

The Kansas Union Farmer

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

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

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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, FEBRUARY 28, 1924.

BUREAUCRATIC FOOLISHNESS.

Every time anything new or different is undertaken at Washington a new governmental bureau is established. There are probably seven hundred such things connected with the administration of the affairs of the republic. New ones are born at every session of congress. Old organizations that have outlived their original purposes, usefulness and all excuse for their existence go on and on forever.

The United States probably never was a democracy. If it was ever a republic it is so no longer in any true sense of the word. Our country has become a bureaucracy of the most pronounced type. It is of course true that with such a system the bureaucrats who dominate the country devote almost all their time to the perpetuation of their own bureaus, that is of their own jobs.

The time has come to stop. It is necessary to stop if the people are to retain any share in the government. Where shall we begin to destroy barnacles and require service for the people instead of for the chairwarmers, pie hunters, and tax eaters that clutter up all the offices of the government? It would not be a bad idea to begin with the Federal Farm Loan Board. That body is made up of several earnest politicians who have lived off the public all their lives. It is as useless and as foolish as a fifth wheel on a wagon.

Congress established the Federal Farm Loan system for the use and benefit of farmers who need cheaper money and are willing to mortgage their lands to get it. It was planned that the whole system should be the property of the borrowers to be managed cooperatively by them as soon as the capital advanced by the government could be returned. The government no longer has any substantial money interest in the Federal Farm Loan banks. Nearly all the stock now belongs to farmers who have borrowed through the system. But the control is still in the hands of the bureaucrats. The entire concern is managed by a group of officeholding politicians who like their jobs and are determined to stay.

Congress should restore the cooperative provisions of the Rural Credit Act, abolish the Federal Farm Loan Board, maintain the necessary slight relationship with government through a subordinate official of the treasury department, permit the stockholders to elect the regional boards, select elective boards to appoint the heads of the regional banks, and make a board with all necessary powers out of the local presidents so selected.

Such a reorganization would reduce the participation of the government to a minimum. It would redeem the promise made to the borrowers. It would make it impossible to pad the expense accounts with \$25,000 salaries for men with no functions to perform. If congress will start to destroy bureaucracy by abolishing the Federal Farm Loan Board there will be such approval that other boards, bureaus and commissions can be dealt with through similar operations of major surgery.

CONGRESS AND AGRICULTURE.

The farming business is in such a mess that all other lines of business and the government agree that something must be done about it. The question is, what can be done that will help agriculture and at the same time be fair to other industries? Part of the answer is easy enough. Anything that will restore the prosperity of the farmer will help every other business in this country. It remains therefore to consider something that will enable the farmer to get more money for his products. When that is done all other lines of business will get the benefit of the farmers increased buying power.

One proposition now pending in congress is an appropriation to be used in the development of diversified farming. This plan is based on the assumption that the one crop farmers in the wheat and cotton sections would do better if they produced more kinds of crops. This project may be worth while but it has several

elements of danger or at least of experiment and uncertainty. In the first place it would impose additional debts on an industry that is already practically insolvent. To succeed in diversified farming men in the one crop sections need new tools, more live stock, better barns, reliable pasture and forage crops and many other things that cannot be acquired with money in a single season. They also need new marketing agencies and accessible markets not already over-supplied with the products of diversified agriculture.

There is no underproduction of milk, cream, poultry, eggs, truck or fruit in the United States. Any additional supply is fairly certain to reduce price levels and at the same time force changes in farming programs where the production of these commodities has been normally developed. It is certain that the bulk of the market for such things must be in this country and as the supply is already abundant there is little reason to believe that additional output for income purposes will do any one very much good. On the other hand it is likely to do a lot of harm to the farmers who venture into fields of which they know little or nothing.

There is a need, however, for a certain amount of diversification in the wheat belt as well as in the cotton belt. Every farm should make all its own food and feed. The wheat field and the cotton patch must be regarded as the sources of cash income but the garden, the truck patch, the orchard, the poultry, the dairy, and the hog pasture should supply the farmer and his family with their living. No wheat grower can afford to buy bread, butter, meat, fruit or vegetables with his wheat money. No farmer can afford to buy anything that can be produced on his own place. If there is some surplus production of the various things intended primarily for the use of the farm family there is usually a good local market and additions to cash income from that source will be helpful. On the other hand even if the additional production is not salable it still increases the cash income of the farmer who is no longer compelled to use wheat or cotton money in the purchase of supplies that he makes at home.

The type of diversified farming that enables the family to board where it lives requires little additional capital. It may be developed gradually so that the mistakes of inexperience are not costly. It requires no new marketing machinery because the market for it is the producer's own home. It would be much safer and wiser to encourage self-supporting farming than to induce wheat growers to engage in business of which they have no knowledge. The real way out of agricultural distress is through self-supporting farms and better marketing facilities for the cash crops upon which the producers of staples must rely for their income.

THE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION.

The Organization Committee of the Produce Association authorized at the last state convention will shortly begin its active campaign for memberships. There are several such organizations already in operation in the country. The preliminary steps for the coordination of such existing concerns have been taken and will be perfected in a meeting to be held in Chicago in March.

The contract offered dairy and poultry farmers by the Union is the result of long study and careful consideration by the officers and directors of the Kansas Farmers Union and of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association. It was hoped that a plan that would be workable without capital stock could be devised. That did not seem possible to the men who were interested. The conditions that permit the financing of staple crops by loans on commodities in storage do not exist in the produce business. Nor can such an association hope to succeed unless it is able to advance somewhere near the market price of products on delivery. All this means that there must be operating capital.

There are only two ways to raise money for operating a produce association. One is to borrow from the banks on some sort of credit. The other is for the producers themselves to furnish their own capital. The Organization Committee believes that the members of the Association must finance their own operations. Even if sufficient funds could be obtained from the banks there would always be a feeling that the producers could not control their own agency.

The plan for securing members and raising capital is simple and should be carried out without much difficulty. Each producer who becomes a member will be required to pay a membership fee of \$10 and to subscribe for five shares of stock of the par value of five dollars each. The membership fee and the first share of stock are payable when the contract is signed. Annual deductions from the proceeds of sales will pay for the remaining four shares of stock. The membership fee will be used for organization expenses and to provide funds for begging business when the minimum sign up is secured. The capital obtained by the sale of shares will be invested in plants for operating purposes and used for operating funds. It is believed that there will be a steady development of the business that will require the annual additions of capital that are provided for in the contract.

From this partial analysis of the plan of the produce association it is seen that each member will be required to pay in \$15 in cash before the Association begins business and that his total contribution to the working capital of the concern will amount to only \$35 at the end of four years. This may require some sacrifice on the part of many of the members but it will create an agency with ample means to finance its own operations. Also it will have a freedom and stability that would be impossible if all funds for operating purposes had to be borrowed from banks.

THE FARMERS UNION BANK.

Subscriptions for the capital stock and surplus of the Farmers Union State Bank of Kansas City, Kansas, are coming in so rapidly that it is now quite certain that this new institution will be in operation some time during the spring or early summer. In fact the capital could have been secured long ago if the incorporators had been willing to let down the bars and accept subscriptions from all classes. The policy of restricting stock ownership and control to members of the Union was adopted in the beginning and will be adhered to until the required amount of capital has been obtained.

No subscription for more than fifteen shares of stock will be accepted from any one. Many one share subscriptions have been received. The incorporators would be greatly pleased if all the capital could be raised from one share subscribers. That should not be a very hard job. There are certainly more than one thousand members of the Union and Union business associations in Kansas that can well afford to make a \$200 investment in this greatly needed cooperative bank.

It would be a fine thing if each Local in the state would hold a bank meeting for the discussion of the need of such an institution, its possibilities of service to the members and their business associations, and the other benefits certain to grow out of the Union operation of a bank of large means in the principal city of the state.

Every Union cooperative association in Kansas should subscribe, through a trustee for at least one share of bank stock. Many such concerns should take the limit. Let all who are interested get busy in this campaign for the bank in order that we may begin to tender service to the Union and its business concerns at the earliest possible moment.

CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES.

Bribery is an ugly crime. It involves unfaithfulness to the commonly accepted standards of right and disloyalty to the country. Every bribe taker knows that he violates his oath of office, that he breaks all the rules of decency and honesty that make our complex modern fabric of commerce and government possible.

It is hardly conceivable that men in the president's cabinet and in the congress would accept actual cash payments for official acts. Most of us have believed that all public men are above such common and vulgar acts of treasonable criminality. We were all mistaken. There are still men in high places who will sell themselves and their country for money.

That was a horrible spectacle that was presented in a senate committee room only a few days ago. A man who has been a United States senator and a cabinet minister refused to answer a single question concerning his official acts. The constitution provides that no accused person shall be compelled to testify against himself. Fall claimed that immunity. He refused to answer questions on the ground that his answers might incriminate himself.

The people of the other sections of the country have no conception of the state of things in Washington. The most sordid stories concerning men in high places are incirculation. It is rumored that the introduction of the books of certain stock brokers as evidence in the oil investigation will show that many senators, some of them now serving on the investigation committee, had inside information that enabled them to gamble profitably in oil securities. They could have obtained that information only from the oil men who wanted to use congressmen and senators in their business.

If one tenth of the stories of corruption in high places that are in circulation in Washington are true the moral sense of the country will be shocked and outraged as never before in the history of this or any other nation.

A COOPERATIVE SYSTEM.

President Coolidge recently told a caller at the White House that Kansas has done more than any other state in the practice of cooperation. The president may not know that, as a matter of fact, Kansas and Nebraska are the only states in which an intelligent attempt has been made to develop a complete system of cooperative business and service for the farmers.

There is little to choose between Kansas and Nebraska in assessing credit for the development of agricultural cooperation. Each has about the same state wide enterprises which are about equally successful. The leaders in both states and the members as well recognize the value and the possibilities of cooperative marketing but they know that marketing alone cannot solve all the problems of the farmers.

The Farmers Union and its cooperative program is so strongly established in these two great agricultural commonwealths that attacks from opposition elements are no longer dangerous. The only menace to continued development and growth of the cooperative systems is dissension within. A united and harmonious membership of our organization in Kansas and Nebraska can overcome all the allied interests that are determined to crush the cooperative movement.

How would this do for a debating question in the Locals? Resolved that the tax paying and rate making bases of public service corporations should be identical.

The Union man who lives up to his obligation attends the meetings of his Local, supports the business of his cooperative enterprise and in all proper way works for the advancement of the organization.

COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

MacDonald Labor Prime Minister

Of Great Britain, pleased his friends and party associates less than he did the opposition when he made his first speech from his new position in the House of Commons a few days ago. The all sensible and patriotic men charged with the responsibility of administering the affairs of a great country the new British premier showed that he regarded himself as the head of the government and not simply as the leader of a party.

MacDonald concedes that it is impossible, at this time, to impose a capital tax on wealth of the country or to bring about any of the other radical demands of the Labor party. He knows that he has the support of a minority only and that the first adverse vote on an important matter would force him out of office and deprive his party of its opportunity to secure a considerable body of progressive legislation along lines not repugnant to other groups.

No other course would be sensible but MacDonald may expect the most violent denunciations from his own party associates. Within three months, if his government lasts that long, the premier will be fully advised by his own folks that he is a crook, a traitor and a boot licking snob.

Cabinet Government as Conducted

In England is immediately responsive to public opinion. Whenever an administration loses the confidence of a majority of the House of Commons that loss of confidence is made a matter of public record by a formal vote it is through. The Prime Minister and all his associates lay their resignations before the king who at once accepts them and calls in the leader of the opposition to form a new cabinet. The new government may carry on for awhile but in a short time it must submit its claims to the country in a general election and if defeated must promptly quit.

Under our system it is possible for an administration to govern the country for quite a while after it has lost the confidence of the people. The Wilson administration in its closing years had the support neither of congress nor the voters. Just now the Coolidge administration is in the same embarrassing position. In any party or cabinet system the senate vote demanding the resignation of Secretary Denby would have been followed by the retirement of the whole administration.

Advocates of cabinet government say that it assures administration that a majority of the people and that it is immediately responsive to changes in the public mind. Our own system is said to safeguard our institutions against the sudden and often unwise and ill considered whims of an electorate likely to change its collective mind at any time.

Bonus Advocates are Making

Much trouble for Uncle Andy Mellon and the other officials and millionaires who have decided that the boys who served in the great war shall not have any more pay if they can help themselves. When the last congress passed an adjusted compensation law President Harding promptly vetoed it. In that veto message the president declared that without the charges contemplated by the bonus bill the administration was that year facing a deficit of about \$600,000,000.

It is probable that the president's positive statement that a huge deficit was certain at the end of the year, that is on June 30th, 1923, was the only reason that the measure was not passed over the veto. It turned out that the president was wrong about the income of the government. There was no deficit of \$600,000,000 or of any other amount on June 30th. On the contrary there was a surplus of approximately a half a billion dollars.

That was a sizeable mistake for any one to make. An error in calculation of more than a billion dollars which proved that some one at Washington is a very poor hand at figures. President Harding cannot be held responsible. Without doubt he had his figures directly from Secretary Mellon. Uncle Andy is generally regarded as a mighty fine mathematician. Is it possible that he could make a billion dollar mistake in estimating the income and expenses of the treasury for a single year?

THE ONLY WAY OUT.

With the coming of large corporations, American business is making great strides in efficiency. The larger enterprises are able to use the service of experts which the smaller companies were unable to take advantage of. The increased volume of business has made standardization possible and advertising profitable. New and larger markets are found for the products to be merchandised. All these are factors in modern business success.

In farming, they are also essentials of success, but the corporation idea probably never will be successful in farm activities. At least we hope that corporation farm successes will not prevent the place where is preserved and kept alive the spirit which made possible the American Republic. We feel sure that the greater the number of prosperous farm homesteads we have, the more certain can we be that our Government will continue to progress.

Thus, with the necessity of smaller units in farming, cooperation must do for farming what corporation does for industry. Only in this way can each individual farmer become part of a larger unit so necessary to produce volume and make possible the

year?

The American Legion and other advocates of the bonus do not hesitate to charge that President Harding was misled by juggled figures given him by the treasury department. Also they insist that the administration and the people are still being deceived in the same way by the anti-bonus leaders.

Diversification Is a Great Remedy for

Agricultural ills when it is any remedy at all. It is a fine thing for a group of farmers to develop a new line of production in some locality where climate, soil and labor conditions make success probable. It is also a fine thing for the farmers of the one crop sections to make their farms more nearly self-supporting. There are many opportunities for both types of diversification.

On the other hand it is certain that attempts to impose an entire new industry on great areas where the farmers are unfamiliar with the processes required for success, where markets are not developed, and where large investments in stock and equipment are necessary must result in disaster. Successful production of any cash crop is the result of slow development. No ready to operate industry imposed on a new section is likely to be profitable.

Still it now appears quite likely that congress will vote an appropriation of \$50,000,000 to be loaned to the farmers of the northwest for use in buying cows, sows and hens. As that section of the country has no experience in that sort of farming, as the market for such products is already well supplied at prices none too profitable for the producers, and as there is neither feed for keeping such animals nor barns and other buildings for their protection from the weather it seems likely that the final results of a well meant piece of legislation will be an additional fifty millions of debts for the farmers of the northwest who already owe as much or more than they can ever hope to pay.

Denby Resigned

Because he was unwilling to embarrass President Coolidge and his party by staying on the job. There is reason for a good deal of sympathy for Denby. He appears to be considerable of a man. He served in the navy during the Spanish American War as an enlisted man. He entered the service when the Great War began as a buck private in the marines and was discharged as a major. He is a very rich man. He was one of the many Detroiters who rode an automobile to fortune.

No one accuses Denby of any personal moral obliquity in connection with the naval reserve oil scandal. There is, in fact, a good deal of reason to believe that the leasing and development of the government oil reserves was necessary and therefore a wise and patriotic policy if for a time in process of depletion by the development of nearby privately owned oil lands it was only a question of time until both reserves would be surrounded by producing wells and the government's ground completely drained of its oil.

Oil in barrels and storage tanks is imperishable and does not deteriorate in quality. Denby believes that the government oil reserves are much safer in proper storage above ground than they can possibly be in the sands of an unexplored field surrounded by hundreds of wells that are constantly draining everything within reach. It is entirely likely that he is right about the policy of leasing.

Unfortunately it was not possible to develop the government's tested and proved oil lands without calling in private operators. It appears to be quite all right for the United States to spend \$400,000,000 a year on the navy but wholly wrong for the same government to spend as much as a million dollars a year in searching for oil properties essential to assuring naval security. So instead of drilling out its own holdings the United States decided to lease to private operators for development on a royalty basis.

There were several fellows who were willing to take a lease and pay the royalty. There was rotten corruption in awarding the leasing privileges. Denby comes through as a man of honor. He made no money out of the leases. His only mistake appears to have been made when he did not ask for authority and funds to develop the naval oil reserves as a public project.

efficient use of standardization, advertising and expert knowledge.

So it seems that without regard to the successes or failures of agricultural cooperation in the past, cooperation will be the big thing which will put farming where it will hold its ground with any other line of endeavor.

So, then, from an altruistic motive as well as a selfish one, should not all agriculturally-minded men foster the spirit of cooperation and seek the knowledge of what constitutes success in agricultural cooperation, so that each may help to make every cooperation a success? The cooperative spirit should grow stronger, for apparently cooperation is the only way out for agriculture.

TENNESSEE WOOL MARKETING COOPERATIVELY FOR 5 YEARS

Cooperative marketing of wool has been carried on for five consecutive years in Tennessee under the direction of specialists of the State College of Agriculture. Earnest efforts have been made to convince the growers that it paid to prepare their wool for market according to approved methods and to sell it cooperatively. The past year demonstrations of the best methods of shearing sheep and preparing the fleeces for the

McAdoo

Has been reinforced By his own supporters who held a meeting for that purpose in Chicago last week. He will stay in the race for the presidency. Doubtless he will enter the convention with the support of more delegates than any other candidate. He may be nominated but his prospects now are not very good.

The conservative east, all who are interested in big business, banking, railroads and similar enterprises are opposed to the nomination of McAdoo. They regard him as an unsafe man. No progressive democrat can secure the support of the New England and Middle states in the National Convention. On the other hand it is just about as certain that no candidate that can secure the support of that section of the country in the convention can be elected in November.

McAdoo is not the only progressive asking for the democratic nomination. Bryan of Nebraska and Davis of Kansas are really progressive governors. Either of them would make a president of the sort that the people need at this time.

Mellon Has Lost His Fight

For a reduction of the income surtaxes to twenty-five per cent. The final rates adopted will not be far from forty-five per cent. This will not please the secretary and the great business groups that he represents. It may not be as good for the country in the long run as Mellon's original proposals. The Mellon plan may have been the soundest tax measure ever presented to any legislative body but it never had the slightest chance for a single moment. Congress simply dared not pass a law that would reduce the taxes of the rich more than fifty per cent.

There are lots of folks that cannot understand why there should be such wide differences of opinion between men responsible for our government. It all depends on the man and on the business in which he is engaged. Mellon is an honest and upright man whose only use for money is to use it in making more money. Naturally his mind is busy with projects that will serve his own business and equally naturally he regards his business as the most important carried on in the country. The farmers and the wage workers are equally certain that their business is the biggest thing in the republic. They do not see how they can keep on living if Mellon and his kind are able to get and hold all the profits.

They are all good folks—the Mellons and their kind as well as the farmers and the other workers of small means but they cannot agree just because they are good men. It would be just as sensible to ask a good dog and a good fox to agree and live together in peace and amity.

Impeachment Is the Favorite Sport

Of the Oklahoma legislators who have now been in continuous session since last fall some time ago the latest victim is the President of the State Board of Agriculture who is charged with incompetency and neglect of his official duties. Oklahoma is establishing a very dangerous precedent. If public officers are to be prosecuted for incompetency the world is coming to a pretty pass.

If incompetents are to be barred from holding public office some other measures for their relief must be devised either by congress or the several state governments. Perhaps it is just possible that it costs too much money to feed such a great army of incompetents from the public crib.

Gasoline

Taxes Opposed by Farmers Is a headline in one of the big daily papers. Probably that statement is true but it seems a little strange that a paper that steadfastly refuses to advertise any of the farmers' own efforts to better their condition should be the very first to discover and announce to the world that the farmers are opposed to gasoline taxes.

There were more than 400 farmers at the State Convention of the Union. Not one voted against a recommendation for a gasoline tax which was adopted unanimously.

There will be some farmers who will fight all proposed changes in taxation. Like many city folks what a lot of farmers really want is a taxless tax, a system of taxation that will require the payment of no taxes.

market were given in thirteen counties. The results of instructions were observed in the wool sales, as the fleeces were tied better, contained less foreign matter, and a larger percentage of the wool sacked in regular burlap bags.

Thirty-two sales were conducted in 1923, and 248,308 pounds of wool consigned by 1,586 farmers from 84 counties. The sales were arranged in a series which schedules of which were sent to the woolen mills of Tennessee. Grades averaged higher than in previous years, giving evidence of improved methods of handling and preparation. Prices realized ranged from 50.53c to 36.75c with an average for all grades of 47.9c per pound. It is estimated that the saving to growers by selling their wool cooperatively through the pools was at least 5c per pound, a total of \$12,405 for the season. About 100,000 pounds was sold to the woolen mills in the state, and the remainder was bought by merchants in Kentucky and Maryland.

Cooperations means a man must be able to get right down under the coat under the vest, under the shirt, and pull the hog out of himself.

