

## Season's First Basket Social Yields \$101.20

Parsons Local Sets High Mark as Challenge To Others

The first of the season's Basket Socials to raise money for the Budget Fund, was held at Parsons, LaBette county, on Saturday evening, Jan. 27.

A capacity crowd filled the Farmers Union hall, at least part of it due probably to the advertised door prizes. About fifty-five persons received prizes in the drawings held at various times in the evening's program.

The total value of these prizes was "conservatively" estimated by Manager Jim O'Hara of the local Farmers Union Co-op Association, the donor, at between \$85 and \$229!!! In terms of fun, the drawings, with Jim as Master of Ceremonies, were worth all of his valuation. The Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company of Parsons also contributed five silver dollars to the prizes.

### Receipts Total \$101.20

The lively bidding on the boxes and pies was stimulated by the hard-working auctioneers, Joe Volmer and Bernie O'Hara, and the total receipts of the evening were \$101.20. This goes to the state and national Farmers Union Budget Fund. Coffee for the evening was furnished by the genial host, Jim O'Hara—in pound cans!

Contests for various titles interspersed the evening's entertainment, prizes being offered for the sloppiest man, cleanest woman, etc. At 1 cent a vote, the contests were fast-moving, timed affairs, with a time limit set on both the nominating and

(Continued on Page 6)

## FU Backs Wallace, Williams

Confirmation for Commerce and RFA Posts Seen As Vital

Senate confirmation of two firm friends of the Farmers Union for high public office was being supported vigorously last week by FU members and officers as vital to the postwar economy of abundance for which the Farmers Union stands.

They were:

Henry A. Wallace, former vice president and former secretary of agriculture, for secretary of commerce; and

Aubrey Williams, president organization director for the National Farmers Union and former head of the National Youth Administration, for administrator of the REA.

But confirmation of neither was assured.

James G. Patton, FU national president, went to bat for both. From Denver he sent wires to senators urging confirmation of Williams, and had information that state presidents and other FU officials were doing likewise.

### Wallace March 1

Calling upon FU members to write or wire their senators in support of Wallace, whose confirmation now has been set for consideration on March 1, Patton said:

"Wallace's nomination brightens the prospect for the survival of genuine free enter-

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# Kansas Union Farmer

Organization

Education

Co-operation

Vol. 38

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1945

No. 3

## Kansas Extension Uses Public Payroll To Supply Farm Bureau With Workers

The Kansas Extension Service, as shown by the clippings herewith, continues merrily to flaunt the regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture which forbid Extension Service workers to organize for a private farm organization.

Belleville Telescope  
Cir. 3,545 W

JAN 25 1945

### NEW FARM BUREAU UNIT

A group of ladies met in the basement of the church Friday when Mrs. Mank demonstrated sugarless dessert recipes and a Farm Bureau unit was organized. Mrs. Eva Horak was elected president, Mrs. Leona Palecek, vice-president, and Mrs. Wilma Blecha, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Lucille Janasek and Mrs. Maude Dooley are program leaders.

The group will meet again on January 26, and the lesson will be "Principles of Furniture Arrangement."

This is the fourth new Farm Bureau unit to be organized for 1945, and brings the total number of units in the county up to nine.

Scranton Gazette Record  
Cir. 90 W

JAN 18 1945

### NEWLY ORGANIZED FARM BUREAU UNIT

Mrs. Mabel Bodine was hostess to a group of ladies Tuesday afternoon, January 16, who met to organize a Farm Bureau Unit. Those assisting in organizing the club were County Agent William Wade, Mrs. Davenport and Mrs. Farnsworth of Lyndon.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. Mabel Bodine, president; Mrs. Ann Whelan,

The clipping to the right shows another violation of a sound rule—the rule forbidding extension employees to conduct business for farm organizations. Here the county agent has helped get proteins for Farm Extension members, although he should give his services equally to all farmers, regardless of membership in a farm organization.

Kansas Union Farmer has consistently exposed misconduct of the Extension Service in this state for more than six months, yet as late as two weeks ago it was proceeding merrily on!

Another business activity which the publicly-paid Extension workers have conducted for Farm Bureau is its insurance program.

Although drawing their pay from county, state and federal agencies, county agents have supervised and assisted in the FB insurance sales program, as was revealed by news reports on a district meeting of agents to discuss the subject. While Dean Umberger has denied that the state paid the agents' expenses to the meeting, there has been no denial that they were on tax-paid time, both at the meeting and in their private insurance work back home.

Protection Post  
Cir. 650 W

JAN 26 1945

### JOHN McMORAN ELECTED PRES. OF CO. FARM BUREAU

Last Thursday, those present at the annual meeting of the Comanche Co. Farm Bureau elected John McMoran to serve as president during 1945. Mr. McMoran succeeds George W. Deewall. County Agent Pat Murphy, told about the assistance given in securing needed protein. During the past year over 35 car loads of cotton seed or soy bean products were secured through the county protein committee which worked through the county agent's office. Several other car loads of protein were secured through the

## MVA Gets Endorsement of Missouri Farmers' Association; 'One Big River Needs One Big Plan,' Declares Heinkel

The Legislative Committee of the Missouri Farmers' Association, largest Missouri farm group, has aligned that organization behind a Missouri Valley Authority patterned after TVA.

In a page-one editorial in the Missouri Farmer for Jan. 15, MFA President F. V. Heinkel calls for an MVA comparable in pattern and competence to the TVA. His editorial is entitled "One Big River Needs One Big Plan."

A part of it follows:

"During past months, the State Legislative Committee of the Missouri Farmers Association has studied the flood problem quite thoroughly, and we have come to certain conclusions. They include these:

"1. Floods are caused by uncontrolled runoff. 2. The place to start dealing with floods, therefore, is on the uplands in the entire Missouri River basin, where the runoff begins. 3. It is too late to control floods AFTER the surplus waters have swept down into the valleys . . . to deal with them then by mechanical means (such as gigantic levees and the 36 high dams planned for Missouri) is to deal with effects rather than the cause. 4. Water is a valuable natural resource which, on its journey from the hilltop where it falls to its destination in the Gulf of Mexico, should be utilized by all the people, and should not

simply be allowed to waste away, carrying with it the fertile soil that constitutes the State's and Nation's foundation. 5. Rivers, like all natural things, know no boundary lines, cannot be dealt with by states or other subdivisions of government—hence, flood control in the Missouri River basin is a responsibility of the Federal Government.

### New Law a "Patchwork"

"Your Legislative Committee believes that the newly enacted flood control bill is inadequate, does not meet the needs of the Missouri River Valley. We believe it is a patchwork compromise between those people interested in irrigation and river transportation, and a "shot-gun" compromise between the Reclamation Bureau, which is to deal with irrigation high upstream, and the army engineers, who will construct the high dams and huge levees lower down stream.

"What little soil conservation that will be done under the law (as a seeming afterthought) will be done by the Department of Agriculture. Three different governmental agencies will be attacking the big problem in a piecemeal fashion, with the one hand scarcely knowing—or caring—what the other hand is doing. Can we expect good results from such a hodge-podge of authorities?

"In view of the inadequacies of the new law, and after considering all of these things—and more, your Legislative Com-

(Continued on Page 7)

## 'Opposition' To MVA Has Phoney Ring

Kansas Board of Agriculture Doesn't Speak For Farmers

By E. K. DEAN, President, Kansas Farmers Union

Our Kansas Farmers Union vigorously supports the establishment of a Missouri Valley Authority, patterned after the TVA, to deal with the closely related problems of flood control, irrigation, generation of electric power and development of natural resources here in the great Missouri basin.

Our neighbors in Missouri appear to feel likewise.

The Missouri Farmers' Association, leading organization of working farm families in that state, has just given an MVA its full endorsement.

On this page you'll find the story of the Missouri farmers' action, with quotations from an editorial by F. V. Heinkel, the association's president, explaining why the Missouri farmers back an MVA. They, like us, think that "One Big River Needs One Big Plan."

### Contrast

It seems curious, in the light of this bona fide farm support of an MVA, to read in Kansas Business Magazine that "the farmers of Kansas, speaking through their Kansas State Board of Agriculture . . ." are opposed to an MVA.

This apparent contradiction arises, I suggest, from the fact that the state board of agriculture does not truly represent and does not speak for the farmers of Kansas.

The policies of the state board of agriculture are made by the delegates to its annual meeting. Each county fair association is entitled to a delegate. These men may be lawyers, bankers or whomever the fair association elects to send.

They need not be farmers or even sympathetic with farmers' aims. I have talked to some of them, in fact, who are bitterly opposed to our co-operative movement, the soundest thing yet for the benefit of farmers.

Farm organizations are entitled to one delegate from each county in which they have 250 members. This means that the Farm Bureau, which is built and maintained by the tax-supported Extension Service, can send a dele-

(Continued on Page 6)

## Plan FUJA Picture-Story Next Issue

A good year just completed and prospects for another good one ahead were reported at the 1945 annual meeting of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association in Kansas City.

The meeting was held at the Continental Hotel on Feb. 5, after federal transportation authorities gave permission to go ahead.

Kansas FU President E. K. Dean turned cameraman during the event, and the next issue of Kansas Union Farmer will carry a picture-story of the FUJA meeting.



# Overbrook Co-op Grew From Buying of FU Locals

## Its 25-Year Record Called Outstanding

The Farmers Union Co-operative Association at Overbrook, one of the outstanding local co-ops in Kansas, held its annual stockholders meeting Feb. 3. The report to the stockholders on the year's business was again one of outstanding success and continued growth.

This organization, like many hundreds thruout Kansas, is the outgrowth of the farmers' co-operative purchasing of supplies thru their Farmers Union locals.

For some time prior to the organization of their Farmers Union Co-operative Association, farmers in the vicinity of Overbrook purchased such supplies as earloads of salt, apples, binding twine and feed thru the business agents in their Farmers Union Locals. After learning in this manner the benefits to be derived thru co-operative efforts, they formed their business organization in 1919 and began doing business on April 1 of that year.

Their competitors may have thought this co-operative venture was an April Fool's Joke, but its tremendous success and the volume of business it has handled in the past 26 years have proven definitely that Overbrook farmers were not joking.

### Hupp Took Over

John J. Cooper, who took an active part in the organization of the association, became the first manager. He served in that capacity for nine months, with Tom Hupp serving as his assistant. On Jan. 1, 1920, Tom Hupp took over the official duties as manager of the organization. With the loyal support of its members and the good business management of Mr. Hupp and the board of directors the organization steered a course of outstanding success.

It has paid interest on its stock every year from 6 to 8 per cent. Annual patronage savings on business done with the association have ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000. The average savings per year for the past 25 years would run well over \$5,000.

The business year just closed showed net savings to patrons of approximately \$9,000.

The Board of Directors this

year declared a 2½ per cent refund on business done with the association on both purchases and sales. This amounts to approximately 3 cents per bushel on wheat. The percentage of patronage paid down thru the 25 years of operation has ranged from 2½ to 5 per cent.

### Pleased at Growth

Mr. Hupp, who served as manager until just recently, was present for this year's annual meeting. He expressed his deep appreciation for having had the opportunity to work for the association for so many years. He also expressed great satisfaction in the showing the association was able to make this year.

Mr. Hupp resigned because he thought he had reached the age that he wanted to retire. After being idle for a short time, however, he determined it was not in his make-up to have nothing to do, and he has gone to work as custodian of one of the buildings at the Winter General Hospital in Topeka. Much of the success of the association can be attributed to the good business judgment and genial manner of this man.

The present manager, Mr. Frank Dillworth, farmed for many years in the vicinity of Overbrook before he was employed recently by the association. He was an active supporter of the organization and has served his township four terms as township trustee.

It will, of course, take time for Mr. Dillworth to become thoroughly acquainted with the business of the organization, but the board of directors expressed confidence in his ability to continue its successful operation.

### Locals Helped

Much of the success of this co-operative can be attributed to the active part Farmers Union local and county officers have taken in its support. There are three locals in the vicinity of Overbrook: namely, Cargy, of which Chet Bryson is secretary; Plum Creek, of which Floyd Butel is secretary; and Valley Brook, of which W. J. Tregemba is secretary. Mr. Butel also is a member of the board of directors of the business association and is now secretary of the County Union.

At the annual meeting of the co-operative the secretaries of all three Locals were on hand to get the reports of the business activity to take to their Farmers Union locals.

The Overbrook association is one of the organizations that has maintained its original practice of requiring that its patrons hold Farmers Union membership in order to be eligible to receive patronage refunds.

This Overbrook organization easily could be termed as one of the very big small organizations in the state. It definitely is big from the standpoint of savings to members, and yet it does not have a lot of employees, nor an extremely heavy investment in facilities.

The regular help of the association is the manager, a bookkeeper and an elevator man.

### Reserves \$22,000

The association has issued capital stock outstanding in the amount of \$18,500, almost all of which was sold at the beginning of the organization. During the 26 years of operation the organization has set up a reserve or surplus behind this issued capital stock in the amount of over \$22,000, in addition to paying cash patronage refunds averaging approximately \$5,000 a year since the beginning.

Clyde Coffman, now a member of the board of directors and who also represents the Kansas Committee of Farm Organizations as legislative representative in Topeka, served as chairman of the original organization meeting. John J. Cooper served as secretary. The board of directors elected at the first meeting included: G. C. Clark, W. H. Madden, E. B. Ingle, A. L. Cooper, Ezra Fishburn, John J. Cooper, S. A. McCracken, John Atchison and C. M. Albright.

The organization did a total volume of business the first nine months of operation of \$640,000. This was during the time, 1919, that dollar value on commodities was higher than it has been for many years since; the volume of grain business handled has run about the same, or larger, down thru the entire period of operations. The organization has no outstanding liabilities other than those to the stockholders on issued capital stock and reserves.

### Pays Income Tax

Contrary to the story that co-operatives do not pay income tax, this organization each year has paid income tax on that portion of its savings that it could count as income, this being the savings on non-member business. This past year the association paid income tax in the amount of \$1,428.75.

To build up its reserve, the organization has followed a practice of setting aside to the reserve funds 10 per cent of its savings each year. The present board of directors of the association is as follows (and the members have served approximately the number of years set opposite their names):

Floyd Butel, 10; John Cooper, 25; Blair Cooper, 20; Clyde Coffman, 20; William Hollis, 6; Jim Bryson, 4; Frank Hartman, 4.

The Overbrook organization has always taken an active part in the statewide activities of the Farmers Union, being a strong supporter of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, and a great many of its members have loyally supported the Farmers Union

livestock houses. Its audit is made by the Farmers Union Auditing Association and the Farmers Union Locals in the vicinity of Overbrook have actively participated in the activities of the State Farmers Union.

### Can Be Proud

Members of the Farmers Union thruout Kansas can well be proud of this organization as one of the institutions the Kansas Farmers Union helped to organize. It is a splendid example of the benefits to be derived from a combined program of co-operation, education and legislation.

We at the state office join with the thousands of Farmers Union farm families thruout Kansas in congratulating the members of the Overbrook organization on their splendid success, and we wish them continued success in the operation of their business association.

## DEALERS WANTED

Dealerships now open for Big Boy Vitamized Chicks, poultry equipment and farm merchandise. Exclusive franchise for sales and service. A better deal for anyone now calling on farmers and poultry raisers as well as produce dealers, feed and hardware stores. Full or part time basis. Better dealer discounts. Old, reliable nationally advertised firm. Write at once for details of the most comprehensive sales plan in the baby chick field today. Illinois State Hatcheries, Springfield, Illinois. —Adv.

## Buying Insurance?

### Why Not Give Your KFU a Boost When You Do?

The Kansas Farmers Union Central Co-operative, through agency arrangements, can write these types of insurance:

**Automobile**

**Farm Property**

**Workmen's Compensation**

**Employee's**

**General Liability**

The insurance is carried in highly reliable companies which make reasonable premium charges.

Under Kansas law, an insurance agent is forbidden to return any commission to purchasers. But by purchasing through your KFU Co-operative, the commissions on your insurance business would go into your Farmers Union treasury and the building of your Farmers Union movement.

### WHY GIVE THE COMMISSIONS TO OTHERS?

If you need any of the types of policies listed above, or will need a renewal of such a policy soon, write us about your needs.

If you want to renew your insurance next time through the KFU agency, you can send us your old policy, registered mail, and we will either write a renewal to go into force on the expiration date of the old policy or advise you of the coverage and rates we can make, whichever you request. Address us at 218 Journal Bldg., Salina, Kan.

Let KFU have your business.

Build a stronger KFU!

## WE HAVE EXCLUSIVE SALE OF SEED FOR HERCULES POP CORN

This corn is of the South American dynamite variety. It has been bred-up in the Kaw Valley and adapted to Kansas soil and weather conditions.

Pop corn is turning out to be an outstanding money-making crop in Kansas. The market for pop corn is continually expanding.

We have a limited amount of seed for this year. So if you are wanting to buy pop corn seed of a proven variety, both for popping qualities and outstanding production, SEND YOUR ORDERS IN NOW TO

**Farmers Union Central Co-op Exch.**

Box 296

SALINA 4

KANSAS



# FU Members Urged to Support Proposed School Laws

## Changes Are Seen as Badly Needed

The School Committee at the State Board meeting in Kansas City announced approval of the present proposed legislation for school reorganization. The Committee feels that this is the soundest program ever presented for the improvement of Kansas schools, and that it merits the support of every Farmers Union member.

This position was reached after considerable study by Mrs. Hammett, Mr. Henry and Mrs. Voorhies. The three members have conferred with folks of town and farm, with Legislators who are responsible for the school program, with teachers, superintendents and members of the State Department of Education staff, and with people who have for years been studying and preparing statistical data on Kansas schools.

All conditions studied point to an urgent need for reorganization from the small country schoolhouse that grandfather helped build to the State Superintendent's Office that has changed little since 1861. Farmers Union members are urged to support the school program, or at least not to criticize severely without thorough study.

### Plans Studied

Locals and County Unions, it is good to learn, have been giving consideration to the legislative proposals. The following are quotations from some of the letters received:

Lamoreaux Local, Stafford county: "Our Local met and discussed the new ideas in reference to changing of school laws and all present were very much agreed on them, with just one exception, and that was 'that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction be appointed rather than elected'. On this we were divided half and half."

Elbow Local, Manhattan: "We asked our teacher, Mrs. Babb, to present the subject to our Local as she is an excellent leader to bring out discussion. She had her pupils draw pictures on the blackboard illustrating some of the main points, and during her presentation had them explain and discuss the issues."

From the discussion it seems to be the consensus of opinion that no harm could be done in going all out to ask the Leg-

islature to submit to the people's voting an amendment for the reorganization of the State Department of Education. All were emphatically agreed that the part of the bill requiring higher qualifications for the State Superintendent should be passed.

"Most were agreed that all property should bear its share of school taxes, but of course those living outside of a district are reluctant to vote more taxes onto themselves."

"The \$25 per child idea was discussed somewhat and most seemed to think that the help to a small school would not be enough to be justifiable. But on the other hand, when one considers the number of first and second class city schools that are now exceeding their limit it might be well to use this as aid until something else could be done."

### More Changes

Sherwood, Clay county: "We read and discussed the information you sent us concerning the suggested changes in school laws. We are satisfied with the laws just as they are and do not like the suggested changes. We especially desire that the office of state superintendent remain an elective one, as we believe that an appointive office would make it more political."

Cowley county: "After consid-

erable discussion the members present at the Cowley County Farmers Union meeting, Jan. 23, were of the opinion that the proposed changes in the school laws were undesirable in as much as they had a tendency to centralize control. We feel that this centralization of control, if continued, will have a tendency to destroy our democratic way of life."

"We realize that changing conditions are making it necessary that school laws must be changed; however, we ask that control of our local schools be kept in the hands of district directors."

The Beaver, Cowley county, Local writes: "The Beaver F. U. Local studied and discussed the school legislation and decided that some consolidation of schools is needed, but we are opposed to appointing anyone on county reorganization committees. Our county commissioners can't get along with what they have to do. We want every one elected by the people."

### Ex-Teacher Writes

Ellsworth Education Director, a former school teacher now an employee in F. U. Elevator, writes: "One item is completely lacking in the school bulletin. I think the rural school term should be extended to nine months. I cannot see why city children should have the advantage of one month of school

over rural children. They need the education as well."

"If I were talking with someone who was opposed to nine months they might say that the children are needed to help with spring work in May. Then I would answer, 'How about high school? They have nine months school and many older farm boys who really could be of help go there. Why not the younger boys and girls?' It would be an advantage to the teacher, too, as she would have one more month's salary."

(Editor's note: The average salary for the one-room teacher is \$840 a year, with 20 per cent of them being paid less than \$600. Over half of all teachers in Kansas are paid less than \$1,200.)

"Why don't they make some higher standards for rural school teachers along with those for superintendents? Here, again, I believe rural children are being deprived of educational advantages by a lack of trained or experienced teachers. I think a minimum of two years of college should be required."

### Fears Ungrounded

Some of the letters indicate a fear that redistricting and changes in taxation will bring about centralization of school control in the state. The committee feels that these fears are unjustified. There are no proposals being made for change in the administrative control of schools through district school boards. In fact redistricting is needed to increase and strengthen democracy. At the present time with 2,200 schools in Kansas closed there are many parents sending children to school in districts where they have no voice.

Some districts are going to fight the 2-mill county and dis-

trict levies because in certain areas land valuations are high and the 2 mills is above what the district now levies.

To fight the proposed law because of that is selfish. Those who fight the law on that basis smugly ignore the many districts that are forced to go the limit of 7 1/2 mills to raise a very minimum and inadequate budget for school support, and by such a stand they also uphold a law that lets much property get by without any taxation for schools whatsoever.

Summarizing, you are urged to write your state Senators and Representatives in Topeka and ask their support for Kansas school laws providing for the following:

1. County committees to map out the reorganization of elementary school districts.
2. A 2-mill county levy and a 2-mill district levy for elementary school support.
3. A county levy of not less than 1/4 mill or more than 4 1/2 mills on all taxable property in the county for high schools.
4. High qualifications for the state superintendent.
5. A resolution in the State Legislature to give the voters a chance to determine in the next election if the state superintendent shall be an elective or an appointive officer.
6. A State Board of Education of half lay members and half school professional members.
7. Higher qualifications and a 20-per cent increase in salaries of county superintendents.
8. The use of more indirect taxes and sales taxes for school purposes.

## 'Shrinking Economy' Needless, Dean Tells Dennis Local

The Dennis Co-operative Association held its annual stockholders meeting on Jan. 24 at the High School Auditorium in Dennis. A good attendance was out to hear Manager E. H. Illiam report a successful year's operations.

The financial position of the company showed a real improvement over the preceding year's report. Patronage of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association of Kansas City, in the marketing of grain, has earned the Dennis association substantial credits during the past year. Accounts receivable were low and current. Substantial reserves and surplus are being set up. Manager Illiam was commended for the business-like way he is conducting the affairs of the association. His explanation of the financial statement to the stockholders was thorough and clear.

### Dean Speaks

President E. K. Dean of the Kansas Farmers Union, invited speaker of the evening, brought to the audience the issue of whether after the war we shall have scarcity and a shrinking economy, with its loss of buying power of the farmers' best customer, labor, or whether we shall use our capacity to produce abundantly for the benefit of all of the people.

On state issues, he pointed out that Kansas farmers are likely to be left with mud roads, farm to market, after the \$267 million road program is completed, if they don't see that the program is spread over more than the proposed 14 per cent of the state's highways.

Mr. Dean also described the

hybrid seed corn program the Farmers Union is developing. This aroused much interest, and many questions followed.

George Reinhart, state secretary; Paul Erickson, state organizer, and Jim O'Hara, manager of the Parsons Co-operative Elevator, were visitors. Each spoke briefly.

Coffee and doughnuts were served by the ladies and a social period followed.

### Meets at Elevator

The South Mound Local met on the evening of Jan. 25, with the same four men present as guests.

Mr. Dean again discussed the opportunities ahead for farmers and all people if we will develop the economy of abundance that is possible for all.

He deplored the tendency of some to think that a period of depression and hard times is necessary and inevitable after the war, and asked that we think and work in terms of producing and distributing plenty for all. This can be done, he said, through co-operatives and by giving small business and farmers a fair opportunity, and not allowing monopolies and cartels to control the nation's wealth and production.

George Reinhart and Paul Erickson discussed membership building and the necessity of making the Farmers Union an organization with sufficient power properly to represent the family-type farmers of America.

Jim O'Hara announced the basket social to be held in Parsons that week. F. J. Gouvion presided. F. A. Johnston is manager of the local association.

## Co-operative Auditors

KANSAS FARMERS UNION CO-OPERATIVE  
AUDITING ASSOCIATION

Write for Rates

WE WRITE ALL KINDS OF BONDS

SALINA, KANSAS

PHONE 570

"I've been hearing a lot about farm telephones lately"



IT'S a live subject with telephone people. They're doing a lot of research and planning right now.

### What does the telephone company have in mind?

Two main points. One is to improve the service over existing lines. The other is to extend telephone service to families not reached by existing lines.

### What are some of the new ideas for farm telephone service?

One that has a lot of promise is to send telephone conversations over electric power lines. Another is a new,

stronger telephone wire that requires fewer poles and has greater resistance to storms. A third is a radiotelephone system to reach people in remote spots.

### Is telephone service over power lines now practical?

Yes. Bell telephone scientists began working on it in 1938 and started field tests with the REA in 1940. Before the war interrupted, it was clear that a suitable system could be produced.

The postwar farm telephone job will be big. But the combination of telephone research and the know-how of practical telephone men is the best key to progress.



SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

## The Kansas Union Farmer

50 Cents Per Year

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E. K. Dean, Salina, Kans., Editor

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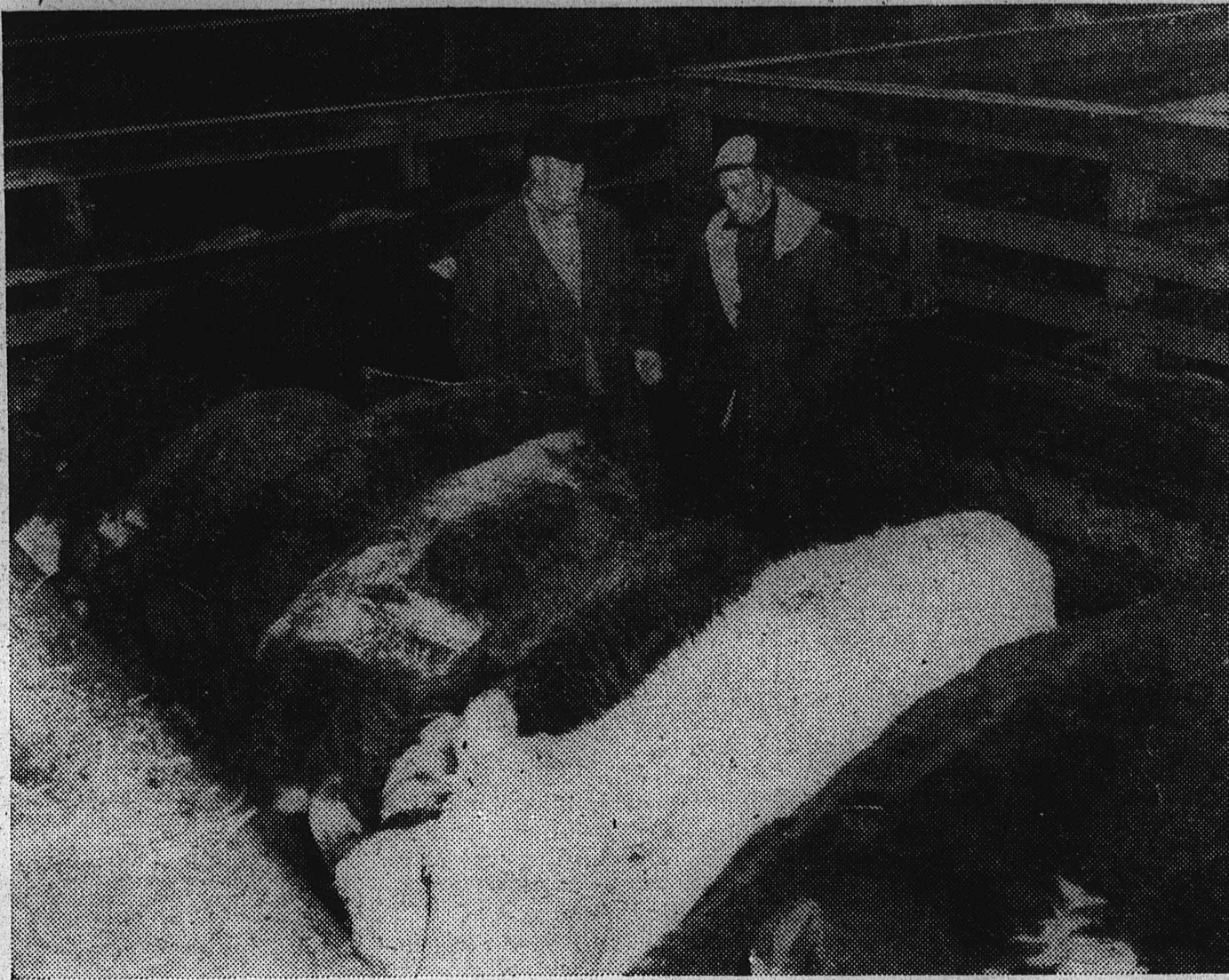
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## Farmers Union Livestock House at St. Jo., Serving Thousands



The chips are down. The buyer, who wants 'em low, dickers with the salesman, who wants to get farmer-shipper the top dollar for his cattle. Here Walter Kenney, butcher salesman for Farmers Union, prices steers to M. K. Jeffries, right, Armour buyer.

### Co-op Business Supports FU Movement; Steele, Serving 22 Years, Has the Answers

"This organization," said Paul Steele, manager of the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company of St. Joseph, "pays patronage returns to its members, thereby contributing to and supporting the farmers' co-operative movement."

Thus this important business institution reveals itself as a part, a unit, of a larger whole.

The farmers created the Farmers Union as a means of bettering themselves. They made the triangle its symbol—Education, Legislation, Co-operation, those were the three forces by which they could move forward.

The Farmers Union organized co-operative livestock commission companies as one means of serving their ends. And the co-operatives from their earnings help to support the other sides of the triangle by paying a substantial amount each year to the educational funds of the member organizations.

Through private businesses, the organizations and agencies that

speak for Big Business are able to raise millions of dollars to perpetuate their point of view.

Through its co-operative businesses, likewise, the organization that speaks for the millions of plain, family-type farmers and common people—the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union of America—can and must obtain a part of the funds necessary to present the people's point of view.

#### Just People

"The Farmers Union," said Glenn Talbot, president of the North Dakota FU in an address to the 1944 National Convention, "is people—just people, just men and women and children."

The co-operatives, he pointed out, are one of the important instruments they have created to help themselves. The co-operatives are a means, not an end in themselves, but a means to a greater end: the cultivation and development of the farm people.

This St. Joseph co-operative, a successful business supporting

the farmer movement, illustrates how it works.

#### Meet the Manager

The manager of the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company at St. Joseph, Paul Steele, went to work there on March 3, 1923, nearly 22 years ago.

He has served as accountant, clerk, bookkeeper, cashier and finally manager, growing up with the business.

His office is open to farmers who come to the market, and on many a day you'll find him out in the yards, meeting the company's customers and seeing to it that they get every possible service.

An odd fact about the company is that some of its best shippers are speculator buyers in the country.

"They must make a profit at the prices we get for them," Steele said, "otherwise they couldn't continue to buy and ship. The odd thing is that if the spec-

(Continued on Page 6)



Sheepmen serving farmers at the St. Joseph Farmers Union house here look over a pen of westerns—Art Cronin, left, and Don Bland, who has been with FU since 1928.

### FU Firm Means Farmers

A service institution of more than a quarter-century's experience is the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company of St. Joseph.

Drive into the yards there and you can't miss it. Its offices are in a building right on the main thoroughfare and adjoining the cattle pens—the best location on the market.

Go out to the pens—cattle, hogs or sheep—in the morning and you'll see a staff of seasoned, experienced salesmen on the job for the Farmers Union Shippers. Go into the office and you'll find courteous, competent people handling the paper work.

Meet Paul Steele, the manager, and you'll be talking to a man who for 22 years has worked there in St. Joseph in that office, growing up with the business, serving Farmers Union livestock shippers.

#### Farmers' Agent

Some things worth remembering about this company can be listed:

It is owned by the farmers themselves—Farmers Union members who have built it up and now support it with their patronage.

It gives the farmers a representative of their own—their own spokesman, their own employees—on the livestock market.

It performs not one, but three, important business serv-

ices for farmers: selling livestock, financing livestock and supplying serum.

And it has paid back to farmers in 27 years of operation more than a million and a half dollars in patronage refunds from savings on the livestock commission business alone.

Ownership of this important business lies with farmers in five states, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, who are members of the Colorado Farmers Union, Iowa Farmers Union, Kansas Farmers Union, Missouri Farmers Association, Missouri Farm Bureau and Missouri Farmers Union; and the Nebraska Farmers Union.

The latter, the Nebraska Farmers Union, organized the company in August, 1917. In 1924 the firm was made a regional co-operative serving the several states.

#### Serves Five States

Its present board of directors is made up of two men from the Nebraska Farmers Union, two from the Missouri Farmers Association and one each from the Kansas Farmers Union, Missouri Farmers Union, Iowa Farmers Union and Missouri Farm Bureau.

This livestock marketing house, as others, grew out of the movement of farmers through the Farmers Union to help themselves by means of co-operatives.

Its patrons, directors and employees over the years have been guided by, and devoted to, the



Emil L. Jeschke, young farmer from Troy, Kan., calls at FU office for check on 15 fat steers he marketed. Like his father for many years, Jeschke is a regular shipper to the Farmers Union.



Katherine Jackson, using comptometer, helps get out returns on livestock shipments between answering telephone calls at the FU office. Shippers get courteous, efficient service.



## ds in Five States, Has Saved Farmers 1½ Million Dollars



FU hog staff drive—John Derks, left, Roy Rullman and Ernest—drive pen of porkers to the scales. Hogs were owned by J. Meek of Rea, Mo., and brought \$14.50.

### Represented at Market

of strengthening the position and improving the welfare of the farm people. The sums it has been able to its patrons in the marketing

of their livestock make impressive reading. Back in 1919, the first year, \$12,724.57—30 per cent of the total commissions the farmers had paid were saved.

The refund built up steadily to a peak of \$138,661.96 in 1923. Then, for two reasons, there were some years when the total savings the company was able to make for its patrons were not so large.

#### 'Direct Buying'

One reason was the well-known drouth and depression of the 1930's.

The other—a significant story in itself—was the rise of truck shipping and the "direct marketing" of livestock, particularly hogs.

Closely following the organization of the Farmers Union livestock commission houses came formation of the local Farmers Union shipping associations. These largely took the place of the old-time country buyers. They provided a means whereby farmers with less than carload lots could pool their shipments and get the benefits of the central market.

These shipments came to the Farmers Union. There was a time, said Paul Steele, when the Farmers Union house received 50 per cent of all the hogs coming to the St. Joseph market.

The Farmers Union was then indeed a power to be reckoned with.

But surfaced highways came

(Continued on Page 8)



Located right on the main drive, adjoining the cattle pens, the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company has the best location at the St. Joseph Yards. More than 1½ million dollars in patronage returns have been paid to farmers out of this office.

### Livestock Financing and Serum Sales at St. Joseph Yield Farmers Extra Savings

Early in the history of the Farmers Union Livestock Commission it became apparent that the farmers could help themselves also by going into the financing of feeding operations. In 1924 the Farmers Union Credit Association of St. Joseph was formed.

Its principal activity is to help farmers finance cattle and sheep feeding ventures, and it now discounts its paper with the Intermediate Credit Bank of Kansas City, the money-supplying unit of the Farm Credit Administration.

From the time it set up shop in December, 1924, to the end of 1944, said Paul Steele, manager, the Credit Association lent farmers a total of \$5,547,221.26.

#### Losses Negligible

And on all that total its losses less recoveries—that is, what it really lost—totalled

\$17,645.31. Figure that out as a percentage and you'll get something pretty small.

The heaviest lending activity of this association, it also should be noted, was in the depression years when the banks were refusing to take farmers' cattle paper at all.

The FU Credit Association, created not to make profit but to serve the farmers, went along with its customers whenever it could—with the very modest losses noted above.

#### New Line: Serum

Not to miss a bet, the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company five years ago took on livestock serum as another means of savings and service to its patrons.

There's a big white refrigerator in the St. Joseph office where the fresh stocks for sale are kept. The FU's source of supply is Anchor Serum of St.

Joseph, which claims to have the most modern plant in the world.

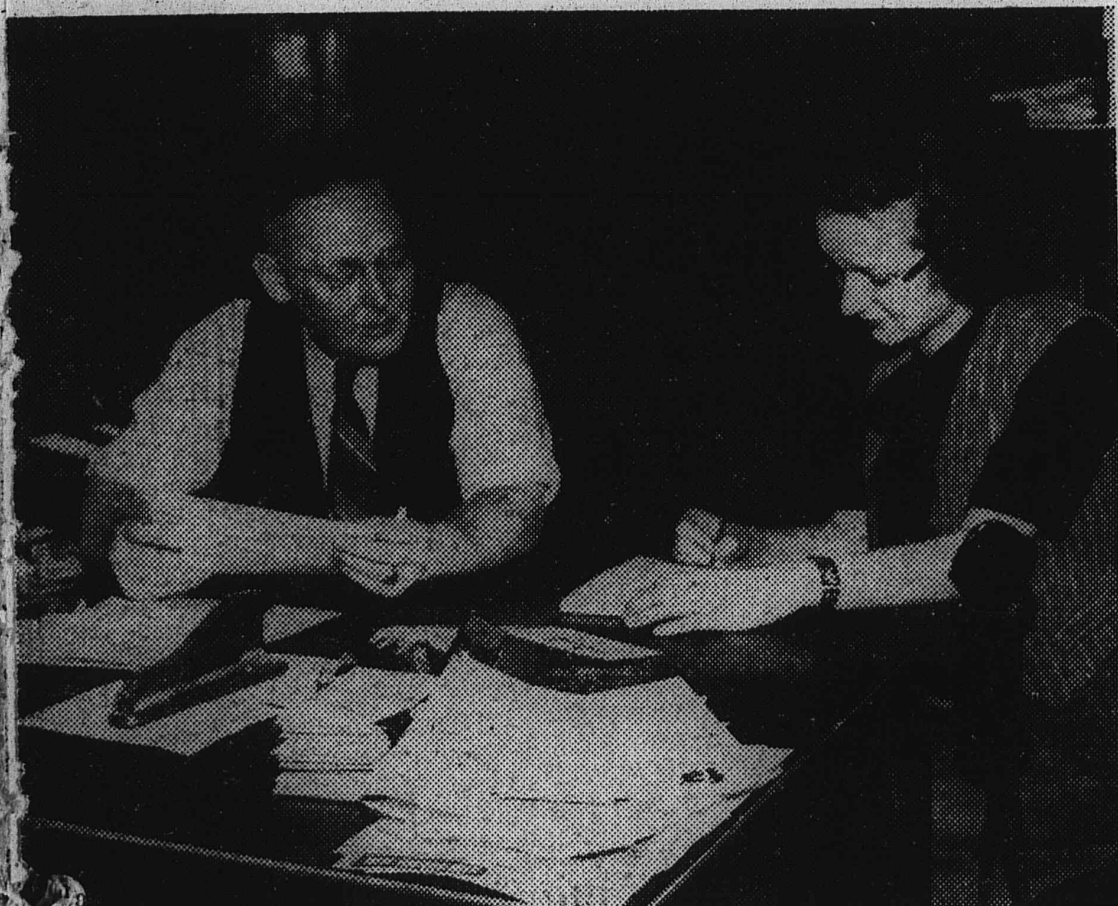
Sales the first year, 1940, totalled \$4,110.40, and the company had a saving of \$126.47 to return to the eligible patrons.

#### Earnings Climbed

The business climbed right up: in 1941 there was \$2,533.23 to return; in '42, \$3,636.93; and in '43, \$4,449.50. At the end of 1944's business there was expected to be a saving of more than \$11,000.

The largest percentage savings thus far made was in 1944, said Paul Steele, Farmers Union manager—25.7 per cent. Savings the first two years were 15 per cent, and in 1942 and '43, 20 per cent.

This new business is one that Steele expects will continue to grow, especially if postwar conditions of employment and prices are such that farmers can continue at a high level of livestock production.



Paul Steele, genial, long-experienced manager, dictates correspondence to Mary Smith in his office at FU commission house. Serving there since 1923, he pretty much knows the answers.



Mrs. Louise Arnold and Paul Daly, cashier, check figures on an account of sale. Known personally to many an FU farmer-shipper, she's been with the company 16 years; he, 20.





## AROUND THE TRIANGLE

By Esther E. Voorhies  
KFU Education Director

### ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Oh, birds and darts and sugar hearts  
Are very gay and fine,  
But often just a faithful word  
Will make a valentine.

—Anon.

### ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS

New school laws are still the talk of the day, and the more we study the plight of Kansas schools the more convinced we are that this is the year to make changes.

The inequality of taxation is one of the most astonishing conditions. Many districts, because of low land valuations, must go the limit of a six-mill levy to maintain what we know as a low standard of elementary education, while some wealthier districts levy only a fraction of a mill and have very fine schools.

To illustrate how little some rural schools have, a six-mill levy in numerous cases will raise only \$930 or even less, while studies show that \$1,500 a year is needed for an effective school program. Going further with figures, only 530 of the 7,244 districts in the state have valuations that make possible the \$1,500.

### NEED NOT ONLY RURAL

In towns and cities, 14 mills is the maximum that the tax law provides for the support of the graded and high schools, but the 14 mills is not doing the job: 127 first, second and third class cities have been forced to exceed the 14-mill limit, either by permission of the state tax commission, by special legislation, or by a vote at the annual district meeting.

And this year 74 school districts already have applied for permission to issue emergency warrants paying current expenses with interest-bearing obligations. These figures show that school tax equalization and revision surely is needed.

### STATE FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS.

While the budget of the state government has increased 124 per cent, and the counties have increased 100 per cent, the school budgets in the same period of years, 1923-1943, have decreased 3 per cent. And for fuller meaning to the decrease, the average schooling has increased from 8.8 years to 12.1 years.

A partial answer to this situation is to have more of the sales taxes and indirect taxes earmarked for school purposes. Schools get very little of that money now. A bill has been introduced into the legislature that proposes an emergency state aid fund that if passed would give elementary schools \$25 per child and high schools \$30 per child. This would be to alleviate the immediate need.

Kansas ranks very low in state aid given schools. The average over the nation is 33 1/3 per cent. The high is in Delaware with 92 per cent, and the low is in Oregon with 1.7 per cent. Kansas gives 8.6 per cent state aid, which puts her eighth from the bottom of the list.

### AT THE STATE LEVEL

The Kansas State Department of Education hasn't yet caught up with the 20th Century.

We ask no requirements for a state superintendent, not even that he be able to read and write. We do not question him regarding teaching certificates or practical experience in schools, but we put him at the head of 9,000 school units and over 300,000 children.

Without even minimum qualifications, to get a worthy superintendent is largely a matter of chance. A good politician, with no other credit to his name, can swing the deal, for the average voter has no acquaintanceship with the candidate.

As a further inducement for a good superintendent, we provide a salary which ranks LAST with one other state among the 48, and we give him a department budget that ranks 43rd in the country!

A Kansas farmer doesn't expect to cultivate his land with an ox team. He would laugh if you suggested such a thing, for it would be suicide to his career as a farmer. How about us applying some of that same brand of thinking to our State Department of Education. Let's urge our legislators to enact laws that would raise the qualifications of a superintendent, and increase his salary and the Education Department's budget.

### THIS IS BUDGET MONTH

Yes, February 15 to March 15 is the month for Farmers Union Budget Fund programs. Don't forget to budget for the Budget Fund.

# THE JUNIOR PAGE

ESTHER EKBLAD VOORHIES, DIRECTOR, Salina, Kansas

PAGE SIX

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1944

## Along With Revision of System, What Public Schools Teach Also Needs Thought

By MRS. RUBY HENNINGSSEN

While we are contemplating revision of our present public school set-up, let's briefly review the curriculum.

How many young people have realized several years after graduation from high school that the school didn't give them just what they wanted or needed? How many have discovered that the school could have, but didn't, enable them to meet people easily and converse with them intelligently? How many have suddenly concluded that they have accumulated a few medals or certificates of merit for excellence in English grammar or spelling, but have not learned a trade or skill on which they can rely in earning a living?

There are three essentials which young people will expect to have in later life, and which the schools do not go into deeply enough.

### Earn a Living

First, what we call a "living"—our physical needs, our "daily bread." Vocational training in schools has a good start, no doubt, but it should be given more significance. For years, there has been but little manual training in any number of the smaller high schools, not enough to be called job training. And for years the only actual vocational instruction given in these schools has been normal training for teaching, and that quite inadequate.

In the last 10 years probably

the major addition to this has been a few typewriters and a limited amount of business training. War necessity has proved that it is quite possible to turn out well-trained young men and women in a few months, and it would seem beneficial for the high schools to adopt some of the methods used.

It is true that the problem of educating young people for jobs in schools is not so acute at present, since military units and industry have taken on much of the responsibility. But after the war the problem may come back

to us, and the schools may be in the same rut as before.

### Learn to Live

Then, while we are learning how to make money, let's learn how to use it. Not once in school, not even in elementary economics, have I ever heard mention of the need for learning how to spend money.

Yes, investment is sometimes taught, using money for profit, but why not learn to balance earning with spending? Some may say, "If I earn it, it's my money and I can spend it the way I like." That is true, but it is also true that the satisfaction and the benefits your money will return depend on the way you spend it.

Another essential we want is peace—a sense of security and a feeling of well-being among our fellow men.

We want a little more of the "love thy neighbor" policy. We want to feel sure there won't be other wars every 20 or 30 years, or oftener, until the end of time. And there will never be thorough peace until the full understanding of it reaches all people.

As was brought out at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, peace cannot be merely set up and forgotten about, it must be continually built. And where is there a better place for building than in the schools, among the future peace builders? Separate classes on such subjects as peace, international relations, and human relations should surely prove worthwhile to present and future America.

## Bunker Juniors Begin Meetings

Under the leadership of Mrs. Floyd Rominger the Junior members of the Bunker Hill Farmers Union have started to hold monthly meetings.

We held our first meeting on Jan. 31 at the home of our leader. An election of officers was held with the following results: Billy Weidenhaft, president; Lois Porter, vice-president; Winifred Carpenter, secretary-treasurer; Joy Munsey, song leader, and Harold Munsey, reporter.

Our first lesson was on the topic, "Recreation," which emphasized the different kinds of recreation and the advantages and help they can be to one's life. We were each given questions to fill out on our lesson.

We decided to have dues of a quarter a year, and to have our meetings at the homes of the members.

After the meeting was adjourned we enjoyed the rest of the evening playing games. Mrs. Rominger served a delicious lunch of cake with whipped cream, sandwiches and coffee.

The group was enthused over the thought of Farmers Union Junior meetings.

—Harold Munsey, reporter.

## First Social Yields \$101.20

(Continued from Page 1)  
the electing. George Reinhart, Farmers Union State Secretary, won the prize for being the tightest man. The prize was, well—ask George at the next state convention. Total votes cast in the contest: \$10.10.

Claude Payne won the prize for being the sloppiest man, against a stiff field of competition, the prize being a good metal hog trough! The prize for the cleanest lady, a bottle of stove polish and a worn-out stub-handled broom, went to Mrs. Joe Volmer, she winning by a narrow margin of 13 votes over Mary Kay Vogel, office manager of the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company of Parsons.

The "toughest guy" prize went to Ray Johnson, with State President Ernie Dean a strong runner-up. The prize was a big-jointed copper ring. Jim O'Hara and Joe Volmer ran a neck-and-nose race for the honor of being the "windiest guy," O'Hara photo-finish by a snoot. A fan and a rubber balloon was the ample reward.

On the selection of the "thirstiest" guy, President Dean easily outstripped the field; and, after opening a huge box and pulling out voluminous packing, he found two bottles of coke and a dead soldier as a reward. Paul Erickson was awarded a box of nuts for being the "nuttiest" guy, and Cecil Clark was selected as the most popular man.

## Co-op Serves FU Movement

(Continued from Page 1)

ulators make money above what they've paid the farmers, the farmers could make just that much more by shipping to us direct."

### Paid by Check

A group of farmers from Kansas were at the market looking for feeder cattle. One of them bought 30 head of good steers and paid for them by check. Not many years ago, Steele said, the banks would not take his paper at all. The Farmers Union Credit Association, guided by Steele and his board of directors, saw him through.

A young farmer named Emil L. Jeschke of Troy, Kan., came into the office. He had marketed 15 fat steers and was well pleased with the Farmers Union service. It was second nature for him to come to the Farmers Union house. He, and his father before him, long had been sending their livestock there.

Steele makes good business service, not personal entertainment of customers, the basis of his appeal for shipments.

### Knows the Record

Personally, the FU manager is on the short-and-jolly side. He likes to visit and joke, but ask him any question about the business (back as far as you like) and if he can't snap off the answer, he'll tote out the records and will know just where to lay his finger on the answer.

He's got all the records of 27 years of operations right here, and knows them upside down and backwards.

A family man, Steele's personal hobby is color photography.

What about the future of the Farmers Union on the livestock market? What are Steele's "post-war plans?"

"Our ultimate goal," he said, "is that the farmers shall process their own livestock." He indicated that thought is being given to building up a fund for that purpose.

## Sympathy Sent Peet Family

### Resolution:

Whereas death has removed from our midst our brother, George Peet:

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the members of South Verdigris Local No. 1498, extend to Mrs. Peet and family our deepest sympathy and commend them to our Heavenly Father in the great sorrow.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, a copy to be placed on the minutes of our local, and a copy be sent to the Kansas Union Farmer for publication.

—Joe Imthurn,  
Ed Hayden,  
Fred A. Bangs.

## Doubts MVA 'Opposition'

(Continued from Page 1)

gate from practically every county. And its members may be business men, bankers or lawyers just as well as farmers.

Non-farmer delegates to the board of agriculture meeting are entitled to have their opinions and vote as they wish—but they don't speak for farmers.

It is interesting to note also that the Kansas Business Magazine features "State Board of Agriculture Condemns Plan for MVA" on its front page.

This is consistent. That publication has consistently attacked co-operatives, the most valuable business idea that has ever been put into operation on behalf of farm people.

Now it takes up the cry against an MVA, another idea that has been proved by experience in the Tennessee Valley to be a sound means of dealing with the complex problems of a river basin in the best interests of all the people.



## Day by Day With FUJA

By JOHN VESECKY

### Canadian Co-op Tax Hearings Seen As Significant for U. S.; Woman Steals Vancouver Show

The co-op tax battle of Canada, which is also freighted with significance for the United States, shot into the crucial stage in Vancouver Jan. 15, with a series of hearings before a fact-finding Royal Commission appointed by J. L. Ilsley, Canadian finance minister.

The report of the commission, which will conduct similar hearings clear across Canada, winding up in Halifax March 5-7, is expected to be the determining factor in deciding whether Canadian co-operatives are to be subjected to income taxation of patronage refunds which belong to their members and patrons.

The inquiry is also looked upon as a pre-view of the showdown fight looming in the present United States congress.

Dramatic high point of the Vancouver hearings, during which 21 briefs pro and con were submitted to the commission by British Columbian co-operatives, and by their business competitors, was the telling of the story of the clam-digging and clam-marketing Massett Co-operative Ass'n, of the village of Old Massett, an Indian reserve, and New Massett, backside of a land boom of World War I.

#### Stole the Show

The story, told by "a soft-spoken, gray-haired woman," a clam-digger, took the commission by storm, stole the show from the glittering array of legal talent and copped the headlines in all the Vancouver papers.

The woman, Mrs. S. L. Simpson, "stood erectly in the witness box before the Royal Commission and swayed the commissioners and a large throng in the court room to a loud burst of applause," reported The Vancouver Sun. "She spoke with quiet confidence of her cause with a knowledge born of long hours on beach digging clams in fulfilling her part as a co-operative worker in the village of Massett. (Population, 700.)"

#### Saved From Disaster

"She made no plea to the commission. Her story was not of balance sheets or statistics. She merely told how her community was saved from economic disaster through a plan that brought a livelihood for some 700 persons."

Previously, the Sun said, the hearing cupped itself with such matters as the definition of a co-operative, the difference between profits and "surplus" (the Canadian co-op term for net savings), and the operating methods of co-operatives. But Mrs. Simpson "played on the human part of the question."

And she told how, in the 1930's, with the fish and clam cannery closed, and many families on relief, the villagers decided that "if we wanted to enjoy a better life we would have to find the way ourselves. Our co-operative grew out of that need."

#### Hostile to Indians

There were obstacles, among them the need to overcome hostility between whites and Indians who lived in Massett. But the co-operative did the trick. Members came from all occupations, from all races, until about 90 per cent of the adult population became members, with one member, one vote the rule and no discrimination between whites and Indians.

The co-operative has raised the standard of living of all persons in the villages considerably, Mrs. Simpson said.

"We believe that co-operation is the ideal way of life for a rural community," she said. "Some of our members have become income taxpayers through the benefits of co-operative effort. And most important, our co-operative has given birth to a new feeling of confidence in the future."

As she finished her story, Justice Errol M. McDougall, chairman of the commission, declared it to be "probably the most human document we ever have seen."

#### Most Human Document

After co-operatives had had their inning before the commission, Senator J. W. de Farris, representing seven independent dairies, sought to make a distinction between what he called "alleged" and "true" co-operatives. He contended that the "alleged" co-operatives should be taxed to the full extent that a competing non-co-operative company is taxed.

His contentions were considered significant as indicating a possible line of attack against co-operatives in the United States.

Farris described "alleged" co-ops as: (1) those which, in addition to purchasing or to marketing products, also process or manufacture those products; (2) those which receive produce from non-members and (3) those which hold deductions from the purchase price as reserves for the co-operatives' purposes.

He said a "true" co-op is one in which "co-operation is exclusively the factor conducive to special benefits to the members or patrons."

The senator said he believes all corporations should be allowed to conduct their business so as to avoid taxation providing they conform with the laws. (This is the case in the United States.)

#### Churches Back Co-ops

As the hearings went on, United Church leaders of British Columbia, who happened to be meeting simultaneously, went on record as favoring, according to the Vancouver Province, "a fair chance and fair treatment for soundly based Rochdale types of co-operatives."

"We believe taxing of their profits to be unfair to co-operatives," said a resolution adopted by the church conference committee of evangelism and social service, "when these so-called profits are rebated to purchasers and are not paid as investment profits on basic investment."

### Kansas Co-ops Pay 24 Kinds of Taxes

Local Kansas co-operatives paid 24 different kinds of taxes, including federal and state income taxes, for 1943, it was found in a survey conducted recently by the Kansas Co-operative Council.

A total of \$868,027 was paid by 230 local co-ops, according to Charles A. Richard, Topeka, executive secretary of the Council. The \$127,386 paid in federal income taxes was the second largest tax paid. First was the combined federal, state and city gasoline tax, \$306,331.

### 'Walker-Gordon' Issue Important To Family Farmers

On January 22, 1945, a resolution was introduced in the United States senate asking the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to investigate an alleged boycott by the Teamsters Union of the Walker-Gordon farm in New Jersey because of a dispute over whether or not the employees of the farm should be unionized.

We will not try to discuss the right or wrong of the situation. We only want to point out to our members the danger to family-type farmers in having to compete for their markets with factory-style farms such as evidently is the Walker-Gordon farm.

This farm apparently is incorporated; it has as president, a man named Henry Jeffers, and from the testimony given in the discussion of the resolution in the senate, it seems to produce 23,000 quarts of milk daily. This certainly is not a family-style farm.

If in the postwar period such farms as this one can hire their labor at a low figure without any interference from labor unions, then naturally every individual farmer that competes with such farms will have to figure his labor income on the same starvation basis.

As it is recognized that the average family-style farmer gets very little if anything above a wage income from his farm, his average income will be reduced to the irreducible minimum that the factory-style farms will pay to their laborers.

It is the writer's opinion that labor unions need to learn that they have responsibilities as well as privileges and that one of their responsibilities should be to see to it that members of the union are good workers and do a good day's work for a good day's pay.

But we farmers would be far better off competing with factory-style farms manned by unionized labor than with such farms manned by peon labor.

Let us stop and consider all the facts before we swallow all the anti-union propaganda put out by such commercialized farms and aimed at arousing in us unreasoning fear of possible unionization of farm labor. There might be something even worse.

### Webber Members Can Haul Grain To Own Elevator

The first part of the week of Jan. 22, Ted Belden, manager of the merchandise department of the Farmers Union Jobbing Ass'n, accompanied Ed. Ernst of the Ernst Engineering Co. of Topeka on an inspection trip in northwestern Kansas.

Mr. Ernst went to look over the Webber Farmers Union elevator at Webber, Kan., construction of which he has recently completed; the Farmers Union elevator in Stockton, where his company is just beginning work on a new elevator to replace the one lost last year by fire, and to see if the additions he has constructed for the Osborne County Farmers Union Co-op. Ass'n. at Alton, Osborne and Portis are giving satisfaction. Ted went along to call on the managers and incidentally to take their order for whatever feeds and supplies they might need.

Ted reports that the Webber Farmers Union elevator is completed, and the farmers can again haul grain to their own elevator after being compelled by red tape to haul to their competitors' elevators at other points during the fall of '43 and most of '44.

Manager Phillip Lyne has always been a good co-operator and has consistently patronized the FUJA with all his business.

### Measure to Tax Co-operatives Appears in Kansas Legislature

By CLYDE COFFMAN  
Legislative Representative, Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations  
The Legislature got off to a gradual start. After four weeks in session no bills recognized as major legislation had yet appeared.

A fight to the finish for the speakership of the House delayed organization to the extent that the second week was well along before all committees were announced.

The personnel of both branches

### FU Backs Wallace, Williams

(Continued from Page 1)

prise for all. A vote against his confirmation will be a vote against 60 million jobs and a just and durable peace. His victory will be the first step toward an expanding economy of abundance and freedom from want."

From Washington Paul Sifton of the FU staff reported that Farmers Union members were in the forefront among citizens sending their representatives wires and telegrams in support of the two men.

#### No Mystic

Said Wallace at dinner in New York in his behalf:

"The people who are fighting against me know that they are not fighting a starry-eyed liberal or mystic. If they really thought that, they wouldn't be worried."

"They are fighting against sound principles upon which America can survive as a great and prosperous nation. They know that with me in Commerce there would be a continuous campaign for maximum production, maximum sales and maximum exports and imports."

"They know I would rally business support behind the department of commerce to make it the great service institution it ought to be."

Observed Mrs. Gladys Talbott Edwards, NFU director of education: "The real fight is against Henry Wallace as a liberal—not as a poor business man."

#### NYA Served Nation

Aubrey Williams, who has served as NFU organization director since October, 1943, is 54, a native of Alabama, veteran of the first World War and a public man of wide experience. He was NYA administrator from July, 1935 to September, 1943, after previously serving as deputy administrator of WPA and in other posts.

Bitterly criticized by its foes as "communist," etc., NYA nonetheless was able to get the necessary funds from congress by demonstrating results.

Williams in REA, like Wallace in Commerce would be in a position for real service to the people of the United States after the war.

Electrification is something the rural people of Kansas and every other state want. An "economy of abundance" means electrification to them if it means anything.

Williams, as top man in that important agency, could make bold, constructive policies to bring electricity swiftly to all the farm people of the nation.

### Box Supper

### Coming Feb. 23

The East Wolf Local, No. 726, held its meeting Jan. 26 at the Lucas lodge hall. Meeting was called to order by the president.

It was decided to have our Box or Pie Supper on Friday, Feb. 23. Coffee furnished FREE.

—Viola Pickett, reporter.

averages very high as compared with other Legislatures, however, and it would seem that the state is in safe hands.

Senate Bill No. 13, suspending for the duration the law prohibiting the purchase of oleomargarine for state institutions, passed the Senate. But it was held by the House Committee on state affairs, with indications that it might be killed there.

There is much talk about legislation directed toward the taxing of earnings of co-operatives while in the hands of the co-operative. A proposed bill was handed to the Committee on Assessment and Taxation in the House, with a request that it be introduced. The Committee set a public hearing for the evening of Feb. 8. Your representatives expected to appear to submit reasons why the bill should not be introduced.

The Committee from the Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations, composed of H. E. Harper, Farm Bureau; E. K. Dean, Farmers Union; and C. C. Cogswell, State Grange, appointed to study proposed legislation relating to schools and highways has had a number of meetings and conferences with sponsors of various proposals in an effort to arrive at recommendations to the general committee.

They have met also with representatives of other major groups in an effort to work out suggestions that will be of mutual interest and, at the same time, satisfactory to the agricultural people of the state.

Individuals and local farm organizations are being encouraged to submit their suggestions to this committee or your legislative Representatives.

### Missouri Farmers to Back MVA

(Continued from Page 1)

mittee believes Missouri farmers ought to urge their congressmen and senators to support a Missouri Valley Authority.

"Such an authority would, at least, take ALL factors into account. If we should get an MVA, and it should be managed comparably to the Tennessee Valley Authority, attention would be given to flood prevention and water utilization. Water would be provided for irrigation out west; any large dams built would provide cheap electricity where it is needed; provision would be made for river transportation; and emphasis would be placed on soil conservation and all that it implies—such as contour farming, terraces, farm ponds, detention dams high up the creeks, small lakes, reforestation, check dams, etc."

"Soil conservation under an MVA would make our farms more productive and valuable; cheap power would make electricity available to thousands of farm families and to new industries; water would be available to thirsty farms upstream; low-cost transportation on our rivers would encourage the establishment of new industries along the big rivers, which would spell better markets for Missouri farm products."

On recommendation of the legislative committee after its study, the board of directors of the Missouri Farmers' association formally endorsed the MVA.

The association, a co-operator with the Kansas Farmers Union and others of the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Company at St. Joseph, claims 86 thousand members in 92 of Missouri's 114 counties.



## FU Commission Firm Means Farmers Are Represented at Livestock Market

(Continued from Page 1)  
into the picture strongly in the middle 1920's. They made possible the advent of trucks. Farmers' less-than-carload lots came to market not together in a car but separately in trucks.

### Association Faded

The shipping associations faded almost overnight. The market receipts were divided among many commission houses. And more and more the packers took up the practice, particularly with hogs, of buying their supplies in the country for direct shipment to their killing floors.

Moreover, the big packing

firms have tended in recent years to move into the business of feeding cattle and sheep they have bought, thus becoming producer and processor, in addition to having circumvented the central market by direct buying.

As the market people see it, the packers are able to strengthen their position in the market, and thus push down prices, by having bought a sizable part of their killing supplies in the country direct. Then, in turn, they use the lowered market on which to base the next day's bidding in the country. . . . A far cry, this, from the days when the farmers' own

organization controlled 50 per cent of all the hogs that came to the St. Joseph market.

### FU Gets Good Share

The situation today in the market is highly competitive—and the loyal staff members of the farmers' organization are holding up their end.

Last year they served more than nine thousand individual farm shippers.

There are 29 commission firms on the market, which means that if the business were divided equally each would get a little over three per cent. The Farmers Union last year got about 10 per

cent of the cattle, 15 per cent of the calves, 9 per cent of the sheep and 9 per cent of the hogs.

And another fact noteworthy about the Farmers Union house is that it serves the rank and file of farmers. It serves some big shippers, but not in the proportion many of the other commission firms do. It serves a higher proportion of general, family-type farmers. Its consignments of hogs, for instance, average about 10 per owner; and its consignments of cattle, probably half that many.

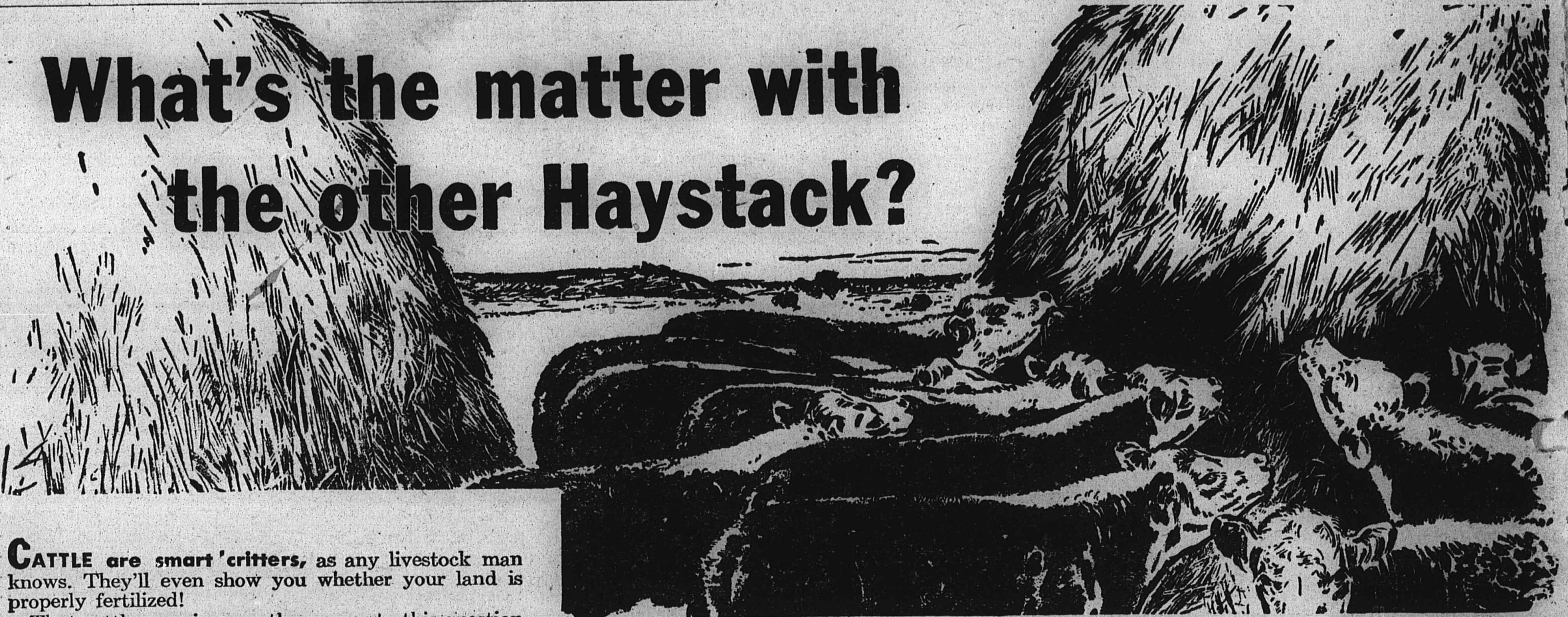
A saving of 27 thousand dollars for 1944 has just been re-

ported. Patronage refunds are to be made as soon as the necessary clerical work can be done.

Patronage returns to members for the years 1940 through '43 were respectively: \$19,718, \$18,595, \$22,422 and \$25,267.

It should be understood by all that the commissions charged by all companies at the market are the same, set by the Livestock Exchange as provided under federal law. The refunds represent the savings the Farmers Union company is able to make, above costs, on its operations at this fixed scale of commissions.

## What's the matter with the other Haystack?



**CATTLE** are smart 'critters, as any livestock man knows. They'll even show you whether your land is properly fertilized!

That cattle can give you the answer to this question has been proved by an experiment reported by Dr. Wm. A. Albrecht of the University of Missouri, which is illustrated here. The cattle were turned loose in a field in which there were two stacks of hay. The grasses were the same species; the curing was the same; they looked and smelled the same. But the cattle ate one stack and never touched the other.

The hay from the stacks was analyzed in a laboratory. Then it was discovered that the stack the cattle liked contained much more calcium and phosphorus—two minerals cattle must have for good health. The good hay came from soil that had been treated with lime and phosphate . . . the poor hay from untreated land.

Minerals essential to both human and animal health come from the soil, are absorbed into plants and so get into the bodies of grazing animals. Human beings, of course, get their supply of minerals from plant foods like fruits, vegetables and cereals, and from foods of animal origin like meats, fish and eggs.

Better soil produces better food, better livestock and healthier people.



### SODA BILL SEZ:

That hens that cackle the loudest are often better at lying than laying.  
That he makes the livin', but it's his family that makes livin' worth while.

"The pig that pays" is the "extra" one that lives in an average litter. Baby pig death losses of from 30 to 50 per cent are far too high. They can be greatly reduced.

Cleanliness is the first rule of profitable hog raising. Dirt breeds disease and parasites, so it pays to move young pigs to clean pastures and to keep them away from old pens and yards. Old dry bedding has been known to start dust-pneumonia. Cholera and erysipelas can be prevented by early vaccination, and transfer of diseases from newly purchased hogs can be controlled by a period of isolation.

Observe common-sense rules and your pigs will live and grow. Feed them well and when your hogs are ready, you'll get your "profit" from the extra ones raised in each litter.

### BUY WAR BONDS



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Oliver Kinzie, Cushing, Oklahoma, 19-year-old president of the Future Farmers of America with his friend and instructor, Dick Fisher (left).

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW!

1. Corn is grown in how many states in the United States?  
36    12    48    29
2. Two of the thousands of domestic animals originated in the Americas. Which two?  
Beef Cattle    Turkeys    Llamas  
Thoroughbred Horses
3. What is the average distance meat must be transported to get it from producer to consumer?  
530    3000    1050    250 miles



### Martha Logan's recipe for GEORGE WASHINGTON CHERRY PIE

Make pastry using Swift's Bland Lard for shortening to insure flakiness. Roll out and line one-inch-deep pie pan.

The filling is made as follows: 3 cups canned cherries; 1 cup sugar; 2 tbsp. flour or corn starch; 1 tbsp. butter. Combine cherries and dry ingredients and fill pie pan level. Cover with pastry—full crust or lattice of strips. Bake at 425°F. for 10 minutes, then at 350°F. for 35 minutes longer.

### "What Do You Know" answers:

- 1) 48; 2) turkeys and llamas; 3) 1050 miles.

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### THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

So many important things are happening in the livestock and meat business that it is difficult for an editor to decide which to write about and which to leave out.



Few people realize how much beef, pork, lamb and veal must be set aside by meat packers operating under federal inspection for the armed forces and Lend-Lease. As of January 7, 1945, 50% of all utility steers, heifers, and cows are set aside for the government canning program. The government will continue to call for 60% of the choice, good, and commercial steer and heifer beef carcasses, excepting extremely light weights; also 80% of the cutter and canner beef. Of the total pork meat produced, excluding lard, approximately 50% has to be set aside. Government priorities on "Good" and "Choice" lambs have averaged from 40 to 50% of the suitable lambs. Priority orders also apply to approximately 50% of the "Choice," "Good," and "Commercial" veal produced within specifications.

Of course, such regulations are necessary in order to insure the proper conduct and winning of the war. Nevertheless, producers and consumers should know of these regulations as a partial explanation of why they are having difficulty in getting the supplies of beef, lamb, pork and veal which they want.

F.M. Simpson.

Agricultural Research Department



### LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

Motion pictures for farm meetings: "Livestock and Meat," "A Nation's Meat," and "Cows & Chickens, U.S.A." We'll loan you these films if you'll pay transportation one way. For 16-mm. sound projectors. Write to Swift & Company, Dept. 128, Chicago 9, Ill., a month in advance.

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