KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization **Education** **Co-operation**

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Senator Reed Writes

Mr. Ernest K. Dean, President,
Kansas Farmers Union,
Salina, Kansas
Dear Mr. Dean:

I have a copy of Senator Capper's letter to you, dated January 10, which is in reply to yours of January 5, wherein you criticize the votes of Senator Capper and myself upon matters that could not possibly concern the Farmers Union as an organization. The Farmers Union is apparently undertaking to regulate all the affairs of mankind. Manifestly, no member of Congress is going to pay much attention to your suggestions. You are trying to cover entirely too much territory.

I have been pretty busy, mostly with matters affecting the **real** welfare of Kansas farmers, without any attention to the half-baked ideas of the extreme left wingers who do not represent the sentiment of farmers in Kansas or any other state. I agree entirely with what Senator Capper wrote you.

If the farmer, whether he belongs to the Farmers Union, or some other organization, has two better friends in the Senate than Senator Capper and myself, I am not aware of who they are. I am simply tired of these half-baked expression that do not even remotely represent farm sentiment or the best interest of the farmers.

Cordially yours,
(Signd) Clyde M. Reed

A Member Writes

Dear Mr. Dean:

I just filled in the farmer questionnaire, this idea of collecting opinions is the only way you will get it from the ones that should give it.

I don't have much connection with farming anymore, but am just as strong for Farmers Union principles as ever.

I am with the U. S. Army at Ft. Riley. I started to work a year and half ago for them as mechanic's helper and worked up to Assistant Vehicle Inspector.

I can hardly believe the power given me in that length of time. The inspection Dept. has full control of 500 to 1000 vehicles at all times. The information I want you to know is this—lots of good used vehicles are starting to fall into the hand of scalpers, too much of it into the hands of one firm. When you are in Washington or wherever you can, you should push the idea that the government can sell and handle this equipment, and then the right person will get it at a fair price.

I fight for these things in the Army just the same as if with the Farmers Union. I read the story of you and Capper, we must keep punching guys like these, it gives us a voice in all lines of government.

There are all kinds of men in the Army. You would be surprised to see how many co-operative ideas there are among all classes today.

Well, if you will send the paper and membership blank to me, I'll do the rest. I am always interested in Farmers Union.

P.S. I still hold my civilian status. This is a civil service job.

(Since the letter was not written for publication the writer's name is withheld.)

(Signed)

Reed Labels Program Adopted By Delegates "Half-Baked, Left-Wing"

The box above contains two letters received by the state office of the Kansas Farmers Union last week. They are in sharp contrast as regards to the contents of each. They are from persons whose stations in life are likewise widely different.

The first letter is from Senator Clyde M. Reed. There are only 96 senators in the United States. The vocie of each is important. Senator Reed has been Governor of the State of Kansas and is know to millions of Americans. He helps to make the laws that govern this nation, a nation generally conceded to be the greatest in the long history of governments of flmankind. In full recognition of his eminence and in appreciation of his past favorable service to farm people, due and respectful consideration has been given Senator Reed's rather sharply-put suggestions on what the business is of—and how it might best be conducted by—the Kansas Farmers Union.

The other letter is from a considerably less known person. who while not at present farming save on a small scale, was reared on a Kansas farm, worked in a F. U. co-operative and is now participating directly in the war effort. His voice has strength only when blended with those others similarly employed in the everyday business of making a living| He is not one of 96 Senators, he is but one of 130 million Americans. He cannot make a statement that will be quoted in the newspapers across the nation. He does not own a newspaper or a radio station thru which he might make his voice heard. He can, however, and has, joined a democratic organization which elects officers and supports a newpaper to present and represent his interests and those of other farmers.

Senator Reed wrote, "I am imply tired of these half-baked expressions that do not even remotely represent farm sentiment or the best interest of the farmer."

The thousands of members of the Kansas Farmers Union elected delegates to their state convention in Clay Center last October. These delegates, familiar with farming, farmers and farm sentiment wrote into the Preamble of their organization's platform for 1944 the following paragraph:

"In the absence of millions of young, vigorous, forward-looking citizens and voters in the armed forces, reactionary, dictatorial and fascist forces are today attempting to sieze and assure themselves greater political, social and economic controls over the property and people of the nation, and to preclude the possibility of an era in which the rights and welfare of common people shall be paramount."

In October of 1943, the issue of assuring soldiers and sailors their voting rights was not being discussed because one would hardly have imagined at that time, with the abundance of lip-service paid our men and women in uniform that any person, least of all men elected to the halls of Congress, would dare to refuse to expend every effort in making it possible and convenient for those who are fighting and dying for democracy to vote for it. When handling of soldier votes was left to the various states in 1942, only 28 thousand votes were cast by persons in the service.

The membership of the Kansas Farmers Union has demonstrated by their signing petitions and sending them to Washington that they believe the soldier vote issue IS the concern of the Farmers Union. Some members, believing the desireability, the justice and practicalness of a non-partisan, federally-administrated voting procedure so obvious, were unable to get very excited about and by this time probably quite bored with the entire issue.

Almost apologetically, we persist, because we believe the lines which are drawn on this issue are largely the same lines that are drawn on what we would call the REAL welfare of farmers.

The Farmers Union it NOT attempting to "regulate all the affairs of mankind," but Kansas Farmers have learned that only by participating in all the affairs of mankind can they protect their own interests and improve their position. Just as Pearl Harbor forever ended the policy of American isolationism in the international field, so too has the War brought a deeper conviction among common people to concern themselves with the welfare of all other common people regardless of whether they work in the fields or factories.

Again quoting from the 1944 program:

"We approve the collaboration of our officers with labor, religious, welfare, consumer and other groups to achieve common purposes, and we commend the energy and vision with which the National Farmers Union is being rebuilt and expanded in the nation as a whole."

Senator Reed played his part in making more secure the bond between working farmers and Labor when he supported the amendment to the inadequate tax bill which required in a single provision that labor unions and farmer co-operatives file income tax returns. This was not a friendly act by the farmers two best friends in the senate.

As times change so do friends. When Senator Reed was governor of the state, he spoke in defense of labor and was regraded as a friend of labor. Today. Senator Reed is regarded by Labor as particularly unfriendly. He argues for the necessity of regulating all unions because of the "racketeers" which have been found in some few unions. The same type of argument is used against co-operatives. That is, the enemies of co-ops say all co-ops should be held in check because some old line organizations parade as co-operatives.

Senator Reed's chief activity recently, according to what has appeared in the Congressional Record, has been his fight against the use of subsidies. He "selected" statistics to show how much money organized labor is

(Continued on Page 4)

Report Shows How English People Conduct War Economy

Harvey Solberg, President of the Rocky Moutain Farmers Union spent six weeks in England last fall, observing agricultural and economic conditions there. This is the first of several articles he will write for Farmers Union State papers about his trip and his first-hand observation of conditions in our Allied nation, where millions of American boys are poised for an invasion of the continent. —Editor.

By Harvey Solberg,
President Rocky Moutain Farmers Union

England is truly a land of, hedge rows! The emerald green grass is but one item that goes to make up an extremely beautiful country-side. The soil is productive and is being fully used. The people are as you and I. They have done an outstanding job in presecuting the war and stabilizing their economy.

I was not and am not "pro" British in attitude. Neither did I go to Great Britain with an "anti" attitude. I attempted to analyze English people and program objectively. My report will be as objective as it is possible to make it in order that prejudice will not color fact.



Harvey Solberg

While you will be most interested in people and everyday events this first article will deal primarily with broader phases.

One Thing In Common

In considering England it is of first importance to recognize that the English and Americans have an economic structure that is common to both. The economic structure in both countries first exploits as many as possible in its own nation and then goes on to exploit as many people of other nations as it can reach. While some people believe such an economic structure works for the good of all, more and more are now recognizing its dangers. It adversely affects agriculture. The British farmer received 35 to 50% of the consumer's dollar. This same ratio is to be found in America. The producer receives too little and the consumer pays too much. Goods fail to move and under-consumption creates recurring and dangerous surpluses The consumer cannot buy and the farmer loses his market.

Our Mutual Distrust

Possibly because our economic base and outlook is the same, a large number of people in America look with distrust upon the British and an equal number of British citizens distrust the United States. Basically, I find that the average person in America fears the British imperialist who is often their greatest exploiter. I also find the average British citizen fears our American Monopolistic Cartel Group. Of the two groups the English are more justified in their fears than are we. The monopolistic group in America has less intention of relinquishing its machine of exploitation than has the equivalent British group. England has gone far in its controls on its Imperialistic Group.

As an optomistic factor however, I find that the mass of citizens in Engand and the mass of citizens in the United truly have much in common. Their problems and aims and desires are all very nearly parallel. When we know each other better we will find that these great majority groups can be most helpful one to the other.

Anglo-American Alliances

I am sure that the great majority of people in both nations would agree with me in choosing a broad alliance of all nations as a basis for future security rather than a simple Anglo-American alliance. An Anglo-American alliance might easily prove to be an alliance of the competitive moneyed forces in the two nations to the end that international cartels would control the flow of goods and continue to an even greater exploitation of consumers and producers everywhere.

We are recognizing that the world is daily a smaller place

(Continued on Page 6)

KFU Attorney In Bid for Bench Job

William S. Norris of Salina, who has been the attorney for the Kansas Farmers Union for the past several years this month announced his candidacy for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas. Chief Justice Dawson will not be a candidate for re-election.

Norris was until a year ago the city attorney of Salina for 10 years, besides which he conducted a general practice in all the fields of law. He will seek the nomination on the Republican ticket.

"I am sure that every citizen of Kansas wants the positions on the Supreme Court filled by lawyers who are qualified for the office," Norris said in a letter declaring himself a candidate. "My experience in the trial of cases, and before the Supreme Court, and the nature and variety of the cases which I have handled, is I believe sufficient to qualify me for this position."

Rollbacks Put $s In Farmers' Pockets

The farmer's share of the retail food dollar reached 58 cents in August, 1943, the highest level since 1919, Marketing charges on farm food products fell 5 per cent from July to August; retail prices dropped 2.5 per cent; and payments to farm food producers did not change. Accoring to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, these changes reflected the extension of the food price rollback as well as other conditions. Subsidies paid to processors of butter and meat products have accounted for more than a third of the 14 per cent decline in food marketing charges from May to August 1943.

Day by Day with FUJA

by JOHN VESECKY

Chicago Journal of Commerce Blasts Farmers' Patriotism

(We recommend that all members of our cooperatives and in fact all our readers give careful consideration to the following release by "The Co-optomist of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Ass'n." of St. Paul, Minn.

It is time our farm folks shook off their complacency, quit using all their time and energy in condemning the rulings of OPA on farm prices and put some of that time and surplus energy in trying to study out why many of the ruling apparently are more favorable to the users and processors of farm products than they are to the farmers. If we can forget our prejudices and study the situation as it now is, and as it may later develop. I am sure that working through our Farmers Union, we can do much to correct present inequities and prevent the forces opposed to co-operatives from further handicapping their co-operatives.—John Vesecky.)

So Why Worry?

Some farmers think the talk of the attack on agriculture is, if not just a pipe dream, at least like Mark Twain's denunciation of a report of his death—"slightly exaggerated." The trouble with those who entertain that notion is that they seldom if ever see in print the actual argument being persistently put out to discredit the farmer and his efforts. In the Farmers Union, most members hear the warnings uttered by their leaders and accept as probable and possible the campaign now starting to crack down on the farmer and his co-operative enterprises. Even then, the event is remote in their minds. It may be coming—but it is not here yet, so why worry? Why be an alarmist until the house catches fire?

Freedom on the Farm

As an eye-opener to such, just one editorial in the Chicago Journal of Commerce of January 31, would help. This daily newspaper is as frankly the exponent of the interests of the industrial and financial corporations as the Farmers Union state newspapers are proponents of co-operative enterprise.

Under the heading: "Freedom on the Farm" this journal of and for big business minced no words in its characterization of the farmer and his place in our economic world. An extract or two will give some notion of how the farmer stacks up in the opinion of the barons of our feudal empire. You don't read that stuff? No? It would be better if you did, for it would stir your blood and start you to thinking in earnest. It might even jar the complacency some have been showing, of late, now that crops have been good and prices nearer parity than in many years. Eternal vigilance is not only the price of liberty—it is the price of economic freedom for the man and his family on the farm. Let him sleep a little and all his hard-won gains are lost and he lapses into servitude.

Where Gravy Is Thick

The Journal's editorial begins: "Like most slogans, Secretary Wickard's promise that 'Food will win the war and write the peace' is grossly exaggerated . . . Food alone obviously cannot win the war." Then, taking a slash at deferment of farm labor, it continues: "Now Selective Service finds that blanket deferment has created a privileged class, practically draft proof, that is not worth its salt in the production of crops. Fathers, called up by the city draft boards, point a finger at bachelor farm hands who shift about from place to place, taking jobs wherever the gravy is thickest. And don't think the gravy isn't thick on the farms these days!" Then it quotes Joseph S. Davis, director of Sanford University Food Research Institute, as saying that the country has been led to think of farmers as underprivileged when as a fact they are enjoying now additional privileges and exceptional incomes.

Farmers No Patriots

Then the editorial turns loose on the enormous net income the farmers received in 1943—$12,500,000,000—as compared with the average of $4,700,000,000 for the years 1935-39. Compare that with the status of the city worker, tangled with his draft board and envying the farm hand's such freedom, it demands. It notes also the terrible shortage the industries feel in lack of men and leaves the thought that there is no such shortage on the farm, because the farm workers have all gone there to grab $2,400 a year and dodge the draft! The intimation is plain that no farmer can be a patriot, that all he looks for is high wages and top prices and that he hasn't any idea of winning the war or the peace with food. Sweet, isn't it?

Swallow the Camel

But when the Journal of Commerce was standing in awe at the grand net income of the farmers in 1943, it conveniently forgot to be amazed at the grander net profits after taxes, of the corporations—$8,500,000,000 in 1943. Mum was the word on that. Nor did it touch upon the tax refund fund of $26,000,000,000 which congress has set up to pay back to these corporations, after the war. It forgot, too, the $14,000,000,000 these corporations got in factories built by the government for them. All the Journal could see was that the farmers got 12½ billion dollars and could not see the $69,000,000,000 which the corporations are in line to receive in the same year. As an example of "straining uot the gnat and swallowing the camel" that is about as good as they come. Be easy, farmers—they don't mean you any harm. All they are wanting to do is to knock your block off.

Good Year Reported

The Lindsborg Farmers Union Cooperative Ass'n. held its annual stockholders meeting Monday afternoon, Feb. 7, in the hall over the Swedish American Insurance office.

The hall was well filled with stockholders who paid close attention to all the reports and took an active part in discussing the reports and the business of the association. It is not hard to see why the Lindsborg Farmers Union cooperative is such a success. They have all the necessary requirements of a successful cooperative. A well-informed interested, cooperative-minded membership, a good board of directors and a very good manager in the person of our old reliable cooperator, David Train.

Your reporter spoke to the meeting, for about 30 minutes, on the need for a cooperative economy during and after the war. After the meeting adjourned, the ladies served a nice cafeteria-style lunch.

The Lindsborg cooperative closed a very successful year Dec.31 with nice savings in all departments. Judging by the interest shown in the co-operative by its members, 1944 will be equally successful. All eligible stockholders are members of the Farmers Union.

Conway Springs

Tuesday, Feb. 15, your reporter attended the annual stockholders meeting of the Conway Springs Farmers Union Cooperative Ass'n. Manager M. M. Wever had a fine report to present to the meeting. Their cooperative has paid off all the old indebtedness during the past year and now has current liabilities consisting of only some small merchandise invoices not yet due. The association has made notable progress in bettering their financial position since 1938, when Mr. Wever took over the management.

The meeting was not as well attended as it should have been. Only by attending the annual meetings and all special meetings of our cooperatives can we get the information needed to make the cooperative serve us as it should and can serve.

Those present at the meeting were very attentive and took an active part in the discussions. Your reporter would recommend that they act as missionaries of cooperation and bring the information they gained at the meeting to those who stayed at home.

Discusses Co-ops At Olathe Meeting

A very interesting meeting of Johnson county co-operative leaders was held in the Court House in Olathe on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 17. Among those present were Hal Robinson, manager of the Farmers Co-operative Elevator in Olathe and several managers of the Farmers Union Elevator at Spring Hill and several of his board members; Dwight S. Tolle, Extension Economist in Marketing, Kansas State College; Tom Hall, County Agent of Johnson County and several good co-operators not in official positions and your reporter.

Mr. Tolle opened the meetings by making a good statement of conditions facing our co-operatives now and those that will very likely face them after the war. County Agent Hall also dscussed the need of co-operation. Your reporter spoke on the inspirational side of cooperation, and the need of injecting more and more of the cooperative theory and practice into the economic systems of the United States and the world. The best part of the meeting was the open discussion of co-operatives, their needs, and how best to supply those needs. Everyone present took part in the discussion and it was the consensus that co-operative education of the membership is the greatest need of our co-operatives.

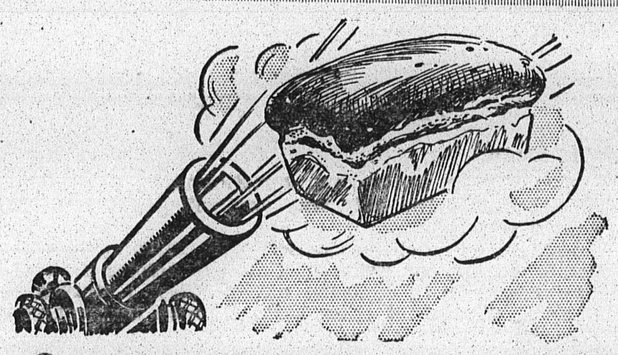
Mrs. De Vault, an active member of the Sharon Local, of the Farmers Union, told of how their local has held regular meetings ever since it was organized. Sharon if the only active Farmers Union local in Johnson county.

Before adjournment, it was agreed that meetings of Farmers Union locals, and membership discussion group meetings like those now being held by the Farmers Union in Ellsworth and some other counties in Kansas are among the best methods of bringing to the membership of a cooperative its needs and possibilities for service, and of uniting all farmers into a solid front to oppose the forces which would destroy our co-operatives so as to give free rein to the socalled FREE ENTERPRISE to exploit both the farmer and laborer after the war.

More Jute In Binder Twine

From present reports it seems that all binder twine made this year will have a 12½% admixture of Jute fiber. Last year much of the twine had a core of cotton. There was some complaint of the cotton core, so this year by using Jute fiber in place of cotton as a filler for twine, the manufacturers hope to avoid the trouble experienced last year by some of those who used the cotton core twine.

The sample of Jute core twine received by the Jobbing Ass'n. looks to be almost as good as straight sisal twine and should prove satisfactory in field tests. The FUJA still has some all-sisal 3-star twine on hand but the supply is fast being contracted for by our Farmers co-operatives. As soon as definite information is available as to the price and sisal content of this years supply of binder twine, a representative of the FUJA will call on our co-operatives with samples so they can place their order for this year's needs.



One of Uncle Sam's Non-Secret Weapons

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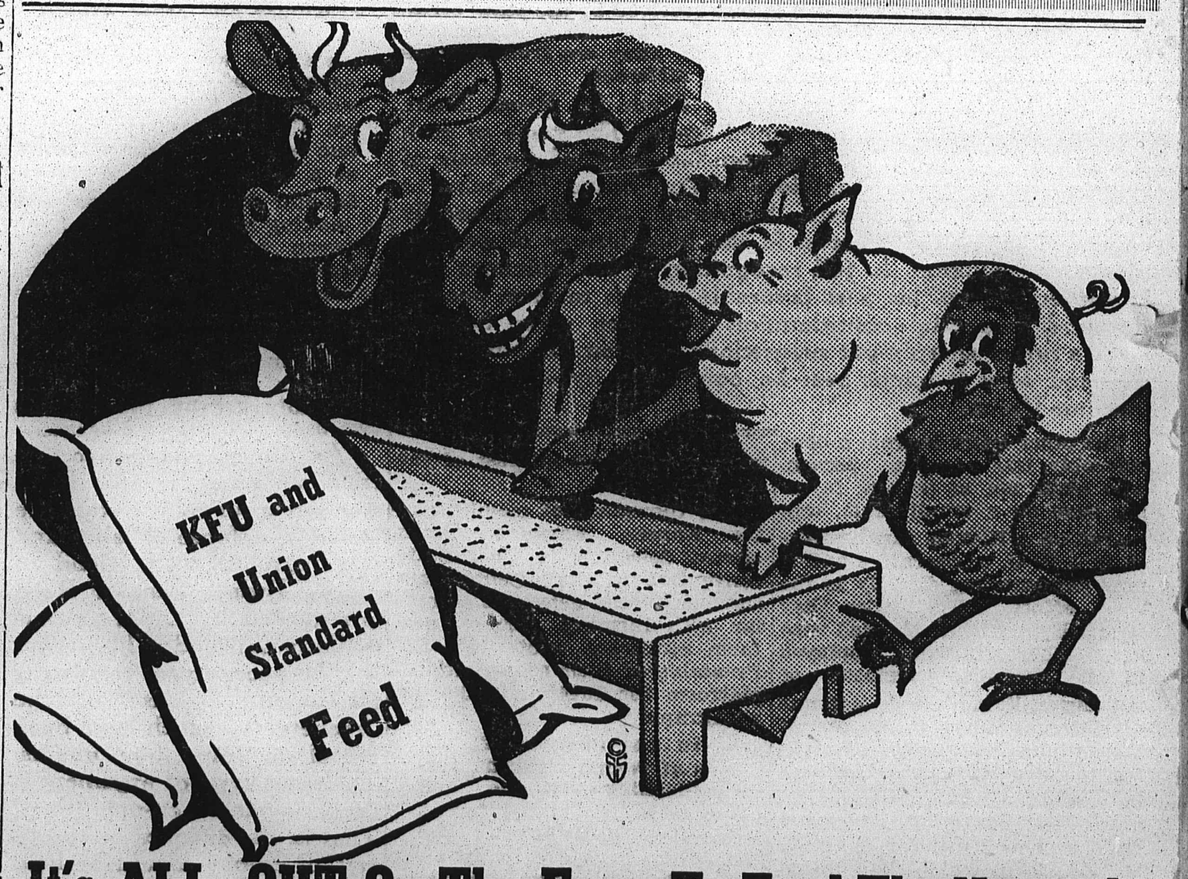
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THE JUNIOR PAGE

ESTHER EKBLAD, DIRECTOR, Salina, Kansas

Juniors 16-21 **Junior Reserves 8-15**

"He Loves His Country Best Who Strives to Make It Best"

FUJA Annual Meeting Feb. 4

"Through years of the sweat and tears, the heartbreaks and struggles of farmers, and out of our dreams of living freedom' wherein we build a better way,' have grown the co-operatives of the Farmers Union. From the fruitful valleys of Oregon, to the lush dairylands of Wisconsin and Michigan, from the windswept prairies of North Dakota to the warm cottonfields of Oklahoma and Texas, the Farmers Union has built co-operatives that are helping hundreds of thousands of farm people live a better life."

So reads the first paragraph in a new Junior Reserve study unit which is entitled: THE FARMERS UNION HIGHROAD—The Co-operative Way." This fine book on Farmers Union co-operatives written for boys and girls is one of the Farmers Union's contributions to the Rochdale Centennial Commemoration.

One-hundred years ago in the little town of Rochdale, England, on the dark and poverty-stricken street of Toad Lane the first successful co-operative opened for business. It was a dark and foggy night, the kind that England knows so well, Dec. 21, 1884, that the 27 men and one woman of the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers opened for business in the old warehouse on Toad Lane. An inventory of their stock was not difficult. It consisted of oatmeal, sugar, butter and flour. From the story of this opening night we learn that the jeers and the mockings of tradesmen were loud and bitter, and the antics of and pebbles thrown by young boys whose rowdiness was aggravated by long hours in the hot cotton mills, were not easy to endure. The story also goes on to relate that the members, in order to make an impression on the critical observers, visited the store one by one, and those financially unable to buy all of the meager stock, it was packaged and carried home, only to be returned to the store late at night when the streets were quiet. The story of the co-operative pioneers in Toad Lane is one of sacrifice and devotion to an ideal. They had caught the vision of economic and social progress through self-help co-operatives, and they had a determination that brought them to success.

There is a link between the Farmers Union and the Rochdale pioneers of which perhaps few of us are aware. Owen F. Dornblaser, a charter member of the Farmers Union, at Point, Texas, in 1902, has told this story: At one time, while still a young man, he heard a man from Rochdale, speak of the success of the co-operatives to members of the Grange. The Grange leaders at that time weren't much impressed, and the co-operative missionary went back to England feeling that his trip had been a failure. But the story was not finished. Some years afterwards Juncle Dorn, as he was affectionately known, became a member of Farmers Union local No. 1, and he helped write the CO-OPERATIVES in the name and constitution of the Farmers Union. And furthermore, when Mr .Dornblazer began setting up locals he wrote to the Rochdale co-operatives for more information about the principles under which they were organized. The Farmers Union has been the American pioneer in the building of successful co-operatives.

1844-1944. Throughout the world 1944 is a year not soon to be forgotten. It is a year in which with sorrow and travail we are surely to know that the way of co-operation and brotherhood has not gone far enough. We do not yet know the full meaning of "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Peoples and nations are pitted against each other, and human strength and courage is measured in terms of ability to kill.

I fear that we Americans still do not know what this war is all about. We have not had to fight street by street to hold a town, a city, or a nation dear to us. There hasn't been the need for us to eat black bread to quiet pangs of hunger. We in America have had much. We have not seen in our time the struggle against the tyranny of a czar. We have not been forced to sacrifice everything to build a nation strong enough to stand against enemies from within and without. We have long considered our liberties inherent by right of birth, and not something to be cherished and reaffirmed by each succeeding generation.

1944—1945—and on. Vice-president Henry Wallace says this is the century of the common man. Everywhere the common people are on the march. Is the co-operative movement as it starts a new century this year to be a part of the people on the march? Have we dreams of living freedom, we who have the best plan for economic progress and abundant living? Can co-operatives continue to make valuable and faster strides to unleash the controls of wealth and power in the world? The answer is with us, and that is not simply a flowery statement. And the important thing we must remember is that co-operation is a people's movement, and no co-operative regardless of beautiful buildings, up-to-date equipment, and financial successes is on a firm footing unless the stockholders and the members at the crossroads have faith, loyalty, and the spirit of a co-operative crusade.

Business is planning a post-war world; towns are mapping out post-war projects. Is the co-op on the corner going to be counted in or out?

The Co-operative Centennial year is a crucial year. It is the year in which there will be the great bath of blood. It is also the year in which all American people should and must experience a parity of sacrifice for the peace, and in which we must forget ourselves in the work of a common cause. Not only the cause of winning the war on the battle fronts as quickly as possible, but also of going forward in the cause that has been dear to us in our deliberations today. That of contributing to a "brave new world," a better and just world, through the co-operatives that now and then will dot our countryside.

Said at the FUJA Annual Meeting . . . .

"The (co-operative) balance sheet has been and instrumentality of service to people," E. K. Dean.

"The cooperative way of doing business is the essence of democracy," J. D. Lawrence, FCA.

At Your Service

A Monthly Service To Farmers Union Papers from the National Farmers Union Education Service, Denver, Colorado.

GLADYS TALBOTT EDWARDS, Director

"Education . . . A Debt Due from the Present To Future Generations"

"Food Enough"

Dr. John D. Black's background as a farmer, as a teacher of economics, as a government advisor and as a writer has given this book the added grasp of overwhelming insight into the whole food program.

He shows clearly on what conditions post-war farm prosperity is based, and gives a clear picture of the entire production picture.

You will want to make "Food Enough" required reading.

Price, $2.50.

Another contribution by Dr. Black is the pamphlet "World Needs for U. S. Food and Fiber," published by the National Planning association.

This pamphlet may be purchased for 25 cents from the National F. U. office and is an interesting work in itself, and is good supplementary reading for "Food Enough."

"Food for Europe After Victory"

This is another pamphlet published by the National Planning association. It is designed to give intelligent Americans some hard facts and straight thinking on the complex problems in mass starvation caused by history's most devastating war.

There is little time left to prepare to furnish the production supplies which Europe will need immediately upon the defeat of Nazi Germany, if she is to produce the heavy percentage of her own food necessary under any circumstances.

A copy of this stimulating study may be obtained from the National F. U. Education department for 25 cents.

State Leaders Conference

March 7th will be the opening date of the conference for state directors to be held in Jamestown, N. Dak., in the North Dakota Farmers Union building. The meeting will continue through the 13th. All-state directors of education are urged to attend, and states having full-time field workers are invited to send two of them to the conference.

The group discussion will center mainly on the mechanics of the educational program and the co-ordination of state and national offices. State directors have been asked to send to the National office any questions or points they would like to have taken up in discussion, and these will be made a part of the week's program.

Mile of Pennies

Two hundred and five feet of pennies rolled into the National Education office during January. Junior Reserves and Juniors, Locals and State conventions were responsible for this good showing. The fund is growing by leaps and bounds, and adults and youngsters alike show a keen interest in raising this fund for the exchange of students with other groups in the post-war period.

Pennies in small or large quantities all help increase the miles, and the good work being done by Juniors warrants their having an opportunity to represent the Farmers Union to other youth groups.

Books for Children

CHILDREN OF THE HARVEST by Gertrude Chandler Warner, is one of the most appealing stories of the children of migratory workers ever written. The book is attractively covered and illustrated and any child that can read will love it. It sells for $1.

CHILDREN OF MANY LANDS by Laura Rountree Smith.

All children like to read of the children of other countries . . . how they live, what games they play, what they wear and what they study in school. This little book tells of the children of Mexico, India, Egypt, Zululand, Holland and many others. Any youngster will enjoy it, and its gay cloth binding will make more cheerful any child's library. Price $1.00.

Any youngster who likes to read and likes to learn little poems will want to own a copy of "Two Hundred Best Poems for Boys and Girls." It sells for only 50 cents and may be ordered through this office.

Conservation Study Helps

"Our American Forests," "America's Minerals," "America's Oil," and "Soil" are the names of the very superior little books on conservation just received in our office. If you have read or seen "Soil, Water and Man" which we have stocked before, you will have an idea of how beautiful the colored illustrations are. These books will make grand supplementary reading for any group studying "Over All the Land." They sell for 32 cents each and may be purchased from this office.

"Where's the Money Coming From?"

This is the third in the series of guide lines to America's future as reported to The Twentieth Century Fund, by Stuart Chase.

If you have read the first two, The Road We Are Traveling and Goals for America, you will waste no time before reading this one. Even tho you haven't read the preceding books, you will be interested in reading this latest one.

Any of the three books may be purchased from this office for $1.00 each.

Black Wolf Juniors, Reserves

On Monday evening, Feb. 7 the adult and Junior members of Black Wolf Local No. 925 met in the hall. The Juniors opened their meeting with group singing and the recitation of the FU creed. Fifteen Juniors roll call by naming a bird they had studied about. Three of the Reserves gave one-minute speeches. Gladys Toman spoke on "Wasps," Clifford Unbanek on "Birds," and Franklyn Steiner on "Ants." As there was no business to bring up, the children took up their classes.

The Reserves are studying the unit "Everyday Insects" and the Juniors "Over All the Land." After classes were dismissed, we joined the adult meeting to listen to the discussion on "What Do We Hope Accomplish Thru Co-operative Business Enterprises." The discussion was very interesting as everyone joined in.

After the meeting adjourned, refreshments and folk dancing were enjoyed by all. Our local discussion group has had two meetings so far. We were to have had the third here last Thursday but it was postponed because of the storm.

Friday night, Feb. 18, the Black Wolf Local will have a card and bingo party for the Expansion Fund. Saturday evening, the county will have a dance at Ellsworth.

—Mrs. Fred Mog.

"And Got Four Bits Refund"

Not content with the single verse of the parody on Pistol Packin' Mamma that appeared in the Program Service, members of Scandia Local pooled their collective song writing abilities and produced the following:

The Farmers Union is OK
It fights much that's wrong
so pay your dues before you go
And make our Union strong.
Lay that four bucks down, sir,
Lay that four bucks down.

Since this is during times of war
We really need to save
And what would be more prosperous
Than to join our Union brave.
(Chorus).

When you have gotten old and gray
And mighty nearly broke
You'll wish that you had listened then
To these few words we spoke.
(Cho.)

And now that you have paid your dues
We'll think you're mighty strong
If you can only do your best
You'll surely not go wrong.
(Cho.)

We laid that four bucks down, sir
We laid that four bucks down
It is Farmers Union round-up time
So we laid that four bucks down.
(And got four bits refund).

GOBLINS

Once there was a man who wouldn't pay his dues,
And just as he sat down to read the evening news,
His wife heard him holler and his kiddies heard him yell
But just what happened to him then, no one could tell.
They sought him in the kitchen, they sought him in the street,
They sought him in the garden, and they sought him in the wheat.
But all they ever found was the excuses he had made
And the goblins will get YOU if your dues aren't paid!

Dates, Places, Guests at County Schools Named

If Esther Ekblad finds time to light and knock out another "Along the FU Trail" it will be a trail of smoke. Beginning with the Labor Institute in Topeka February 12 and 13, where she was able to meet and talk with such leading educational directors of unions as Mark Starr of the International Ladies' Garment Workers and John D. Connors, director of the Workers Educational Bureau of America, she breezed through the state office and was off again to Denver where she has been on the staff of a state-wide, week-long school for officers and educational directors conducted by the Rock Mountain Farmers Union.

Back to Salina late Monday, February 21, she was planning to attend the Scandia local's Box Supper in McPherson county, and then complete plans for the series of one-day county schools to be held during the week of February 28. Miss Esther Erickson, Educational Director of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union will be a guest instructor at the schools. All members of locals in vicinity of the schools are invited and urged to attend.

Dates, place and guest speakers follow:

February 28, Stafford, North Star School house—Arthur W. Calhoun from Sterling College.
February 29, McPherson, Morning Star School house—Mr. Calhoun.
March 1, Clay Center, City Hall—Father J. T. White St. Marys College
March 2, St. Marys, Knights of Columbus Hall—John Vesecky.
March 3, Overbrook, Some place in town—Mr. Vessecky.

Whose Extension Service?

A speech by NFU President James Patton delivered before the national convention of County Agents.

(Continued from last Issue)

I here and now assert—and I believe the Grange and certain State Farm Bureau Federations will concur—that the Extension Service will never decline, if it sticks to its educational job, and if it pursues the course outlined by Director Crocheron.

Farmers Union Position

I am fully aware that an effort has, and is being made to make Extension workers believe that my organization desires the destruction of the Extension program. That is untrue. Criticism from within our organization has been directed at the abuses and misuses of your educational agency.

We believe that in revealing those abuses and insisting upon their correction, and in redirecting the attention of Extesionists themselves to their historic purpose, we are rendering a far greater service to your agency than a Pied Piper who would lead you on and on into agricultural politics, power politics, and alliances with processors, chain stores, fertilizer interests, and business generally, until you became at least an indirect partisan in the struggle between economic fascists on the one hand, and the Common Man on the other. This has already happened in some places.

We know, and we have repeatedly stated, that many—most, in fact—of the employes of Extension are innocent of any improper activity whatsoever; that others abhor the chores assigned to them or undertaken by others in the service; that they hope for the day that Extension everywhere will be free to devote all its energy to its chartered field. I know that is true, and we are not going about the nation praising Extension where we are, and damning it where we "ain't."

But we also believe that even those innocent agents who see the dangers of participation in improper activities have a duty—a duty which you can perform through this association—to help stop abuses and direct your agency toward its proper field. The University Professors of America have recognized and accepted a similar responsibility—responsibility to guard academic freedom in their field. I believe that the time is at hand when you Extension Agents as a group, should provide all possible protection to individual agents who are subjected to improper demands, and dismissal, if they do not accede to them.

The pressures against which you cannot contend locally without economic injury to yourselves and your families, can be defeated, just as university educators are defeating them, if you will act in concert.

Proposals for Agriculture

It is only fair for you to inquire what the National Farmers Union proposes as a remedy for the situation in which Extension Service finds itself.

In attempting to answer that question, it is not enough to suggest an adhesive plaster be put on some federal statute forbidding the abuses; we must consider objectives in agriculture and agriculture's needs in the broadest possible way.

What kind of agriculture do we want, anyway?

What kind of farmers do we want?

Extension Service was chartered to chieve this sort of agriculture which is traditionaliy American—the sort of agriculture which we in the National Farmers Union desire. That is an agriculture which produces effectively for the nation and is composed of self-respecting, independent citizens who can bring up their children in adequate security and with freedom from fear, equipped to play their part as citizens of a democracy. It certainly does not mean an agriculture in which



JAMES G. PATTON
Pres. National Farmers Union

knowledge of the techniques and scientific methods are confined to a master-farmer class, who direct the work of a farm-labor class on "factories in the field." Our agriculture educational agencies were created because congress recognized that knowledge of new methods was not reaching the bottom, and that the disadvantaged farmers, as well as the educated, advantaged farmers, would have to have educational assistance or the American pattern of agriculture could not survive.

If the net result of our research and our educational efforts is to give more and more advantage to a master class, causing a steadily decreasing number of farmers and farm children who can be benefitted by the expenditures, then they are of little worth, if not of negative value.

Family Farms Threatened

We are face to face in agriculture with a trend toward elimination of the independent family farmer. If he is not to go the way of the Indian nations, then we must do something about it.

We need a reaffirmation of our national land policy and our national agricultural policy, and then a renewal of zeal in all agencies to accomplish this type of agriculture.

I sincerely wish that we could forget agency names in any consideration of the basic needs in the agricultural field. Selfish interests, who would divide us to conquer full control of the pattern agriculture is to take, thrive by inciting jealousies between agencies, and lust for power. For the purpose of this discussion, permit me to drop the titles—the handles, if you please—by which we have attempted to grasp agricultural problems, and deal with the problems themselves.

Agriculture—the kind of agriculture you and I seek to maintain in America—has three great needs:

1. Adequate educational facilities for each farmer, from youth throughout life.

2. A broad, general program which will assure all farmers, and each farmer within agriculture, a fair share of the nation's income—enough to live decently, and have adequate diet, health, education, housing, leisure, cultural, and spiritual opportunities.

3. Special programs to give special assistance to disadvantaged classes, and to overcome special disadvantage of all farmers.

Education is a tremendously important item on this list.

Ever since the full development of the industrial revolution in this country, the cards have been stacked against farmers, and particularly against the least advantaged. Only by becoming a part of mechanized industrial empire have some parts of agriculture been consistently profitable. When that happens, then of course, agriculture as an independent way of life is gone. The accumulated result of this stacking of the economic cards has been the rise of farm tenancy to shameful proportions, the forcing off the land of independent farm families, a steady increase in the number of big farms, and the spread of rural poverty, ill health, inadequate education, and all the other inadequacies which go with poverty. In some sections of the country, farm life has already become synonymous with malnutrition, lack of education, disease, and hopelessness.

We need today to adopt an agricultural program which will take all farm people, where they are today, and lift them to a status of full economic and political citizenship in our democracy. Such a program includes furnishing education, credit, markets, and other necessary facilities to restore and lift them to the level that we seek, and the level that a democracy must maintain.

The Education Job

While doing this, we must establish an educational system and programs which will prevent groups or classes within agriculture from again falling into economic and educational troughs.

We need an educational system which will take children and ground them thoroughly in all the techniques, all the practical knowledge, all the information about the known scientific methods, which will start them on a par in the technical educational field. Beyond that, we need an educational agency which will take to them, as adults, the day-to-day developments which come from our experiment stations and our research centers.

We need the basic educational factories for future farmers, and we need a great research, development, and modification program studying practices, studying techniques, studying developments, studying policies, and taking the latest developments to all farmers that they may altar their farming methods, or that they may, as individuals, or through their voluntary organizations, alter their legislative or economic programs to give greater benefits.

Federal Responsibility

The nation, then, cannot afford to permit the agricultural educational system to deteriorate, to become sub-standard in any great region, or to become perforated with malpractices, politics, or special privilege in any state.

Unless a free educational system, serving all people in the lemocracy in accordance with their need, can be developed by the national government in cooperation with the public schools and the Land Grant colleges, then the national government will have to assume direct responsibility, or let democracy rot at the grass roots.

The Task Ahead

Immediately following this war, there are going to be enormous technological strides in agriculure. Unless our educational system is ready with techniques which will make them readily advantageous to each farmer, the trend away from the American pattern of agriculture may well be tremendously accelerated. Only an educational agency which can quickly teach all farmers how to take advantage of those advances, either in their individual operatons or through co-operative action, will avoid further retrogression.

Such an educational system will, of course, recognize as much responsibility, as a public agency, to the tenant or the sharecropper as to the plantation owners who pay blocks of farm organization dues. Such a system will require, and it will merit, more liberal support from government.

Day of Exploitation Gone

Nearly every economist, students of political science, and I believe, a majority even of business men recognize that the day of unrestricted enterprise and exploitation is gone. America cannot disinherit great masses of small farmers, small businesses, and common people, further concentrate land and wealth in the hands of a few, and remain a great, strong democracy. If we embark upon exploitation again, the voyage will be brief. It will carry us straight back into depression, into public unrest, and into a national crisis. There will be federal intervention, either to subject people to the lot which they resist, or to guarantee real political and economic democracy.

Permit me to repeat that we are in a war which has no back no front, no middle. The struggle between the forces of freedom and of privilege is going on right here today. Speaking for working farm families, whose finest men are fighting, dying, and winning this total global war on the military battlefronts, I say that we can win the fight for a new lease of freedom here a home, the right to revitalize our efforts to achieve full economic and political democracy, and enjoy the abundance that is ours, if we have the understanding, and the will to master and possess it. In this enterprise, you, as the discoverers and teachers, have a great responsibility. That responsibility is to get useful information to all the people of rural America, that they may save themselves as free men.

Reed Labels KFU 1944 Program

(Continued from Page 1)

making and the figures he chose were tailor-made to his anti-labor bias. In order to show that all labor was rolling in lush wealth, he included in the total income of labor, from which he could strike a high average, the tremendous salaries of corporation vice-presidents and managers, who of course, in one sense, can be called employees.

Senator Reed perhaps believes he is serving agriculture when he malignes labor. In the past, many farmers believed their interest to be opposite that of labor, so that when labor was spanked, the farmers would gain. Hitler himself said that if a lie is big enough, and repeated often enough, the people will believe it.

That farmers are realizing that they have been the victims of a huge lie, repeated in the newspapers that echo their masters in industry who exploit equally the producer and consumer, is a fact of immeasurable significance, and portends a redefinition of what is agriculture's REAL welfare and who are the farmers' friends. The Farmers Union has led in the fight to expose those who would say to labor and farmers, "Let's you and him fight."

During the last war, the margin between the retail price and the wholesale price averaged but 10 per cent. Today it averages more than three times that or 31 pe rcent. Prices paid the farmer are lower and consumer prices are higher. Instead of getting after the farmer of worker, why doesn't some friend of little people in Congress get after the profits of packers, processors, distributors and retailers? This could be done by rolling back the prices, paying subsidies directly to the producer, freezing retail prices and levying taxes "in proportion to ability to pay."—Quoted from the KFU 1944 Program as is the following. "We demand that income taxes which will confiscate excessive war profits and limit individual incomes in accordance with the president's indivisible seven-point antiinflation program be adopted."

Senator Reed has fought such a program, Senator Reed fights Labor. Labor supports the program and the Farmers Union membership wrote it. Who is the friend of whom?

At this time when the worst of the war is still ahead of us. On the very eve of the invasion of Europe, when casualties will mount and bring the real horror of war into every community, both our legislative bodies in Washington are literally making a mess of things, instead of extending democracy and laying foundations for a post-war world of abundance and security, the representatives and senators are engaging in despicable political maneuvering.

Senator Reed recently voted for an amendment to an otherwise bad bill for the admitted reason of testing the sincerity of the president's often stated sympathy for persons in the lower income groups. Senator Reed to spite the administration was willing to play politics with the eating habits of millions of Americans.

Senator Reed is most bold, in a year when he is up for re-election, to tell an organization which every week adds new names to its membership list, that the program they support contains "half-baked ideas of the extreme left wingers," and that further "no member of Congress is going to pay much attention to your suggestions."

One more quotation from the Preamble to the 1944 program:

"Real victory for the people of America and of the world will only be assured by a militant, energetic and well-organized peoples' movement, with the strength to off-set the multiple-millions of dollars poured into reactionary propaganda campaigns and political projects by industrial war profiteers. In agriculture, the Farmers Union alone is constituted and qualified to become the vehicle of such a movement."

Indeed, that is a lot of territory to cover, but because of the scope and courage of the people who proposed the Farmers Union's undertaking the task, steadily the expansion of the organization continues, constantly its prestige and influence grow and because the membership does not selfishly seek only the promotion of the interests of agriculture but of all working people, farmers can share the strength of unity with all peoples' organizations.

And members of Congress shall pay attention, eventually.

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What the Locals Are Doing

"I Will Attend My Local Meetings"

Ellsworth County Has Full Schedule

The Ellsworth County Farmers Union Local held its regular monthly meeting in the Ellsworth Farmers Union Hall Tuesday evening, Feb. 8. Twenty-five members were present.

W. B. Handlin was accepted for membership at this meeting.

Plans for the Funds Raising card party for the evening of Feb. 9 was discussed and completed.

Brother member James Kornek, who was injured in a tractor accident, was sent a message of sympathy by the local.

Marine Staff Sgt. Chester Woods, son of Charley Woods, who is home on furlough from service in the south Pacific, addressed the meeting, regarding army life and experiences of that area. His description of the natives, their habits and customs and the tropical vegetation on the island on which he was located was very interesting.

The discussion groups meeting in the home of various members of the Ellsworth County Farmers Co-op Union continue to meet with interest and enthusiasm among the people of the Ellsworth County.

Last week meetings were held at the homes of Joe A. Shanelec, Joe Prochaska, Fred W. E. Hasse, and John Schaeffer. Other meetings have been held at the homes of Will Hunter, Leonard Lowe, Henry Scheuch, Victor Burmeister, Henry Schwerdtfeger, Will Hysell, George Gwinner, Lloyd Durfee and Frank Haleck.

The discussions have reached a great number of the the people of this county and ideas and opinions gathered from these groups are providing a benefit to the present progress of the co-operative.

Meeting for the week of February 6 to 13 have been cancelled because of the bad weather and interference of other Farmers Union meetings.

Report of Card Party

The card party for Funds Raising Night held the evening of Feb. 9 met with a very adverse brand of weather that kept many away. However, in spite of rain and snow, about 55 were present and more than $18 was taken in.

Pitch and Pinochle were played. Frank Thielen, Ellsworth, won the high score prize in Pinochle. Joe Dolezal, jr., Kanapolis, made the high score in Pitch.

Juniors

The Juniors of the Farmers Union held their monthly meeting February 8 while the business meeting was going on. They are studying in the book on insects. Charlene Cochran, who has the chicken pox was sent a message of sympathy.

Dolores Schult Reporter.

Smoky Hill Local

The Smoky Hill local No. 882 held its annual pie social on Feb. 14 at the Smoky Hill school. A short program preceded the selling of the pies.

The program was as follows: Vocal solos by Velda Burns and Gloria Tyler; and a vocal duet by Velda and Gloria. Janie Russell accompanied on all the numbers. The girls are students at Bethany College.

A short and interesting talk was given by Rev. Claypool, of the Messiah Church in Lindsborg, Kan., his topic being, "Are We Prepared for Peace."

Following the program 22 pies were auctioned to the highest bidder. The pies sold from 50 cents to $2.25 a pie. The net proceeds were about $22. Refreshments of coffee, rolls and cookies were served later.

Leland Bergston.

PIE . . . $5.50

CAUSE: FUND RAISING SOCIAL, NOT INFLATION

Johnstown Farmers Union Local 749 held their Fund Raising night with a pie supper at the Morning Star school house Feb. 14, 8 o'clock. A good crowd was in attendance with the Scandia Local as visitors.

Scandia and Johnstown locals are again this year helping each other with their fund raising for the Farmers Union.

The meeting was called to order by chairman Adell Peterson followed by group singing, roll call, and a short business meeting of Johnson Local.

The program was then turned over to the Scandia Local, who presented two numbers by the Hall orchestra, a vocal solo by Leah Simmons, a reading by Eunice Swank, FU Junior from Montana who is attending McPherson college, a cornet solo by Richard Spence, a special number by Scandia's Barber Shop Quartette and a short play "Box Social Night' given by a group of young people, followed by the Juniors singing "The Farmers Union is O. K."

Twenty-eight pies were auctioned off by Henry Hall, the highest bringing $5.50 bought by Floyd Palmer of the Johnstown Local. Bidding generally was very good.

On February 22, the Scandia Local will hold their box supper at the Scandia school house with the Johnstown members as visitors who will give a program in return. Ladies are asked to bring boxes.

Iola Locals Fun Up $17

The Allen Center and Fairview Locals enjoyed a social, Wednesday evening, Feb. 16, to raise money to send to the Expansion Fund. There was a large crowd present. We started the program by all singing America. We played bingo and had several guessing games. Mr. Stanley Harris guessed the number of pieces of candy in a jar.

Ed McVey was voted the most hen-pecked husband and received a rolling pin. Mrs. George Rose was voted the sweetest lady in the house and was presented with jar of honey. Mr. and Mrs. King sang a duet, and a quartet composed of Mr. King, Raymond Eisenbrant, George Crowell and Foster Funk, sang a couple of songs. Sandwiches, pie an dcoffee were served. $17 was cleared. A real good time was had by all.—Gertrude Crowelli, reporter.

Black Wolf Local

The Black Wolf Local No. 925 in Ellsworth county held its regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 7, at the Black Wolf hall. The adults and Juniors meeting together.

Following the regular business meeting, we used point one in the discussion outline, "What do we hope to accomplish thru co-operatives business enterprises," as our topic for the evening.

Nearly everyone took part in the discussions which were very interesting. We plan to use the discussion as outlined for the group discussion meetings at our regular meetings as we feel we can reach more members that way. After the meeting was over we had pot luck lunch and some folk-dancing. We decided to have a card and bingo party on Friday, Feb. 18, at 8 p. m. as our contribution to the Farmers Union Educational fund.

While the adults were having their meeting, the Juniors were holding their classes. Fifteen Juniors answered roll call.

Fred Mog, Reporter.

Elevation Local

Elevation Farmers Union Local 1916 held their annual oyster supper and installation of officers Friday evening Feb. 11, with 29 members present.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Wolfe were initiated as new members.

Miss Ekblad was present to furnish a short report of Farmers Union affairs and also to read and initiation ceremony to the new members.

The meeting was called to order by Pres. W. E. Corbett with the usual business procedure.

New officers installed were Glenn Palmer, Vice-President and Mrs. Helen Corbett, conductor. All other officers except doorkeeper holding over.

Miss Ekblad then led us in a group of songs. We were informed that we would receive from the state office, copies of the 1944 program as adopted at the last convention. It was suggested that we approach the KIDC for speakers to some of our local meetings, we were also told some material was available from the same source.

We were invited to send delegates to the county schools at St. Marys or Overbrook. We were informed of the recommendation at the State convention and appointment of a committee to re-write the Constitution and By-Laws and bring them up to date.

Soup was enjoyed by everyone and Esther led us in playing games.

Albert Swan, Reporter.

High Pitch Is Reached In Expansion Fund Socials

Locals In Rush Center and Agenda Active Again Demonstrate Interest In And Growing Need for Farmers Union

"Why don't we do this more often," was the seriously asked questions that members of the Headquarters Local put to one another the night of the Expansion Fund Dance in Solomon.

Several hundred persons from the Solomon area had a pleasant evening of dancing to the music of Jimmy Weaver's band from Salina, members of the local enjoyed it and the Expansion Fund is more than $35 nearer its goal. Three very good reasons for "doing this more often."

From reports of other locals' socials, the same question may likely have been asked elsewhere. Read, for instance, of the really swell time had when the Scandia and Johnstown locals got together to sell pies and put on entertainment. Although the state office hasn't received a report of the final accounting from St. Marys, Ernie Dean, who attended the dance there on February 18 when a WIBW orchestra played, says the dance was wholly successful and the revenue exceeded all expectations.

Since the final end of these events is to put into effect the program of expansion, perhaps it is well to report here that in the past week two locals of 10 and 11 members respectively became active. One is the Liebenthal Local in Rush Center and the other is Agenda Local No. 2202, Agenda.

Every real farmer in the state has need of an organization such as the Farmers Union. Literally thousand are interested in affiliating with the KFU, many write expressing the interest in their community of establishing locals. An experienced organizer who could go into the fiel dand aid in the the formation of locals could send the membership total upward by leaps and bounds.

This, then, is the organizational need for which the Expansion Fund socials are held. The stronger the organization, the stronger every member is The times are favorable for the growth of the union, the times demand that growth. Those locals which have held socials have found that it is easier to make a success of dances, or auctions than in previous years, and the fun of the event was extra, a kind of bonus.

It is not too late for those locals who have not put on a special event to yet do so. To them, we say, it's fun, it's needed by your union which you need, and it's most gratifying the response you will unexpectedly get.

Public Forum Column In March

The Questionnaire which was printed in the last issue of the Kansas Union Farmer appears to have met a long-felt need of providing many persons with an avenue of expression. The state office is daily still receiving filled out questionnaires.

While this paper has always welcomed letters written on subjects of public interest and has printed many, beginning in March, we will set aside special space for a Public Forum column. Now, columns of public opinion are not of a very hardy species because while everyone has very specific and important opinions, only a few persons bother to write those opinions down and mail them in. We will continue to welcome and use the letters from such regularly articulate persons but real success or failure of the column will depend on the continuous participation of you who have seldom or never written a letter to a newspaper.

We can not too much emphasize, YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT.

Because the Questionnaire seemed to prompt a large number of persons to express themselves in answer to specific questions, we are suggeting that the general topic for the letters in March be on SUBSIDIES, price control, economic stabilization, etc. A postcard to the state office will get you a pamphlet published by the National Farmers Union on Subsidies, which we hope will provoke you to comment.

So sit down and write a letter to the Kansas Union Farmer, Box 296, Salina, Kan., on subsidies, the price of bicycle pumps in Timbuctu, or whatever you will.

St. Joseph Directors Refund 26%



Pictured above are the members of the board of directors of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission of St. Joseph, Mo., who met on January 14 and 15 and declared a patronage dividend of 26% on commission paid the company by members during the past year. A patronage dividend of 20% was declared to member purchasers of serum during the same period.

Paul Steele, manager of the joint marketing agency, wishes to advise patrons that the refund checks will be mailed considerably later this year because of the shortage of experienced help.

The directors retained the Farmers Union Auditing Department, Omaha, Nebraska to make the two semi-annual audits covering the year, 1944.

Names of the directors are: Front row, left to right: F. V. Heinkel, president, Charles McElhiney, vice president, J. R. Evans, secretary, William E. Allyn, and George W. Mullin. Back row, Paul Steele, manager, Henry Pedersen, E. K. Dean and Albert Schoenrock.

From the Westmoreland Recorder—

"RAINFALL FOR THE WEEK

Rainfall for the past week as measured by the official rain gauge at the Albert Mayer residence:

No moisture reported this week."

—Might handy, that gauge.

Solberg Reports Trip to England

(Continued from Page 1)

and that only a broad alliance of many nations can have meaning. We can today travel by plane from Denver to London in much less time than it once took to make a roundtrip from my home hauling a load of wheat to the nearest market. I am nearer to London today than I was to a neighboring county 25 years ago. I am nearer Moscow today than I was to a neighboring state 25 years ago. It would be as foolhardy for me to think in terms of the alliance of two nations and the exclusion of other nations as a solution in 1944, as it would have been to agree to close working relationships of two states and the exclusion of all other states 25 years ago. A United States of the world is as important to the future as was the United States of America applied to the past. Common people everywhere are beginning to see these broader future needs. What once applied to a community now applies to a world.

Anti-Inflation Program

And now to the war effort of today. During the war England has operated under a war economy. We in the United States have not. Because daily they expected invasion from the continent, because their homes were daily bombed, the people of England made a complete and drastic realinement of their economy so it would function for all-out prosecution of the war. The United States has done a hit-and miss job.

England has stabilized her economy as nearly as an economy can be stabilized. As one strong arm of their anti-inflation program they stabilized prices and wages. The instituted a very strict program of rationing. Strict rationing has meant that all people get a share of those many commodities that fall short of filling all needs. With a very few minor exceptions their control program operates clear across the board. The farmer, for example, knows well in advance how much labor will cost and how much feeds will cost and how much he will receive for hogs and milk.

England uses subsidies—not so much in terms of producer or consumer subsidies but as a needed war expenditure—as a low-cost method of preventing the stepladder effect of rising wages and rising prices that is the essence of inflation.

Subsidies are an expenditure placed into the economic structure to provide the producer sufficient return to assure full production and to avoid higher prices that result in a demand for needed higher wages. All of these factors go together to make up one arm of England's stabilization program.

Taxation Primary

The other strong arm of the stabilization program—the most important mechanism in preventing inflation—is a stiff tax program. The English tax program is based on ability to pay. General sales taxes would not be approved. Britain faced the same problem as is faced in the United States—an excessive purchasing power bidding for a limited amount of goods. A nation can deal with this situation in two ways. One is to increase the amount of goods available. The other is to drain off excess purchasing power.

The best and most permanent means of reducing purchasing power is a tax program. England has used it fully—and for several reasons. The laborer and farmer in England agreed to stabilize their wages and prices provided a tax program would be instituted that would assure all citizens of England that no individual and no group would profit by and through the war economy. The agreement was made effective. A 100% tax on excess profits is assessed against industry. Twenty per cent of this is a post-war credit but many question that the credit will be made available.

The same excess profits tax applies to farmers beginning at $6,000 if the farmer had less net earnings than this before the war. The farmers recognize this as a heavy burden but believe it to be a sound war measure. In addition come the income taxes and surtaxes which are graduated. They fall heavily and fairly on the entire population. I was told that a man with $700,000 income will have approximately $26,500 after taxes are paid. A farmer with $7,000 net income will have approximately $3,000 left when his taxes are paid. The same applies to a worker in a factory or war plant.

This may seem to be an extremely heavy burden. It is, however, getting results. Here are the results of their stiff tax program:

1. Every person in England is putting everything he has into the war effort with the knowledge that all are sacrificing on the basis of ability to pay and no one is profiteering as they did in World War One.
2. Excess purchasing power is drained away and the resulting lessened demand for goods makes it comparatively easy to hold the line on prices and wages at the stabilized level.
3. If there are great inequalities as between farmers in different commodities or as between workers in different plants or as between various industries, the graduation of taxes tends to greatly equalize these inequalities.
4. Because there is a greater stability in the war period, the English will find it easier making the transition to a post-war economy. This one item may easily prove to be worth all the cost of all present taxes.
5. More of the war costs are being paid now when all are employed, when the bill can most easily be paid.

Your Dollar . . .

By Consumer Union

Rayon Slips

Women needn't fret too much about the silk slips they no longer get, say CO's textile technicians. Although rayon turned out to be a poor substitute in stockings, it's acceptable in slips. Many of the all-rayon slips now on the market combine good looks with good wearing qualities. It's necessary, though, to pay careful attention to fit when buying, and to wash rayons with exrta care.

Consumers Union tested 34 brands of satin slips, and 35 brands of crepe slips, for thread count, tensile strength, shrinkage, strength of construction and for general features of cut and design. And CU found some excellent buys at around $2 in satin, $1.29 in crepe.

Here are the Best Buy satin slips: Will 'O' Wisp. $1.97; Ward's Cat. No. 6483, $1.98 plus postage; Sears Charmode Cat. No. 3,675, $1.98 plus postage; Fray-Pruf $2. All, but the first named are constructed of a satin twill weave, not true satin.

Union Made Slips

The following slips tested by Consumers Union are non-union-made, under contract with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL: Barbizon, Fray-Pruf, Mary Barron, Miss Swank, New Form, Radelle, Rhythm Romancer, Shar-Loo, Trillium, Skinner's Radium, Yolande.

Vitamin C

We must have Vitamin C in the diet every day to meet the body's requirements, says CU's medical consultant. But that doesn't mean we must pay unreasonably high prices for oranges to get our daily quota.

Your Vitamin C quota in orange juice (about 3/4 cup) will cost you around 10c at today's high prices. But you can get the same amount of Vitamin C in a cup of canned grapefruit juice at 6c, or 1½ cups of canned tomato juice at 7c. What's more, you'll find surprisingly big amounts in such vegetables as peppers, brussels sprouts, broccoli, spinach, turnip greens and cabbage. Half a raw pepper, or six properly cooked brussels sprouts, will supply your Vitamin C quota for the day. You can also get your quota in synthetic Vitamin C at about 3c. But the synthetic product will not give you all the other vitamins and minerals you get in foods.

Consumer Buying Is Big Business

Consumers Union members spend more than a quarter of a billion dollars yearly, estimates CU from answers to its yearly questionnaire. And the reports and ratings provided by CU's technical staff save these members more than $5,000,000 yearly.

These big savings are mostly made on quite small items—articles of clothing, kitchen and bathroom supplies, foods, drugs and cosmetics. They are made, reports CU, "by buying cheaper brands of soap and dentifrices and cold cream that are just as good as the more expensive brands formerly used; . . . by eliminating such items as mouthwashes which are of no greater value than a little salt water; . . . by getting more durable sheets and towels, clothing and shoes. The family buyers who go after such savings are good businessmen, because it takes good business sense to realize the significance of small wastes and small savings."

Talcum Powder

Let your nose decide when you buy talcum powder, advises Consumers Union. Most brands are pretty much alike, whether they cost 8/10c per ounce like Lander's Sweet Peas or 40c per ounce like Charbert's Lav-

(Continued on Page 7)

FOR 1944--GROW MORE WITH

F. U. HYBRID SEED CORN

REMEMBER—there is no need to pay more than the Farmers Union price. We can prove by official records the superiority of Farmers Union Hybrids.

Our single cross grower, besides winning the Grand Champion Trophy over large and small companies alike, has won first in three of four sections of the offical state tests in Iowa.

Our Seed Corn is GROWN in Kansas, by and for Kansas PRODUCERS.

OUR PRICE

$7.75 bushel, flat kernels
$6.25 bushel, round kernels
These Prices Include Re-Plant Agreement.

HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR ORGANIZATION—buy your hybrid seed corn this year from a Farmers Union Seed Corn dealer. The following co-operative stations have handled our seed corn last year or will handle our product this year. The list is not complete because we have not been able to contact all of our Farmers Union stations, due to lack of time—the names of other stations at which this seed corn is available, will be added later.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN THIS CORN through your Local Co-op, then order direct from: The Farmers Union Service Company, Box 296, Salina, Kansas.

Co-Op Seed Corn Dealers

Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Manhattan, Ks.
The Riley County Farmers Union Co-op — Leonardville, Ks.
The Farmers Co-op Elevator—Waterville, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Grain Company—Blue Rapids, Ks.
The Winifred Farmers Co-op Elevator—Winifred, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Vliets, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Centralia, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Randolph, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Store —Olsburg, Ks.
Farmers Union Produce Station—Clay Center, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Solomon, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lindsborg, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Marquette, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Udall, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Kellogg, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Winfield, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Arkansas City, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Burns, Ks.
Marion Co-op Elevator — Marion, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Lehigh, Ks .
Farmers Union Co-op Produce Station—McPherson, Kansas.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lincolnville, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Tampa, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Ramona, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Bennington, Ks.
Farmers Elevator Company —Minneapolis, Kansas.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator Randall, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lebanon, Ks.
Clyde Co-op Elevator — Clyde, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Clifton, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Morganville, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Ellsworth, Ks.
Farmers Co-operative Elevator—Hanover, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Bellaire, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Aurora, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Agenda, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Courtland, Ks.
Farmers Co-operative Elevator—Barnes, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Greenleaf, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lancaster, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Denton, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Leona, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Robinson, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Morrill, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Sabetha, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Parsons, Kansas
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Walnut, Kansas
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—South Mound, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Pauline, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Overbrook, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Collyer, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Wakeeney, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Tescott, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—LaHarpe, Ks.
Farmers Elevator Company ....—Abilene, Kansas.
Farmers Union Elevator——St. Marys, Ks.
Dennis Co-op Elevator — Dennis, Ks.
Farmers Co - op Elveator —Altamont, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—McCune, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Beloit, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Glen Elder, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Cawker City, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Hunter, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Tipton, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Scottsville, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Solomon Rapids, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Burdick, Ks.
Wilbur F. Larson — Concordia, Ks.
Farmers Union Jobbing Association—Maple Hill, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Alta Vista, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op — Alma, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Osawatomie, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Olathe, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Erie, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Kimball, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator — Burlington, Ks.
Lorraine Grain, Fuel and Stock Co.—Lorraine, Ks.
Holyrood Co-op Grain and Supply Co.—Holyrood, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Grain and Supply Co.—Beeler, Ks.

FARMERS UNION SERVICE COMPANY
Box 296
Salina, Kansas

LIVESTOCK MARKET NEWS

by the FARMERS UNION LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE, KANSAS CITY
and
FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION, SOUTH ST. JOSEPH, MO.

RECENT REPRESENTATIVE

Live Stock Sales

Of Farmers Union Livestock Co-operative

KANSAS CITY

CATTLE

G. R. Slagle, Ness Co., Kans., 12 steers	1082	$15.00
Irvin Proctor, Lafayette Co., Mo., 28 steers	1145	14.75
John Livengood, Dickinson Co., Kans., 30 steers	1215	14.60
Lawrence Davis, Osage Co., Kans., 31 steers	1057	14.60
Wm. H. Mills, Osage Co., Kans., 12 steers	1145	14.50
Geor. Linstedt, McPherson Co., Kans., 35 steers	1261	14.50
H. W. Brandt, Saline Co. ,Mo., 18 heifers	907	14.40
W. R. Ellis, Osage Co., Kans., 22 steers	1020	14.25
G. Sternsdorff, Atchison Co., Kans., 22 steers	1020	14.25
W. R. Mochamer, Osage Co., Kans., 36 heifers	866	14.10
Chas. Burton, Johnson Co., Kans., 24 heifers	1022	14.00
Howard Woodbury, Osage Co., Kans., 14 heifers	917	14.00
U. H. Myers, McPherson Co., Kans., 53 steers	934	14.00
Hugh Johns, Lyons Co., Kans., 28 steers	963	13.50
Herbert Niles, Coffey, Co., Kans., 13 heifers	817	13.50
Girard & Son, Coffey Co., Kans., 15 heifers	785	13.35
A. C. Carbenbine, Dickinson Co., Kans., 14 heifers	795	13.35
Chas. Burton, Johnson Co., Kans., 19 heifers	1017	13.00
Walter Cramer, Ray Co., Mo., 21 heifers	835	12.75
A. Seck, Johnson Co., Kans., 33 heifers	776	12.00
Chas. Burton, Johnson Co., Kan., 29 heifers	707	11.60
H. A. Darr, Wyandotte Co., Kans., 26 cows	1008	10.35
R. J. Bliss, Clay Co., Mo., 19 cows	992	9.90
R. E. French, Jackson Co., Mo., 18 cows	876	8.35

HOGS

Griffiths Bros. Clay, Kans.	44	227	$13.60
Julius Klima, Merricourt, N. Dak.	70	268	13.55
Luther King, Merricourt, N. Dak.	39	254	13.55
Thomas Urem, Tolna, N. Dak.	169	228	13.50
Robt. Kongs, Nemaha, Kans.	23	276	13.50
Rex Brace, Hope, N. Dak.	87	266	13.50
C. J. Prothe, Miami, Kans.	26	218	13.50
Luther King, Merricourt, N. Dak.	39	216	13.50
Julius Klima, Merricourt, N. Dak.	51	226	13.50
Farmers Un. S. A., Williston, N, Dak.	70	233	13.50
Russell George, Woodston, Kans.	15	222	13.50
Geo. Lawhead, Linn, Kans.	18	252	13.50
Will Ekblad, Riley, Kans.	46	252	13.50
Portland S. A., UPortland, N. Dak.	211	222	13.50
Farmers Un. S. A., Elgin, N. Dak.	80	248	13.50
Ralph Geiger, Dawson, Nebr.	53	311	13.50
C. E. Sherwood, Cloud, Kans.	42	340	13.40

SHEEP

Chas. Larson, Riley, Kans.	61	106	$16.35
Rex Hodler, Mitchell, Kans.	41	99	16.00
C. J. Jones, Macon, Mo.	38	75	15.75
Emery Shank, Dickinson, Kans.	17	74	15.50
Chas. S. Manley, Johnson, Kans.	9	75	15.50
F. C. Erickson, Geary, Kans.	258	81	15.40
Fred Shoeller, Rooks, Kans.	54	95	14.75
John Zumqalt, Cass, Mo.	13	80	13.00
C. J. Brown, Sullivan, Mo.	13	80	15.00
Matthew Davidson, Clay, Kans.	14	86	14.00
A. A. Hediger, Adair, Mo.	17	64	12.50
Roy Pettit, Grundy, Mo.	60	56	11.50

Kansas City Livestock Markets

Farmers Union Livestock Cooperative, Kansas City, Mo.

STEER MARKET—We had a very heavy run of fat steers on today's market and the market is closing up to $15.25 low on all kinds. Good cattle still selling from $15 to $15.50. The in-between kind around $14.50 to $15.00. Plain doggy steers start all the way from $12.50 to $13.50. Stockers and feeders fully steady last week's close. BUTCHER MARKET — The butcher market was uneven today. After a slump of 50 to 75c last week on all classes of killing cows, trade today was very slow and prices showed no advance whatsoever. The demand for canner and cutters is exceptionally limited, the kinds that were very active the first part of last week. While the better kinds of fed heifers and mixed yearlings were fairly active at steady prices, the in-between grades showed a loss of 25c per cwt. Bull market unchanged. Stock cows and heifers scarce and steady. CALF MARKET—All classes of calves are steady for the week. Veal top $14.00 with the bulk selling from $12 to $14. Others down to $10 with canner kinds down as low as $8. Medium weight killing valves from $10 to $13. Heavy killing calves selling from $13.50 down to $11.50. Stock calves scarce and fully steady.

HOG RECEIPTS 8,000. Market fairly active and mostly steady with last Saturday's average. A few closely sorted 200 to 240 weights to shippers 5 higher at $13.55: Packer top $13.50. The bulk of the good and choice kind of the 200 and 330 pound average selling at $13.50. Best 170s to 190s $12.75 to $13.25. Underweight lights 140s to 160s $11.25 to $12.40. These weights in just stocker flesh selling around 25 per cwt. off-packing sows 10 to 15 lower—best at $12.25 and $12.50—choice 80 to 120 stock pigs $10 to $10.75—others sharply below.

SHEEP RECEIPTS — 5,000. The market is weak to lower—top western fed lambs $16.35 and top native lamb $16.00. Top ewes $8.25 and cull ewes $6.50 to $7.00.

Market Letter

Farmers Union Livestock Commission
South St. Joseph, Mo.

Feb. 19, 1944.

Slaughter steers are closing the week strong to 10@15c higher, good to choice steers bringing from $14@15.75, medium to good $12.50@13.75 with some plainer kinds $11@12.

Yearlings are strong to 25c higher, best mixed yearlings $15.25, heifers $14.75, bulk of good and choice kinds $13.50@14.50, common to medium $10.50@13. Cows are steady to 25c higher with low grade cows weak to 25c lower today, a few good cows $11.50@12.50, bulk of beef cows $8.50@11, canners and cutters mostly $6.50@8.50, a few common kinds $6. Bulls are strong to 25c higher, bulk $9@11, top $11.50.

The supply of stockers and feeders was extremely limited this week, prices strong to 25c higher.

Veal calf market is steady, top $13.50, bulk $11@13, good to medium $9@11, culls $6@9. A few choice heavy calves are around steady to strong for the week, bringing $12.25@12.75, good to choice $9.50@11.50, medium to common $7.50@9.50, culls $6.50@8.50.

Hog market is fully steady on all weights, and sows. The top is $13.55 to the shippers and $13.50 to the packers on support weight hogs of choice quality. Sows sold mostly $12.15@12.50; stags $10.50@12. We can handle more hogs than are coming to the St. Joseph market at this time.

Sheep market is about 25c higher, native lambs up to $16; local fed westerns topped at $16.35; choice light ewes $8.25.

Farmers Union Live Stock Commission.

Spanish People Still Fight Nazis

According to a Spanish fisherman who fought in the Loyalist army during the Spanish civil war, Gen. Francisco Franco, fascist dictator of Spain has been reshipping American cotton, delivered to Spain in U. S. ships, to Germany by way of France. The anti-fascist Spaniard escaped from Barcelona five months ago and now in New York says he has seen hundreds of bales of American cotton unloaded at Barcelona, but added that even when reshipped to Germany, the cotton sometimes arrives in pretty bad shape after the democratic Spanish workers pour strong acids on the cotton.

Your Dollar . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

nder. They'll cover your skin with a smoothing, soothing lm which helps prevent chafng, absorbs some moisture nd also promotes quicker evaoration of moisture from the kin. The dime store brand ill do this just as efficiently s the dollar and a half variety, he only difference being the erfume.

Don't make the mistake of ssuming you will prefer the ell of the most expensive nd, warns CU. In previous indfold tests, a majority of articipants preferred the perume in a dime store variety to at of a fancy brand. The only ay to tell which you like is o try. Sniff all of the cheap ands first, then if you don't ke any of them try others.

Here are some of the brands U found to be both cheap nd of good quality: Lander's weet Pea; Carrel Gardenia; loral Fragrance; Blue Walt; utchess of Paris, Apple Blosom; The Vogues of 1890 (assorted fragrances); Lander's Gardenia and Sweet Pea; Homespun Spice; Bouquet; Barbara Lane Apple Blossom; Fragrant Blossoms; Showers of Flowers.

ADD ORGANIC MATTER NOW TO GARDEN PLOTS

The addition of organic matter to the garden soil is an important item to consider in fall garden plans.

Fall plowing usually will result in a garden with fine, mellow soil, high in organic matter an davailable food. In addition, certain garden crop insects and diseases can be destroyed by fall plowing.

The quantity of manure that should be applied will vary with previous years' plans and treatment. Must less manure should be applied in central Kansas and even less is needed in western portions of the state than can profitably be applied in eastern Kansas.

Every dime counts—Buy bonds and stamps.

Cooperative Auditors

KANSAS FARMERS UNION COOPERATIVE AUDITING ASSOCIATION

Write for Rates

WE WRITE ALL KINDS OF BONDS

SALINA, KANSAS PHONE 570

BUYING CATTLE?

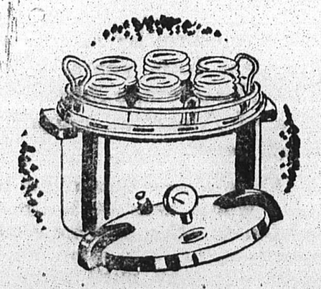
Prices are high and markets fast moving. It is to your benefit to have an experienced man help you make your selections.

Our order buyers know cattle and markets—and will work for your best interest at all times.—Come in or send us your order.

FARMERS UNION LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE
Stock Yards
Kansas City, Wichita, Parsons

Prepare Now

To Have a variety of canned food on your pantry shelf next Winter. A pantry full of foods doesn't just happen—You must make careful plans for it in advance.



A National Victory Canner

will make your canning job much easier and safer. This pressure cooker is manufactured by The National Pressure Cooker Company and full direction for use is supplied with each cooker. If your local Farmers Union Business Organization cannot supply you, write direct to

Farmers Union Jobbing Association
719 Board of Trade Building
Kansas City 6, Missouri

The Kansas Union Farmer

E. K. Dean, Salina, Kansas ..... Editor

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The Corporations' Price For Support of War

Some people refuse to recognize that inflation is today the nation's strongest enemy. Others would even welcome inflation. There are two reasons for this. The first is that the average American approaches the question of the benefits and the sacrifices of our war economy with a picture that has been drawn in the newspapers for him, largely by business propagandists. And the second is that he is confused by what he hears and reads about that national political madhouse called congress. And the seventy-eighth congress, unfortunately, is made up of many men whose views are those of the big corporations. The corporation viewpoint dominates congress and it also almost exclusively dominates the viewpoint of American newspapers.

The result is that the average American is inclined to blame all of our domestic troubles on agriculture, on labor, and on that mysterious, nebulous something called "Washington bureaucracy." The average American does not know that the greatest threat to bring about inflation is neither agriculture nor labor but the fabulous war profits that have been piled up by American corporations in the past four years. Why should he know this? The average American starts with a picture of American corporations striking a martyr pose.

It is time that the ordinary American be reappraised about the whole role of business in this war to offset the attacks that now are being launched against agriculture and labor. Business did not enter the war until after it had received assurances on profits. It was necessary to sell the war to the big corporations. And they still hold the reins.

Business will emerge from this war in a stronger position than when we entered. It will have larger cash reserves. The corporations will come out with their monopoly position strengthened. And business will emerge from this war into a peace in which an immense anti-labor and anti-farm opinion has been built up in the United States, largely because the people have not known the truth about war profits and war profiteering.

The corporation profits, subject to taxes last year, were an estimated $22,000,000,000. That compares to corporation profits of $5,272,000,000 in 1939—the last peacetime year. That sum is almost twice the total net income of all rural America last year, and there are more than 30,000,000 American people who live on farms.

So—now we are in the midst of a war that we once resolved would make no millionaires. It was just a few years ago that we resolved that we would take all the profits out of war. Now we find that corporation profits, subject to taxes, are four times higher than they were in the last peace-time year—1939.

Estimated corporation profits, subject to taxes, for 1943, were $22,000,000,000. Or look at it another way. After all taxes have been paid, the corporations will have an estimated net profit for 1943 of $8,550,000,000. Profits for 1939, the last peacetime year, were $4,040,000,000.

Profits Double World War I

Thus we find that corporation profits, after all taxes have been paid, are almost twice as big as they were in 1939. Or to look at it in still another way. The profits of 1943, after all taxes were paid, were $8,550,000,000. Profits during 1918—in World War No. 1—were only $4,500,000,000. But 23,000 new millionaires were born in World War No. 1—23,000 persons who each made more than a million dollars clear velvet out of the war. Profits in this war are already double that of World War No. 1.

So what the corporations have done is not only to pass their tax burden on to the public—they have doubled their profits in addition. The government's efforts to control profits and make the corporations bear their share of the war cost have failed—and failed miserably.

Twenty-three thousand war millionaires in World War No. 1—and this country so shocked it vowed never to let it happen again. Both major political parties—Republicans and Democrats—pledged themselves against it—scores of bills introduced in congress to prevent it from happening again. When the war started President Roosevelt promised that no new crop of war millionaires would be permitted. But with money comes power to buy and browbeat and perhaps even to do little favors.

Congress has slashed every effort to tax these huge profits. The old guard—in House and Senate—stand watch to protect the corporations. The result—a new crop of war millionaires.

Equals Farmers Total Income

Here is how lush the stock bonuses to be paid after the war are. From 1941 to 1943, inclusive, undistributed profits amounted to $12,000,000,000. That was the net income of all the farmers in this country last year. And last year was the best year the farmers of the country ever had. How would you farmers like ta have a bonus paid to you, after the war, equal to what you netted last year?

But this $12,000,000,000 is only a start. It is actually a deceptively low figure. Since 1939 $19,000,000,000 has been piled up. Quick liquid assets reach the sum of $33,000,000,000.

Even these lush earnings do not reflect all the real war profits. Some corporations are covering up profits in depreciation and depletion reserves. Most war manufacturers have virtually been given new plants by the government during the war. Most war manufacturers are buying new plants and equipment from their war profits. That's another $5,000,000,000 in addition to the $19,000,000,000 of profit already mentioned.

But there's still more. The government—with your money and mine—has built $14,000,000,000 worth of factories. The corporations have options to buy them after the war—probably for a song! But over and above even all of this, the taxes that the corporations are now paying are not a total loss. Corporations still have a claim to those taxes. Congress has kindly provided that if these corporations have losses, after the war, they can go back and get refunds from the treasury on their war taxes. If the war should end this year, the corporations would have a reserve of $26,000,000,000 to tap. They could demand refund out of this reserve for any post-war losses. Latest estimates show this post-war reserve to be somewhere between $55,000,000,000 and $70,000,000,000 depending upon how much the corporations eventually realize out of war plants the government built for them during this war. Get those figures—a post-war reserve of between $55,000,000,000 and $70,000,000,000. And profits are going up. The president, in his budget mesage, told congress that estimated net corporation profits for 1944 would be 18 per cent higher than in 1942. That will bring them around $25,000,000,000.

Story Not Told

This is the story of the fabulous profits that the corporations have built up. That is a story you do not hear a great deal about. No, the story you hear and the things you think about now are—steady employment, bigger pay envelopes, rising prices. And if you are city folks, you say—farmers are getting too much, and let it go at that. If you are in the country, you see the discrepancy between workers' pay and soldiers' pay, and you read about strikes and strike threats. These are distortions of the over-all picture.

Legislation is in the congressional hopper to cripple co-operatives, to straitjacket unions, and to ease up on corporations. But the greatest threat to America today is neither agriculture nor labor. After all, they are the people—they are you and I and 130,000,000 more like us. The greatest threat is the concentration of so much money—billions—into the hands of corporations. Today it is the Juggernaut of inflation .Tomorrow it may crush democracy.

The hope of the co-operative movement is that the people become aware and put their own house in order.

The Wagner Bill

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of five articles written by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York which appeared in the New York Post, October 25 to 29, inclusive, explaining the health insurance provisions of the social security bill (S. 1161) introduced by Senator Murray of Montana and Senator Wagner in the Senate and by Representative Dingell in the House.)

10our peacetime worries ....sh....

What are the average American breadwinner and the average American soldier thinking about chiefly these days, in connection with the post-war world?

I don't have to guess; I know they are wondering where they will stand, what sort of jobs will be open to them, what chance they will have of building something in peacetime life. They are worrying less about this or that European or Asiatic political issue than over what will be their own personal measure of post-war security.

How do I know? From my mail, from talks with acquaintances ranging from the barber and the corner grocer to the man who sells me newspapers on Eighty-sixth street when I am in New York, from encounters in trains, hotels and homes. A very recent Gallup poll confirms my opinion.

10treaties not enough . .. .

Most people agree on the absolete need for international collaboration, backed by armed force, to keep the peace; but the "man in the street," as well as the man in uniform, goes one step further. He knows that agreements and armaments alone can't bring economic security; they simply give each country the freedom to improve internal conditions.

We are pretty well agreed these days that poor economic and social conditions have been a major factor in international upheavals. You don't stop the spread of Fascist ideas by drawing a line on a map or licking one set of dictators.

That's why I am concentrating on these economic and social matters. We must get down to brass tacks. We have had too many planning groups and agencies throughout the country, and no action to speak of.

10will fight for security bill

The war effort will be helped, not hindered, by serious work now on some of the post-war security problems which weigh so heavily with our civilians and fighting men. Because I know this, I am not too concerned over the barrage of criticism raised against the bill for a broader, stronger social security system, introduced in the Senate by Senator Murry and myself and in the House of Representatives by Dingell of Michigan.

The chief provisions of the bill include:

A six per cent pay roll tax on both employers and employees, to bring social security benefits to 25,000,000 persons not now covered or protected, including returning servicemen.

A Nation-wide system of employment offices, to help civilians and returning service-men find jobs in private industry.

10health insurance included ....

Insurance against wage loss when the worker becomes ill or permanently disabled.

Increased old-age benefits.

A uniform national unemployment insurance, with increased benefits and broader coverage than under 48 different State laws.

Insurance for health and hospital care.

The entire plan for a unified social insurance system has won endorsement from a host of liberal and labor organizations and approval in every recent poll of public opinion. Introduced last June, the bill is awaiting hearings before the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees.

Curiously enough, the part of the bill about which people I meet are the most keen, is the one drawing the greatest fire in certain qaurters: its health and hospital insurance provisions.

10propaganda foes busy ....

A political propaganda committee, miscalled the National Physicians' Committee for th Extension of Medical Servic has distributed millions o pamphlets calling such insu ance political medicine, total tarian and un-American. Eve the Bar Association has been en listed in a letter-writing cam paign against it.

While many doctors and lay men are for the measure, som doctors and other groups a writing me unpleasant letter and a few friends are beginnin to say:

"Gee, Bob, aren't you goin too far this time?"

That's alyays the way. E ery deeply needed social mea ure I've advanced, starting wit workmen's compensation in Ne York back in 1913, has met th same reception.

How mistaken they were ther I was a young legislator an they kept after me all the tim They said:

"You are trying to transpla European ideas into the Unite States. If your workmens com pensation bill passes, we will a move out of New Yoork State."

10experience proved value ....N.

Some of my friends said: "Ge Bob, aren't you going too far"

Well, the bill passed, and the never moved, friends or foes. few years after that, they woul have fought repeal, because e perience showed it was a f thing.

It was the same with unem ployment insurance, railway pe sions, federal unemployment r lief, slum clearance and pub housing, the right of labor t organize and bargain collectiv ly.

I suppose I made a lot of trou ble for myself. During the labo act episode, I wished more tha once I'd stayed on the bench.

And now the opponents o medical insurance, which th people want and need, claim is "un-American." Do you su pose any of them would be in terested in the fact that Con gress in 1798 adopted a marin hospital service for America seamen which was among th first compulsory health insu ance systems in the world?

(To be continued in a futur issue of KUF.)

LETTERS . . .

I see by the papers that c clergymen of Kansas met Manhattan, Kan., to take up th problem of Farm Life. This one of The Problems in the S. A. today and it will gro more after the war is over. Then we will have a WAR fo HOMES on our own HOM FRONT.

Our government gave a lan grant to establish the Agricu tural college. I think it was 90 000 acres. Millions have bee spent there and has done son good, but it has and is takin our boys and girls away fro farm home life.

Do you know where you ca go out and see GRADUATE from the Agricultural College Manhattan developing a far home according to what wa taught them in College? I hav met a number that had a j telling farmers HOW TO FA

A few years ago I wrote t College and asked for th names of their graduates tha were farming in Pottawatom Wabaunsee, Shawnee and Jac son counties. Here is the li sent me: 1. The owner of th Healthy Chick Hatchery at S Marys and 2. Carl Miller.

"A TREE IS KNOWN B ITS FRUIT" is what would b said of a medical school tha had no doctors out among th people.

T. J. Ryan, St. Marys.

Short of Feed? Plant a Tree!

In Sweden, farmers are fee ing wood converted into pap fodder to horses and cattle as well as the sugar extracted fro the wood, which is fed to pig The edible paper costs less tha a half cent a pound. If a farm er ordinarily feeds his hors oats, hay and oil cakes, fro fifty to sixty percent of th oats must be replaced by th specially treated paper fodde For cattle, up to forty per ce of the oats ration must gi way to paper. Such a diet re duces the production of milk about 25 per cent, but seems cause little loss of energy either horses or cattle.