



THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Co-operation

Education

Organization



VOLUME 33

SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1940

NUMBER 20

ALL KANSAS FARMS LEAD TO PARSONS MEET

PROGRAM

Thirty-fifth Annual Convention of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union, Kansas Division
PARSONS, KANSAS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1940
9:30 a. m. Music.
10:00 a. m. Meeting Called to Order. President J. P. Fengel Presiding.
Invocation—The Rev. E. W. Armstrong, First Presbyterian Church, Parsons.
Address of Welcome—Mayor Earl Minton, Parsons.
Greetings—John DeFatus, president, Central Labor Union, Parsons.
Greetings—L. R. Wyler, president, Chamber of Commerce, Parsons.
Response—Paul J. Lenherr, St. Marys.
Appointment of Committees.
Report of "Order of Business" Committee.
Convention Rules Committee Report.
Address, John Vesecky, president National Farmers Union.
11:45 a. m. Announcements.
Adjournment.
NOON
1:00 p. m. Music.
1:15 p. m. Call to Order.
Report of Credentials Committee.
President's Message, J. P. Fengel.
1:45 p. m. Report of State Board of Directors.
Farmers Union Auditing Association, T. B. Dunn, Secretary-Treasurer.
2:15 p. m. Farmers Union Jobbing Association, H. E. Witham, General Manager.
2:45 p. m. Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company, G. W. Bushby, President.
3:15 p. m. Farmers Union Life Insurance Company, Rex Lear, State Manager.
3:30 p. m. Farmers Union Royalty Company, G. E. Creitz, Manager.
3:45 p. m. Farmers Union Creameries of Nebraska, J. C. Nordgard, Manager.
4:00 p. m. Tentative Report of Resolutions Committee.
General Discussion.
Announcements.
Adjournment.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1940
(Admittance by Membership Card only through Executive Session in Forenoon)
8:15 a. m. Music.
8:45 a. m. Call to Order by J. P. Fengel, President.
Invocation—The Rev. Father Phil Mangan, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Parsons.
Reading of the Minutes 1939 State Convention.
Report of Auditor, T. B. Dunn.
Report of State Secretary, Rex Troutman.
Report of Credentials Committee.
10:00 a. m. Nomination of State Officers.
Directors—First, Second and Third Districts.
Delegates to National Convention.
1941 Convention City.
11:00 a. m. General Discussion.
Announcements.
Adjournment.
NOON
1:00 p. m. Music.
1:30 p. m. Convention Reconvened.
Music and Other Entertainment.
1:45 p. m. Farmers Union Livestock Commission Co., W. G. Bernhardt, General Manager, Kansas City.
2:00 p. m. Farmers Union Livestock Commission Co., South St. Joseph, Mo., Paul Steele, Manager.
2:15 p. m. Greetings—Gov. Payne H. Ratner.
2:30 p. m. Greetings—Senator Clyde M. Reed.
2:45 p. m. Address—Z. H. Lawter, Secretary of the Oklahoma Farmers Union.
3:30 p. m. Memorial Services for Departed Leaders and Members, conducted by W. H. Soupe, Manhattan, and Locals and County Units.
3:45 p. m. Reports of Committees.
4:00 p. m. General Discussions.
Announcements.
Adjournment.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1940
8:00 a. m. Polls Open for Voting.
8:45 a. m. Music.
9:00 a. m. Meeting Called to Order.
Invocation—The Rev. Fred W. Condit, pastor Central Avenue Christian Church, Parsons.
Reports of Committees.
Unfinished Business.
New Business.
Report of Elections Committee.
Installation of Officers.
Convention Adjournment.

MEETING PLACES
Registration—Lobby of Municipal Building.
General Sessions, Wednesday and Thursday, in Municipal Building Auditorium.
The Friday Session will be in Basement Hall of Municipal Building.
Headquarters Hotel—Matthewson.

ON RADIO, OCTOBER 26
M. W. Thatcher Will Explain National Farmers Union Program
M. W. Thatcher, head of the legislative committee of the National Farmers Union, will deliver a radio message Saturday, October 26, on the Farmers Union hour of the National Farm and Home hour of the National Broadcasting system. He will discuss the legislative program of the organization.
The time will be 11:30 a. m., Central Standard Time.
Attend the State Convention.

APPOINTMENTS TO Convention Committees
Local, county and business associations are requested to send to the State Office, Salina, the names of persons who are eligible and whom they would suggest to serve on different convention committees. Please forward these names at your early convenience.
It is also requested that any individual or group having resolutions, recommendations or any matters wished brought to the attention of different committees, to send these to the State Office in Salina, so they can be referred to the proper committees.

Refrigerator Car Measure
Another bill of interest to our cooperators is the Shipstead Refrigerator Car measure aimed at preventing the railroads, backed by the big packers, from refusing to haul the special cars now used by many of our Dairy and Poultry cooperatives. The very vigorous protests from farmers' cooperatives in all parts of the country, joined by independent processors, has already secured postponement until next June of this measure.

By John Vesecky
As this is the pre-convention Number of the Kansas Union Farmer, I have taken advantage of the kind invitation of the Editor to say a few words to our members in this issue.
The general public judges our organization by the program which we adopt at our annual conventions, by the officers that we elect to effectuate that program and by the way we conduct the convention and the affairs of the Farmers Union after the convention.
If we would have farmers join our organization, we must offer them a well rounded out, workable program, and a set of officers who are able and cooperatively minded, so that they can and will work together with the officers of the National Farmers Union and the officers and members of other Farmers Union States to put into effect the State and National Programs of the Farmers Union.
Let us all come to the convention with the determination that the program adopted by the convention will be fundamental and be so built that if carried out in the future it will help give our farmers a larger share of the National income, our cooperatives a better chance to grow and succeed, and our whole nation greater assurance of continued prosperity under a free democratic form of government.
More liberty is lost through indifference of the people than by the acts of those who would be dictators. More bad laws are passed because of the ignorance and indifference of those affected by them than because of lobbying by interested parties. The very good, more cooperatives fail because of the lack of support by their members and shareholders, than fail because of the incompetence or dishonesty of the management.

Farmers Union Continues Work on Legislation

Farmers Need Be Alert as Defense Program Fast Develops

By Robert Fandschm
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 28, 1940—Our Farmers Union Legislative Committee is busy trying to salvage as much as possible from the many farm bills side-tracked during the summer by the defense legislation. The often-expected adjournment of Congress has made it very difficult to get serious attention for such minor farm bills as were already far along in the legislative mill at the beginning of the summer. The Congress which has all packed up to return home for electioneering, decided to stay in session largely because of the political effects anticipated from important foreign policy decisions which the Administration is expected to make in the coming weeks. With this new lease on life every organization or interest which has legislation near completion is doing everything it can to find a way to squeeze under the wire.

Among measures on which the Legislative Committee has been working only two are of major importance, because at this late date before elections, no serious attention can be obtained for our price and debt-adjustment bills. Pressure has been put on the Senate to pass the Jones Tobacco Bill which would greatly expand the present program of buying farms for tenants. Indorsed by the Farmers Union in its last two conventions, this bill has been blocked from a House vote by the Conservative Democrats and Republicans who bitterly oppose any program for the elimination of tenancy. Despite wires from nearly all our Farmers Union state officials the pressure from many progressive congressmen the House Rules Committee again refused to allow consideration, knowing that few congressmen could afford to vote "No" so near election time. Postponement of adjournment will likely call forth another attempt to get a favorable result.

Reactionaries Want Walter-Logan Bill
A new attempt is being made by anti-administration Senators led by Senator Burke of Nebraska to pass the Walter-Logan bill which would throw into the courts any Administrative decision issued by the many Federal agencies. Opponents of such agencies as the Labor Board, the Commodities Exchange Administration, and our various farm agencies, could bring complete chaos into these programs by simply employing an army of lawyers to contest any and every action unfavorable to them. Our Legislative Committee has already stated its opposition to this bill in the strongest terms, and unless we can secure exemptions for agricultural agencies, we shall press for a veto if the Senate passes the bill.

Last week we were defeated after exerting all our strength when a bill to prohibit interstate commerce in prison-made goods was sent to the President, without exception, by a binder twine and farm machinery. This victory by the Farm Machinery trust will adversely affect farmers who have been buying twine from prisons in neighboring states, or who live in the Wisconsin area near the Stillwater, Minnesota, farm machinery prison factory.

Grain Storage Bill Passed
This week a bill of importance to our grain cooperatives was finally passed which will permit the moving of grain stored under loan from line elevators to terminal or other elevators without requiring new storage certificates to be made. The bill was sponsored by Senator Frank P. Rowland, of Kansas, and after amendments made at our suggestion was on our "must" list.

Among other bills for which a drive is expected, that of interest to us provides for extending the present sugar legislation for another three years. While the program is not highly satisfactory no better proposal has been made, and the Senate is expected to hold hearings and complete action on it just as soon as the Excess-Profits Tax bill is out of the way.

Canners Oppose Marketing
Opposition of the canners has again eliminated that section of the Gillette amendments to the Marketing Agreements Act which would allow the commodity to get government aid in stabilization of marketings. The remaining Gillette amendments relate only to milk marketing orders, and the Northwest are now preventing action by the House because of a section providing for Department of Agriculture aid to farmers' cooperatives, which they want eliminated.

Another bill of interest to our cooperators is the Shipstead Refrigerator Car measure aimed at preventing the railroads, backed by the big packers, from refusing to haul the special cars now used by many of our Dairy and Poultry cooperatives. The very vigorous protests from farmers' cooperatives in all parts of the country, joined by independent processors, has already secured postponement until next June of this measure.

OFFICIAL CALL For the State Convention

By the Authority vested in me, I hereby issue the call for the thirty-fifth convention of the Farmers Union Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Kansas Division. Such meeting will be held in Parsons, Kansas, in October 30, 31 and November 1, 1940.
The Farmers Union Managerial Association will hold its meeting on Tuesday, October 29.

J. P. FENGEL, State President.
BASIS OF REPRESENTATION
1. One delegate for each Local Union in good standing up to twenty members in the State Organization. A local must have at least five members to be in good standing. Local Unions of larger membership are entitled to additional delegates, an additional delegate for each additional twenty members (over the original 20) or major fraction thereof. Thus, Locals with a membership from 5 to 30 members are entitled to one delegate; with a membership from 31 to 50 members to 2 delegates; with a membership from 51 to 70 members to 3 delegates; etc.
2. One delegate for each County Union in good standing, with five or more active Locals in the county.
3. One delegate for each local, county or district cooperative Farmers Union Business Association; and in the case of County Farmers Union Cooperatives made up of several units, each unit is entitled to a delegate. Providing, such association has 51 per cent of its stockholders as paid up members of the Kansas Farmers Union.
4. One delegate for each state-wide business or marketing organization affiliated with the Kansas Farmers Union.
5. One delegate for each of the Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Managerial Association.

Instructions to Delegates
A delegate must be a member in good standing on the records of the Secretary of the Kansas Farmers Union to participate in the annual convention. He must present his Farmers Union membership card before being permitted to participate in the convention.
Each delegate must have the credentials of the organization, he or she, claims to represent, and these credentials must be issued in the order and manner prescribed by the 1935 Constitution and By-laws.
All delegates' Credentials MUST be mailed to the State Farmers Union office, Box 296, Salina, Kansas, or filed with the Credentials Committee at the annual state convention.
No credentials will be accepted by the Credentials committee after 6:00 p. m., Thursday, October 31, 1940.

Convention Schedule
Complying with the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws, the thirty-fifth annual convention of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Kansas Division, will convene in Convention Hall in Parsons, Kansas, on Wednesday, October 30, 1940, at 10:00 a. m.

The meeting will continue in session until all business pertinent to the organization and the interest of the membership, coming before the delegates for consideration, has been transacted.
The Kansas Farmers Union Managerial Association will hold its meeting in the Hall at Parsons on Tuesday, October 29.

Thursday, October 31, 1940, there will be nomination of candidates for officers and directors. One director from each of the first district, now represented by Ross Palenske, Alma, the second district, now represented by W. E. Roesch, Quinter, and the third district, now represented by George Schinbart, Parsons. Also a city in the fourth district will be chosen for the 1940 state convention.

Delegates' Credentials
For your convenience, copies of delegates' credentials for the Local and county organizations, and also for the local business associations are printed in this issue of the Kansas Union Farmer. These are to be clipped and used in sending in the names of delegates elected for the coming Convention.



"SPIRIT OF AMERICA" PARADE AT ELLIS
The float pictured above was prepared by Ellis Farmers Union for the Ellis Junior Fair, Saturday, October 5. Miss Catherine Weber and Arnold Neuburger are shown on the float.
The parade portrayed the "Spirit of America," the Farmers Union float had as its theme, "Future Farmers," and the farm float was named the "Nation's Breadbasket." The exhibit included a large variety of garden and farm products such as wheat, flour, bread, milk and feed.
The Ellis high school Orange and Black band led the parade including twelve floats, the Governor's car, and live stock on exhibition.

BY YOUR WORKS THEY SHALL KNOW YE

By John Vesecky
As this is the pre-convention Number of the Kansas Union Farmer, I have taken advantage of the kind invitation of the Editor to say a few words to our members in this issue.

The general public judges our organization by the program which we adopt at our annual conventions, by the officers that we elect to effectuate that program and by the way we conduct the convention and the affairs of the Farmers Union after the convention.

If we would have farmers join our organization, we must offer them a well rounded out, workable program, and a set of officers who are able and cooperatively minded, so that they can and will work together with the officers of the National Farmers Union and the officers and members of other Farmers Union States to put into effect the State and National Programs of the Farmers Union.

Let us all come to the convention with the determination that the program adopted by the convention will be fundamental and be so built that if carried out in the future it will help give our farmers a larger share of the National income, our cooperatives a better chance to grow and succeed, and our whole nation greater assurance of continued prosperity under a free democratic form of government.
More liberty is lost through indifference of the people than by the acts of those who would be dictators. More bad laws are passed because of the ignorance and indifference of those affected by them than because of lobbying by interested parties. The very good, more cooperatives fail because of the lack of support by their members and shareholders, than fail because of the incompetence or dishonesty of the management.

Is Good Interest Toward Attending F.U. Convention

Fights Are Anticipated Before Ironing Out Workable Farmers Union Platform in Regard to Legislative Program and Organization's Attitude Toward All AAA Set-Up

WILL OPEN OCTOBER 30

Speakers Include Governor Ratner, Senator Reed, National Farmers Union President John Vesecky, Editor L. S. Herron, Omaha, and Oklahoma Secretary Lawter

Conversation in Farmers Union circles in every section of the state centers toward the State Convention of the Farmers Union, to be held at Parsons, October 30 to November 1. Attendance promises to be good; interest is high on several debatable subjects and votes will be valued with real respect.

The program will hold attractions because of various speakers' relation to subjects under consideration, the floor discussions certain to arise, and the manner in which harmony and a strong, but 100 per cent Farmers Union program may be developed.

What is the relationship of the Kansas Farmers Union to the government AAA program? Does the State Union back the National Farmers Union program of commodity income certificate assurance bills, debt adjustment legislation, and loans to tenants for purchase of farms?
Or does the State Union lean toward different leadership and does oppose the AAA program, and should recommend that the program be replaced by the domestic allotment plan with an American price for American consumers and the world price for the unrestricted surplus?

To Decide AAA Position
Those two questions draw the basic issue in regard to the government farm program. After the basic argument is settled on whether or not the AAA should be improved or discarded, debate may follow on just what measures Kansas people do think the government program should include.

It is at this point that consideration will be likely on the size of the family sized farm, and the standard of living it should provide its farmers. And the organization members may mention the amount of regulation (or regulation) that a farm program should include for farmers.

The resolutions to be considered and adopted by the State Convention cannot well be forecast. Certainly however the resolutions will be carefully considered before their adoption. A skeleton committee of resolutions is being organized of five members which will meet in Parsons as early as Sunday evening, October 27.

Each state director was asked by President Fengel to suggest a committee member from his district. The committee will be enlarged to fifteen or so by the time of the formal Convention opening.

Form Skeleton Committee
Members selected to this skeleton committee include C. C. Gerstenberger, Lawrence, first district; E. L. Wolf, Quinter, second district; E. T. Fortune, St. Paul, third district; Homer Spence, McPherson, fourth district; and Gilbert Brinkman, Stafford, fifth district. Members having resolutions they wished passed are asked to mail such to one of these committee members, or the State Secretary. Votes will be valued not alone in regard to resolutions and the organizational platform, but in regard to the election of 41 officers. Foremost in a campaign for the presidential office, according to reports reaching the writer, are President John P. Fengel and Ernest K. Dean, former manager of the Crawford county Farmers Union business organization. Girard nominations for 41 officers will begin at 10 a. m. Thursday morning; also the nominations for delegate to the National Convention. It will be a morning when attendance may likely reach a high mark despite restrictions to "membership only."

Lindsborg, the McPherson county town famous in musical circles for its traditionally fine presentation of "The Messiah" is asking for the State Convention next year. David Train, president of the McPherson County Farmers Union and secretary of the state Farmers Union Managerial Association, has his home in Lindsborg.

Three Principal Speakers
Speakers featured on the program are three: John Vesecky, Salina, president of the National Farmers Union, who will speak Wednesday morning at 11:15; L. S. Herron, Omaha, editor of the Nebraska Union Farmer, who will speak Wednesday evening; and Z. H. Lawter, Oklahoma City, secretary of the Oklahoma Farmers Union, who will speak Thursday afternoon at 2:45 p. m.

Parsons is the home city of two distinguished governmental officials and who will bring brief messages to the Convention Thursday afternoon, Governor Payne Ratner and Senator Clyde M. Reed. Mrs. Dora B. Haines of the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C., who has been announced as the featured speaker on the Thursday evening program.

The President's Message

As our thirty-fifth annual convention is just ahead of us and this is the last issue of the Kansas Union Farmer before convention time, it seems as though every one of our members should be interested in everything that might help make the Farmers Union a better and more worthwhile organization and to really justify a continuation of the efforts and expense of our officers and members.

The National and State Preamble blue prints the course and also names the causes of the farmers problems and difficulties and after they have laid the plans whereby the farmers can help to supply their needs as farmers to their own benefit and protection, without injury to those engaged in any legitimate enterprise, is not the way clear today to fulfill in reality every one of the objectives outlined by our National and State Preambles.

We as an organization are divided and the full force and effect of our organization's policies, both National and State, are thereby lost to us and the State and Nation.

Some of our members tell me we do not have a state program, even after all of these years. If this is the fact, this convention of 1940 is the appointed time to build that State Program and Parsons, Kansas, is the place where it should be built.

The National program will also come up for consideration, and it by all means should come up and place nothing can or will suit the thoughtful and painstaking consideration our national problems deserve.

These are critical times, with momentous questions confronting us and with our better judgment and united action.

Must Face Problems
The problems of this day and time are ours and we as citizens and farmers are really duty bound to not only plan but face those problems and really help to solve them by constructive measures that correct the inequalities and replace them with those real plans and programs that will be enduring and upon which we can at least should agree, being tolerant and militant, be governed by the will of the majority and come through this convention with a program, both state and national, with every one of us behind it and doing our very best to make it effective.

We should not behave after the fashion of spoiled children that have been petted and humored in the place of constructive measures that correct the inequalities and replace them with those real plans and programs that will be enduring and upon which we can at least should agree, being tolerant and militant, be governed by the will of the majority and come through this convention with a program, both state and national, with every one of us behind it and doing our very best to make it effective.

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As a member of the Kansas Farmers Union, what do you have that would help make our state or national program? If you have it send it in.

Or come to the convention and work for it before the committees. If we do not like what we have, or do not have, this is the time to do something about it.

Our Farmers Union is just what we make it as members or officers. Our State and National programs will be just what our State Conventions determine to be and the policy of the National Farmers Union will be the policies determined by our state resolutions we build and adopt, so after all we are important, we have a mission to perform, a duty we should neither shirk or neglect and in the event we do not as an organization do our duty, we and our children suffer because of our neglecting or shirking our duty. Come to the Convention, come prepared and then let us stay on the job until that job is finished.

PLAN DENVER TRIP
Train Party to National F. U. Convention Is Considered

No further news has developed in regard to the proposed party to the National Farmers Union convention at Denver, Colo., November 18 to 20, since the last issue of the Union Farmer. The matter will be considered at the State Convention at Parsons, it is expected, and an estimate made of the number of people interested in taking the trip.

For a party of 30 or more the Union Pacific railroad gives a rate of \$11.40 for the round trip from Denver from Salina. This train would leave Salina at 1 a. m. Monday morning, Nov. 18, reaching Denver at 8 a. m. The train leaves Kansas City at 10 p. m., the round trip fare from Kansas City to Salina is \$5.60, but the plan is that the party should gather at Salina, reaching there on any schedule of individual convenience.

Study Purposes of Learning at Ed. Conference

Seven Far. Union People Attend Adult Education Meeting in Lawrence

A conference was held October 10 at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, by persons interested in educational work to analyze the purposes of education in American democracy and to discover how the purposes might better be fulfilled. The trend of thought at the conference appeared to be that something was seriously wrong with the country generally, the citizens of it, or the system of education through which citizens have had their mental processes molded.

Representing the Kansas Farmers Union at the conference were Mrs. Charlie Olson, McPherson; Mrs. William Hysell and Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Nash, Ellsworth; Mrs. Bernard Immergut, Lawrence; and Esther Ekblad and Rex Troutman, Salina.

It was recommended at the conference that plans for the establishment of a Kansas Education Council should go ahead, and that further meetings be held by those in various fields of educational work.

Four Panel Speakers
Dr. W. E. Sheffer, superintendent of schools, Manhattan, was discussion leader of a panel in the subject, "The Purposes of Education in American Democracy," which opened the conference. Short speeches followed by the four other members of the panel, Dr. C. E. Rarick, president of the Port Hays State College, Hays, on "The Objectives of Self Realization";

Dr. P. B. Larson, dean of the College, University of Kansas, Lawrence, on "The Objectives of Human Relationships"; John Ise, school of business, University of Kansas, Lawrence, on "The Objectives of Economic Efficiency"; and Mrs. Elizabeth Reigart, Baxter Springs, member of the State board of regents, on "The Objectives of Civic Responsibility." Group discussions were continued through the afternoon.

The educated person, analyzed Dr. Rarick, must be able intelligently to speak, to read, to write, to count. He should be alert to life's situations, and the educated person will develop broad interests of activity and moral, will develop a good character, be able to discipline himself for the best interests of society. His business progress will be determined by his ability and his business environment. Self realization will be achieved and the educated man would become a "pillar in the temple of Democracy."

Dean Lawson took up his subject of human relationships and changed from the advice he gives so many K. U. students with the emphasis on scholarship and he stressed the importance of having teachers and instructors having healthful and moral home lives and living good human relationships. Students in school learn many important things, he said, but the most important are caught, rather than taught.

The dean charged great numbers of our people with "soft" living, evidenced in the comfort of general living, in the educational system in which the student is begged to take an interest, and in the American home which has become noted for its ease of dissolution. Elaborating on the lack of firmness in the educational system of teaching, he commented that energy and effort make for interest, and that harder work on the part of the student would generate greater interest in himself and scholastic development.

Dr. John Ise spoke on the objectives of economic efficiency. He immediately broke his subject into two divisions, personal efficiency and collective efficiency, and the approach to the study of one would be much different from the other. He described American personal efficiency with praise, but expressed fear of the nation's economic stability with its many economic problems facing it, and said that without collective economic efficiency there was little chance of an efficient government under a democracy. "If you can't get your economic system to work," he said, "you can't have personal realization."

Mrs. Reigart, the woman on the panel whose subject was the objectives of civic responsibility, urged the educated person to assume his civic responsibilities. People cannot look at corrupt politics with indifference or cowardice, she said. That smug citizen who won't touch politics is Public Enemy No. 1, she went on. Webster defines politics as the science of democracy in operation. If democracy is worth dying for, it is worth living to preserve, to maintain that government which derives its power from the consent of the governed.

"Democracy is cheap at the price of eternal vigilance."

How Can There Be Shortage of Land Here in America?

BY H. M. COVERLY

In American agriculture today, an irresistible force is meeting an immovable body. More people are trying to make a living from the land than ever before, yet fewer people are needed on farms than ever before. For the first time in our history, there is a serious shortage of land in the United States.

It is a relatively recent development, this shortage, but it has been on its way for some time. The reckless land policies of the nineteenth century played their part. So did soil-depleting cultivation by pioneers, who could always move on to more land further West. And so, more recently, did drought, technological developments, and loss of foreign markets.

The rising tide of tractors and other farm machines has also taken its toll in security. The man with the hoe—or at best a mule and a one-row cultivator—cannot hope to compete with the motorized harvesting combines, mechanical potato-diggers, and a whole array of other new equipment.

In 1930 there were about 900,000 tractors in farms. By 1939 the number had jumped to 1,827,989. There are no figures to show how many owners and tenants have been pushed off the land by this mechanization and by the resulting consolidation of small farms into large, commercialized farming corporations. The swelling tide of migrants is a clear indication, however, of what has happened, and individual cases come to light from time to time to support that indication.

For example, when one plantation began to use tractors and other farm machines, the management reduced the number of its tenant families from 40 to 24. Another plantation in the Mississippi Delta bought 22 tractors and 13 of its 160 cropper families go.

This tendency toward mechanization "multiple-farm" operation is not a product of the last few years or even of the depression. A survey by the Des Moines Register-Tribune this year disclosed that "most persons reporting widespread consolidation of farms in their counties assign its beginning to the early twenties." The same survey found that since 1920, in Iowa at least, the rate of change has been increasing steadily.

Bigger and "Better" Farms
That mechanization has been accompanied by increases in large-scale farming was made clear by the 1935 census of agriculture. These figures show that the number of farms of more than 1,000 acres increased from 80,620 in 1930 to 86,622 in 1935, an increase of almost 10 per cent. At the same time the total number of farms increased by only 8.3 per cent.

The comparable figures for increases in acreage bring out the same trend. The acreage of large-scale farms (more than 1,000 acres) was 276,212,832 in 1930 and 334,488,094 acres, or more than 20 per cent. During the same 5-year period, the total acreage of farm land increased by only 6.9 per cent, the total increase being 67,744,095 acres.

If these same figures are considered from another angle, the trend toward large-scale farming becomes even clearer. For, although only 15 per cent of the 5-year increase in the number of farms represented additions to the farms accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the total increase in farm acreage during the period. In other words, not only were large-scale farms growing more numerous, but at the same time they were growing bigger.

A partial result of this growth in huge farming establishments has been a significant diminution in the rate of growth of middle-sized, family farms of the type we ordinarily think about when we talk of "American farming." Moreover, there has been a rapid increase in the number of small farms. Farms under 50 acres, which in 1930 accounted for only 23.4 per cent of the total number of farms, now represent 39.5 per cent of the total. Over the same period the number of farms under 20 acres nearly doubled. The trend therefore seems to be away from the middle-sized farm, toward farms either too big or too small for an individual family.

Farm income, consequently, is distributed in a way which tends to squeeze out the small farmer. As early as 1930, about 90 per cent of the marketed farm products came from the land of half the farmers. The rest of the farmers were getting only one-tenth of the total cash income of agriculture. At the present time, it is probable that nine-tenths of the farm market is supplied by even less than half the Nation's farms.

More and Poorer People

Land is one side of the dilemma; population is the other. To say that farmers are being forced off the land is in a sense inaccurate. Farmers become landless, to be sure, but there is no outlet which actually takes them off the land. The vast majority of them must make a living on the land or not make a living at all. They become day laborers, and many of them take to the road as migrants, joining in the mad rush toward harvest, eking out a precarious existence on seasonal work and odd jobs.

The widespread urban unemployment which came with the depression meant that opportunity on the land with the cityward migration fell off sharply. In addition, millions of workers who ordinarily would have sought employment in the cities, were lured to the farms during the depression.

By 1935, twice as many families were trying to make a living off southern farms as in 1880, with fewer acres actually under cultivation. In 1939 it was estimated that the Nation's visible domestic and foreign needs could be supplied by 1,500,000 fewer farm workers than in 1929. Yet in the same period total farm population actually increased by 1,330,000.

There, in a nutshell, is the dilemma of insecurity: How to reconcile increased population pressure on the land with the contraction of opportunity for making a living off the land? In this game of "Going to Jerusalem," the chairs of economic opportunity are removed one by one, but the players all remain in the game, fighting more and more desperately for the few which are left.

Shortage of Land: 1940
The trend in 1935 is clear from the census of agriculture taken in that year. Is the trend, however, in 1940? Has the tendency toward diminished security perhaps become more pronounced? No general answer can be given until the 1940 census figures are available. But a partial answer to this question was given in May through a survey in the Corn Belt, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri.

F. S. A.'s regional director for those States asked his county supervisors how many farm families were unable to find farms to operate during the 1940 crop year. He discovered that out of approximately 58,000 F. S. A. borrowers in the region, 2,336, or 4 per cent, had been able to find farms. He found that another 6,246 eligible applicants for rehabilitation loans were in the same position. That county supervisors reported that they knew of still another 16,120 renters, not applicants for F. S. A. assistance, who could not find land to farm, was a reply.

Nor do we need to use guesswork in assigning the reason for the inability of these farmers to find land. The reason most frequently cited by the supervisors themselves was "expansion" of farm operations and increase in the size of farms due to improved equipment and mechanization.

Now the Corn Belt region is not in the Dust Bowl, nor are the five States which it includes generally spoken of as "drought States." Quite the contrary. Midwest farmers in the Corn Belt have traditionally been one of the most prosperous groups of American agriculture. Here destitution and insecurity have not, as in some other portions of rural America, been the normal way of life. So, when we find that 24,700 farm families were unable to get located at all during the past year in this region, when we see that farmers are being forced off the land even in the most prosperous farming area in the United States, the term "shortage of land" begins to have more than an academic meaning.

Toward a Solution
What to do? Nobody, of course, knows the whole answer. But much depends on this basic question: Is it economically feasible to establish family-type farms in competition with these large industrialized "out-door food factories"? To this question the Farm Security Administration, through its rehabilitation program, is drafting an affirmative answer.

F. S. A. has naturally been able to reach only a part of those who need help. However, in its 5-year attempt to stanch the flow of men from the soil, it has developed programs and techniques which may provide the basis for a really widespread attack on the problem of agricultural insecurity.

Nearly 30,000 families have been able to buy their own homes and homestead development programs. Some 800,000 families have gotten a new start through rehabilitation loans. In general, these families have been able to succeed successfully with the forces which drove them from their land.

How has this been done? Not, assuredly, through a return to the old patterns of cash-crop farming,

soil depletion, and blind individualism which once made these same families the easy prey of erosion and drought, depression, and mechanization. It has been done through the adaptation of multiple-farm economics to the family-type farm; and through emphasis on farming as a way of life rather than as a way of making a living for somebody else. Cooperation, diversification, and persistence farming—these are F. S. A.'s chief contributions to the dilemma of insecurity.

Farming: A Way of Life

Heavy capital requirements and heavy overhead made it impossible for the small farmer to enjoy many of the operating advantages of his larger competitor. This problem is being met through the cooperative action of borrowers and other small farmers, who form associations and receive F. S. A. loans for the point purchase of rental of tractors and other heavy equipment, breeding stock, canning facilities, fertilizer, seed, and other necessities.

Diversification of crops has meant more than planting one or two additional crops so that the family will no longer be dependent on the price fluctuations of a single commodity. It has meant developing a market in the home for the family's own products, meat and milk produced on the farm.

The farm family's real income has thus been substantially increased. A survey of 360,000 F. S. A. borrowers at the end of 1939 showed that since receiving their loans they had increased the total value of their home-grown products by \$34,878,253.20, or an average increase of \$96.88 for each family.

In spite of this showing, the family-type farm must count its largest dividends in terms of better living standards rather than in terms of the future. More efficient production on the small farm cannot now mean the acquisition of more acres for the family to work. It can and does mean freedom from the economic pursuits, more education for the children, the devotion of more effort to improving the property as a farm and as a home, more leisure time for the health and recreational needs of the family. This is what it meant by farming as a "way of life." It has long been recognized as a desirable goal. The fact that it can also be regarded as an economic goal has been slower to achieve recognition.

The program of the Farm Security Administration gives great promise for the future. It is a bucket which it is trying to fill is still large—and largely empty. This is an emergency for the whole Nation. It is a sudden attack of indigestion, but rather a chronic state of poor economic health, which can at any moment flare up into some acute and dangerous condition. It threatens the lives and living of the Nation, our population which is pressing against our constricted acreage. If the amount of land cannot be substantially increased, at least we must rapidly increase the same amount of land support more people.

Mo. Secretary Explains Why He Favors AAA

M. R. Miller Believes Gov't Farm Program Needs Constructive Criticism

M. R. Miller, editor of the Cooperative Farmer and secretary of the Missouri Farmers Union, believes the AAA farm program has been successful and makes the recommendation that it be continued and given constructive criticism rather than given up as a failure and condemned.

We editorially follow: We quite often hear farmers condemn the Farm Program, under the present Agriculture Adjustment Act, as not being of any benefit to them. We agree that the program has not accomplished the goal set up in the law of bringing the farmer parity for his products, but we cannot say that it has not been of any benefit for we know it has.

Under present conditions when export of products is at practically a standstill because of the European war it is hard to guess what the price of our farm products would be if the farmer was producing on an unrestricted basis and there was no loan program to take a large part of the crop off the competitive market.

If there were no farm program, our guess is that wheat would be selling, at country points, for around 30 cents per bushel for No. 1 Grade instead of around 60 cents, and corn in proportion. This would be a loss of 50 per cent in gross income, not including parity payments which are additional income for the cooperating farmer.

Because we produce a surplus of most farm products over the domestic demand we have always allowed this surplus, or exportable part of our crops, to set the price on all we produce. In other words, our marketing system has based the price of the domestically consumed portion of our farm products on the price that could be got for products in export. This has thrown the farmers' income out of balance with other classes having an American standard of prices which are higher than the people of other countries have to pay.

The American laboring man asks a much higher rate for his labor than is received for the same labor in other countries. The American manufacturer asks higher prices for his merchandise than do other countries and also has the benefit of a tariff to protect his price. The farmer also has a tariff, but does not use it to his advantage. He is always in competition with the other farmers for the market instead of organizing and working for their mutual benefit. This government program, through its plan of paying benefits for the farmers' cooperation, has been able to raise the domestic market a little above the exportable basis and it has been of real benefit in dollars and cents. The only trouble is that it has not

gone all the way to provide full parity for the loyal cooperators.

The most effective part of the program for holding up prices of farm products has been in the loan part of the program. By placing a large part of the crops under loan, farmers have been taken care of so they had some needed cash and the product has been kept off the market until such time as it could be marketed at a more reasonable price. It has taken the holding of farm products out of the speculators' hands and has let the farmer do the holding and receive the benefits therefrom.

We believe the American wheat farmers will receive a quarter billion dollars more this year than they would without this farm program. On the other hand, we believe, the same wheat farmers are due and should be receiving one-half billion more than they will get. Of course, the corn farmers produce two and a quarter billion bushels have a greater amount at stake as does cotton. This is the prize the American farmer should organize and fight for.

If the laboring man is entitled to an American standard of pay and the manufacturer is entitled to an American price for his merchandise, etc., then by all that is right and just the farmer is entitled to an American price for his products that he produces to feed and clothe American society.

We have a just cause and, instead of condemning the program that is helping us some, we should be giving out thoughts to how we can improve and strengthen it so it will give us full parity, or cost of production whichever is greater.

Exports Reduced

(continued from page 3)

took place only after 2 or 3 years of war.

Exports of tobacco, fruits and grains were each more than 30 percent less during the first 12 months of the war, and the export of the current war than during the preceding 12 months. Pork product exports were down 20 percent. On the other hand, exports of raw cotton and linters increased about 80 percent over the 12 months immediately preceding. However, they were still below the average for the 10 years ending with 1938-39.

Factors causing cotton to fare better than other farm exports were the virtually exhausted supplies of American staple in foreign countries at the outbreak of the war, the relatively high level of European mill activity in the early months of the war, and a desire to build up reserve stocks before transportation facilities became disorganized. Since January 1, 1940, U. S. cotton exports have declined rapidly.

There is little prospect of a reversal in the present trend of farm exports as long as the course of the war continues along present lines. The reasons are the fact that belligerent nations are endeavoring to get along by means of rationing and by increased domestic production and the fact that the conduct of a "total war" implies concentration on efforts to starve out the enemy by blockades and a disruption of transportation facilities.

United States imports of agricultural products during the first year of the war reached a value of \$1,278,000,000, an increase of 25 percent over the corresponding 12 months of 1938-39. The increase is attributed to increased industrial activities resulting both from domestic and war factors.

Increase in Some Imports
Notable in the increased imports of agricultural products was the aggregate increase in imports of those in the group usually referred to as complementary, or noncompetitive. Included in that group are such products as rubber, coffee, tea, spices, bananas, silk, and cotton. The total value of noncompetitive imports during the first year of the war was \$709,000,000 compared with \$526,000,000 a year earlier, an increase of 35 percent.

The value of the other agricultural imports, usually referred to as supplementary, or more or less competitive, was \$569,000,000 compared with \$495,000,000 the year before, an increase of 15 percent.

LOCAL AND COUNTY DELEGATE'S CREDENTIAL KANSAS DIVISION

Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America

This is to certify that _____ (delegate)

Post Office address _____ Local No. _____

and _____ (alternate)

are members in good standing of _____ local union

number _____ State of Kansas, and were elected delegates

to the thirty-fifth annual convention of the Kansas Farmers Union which meets in Parsons, Kansas, October 30, 31 and November 1, 1940.

President

Secretary

At the St. Joe Yards

We are slipping in the back door for your next issue because we are late, and we are late because we wanted to give you the good news from the St. Joseph house for the month of September. For the month we shoveled up a profit of \$2,960.42, which is equivalent to a patronage savings of 45.42 per cent. Our yearly profit is now \$13,077.99 and a patronage savings for the year to date of 30.28 per cent.

In the Credit Association our outstanding loans total \$180,783.73. Scrums sales have passed the \$2,500.00 mark and the patronage

savings to date on this new activity is 20.93 per cent.

From the foregoing you will see that we looped another knot in the bear's tail and are holding on for dear life. All your readers have to do to share in this important savings is to ship to us at St. Joseph and pay their dues in your organization. We will do the balance and tie it up with a blue ribbon tied in a bow knot.

kindest wishes, I am
Cooperatively Yours,
Farmers Union Live Stock
Commission
Paul Steele,
Manager.

NEW TO HIM

An Arab sheik was being taken in a car across a very bumpy patch of desert. So bad was the going that at last the car over turned and the sheik was thrown out.

Instead of protesting to the driver, the Arab picked himself up and apologized profusely, saying "I'm so sorry. I've not learned to ride one of these things yet."

We Manufacture—

Farmers Union Standard Accounting Forms
Approved by Farmers Union Auditing Association
Grain Checks, Scale Tickets, Stationery,
Office Equipment, Printing

CONSOLIDATED
printing and stationery co.
SALINA • KANSAS

"My boy, what would you do with one thousand dollars?" he asked.

Painting Time

Brisk breezes bring reminders that this is the ideal season for painting—not many bugs—clear, cool days for even drying—wood that is summer dried.

Paint will protect and preserve wood, but the real reason for painting is to make your house, your barn, and your out-buildings "Look Like a Million!" A paint job pays for itself many times in improved appearance.

KFU paints and enamels are skillfully blended from fine quality products, yet sell at moderate prices. Ask for them at your local Farmers Union dealer.

Distributed by
Farmers Union Jobbing
Association

LOCAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION DELEGATE'S CREDENTIAL

Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Kansas Division

This is to certify that _____ (delegate). Post

Office address _____ is a member of _____

Local No. _____, and _____ (alternate) Post

Office address _____ is a member of _____

Local No. _____. They are members in good standing in the Kansas Farmers

Union, and will represent The _____

Business Association, as duly elected delegates to the thirty-fifth annual convention of the Kansas Farmers Union which meets in Parsons, Kansas, October 30, 31, and November 1, 1940.

I hereby certify that 51 per cent of the members of the above named cooperative business association are members of the Kansas Farmers Union.

(SEAL) _____ President
_____ Secretary

It's Dependable KFU BINDER TWINE

From experience, farmers have found they can depend on KFU binder twine. Year after year it has performed its work satisfactorily so that our people purchase it with the utmost confidence they will receive honest value.

KFU binder twine is well treated with insect repellent. It is made from quality fibre, has full yardage and ample breaking strength. Ask your local Farmers Union dealer for KFU and other binder twines.

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FARMERS UNION
JOBGING
ASSOCIATION
Topeka, Kansas City,
Wichita

Protection by Insurance... Is Necessary, AND...

Don't take chances with fire. Before using your fireplace, furnace, stove or boiler be sure the smoke pipe is tight and sound. Check your flue and chimney. If there is smoke seepage, a dark area will be discovered on the outside of the chimney at that spot. Repair it at once.

Be sure your stove pipe does not touch wood or inflammable material. Be sure there is plenty of room between the top of your furnace or stove and the ceiling. Put ashes in a metal container and keep this away from walls or trash.

Don't take chances. Be careful and secondly, have a Farmers Union insurance policy.

The Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Co.
SALINA, KANSAS