of less than four per cent. In 1890 there were 264 cows per thousand persons in the United States. At the present time there are only 221 cows per thousand persons, or a decrease of 43 thousand persons since 1890. During 1923, with all the stimulation and propaganda for dairying, there was a drop from 222 to 221 cows per thousand population.

Population per cow in the United States is low, from 50 to 100% lower than in many of the other leading dairy countries. The average cow in the United States produces about 4000 lbs. of milk and an increase of less than four per cent. The purebred cow is capable of producing six or seven times this amount. America needs more pure bred dairy bulls, if production is going to be kept up with consumption, dairy specialists assert.

American dairy herds average less than six cows to the herd. It is this fact that is largely responsible for the low average production. The amount of production per cow more than any other item determines the economy of production, experts say. They believe that if there were greater profits in production, the cow population would increase accordingly.

Two Kansas Counties  
DECLARED T. B. FREE  
Leavenworth and Harvey Counties, Kansas, were placed on the list of "modified tuberculosis-free areas" June 20, following the tuberculin testing of all cattle in those counties.

While tuberculosis eradication on a county-wide basis has been conducted in numerous Eastern States, the two Kansas counties are the first ones in the Corn Belt west of the Mississippi River to be pronounced tuberculosis free. By a petition of more than 85 per cent of the cattle owners, tuberculin testing began 18 months ago, under the direction of Dr. N. L. Townsend of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. Others active in the work were E. H. Leker, county agent of Leavenworth County, R. L. Cuff, livestock commissioner, Kansas City Livestock Exchange, J. H. Mercer, State livestock sanitary commissioner of Kansas, and numerous public-spirited men and women. A favorable sentiment, strengthened by addresses and educational pictures, facilitated the testing.

The third and last tuberculin test showed less than one-tenth of one per cent of the cattle in the county to be affected with tuberculosis; this very small percentage meets the Federal requirements for a modified accredited area. Due largely to effective organization and the rather large number of cattle tested, the cost of applying the test averaged only about 72 cents per head. Infection was found on 72 farms, eight of which, however, contained 60 per cent of the total number of tuberculous cattle.

Hogs raised in counties designated as modified tuberculosis free areas, are bred at a premium of 10 cents per hundredweight over those raised in other counties. This premium is paid by packers in accordance with an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Mrs. Clara W. Bullard of Tonganoxie, Kansas, was the first resident in the new modified area to ship hogs that brought the premium. The hogs were bred and fed on Mrs. Bullard's farm.

In summing up these steps in the progress of eradicating tuberculosis in live stock, a Kansas City newspaper gives its support by declaring, "The United States is a long way from total eradication of animal tuberculosis when two Kansas counties go out and in less than two years rid their confines of the bane of tuberculosis in meat animals, make their milk supply absolutely safe and bring to the swine raisers in the county a premium on their hogs."

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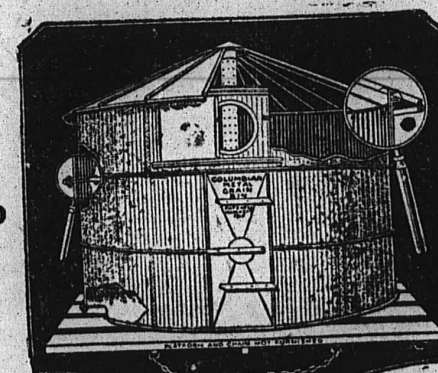
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