



THE KANSAS UNION FARMER



Organization

Education

Co-operation

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Agriculture, Industry and General Business Shown to be Dependent

Comparison of Farmer's Purchasing Power With Business Failures Shows Intimate Relation

Washington, D. C. — (Special Correspondence) — The urgent need for a better understanding between the important groups of citizens engaged in agriculture, in industry, and in general business is forcefully pointed out by Henry C. Wallace, secretary of agriculture, in a statement discussing their relationship.

"As our civilization becomes more complex," he declares, "the relationship between agriculture, industry and general business becomes more intimate. What hurts the one will certainly hurt the others. In general, what helps one will help the others. They must work together for the common good."

"There has always been a tacit recognition of our national dependence upon agriculture. We have given an intellectual assent to the fact that the farmer is the backbone of the nation. A prosperous agriculture depends upon a prosperous agriculture. Agriculture is the basis of national life, and so on. The truth of such statements has never been driven home to us so effectively as during the last two years.

"The drop in prices which began early in 1920 is familiar history. Farmers were the first to suffer and suffered most. Taking prices of 1913 as representing 100, the prices of farm products in May, 1920, stood at 238. During that month they began to fall, and before the decline could be arrested they had dropped below the 1913 level, standing at 94 in December 1921. Then we had a terribly vivid illustration of our dependence upon agriculture and the intimate relationship between agricultural prosperity and business prosperity. Many farmers could not pay current expenses. The ratio between prices of things the farmers produced and sold and prices of the things they bought was so distorted that they were forced to practice the most rigid economy and reduce their buying to absolute necessities.

"Price Drop Disasters
"Great industries which depend directly upon farm buying were plunged almost immediately into profound depression. Thousands of manufacturing plants had a similar experience. The railroads suffered through reduction in freight on things farmers buy. Business of every sort shared the disaster. Hundreds of banks failed. Thousands of banks tottered along the edge of bankruptcy. Perhaps three million men were thrown out of work. The financial depression was widespread.

"The turn was reached in the winter of 1921-1922, since which time there has been a gradual increase in the prices of farm products. Gradually farmers have been able to pay some of their debts and resume their buying. As a result there has been a steady improvement in business, until now there is general optimism. The ratio between prices of farm products and prices of other commodities is still abnormal. Until this ratio becomes more nearly normal the full measure of prosperity will not be restored.

"Farm Production Increased
"While the experience of the last three years has brought sharply to our attention the intimate relationship between business and agriculture, the existence of such intimate relationship is no new thing. A comparison of the farmer's purchasing power with business failures during the last third of a century tells the story in a graphic way. During the 10 years, 1890 to 1900, the purchasing power of the farmer was below the 30-year average, the percentage of business failures was considerably above. From 1900 to 1920 there was a gradual increase in the farmer's purchasing power. From 1901 to 1905 this purchasing power was almost the average of the 30-year period, while from 1905 to 1920 it was considerably above. The percentage of business failures dropped below the 30-year average from 1890 to 1920 with the exception of two short periods, one in 1908 and the other in 1914 and 1915.

"We have about 6,500,000 farms. More than one-fourth of all our people who are engaged in gainful occupations work on the farms. The capital invested in farming is about 70 billion dollars. The money invested in farm buildings, machinery and livestock, not including the value of the farm land, would buy all of the railroads in the United States and in addition a considerable number of the mines.

the one or the other should be so prosperous that intemperate speculation and waste is stimulated, because adversity always follows such a period."

SKINNED UNTIL THEY LIKE TO BE SKINNED

Farmers have been skinned so much and so often that it looks as if they had reached the place where they really enjoy being skinned. The story of the old negro fisherman illustrates this:

An old darky fisherman, the first day of spring, would go down to the river and start the season's fishing business. One fine spring morning he gathered all his fishing tackle, and that afternoon went down to begin operation. Reaching the bank and unbending his equipment, he put out his banil hooks, his trot lines, and some nets, after which with the assistance of a neighbor, he made a drag with the seine. The results were a fine haul of fish and also an eel, the largest eel he had ever seen. Eels were of value to him largely for their skins, and the old darkey having skinned this very large eel, and its flesh not being worth much, decided to try an experiment. He cut off the end of its tail, in order that he might know this eel if he ever saw it again, and then threw it back in the water. The next year on his first trip to the river and the first drag of the seine among the fish was a fine, big eel. He picked it up and discovered it had a stump tail, which proved to him that it was the same eel, that he had skinned the year before. It had a nice, new skin, which he carefully removed and returned the eel to the water again. The third year, the first drag of the seine of the season, he caught this eel skinned it again and threw it back in the water. The fourth year, his first trip to the river, he had just gotten his seine unrolled when this same eel came crawling out on the bank to be skinned. He had been skinned so often that he got to where he liked to be skinned.

Farmers around a trading point, that do not have their own cooperative institution, are like the eel—they have been skinned so often on the price of what they have to sell, and what they must buy, that they get to where it does not disturb them. The farmers, both in and out of the union, who are paying three dollars for insurance, where one is enough, have been used to it so long that they really enjoy the skinning.

We had a splendid illustration of this at a meeting we were holding in Buffalo, Harper County, one Saturday afternoon last October. We had just reached the place in our talk, where we were telling about our insurance company, when an old man came rushing up on the handstand from which we were speaking, handed us a card and asked us if that was good in Oklahoma. We looked at him and saw that he was a paid-up member.

ber in the Farmers' Union of Colorado and we told him that that entitled him to all the privileges of a member of this state. Then he excitedly said, "I own three farms southeast of here on which there are pretty good improvements, and I have been going without insurance for the last three years just because I could not stand the high rates of the old line companies. You know, I am a member of the Colorado Farmers' Union, and out there for eight years have carried all my fire, lightning and tornado insurance in the Farmers' Union company, and it is so much cheaper, that I just cannot stand these old line rates."

COOPERATION DOUBLES OUTPUT IN DENMARK

"You'll never get a man to work and invent and improve industry unless you give him a chance to pocket all the profits he can get out of his work. Look at Henry Ford, Andrew Carnegie, Charles Schwab and all those buddies. They'd never have kept at the game, constantly improving their methods and technique, unless they were pretty sure the gain would come back to them in dollars and cents."

Did you ever hear that line before? It's the favorite defense of the old-time captains of industry against the charges of profiteering and inefficiency that present-day private industry are making against private industry. Co-operators maintain, and they are Co-operators, that it is up to actual facts, that production for service means even greater efficiency than production for profit means. Thousands of industries and shops cooperatively owned and managed prove their point. Here's still another that has just come from Denmark, the most famous co-operative commonwealth in the world.

For 40 years most of the dairying in Denmark has been carried on co-operatively. One of the most important branches of dairying is cooperative breeding and cow-testing. These cooperative societies, which, in the space of 40 years, have enabled Denmark to double her milk production per cow through the improvement of the breed of dairy cows on the average Danish farm. The organized educational movement for dairy husbandry and better reaches practically every farmer in Denmark through the network of agricultural cooperatives, is entirely responsible for this great improvement. Twenty three per cent of the total number of milk cows in the country were registered in 1922 in the cooperative cow testing societies. In addition to the 821 cow testing cooperatives, 1,274 cooperative breeding societies are constantly at work improving and bettering the quality of the dairy stock.

This is just one answer co-operators make to private profits feeble challenge of "efficiency" against cooperation.

Report of Committee on Agricultural Co-operation

By W. C. Lansdon, National Organizer Part Two

Types of Co-operative Marketing Organizations

Two distinct types of co-operative marketing associations have been developed and with more or less efficiency and success are operating in our country at this time. Designated by their respective places of origin they may be called the Rochdale and the Danish systems. Rochdale organizations usually buy farm products from their members and frequently from other producers for resale at advanced prices. The profits from such transactions are distributed among the members, who furnish the capital and the business.

Enterprises conducted in conformity with the Danish plan almost invariably act only as agents for their producing members. The first plan is conditioned on the use of capital for the most part supplied through stock purchased by the members. Concerns so conducted must necessarily, as business organizations, operate on a profit-making basis. The Danish system requires capital investment except to provide handling facilities and associations so organized are carried on without profits, all proceeds of sales, less only operating expenses, being returned to members.

Rochdale Agricultural Co-operative Associations

As all our early day information on co-operation was obtained from English sources, it was only natural that the first efforts to establish production marketing associations in this country took the form of Rochdale societies operating as share capital corporations. Beginning about the year 1890 such a movement has resulted in the organization of a very large number of such co-operative enterprises, which, in the aggregate, have been successful in handling the various kinds of grain produced for market or used for feed in the corn and wheat sections.

The first co-operative associations were organized in conformity with laws then effective. As all legislation for the supervision and regulation of business, until a few years ago, had been enacted in the interest of capital and of the profit system, the development of co-operative enterprises was seriously retarded by constitutional and statutory restrictions. Proposed co-operative concerns were organized and conducted as joint stock or common law corporations or as mere partnerships with the handicap of individual unlimited financial liability for each member. All these forms of business organizations are wholly incompatible with cooperative ideals and purposes. For a long time it was impossible to form a closed co-operative association or to restrict share owning and voting privileges. In these conditions it was usually only a short time until the big stockholders absorbed the holdings of the poorer members and voting their shares re-organized the co-operative as a profit-making concern operated solely for private profit.

The great increase in the number of Rochdale societies for marketing crops and purchasing supplies for the use of farmers was due almost entirely to the educational activities of the Grange, the various branches of the Society for Equity and the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America.

As these societies grew in membership and influence, and by study became familiar with English co-operative practices, there developed among their members a strong demand for legislation recognizing the aims and principles of co-operation. About 1910 the new movement began to receive recognition from the law makers. Since that time more than four-fifths of the states have enacted statutes defining co-operative business and authorizing the formation of societies or associations to function in conformity with Rochdale principles.

Probably three-fourths of all the state laws recognizing and legalizing the English co-operative principles and methods were presented to legislatures and favorable action secured by representatives of the Farmers' Union, but always with the active assistance of other self-help agricultural societies. Even in states in which the Farmers' Union had no membership, the laws that it had proposed elsewhere were generally accepted and passed without material changes. Whenever constitutional provisions permitted the following body of principles were embodied in the co-operative laws:

First, The society must be formed and chartered by a large number of persons, usually twenty or more;

Second, The capital investment of each member must be limited. This restriction varies but in most cases cannot exceed five per cent of the actual investment. The capital interest of the average co-operator is much below the statutory limit;

Third, In all meetings of the society held for the purposes of electing

directors or determining policies, each member has one vote and no more;

Fourth, Capital is restricted to a certain fixed return which in practice has been around eight per cent;

Fifth, All surplus earnings must be distributed among member-shareholders, each receiving a dividend in proportion to the volume of his own transactions or as nearly as possible the savings, or profits on his own business with the association.

In other matters of organization, meetings, elections, directors, reports and minor details, the co-operative laws follow the joint stock corporation statutes and practices, either by express terms of the special legislative acts, or by reason of the rulings of the law officers and charter boards of the various states. All properly drawn co-operative laws emphasize the fact that the enterprises they authorize are organizations of men rather than of capital and that their purpose is not to earn large dividends, but to save money for their members by eliminating the profits ordinarily taken by capital.

For about fourteen years practically all farmers' co-operative societies operating with share capital have been incorporated under laws substantially as just outlined. Unfortunately the haste with which such laws were drawn and enacted resulted in many serious omissions that have interfered with the progress and success of the movement.

A co-operative statute should expressly limit payments to capital to not more than six per cent, but the majority of the states permits the members to determine this matter for themselves when the bylaws of an association are made. In order to hurry along the organization of a needed co-operative and make quick sales of stock dividends, payments of as much as 12 per cent have often been authorized. All such laws should require the accumulation of reserves to take up depreciation, absorb losses and supply additional capital for growing business. In too many places this vital matter has been left to the judgment of members or directors which too frequently means that no such provisions are made. Strangely enough there are few co-operators who maintain that it is a violation of Rochdale precedents and aims to establish reserves for any purpose and that all savings should be returned to the members at least once in each year.

Inasmuch as co-operatives are organized to advance the general welfare, everything possible should be done to protect both the public and the members who invest their money and give their business support. So far as it is consistent with the democratic control of such societies, there should be rigorous statutory requirements as to audits and reports both to the members and to the state. Anything like bureaucratic control or even supervision, however, must be avoided, and it must be kept in mind that for the most part all the provisions of co-operative laws should be permissive; that is, they should be enabling acts for the purpose of encouraging voluntary organization.

From its very nature, as it is organized by limited groups for special purposes, a co-operative society must be a closed corporation with authority to fix qualifications for membership. Therefore there must be enforceable provisions for restricting the transfer of shares of stock and of membership privileges to eligible persons with common interests and similar purposes. To prevent hardship or retiring members, or for those who are forced to remove from the natural trade territory of the society, the laws should permit co-operatives to buy their own shares but should restrict such authority with regulations to prevent its abuse.

No one knows just how many agricultural co-operative associations have been organized since the status of such enterprises was defined by law. Few states require such concerns to make annual reports different in any way from the statements filed by ordinary corporations. The number, however, is very large, much larger than is generally known. Kansas alone has at least eight hundred such societies. Nebraska has nearly as many. They are now operating in every state that has enacted enabling laws and their aggregate must exceed five thousand. Through these organizations, financed with their own money and supported and managed by themselves, the farmers of the United States are conducting almost every sort of business that is any way related to their activities or their needs. For the past five years the combined yearly turn over such enterprises has averaged around two billions of dollars.

In Colorado, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Arkansas and Oklahoma, farmers' co-operative exchanges with statewide operating fields have been established and are being operated with varying degrees of success. Some of these are federations of local co-operatives, others are financed by individual share subscriptions, and still others by a combination of the two methods. For the most part, these so-called wholesale societies are mere brokerage offices, but several are largely capitalized, maintain extensive and well stocked ware-

Wheat Pool In Australia Aided By State. Immense Co-operative Concern

Government Guarantees First Advance of 75 Cents. Most of Wheat Delivered to Markets in Sacks.

A voluntary wheat pool in which the government guarantees the first advance of 75 cents a bushel and the handling of the pooled wheat itself is done by a separate organization distinct from the pool are a few features of Australian cooperation of interest to American farmers.

Thomas B. Donnelly of Sydney, manager of Farmers' & Graziers' Co-operative Grain Insurance & Agency Co., Ltd., is now in the United States studying warehousing conditions. Mr. Donnelly is manager of the concern which handles the wheat of the New South Wales Voluntary Wheat Pool, his organization is a cooperative marketing association which last year had a 50 million dollar turnover. It contains more than ten thousand share holders and has a capitalization of 1.2 million pounds, nearly 2 1/2 million dollars, with 300,000 pounds subscribed. It handles wool, wheat, livestock, farm produce, station produce, fute and insurance.

Deliver Wheat in Sacks
New South Wales is one of the four wheat states in the commonwealth of Australia. Mr. Donnelly explained. Wheat produced there comes largely from combined harvester-threshers and is sold sacked. Elevators are few. He said New South Wales had only fifty-four, country and terminal, and those government owned. Wheat when brought to the railroad either is shipped directly, stored in sheds or frequently piled in sacks on the ground with sheet iron coverings.

"A grower can sell his wheat through the pool or to a private buyer, as he chooses," Mr. Donnelly said. "The pool is in charge of three farmers elected by the farmers. This committee directs sale of the pooled grain on a fixed charge, plus freight, etc. The advance of 3 shillings, practically 75 cents, is made through a bank with government money. Before the season opens the government is advised how large the crop probably will be. It then deposits funds in the government bank sufficient to make the advance."

How Grower Obtains Advance
"When the grower delivers his wheat to the pool which is represented by my handling company, he is given a certificate of advance, entitling him to the 3 shilling advance. On this certificate dockage is deducted and there is another deduction if the bags in which the wheat is delivered are inferior. It is this certificate the grower takes to the bank to obtain his advance payment, on which interest at 6 per cent is charged and deducted from later payments.

"Further payments are taken care of by additional receipts given the grower. One is entitled 'Certificate for Surplus,' which recites that the grower has delivered so many bushels to us, received a certain advance payment and is entitled to such further dividends as the committee may declare less rail freight, handling charges, interest and all other charges."

"Three additional payments after the initial advance usually are provided for, called 'further dividends.' Freight and other charges are taken out of the second payment. The fourth payment is the final one. The grower, however, can take his 'further dividends' at the bank and tifficate of surplus' to the bank and borrow on it as a warehouse receipt.

Pool Cost, 18 Cents a Bushel
"Our handling charge is slightly less than 6 cents a bushel. Freight averages about 11 cents, bringing the average total cost of delivering wheat at the seaboard roughly to 18 cents a bushel. Local handling for the pool is done on commission, we paying our local men the same commission as the private trade.

Last year members of the pool obtained 4 shillings, 8 pence, net, or \$1.15 a bushel, for their wheat at country stations. Bulk of the wheat purchased by private buyers was obtained at country stations for \$1 a bushel."

Short Crop Reduces Pool
Mr. Donnelly said that New South Wales pooled 23 million bushels, or 70 per cent of the crop, for 12,256 farmers last year. This year he expected 54 to 55 per cent of the wheat to be pooled. A short crop, resulting in stiff competition from private buyers, always cuts the size of the pool, he admitted.

(To be Continued)

bushels of which 32 million is used in home consumption, leaving 100 million bushels, or 75 per cent, for export. Grading is based on wheat known as "fair average quality," or f. a. q. "Wheat from the various states is taken, based on per cent of production in the state, and tested to obtain this "f. a. q." The wheat pool then blends its wheat to make it "f. a. q." Australian wheat, then, when offered in Liverpool, is on the basis of "f. a. q."

Also Handle Mortgage Wheat
The troublesome lien, which is both on some cooperative commodity organizations in this country, is given prior favor in the Australian method. Should there be a lien against the wheat the grower signs as acknowledgment in favor of it and the pool committee holds his certificate and applies the advance on the lien.

As the pool is conducted in New South Wales the overhead expense of the pool itself is very small, all the work, except actual selling, being done by a separate company, "The Farmers and Graziers."

This company is extremely interesting in itself. It is a cooperative marketing society, owned by producers and engaging in many fields. Like other cooperatives, its earnings are prorated back to members after interest and expenses have been paid. These prorated earnings are applied by the company on stock issued a member until he has one thousand shares. No member can have more than four votes in the operation of the concern.

COST \$816 TO SHIP \$800
Up in the northwest where the railroad rates seem to bear hardest—because on farm products the receiver so seldom pays the freight as he does on almost everything else—it is a familiar story that a farmer may often find after shipping and selling his stuff that he is still out of pocket for the freight. Most of those stories, however, are merely something we read.

There came into the office last week a lumberman from Oregon who showed by his papers that it cost him \$400 to ship \$425 worth of lumber from Oregon to Utah. That is to say \$400 worth of lumber became worth \$334 after traveling about 1,000 miles and when sold would have to pay, of course, a profit on the whole \$334. Other papers showed that an \$800 car of lumber shipped to Philadelphia ate up \$316 in freight, compelling the Philadelphia home builder to pay profit on at least \$1,616 for \$800 worth of lumber.

A Stanton, Michigan, farmer sold his potatoes for 25 cents a bushel. It occurred to him to do a little practical work in political economy, so he wrote a little note and deftly inserted it with a plug into a potato. The note read: "I get 25 cents a bushel for these potatoes. How much did you give?" A woman in Pennsylvania found the note while peeling potatoes for dinner. She had paid 30 cents a peck. That is, 25 cents are cents worth of potatoes became worth \$1.20 while going a day's journey by railroad.

THE KIND OF LAWS WE NEED

Farmers do not need half the legislation for which they clamour. A great deal of it, if enacted into law, could be used against them by those who would administer it. The laws we really need are a few that would be fundamental. Nationally, we should have such laws as will absolutely guarantee freedom of speech. We should have amendments to the Constitution making more democratic that document by providing for the abolishment of the electoral college and the election of the president by a direct vote, also providing for the election of all federal judges and for a reasonable term of years, instead of life or appointed or life.

Other laws are needed, both state and national, are such as will give us the same opportunities that other businesses have to carry on their business. The obstacles in the way of farmers cooperating to help themselves should be removed by law and sufficient legislation should be given us to vitalize our co-operative plans and make them enforceable at law. With legislation of this nature farmers can go ahead and work out their own salvation just as they should not ask more.—Iowa Union Farmer.

Song Contest Announcement

Winner: Mrs. Alice Gray Williams.
R. F. D. No. 1, Oneida, Kansas

Songs were submitted by the following people:

Mrs. John R. Angle	Courtland, Kansas
John T. Anderson	Kincaid, Kansas
John Ausherman, Jr.	Delia, Kansas
Mrs. Bert Buell	Turon, Kansas
Josie Beltram	Acacia, Kansas
Joe Berry	Solomon, Kansas
Walter Burdett	Herington, Kansas
Mrs. A. H. Caffee	Norton, Kansas
R. F. Chapman	Hackney, Kansas
S. C. Cowles	Gridley, Kansas
Mrs. W. V. Dickerson	Osborne, Kansas
Mrs. Wm. Ewing	Richland, Kansas
Mrs. Chas. Guthrie	Dunlap, Kansas
A. P. Hotten	Junction City, Kansas
Mrs. G. W. Hardtarfer	Lawrence, Kansas
Miss Melvina Harper	Randolph, Kansas
Stella B. Johnson	Robinson, Kansas
Carl S. Kramer	Galesburg, Kansas
Miss Ethel Lafferty	Monument, Kansas
Miss Pauline McGinn	Logan, Kansas
Mrs. A. T. McDowell	Winfield, Kansas
W. J. Pollock	Colony, Kansas
Mrs. G. M. Pearson	Burlington, Kansas
Mrs. Lucy Phillips	Olsburg, Kansas
Mrs. Wm. Riekeman	Walnut, Kansas
Mrs. Ed Neumeier	Billon, Kansas
Mrs. Carl H. Riker	Alta Vista, Kansas
Horace F. Smith	Columbus, Kansas
Joe P. Sterbenz	Wamego, Kansas
Mrs. Laura B. Sutton	Olpe, Kansas
Miss Elma Edna Seiler	Sterling, Kansas
Mrs. Henry Ubben	Halstead, Kansas
Mrs. C. A. Van Vleet	Barneston, Nebr.
Mr. K. Wilson	Selden, Kansas
Chas. A. Whedon	Meriden, Kansas
Mr. G. Woerz	Lawrence, Kansas
Mrs. Bertha Bell Whitlaw	McPherson, Kansas
Albert Weiser	De Soto, Kansas
Ernest L. Zimmerman	Rison, Kansas
	Osborne, Kansas

Splendid songs were received from these people, practically all of which will be printed in the new Farmers Union Song Book.

Farmers Union Song Department,
105 New England Bldg.,
Kansas City, Missouri.

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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.

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

Communications and Questions—Communications are solicited from practical farmers, members of the F. E. & C. U. of A., are at liberty to ask questions on any phase of farm work. Answers will be either published or mailed.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1923

EAT MORE WHEAT

The movement to induce the people of the United States to use more wheat than has been inaugurated by wheat growers and wheat merchants should be encouraged. The wheat situation is serious. Prices are below the cost of production and will remain there unless something is done about it by the people who are interested.

European conditions are such that there will be no immediate export demand for wheat at profit making prices. True it is that America sold great quantities of wheat abroad last year but every bushel that was exported represented a loss to American producers. Powerful interests in this country acted with European buyers in keeping the price too low. The people of Europe must be fed but if the cost of their bread can be kept down they will be better able to pay interest on the money that our bankers have loaned in Europe.

If prices are to be increased there must either be a reduction of production or an increase in demand. It is impossible to increase foreign markets therefore, if possible, the domestic use of wheat must be encouraged. It has been estimated that an increased consumption of one slice of bread daily for each person in this country would absorb practically the whole exportable surplus of wheat. There is no more wholesome or necessary food. Wheat is the cheapest thing on the table. At five dollars a bushel it would be cheaper measured by food values than any other commodity that is eaten in America.

Increasing the demand for wheat is a much better policy than reducing the production. Either would increase prices but reduced acreage would not help the farmers income. High prices for wheat are worth nothing to farmers who have none to sell. Why not join in this movement? It is in the interest of health, profit for the farmer and safety for the country.

RAILROAD VALUATIONS

The government and the railroads have spent about \$75,000,000 in the valuation of the railway property of this country. The roads contributed about three fourths of the cost of this work. It is not at all strange therefore that the results are favorable to them.

Preliminary reports indicate that the commission has discovered that the actual value of the railroads is a good deal more than the face values of the outstanding securities. If these estimates are accepted by congress and the country there can be no reduction in rates for service which must be adjusted to earn an income on at least \$10,000,000,000 in excess of the actual value of the property.

The people must realize the gravity of this situation and use all their influence with their congressmen and senators to prevent the consummation of the worst piece of robbery that has ever been planned by the interests that have already stolen tens of billions of dollars from the producers of this country.

FIGHTING MUTUAL INSURANCE

The big capitalized insurance companies have at last come out into the open in their fight against the invasion of their field and the destruction of their business and profit by cooperative organizations. All over the country they are distributing propaganda designed to scare farmers away from the support of their own insurance companies.

The favorite argument of the big insurance thieves is that every policy holder in a mutual is individually responsible for the total liabilities of the association. Of course this is a lie but a little thing like a big lie never bothers the hired tools of the predatory interests of this country.

That the old insurance companies have much at stake is proved by the rates that they charge in counties and states where they have no cooperative competition. A few weeks ago this writer saw the check for \$29.00 that Henry C. Pace, secretary of the Tennessee Farmers Union paid for a \$2,000 policy on his house for one year. If he lived in Kansas he could maintain that policy on his property for five years for less

than \$40.00.

Farmers have already done much to stop such thievery in Kansas and other western states but there are still great numbers of farm houses and barns that are insured in companies that are using every means known to crooked business to destroy cooperative insurance. Are you greasing your enemies fat sow by supporting old line insurance?

OUR LIVE STOCK SALES

The Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Company at Kansas City is the only house on that market that is growing in volume of business. On April 30 it lacked just four car loads of leading all its competitors and was second in general business by a big margin. Manager Woodman and his office and yard force are out to take the lead at the close of business this month.

Every month this year has shown a great increase over the corresponding month for last year culminating with the April business which was 116 per cent greater than for April 1922. If the present increase continues throughout the year the Union Commission Company will average into 1924 with double the patronage of any other house on the Kansas City market.

Continued growth of this great and helpful enterprise depends on the loyalty and good sense of the live stock producers in the territory tributary to the Kansas City Market. Union men should see to it all over the west that their stock is consigned to their own house. We have the best service and we get the top of the market oftener than any other concern operating in the Kansas City Yards.

THE PRODUCERS COMMISSION HOUSE.

The Producers Live Stock Commission Company of Kansas City fostered by the Farm Bureau Federation has now been in business a little more than two months and is handling a right respectable volume of sales. It received about 109 car loads of stuff in April as against about 600 car loads consigned to the Union House. Its commissions were sufficient to pay almost one half its operating expenses. The patronage of this house is growing. It is being supported by farmers who have never patronized the Union house and therefore is not hurting our company in any way. So far as our management can learn in April that would have gone to the Union house in the old conditions while our company increased its business more than one hundred per cent.

The only persons who will be injured in any way by the Producers Live Stock Commission Company in Kansas City are the farmers who support it with their shipments. The income for the first year and perhaps for several years will be far below the cost of operation. Not only will it be impossible to pay any shippers dividends but large deficits must be absorbed either by the impairment of capital or by deductions from the proceeds of sales for patrons.

Practically every dollar of the expense of maintaining the Producers' house in Kansas City could have been saved for the farmers and added to their shippers dividends if the Farm Bureau Federation had seen fit to accept the generous cooperative offer made by President Tromble of the Farmers Union house.

SLOGANS FOR UNION LOCALS.

Elbow Local No. 1786 has a membership of live, wide awake and up to date men and women. Something happens whenever it meets. Something is done or said that proves that the organization is real community society with definite and clearly outlined programs for advancing the common good.

This local has just had some letter heads printed. The fine clean sheet carries the name and number of the organization and names the officers and the executive committee. Just over the date line is printed the slogan that has been adopted by the society—"Standardize production; pool our sales; and mobilize our purchasing power."

There may be mottoes more appropriate and more charged with appeal to the intelligence and aspirations of the membership. If there are other Locals should adopt and use them. It might not be a bad thing if each Union Local in Kansas would devote one entire meeting or even more to a discussion of the reasons and purposes of its existence and then crystallize the result into a single incisive sentence for use as a slogan.

BETTER DIRT ROADS

A short time ago a Kansas farmer who had been driving in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin wrote a letter to the Kansas City Star asking why Kansas cannot have dirt roads equal to those of the northern states. The Star responded editorially in a somewhat sarcastic style by saying at some length that the states mentioned have good dirt roads because they build them. The impression was conveyed that Kansas refuses to build such highways.

It is a fact that the dirt roads of Kansas are far inferior to those of many other states and especially of the northern group referred to. There are several reasons for this. The campaign for hard surfaced roads was waged with so much vigor and persistence in Kansas by the Star and other forces that the average man overlooked the fact that it is possible to build good dirt highways and for several years that particular kind of construction was almost wholly neglected. The hard roads advocates went so far that it was given out that the government makes no provision for federal aid for dirt roads. This of course, is a lie.

There are at least three good reasons why there are such fine dirt highways in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. The people and the legislatures of those states recognized years ago that it would be impossible to build hard surfaced roads in all sections without practical confiscation of the property of the taxpayers. Therefore they resolved to build the best type

of roads that the people could afford to use and maintain. In each of these states there are literally thousands of miles of first class dirt highways that have been built under governmental supervision and for which half the cost has been provided from the federal aid road fund. These standard dirt roads comply with government requirements in width, drainage, culverts and grades. For more than seven eights of the open season, that is the season that is free from snow, these roads are far better than any hard surfaced highway that were ever built.

Building a road is only the first step to having a good highway. Once built it must be maintained. Each of the states mentioned provides for systematic maintenance of dirt highways. Each road is divided into sections or districts and at least one man is kept on each section all the time. This man is known as the road patrol. It is his duty to fill up all holes, stop erosion of the road bed and sides, open up clogged drainage and drag the driving surface as often as necessary. He is also an officer of the law with authority to make arrests for violation of the traffic regulations. This kind of upkeep by patrol costs about \$250 a mile a year which is only about one tenth of the interest on the money necessary to build a mile of concrete highway.

The third reason for better dirt roads in the states under discussion is that they have and use road maintenance machinery far superior to that found in most Kansas counties. The sensible dirt road program has stimulated the invention and manufacture of machinery that enables one man to do three or four times as much as can be accomplished with same power and labor expense in Kansas.

Kansas is behind her sister states in road building because the folks have been told that nothing but hard surfaced construction is worth while. Standard dirt roads are usable in this state for more than 325 days out of each year. They are the best roads for hauling and for automobile driving that have yet been devised. They can be built at a cost within the paying ability of the taxpayers. They can be maintained for one tenth the interest, mile for mile, that must be paid annually on bonds issued for hard surfaced highways. The government pays half the cost of construction. It is high time that this state should get in line with other western commonwealths and inaugurate and maintain a road construction program that will lift the traffic of Kansas out of the ruts and the mud.

A UNION TANNERY

The Pope County, Arkansas, Farmers Union is made up of fine, earnest progressive membership. Some two years ago it was decided that a cooperative tannery would be a good thing in that locality and the Union Farmers proceeded to organize such an institution on the Rockdale plan.

The enterprise has been successful from the first. It receives the loyal support of its members and other farmers in that locality. What it needs right now is some more capital and a good deal more business. If there are Union Farmers in Kansas who are interested they should write to the Pope County Cooperative Manufacturing Association, Moreland, Arkansas for further information.

This Farmers Union Tannery should not be forced to rely on local support entirely for its usefulness and success. It is conducting a business that can be serviceable to farmers in many states. Any member of the Union in any state is eligible for membership in this association. All shareholders not only secure the services of the enterprise but participate in the profits.

The sugar boycott is all right but does not go far enough. A thief is not sufficiently punished when he is deprived of a market for his stolen merchandise.

THE UNION ASKS NO FAVORS

The Hoxie Sentinel is still trying to make it appear that the Farmers Union asked a special favor from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue when a ruling on the taxability of cooperative dividends was sought. This of course is not true. All that was asked was an interpretation of the law to be observed by all collectors. The commissioner ruled that savings subject to distribution as cooperative or patronage dividends are not taxable as corporation income but must be listed on the income tax statements of the men who receive them.

The income of the government may apparently be slightly reduced by this ruling but it is the general opinion that Uncle Sam wants only that is coming to him and therefore it is fair to assume that he loses nothing to which he is equitably entitled when one of his servants makes a ruling that prevents others of his hired men from collecting money to which he has no legal title. No one really loses anything by being estopped from taking money that does not belong to him.

Mr. Baer appears to be anxious that his folks shall believe that President Tromble is personally concerned in this matter. This is not true. Mr. Tromble acted, as was his duty, as president of the Kansas Farmers Union and secured results immensely important to the organization. No illegal taxes will be collected from cooperatives in the future and those that were paid in the past will be refunded. Not a line of the matter that has appeared in these columns in connection with the attempt of the Hoxie Sentinel to show that the Union is trying to obtain special favors from the government was written by President Tromble. This fact has been known to Mr. Baer from the first.

If the Hoxie Sentinel wants to do a real service to the country it would better engage in some sort of a crusade to force the great tax evading corporations of the country to pay the government what they owe.

Bonar Law

Resigned the Premiership.

Of Great Britain last week. He had been in office only about seven months but they were quiet and peaceful times as compared with the period while Lloyd George was in control. Law grew in the confidence and esteem of the people of his country and of the world while he was in office. His retirement was forced by ill health.

In selecting a successor for Law King George was restricted in his choice to two members of the cabinet—Lord Curzon and Stanley Baldwin. He appears to have decided wisely in his preference. Baldwin is quite well known in this country as chairman of the British Commission for Funding the debts due the United States. Curzon is a doubtful quantity. He has been responsible for more misunderstanding and mischief than any other British secretary of foreign affairs in several generations. It is not likely that Baldwin's premiership will extend through many months. The Labor Party is so strong in the House of Commons that it is almost certain that a new election will be forced before fall.

China

Is Perfectly Helpless

In the protection of the lives and property of the foreign residents and travelers. Before this is printed it is almost certain that several of the captives held for ransom by bandits will be killed by the outlaws. This means more confusion and the formulation of more policies by other nations for the regulation of China.

It is plain that foreign countries must either withdraw from China or that they must support their interests there by great military and naval forces. It is reported that the United States is about to transfer a large part of the Philippine garrison of about 10,000 soldiers and scouts to China. Thus vanish our hopes of peace in the far east.

Adams, The New Senator

From Colorado is a young lawyer whose father, formerly governor of the state, left him a great fortune of several millions of dollars. He is reported to hold mildly liberal views. He has been interested to some extent in the program of organized labor and had the endorsement of the Trade Unions.

The best thing known about the new senator is that he was appointed by Governor Sweet after long consideration. Sweet is a real progressive. Adams has a great opportunity for service and will doubtless justify the confidence that his friends express as to his ability and integrity. Still it is a pity that Governor Sweet could not see his way clear to appoint J. M. Collins or some other progressive so well known that he would not require endorsements.

Minnesota

Is Again in Politics

Up to the eyes of all the many thousands varieties of politicians, agitators, and office seekers in that state. Shortly after the death of Senator Nelson it was announced that Governor Preus would resign and that the present lieutenant governor would appoint him to the senatorial vacancy. That program did not meet with much favor from any faction. The voters had just elected Preus governor but on the same day they elected Shipstead to the United States senate. Even the organization republicans were opposed to the governor appointing himself to the senate.

So there will be a primary and an election. Preus may enter the primary campaign for the republican nomination. If he is nominated and elected he will have a chance for a long term at the regular election which would not have been possible had he sent himself to Washington.

If the liberal, progressive and radical elements of Minnesota are able to unite on a candidate acceptable to all of them, Shipstead will have a colleague of his own way of thinking when congress assembles next winter.

Governor Davis

Earned the Gratitude

Of the farmers of Kansas when he selected Hon. W. P. Lamberton for a place on the State Board of Administration. Lamberton is splendidly qualified for the place. He is a man of liberal education, a graduate of two great universities. He has served in both houses of the legislature and

FOURTEEN CO-OPERATIVE BANKS FOR NEW YORK

Two years ago the big bankers of Wall Street ridiculed the idea of labor cooperative banks. Six months ago they began to grow anxious as the chain of successful cooperative banks spread across the continent. Today they are confronted with plans just announced by four powerful groups of organized workers to invade the domain of Wall street with four teen cooperative banks, four of which will be large central banks with ten branches throughout the city. From New York has become overnight the prospective home of more cooperative institutions than in all the other cities of the country put together. All these banks will be operated on the same cooperative principles by which the Engineers' Cooperative, National Bank in Cleveland has built up its resources from \$650,000 to almost \$20,000,000 in slightly more than two years.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has already purchased a large interest in an existing New

York bank and has made application for a charter to be granted to the Locomotive Engineers Cooperative Trust Company of New York City which will have three or four branches to take care of the outlying sections of the city.

Both the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, including among their members in New York over 200,000 workers announce definite plans to launch two more cooperative banks in New York. The bank of the Ladies' Garment workers will be organized with a capital stock of \$500,000 and a substantial surplus. While most of the funds will be contributed directly by the International and its 17 New York City locals, all progressive labor organizations and individuals will be able to take out stock. A branch bank is also being talked of for the purpose of providing a safe, honest, and economic service for the transmission of funds by workers to their needy friends and relatives in various European countries.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, one of the strongest labor unions outside of the A. F. of L., which owns the successful Amalgamated Trust and Savings Company of Chicago, makes public its plans for another Amalgamated Bank in New York City, to be established inside of two months. One of the chief activities of this bank will also be the transmission of money to relatives of New York clothing workers who are living in Europe at honest rates of exchange.

The Central Trades and Labor Council of New York City is pushing work on the organization of its cooperative bank the Federation Trust Company which will open for business by the end of March. Approximately \$600,000 has already been subscribed by trade unions and their members for shares, and it is definitely stated that six branches, in addition to the main office, will be in operation within 18 months.

Dairy farmers are always sure of a milk check every week. The man that has a few cows to care for will not have to worry about the grocery bills.

Just a few days ago the newspapers of the United States reported that the prohibition enforcement officers say that there are 100,000 gallons of whiskey smuggled into this country from Canada every twenty-four hours. If that booze brings ten dollars a gallon net, a very conservative estimate, it is plain enough that Canada will be able to pay her national debt in a very few years.

Rains

Flooded Most of Kansas

Last week. There is more moisture in the soil and more water in the streams than for several years. This is a hopeful situation that has caused no loss to any Kansas producers except the dry land bull frog farmers of the northwestern part of the state. Many thousands, perhaps millions of promising two and three year old frogs that had never learned to swim were caught unawares and perished from drowning before they could be provided with life preservers and rafts.

In several counties quite a few five and six year old children saw dust converted into mud for the first time in their lives. Just now there is no part of the state that is not abundantly provided with all the necessary facilities and materials for making mud pies.

Brother Cowles

Of Grindley, Kansas.

Like this paper. In a recent letter to the president of the Kansas Farmers' Union he says: "I wish to express my appreciation of your answer to Brother Yoder of Brown county. I believe that he will read it in the spirit in which it was written and that he and all others who read it will get ready to co-operate with thinking farmers everywhere for the purpose of purifying the courts and customs of the country and help make the government greater and better and the country greater and greater as the years roll by."

"Now is any member is not satisfied after reading your editorial of May 17th he should turn to the first page of the same paper and take time to study the statement of President Charles S. Barrett of the National Farmers' Union. Members who read those two articles are sure to understand that we are co-operating in a way that will help all of us. I shall ask the members of Burt Local No. 2089 and also our County Union to read and study these two articles written by our state and national presidents. I believe it would be a good thing to memorize both of them."

Failures

In Co-operative Business

Are traceable to many causes. The most deadly disease, however, that afflicts any co-operative business is the apathy, neglect and disloyalty of its own members. The following statement recently issued by the federal Department of Agriculture contains information that should help:

"Insufficient business was given as one of the reasons for failure by 200 of the farmers buying and selling associations out of a total of 243 organizations which have ceased to function."

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Canada

Continues Very Prosperous

Is the cheering news that comes from our northern neighbor. The Canadian dollar is back at par with its United States sister. Business is good, money is plentiful, labor is profitably employed and even the farmers of the Dominion are in a more hopeful state of mind. All of which sounds good and may be true but it seems that the United States is furnishing most of the money that is the basis for our neighbors' good times.

Just a few days ago the newspapers of the United States reported that the prohibition enforcement officers say that there are 100,000 gallons of whiskey smuggled into this country from Canada every twenty-four hours. If that booze brings ten dollars a gallon net, a very conservative estimate, it is plain enough that Canada will be able to pay her national debt in a very few years.

Clothing

Is the Best Profession

Practiced in America if money returns only are considered. Harold Lloyd, Charley Chaplin, and Larry Semon to say nothing of scores of others get salaries that make a railway president's pay look like pin money for a peanut peddler, Larry Semon will draw a million dollars a year for the next three years.

The people of the United States spend almost as much money for the privilege of seeing fools doing silly stunts as they do for all the colleges in the country. Some wise old boy once said that he could make up his mind about any man if he could find out what made that man laugh. The people who laugh over the comic supplements of our newspapers and the custard pie comedy of Chaplin, Semon and Lloyd will be a great puzzle to the historians of the thirtieth century when they come to write of the habits and customs of the present day.

Bryan

Lost Another Fight

Last week when he sought to have the National Presbyterian Assembly adopt a resolution barring the teaching of evolution from schools receiving church funds and support. The Commoner is one of the very few educated men of the present day who is unable to reconcile the developments of science with the doctrines of revealed religion.

There are some very widely different forms of human beings now on this earth of ours. If they are all descended from a common ancestry, as is very probable, it is necessary to assume one of two things. Either there has been a very decided degeneration resulting in the head and other low types or there has been a wonderful evolution in the production of Bryan and his fellow intellectuals. It is just as hard for many people to believe that Bryan's posterity can produce a savage as it is that a savage race can through evolution and education finally produce a Bryan.

Department of Practical Co-Operation

State speakers will be present and address Farmers' Union meetings as indicated below. Requests for speakers within the date list should take into consideration the schedules already made.

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

To Local Secretaries And The Membership In General
We have the State Constitution for 1923, containing the Amendments as adopted, ready for distribution at 5c per copy.
C. E. Brasted, Secretary.

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

CRAWFORD COUNTY MEETINGS AT GIRARD KANSAS
Girard Local No. 494 of the Farmers Union meets in Union Hall the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p. m.
L. E. Roof, Pres.
Roy W. Holland, Sec.

UNION LOCAL NO. 2019
Blaine O'Connor, Sec.
Regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at 7:30 p. m.

ORDER PRESIDENT BARRETT'S
We now have a supply of the books "Uncle Reuben's Activities in Washington," on hand and can fill orders direct from this office.
Make remittance of \$2.00 to C. E. Brasted, Salina.
C. E. Brasted, Secretary.

CLAY COUNTY PICNIC JUNE 6
The Farmers Union of Clay County are going to have a big picnic at the Clay Center fair grounds June 6, 1923. Everybody invited. All come with well filled baskets and enjoy dinner picnic style.
State Lecturer M. O. Gessner will speak to us.
Jake Shingys, Pres.
Thos. E. Larson, Sec.

ELLIS COUNTY MEETING NOTICE
The Ellis County Union No. 26 will have its second quarterly meeting June 9th, 1923, at the courthouse in Hays, Kansas. Meeting will be called to order at 1 o'clock p. m. sharp. All officers and committee members will meet at 11 o'clock a. m. to outline program and committee reports.
All delegates are requested to be present in full quota, and as many Union members as possible, as this will be an important meeting.
Brother Charles Simpson, Farmers Union Insurance man has promised to be with us. Also a representative of the Farmers Union Cooperative Creamery Association of Salina, Kansas.
If you have nothing to say, come and listen awhile and then say something.
Jos. P. Rupp, Pres.

REPUBLIC COUNTY UNION QUARTERLY MEETING
The second quarterly meeting of the Republic County Farmers Union will be held in the I. O. O. F. Hall at Scandia, Kansas Wednesday June 6. Meeting will be called at 1:30 o'clock sharp. Besides the regular business there will be a number of short talks and arrangements for the annual County picnic will be made. All locals should try to have their full delegation present. Let's go!
Charles Hanzlick, Co. Sec.
A. R. Bundy, Co. Pres.

ANNUAL PICNIC HELD BY KELLOGG LOCAL
Kellogg Local No. 1809 held its annual picnic May 23, 1923. Although the weather was threatening, about 150 were present.
The morning was spent with games and races, and then an excellent dinner was served cafeteria style.
After dinner, a quartette from Hackney Local sang two numbers, and president John Tromble gave a very interesting talk on what the Union was doing, and what it would do if all members would do their part.
Then the Kellogg Local gave their program consisting of music and songs.
When the program was over, the ball game started which resulted in favor of Kellogg by two scores.
C. O. Ehmke, Sec.

MARSHALL COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING
The second quarterly meeting of the Marshall County Farmers Union will be held at Marysville, Friday, June 1, at 10 o'clock a. m. All locals are urged to send a full delegation, and every union member in the county should plan to attend, as we will have our national lecturer, W. C. Landon, with us. Bring your dinners and stay all day.
Richard H. Marckey, Sec'y-Treas.

SUMNER COUNTY MEETING JUNE FIRST
Sumner County Farmers Union No. 52 will hold quarterly meeting, Friday June 1st at Wellington in K. C. Hall. Meeting called at 11 a. m. A good attendance desired, please send delegates.
Joe Erwin, President.
Send the Kansas Union Farmer reports from your local. One page is devoted to local reports in each issue.

A BROTHERLY DEED
Mr. Henry D. Kettler, president of Highland Local Farmers Union, No. 1663, called on some of the members of the local to finish planting A. E. Nichols' corn. Tuesday, May 22nd Mr. Nichols had 30 acres planted, but his eyes have been giving him severe trouble and pain, and he has been unable to be about. Therefore, he had in the neighborhood of 40 to 45 acres left to plant.
As it is time that all corn should be planted, seventeen of the Highland local brothers went to Mr. Nichols' farm 14 miles southeast of Paola and finished his planting. It is a picture to see seventeen men and forty-five horses at work on one farm, and when you do, you may know they mean business. The following brothers did the work: Henry D. Kettler, Robert Overbeck, Henry Schmitt, George Frank, Henry Gillogly, Ernest Alpert, Allen Courter, Richard Peine, Henry Miller, Herman Kettler, Fred Kettler, Clarence Kettler, Joe Elliott and Roy L. Lee.
Roy L. Lee.

RESOLUTIONS OF ANDERSON COUNTY FARMERS' UNION
The following resolutions were adopted May 18th by a resolutions committee composed of one member from each local present:
Be it resolved: 1st. That we desire to register our protest against the proposed railway merger for the reason that it eliminates competition and is detrimental to farm interests and therefore to the business interests of the country.
Second, That we are opposed to continuing the employing of a county farm agent in this county under the present plan.
Third, We condemn the excessive price of sugar and demand that our executives and all our law making bodies take steps to prevent the recurrence of this outrage. We recommend that consumers curtail the use of sugar.
Fourth, We hereby recommend that all stockholders meetings of the Farmers Union Commission company no one be permitted to vote proxies unless he lives in the county where the proxy originates.
Fifth, We request the state officials of the Farmers Union to take steps to establish a churning and storage plant to be located at some point where it will serve the producers of Eastern Kansas.

ELMO LOCAL FAVORS GOVERNMENT CONTROL
At the fifth annual meeting of the Elmo Farmers Union Cooperative Business Association, the following resolutions were presented by John Bonfield, of Elmo, Kansas, a member of the Farmers Union and were adopted at the meeting and were made a part of the minutes.
Whereas, the price of farm products has no sign of improvement; and whereas, Governor Davis said if the interest rate were cut in two, and the taxes shaved half off, still the farmer would not receive the needed relief; and
Whereas, wheat is a world crop and can not be locally controlled; and whereas the Government is the only agency under the sun big enough to handle the wheat problem;
Therefore, Be it resolved by the locals of the Farmers Union of New Basel, Dayton and Elmo, in mass meeting assembled, that a government price is the only solution of the wheat problem; and
Be it further resolved that a price to cover the price of production is the only way to keep the farmer growing food for the city folks.
Be it further resolved that we urge the whole fraternity of the Union to demand of Congress a stabilized price on wheat, and government control of the area sown.
Be it further resolved that these resolutions be spread on the minutes of our meeting and a copy sent to our state paper at Salina Dated this 8th day of May, 1923.
C. A. Pray, Sec.

WHY I AM A FARMERS UNION MEMBER
THE BRIDGE BUILDER
An old man going a long highway. Came at the evening, cold and gray. To a chasm vast and deep and wide. The old man crossed in the twilight dim.
The sullen stream had no fear for him; But he turned when safe on the other side. And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Oft man," said a fellow pilgrim near "You are wasting your strength with building here; Your journey will end with the ending day. You never again will pass this way; You've crossed the chasm deep and wide; Why build this bridge at eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head—"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said, "There followeth after me today A youth whose feet must pass this way; This chasm that has been as naught to me, To this fair headed youth may a pit-fall be; He, too, must cross in the twilight dim; Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"
—Healthy Home, March 26, 21, and that is the reason that I am a Farmers' Union member. Not for the benefit that I may derive from the organization but because I believe the F. E. & C. U. of A. is the only farm

organization in existence today that will bridge the chasm for future prosperity and give agriculture the place in the sun to which it is rightfully entitled, and to which it has so long been denied.

Again, I am a member because the F. E. & C. U. of A. is an aggressive as well as a progressive organization. Aggressive from the fact that it is not humbly asking for rights but in the language of our estimable National President Charles S. Barrett, demanding its rights and building to acquire and maintain them. And in doing this very thing the F. E. & C. U. is working out the destiny of this nation, and just to the extent that we are able to place agriculture upon a basis with other industries of the Nation, thus making a lucrative occupation, just to that extent will the Nation prosper.

History repeats itself and the primary cause of the disintegration of the nation in every age has been the failure of that nation to recognize until too late, the importance of agriculture.

Another reason that I am a member of the Farmers' Union is, there is safety in numbers. When our state President, Honorable John Tromble wishes to help shape legislation, he can use as a sort of persuasive argument, the number of organized farmers backing him. Or when our National president finds it necessary to bespeak the President of the United States, if you please, I am glad to know that I am one link in the chain that connects him with the grass roots, thus forming a point of contact that the highest officers of the land must acknowledge the vibration.

Another reason I am a Farmers' Union member is because it is the only organization that I know anything about that admits in practice as well as theory, only farmers to its membership and proudly says to the world and proves to the world that the farmer has brains enough to transact his own business. And some hundreds of years hence, the word Rube, through the instrumentality of the F. E. & C. U., may be with those of the immortal wise men who saw a star from afar and had the vision to follow it.

Kipling uses triumph and disaster as synonymous terms, and it is plain for those who run to read that if the F. E. & C. U. of America fails to stem the tide of triumphant materialism that disaster is going to be the inevitable result. If every Farmers' Union member would get another member, the problem would be solved and Uncle Reuben would be in Washington indeed, not as a term of ridicule or reproach, but sitting in the President's chair, dealing out justice to all and special privilege to none. O Lord! Why don't you do it? Get that other member.

We should be instruments in the hands of providence for carrying out the teachings of the F. E. & C. U. until future generations will teach their children to pray, "God bless Papa, God bless Mama, and especially God, bless the Farmers' Union."
Mrs. M. T. Campbell, Kincaid, Kansas, Mt. Zion Local No. 2072, Anderson County.

IN THE VALLEY OF LOST HOPE
Lost Hope was a prosperous farming community before the War, and before the Federal Reserve Board, through its process of deflation, robbed the farmers of the right to "Life Liberty and the pursuit of happiness" in refusing them loans to finance the marketing of their wheat crop.

WHI Stick was about the only one in that neighborhood who did not blame the Farmers Union for the loss of their wheat for the \$2.00 price that was set on wheat in Hutchinson in 1920 by the representatives of different farm organizations and individual farmers.

"If McLaughlin hadn't kept hollering to hold your wheat for \$3 thru the union paper, I'd have sold mine for \$2.50 a bu," said grouchy Bill Wise as he turned down an invitation to join the Local Union of which he at one time was a member.

Honest John, told me privately that the facts of the case were that Bill Wise had never paid a cent of dues since 1918, but that his paper had not been stopped, and Bill had tried several times to sell his wheat at local elevator for \$2.40 but there were no cars and he could not sell at any price.

I. M. Selfish had a pretty fair place. Made most of his money in buying his neighbors cattle and hogs. Always bought them by weight and weighed them on his own scales, after driving them home. Selfish thought the Union was just what the farmers ought to have, so they could stick together and keep the other fellow from robbing them but he wouldn't join now, he said, but if the rest of the fellows wanted to join he might come in later if they made a go of it.

Who is furnishing the gas for this trip? I asked Willingness, as we sped up the road to see Alkali like a farmer from Arkansas.

"Well the same fellow that has furnished the gas in two dozen other trips like this in trying to get the farmers to join the Union" and the eyes of the speaker told of the pain that lurked in that soul in his effort to keep up courage in the valley of Lost Hope.

Alkali like was a typical farmer of the conical skin variety, long hair, whiskers, a clay pipe, two teeth out in front and a bump in his back that would have put a camel to shame.

"Come right in stranger and make yourself to hum" and Ike shoved out a chair that had the bottom partly patched with a piece of cow hide with the hair side up.
"Now," said Ike, "what might be

your trouble be, air ye dry?"
Mr. Ike, we are making a canvass of the neighborhood of Lost Hope, trying to get the farmers interested in forming a local union here at the Red Schoolhouse, and we want you to come out tonight and hear an explanation of the organization, its purposes, principles and accomplishments.

"I dunno whether it will do me any good to line or not, we got about all we need in this town, morn' we had in Arkansas. Got eleven children 'thought country' the twins that come last night barrel of salt pork and a hull crib of corn. If I line em I'll have to worry 'bout payin' dues and I don't want anything to worry me if it ain't necessary," and we left him cutting off a fresh chew from his twist of home spun.

Several farmers were present when I. Can opened the meeting.
"We have met here for the purpose of rebuilding the Farmers Union in this community and we are fortunate enough to have with us the State Lecturer who will explain the proposition."

After talking of the accomplishments of the Union in Live Stock marketing, Insurance, Jobbing Association results Local Elevator savings and an explanation of the Pool Plan of selling wheat and dairy products and the benefits in general to be derived from organization, I asked the showing of hands of those that were willing to start a Local.

Three men voted, four yawned after they had been awakened by their friends too late to vote, eleven sat still, five had left during the speaking and Adam Goose wasn't eligible on account of his being such a quack.

"Brother Speaker, You have struck the wrong place to organize a Farmers Union. In order for a local to be a success you must have faith in yourselves and a hope of accomplishing something through cooperation, but nothing can be accomplished here for this is the valley of LOST HOPE," and U. R. Right touched the spot.

Lost Hope, the thing that causes the suicide to take his life.
Lost Hope, the thing that can crush the stoutest heart, or wreck an empire. Lost Hope, the past haunts us, the wind sighs through the trees and the moaning sound, 'till in a shudder the black cloud is dispersed and a ray of life peeps in the window of the morning sun bids us wake from our dreams.
M. O. Glessner.

FARMERS GROSSLY UNDERPAID
According to the statistics compiled by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the agricultural income for the United States in 1920 was \$1,480,276, while the manufacturing income was \$4,110,424,323. There is probably not more than one-tenth the capital engaged in manufacturing, yet they receive over 50 times as much as the agricultural enterprises. This is one of the things that ails farming.

The government is not fair with the farmer in these surveys, for in order to give him something for his work his interest is figured at a survey of half what he has to pay. A survey of the business of 14 good farmers in the best agricultural state in the union gives some startling figures. The Farm Bureau and the county agent of Ringold county, Iowa, made a census of the 1921 business of these farmers, and made public these results.

To show that these men were far from the average value of land, equipment, the average value of land, five stock, and equipment for these 14 farms was \$38,000 above average indebtedness. The farms averaged 238 acres, and 60 per cent of all sales was derived from live stock. Yet these 14 Iowa farmers lost nearly \$1,500 each on their 1921 business. How could any moderate-sized business stand such a loss?

Farm Returns Pitifully Small
The method of figuring these losses was simple. Of course, the inventory at the beginning and at the end of the year, and the receipts and expenditures, showed the main results. Three and one half per cent was charged on the equity in real estate, and 5 per cent on working capital, which included all investments not a part of the real estate. Then the farmer was allowed \$40 a month for his work and \$100 for the work of members of the family.

On these particular farms under consideration, it seems the low rate of interest on the large investment lost about balanced the loss. In other words, if no interest had been allowed in the calculations, these farmers would have broken about even, and would have had about \$580 of wages for themselves and families to live on. However, if this \$38,000 of farm capital had been required to earn 6 per cent as railroad investments, bonds and mortgages do, then these Iowa farmers would have lost about \$3,000 each.

So the farmers got nothing on their investments, and got a wage of not over one-third of what most laborers receive. If their interest had been figured at what they had to pay, they would have lost over \$3,000. Then they are allowed the princely sum of \$40 per month—who work 14 to 16 hours per day—while a young girl with no experience, working six hours a day and five days a week can command from \$30 to \$125 per month teaching school.

Chooses Not Counted
The farmer's time is figured from the time he goes to the field in the morning until he "unhooks" at night. He is not allowed anything for the two or three hours work he does before going to the field and the hours he spends after the field work in the evening doing his chores and taking care of the stock. But when his income is made out, he has to put in every cent made from eggs, butter, and live stock, all of which he cares for by overtime, and from

which practically all his profit during the year comes.

I know of a man who took a rail strike's place at McCook last summer who received an average of \$13 per day. While he received the same pay per hour the union man received, he didn't work the union hours, but put in the same hours he was used to on the farm. He worked every day in the week and received \$91—as much as a farmer would make in two and one-half months. Yet the man who held the job left him refused to work for such low wages.

It seems as though everyone is clamoring for more credit. But I don't believe there is a farmer in this state but who has been hurt by too much credit at the present rate of interest. What the farmer does need is a living wage, or a profit on his operations.
The government has figured that a wife on the farm is worth \$1,000 a year (if she were paid for her work at the rate others receive). But does she get it? No, she and her husband working 16 hours a day lose \$3,000 instead.

B. T. Reed, Sr. in the Nebraska Union Farmer.

AMERICAN FARMERS COOPERATIVES DO ENORMOUS BUSINESS

A business increase of 64.2 per cent in nine years is the way 501 farmers' buying and selling cooperatives in the North Central States have thrived in cooperation. Allowing for the change in the price level for crops and live stock, which was 8 per cent higher in 1921 than in 1913, the gain in increased volume of business was 56 per cent, reports the All American cooperative commission. The business these 501 cooperatives did in 1921, amounting to \$47,798,000, had grown to \$73,493,000 nine years later. Cooperatives in states east of the Mississippi River made the largest gain, 80 per cent, while those west of the river had an increase of 57 per cent. Thirty organizations in Kansas boosted their trade 184 per cent.

One-third of the business done by the 3498 cooperatives of these 12 states amounting to over \$400,000,000 in 1921 was in grain. Cooperatives for the distribution of dairy products came next in the amount of business done, followed by live stock and fruit and vegetable marketing cooperatives. Almost twice as many cooperatives were found west of the Mississippi, with an average business larger than that of the Eastern cooperatives. In some cases these cooperative associations turned over more than \$2,000,000 worth of trade in 1921, though over half of them had a business of less than \$100,000.

The possibilities of service for the people and democracy in industry in such vast cooperative undertakings are enormous. They are laying solid foundations for social control of the most basic necessities of life. The next great step forward must be taken by the city workers who can easily reduce their living costs if they but organize consumers' cooperative stores to distribute the food products marketed by the farmers' cooperatives.

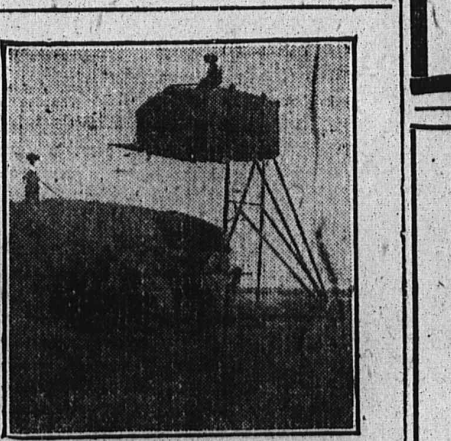
FARMERS ADVISED TO GRADE CREAM

Grading of cream, as the first step in the standardization of the dairy industry, is being urged by the United States Department of Agriculture. Numerous farmers and dairymen are already developing grading methods the department reports.

"There is great need for improvement in the quality of cream," consumer demands for a high grade product are to be met," says Roy C. Potts, in charge of the department's division of dairy and poultry products. "Argument should not be required to convince the farmer that his cream should be marketed on a graded basis. It is wrong to pay the same price for low quality cream as for high quality cream. It is unjust to the producer of No. 1 cream to get no more for a good quality, and the production of the better

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quality is discouraged. The practice of paying a flat price for all qualities offers no inducement for improvement, and places a premium on poor quality or penalizes good quality.

"In every field of marketing, progress is being made through the practice of standardization. Those who are taking the lead in the move to standardize dairy products are to be commended for their good work. The markets for manufactured dairy products, especially butter, have always placed a higher value on the product of high quality. Similar rewards will

come from improvement in the quality of cream. The entire dairy industry is urged to get back of the movement."

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