

The Kansas Union Farmer

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Published the first and third Thursday of each month at Salina, Kansas by THE KANSAS BRANCH OF THE FARMERS EDUCATIONAL & COOPERATIVE UNION, 119 South Seventh Street, Salina, Kansas.
Entered as Second-Class Matter August 24, 1912 at Salina, Kansas, Under Act of March 3, 1872.
Acceptance for Mailing at Special Rate of Postage Provided for in Section 1003, Act of October 3, 1917, Authorized July 30, 1918.
Subscription Price, Per Year \$1.00
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. When change of address is ordered, give old as well as new address, and R. F. D.

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SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1940

Credit and FCA Control
Victor Hawkison, president of the Riley Co. Farmers Union, believes the government credit agencies are an evil in themselves, are fundamentally "hypodermic," and temporary, and urges that the Farm Credit Administration, the FCA and the FSA be dissolved. He sees little importance in the recent shift of the FCA from practical independence to responsibility to the Department of Agriculture.

The obvious importance of the change is that farmers may generally find it easier to get government loans and easier terms on which to pay loans back. Officials of the Department of Agriculture have given a secret of their feelings that FCA has been too "hard boiled." Henceforth credit will be tied in with all other parts of the government farm program. The responsibility for the program will be clearly under the Secretary of Agriculture.

It is said money is the root of all evil, and perhaps it may seem that credit is the black sheep in the family of money evils. Surely it is true that in the Farmers Union Preamble it is written, "to discourage the credit and mortgage system." It is doubtful, however, if the farmer's farm credit will aid the farmer to keep his farm. A doctor may suggest that a fat man go on a diet, but he would not ask him to go without food entirely. And many farmers would have been without credit if it had not been for the government.

It is said in criticizing the FCA move, that easier government credit for farmers tends to subsidize inefficient farmers at the expense of efficient farmers. Also it is said that easy credit encourages borrowing and discourages thrift and the sound farming practices which go along with that. If implementation of the program given such liberal terms on tractors, combines and other farm equipment, the argument is supported, there would not be so much debt today.

Therefore, the co-op movement must be prepared to meet every onslaught of the enemy. This may come in the form of propaganda or a whispering campaign carried on by those who would ruin the co-op movement. It may be a price war which may be effective among co-ops where the proper educational foundation has not been laid. Sometimes these outsiders encourage fights between the directors and the manager—anything under the sun to discredit and ruin the movement.

However, these efforts upon the part of our enemies are very often rebound. They generally drive the faithful together, and when the proper cooperative spirit is present the effort to ruin the organization does not get very far. One wise cooperative leader once said, "When a cooperative has no enemies to fight, it had better begin to look out. It has probably settled down into an old-line organization itself and is on its way out as a cooperative."

ing aside" to attend our annual White House reception—we are going to one someday just to see folks as they are.

Neighborhood Notes

NO 8 IS ACTIVE LOCAL
Marquette Farmers Union Makes Listing of '39 Accomplishments
In a local meeting discussion of the No. 8 Local, McPherson county, listed some of their 1939 Achievements and also jotted down a few of the things they shall work toward in 1940.

1. Conducted a membership drive.
2. Organized a Junior class.
3. Installed electricity in the schoolhouse used as a meeting hall.
4. Held meetings once a week.
5. Sent six Juniors to the Farmers Union Camp.
6. Sent a Junior to the State Convention (besides the usual delegates).

In McPherson County
The monthly meeting of Juniors of the Northside Local No. 1061 was held January 22. The meeting was called to order by President Gilbert Bengtson, after which all old and new business was disposed of.

In Osborne County
The Portis Local meeting for January was postponed until the February meeting on account of sickness and cold weather. Everyone should try to attend the next meeting as our head chairman of the program committee, Mr. Russell Wolters, will have a very fine program arranged for that night.—F. U. Bulletin.

In Shawnee County
Newly elected officers of the Elevator Local No. 1916 are H. R. Hoffmeister, president; Otto Hoffmeister, vice president; George Ehrman, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Charles Wilson, conductor.
"We have not installed new officers yet," writes Mr. Ehrman, "as we have been snowbound."

Dear Union Cooperative Friends:
January 15 is my birthday. That is why I take time to write a few lines, being it is a long time since you have heard from me. We had our annual Farmers Union meeting January 13 with our routine of business first, like the roll call, reading of minutes of the previous meeting. At our last meeting we discussed and decided to bring up before our regular meeting a problem that involves

lend \$4,000 on it. Just do a little figuring and see how the mortgage companies thrive.

The following taxes are incurred in raising an acre of wheat. Average yield, 10 bushels, less one bushel for seed and less 1.20 bushels for insurance. This leaves 7.40 bushels to be sold at .61, totaling \$4.57.
Tax expense per acre:
Real estate60
Combine, Personal tax225
Sales tax on combine01875
Tractor, personal tax56
Tractor, gasoline tax05
Oil and grease tax04
Social Security (indirect)05
Sales tax on tractor0468
Personal tax on tractor56
Personal tax on drill00937
Personal tax on plow, disc1175
Personal tax on plows, harrows, etc002
C. O. Thomas, Zurich, Kan.

What's the Difference
How can the farmer continue? You should about how interest rates. What's the difference if I borrow \$2,000 at 2 per cent, or \$1,000 at 4 per cent, when in either case I cannot raise enough to pay the tax?
A mortgage company closed a farm that they had a loan on for \$2,000, then turned around and sold the farm for \$6,200 and offered to

several hundred dollars, improving our Union set-up.
It is to buy another bulk oil (upright) tank. So it was discussed again and finally passed 100 per cent to get prices and to purchase another large tank, not less than 15,000 gallons. This will be our 4th large tank. We will then have a storage capacity of 60,000 gallons or more. What do you think of that for a Farmers Union set-up for Southern Illinois?

We even raised our secretary's salary to \$325 a year. The janitor is getting \$8 a year, and the directors are getting \$1.50 per meeting. We have a board of seven directors and five serve as the Executive board.
A few more remarks for the good of the order, it being duly moved and seconded, to adjourn.

It was a noisy, disagreeable day, but we had a fairly good attendance. Mist, rain and still snow on the ground. The REA high line is building the line now, so we already have our warehouse wired and our storage room and the Hall, our meeting place, is done, but not our shop. So we always try to improve something. Wish I could hear or read from some other Farmers Union Local.

Discussion Outline No. 2

Effects of Tenancy

Distribution of Wealth in Ownership of Land Has Significant Relationship to Farm Community Life

That the rural standard of living of the Midwest will ever fall to the slum levels that prevail in some communities of the Cotton Belt is doubtful, for the middle-western tenant operates larger acreages, uses machines rather than woe and child labor, and usually lives in a house that was originally built by and for an owner-operator. He is more often the relative of his landlord and in every way is economically more in control of his own destiny than is the southern sharecropper.

Loss of Ownership Pride

1. Soil mining. A farmer with a fair amount of security, either as owner or operator under satisfactory lease conditions, will care for the farm's fertility, will take pride in it as a farm home as well as an agricultural factory for making a living. It has been said that if a man securely possesses a bleak rock, he will turn it into a garden but if he leases a garden he will convert it into a desert.

Low Labor Income and low standards of living.

This condition is more acute in the South than in this territory; still, tenant income is often low because of inadequate land capital and credit.

Increasing land monopoly. The low farm income, and relatively high land values on account of speculation have tended to develop a permanent land owning class and a permanent tenant class in many communities.

On the social side, the effects of tenancy are even more significant. Some of these are:

1. Population instability. Transient tenants mean an unsettled, discontented people.

2. Institutional instability. There can be no permanency of institutions if the people are only transient. Schools, church and community organizations have suffered wherever tenancy has been extensive.

3. Cultural decline. Indifference to schooling and neglect of educational opportunity for their children is common among tenants. There is like neglect of church and moral standards. Lack of permanent stake in the land or in the institutions of the community is responsible for this.

4. Social stratification. The rise of class consciousness is especially marked in the south between owners and tenants; but in the North is not entirely absent.

5. Community decay. The existence of community activities requires a relatively stable population, culture, and institutions.

Discussion Question

How Does Tenancy Conditions Influence Community Life?

- a. Does the appearance of the farm operated by the tenant differ from that operated by the farm owner in your community?
b. Is the Kansas farm tenant interested in Soil Conservation?
c. What effects do tenancy have on the development of the Farmers Union? Of Co-operative Business Associations?

Reference Material: Public Affairs Pamphlets, "Farmers Without Land" 10c and "Saving Our Soil" 10c; Social Action "Changing Rural America" by Perry L. Platt, 10c; "Door of Opportunity," by Sherwood Eddy, 25c, telling of the cooperative farm in Mississippi, may be ordered from the Kansas Farmers Union. Other sources: U. S. Census Reports, Department of Agriculture Bulletins, Farmers Bulletin 1164, U. S. Dept. of Agri. "The Farm Lease Contract," statistics available at the county Farm Security Administration office, and various school textbooks on economic and political and social economy.

FILES CLAIM TO RECOVER FED. HOG PROCESSING TAX

(Continued from Page One)
message suggests that the 40 million authorized in the Act be secured in the form of an R. F. C. loan.

CUT FARM BUDGET TO PAY INCREASED MILITARY EXPENSE

(Continued from Page One)
ter was in fact charged to the raisers and producers; and
"Whereas provisions were made under title VII of the Revenue Act of 1936 for the refund of the tax only, which they in fact bore and did not shift to the consumers or the raisers and producers; and
"Whereas neither title VII of the Revenue Act of 1936 nor any other

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Act made provision for a refund of such processing tax to the raisers and producers of hogs, who in fact bore the burden of such tax on hogs marked for slaughter: Therefore be it resolved...

HONOR TO REX LEAR

Becomes Vice President of Farmers Union Insurance Company
Rex Lear, Kansas manager of the Farmers Union Life Insurance Company, attended the annual meeting of the company in Des Moines, Ia., January 25, was elected to the board of directors, and vice president of the company.

IN PAINE OF COOPERATION

"At a time when the whole world is in a turmoil and war of every hand in almost every nation on earth, our organization is very peacable," writes J. C. Gregory, general manager of the Osborne Farmers Union business association in a mimeograph publication.

REFLECT JOY HAMMETT

Joy Hammett, Manhattan, was re-elected director of the Manhattan Production Credit Association at the annual meeting January 25. Business of \$431,000 was reported by the association manager. Mr. Hammett is secretary of Farmers Union Elbow Local No. 1786.

ESTHER EKBLAD

Director of Junior Education, Kansas Farmers Union

JOHN VESECKY

President of the National Farmers Union

