

THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

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Kennedy's Cost Of Production Sheet

Analysis of the Cost of Production and Explanation of the Cost and Income Schedule of the Cost of Production of Farm Products in the State of Kansas

Analysis of the cost of production and explanation of the cost and income schedule of the cost of production of farm products in the state of Kansas.

The problem of ascertaining the cost of production of the major enterprises produced in Kansas as shown by the accompanying schedule of the gross cost or fixed charges and the schedule of the total farm income, also the table showing the division and percentage of land occupied by each crop, the waste land, woodland and the average number of acres of idle land or land that is subject to annual crop failures. There is a part, however, of the waste land as shown in the table that is occupied by buildings, feed lots and public highways. The table showing the number and kind of live stock with which the average farm is stocked and the table showing the actual cost of production for each of the major farm products produced in Kansas represents a problem that has heretofore been regarded as a complex and insoluble one made into a simple and understandable proposition.

First: It was necessary to find a proposition that would accurately portray the actual cash and income from an average farm in Kansas. So, for the purpose of this analysis the total number of farms in the seventy-eight counties in the wheat belt, corn belt and the general farming area was used as the basis of the cost of production schedule. And heretofore in referring to the State of Kansas only the seventy-eight counties referred to above are meant by that term. Therefore, the average farm in Kansas, for the purpose of this analysis was regarded as a factory or unit and the cost and income were determined upon that basis. The farm is credited with each and everything that this farm produced over a ten-year period and likewise was charged with each and every expense that was necessarily a cost in the operation of the farm.

In the table showing the apportionment of the acres in the farm under consideration the same percentage of wheat, corn, oats, barley, sorghum, hay and pasture was placed upon this farm that the average of each division bears to the total acreage in Kansas. For example: There is 25.4 per cent of the total farm acreage in Kansas in wheat. Applying the 25.4 per cent to the average size farm of 231 acres we have 58.8 acres. The same method was used to arrive at the number of acres of each crop as shown by the cost schedule.

The table showing the number and kind of live stock on this farm represents a similar method to arrive at the average number and kind of live stock on this average farm. For example: There are 7 head of horses and mules shown as a part of the inventory. The 7 head of horses and mules represents a total number of farms which is 142,262, giving an average of 7 head of horses and mules on this farm. The same method was used as outlined to determine the number of milch cows, brood sows, breeding ewes and poultry. The following is an analysis of the cost schedule:

The first item as it appears in the cost schedule is 231 acres valued at \$90.00 per acre or 20,790.00. Interest at the average rate of 5.42 per cent on \$1127.28. The 231 acres represent the total farm acreage in the seventy-eight counties in Kansas divided by the total number of farms which is 142,262. The value of \$90.00 was accordingly the average value of Kansas farm land in the year 1920. That basis of valuation was used in this case because it was upon that level of price that the following obligations were contracted that the farmer is now trying to pay with his gross cost 175.1 per cent of his average income. Likewise it is also the level of values upon which the taxes that

are rapidly increasing were levied and have since 1920 increased 136.4 per cent.

The average rate as shown here of 5.42 per cent represents an average of the 6.5 per cent that the average farmer has used or paid out for borrowed capital and an average of 5 per cent upon the owner's investment in this farm.

The value of the dwelling and other buildings as shown in the second and third items were shown only for the purpose of depreciation. The value of the dwelling for example is \$1143.45 and represents the same relative proportion of the total investment in this farm that the value of all farm buildings in Kansas bears to the total investment in all farm lands. Depreciation on this item was shown at the rate of 4 per cent or \$45.73. The item of other buildings, fences and water systems were determined in like manner and their values shown for the purpose of depreciation.

The item of taxes of 92.22 cents per acre or \$213.02 as previously stated represents an increase of 136.4 per cent over 1920. This item represents both the real estate and personal taxes that the farmers over the State of Kansas are paying since we have an average size farm, average equipment, and an average inventory throughout, we likewise have an average tax.

The item of insurance, hail, fire, lightning, windstorm and tornado of \$257.35. Hail insurance was figured on a basis of \$15.00 an acre for all of the acres in wheat, corn, oats, barley and sorghum at the yearly average rate of 6 per cent. The fire, lightning, windstorm and tornado insurance was figured on the five-year rate of \$2.50 and divided by five to give the average one year cost on the value of the improvements and equipment as shown on this farm.

The item of machinery and equipment, horses and mules, milch cows and brood sows, both interest and depreciation were figured. Since machinery must eventually wear out and live stock depreciate in value these items are fixed charges on an average farm in any State and they are included here.

The item of farmer's salary at the rate of \$150.00 per month by no means represents the average wage that the farmers in the State of Kansas are receiving but it is included in this cost schedule because it is a part, and should be so regarded by every farmer, just the same as the salary of the superintendent of a factory is necessarily a part of it. The total salary of \$1800.00 a year however, is not what it may appear to be at first glance. While this operator is paid \$150.00 per month he likewise must pay to the farm for each bit of poultry, poultry produce, butter, milk, beef and pork that he takes from this farm for his personal use since the farm is credited with all of everything that the farm produces. This farm is likewise credited on the income schedule with house rent from the operator of \$114.34 per annum in just the same manner as the item of the salary of a factory would pay the factory for the use of a dwelling that this factory might happen to own.

The common practice of arriving at a labor charge for the operator and his family in all of the so-called farm cost schedules, the item of the farmer's salary is based upon the same wage level that one could go out in the open farm labor market and hire their work done for. This is not only unfair but impractical since the average farmer, and this man is an average farmer, is managing a 20,790 investment he must know, how to make that farm productive. He must be a veterinarian, he must be a blacksmith and a machinist, and must have a general knowledge of more lines of business than any group of businessmen in the United States of America.

TABLE SHOWING PRODUCTION COSTS ON AN AVERAGE KANSAS

Schedule of Operating Costs on an Average 231-Acre Kansas Farm	Average 231-Acre Kansas Farm
231 acres @ \$90.00	\$20,790.00
Interest @ 5.42%	\$1127.28
Dwelling	1,143.45
Other buildings	1,237.48
Fences	278.00
Water System	500.00
Taxes—personal and real	92.22c per A.
Insurance	Hail, Fire, and Windstorm
Machinery and Equip.	1,894.00
Horses and mules	540.00
1 milk cows	500.00
2 brood sows	500.00
Operator's salary	@ \$150.00 per month
Hired labor, 6 mo. @ \$45 per mo., and	\$15 per mo. board
Automobile	600.00
Fuel, oil, etc.	
Seeds Purchased	
Twine and Threshing	
Veterinary	
Blacksmith	
Machinery work	
Fees:	
Horse Feed, 100 bu. oats	
Hog Feed 3485 lbs.	
Cow Feed 100 bu. corn and 5 ton hay	
120 hens, feed	
	10 bu. corn
	\$5,567.81

*Note: 75% of auto expenses only charged to farm.

Table Showing Apportionment of Farm to Each Crop	10 Yr. Ave.
Division of Land	No. of Acres
Wheat	58.8
Corn	34.4
Oats	7.6
Barley	6.1
Sorghum	2.5
Hay	6.5
Pasture	35.4
Waste Land	7.2
Wood Land	3.4
Idle Land or Crop (Failure)	7.2
	231 acres

Table Showing Number and Kind of Live Stock on Average Farm

Kind	No. of	10-yr. wt. Total	10-yr. farm price	Value
Hogs	17	205	\$345	\$339.75
Veal	4	140	\$60	\$48.00
Wool	2	7 1/2	15	\$36.00
Lambs	2	70	1.00	\$2.00
Chickens	250	1000	14	\$140.00
				\$552.66

Kind	No. of	10-yr. wt. Total	10-yr. farm price	Value
Hogs	17	205	\$345	\$339.75
Veal	4	140	\$60	\$48.00
Wool	2	7 1/2	15	\$36.00
Lambs	2	70	1.00	\$2.00
Chickens	250	1000	14	\$140.00
				\$552.66

Kind	No. of	10-yr. wt. Total	10-yr. farm price	Value
Hogs	17	205	\$345	\$339.75
Veal	4	140	\$60	\$48.00
Wool	2	7 1/2	15	\$36.00
Lambs	2	70	1.00	\$2.00
Chickens	250	1000	14	\$140.00
				\$552.66

Table Showing Actual Cost of Production 1915 to 1924

10-yr. Ave. Farm Price	% Cost is	% Income	Actual Cost
1915 to 1924			
Wheat	\$1.36	175.1%	\$2.38
Corn	.748	175.1%	1.31
Oats	.41	175.1%	.71
Barley	.60	175.1%	1.05
Sorghum	1.24	175.1%	2.17
Hay	12.20	175.1%	21.36
Hogs	9.75	175.1%	17.07
Veal	9.80	175.1%	17.15
Wool	.96	175.1%	1.69
Lambs	9.00	175.1%	15.75
Chickens	.14	175.1%	.24
Butterfat	.385	175.1%	.67
Eggs	.27	175.1%	.47

And we are going to assume as a further reason why he is not only worth \$1800.00 a year but considerably more, that he is in the future going to know how to market the products of his farm that will net him the cost of production. In the item of hiring labor the farm is charged with one additional man for six months at the rate of \$45. per month and \$15.00 per month board, or \$360.00. The item of automobile valued at \$600.00, depreciation of 20 per cent and interest on the investment of \$80.00 or \$120.00. However, 75 per cent of the auto expenses is charged to the farm and the other 25 per cent is charged to the operator. The other items that follow, such as fuel, oil, seeds purchased, twine and threshing, veterinary and blacksmith and machine work hired are all fixed charges that cannot be avoided.

The item of organization fees and dues of \$10.00 does not necessarily mean that the farmer must pay \$10 in annual dues but during the year if he attends to his organization and assumes his individual responsibility as an organized farmer in his organization he will spend the difference between what he pays in dues and the \$10.00 in carrying out his share of the organization work.

The horse's feed was charged to this farm in the average amount of feed for seven head of horses and mules on the ten-year average price of oats, corn and hay or \$176.00. The item of hog feed, cow feed and the same manner that the horse's chicken feed was charged to the farm feed was charged and the farm on the other hand was credited with the entire value of all the produce or increase from the cows, chickens and the hogs. The hogs were fed corn at the rate of twelve bushels to the hundred pounds of pork at the ten-year average price of 74.8 cents or a feed cost for the hogs of \$312.81 making a total operating cost of \$5,567.81 which represents the average operating cost on the average size farm of 231 acres.

Income Schedule: As previously stated this farm was credited with all of everything that this farm produced on a ten-year average. The

age farm price to determine the value of the income from this farm. That basis of determining the income was used in the first place to show the average income of a period of years and likewise to establish a relation between the things that this farm produced so that we could be absolutely fair in assuming that the same percentage of loss or gain obtained in everything that their farm produced.

You will notice in the cost schedule the item of hog feed at the rate of twelve bushels to the hundred pounds of pork charged at the ten-year farm price of 74.8 cents makes a feed cost of \$12.81 and the income from these hogs at the ten-year farm price of \$9.75 makes a hog income of \$339.75 or a net profit marketing corn as hogs of \$28.97. This slight variation is accounted for in the difference of the freight cost. In marketing the amount of corn required for 100 pounds of pork you would pay the freight on 125x56 or 672 pounds of corn as compared with 100 pounds of pork.

The produce income from the four cows shows an annual milk production of 1200 pounds of milk at a total of 11,600 from the four cows at the ten-year average butter fat test of 3.6 or a total of 417.6 pounds of butter fat at the ten-year average price of 38.5 cents or \$160.77.

The 120 hens produced 65 eggs per hen per year or 650 dozen eggs less 30 dozen for incubation leaving 620 dozen to be sold at the ten-year average farm price of 27 cents or \$167.40 making a total produce income of \$282.17.

The items of other farm income in this instance represents house rent paid by the operator on the basis of 10 per cent of the value of the dwelling or 114.34 making a total farm income of \$3,235.21 or a net operating loss per year for the last ten years of \$2,430.60. It is not, however, the purpose of this cost of production schedule to alone determine just what this farmer loses so much as it is to determine what it cost to produce each of the major enterprises that the average farm in Kansas produces. Therefore, the gross cost of \$5,567.81 shown, divided by the total farm income of \$3,235.25 to determine the percentage that the cost is of the income which is 175.1 per cent of the cost or 75 per cent more than the income.

The table showing the actual cost of production at the bottom of the income schedule, in explaining the first item as it appears, wheat at the average farm price of \$1.36 per bushel, it gives the cost of production. The percentage that the cost is of the income of 175.1 per cent makes an actual cost of production of wheat in the State of Kansas \$2.38 per bushel. The other items as they appear in this table were determined in like manner. In brief it means this. That in order that the farmers' income might equal the cost of operation the income would have to be figured on the basis of wheat at \$2.38, corn at \$1.31, oats at 71c and so on in order that his income might equal his operating cost.

A question might arise why the present price of \$1.55 per bushel was not used as the basis of determining the income on wheat. If that level of price were used throughout in the income schedule it would simply diminish the per cent that the cost is to the income to 153.5 per cent and would not materially effect the actual cost of production as shown in the latter table. And if for example we would use a price of around \$1.00 as a basis of determining the income on wheat and the others in proportion it would simply increase what the per cent that the cost is of the income and again would not effect the final cost of production.

In conclusion we wish to remind you that the figures used are not only the best figures that are available as some might wish to accuse us but they do accurately portray the cost of production on an average farm in the state of Kansas and they would likewise apply to an average of the poorest county in the state of Kansas as well as they would apply to an average of the best county in the state of Kansas figured upon the same basis as the average farm in the state was figured.

For example: One would almost reach the first best farm in Kansas before reaching the law of diminishing returns and diminish the cost of production. These figures would likewise apply, very nearly at least, to the poorest farm in the state of Kansas before the law of diminishing returns would be reached and the law of production be increased to any extent.

We also wish to call your attention to the fact that as outlined in determining the cost of production in three other states in the middle west where the value of farm land ranges from \$250.00 in Iowa, \$215.00 in Illinois, \$150.00 in Nebraska to \$90.00 in Kansas that the per cent that the gross cost of the income does not change materially and likewise the actual cost of production of the major farm products in all of these states is practically the same. I am simply making these comparisons to emphasize the completeness and thoroughness of this proposition.

The basis of these figures throughout is taken from the United States Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Agriculture and the Tax Commission. In other words the Governmental agencies have gathered practically all of the data that was used in the assembling of these figures in this proportion.

If the cow is to be kept in good flesh at feeding, she should be fed well now. It is important, according to dairy specialists, that the cow be in good condition when she freshens so that she can come in with a good milk flow.

What Is A Farmers Organization?

A. W. Ricker, President of the National Producers Alliance Gives His Reasons for Joining With the Farmers Union. Both Organizations are Working for the same Cause, Why Not Consolidate?

A farmer organization is an organization of farmers. If it is not that, then it is not a farmers organization.

In dealing with other sections of society, and in asking for legislation, farmers are powerful or powerless, just to the extent that they are organized. And farmers are not yet powerfully organized. Lacking such organization, they also lack a press to voice their sentiments, and their demands.

Lacking such organization, they also lack effective machinery with which to regulate their marketing and fix their prices.

Lacking such organizations, farmers are at the mercy of other powerful social groups, who are organized, who do fix prices, who possess powerful newspapers, and who dominate government.

And lacking effective organization the farmers do not develop trained leadership capable of dealing with, or to use Woodrow Wilson's expression, "matching wits" with other social groups.

The business man looks down on the farmer. To the business man, the farmer is a dub, incapable of deciding what is good for him (the farmer) or what is not good. The farmer with rustic speech and faulty grammar appears to disadvantage, when grouped with a gathering of business men. The farmer as a type does not hold his own in mixed groups. He is outclassed.

There is no use arguing that point, because it is true. But just because it is true at this time does not mean that it will always be so. The farmer's handicap is not due to an inferior brain, but to lack of training.

When the farmer develops an organization of his own, including a press of his own, and when the farmer learns to think and speak on his feet, as he may and will learn in his own halls, and among his own kind, he will overcome his handicap.

Now if farmers are ever to get anywhere in price fixing or in legislation, they must organize as labor has organized. This calls for class organization, farmers organized as farmers.

No farm organization which is built on other than a class program, or which departs from a class program will ever become of any permanent value to farmers.

The Farm Bureau and the Grange are both illustrations of farm organizations which are farm organizations in name but not in fact. Both of these organizations admit business men to membership. As a consequence, business men dominate them. The Bureau was organized originally with the aid of big business, and the support of a little business. Both big and little business have dominated the Bureau.

We are not saying these things because of prejudice, or to injure the Bureau, but because they are true. Put business men and farmers together and the business men will bound to dominate the farmers, and run the organizations in the interest of business, other than farming. The business man control of the Bureau is responsible for the County Agent. The County Agent system is linked with the Agricultural College, and both the agent and the college are dominated by big business.

The Bureau for the first time this year, is showing signs of reform, but it is still hog tied to business, because it is supported by business.

A farm organization cannot be a farm organization in fact unless its membership be composed of farmers, even as labor organizations confine their membership to working men. If the membership of a farm organization is restricted to farmers, then out with the business men and trained leaders. These leaders will be farmers, because having no other members but farmers, the leaders will have to be farmers.

The Farmers Union is a class conscious farm organization, admitting to membership none but farmers. That is why it is the best organization of farmers in the U. S.

It has maintained its status for twenty-one years as a strictly farmers organization.

It is right in principle, and the most important thing about any movement is to be right in principle. A movement may make mistakes. It may suffer defeats, but, if it is right in principle it will correct its

mistakes and recover from its defeats. We have cast in our lot with the Farmers Union, because its program is the same as ours, and there is no excuse for maintaining two farm organizations with dual expenses, when principle and program are the same.

Price Fixing We both stand for cost of production as a basis for price, and that means that we are organizing for the fixing of prices of fixing prices on farm products.

Any farm organization composed of farmers is bound to adopt that program for the very simple reason that a living price for his products, means the same thing to the farmer, as a living wage to the worker.

Co-operative Marketing We stand for co-operative marketing, but, we believe that co-operative marketing is the cart, and not the horse.

The horse is the farm union pulling the co-operative cart. The farm union should come first, and the co-operative should be a part of the union activities, and not supercede or dominate the Union.

And this too is fundamental. We have been cursed up here in the Northwest with Saprio co-operatives of which the potato pool is a shining example.

A Saprio Co-operative is answerable to no farm organization. It is a bird of prey, prompted from the top down, and designed to furnish fat jobs for professional promoters.

It proceeds on the theory that the farmer lacks brains to run his own business, and sets up for him a marketing organization, dominated by professional promoters.

A Government Bureauocracy The emphasis which Secretary Jardine is laying on Co-operative marketing is largely bunk, because co-operative marketing as promoted by most co-operative marketing associations, is simply the establishment of sales agencies, selling with no reference to cost of production or with any intent of price fixing.

Co-operative marketing under the dominance of the National department of Agriculture will become a political football, and a bureauocracy. Is evidence of this needed?

Look at the men whom Secretary Jardine calls to Washington to advise with him.

Who are they? Professors of Agriculture, Farm Editors who never grew a bushel of grain, ex-politicians, professional pool promoters, and representatives of Chambers of Commerce, but not a single farmer in the lot.

Congress We have a Congress composed of some five hundred politicians, with less than six farmers in the body. And this body of politicians is expected to legislate for farmers, with the farmers never even consulted.

Conclusion And now brother farmer, is it not evident to you why you are ignored by Secretary Jardine?

Is it not precisely because you have not built one big union of farmers, with a press and with leaders of your own to speak in your behalf? Labor represents forty per cent of the population. It's rail workers, miners and craftsmen are powerfully organized. When labor speaks, it gets attention.

Farmers represent another forty per cent of the population. When the farmers ask for something, their voice is ignored, because the politicians, big business and their press know that you as a group, you are not organized powerfully enough to be dangerous.

Secretary Jardine turns to the co-operatives, because these co-operatives with few exceptions are managed, not by farmers, but by business men, whose interest in you is largely that of the salaries they draw.

You are likely to wake up some day and find big business in control of the whole co-operative machinery. While you sleep, big business is awake. You are likely to find that all that co-operative marketing has done for you, is that your masters have exchanged their clothing, and that inside of the new suit of co-operative clothes is the same old slave driver.

Your remedy is one big union of farmers, with only farmers admitted to membership, the creation and maintenance of your own press, and the training of your leadership.

At the various District Meetings of the Farmers Union Co-operative Produce Association held last week, the following were chosen as members of the Board of Directors of this Association for the year 1926:

DISTRICT NO. 1—E. F. Schiefelbusch, Osawatomie
DISTRICT NO. 2—H. B. Whitaker, Colony
DISTRICT NO. 3—E. L. Bullard, Vassar
DISTRICT NO. 4—C. R. Fisher, Alta Vista
DISTRICT NO. 5—R. D. Sauelson, Olsburg
DISTRICT NO. 6—David Thomas, Burns
DISTRICT NO. 7—John Tromble, Salina
The above, together with the delegates elected from the various districts, will attend the Annual Meeting of this Association which is to be held in Kansas City on February 3.

A. W. SEAMANS, Secretary.

Our Country and Kansas

Amidst the great family of nations,
America stands without peer;
The home of the truest and bravest,
The home of all we hold dear.
Though others may boast of their birthplace
We hear only one clear sweet call,
Our Country, the pride of the nations;
Our country, the best of them all.

Among the great states of the Union,
One boldly stands out in relief;
Kansas, the state of broad prairies;
Kansas, where manhood is chief.
Though some folks may think we are boasting,
We boldly hail this proud call,
Kansas, the pride of our Country;
Kansas, the best of them all.

In Kansas our women are fairer
Than anywhere else on the earth;
Our children are cleaner and sweeter;
And smarter than others at their birth.
We do not wish to seem boastful,
But we send this challenging call,
Kansas, the pride of our Country;
Kansas, the best of them all.

In Kansas sometimes we grow angry
And call one another hard names;
But 'tis only the heat of the battle
In playing political games;
Just let our great State be slandered
United we rise to the call,
Kansas, the pride of our Country;
Kansas, the best of them all.

A. M. KINNEY.

The Kansas Union Farmer

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

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

All copy, with the exception of notices and including advertising, should be in seven days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handled up until noon Saturday on the week preceding publication date.
Communications and Questions—Communications are solicited from practical farmers, members of the F. E. & C. U. of A., are at liberty to ask questions on any phase of farm work. Answers will be either published or mailed.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1926

TIME TO STUDY TAXATION

Every second year the people of Kansas take a lot of interest in proposed reforms by the tax laws. Shortly after the legislature assembles for its biennial session a lot of lobbyists against high taxes and a few intelligent advocates of tax reform appear in Topeka. It is then too late to do anything worth while. Senators and representatives are not elected on account of their expert knowledge of tax problems but get their places because they know how to get votes.

The primary elections will be held in about six months. The farmers and others who are suffering from the almost unendurable load of property taxation in this state should get busy right now. To secure any substantial relief from the tax system, which is about the worst in the world, the voters of Kansas must do two things. They must work out and adopt a new tax plan that will relieve property of at least a part of the costs of government. But it is not enough to know what we want we must know how to get what we want.

There is only one way to get progressive action from the legislature. That is to send enlightened, intelligent and progressive men to the state capital with programs from home and orders to work for real tax reform in the interest of the farmers and the other owners of tangible property. Our attempt to tax classified intangibles has resulted in a decrease in the revenues. There is something yet to be done about that matter. It is possible to amend that law in the interest of justice and common sense and at the same time get a lot of revenue from that source, but it cannot be done by men who begin to study taxation after they get to the state capital.

Now is the time to study taxation. Now is the time to begin looking for legislators with the courage and gumption to frame effective taxing laws. Civic activity that wakes up for only a few days every second year will never make a serious impression on legislation.

ANOTHER RAILROAD MERGER PROPOSED

The men who devise and enacted the Esch-Cummings railroad law were smart enough to see that one of the stumbling blocks in the way of progress towards a just and rational rate structure is the necessity for maintaining transportation facilities in areas not sufficiently productive to originate profitable traffic. The advocates of government ownership were active and aggressive. The public mind was full of the thought that only a unified system of roads under a single management could realize the public from the necessity of rates high enough to maintain transportation in the less profitable areas. It had become generally known that the rates required to enable the poorer lines to operate are so high that the well managed roads in rich territory take excessive tolls from production. The country was beginning to do some real thinking about the railroad problem and most of the conclusions were that unified ownership and operation either by the public or the owners is the only way to secure justice for shippers and travelers.

The statesmen in authority were not willing to sanction any change that looked towards public ownership. So the merger suggestion, the recapture of excessive profits for the benefit of the weaker lines and provisions for completing the physical valuation of all the roads were included in the bill. It was the hope of the men who applied or sought to apply such polices to the diseases of the transportation system that at least enough would be done to take the popular mind away from the contemplation of government ownership and operation.

None of the panaceas prescribed in the transportation act have relieved any of the pains that they were planned to palliate. The recapture clause has been declared unconstitutional and therefore enforceable. Notwithstanding the high authority and the final sanction to that act resulting from a supreme court decision in its favor not a single dollar of excessive profits has yet been recaptured by the public for the support of the weaker lines. With one eye closed to the real purport of the law and the other sharply keen for excuses for its evasion the railroad president gravely declares that his road will pay whenever it is found that it owes anything but insists that no such finding is possible until valuation is completed. So the Burlington, the Union Pacific and the Santa Fe keep their ever growing profits and the weaker roads continue to operate at heavy loss

even when economically administered by receivers.

But what of the merger provision? It was planned for the purpose of combining strong and weak roads in the same sections into operating units that could pay their own way and some dividends to their stockholders. A merger of two strong lines can do no public good. Equally or more futile would be the amalgamation of two weak lines. The first would only keep on enriching those who already have too much. The second would be unable to generate strength by combining weakness with weakness.

So far only one great merger has been attempted under the sanctions of the law. A couple of exceedingly shrewd promoters of the name of Swearingen have effected a merger of the Nickel Plate lines with other roads in the same territory. It is a billion dollar combination or will be if it goes through so far the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission is lacking because the members of that body are unable to see that the public can gain anything by the consolidation.

Now comes the word that the Frisco and the Rock Island are to be united under a single management. A group of bankers friendly to both lines but allied with the Frisco has bought or optioned enough Rock Island stock to assure the consolidation of the two properties if the Interstate Commerce Commission can be prevailed on to give its consent. The consolidation system will have about 11,000 miles of main line track and will be about a billion dollar combination. As neither of the lines has ever been a big money maker it may be that stockholders and the federal commission will be agreeable to merger.

It is already as certain as death and taxes that the public cannot benefit from either the Nickel Plate or the Frisco mergers. It may be possible to have better and less costly administration but what is gained from saving on wages of workmen and salaries of officials will be lost and more in the payments of dividends and interest on the new stocks and bonds that must be floated in the interest of each project. The promoters of the Nickel Plate deal are reported to have a \$100,000,000 in profits in sight. That vast sum will not be contributed by the stockholders of the merged roads but will be added to the capital investment and will serve to widen the foundation upon which the unjust freight rate structure now stands. The same conditions are true as to the Frisco-Rock Island project. It cannot be effected without new security issues and the interest and dividends on such stocks and bonds can come from but one source, the earnings of the shippers and travelers who live in the territory of the merged properties.

If transportation is to be reorganized under the merger plan the idea of voluntary consolidations must be amended. The strong will consolidate willingly only with the strong and the last condition of the weak lines will be worse than the first. Relief by merger can mean anything to the public only if the consolidations are compulsory on plans that are worked out by agents of the public.

The Associate editor gets mighty lonesome for a Farmers Union meeting once in awhile. It takes a long time to teach an old dog new tricks. Life in the capital of our country has many attractions and compensations but in spite of all the wonderful things that happen there a man who has been speaking to farmers almost daily for almost half a life time gets terribly homesick. So the invitation to speak at a Union rally meeting in Albermarle county Virginia was too good to be declined.

The road to Charlottesville is all through historic country. The Mount Vernon route is crossed a few miles out of Alexandria. A little further on is Manassas junction where the first and second battles of Bull Run were fought during the war between the states. Next is Colpepper Court House, the scene of at least one great battle. The homes of James Madison and James Monroe both lie within sight of the railway. Just east of Charlottesville is the high hill upon which stands Monticello, the farm home of Thomas Jefferson, which is in almost the same condition that it was when he died just a hundred years ago next Fourth of July and just fifty years after he had written and signed the Declaration of Independence. Just west of Charlottesville, on the outskirts of the city and under the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains is the University of Virginia which was founded by Jefferson.

Our meeting was at Crozet, fifteen miles west of Charlottesville and in the heart of a wonderful apple country that is the native home of the Albermarle Pippin. A committee of men had worked up the crowd for the meeting and a larger and even more efficient committee of farmers' wives and daughters had prepared the dinner which was served in the auditorium of the new Community High School of which all the folks in that neighborhood are proud and with reason. Nearly 200 dinners were served. There was creamed chicken, green peas, mashed potatoes, Virginia ham, pickles, preserves, bread and butter, coffee and pie. Every one had enough and it was all as good as the best of Virginia cooking and higher praise than that would be fulsome flattery.

After dinner came the speaking by Brother George H. Bowles and the writer. After the speaking the gates of the Union were opened and 74 farmers signed up cards and paid \$3.00, each for the privilege of belonging to the Farmers Union for another year. During the week Brother Bowles organized one new local and in addition to Crozet revived three others. The farmers of Albermarle county are all convinced of the necessity of strengthening their organization. Every man at the meeting joined up for another year, paid his dues and promised faithfully to work to get his neighbors to go and do likewise.

For a long time Albermarle county was a one crop agricultural community with all its eggs in baskets of apples and peaches. Now it is very different. There are 10,000 dairy cows and 300,000 hens in the county. The cows are all or nearly all pure breeds—Jerseys, Guernseys and Holsteins and Plymouth Rocks and Rhode Island Reds are the favorite egg-laying chickens. The dairy and egg business is only about ten years old in the county and is the result of the all the year round work of S. S. Teel, the County Agricultural Agent who has been an Albermarle county farmer all his

active life and has been president of the County Union since it was organized about fifteen years ago.

History relates that Johnson became a bankrupt on his great farm that lies just east of Charlottesville. For a long time after Jefferson's time the farmers of his county failed to prosper but during the last dozen years or so, largely as the result of Brother Teel's knowledge, zeal and leadership, they have learned that they must board at home, must make farming an all the year round job and must have something to sell for cash every day in the year. So the fertility of Albermarle county is being restored and the prosperity of the farmers established on a sound and enduring foundation.

FOUR STAR LOCAL UNIONS

Our directory of active Union Locals is lengthening out with each week. If it keeps on lengthening out it will soon occupy the entire fourth page of the paper. What if it does? The space can be used for no better purpose. Our three columns of directory puts the world on notice that in every section in which the Local of the Union exists the farmers are organized and are taking some time once or twice a month for a careful study and analysis of their own business and its needs.

Only one change in the directory that should be made and that at the very earliest possible moment. Every Local name should be followed by FOUR STARS. This to prove not only that the organization is alive but that its members realize that it is well worth while to pay up promptly in order that it may be kept alive. If the Secretaries will get just a little busy during the few weeks that remain before time to begin plowing we can have a hundred per cent of 100% Farmers Union locals in Kansas this year.

MORE AND BETTER BABIES

Just a few years ago our congress passed the Sterling-Towner maternity act. The purpose of the law was to remove some of the dangers to motherhood and reduce mortality, blindness and disease among the babies. It is a typical fifty-fifty law. No state can get any help from the public treasury for mothers and babies unless its state legislature provides some method for matching the federal dollars that are available for the purpose.

Nearly all the states have now met the federal government more than half way. Around \$2,000,000 a year of federal money and of course the same amount of state funds is now being used annually for the purpose of getting better babies and preserving the health of mothers. In a very short time those in authority over the administration of this law will have plenty of statistics to prove that it is doing all and more than was expected of it. Statistics are always available and always prove the points for which they are assembled if no one doubts them.

The point to this whole article, however, is that the legislature of Kansas has not appropriated any funds for matching the United States in this fascinating game. If Governor Patten should call our Solons together to pass a supplementary road act he should permit the same extra session to consider the possibilities of having more and better babies in this state.

ADVERTISE IN OUR PAPER

Of course this has been said many times before. It is equally certain that it will be repeated many times in the future. This is the only paper that goes into Kansas farmers homes for the sole purpose of telling the real truth about agricultural and other conditions vital to its readers. It deserves to be read and to be supported financially by every farmer in the state.

Members of the Union pay fifty cents a year for this paper. It is not enough. The income from subscriptions must be pieced out by charges for advertising. More than half the members of the Union in Kansas have something that the other half would buy if they knew about it. The Kansas Union Farmer should be the market place and clearing house for a vast volume of commodities that must be sold everywhere by the members of our organization.

The Union exists, among other reasons, for the purpose of establishing a closer relationship between sellers and buyers. That was one of the arguments that impelled each of you to join the organization. Through the advertising columns of your own paper you have a splendid chance to practice what you preach.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION NEEDED

Most farmers who know anything about the matter how long been convinced that the agricultural departments of the high schools stress production excessively and pay too little attention to marketing. It makes mighty little medicine for the farmer to increase his crop yields and thereby reduce the prices of his products. What agriculture needs is normal and economic production and better prices. The National Farmers Union Convention unanimously adopted the following:

"Resolved, that the best means now being placed on agricultural production in our various state colleges and schools should be shifted to co-operative marketing and that courses in co-operation should be included as major factors in the agricultural training of our young people. This we need to assure profitable farming. More production means agricultural bankruptcy. Better marketing is the only hope of agricultural salvation. We demand that our schools and colleges do their part."

GET THE MEMBERS NOW

Another winter is rapidly drawing to a close. Within a month the farmers of southern Kansas will be in the fields plowing for oats and other early spring crops. We should have doubled our Union membership in this state since the great educational convention that was held at Hays. We can do so yet if every member who believes in the Union does his part before spring work begins.

Every Local in the state that has not put on some sort of a campaign for new members should do so at once. The Union is practically the only farm organization in Kansas. It has made good. Let us make it much bigger and stronger

COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

Senators

Last Week Voted
To limit debate on the World Court proposition to one hour for each man, not one hour today and another tomorrow but absolutely just one hour each for the winding up of the argument. That means that from noon on Monday the 25th of January there could be only 96 minutes of discussion. They call it the cloture rule and such a decision must be carried by a three-fourths vote after a majority has asked for it.

Such a procedure is not very much like the previous question that is frequently ordered for the purpose of winding up a discussion and getting a vote in an ordinary legislative body like the national house of representatives, the legislature of Kansas or a Farmers Union local. Quite a number of senators are very much perturbed over the application of what they call the gag rule. Inasmuch as the World Court has been before the senate for several years and has been the sole order of business since congress assembled in December it would seem that enough has been said.

Before this paper reaches the customers the vote will have been taken and unless all signs fail the United States will have adhered to the International Court of the League of Nations.

Vice President Dawes gets a little glory out of the application of "cloture" the World Court debate. He may yet persuade the senate that it should do less deliberating and more voting.

Ancestors

Long Since Dead

Cannot be slandered by thoughtless or ignorant persons still living. So the court has decided in the case of the daughter of Jim Bridger, who has just finished suing a motion picture producer for libelling her father in the "Covered Wagon," a movie picture that undertakes to show the present generation how things were done and the way pioneers carried on in the not distant past when St. Louis was on the frontier and Kansas City was the boat landing for the city of Westport.

The picture portrayed old Jim Bridger, a swarthy, sweating frontiersman married to several Indian women all at the same time and even goes so far as to introduce the old trappers cooper colored harem as characters in the play. As Bridger was a very decent, law abiding citizen without any Indian wives and well married to a very fine white woman his daughter naturally resented the sort of a show that the author of the Covered Wagon and made of her father. She asked for big damages but the court says the dead cannot be slandered and that the living are not injured by the things that are said of those who have passed on to where movies cease from flickering and libel is at rest.

Possibly the Bridger verdict may deter some patriotic descendant of George Washington from prosecuting Rupert Hughes as a slanderer of by gone greatness.

When the senate adopted the gag rule limiting its members to a single hour each in debating the World Court the vice president was so delighted and excited that he tried to light his up-side down pipe while it was right side up.

Mussolini

Has Destroyed

The liberty of the Italian people but he is furnishing employment to many thousands of unemployed Italian laborers and is using a pile of money borrowed from our own Wall Street bankers at interest rates that are extremely attractive to those who live by usury. It is generally known that Italy has lost vestiges of democratic government but business is good under the dictator and the money changers in all parts of the world are supporting the government of the most absolute ruler now in authority.

One of these days the plain people of other countries will be called on to make a choice between liberty and financial prosperity. Big business will demand prosperity at any sacrifice between liberty and financial prosperity. Big business will demand prosperity at any sacrifice of free institutions. Always the wealth of the world, sooner or later in every country, grows reactionary and uses its power against democratic governmental institutions.

America may soon become so prosperous that the people can afford to forget that it is only a couple of generations since we quit fighting for freedom.

The Maryland mayor who served a home brew banquet and found later that one of his guests was a prohibition enforcement agent is now administering the affairs of his city from the secluded precincts of a very badly ventilated jail.

Walski.

The Prima Donna.
The wife of the divorced husband of John D. Rockefeller's daughter has had some sort of a family jar with her millionaire husband and is now in Paris having a good time while McCormick stays on this side of the ocean. No one supposed that the marriage of the singer and the harvester man would be permanent although McCormick is reported to have used several dozen monkey glands in restoring his youth.

Old Cyrus H. McCormick may have done a good turn for a world that wants cheaper wheat bread but the wealth that he accumulated and passed on to his children buys no happiness. The best argument in favor of heavy inheritance taxes is that helpless young folks are thereby protected from the calamity of having great and unearned riches bestowed on them by careless parents.

Oysters, crab and lobsters are becoming so scarce that the legislatures of a dozen sea board states are planning closed seasons for the protection

and conservation of shell fish. The crustaceans that are on the market have associated so intimately with sewage of the great cities that it is no great sacrifice for the folks to deny themselves the pleasure of eating the germ laden bivalves.

Burbank

Tells the Wide World

That he is an infidel, without the slightest belief in the possibility of a future existence although he is not certain that there is not somewhere a supreme and conscious intelligence that directs and regulates the universe. Those who still cling to ancient faiths need not take the plant breed too seriously. He knows no more about the secrets of the universe than the most ignorant of his fellow beings.

It is a little strange that the great scientists who declare that a future life is impossible do not realize that the fact that we are here at all is just as mysterious as anything that has ever been taught about the future life. To them again is no more an impossibility than it is to live at all. The Burbanks who dispute the immortality of the soul would collect a larger following if they would first explain how man with an intelligence all but divine ever happened to be here in the first place.

It is not worth while to worry over the infidelity of the Burbanks of this world. With all their knowledge of material forces they are as ignorant as any of us as to matters of the spirit.

Things must be going pretty well in Texas. It is several weeks since either Ma or Jim Ferguson has had a preferred position on the first page even of the newspapers of their own state.

Is Hard To Get

In all sections of the eastern states that usually rely on the anthracite mines for their fuel. At that hour, the prices in Washington and other great cities are lower than in the people of Kansas pay the coal merchants of our state. West Virginia bituminous coal is \$5.00 a ton to consumers which, if my guess is correct, is about half what the farmers of Kansas are paying for their fuel.

The strike still hangs on. The miners are out of money and their families are in need of food and clothing and the other necessities of life. There is dreadful poverty and much suffering in the anthracite districts of Pennsylvania but the labor leaders and the mine operators are still far apart while the wives and children of the miners are starving and the poor of the great cities are enduring the hardships of a cold winter without the warmth and comfort that comes from plenty of coal at reasonable prices.

Nationalizing the coal mines would be a rather doubtful experiment but it is certain that agents of the government could do no worse than the operators have always done.

With two Victory Highways marked across Kansas from Manhattan to the Colorado line it is now certain that the hotel keepers and filling stations in all the north-western Kansas cities will have a good trade next summer no matter what happens to the tourists.

Democracy

Must Look Elsewhere

For a presidential candidate if Al Smith really retires from politics. It is announced that on his return from Albany at the end of his third term as governor of New York Smith will become the president of a bank in the big city and settle down to the job of making enough money to assure himself and his wife of a competency in their old age which for them is now almost at hand.

Governor Smith is the most vital and forceful figure in the democratic party. He is really governor of his state although the law is amended by the opposition party. He is one of those rarely known men who are best beloved and most respected by those who know them best and is hated and feared only by strangers. He is plenty big enough for the presidency which is denied him because he loves his church and practices the type of Christianity that he inherited from his parents.

New York loves Smith and will keep electing him to office as long as he will consent to be a candidate. It is a thousand pities that in some capacity, the republic cannot have the service of a man so wise, faithful, and patriotic.

Tax rates will go higher in Kansas as long as we stick to the wasteful and wicked system of requiring property to pay all the costs of government. Our next legislature should be made up of men who are not afraid to tap new sources of public revenues.

Americans

Grumble Loudly

Over taxes paid to the federal government but as compared with other folks in other nations our people are getting off easy. The great bulk of our people pay nothing in form of direct taxes to the general movement. After the new revenue act becomes effective all incomes over \$2,500 for heads of families and \$1500 for single persons will be wholly exempt from federal taxation.

Here are some figures that are worth serious consideration. In Italy the head of a family with an income of \$3,000 pays an income tax of \$599.30; the head of a French family with the same income pays \$348 a year; an Englishman on the same income pays \$202.50; and in America where we are always more or less worried over taxation the head of a family who enjoys an income of \$3000 a year pays federal taxes in the stupendous amount of \$7.59 under the Revenue Act of 1924 and will be exempt after the new law goes into effect.

Notwithstanding the dissatisfaction of quite a few folks with our Ameri-

can institutions it really pays to be a citizen of the United States.

The Topeka Capital is responsible for the statement that the national wealth of Italy is \$20,000,000,000 and the national income for all the people from all the sources is \$4,000,000,000 a year. The national wealth of the United States exceeds \$20,000,000,000 and our annual income is more than \$7,000,000,000. At the risk of growing tiresome I repeat that it is worth something to be a citizen of this republic.

California

Is One Section

Of the country that did fairly well last year. The farms of that state produced 1,559,000 tons of marketable commodities worth more than \$400,000,000. What is still better the producers, for the most part, sold their own crops through co-operative agencies and received a larger proportion of the consumers dollar than the farmers of any other state. The total yield of farm products in 1925 was greater than for any other year since 1920.

Although fruit is supposed to be the leading product of California farms the hay crop was first in value with a yield that was worth more than \$75,000,000. Oranges came second with a \$68,000,000 crop and barley ranks third with a yield that was worth more than \$22,000,000. In spite of prohibition the wine grapes of the Golden State sold for \$18,000,000, and was the fifth crop in value. Raisins ranked tenth and added \$14,400,000 to the wealth of the state.

For a state without much rain water and always in dread of the Japanese invasion California does right well for the folks who stick to business.

Greece has just borrowed another big bunch of money from her own people by the typical European plan of issuing a few more millions of paper money. As a wealth producer the printing press now out ranks all other industries in something like a dozen European nations.

Lumber

Manufacturers

On the Pacific Coast will reduce their timber cut and production from 50 to 60 per cent this year. Of course this curtailment of the output does not mean that the lumber men out there will make less money than in previous years. On the contrary they will probably do better than for several seasons. So they curtail production, increase prices and profits and tell the balance of the world to go hang itself.

Agriculture should learn from lumbering that nothing is more dangerous and wasteful than a surplus that cannot be sold at profitable prices.

The railway workers of Atlanta have just organized a Credit Union. From now on those folks will save and invest a constantly increasing share of their wages through that Farmers Credit Union Co-operative Bank and other financial agencies controlled by themselves but unlike Labor they lack the courage and the vision to capitalize and use their own financial resources.

Revenue

Measures Must Originate

In the national house of representatives if the requirements of the well known constitution are complied with. The Ways and Means Committee of the House spent most of the summer and fall writing a new tax measure which was passed through that body without much change and in record time. It looked like a good bill. Every taxpayer in the country, big and little, got some consideration and the whole result was a proposed reduction of \$322,000,000 a year in the federal tax load.

Now the measure is in the senate and has been amended almost beyond the possibility of being recognized by the men who cut short their fishing trips and came back to Washington to sweat and swear over it while the weather was so hot that eggs could be fried without fire on the sidewalks of Pennsylvania Avenue. The senate is likely to pass the change-measure in a few days.

Chairman Green of the House Ways and Means Committee is on the whole path and threatens to block the whole thing in conference unless the senate listens to reason and permits the house to discharge its constitutional duty.

If all the water power in the United States could be harnessed for the production of electric current it would never be necessary to mine another ton of coal in this country. Electricity sources that can be used all the time by all the people without reducing supply or increasing prices.

FARMERS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL

It would seem from what we are able to learn by reading of the comments of the President that the Farmer has his sympathy. And now comes Secretary Jardine with a plan to provide for a Government Commission to give the farmer expert advice. That ought to fix matters for the farmer.

—C. E. B.

Many Kansas farmers, among their new year resolutions, resolved to take a farm inventory this year to include all equipment, stock, grain, and other farm products. By taking an inventory each year a farmer can check up pretty well on how much the farm owes him or how much money he has made from it during the season.

PRESIDENT TROMBLE COMMENTS ON CONDITIONS

Another Creamery
I understand that there is a new proposition to be submitted by the State Agricultural College, the Secretary of Agriculture and the State Dairy Commission, to establish cream stations in all of the present towns of the state with a uniform set of by-laws. The station signs contracts with their members and then the station signs a contract with some creamery for 6 months.

Now, they call it a co-operative movement but I am wondering how much co-operation they will get out of the old line creameries or what dividends they may get from the business. It seems every time the Farmers Union establishes a business institution which is purely co-operative, the state agricultural college undertakes to organize something that will retard the action of the co-operative institution.

Now, if I understand the purpose of the Agricultural college it is an educational institution not organized for the purpose of getting into the commercial activities of the organized institutions. It is supposed to educate the people through extension work, statistics, etc. I wonder what their motive can be of going out and signing the farmer to a cream station and then sign the cream station to an old line company. I cannot understand how they expect to benefit the farmer by so doing.

We have organized, with great expense, a creamery at Kansas City. We signed up contracts from the producer and the station to patronize their own creamery, where they manufacture their butter and put it on the market themselves. Now, the agricultural department comes along and wants to establish a chain of stations and bind them up to some old line company which is absolutely contrary to the co-operative idea. I am asking the farmer to take notice of this and act accordingly.

JOHN TROMBLE.

"A MAGAZINE ARTICLE"

I see an article in the Literary Digest of January 16th, 1926 headed "Mutters of rebellion from the Farm." Also a cartoon with the farmer gouging the good old party with a pitch fork, and a long article throwing out a good scare to congressmen if they do not do something that the farmers will elect new men to Congress.

Now, I am wondering why it is necessary to throw out these war cries to scare the Congressmen to do their honest duty for the best benefit of their country. It is an admission that the Congressmen are not in proper mood to treat agriculture fair and it is necessary to scare them by threatening them that they will not be elected again if they do not.

It seems to me we are in a deplorable condition in the country when we elect men to Congress and the United States Senate or other public positions that you have to scare with a war cry of leaving them at home if they do not do their duty. Have they not the love of their country at heart? Have they not any regard for humanity? If those things are necessary it certainly is a deplorable condition that this country has got into and a big slam to the men who are elected to our national legislative bodies.

If it be true that we have to scare them into enacting legislation for agriculture, then it naturally follows that we should put men there that will take the welfare of the country at heart and do something for the best and biggest occupation in the United States. Agriculture is the basic industry of this country and when agriculture fails the country fails. Everybody will concede that that is a fact so why have to scare our Congressmen and Senators into legislation for the benefits of this country.

JOHN TROMBLE, President, Kansas Farmers Union.

NOTICE

There will be a series of meetings held in Osborne county in the second week of February 1926. These meetings will be conducted by Mrs. W. A. Beal of Ash Grove, Mo. Meeting date begins Wednesday February 10th at Alton P. M. Then at Covert same date evening, Natoma, Thursday the 11th p. m. Osborne on the 12th noon banquet and the speaking. Downs on Saturday the 13th, p. m. All points I think counts on some plan of refreshments prior to the speaking. That is up to each meeting point. The speaker to be entertained and transferred from point to point of meeting places by some one voluntarily.

These meetings are supposed to be public but we earnestly invite the ladies and young people that are interested in farm life, and agricultural activities. Come and help to push your own business along.

Mrs. Beal will interest you and give something to think about.

G. W. KISSELL, County Secretary.

HUNT NO. 1102

Getting above time for Hunt local No. 1107 to send in a report that they have elected their officers for the current year. C. Boeding, president, Clem Boeckman, vice president, Ray Korte, secretary-treasurer, Leo Hurlinglake, conductor, J. L. Kongs, doorkeeper.

Hunt local met the second Tuesday of each month.

RAY KORTE, Sec'y.

NOTICE FARMERS UNION MEMBERS

The Woodbine Local No. 1980 expects to have Mr. Trull of the Farmers Union bank at Kansas City at Woodbine, Saturday, February 13th and he is to speak at the bank hall in Woodbine at 2:30 on that date. All Farmers Union Members of neighboring locals are cordially invited.

B. H. OSTERREICH, Pres.

Lindsborg, Kans.

Jan. 20, 1926.

Mr. John Tromble:
Dear Sir:

You suggest to have no surplus—Well, a large crop was once considered a blessing, now it seems to be a curse! Why? Because finance consumes a large crop and failure increases price—but also increases the mortgage. No matter which way you

turn, your stern is behind. That is finance does you. Why? Because you are trying to make 45 out of 8. This condition is so because the east controls all our finances.
Charles Fenn.

VALLEY VIEW LOCAL 488
Valley View Local No. 488 of F. E. and C. U. of Stockton, Kansas, held its annual installation of officers and oyster supper on Monday evening, January 18.

Due to the increase of the membership of the local the school house would not accommodate the crowd, so the basement of the first Methodist church of Stockton was secured.

After the general order of business was disposed of all enjoyed a bounteous oyster feast. There were plates laid for eighty.

E. R. Moore, Pres.
Bryan H. Look, Sec'y.

EMERALD LOCAL NO. 2137
Emerald Local No. 2137 held its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday evening.

After a short business session in which our President, Leo F. Collins made a talk, two new members were initiated. Followed by all members present paying their dues for the ensuing year.

One of our members Mr. D. J. Coter has been elected to manage the Cream and Produce station in Harris, which is to be opened for business in the near future.

After the business session was adjourned, the ladies of the local had prepared an oyster supper to which all did ample justice. The local continues to meet the third Tuesday of the month.

Mrs. James McLindon, Sec'y-Treas.

FRANKLIN LOCAL NO. 1301
Franklin Local met in regular session January 26, 1926. A very interesting and instructive meeting was held.

At our next meeting we will discuss taxes and tax legislation. Mrs. O. W. Holmes read a very clever poem containing the names of a number of agricultural products. After she finished reading each told the number they had counted. No one guessed the correct number. Mrs. O. Caldwell's list was the nearest correct. A large onion was the prize. On Jan. 12th the Franklin Local met at the Community House and entertained the Ash Creek Local and a number of Farmers Union members residing in the immediate vicinity of the Franklin Local with a supper, celery, pickles, cake and coffee were served to a large crowd that were present. A very pleasant evening was spent, and late hour all returned to their homes, feeling that a gathering of this kind does much to advance the spirit of good-fellowship and co-operation among ourselves and we more clearly realize that "in union there is strength."

Three cheers for the Farmers Union.
Three cheers for the visitors too.
Three cheers for the Franklin local.
And the members loyal and true.
Remember our next meeting Feb. 9th, we expect you there prepared to discuss "Taxes."

Visiting Farmers Union members are always welcome.
Mrs. F. M. Livingston, Reporter.

NORTH SIDE LOCAL NO. 1061
The North Side Local No. 1061, Lindsborg, gave a program and social at the Elving school house on Thursday evening, Jan. 28, 1926, the program consisted of:
Song by male quartet.
Saxophone solo—Miss Ada Clark.
Speech—by Dr. Ernst Philblad.
Male quartet.
Music by the Treas. Trio.

The entire program was well rendered and the speech highly received. The refreshment committee deserve special mention for the splendid oyster stew with coffee and trimmings which was served following the program.

Work was appreciated in preparing for the large crowd attending the meeting.
Many thanks to all who helped in any way to make this social the success it was.

At the various District Meetings of the Farmers Union Co-operative Produce Association held last week, the following were chosen as members of the Board of Directors of this Association for the year 1926:

District No. 1, E. F. Schiefelbusch, Osawatimie.

District No. 2, H. B. Whitaker, Colony.

District No. 3, E. L. Bullard, Vassar.

District No. 4, C. V. Fisher, Alta Vista.

District No. 5, R. D. Samuelson, Olsburg.

District No. 6, David Thomas, Burns.

District No. 7, John Tromble, Salina.

The above, together with the delegates elected from the various districts, will attend the annual meeting of this association which is to be held in Kansas City on February 3.

WITH APOLOGIES TO SOMEONE
Breathes there the man with greed so dead, who, to himself hath never said, "this is my own, my private graft?" Is there a writer sharp and keen, who, to exploit his private spleen, has never loosed a poisoned shaft? Is there, beneath this shining Sun a financier, yes, only one, who can say he never stole? Is there a preacher bold and bright, who, for some taintful gold in sight, would not trade a sinner's soul? Is there one, farmer who believes that middlemen and other thieves have not robbed him in the past? Does there on Earth, in Heaven or hell, an honest politician dwell? Goodbye, I've stumped you all at last.

A. M. KINNEY

SHERWIN LOCAL 1856

Went in session January 12, 1926, and as this was our annual meeting we proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, heard our manager's report—and then a general discussion

for the good of the local. We did a nice business the past year which amounted to one hundred and twenty one thousand dollars. As we have started it looked pretty dark for a good many of our members got discouraged and went other places with their grain. Couldn't see their way to patronize their own business, but a few of our loyal members stood by and by close management, and the patronage of non members, have pulled her out and we have gone over the top with some change to the good.

We have added to our elevator a new office room and also built a good warehouse. We handle flour, feed and are going to add a line of well known machinery to our list. Any brother wanting anything in our line call on our manager Mr. Card, and he will see to your wants.

We have elected Mr. E. C. Hicks, of our local as correspondent from our local and hope you will hear from us from now on.

Yours respectfully,
JOE COPLIN, Secretary.

LINN COUNTY FARMERS UNION MEETING

Farmers Union of Linn county met in G. A. R. hall at LaCygne, Saturday January 23. After a feast of many good things to eat, the local proceeded to business. The local called on the ladies, the meeting was called to order by brother Geo. Wawhead, acting chairman. Brother Lippert, state field man, being present, installed elected officers present, A. B. Cox, of Goodrich, president; R. C. Lacy, LaCygne, secretary-treasurer, the officers taking their respective stations.

The regular order of business was taken up and subjects of interest to the welfare and advancement of the farmer were discussed.

Mr. Augustine, superintendent of the Farmers Union Co-operative Creamery, the man who turns the farmers cream into "Union Gold" brings gave a very interesting and instructive talk. From September 21, 1925, the opening day of the Farmers Co-operative Creamery, to October 6, 1925 inclusive, the number pounds of butter fat received totaled 39,560 pounds from which 49,554 pounds of "Union Gold" were produced.

Mr. Augustine informed us that our creamery has been on a paying basis from the first day its doors were opened for business. When the first car load shipment of butter was received on the eastern market, a government inspector on inspecting and grading the butter, finding it scored so high asked "where did this stuff come from?"

Reply, "from Farmers Union Co-operative Creamery in Kansas," "nothing doing" says he, "nothing like that from Kansas." The shipping bill being produced he was convinced.

Co-operation is growing steadily and when the majority of farmers realize the benefit and value of co-operation it will grow in volume.

After an interesting talk by brother Lippert the meeting was adjourned until the next county meeting which will be held at Goodrich, Kansas, March 27, and every farmer who possibly can is extended an invitation to attend this meeting.

OWSLEY NO. 2004

Owsley No. 2004 is still on the map organizations and co-operators.

In the last corresponding issue from the Owsley local on organization and co-operation will say for the past several years we have heard of co-operative marketing spoken of by the farmers and other industries it has become a sort of hobby in our local and it has brought them no place in the marketing question. We have come in contact with people who have retired from farming and they occupy their time by talking co-operative marketing. It is well and good to talk co-operation but they don't do it. There are only a few farmers in this county who are co-operators. They sell their products to home buyers rather than to ship and sell the union organization. Why don't they co-operate with their fellow men? For one believes in co-operative marketing it is and should be an orderly process of distribution by the producer but unless this orderly process of distribution is carried on co-operatively as efficient and economically as any other similar business managed by an individual or corporation it will not survive. It will not be lacking sound business principle, honest, efficient men in every branch of work and wide awake directors are the men necessary in successful marketing. Officers and directors of co-operative organizations besides being capable business men, must assume the responsibility to their people they serve and be climbing to success. No enterprise will succeed without co-operation. The foundation for co-operative marketing of farm products, in laws, contracts or other legal evidences of the marketing of marketing corporations. The real foundation for cooperative marketing is found in the intelligent Mutual expressions of the farmers themselves to band together to distribute their products through co-operative effort.

There must be determination to make it succeed. These are the elements that constitute the foundation for co-operative marketing.

Co-operation is or should be a relative to education. We the tax payers of Cherokee county are paying for education which they are not receiving. As I understand the county agent is receiving \$2000 a year salary from the taxes paid by the Farmers of this county. Why pay those taxes if the farmers and poultry raisers and dairy and fruit growers can't receive some education from the county agent. It has been intimated to me that the average farmer knows more than the county agent from the knowledge received gained by his demonstration on poultry. Why don't the farmers of the northeast part of Cherokee County call on him and give him a trial to prove his ability if he can not learn the Farmers anything discharge him from the office he holds and save the taxes that he is receiving from the farmers of the County. The trouble is that 75 per cent of the farmers look at the financial stand point on those lines and not on the educational views. The time will come that they will be compelled to take lessons on agriculture poultry horticulture and dairy and

berry raising. No money in corn, wheat and oats unless the soil is put in shape. I don't think that as many as 20 farmers ever had their soil analyzed. Why not cooperate with the education and learn what is the trouble with the agriculture business.

Well, we the members of Owsley have a charitable organization in all lines of trouble and sickness especially in the local town. 2 each day from this local took turns 2 each day along his well 18 feet and struck water which came up 7 feet. One Brother was handy laying brick. He walked it in a day and one-half and now Mr. and Mrs. Brady don't need to haul water for the horses and cows and house. Mr. and Mrs. Brady wish to send their heartfelt thanks to the Brothers and Farmers Union in general and as soon as he is able he will join our local.

E. H. URBACH, Cor. Sec.

Mr. John Tromble:
Unnatural laws makes natural conditions abortive?

Before money was invented, all people paid their taxes in nature. That is—in the products of the land. When crops were good—they paid more. When crops were bad, they paid less—No one run in debt to pay taxes—When large crop years came around

KANSAS UNION FARMER WEEKLY EXCHANGE

If members of the Union have anything to Sell or Exchange, they should advertise in this department. Rate: 3 cents a word per issue. Count words in headings, as "For Sale," or "Wanted to Buy," and each initial or figure in the address. Compound words count as two words. CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER—TRY THIS DEPARTMENT—IT WILL PAY YOU.

POULTRY

WYCKOFF TANGRED S. C. WHITE
Leghorn eggs \$8.00 per 100. Satisfaction guaranteed. North Slope Poultry Farm. Spring Hill, Kansas.

YESTERLAD SINGLE COMB WHITE
Leghorn Chickens. \$10.00 per 100. Live delivery guaranteed. Eggs \$3.50. Mrs. John Summerman, Salina, Kansas.

CO-OPERATIVE CHICKS—HIGHEST
quality, 9c up. Prepaid, live delivery. Write for prices. Co-operative Hatchery, Chillicothe, Mo.

BABY CHICKS PLACE YOUR ORDER
now. Chicks from good utility flocks. Popular breeds. Live Delivery Guaranteed. First Hatch March 1st. Mrs. F. J. Kingston, Holington, Kansas.

EXTRA LARGE ENGLISH BARBON
Single Comb White Leghorn Cockerels. From 200 egg hens. Cullied by County Agent. \$2.00. Voneta Peterson, Haddam, Kansas.

SHINN CHICKS ARE BETTER.
Leading breeds. \$8.40 per 100. Free book. Shinn Farms, Box 153, Greentown, Missouri.

BETTER CHICKS: ALL KINDS OUR
low prices will surprise you. Pictorial catalog free. Comfort Hatchery, North 11th, Pleasant Hill, Mo.

PLANTS AND SEEDS

FOR SALE SWEET CLOVER SEED
\$5.00 bushel. Chas. F. Redding, Waverly, Kansas.

FOR SALE—PURE, CERTIFIED, RE-
cleaned, and tested Pink Kaffir, Dawn Kaffir, Red Kaffir, and Dwarf Yellow Milo seed. Write for samples and quotations. Fort Hays Experiment Station, Fort Hays, Kansas.

PROOF PROOF CABBAGE AND ON-
ION. Plants from good stock. Strong, well-rooted. Cabbage, damp moss packed to roots. Each bundle fifty plants. Instructive talk. Various names. Cabbage: Early Jersey Wakefield, Charleston Wakefield, Succession, Copenhagen Market, Early and Late Flat-dutch. Parsel Post Prepaid, 100, 50c. 250, \$1.00. 500, \$1.50. 1,000, \$2.50. 2,500, \$5.00. 5,000, \$8.25. 10,000, \$10.00. Onions: White Crystal Wax, Farmers Union Post Prepaid, 100, 50c. 250, \$1.00. 500, \$1.50. 1,000, \$2.50. 2,500, \$5.00. 5,000, \$8.25. 10,000, \$10.00. Full count, prompt shipment, safe arrival, satisfaction guaranteed. UNION PLANT COMPANY, TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS.

SUDAN \$2.50. ALPHEA \$7.00. SWEET
Clover \$5.00. Millet \$1.00. Canes \$1.15. Blue Grass \$1.50. Red Clover \$1.75. Red Top \$1.50. Timothy and Clover \$5.50. Merck Grain Company, Salina, Kansas. If you have any kind of seed to sell in any quantity send sample and ask for bid.

JACK FOR SALE
FOR SALE EIGHT YEAR OLD JACK.
A good one. J. C. Cook, Soldier, Kans.

TOBACCO

SALESMAN WANTED
WE PAY \$200 MONTHLY SALARY,
furnish car and expenses to introduce our guaranteed poultry and stock cleaners. Write for particulars. K 673, Springfield, Illinois.

SALESMAN WANTED TO SOLICIT OR-
ders for lubricating oils, greases and paints. Write for particulars. The Harvey Oil Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY
Whereas: God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to remove from among us our brother, August Nish, has

It is resolved, that we, the members of Boardman Local No. 422, Centralia, Kansas, extend to the bereaved family and especially the sorrowful sister and daughter, the most heartfelt sympathy.

Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family, one copy to the Farmers Union paper and one copy spread on the minutes of our local.

Mrs. Maude Armstrong
Mrs. Blanch Whitford
Mrs. Nora Newman

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT
Whereas: Mrs. Nora Newman has seen fit to remove from among us our Brother Co-operator, C. E. Henderson, be it resolved by the members of the Second District of the Farmers Union Co-operative Produce Association that we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, especially to the mother, sister, and other relatives of the deceased.

Signed: F. C. Gerstenberger, W. Whitney Smith, Fred Cook, Howard Whitaker, O. M. Lippert, Frank V. Cook, Committee.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY
WHEREAS: God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to remove from among us our Brother Co-operator, C. E. Henderson, be it resolved by the members of the Second District of the Farmers Union Co-operative Produce Association that we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, especially to the mother, sister, and other relatives of the deceased.

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second District of the Farmers Union Co-operative Produce Association that we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, especially to the mother, sister, and other relatives of the deceased brother, that a copy of these Resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the meeting at all published in the Official State Paper and that copies be sent to the bereaved family.

For the spirit of that voice forever still.

F. C. Gerstenberger, Blue Mount W. Whitney Smith, Westphalia Howard Whitaker, Colony Mort Lippert, Bison Frank V. Cook, Kansas City Committee.

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Kansas Union Farmer
Salina, Kansas

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A. M. Kinney, President, Huron, Kansas
Jack Stevens, Secretary, Kansas City, Kas.

the government stored the grain, to save it for hard crop years. When money was invented, the laws made the taxes payable in money. Then the people began to borrow money to pay taxes—and mortgages became the order of the day. Why was the mortgage invented? Mortgage means "dead-lock." This was because of business. Now business rules the world—and money rules business! And private interests rule and control money. Mortgages were invented to protect business. This condition is natural. The unnatural law is where business and money are in the hands of a few and the actual money being only 8 billion dollars a year. Then you can understand that the lender of money can not be safe in his business unless he hold the property of the borrower in a dead-lock to pay the advances. The unnaturalness of such a condition everybody can see. But it takes good lawyers to be able to see where the remedy is.

There was a time in this world when man was right. That was the time under and during the formation of the Anglo-Saxon—family of nations. The people began to form ideas of right—outside of might. From that time we open our laws of justice. But the law was not established all together, consequently, people had to consider in all transaction, the acts of the public enemy. Then the common law of England—began to provide that every man was liable to do what he agreed to do, unless prevented by the act of God or the act of the public enemy. This law came to America, and is part of the jurisprudence of every state in the union. Now we shall see the bearing of this law, upon the American life, and the business laws: that have so far developed among us. A drouth is the act of God—for which no man of the Anglo Saxon race is responsible! We that come under the influence of the Anglo Saxon laws do under and by virtue of the constitution of the United States. Therefore we are entitled to the same right, as the Anglo Saxon born. But in the United States, so far—this Anglo Saxon privilege, although law, does not operate—Why? Why? By reason of the immense wealth of its virgin soil, we have never stopped to think of the need to apply it. But now agriculture has come to the end of its "ladle"—Our civilization is a growth of about six thousand years—This momentum is hard reverse, consequently it is hard to charge business laws, without disturbing our order of society. Money is now a thing that we can not be without—Gold was once the only money. Our civilization has established paper money, or as they are called bills of credit. The ones who have enough of these bills, has no need to concern himself about his credit! These bills of credit were ones based upon debts. The nations bonds. Now they are based upon, our national resources called "commercial assets." These resources are under the control of the states. These resources are produced by the states. The Bible says—debts are the destruction of a people, agriculture is now hopelessly destroyed. The only way to save agriculture is to apply the Anglo Saxon law—That man is responsible for the act of God—That is for drouth's. If we apply that law, business will be in a bad shape. Therefore we will have to make a new departure in money. That is: The states control the resources, consequently the state control the base of our currency. If we now let the states control the currency, we only follow up a natural sequence, which will enable the state to so act. That man will no longer be responsible for the act of God!

CHARLES FERM.

Cool milk or cream to not less than 50 degrees F. within a few minutes after it is drawn or skimmed. Maintain this temperature

Practice Co-Operation

By using UNION GOLD BUTTER. Manufactured by the Farmers Union Co-operative Creamery, Kansas City, from cream produced by the Farmers Union membership. Call for it at your local Farmers Union Store.

FARMERS UNION COOP. CREAMERY
Kansas City, Mo.

SUCCESS!

A very significant work meaning—TO PROSPER.

Prosperity is the aim of every one, and should be enjoyed by the American farmer as much, if not more, than any.

CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING is one way for the farmer to attain some of the prosperity due him.

We are YOUR CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING AGENCY—the LARGEST CO-OPERATIVE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION COMPANY on the Kansas City Yards.

Show the world that you can make a SUCCESS of Co-operative Livestock Marketing!

Consign Your Livestock Shipments

TO

Farmers Union Live Stock Commission

SALE
January-February

89c Each Pair
86X8600
Colors: Medium gray, French nude, Airedale, Windsor tan, French tan, Blush, Gunmetal or Blond satin; also Black. Sizes, 8 1/2 to 10. State size and color.
Silk with mercerized cotton tops, heels and toes. Ravel stop stitch. Spring needle fabric.

79c Each
Beautiful Rayon Vests and Bloomers
16X96700—Pink.
16X96701—Peach.
Sizes, 34 to 42 inches.
Bloomers to Match
\$1.39 Each
16X96702—Pink.
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Sizes, 34 to 42 inches.
Rayon (artificial silk) vests and bloomers at astonishingly low prices.

\$1.49 FOR 10 YARDS
Dolly Madison Percale
Yard Wide
96X92070
Our famous Dolly Madison Percale is a material which has won the lasting friendship of thousands of women who seek high quality and low price combined. Very dainty and yet most serviceable. It is one of the outstanding bargains of this sale.
Choice of many new patterns.

The New Damask Pattern Border
Per yard.....**\$1.19**
94X1635
Width, about 54 inches.
Colors: (1) Almond green; (2) Castilian red; (3) Tan, or (4) Flemish blue. State color.
This is a new and beautiful fabric with a very silky appearance. Woven of lustrous Rayon and extra fine, soft cotton yarns. Requires only 1 1/2 to 2 yards for a dress.

Sears, Roebuck and Co., Kansas City
This Sale Starts the Day You Get This Catalog and Ends Feb. 28, 1926

The Biggest Sale Ends Feb. 28th 1926

NEVER such a galaxy of bargains as is contained in this little book of 172 pages! An opportunity such as is seldom offered is presented in this, the greatest sale event of the year.

If you want white goods, dress goods, wearing apparel, home furnishings, automobile tires or supplies, implements or hardware, then you must have this book.

For this sale we have bought in immense quantities—sometimes the entire output of mills and factories—and we are offering our 9,000,000 customers the opportunities for greater saving during the few days the sales lasts.

Remember, these low prices are good only until February 28th. That's the day this sale ends. Every year we plan for this big sale to make it America's

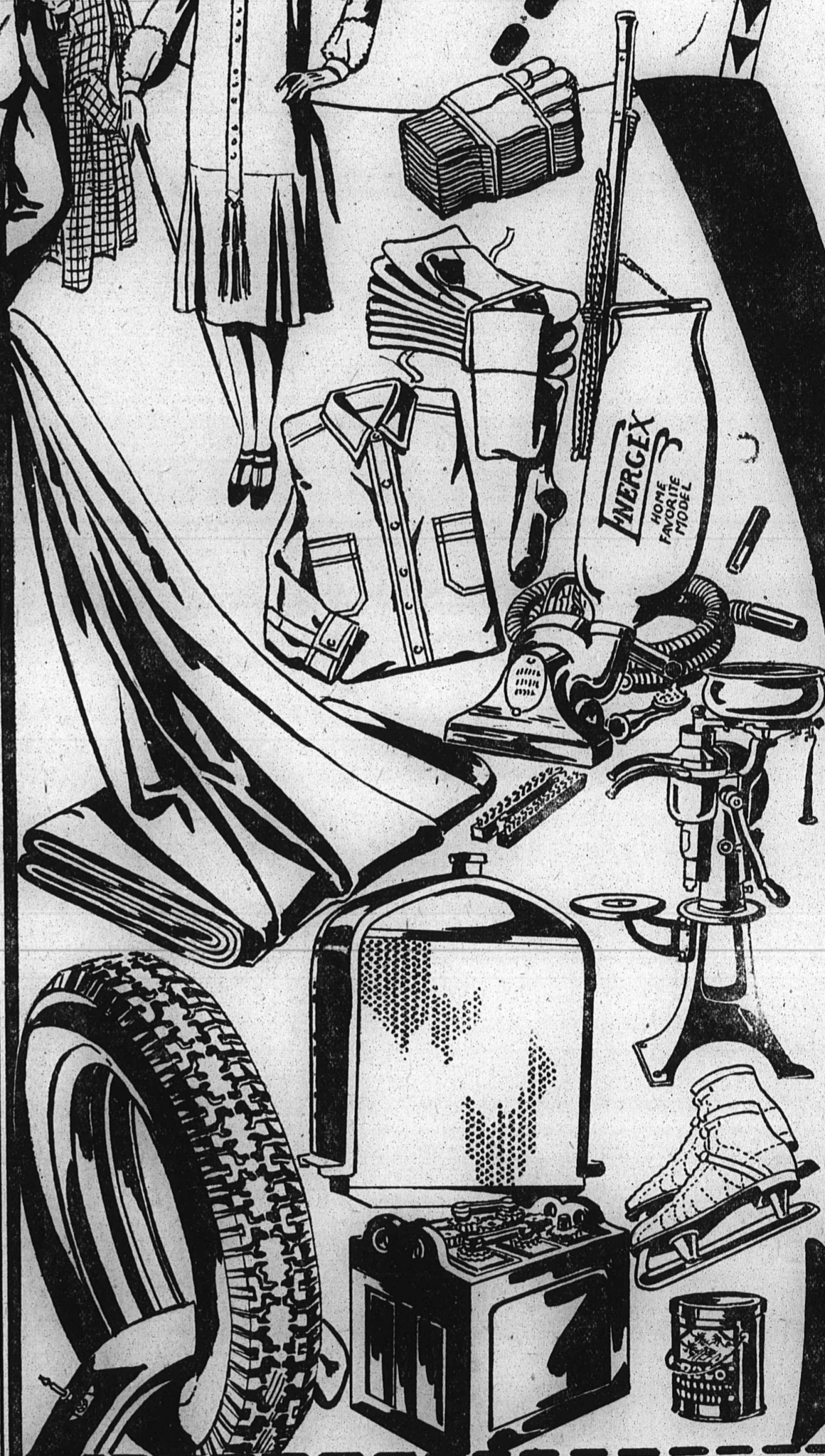
outstanding value giving event. But never in all our history have we been able to present such bargains as are shown on the pages of our Sale Catalog.

America's Thrift Sale, the greatest achievement of the World's Largest Store, can save you many dollars. If you haven't a copy of this book, by all means get it. It costs nothing, but it is worth much. It sets the standard of value. It proves the leadership of the World's Largest Store.

The coupon below, filled in and mailed to our Kansas City Store, will bring you this Catalog free. Don't be without it. Remember, one-third of all the families in the United States use this Catalog to supply their needs, to get quality merchandise, guaranteed to satisfy completely, and to make big savings.

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a Few Days
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