



The Kansas Union Farmer

ORGANIZATION

EDUCATION

COOPERATION

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THE GRAIN RATE FIGHT

FARMERS UNION AND OTHER GROUPS WANT LOWER GRAIN RATES

Hearing Now on in Kansas City to Determine Whether Economic Conditions of Carriers Justify Increase

FARMERS POOR TOO

Former Fight on Part of Farm Organizations Saved Kansas Farmers Two Million Dollars in One Season

The railroads are making a desperate and determined effort to soak the farmers of Kansas and neighboring states for their grain. The farmers through the Committee of Farm Organizations and the Kansas public service commission, are taking an equally determined stand against contributing anything more to the railroads for service. The whole thing is being thrashed out in a hearing now being conducted in Kansas City by the interstate commerce commission.

The commission heard testimony in Chicago, offered by the railroads. That part of the hearing was concluded on Friday, May 6. The hearing was resumed at Kansas City on Wednesday, May 11, with the shipper's testimony being presented. An expenditure of approximately 5 million dollars on the part of Kansas farmers is dependent on the outcome of the hearing. If the commission upholds the railroads' plea for higher rates, will run around 20 million dollars.

Forty witnesses will be heard in the Kansas City hearing, according to former Governor Clyde M. Reed, who is presenting the case on behalf of the Kansas shippers. These witnesses come from eleven grain producing states, and include economists, agricultural experts, grain producers and shippers.

The investigation began in Chicago April 20, upon a decision of the United States supreme court, which held that the railroads were entitled to a chance to show how they had been affected adversely by economic conditions since August 1, 1931, when a reduced rate on grain, ordered by the commission, went into effect. On February 20, this year, the railroads restored the rates which prevailed prior to August 1, 1931.

The original investigation into the grain rates began in 1927, and was known as the general grain rate case. Kansas won reductions which would save the Kansas shippers approximately 2 million dollars a year, but lost that advantage in February when the old rates were restored.

Dr. L. H. Bean, senior economist in the division of agricultural economics in the department of agriculture, Washington, was the first witness in the hearing Wednesday. He had been summoned by the interstate commerce commission to tell of the conditions facing agriculture. Dr. Bean's testimony brought out the fact that grain farmers generally, as well as farmers engaged in other lines of production, were losing money steadily on their operations.

Dr. W. E. Grimes, head of the department of agricultural economics at the Kansas State Agricultural College, testified later in the week. He pointed out the fact that although the Kansas farmers had raised a bumper crop in 1931, the net loss per farm was \$225. That did not take into account house rent, products consumed, and other items totaling \$304 used in maintaining the families on the farms.

Dr. Grimes testified that he was not taking in estimates, since his figures were taken from records actually kept by farmers for the state's use.

Return of the Horse

Our good friend, J. D. Stosz, of Beattie, Kansas, who is a keen observer of present day trends of thought and action, sends the Kansas Union Farmer a clipping which holds a great deal of interest to all the friends of "Old Dobbin." We are glad to reprint it here:

The same economic upheaval, that has put janitors' shovels in the hands of men who yesterday were millionaires is putting Dobbin back between the shafts.

Farmers who have for a decade and more been chiefly tractors, have turned back to the horse, it is reported. The tractor rests in comparative idleness today. Not only does it cost money to buy gasoline to operate a tractor but there is every little cash outlay for repairs of some which are cash outlay for repairs of some. New parts must be purchased and, often, a mechanic must be hired to affix them.

With the horse it is different. His food seldom needs repairing and his expenses are not so heavy. One reason why farmers are so hard up is that they have had a poor market for their crops. Most farmers have unsold surpluses. Many farmers last year found that prices were so low it did not pay them to haul their crops to market. This surplus production, therefore, is available as feed for stock of all kinds. From this point of view, the upkeep

The significant thing was that those who kept records were the most intelligent farmers of their communities, and naturally could be expected to be in better condition than their fellows, he said.

Kansans were farming 19 million acres in 1910, for a total income of 305 million dollars. Dr. Grimes' figures showed the farmers had increased the acreage used in the state 25 million in 1931 and the income to 325 million dollars. Increased costs of operating had made the increased acreage merely an added burden, Dr. Grimes commented.

Dr. Grimes also cited figures from other states to show the farmer has suffered severely the last few years. His tables showed the value of livestock in Missouri dropped from \$15 million dollars in 1929 to \$10 million dollars in 1932. The total income of Missouri farms dropped 50 million dollars from 1929 to 1930, he showed.

Dr. Grimes presented as his last exhibit a report on the wheat situation. He showed world conditions and bumper crops had reduced the price of wheat far below the level of other commodities, especially the commodities purchased by the farmer.

"It seems probable the present low levels of wheat prices will continue several years," was Dr. Grimes' conclusion.

The Kansas Farmers Union, together with the other major farm organizations in the state, are taking a leading part in the fight to prevent the railroads from receiving higher grain freight rates, just as they took part in the fight in previous arguments between the railroads and the producers and shippers of grain. By securing a reduction in freight rates last summer, the farm organizations of Kansas, together with all who had sided with the farmers, saved Kansas farmers something like 2 million dollars.

The railroads, as previously stated, succeeded in getting the original rates restored in February of this year. The farm organizations immediately began laying plans whereby the reduced rates would again go into effect. Clyde M. Reed, long a leader in the fight for reduced rates for Kansas farm products, was placed in charge of operations again. The railroad, in a counter movement, asked not only for the retention of their original rate schedule, but asked for a further increase. They claim their economic condition justifies their request. The farmers, on the other hand, are claiming their economic condition is just as unfavorable as that of the railroads—or worse—and are presenting evidence to that effect at the present hearing.

WARD SLIGHTLY IMPROVED

The condition of Cal Ward, president of the Kansas Farmers Union, remains little changed. There is, however, a slight improvement from week to week. He is confined to his bed with a fever, and has been suffering from rheumatism. He is under the care of able physicians, who are hopeful that he will be up and able to resume his Farmers Union duties in a few weeks.

BEWARE

With the rock gardening fever at its height, common field stones are said to be selling in Iowa for \$1 a bushel. Let the buyer beware. Don't pay for a bushel of rocks until you have checked them over. There are unprincipled farmers who wouldn't mind above slipping a peck of wheat into the bottom of the basket.—Detroit News.

WASTING TIME

Some bright chap has worked out a statistical chart to prove that American motorists are losing about thirty years every day waiting for red lights. Add the time "waiting" for someone to "turn up" and there is hardly any left.

A good field of alfalfa is an asset to any farm.

KANSAS TO HARVEST SMALLEST CROP OF WHEAT SINCE 1925

Reports Prepared by Agricultural Authorities Show Wholesale Abandonment and Increasingly Poor Crop Condition

65 PER CENT NORMAL

Lowest Condition for Kansas Since 1917; One Fourth of Kansas Crop has been Abandoned This Year

Kansas, which grows "the best wheat in the world," stands face to face with the prospect of harvesting in 1932 its smallest crop of wheat since 1925. The May 1 condition indicates a probable yield per acre of ten and a half bushels. Based on this estimate, the forecasts are for a total crop in Kansas of only 87,203,000 bushels. The May crop report released last week by J. C. Mohler of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and F. K. Reed of the U. S. Department of Agriculture shows the percent of normal. This is the lowest condition on record since May, 1917. This condition of 65 percent compares with a condition of 92 percent a year ago and 80.1 percent for the 1921-1930 ten year average. Abandonment is figured at 25 percent. That means that out of the 11,073,000 acres sown last fall, only 8,305,000 will be harvested.

Abandonment exceeded earlier expectations due to high continuous winds which prevailed during the April and failure of many fields to recover from the late freeze which was followed by nearly a month of dry weather in the principal wheat growing sections. The acreage abandoned at 25 percent of the area sown last fall was not harvested. When 28.0 percent of the area sown in the fall of 1922 was not harvested. Abandonment this year compares with 2.0 percent last year, 5.0 percent in 1930 and 13.4 percent the 1921-30 ten year average. The greatest loss was in the southwestern, western and central counties where the crop was off to a poor start last fall because of dry soil. Abandonment was also large in southeastern and northeastern counties. The March freeze, which was most severe on varieties lacking in winter-hardiness.

In general the condition of the crop remaining for harvest is lowest in areas where abandonment was large. There are several factors which account for the low condition which are being formed in the years that have been associated with low acre yields on the area remaining for harvest, namely, lack of subsoil moisture in western counties, slow recovery from the drought this year of 1931, and the Hessian fly in central counties and in the northeast. The crop generally is less advanced in stage of growth than usual at this date especially in southwestern and west central areas and it now appears that little wheat will be harvested in southern counties prior to July 1.

The acreage remaining for harvest this year at 8,305,000 acres compares with 12,618,000 acres harvested last year and 11,148,000 acres the 1926-30 five-year average. The estimated production this year of 87,203,000 bushels is about 36.4 percent of last year's record crop of 239,742,000 bushels and is nearly 63 million bushels below the 1926-30 five-year average production of 135,186,000 bushels.

The condition of little wheat left of normal compared with 93 percent last May. Only 19,000 acres remain for harvest and production is indicated as 152,000 bushels compared with 200,000 bushels last year. Twenty five percent of the acreage sown last fall was plowed under.

The condition of pasture is 80 percent. The condition last May was 88 percent, and 83 percent the ten-year average. Pastures made slow growth prior to May 1 this year but are coming along nicely under the influence of warmer May weather.

Oats is starting the season in Kansas with a condition of 79 percent. Much of the crop was sown later than last year and later than usual. A larger acreage was sown last year was rated at 90 percent on May 1 last year and 73 percent two years later.

The condition of Kansas barley is 80 percent compared with 86 percent a year ago and 80 percent two years ago. A larger acreage was sown this year particularly in western counties where much wheat was abandoned.

The condition of tame hay is 80 percent compared with 88 percent last May and 80 percent two years ago. Alfalfa in eastern Kansas made excellent growth during the latter part of April. The crop has a good color and is in generally healthy condition. Many fall sown fields were killed by the late freeze. Wild hay meadows are rated at 82 percent compared with 88 percent last May and 80 percent two years ago.

Only 6.5 percent of last year's hay crop remained on Kansas farms May 1 which is equivalent to 150,000 tons. Last year 163,000 tons were still on farms May 1 or about 7.0 percent of the 1930 crop.

United States Crops

Acres of winter wheat for harvest this year amount to 32,277,000 while last year the acreage was 41,009,000. The 1924-28 average was 36,026,000. The May 1 forecast of production this year is 440,781,000. Production last year was 787,465,000 bushels; the 1924-28 average was 648,632,000 bushels. Abandonment this year is 16.6

STILL THE SAME PROBLEM

Human problems today are much the same as they were in the days of the old Prophets, whose writings we read in the Bible. The following words, uttered countless generations ago, are as potent now as when they were first set down:

Woe unto them that . . . turn aside the needy from judgment and . . . take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey and that they may rob the fatherless.—Isaiah.

Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land fall. Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the Sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah (the Hebrew bushel) small and the shekel great, and falsifying the scales by deceit? That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes.—Amos.

READ FROST'S TAX ARTICLE

The attention of the reader is directed to the article on editorial page by John Frost of Blue Rapids, Kansas. Mr. Frost has been writing articles on taxation for over half a year, and his writings have had a great deal to do with clarifying a question which has become somewhat muddled in the minds of many of us. This week's article, "Does the Income Tax Drive Business Away?" is worthy of your special attention—indeed, are all of Mr. Frost's articles.

AMERICAN ROYAL ELECTION

James C. Swift was re-elected president of the American Royal Live stock and Horse Show at the 1932 annual meeting of the Board of Directors. Other officers re-elected include George R. Collett, chairman of the Executive Committee; Wm. H. Weeks, F. H. Servatius, secretary; A. M. Trickett, treasurer.

President Swift, in his address of acceptance, sounded an optimistic keynote with respect to the future of the American Royal. He spoke of the great livestock exhibit, now 34 years old, and stressed the importance of its influence on the coming generation of farmers, stockmen, and leaders in Agriculture activities. In this connection he reviewed the widening activities of Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Vocational Agricultural High Schools and the Future Farmers of America organization, "in whom is this country's hope for better livestock, better agriculture and better citizens in the years that are ahead."

Plans were discussed for the 34th annual event, which will be held November 12-19, 1932 and every effort will be made to carry on the Live Stock and Horse Show in as broad a scope as in the past few years.

HAVING MORE FIRES

Topeka, May 18.—The month of April brought no spring joy to the state fire marshal's department as fire losses totaled \$260,644 for April of this year, compared to April of 1931 when the loss was only \$179,067.

The monthly report issued by Douglas A. Graham, state fire marshal, showed that there were 75 fires reported with damage of \$173,185, listed as "cause unknown" substantiates fears of the state fire marshal that incendiary might be on the increase.

April also brought an increase in the number of requests for investigations on fires reported as being "suspicious." The fact that there were 75 fires reported with damage of \$173,185, listed as "cause unknown" substantiates fears of the state fire marshal that incendiary might be on the increase.

The continued cold spring can be blamed for a number of chimney and flut fires where heating plants had to be kept in operation. There were 18 of these listed causing total damage of \$25,791. There were 23 roof fires resulting from sparks and causing damage of \$11,183.

Dwellings led the list of sufferers from fire loss. There were 136 dwellings damaged by fire with a total loss of \$102,201. Twelve stores suffered fire loss of \$43,897 and there were 29 fires listed as miscellaneous with damage of \$62,075.

UNION OIL COMPANY ON RADIO

The Farmers Union half hour program on Friday night of this week, beginning at 7:30 p. m., will be sponsored by the Union Oil Co., Cooperative of North Kansas City, Mo. Virtually all readers of this paper feel keen interest in this cooperative company, which has a close affiliation with the Farmers Union, and all will be interested in the program.

The program will be heard over radio station WIBW, Topeka.

percent; last year, 5.0 percent. Rye

production forecast in the U. S. is

for 39,464,000 bushels; production

last year 32,746,000 bushels; 1924-28

average 44,081,000 bushels.

URGES FARMERS TO RALLY TO SUPPORT OF ORGANIZATIONS

Radio Talk of Secretary Lynn Points out Progress Being Made in Freight Rate Fight in Kansas City

CASE IS A TEST

Will Show Whether Farmers are to be Ignored while Favors are Being Handed to Other Classes

The talk, given by the secretary of the Kansas Farmers Union, Floyd H. Lynn, Friday evening of last week, over radio station WIBW of Topeka, was largely a discussion of the fight being carried on by representatives of the Kansas farm organizations against the attempts of the railroads to increase freight rates on commodities produced by farmers of the middle west. The speaker appealed to the farmers of Kansas to rally to the support of their farm organizations, and thus make their work more effective.

His talk follows:

It is always a pleasure for me to talk to you over this radio station, because I feel that this is really a farmers' station, the management of which has a real sympathy with agricultural matters. Over this station go daily reports to farmers from Farmers Union activities, from Farmers Union cooperative marketing institutions—which, in fact, are your own institutions.

In a way, I am pinch-hitting this evening for Thomas B. Dunn, secretary of the Farmers Union Auditing Association headquarters in Salina, Kansas. Mr. Dunn was originally scheduled to occupy this microphone, but due to circumstances beyond his control he was unable to be here at this time. I am sure Mr. Dunn would have had an interesting message for you, and I am sure that when he does, at a later time, will be glad to listen to him. The Auditing Association, you know, is one of the very important departments of cooperative effort as carried on by the Farmers Union of Kansas. It offers services which should be used, and which are used, by farmers and private business firms all over Kansas.

Freight Rate Hearings

A few remarks at this time concerning the freight rate hearings now being held in Kansas City might be in order. Certainly this is a matter which holds a great deal of interest for the average Kansas Farmer. Summed up and described in a few words, it is a hearing to determine whether the railroads, because of their self-described poverty, shall be allowed to take two millions of extra dollars from the Kansas Farmers' pockets annually, or whether the farmers shall be spared the necessity of adding that amount of money each year to their deficit. The railroads argue that due to the importance of their industry, and due to the fact that they are not making enough money, that they should be allowed to dip their hands into the pockets of western agriculture and draw out enough to recoup their losses.

The Farmers Union, together with other branches of organized agriculture, believes that farming is just as important as the railroad industry. In fact, if the thing is to be deterred on a basis of which the more basic in nature, speaking of the more basic farming as industries concerned, a result in favor of the farmer would be a foregone conclusion.

If the hearing develops into a contest of hard luck stories, and if both sides stick to the truth with neither held back, the farmers' side of the case certainly has a good chance to come out ahead. Under present rate schedules, transportation charges, together with the hundreds of other expenses that have to be met, are getting the farmer under such conditions with no relief in sight.

The fact is, he is operating now at a decided loss. The railroads, on the other hand, are saying they will have to have more revenue or give up the ghost.

Farm Groups Active

A brief history of the case no doubt would make this discussion seem more intelligent. About a year ago, after extensive hearings, the interstate commerce commission issued an order which leveled grain rates. In some states the order raised railroad rates, while in others it lowered them. The savings to Kansas farmers in a year amounted to approximately \$2,000,000. Nebraska and Oklahoma farmers were also benefitted to a great extent.

Then the railroads, being well organized with a lot of able attorneys on their payrolls, took the case to the United States supreme court. Here the commission was reversed, and the case was remanded back for hearings on the plea that the economic conditions of the railroads had changed since the original hearings. In the meantime, the old rates have gone back into effect and Kansas has lost its two million dollar savings, and the other states have lost theirs—for the present, at least.

The farm organizations in Kansas have taken an active part in fighting for the more reasonable freight rates—in fact, they have virtually led the fight. This is as it should be, of course.

Now, the railroads, encouraged by their success in getting the old rates back again, have become quite bold and are asking, in addition to the in-

crease already gained, another increase over the existing rates. And right in there fighting for a reduction in rates is the Farmers Union—your own organization. The Farmers Union has good company in this fight, for the other farm organizations are in there, too.

The Committee of Farm Organizations of Kansas, together with the Public Service Commission of Kansas, have employed the firm of Reed and Glover, as special counsel in the case. Former Governor Reed, of that firm, has been identified with the farmers' fight for lower rates from the very start of the present movement. He has charge of presenting the farmers' case before the hearing now in progress in Kansas City.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the hearings will result favorably for the farmer. It would be tragic if the Kansas farmer had to dig up two million dollars for excess freight rate charges. It would be still more tragic if the railroads were allowed an additional increase for which they are asking.

Farmers Hard Hit, Too

The railroads, as I mentioned earlier, say they cannot do business on their present income. Neither can they continue to operate if the farmer has to quit business. The farmer is already carrying the big end of the tax burden of the country. He is taxed to an extent which is entirely out of line with his ability to pay. His tax burden far exceeds his just proportion of taxation, according to his comparative earnings, considering the earnings of other industries and classes. The farmer takes the big end of reductions of commodity prices. And now he is asked to take still more loss in order that the railroads may make money.

If the economic conditions affecting railroads have changed since the former hearing, so have the farmers' economic conditions grown worse. That truth is so glaring and so unpleasant that I do not believe it is necessary or advisable to go into details at this time. The details, however, will be brought to the attention of the examiners for the commission who are conducting the Kansas City hearing. Progress of the hearing, which will be reported through the press, will be watched by every Kansan, for the welfare of the entire population of the state depends on the well being of agriculture.

In this connection, I want to point out the value of organization among farmers. Perhaps a third of the farmers of Kansas are identified in some manner with some farm organization. If it were not for this organization among farmers, incomplete though it may be, this fight against monopolies who seek to throw us further in debt and in greater distress would not be possible. At least, such a fight would be with the railroads, and the case would be decided before it started.

The fact that the farm organizations succeeded in carrying on a fight that saved Kansas farmers two million dollars for the one season the lower rates were allowed to remain in effect is enough to justify the existence of the Farmers Union and the other farm organizations. The savings brought about make the dues and membership fees fade into insignificance. It is worth many times over the cost of membership just to know that our own class—agriculture—is mustering organized strength enough to cope on an equal footing with one of the largest of other industries.

Now I am going to ask you a pertinent question: Where do you think this organization should begin? Do (continued on page 4)

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Points to Discriminations

The following is one of a set of articles prepared by H. E. Miles, and sent out by John A. Simpson, national president of the Farmers Union. Mr. Miles heads this letter with the caption, "Nearly All Protected Except Farmers."

Excepting farmers, nearly everyone in the United States is as definitely and fully protected in the enjoyment of our high protectionist price level as if he were definitely named in the tariff law.

Due partly to the intensive propaganda, a few years ago, for the "American standard of living" for everyone, the wages, salaries, fees of professional people and all the prices of commodities were raised to the protection level in ordinary years. That is, the income was made to cover all reasonable outgo with a fair margin of savings.

Thus, by increasing incomes to cover expenditures, including the cost of protected articles, the cost of protection has been passed on by every American to the next until it reaches the 50 million who live on our farms and in rural communities dependent on farms.

Cruel Defect in Protection

Herein is the cruel and undemocratic present defect in our protective system, its omission from its benefits of 50 millions dependent upon the price level, directly and indirectly. Worse still, these 50 millions are required to pay substantially the entire cost of the protective system.

PROGRAM READY FOR MEETING OF MANAGERS' ASSN.

Sessions to be Held in Eagles' Hall, Salina, on Wednesday and Thursday, May 25 and 26

HAVE BIG BANQUET

Program Includes Serious Features as Well as Plenty of Fun; Wind up with Hot Ball Game

All arrangements are complete for the best Spring meeting ever held by the Kansas Farmers Union Managerial Association, and the program has been outlined and is published below. The place of the meeting will be the Eagles' Hall, on North Seventh Street, just a block straight north of the Farmers Union building in Salina.

The officers of the Managerial Association have worked hard on the program and can assure every person who contemplates attending that some most worthwhile features will be introduced. From the time the first session is called to order at 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, May 25, until the umpire has yelled "V" out three times in the last half of the ninth inning of the ball game Friday afternoon, something interesting, educational or entertaining will be going on.

One feature of the meeting will be the banquet at 6:30 p. m. Friday. This banquet will be held at the Rorabaugh Tea Room in Salina. Some managers might be frightened by the term "tea room." Don't worry. This particular tea room is famous for the quality and quantity of food it serves. And the management has specific instructions to get out a regular "thrasher's crew" dinner—or supper, if you prefer. Some folks' idea of a tea-room is a place where you nurse your food, just to your eating, and where you lift a tea cup daintily to your lips with your little finger elevated at just the proper angle. But you don't have to do that in Salina. Just to dispel any doubt you may have, just remember that you do not have to put on any more "dog" than President C. B. Thowse does. He will sit where ever you want and see just how to act. Every one will be allowed to keep on eating for twenty minutes after Brother Thowse quits, if any one feels that way about it. If there is more than one fork to use, Secretary J. E. Belden will announce which one to use—that is, if he can remember Mrs. Belden's instructions. The men, of course, will be on their good behavior, because the women folks will be there, too.

Another outstanding feature is the one that will wind up the whole program. The big ball game at Oakdale Park in Salina is referred to in this connection. This ball game, which is not reported in the metropolitan newspapers, will furnish as many thrills as any world series game ever played. This game will be full of surprises. Each side is making plans to all but wipe out the other side. These plans are so well guarded that it is not safe even to divulge the names of the players who are to take the field. About the only thing that has been made public is the fact that regulation base balls, bats, gloves, masks and protectors will be for the farmer. Legislation favorable to the agricultural class, more equitable tax collection methods to relieve the farmer of his unjust burden, restoration of the buying power of agricultural commodities, and many other things could be mentioned.

A Pertinent Question

There is absolutely no chance to accomplish anything favoring the farmers as a class, without organization. With complete organization of our power would be almost unlimited.

Now I am going to ask you a pertinent question: Where do you think this organization should begin? Do (continued on page 4)

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

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SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1932

WE NEED AN HONEST DOLLAR

Lately we have been hearing a great deal about the "honest dollar."

What is an honest dollar?

An honest dollar, viewed from the "snake's eye" position of this writer, is a dollar which honestly measures values as represented by the trade or purchasing power of commodities. A dollar is a medium of exchange used in moving commodities from the source of supply to the ultimate consumer. In low-down uncouth plain English, the dollar, or money, is the medium of "swappers." Instead of swapping commodities for other commodities, or service for products, work for food or wearing apparel, wheat for farm machinery, or what one man has for that which another man possesses, money is used—money which is supposed to have a constant value, thus making all trades or swaps equitable.

It is a handy method, which eliminates the necessity of Farmer Smith hauling a load of manure to town and giving it to Merchant Jones for a sack of beans. Farmer Smith does not have to send a load of wheat to Chicago, trade it for a mowing machine, and then have the mowing machine sent to him. He sells the wheat for money and sends the money to Chicago or to a local dealer who has already sent his money to the manufacturer, and gets his mowing machine. With an honest dollar, that system works like a top.

But with a dishonest dollar—one with fluctuating value as measured by commodities—the system is falling flat.

A certain class has control of the value of the dollar—and that class does not represent the rank and file of the American people. When this class gains possession of a great portion of the dollars in circulation, they use their equipment which we could call the "controller" and stretch this dollar all out of shape. In fact they make one dollar as big as three dollars formerly were. This can be done by taking a large number of the dollars out of circulation.

We have seen this thing happen, right under our noses. What has it done to us?

The dollar that formerly could be bought with one bushel of wheat now is doled out to the farmer for three bushels of wheat. Virtually the same thing is true with reference to other farm products, whether speaking in terms of grains, live stock, or what not. It takes three times as much now to buy a dollar as it required a few years ago.

Debts, however, have remained constant. Money borrowed which represented one bushel of wheat for each dollar has to be paid back in dollars which represent three bushels of wheat. The farmer who borrowed

money a few years ago, expecting to pay off his debt by producing pork, for instance, now has to produce three times as much pork as was represented by the original amount—saying nothing of the interest.

This is not because the wheat or pork or other products are not as good as they were a few years ago. They are still just as valuable as ever when it comes to maintaining human life. It is because the trading or swapping value of the dollar has been changed.

The United States Government did not change the value of the dollar. The Government did not say: "You fellows who now have the money of the realm can bury part of it and still make the dollars you have left buy what all the dollars used to buy. Make your dollars worth more and make the commodities worth less to fit the condition of less dollars to buy with. Make the producers take less money for their products." The Government did NOT say that; but the Government ALLOWED it to be done—by the banking interests.

In other words, the control of the value of the dollar is not where it should be. It is with the big bankers, the big financial interests; and naturally, with the power completely in their own hands, they manipulate the value of the dollar. They have a system of compressing the dollar, placing it in contact with commodities, and then allowing that dollar to inflate itself, thus sucking the wealth of the nation, represented by commodities produced, right into the dollar. They control the dollar; so they control the wealth the rubber dollar has sucked into itself.

Get what we mean: Punch a hole in a hollow rubber ball; squeeze the sides of the ball together; place it in a pan of water; allow the ball to resume its original size and shape. It will suck itself full of water. The rubber dollar is placed in circulation in compressed form—its value the same size as the value of a bushel of wheat. The banking interests still have control of the dollar. The dollar then assumes a size three times greater than when placed in circulation. Three bushels of wheat are sucked in, and their value goes back to the banking interests. The farmer pays eight or ten percent interest for the fun he has had, in addition to filling the rubber dollar.

We said the control of the value of the dollar is not where it belongs. Instead of the control being vested in the banking interests, it should rest with the United States Government. The United States Government—which means you and me and all the rest of us—is supposed to have the power of regulating the value of the dollar. That was the original plan. The banking interests said: "Here, Uncle Sam, handling the medium of

exchange is our line of business. You don't need to bother yourself about it; we'll do it for you. You go ahead and make laws; declare wars, and take care of other odd jobs, and we will relieve you of the burden of monetary with the money business." It sounded O. K., so Uncle Sam put Congress to doing other chores, leaving the banking interests in charge of putting out currency, taking it in—and watching the people squirm.

Strange as it may seem, there are people who do not approve of this order of things. Every once in a while, these banking interests are annoyed by some radical citizen or group.

Right now there is a Bill which has passed the House, known as the Goldborough Bill, which would stabilize the dollar at the 1926 commodity price level. It is known as the "honest dollar" Bill. The bill, if enacted into law, will direct the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve banks, and the Secretary of the Treasury, by their control over the volume of credit and currency, to restore the average commodity price level that was in effect when farmers and other folks contracted their debts. In other words, the United States Government would be allowed to take over the control of the value of the dollar.

Will the Bill become a law? What do you think? It certainly will not if the banking interests have their way. They get a lot of fun out of stretching the value of the dollar to suit themselves.

If there is sufficient pressure, in the form of letters from the people—from you to the members of the House and Senate, there is a bare chance. If no support is evident from back home, the Bill will not pass. The regulation of the value of the dollar—which means the regulation of the value of commodities—will remain with that class who has no sympathy whatever with the producers.

One group which keeps pestering the banking interests is the group of organized farmers—the Farmers Union, Grange, Farm Bureau, and others. If you believe it is all right to pester these big money boys, we plead with you to join the Farmers Union. It takes a few of those great big dollars to join this outfit, but by joining you improve your own chances of getting those dollars reduced to their proper size—you help bring them in line with the true value of your commodities.—F. H. L.

TAX RELIEF DEPARTMENT

By John Frost

Blue Rapids, Kansas

Number 35

DOES THE INCOME TAX DRIVE BUSINESS AWAY?

In The Topeka Capital of May 5, 1932, under the heading, "Fires Opening Gun," is an announcement of an attack by the Associated Industries of Kansas on the income tax, as follows: "The opening gun of the industries of Kansas was fired on the proposed income tax amendment to our constitution to be voted upon at the coming election, in an address last night before the Topeka Cooperative Club by Henry Sharp, Secretary of the Associated Industries of Kansas. Sharp held up Wisconsin as exhibit A of the failure of the purposes of the tax, which had driven industry from the state, and was arraying class against class, and causing bitter enmity between the social classes of that state. Sharp declared in his speech that Kansas lands were not paying their proportion of taxes, and that they were in better economic condition than any other business in the state."

The following facts given in reply to this far fetched allegation that industry is harmed by the income tax, are taken from Lesson 8 of the Tax Study Clubs sponsored by the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, the State University, the Agricultural College, the State Grange, the State Farm Bureau Federation, and the State Farmers Union.

"Mr. G. F. Kull, Secretary-Manager of the Wisconsin Manufacturers Association, has made the following brief statement regarding the Wisconsin income tax law: 'We have no particular quarrel with income taxation as at present administered.'"

"Mr. F. H. Clausen, a Director of the same association, setting forth the attitude of the association with respect to income taxation said: 'Wisconsin has adopted a state income tax as a means to help us have endorsed on numerous occasions and recognize it as permanently established.'"

"Judge Charles D. Rosa of the Wisconsin Tax Commission has made the following statement regarding the economic situation in his state: 'When tested by every available method, and when compared with the whole country and with our neighboring and competing states, the prosperity of the state as a whole has been substantial, and its manufacturing industries have made very satisfactory and gratifying progress. When compared with the United States as a whole and with six competing states by means of 13 tests applied to industrial prosperity, Wisconsin placed first in six of the 13 tests, second in 3, third in 1, fourth in 1, and fifth in 2. Its ranking for the combined 13 tests was first.'"

It is the property tax that hurts business and drives it away. The property tax on mortgaged property hurts business starting in debt. The property tax—the same in adversity as in prosperity—drives business to the wall in hard times. On the other hand the income tax is a guarantee to business that it will have no tax to pay unless it has abundant net income with which to pay. For the income tax is in proportion to the net income, and is much easier to bear than an arbitrary, unchangeable property tax that is the same whether business is profitable or whether it is unprofitable. The wonderful growth of business in our country since 1913, when the United States adopted the income tax and has since raised vast revenues therefrom, completely refutes Mr. Sharp's charge.

IS UNITED STATES BANKRUPT?

The above pertinent question is asked in the May 14 issue of Wallaces' Farmer. Then that good paper goes on to say, editorially:

At the present time, according to estimates made by Warren and Pearson of Cornell University, the total indebtedness of the United States is a little over \$200,000,000,000. About one-third of this huge amount is owed by the great corporations. About one-fifth represents money lent on city real estate, homes, apartments, office buildings, etc. Another one-fifth represents short-time bank loans. Farm mortgages represent only about 5 per cent of the outstanding debts. A 5 per cent interest, due to the annual amount each of the outstanding indebtedness of the United States amounts to \$10,000,000,000 or twenty times as much as the German reparations.

Three years ago, the total wealth of the United States amounted to almost twice as much as our indebtedness, but today there has been such a shrinkage in corporate values, that there is a question as to whether the United States is really worth \$200,000,000,000. It certainly would not be worth anywhere near that much at forced sale.

The average family of five in the United States owes \$8,000 of debt. Of course, some families owe no debt whatever, whereas others owe vastly more than they are really worth, even though they have not yet been pushed into bankruptcy.

The present situation is extremely ticklish for realtors. They are beginning to realize that while their money will buy more now than it used to, and, therefore, they are sitting pretty in one way, yet in another they are sitting on TNT and likely to be in trouble at any minute.

The only way out for both debtors and creditors is to increase the prices of all things. If this is not done in the very near future, by means of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Steagall-Glass bill, it will be necessary either to use some form of the Honest Dollar law, or else bring silver or greenbacks into the picture so as to produce positive and definite "inflation." Some of our larger bankers may not like this kind of talk, but we wonder if they prefer remedies which they will inevitably get if they continue to follow the program of the past two years.

SENSATION PREFERRED TO SERVICE

It was expected that the organized grain trade would carry on a campaign of agitation to the Federal Farm Board and its support of cooperative farm marketing," says the Spokane Spokesman Review (Washington) of April 27.

"Self-interest is a strong motive," the newspaper concedes, "and the old line grain dealers should not be blamed for fighting to maintain their business, built up through years of labor and investment. But it is required that they fight fairly, and not hit below the belt, as some of them appear to have done, with charges that flour made from farm board wheat distributed by the Red Cross is unfit for human consumption." That complaint, lodged against 20 carloads of flour for distribution at Baltimore, is proved to be untrue by officials of the Baltimore health department. Examined by the Bureau of Chemistry and Foods, the flour is found to be chemically pure and fit for human food.

The final answer to the falsity of the charge is that the Red Cross distributed all this flour made, to the needy of Baltimore, where bread made from it is being consumed with relish and benefit. But the first efforts at publicity seemed aimed more at injuring an agency of agriculture than at serving the beneficiaries of agriculture's contribution to their relief.

COOPERATION

You have a dollar. I have a dollar. We swap. Now you have my dollar—I have your dollar. We are no better off.

You have an idea. I have an idea. We swap. Now you have two ideas and I have two ideas—both are richer.

What you gave you have; what I got you did not lose. This is cooperation.—Points.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

LIBERTY HAD GOOD MEETING

On Wednesday evening, April 27, Liberty Local 782, in Marshall county, held its regular meeting. A good crowd was present. Mr. and Mrs. P. Protiva, M. R. Cook of Irving, and Jaa, Neilson were welcome visitors.

The usual business was conducted, followed by a short program. Mr. Neilson gave a brief report on the annual creamery meeting at Kansas City. As we had no March meeting, our president gave the report of the last quarterly meeting at Marysville, Sandwiches, cake and coffee were served by the ladies.

We meet again on May 25. Six boys are in charge of the program. Mrs. Livergood, Mrs. Link and Mrs. Harker are the eals committee—Reporter, Mrs. John Tommer.

ASKS FOR GUARANTEE

Senator Robert B. Howell of Nebraska has definite instructions, according to a copy of a letter which was mailed to this paper, from J. F. Baum of Salina. Mr. Baum is a Farmers Union member. Here is the letter:

Salina, Kans., May 10, 1932
Hon. Robert B. Howell Senator,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Please note the associated press news item attached hereto, from Salina Journal, May 10th inst. which states that livestock commission men's incomes are fixed by U. S. Government decree and cannot be reduced without permission of the secretary of agriculture.

Will you kindly arrange to have President Hoover and Secretary Hyde make same ruling protecting farmers against reduction of incomes which are now \$90.00 minus 33 1-3 per cent.

Yours truly,
J. F. Baum.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The second quarterly meeting of Riley County Farmers Union No. 45 will be held at Grandview schoolhouse, Saturday, June 4, at 11:00 A. M.

Dinner will be served at noon.

—Gust Larson, Secy.

PARAGRAPHS FROM WASHINGTON

Cong W. P. Lamberton, May 14

The old battleship Constitution that fought the Guerriere in the War of 1812 was pulled up the Potomac into the Navy Yard a few weeks ago. It was towed down to Alexander this week for their big celebration.

Recalling the discomforts of Valley Forge, the masons disregarded the continuous rain and marched in the parade preceding the dedication of the Washington memorial.

Consideration for agriculture was cheered yesterday when the McNary committee of the senate reported favorably on the Frazier Bill. This is one of the bills John Simpson has urged several times over the radio. It proposes to loan federal money at 1 1/2 per cent on 80 percent of the value of the land.

The furlough plan didn't save a dollar over the plan the committee advanced. The latter was a flat cut of 10 percent while the former was thirty days vacation without pay, crafty paragraphs to the contrary notwithstanding.

Some people overlook the fact that many congressmen voted for all the main economies proposed in the tax bill, yet, being in the minority, no credit is given. The bill as finally passed cut our own salaries 10 percent and our clerk hire 25 percent. A motion which reduced our salaries 25 percent, and voted for by the writer, was defeated.

A great deal has been said about "organized minorities." The strongest organized minority here we have to look out for is New England.

The eight members from Kansas voted with the almost solid Democratic majority on the proposition of saving money by retiring 2000 army officers. Can you imagine why party lines should be drawn on a question like that? It was nine-tenths so.

The new move for a non-partisan emergency relief seems to be more genuine than any that has happened. We are hoping that no Lincoln Day Jackson Day banquets will come along to spill the beans. The most difficult thing in Washington is to be just Americans.

Conditions have grown so bad in the country I am willing to declare war time and accept the President's leadership in the battle for economy—willing to vote the \$700,000,000 reductions and let him make the adjustments. I have already voted for more economies than our House leadership has approved.

WHEAT LEADS THE WAY

In every major depression wheat has led the way back to normalcy, say our economists. Wheat prices improve and other products follow.

As the farmer receives more money for his products he begins to buy farm machinery, family necessities, clothing, perhaps automobiles, tractors and radios. These purchases percolate through to the industrial centers where more men are employed and they, in turn, begin buying more food supplies and the cycle again reaches back to the farm.

It happens this year that the stage is set for a similar come-back through wheat and the farm. We are bound to have one of the shortest wheat crops in a decade. Of the 38,682,000 acres planted to winter wheat in the United States, 6,405,000 acres have been abandoned due to adverse weather conditions. The recent government report indicates a crop of only 44,781,000 bushels, or about 347,000,000 less than last year, and about 100,000,000 below a ten year average.

Conditions so far in Canada are not all satisfactory for spring wheat sowing. Russia last year was exporting wheat on a large scale, while this year she is importing in the same volume. All factors point to higher domestic and world prices, not only for wheat but for all other farm products.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN COOPERATION?

.....If you do, then you should be a member of the Kansas Farmers Union. Your support should be placed where it belongs. Agriculture cannot be completely organized without YOU. The more completely we are organized as a class, the more effectively we can work for the things Agriculture needs in order to be on a parity with other industries.

See your local Farmers Union secretary, or send your dues to the state office immediately. For new members, an initiation fee of \$2 is required, in addition to the annual dues of \$2.75. Members in arrears more than two years may either pay all back dues, or may come in as new members. Membership includes subscription to this paper. The paper, without the membership—if you want it that way—costs \$1 per year. Here's a blank for your convenience:

TO THE OFFICE OF STATE SECRETARY, Kansas Farmers Union, Salina, Kansas:

Please find enclosed..... I am a farmer believing in cooperation and hereby apply for membership in the Kansas Farmers Union.

New Member (Indicate here).....

Have membership in Local No.....

NAME

ADDRESS

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK SALES

Below is published a list of representative sales of live stock handled during the week of May 9 to May 13 by the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Co. at Kansas City:

	Weight	Price
Howard R. Woodbury, Osage County, Kansas, 20 steers	1394	\$6.75
Covelli Brothers, Morgan County, Colorado, 46 steers	1146	6.40
Paul A. Ehms, Geary County, Kansas, 7 steers	1387	6.35
J. B. Conard, Marshall County, Kans., 46 steers	1139	5.90
G. G. Jones, Livingston Co., Mo., 17 steers	1234	5.75
Homer Terpening, Trego County, Kansas, 21 steers	1125	5.75
A. Radcliff, Osage County, Kansas, 26 steers	1089	5.75
Floyd Zuker, Ottawa Co., Kansas, 28 steers	816	5.50
Floyd Zuker, Ottawa Co., Kansas, 12 steers	987	5.40
J. C. Fisher, Stafford Co., Kans., 8 steers	1085	5.25
L. C. Cleveland, Mgr., St. Clair Co., Mo., 10 calves	182	5.25
C. E. White, Nuckolls Co., Nebr., 8 yearlings	824	5.25
Geo. Sorenson, Lincoln Co., Kansas, 11 steers	1029	5.25
F. E. Rathbun, Osborne Co., Kansas, 19 steers	1048	5.25
C. E. White, Nuckolls Co., Nebr., 12 yearlings	714	5.15
John G. Renyer, Shawnee Co., Kans., 11 steers	600	5.15
H. A. Cady, Linn Co., Kansas, 12 steers	851	5.10
M. F. Sweat, Phillips Co., Kansas, 15 steers	841	5.00
Henry Hermes, Nemaha Co., Kansas, 25 steers and heifers	804	5.00
O. A. Swanson, Marshall Co., Kansas, 19 yearlings	677	5.00
John H. Schmied, Coffey Co., Kansas, 12 heifers	570	5.00
Roy Currie, Riley Co., Kansas, 38 steers	1021	4.90
H. F. Ritz, Mitchell Co., Kansas, 12 steers	663	4.75
Frank I. Graham, Marshall Co., Kansas, 11 steers and yearlings	840	4.75
W. C. Stapel, Shawnee Co., Kansas, 25 steers	1220	4.75
J. O. Siemers, Clay Co., Kansas, 10 yearlings	696	4.65
Frank Lawhead, Linn Co., Kansas, 8 steers	590	4.50
M. E. Harris, Labette Co., Kansas, 11 steers	799	4.35

W. O. Blake, Miami Co., Kansas, 29 hogs	238	3.40
H. Wilkie, Republic Co., Kansas, 41 hogs	222	3.30
Herbert Pipes, Bates Co., Mo., 12 hogs	193	3.30
H. M. Stanley, Anderson Co., Kansas, 20 hogs	230	3.30
F. A. Moll, Clay Co., Kansas, 27 hogs	210	3.30
Holbrook F. U. Coop. Assn., Furnas Co., Nebr., 56 hogs	254	3.30
Alf. Amor, Lafayette Co., Mo., 22 hogs	235	3.30
D. E. Johnson, Franklin Co., Kansas, 16 hogs	216	3.30
Aug. Begeman, Lafayette Co., Mo., 19 hogs	189	3.30
W. B. Flanner, Johnson Co., Kansas, 15 hogs	122	3.30
C. R. Dawson, Osborne Co., Kansas, 50 hogs	204	3.30
Leonard Froeschle, Lafayette Co., Mo., 47 hogs	221	3.30
Daniel Doolin, Anderson Co., Kansas, 25 hogs	222	3.25
G. C. Kimble, Bates Co., Mo., 29 hogs	218	3.25
B. W. Sander, Lafayette Co., Mo., 20 hogs	199	3.25
Burnett Bros., Custer Co., Nebr., 35 hogs	209	3.25
Ed. Mauch, Mgr., Ness Co., Kansas, 145 hogs	212	3.25
Chas. A. Fritz & Son, Pottamatomie Co., Kans., 30 hogs	201	3.25
Geo. A. Whitehair, Dickinson Co., Kans., 24 hogs	193	3.25
Chase Co. Ship. Assn., Chase Co., Kans., 26 hogs	206	3.25
L. C. Cleveland, Mgr., St. Clair Co., Mo., 97 hogs	192	3.25
C. R. Dawson, Osborne Co., Kans., 87 hogs	197	3.25
Everett French, Henry Co., Mo., 23 hogs	177	3.25
Roland Roepke, Marshall Co., Kans., 27 hogs	199	3.25
Mr. Jennings, Henry Co., Mo., 15 hogs	174	3.25
John Nanning, Riley Co., Kans., 37 hogs	216	3.15
Chriss Anderson, Coffey Co., Kans., 28 hogs	218	3.15
Sam Alkinson, Henry Co., Mo., 17 hogs	193	3.15
Carlson Bros., Clay Co., Kans., 85 hogs	202	3.15
T. A. Murphy, Bates Co., Mo., 45 hogs	238	3.15
H. O. Young, Anderson Co., Kans., 23 hogs	219	3.15
Walt Phillips, Le Flore Co., Okla., 72 hogs	219	3.15
Henry Woelhoff, Clay Co., Kans., 15 hogs	214	3.15
Mitchell Co. F. U., Mitchell Co., Kans., 115 hogs	213	3.15
G. G. Jones, Livingston Co., Mo., 71 hogs	213	3.15
Kirley Condron, Carroll Co., Mo., 17 hogs	251	3.15
Tindall F. U., Grundy Co., Mo., 60 hogs	210	3.15
G. H. Caple, Franklin Co., Kansas, 14 hogs	188	3.15
M. W. Knapp, Leavenworth Co., Kans., 15 hogs	232	3.15
C. H. Moore, Johnson Co., Kans., 29 hogs	211	3.15
W. G. Sloan, Leavenworth Co., Kans., 21 hogs	227	3.15
W. F. Arnold, Woodson Co., Kans., 22 hogs	212	3.15
J. E. Inman, Coffey Co., Kans., 23 hogs	242	3.10
T. P. Oldham, Miami Co., Kans., 18 hogs	183	3.10
Chas. Zarchka, Geary Co., Kans., 30 hogs	230	3.10
E. G. Shiffe, Cass Co., Mo., 40 hogs	167	3.10
Logan F. U., Phillips Co., Kans., 54 hogs	222	3.10
A. O. Turner, Henry Co., Mo., 21 hogs	166	3.10
Ralph Hughes, Cloud Co., Kans., 33 hogs	196	3.10
Will Curtis, Riley Co., Kans., 28 hogs	232	3.10
Blue Rapids F. Coop. Gr., Marshall Co., Kans., 35 hogs	195	3.10
John Vering, Marshall Co., Kans., 89 hogs	226	3.10
W. L. Garner, Stafford Co., Kans., 70 hogs	220	3.10
Clarence Stoll, Lafayette Co., Mo., 20 hogs	197	3.10
Henry Adam, Clay Co., Kans., 18 hogs	189	3.10
Earl Bowers, Jefferson Co., Kans., 18 hogs	187	3.10
Mitchell Co. F. U., Mitchell Co., Kans., 61 hogs	219	3.05
F. W. Klocke, Riley Co., Kans., 28 hogs	205	3.05
Frankfort F. U. S. A., Marshall Co., Kans., 18 hogs	189	3.05
John C. Schentow, Republic Co., Kans., 69 hogs	259	3.05
Carl Schowanholtz, Lafayette Co., Mo., 22 hogs	258	3.05
Joe Ulises, Anderson Co., Kans., 36 hogs	280	2.85
Radcliff & Son, Osage Co., Kans., 32 hogs	120	2.50
Burnett Bros., Custer Co., Nebr., 84 hogs	168	2.25

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THE MOST DISCOURAGING WEEK

By W. P. Lamberton
May 11

The Goldsborough Bill went through the House last week with "greatly lighted". It was a great day for the farmers. The farm organization leaders had placed great hope in the stabilization of the dollar at the 1926 commodity price level. They termed it the "Honest Dollar" bill. The bill, if enacted into law, will direct the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve Banks, and the Secretary of the Treasury by their control over the volume of credit and currency to restore the average commodity price level to the same level that was in existence when farmers and others contracted their debts. The measure gained widespread support on the ground that increased prices were essential to general economic recovery and any program of balancing government budgets, by over its passage was short lived. The measure had the strenuous opposition of "gold-mined" financiers. The House action struck them like a bolt out of clear sky. "The House has gone crazy," was charged, as they envisioned the value of their "Golden Cal" going down and farm prices going up. They became panicky. A day or so later they unfortunately gained comfort out of the President's special message to Congress in which he called the measure "placing a burden of impossible execution upon the Federal Reserve System over the protest of the Federal Reserve Board." The President's opposition to the measure undoubtedly means that it will not be enacted into law. Many thought that this bill had been hurriedly passed in order to head off the bonus bill, and would have the ultimate sanction of the White House.

While he above was happening, the bonus bill, which was another inflationary measure, was practically killed by a parliamentary objection. So far as can be learned, no committee in Washington ever before reported a bill adversely. Bills have always stayed in the committee if the committee was opposed to them. They called it "pocketing" them. The new rule adopted by the House this year, permits 145 members to sign a petition forcing a bill out of the committee and permitting the House to vote on whether or not they would consider it. The Ways and Means Committee reported the bonus bill adversely, and this circumstance the use of the new rule by petition. Any other method of forcing action could not accomplish now be-

June 13, and Congress is determined to adjourn by the 10th or 11th, in time for the national conventions. The Committee "generously" continued their hearings until the time limit of their concealed purpose could be accomplished. I thought possibly you had not read it and would be interested in just what happened to the bonus bill.

The proposal in the economy bill consolidating the Army and Navy House was defeated by a narrow margin. It was a striking example of the difficulties to be encountered on any re-organization proposition. It reminds me when he attempts to re-organize his cow stable. Every animal makes a determined effort to remain in her old place. You can hit a cow on her nose, twist her tail, but if there is feed in front of her it becomes almost impossible to drive her into the new stall or out of the barn completely. The House attempts to put the Army mule and the Navy goat in the same stall, and no farmer ever saw more kicking and blating when that move was attempted. The same will be true of other departments of the Government with the economy measure and the President sent a hot message of denunciation to Congress. The message stirred up the flames of partisanship as never before during this session. The President followed it immediately with another message in an attempt to squelch the heated partisan feeling that had developed. The House leaders called for specific suggestions from the president with charges that every effort to economize in certain departments of Government was met with strenuous opposition by the President's subordinates within the departments. One of the President's secretaries lobbying on the floor of the House helped to defeat the consolidation of the Army and Navy.

While the House was struggling with the economy measure, the Senate Finance Committee was enmeshed with the new revenue bill. Senator Reed of Pennsylvania in a heated moment stated that what this country needs is a Mussolini. The Senate Finance Committee shows the same reactionary tendencies that the Ways and Means Committee of the House showed on the tax bill. They have reduced the surtaxes in the Senate Committee, eliminated the tax on dividends, and the tax on dividends of corporations, and are planning to make it up by reducing the exemptions from 45c to 10c on admission to picture shows, and with the hope of

bringing back part of the sales tax. It is up to the Senate itself to show whether or not it is in harmony with its committee, or whether it will do like the House and write its own tax bill.

THE CONSUMER TAKES A STAND

An interest which hitherto has not been prominent in support of cooperative marketing came to light in a speech in the House of Representatives recently. The speaker, representing one of the most populous city districts, was advocating an adequate appropriation for administering the Agricultural Marketing Act. Here are two paragraphs from his rapid fire attack on the forces seeking to "hamstring" the farm Board:

"I am not interested in the personnel of the Farm Board, and I am not personally acquainted with any person on the Board. I am interested particularly on establishing an economic system of marketing for the benefit of the farmer, which means also the benefit of the consumer. I have written into the law an orderly cooperative marketing act. I consider that one of the important factors in an economic readjustment that is going on in this country at this time.

"You may wonder at my interest in this situation. Maybe I am unique in the curtain of the future and seeing out yonder the not distant day when organized consumers in great centers like New York and Chicago will be grasping the hands of organized producers through the land and wiping out thereby the greatest burden that rests upon the backs of both—the burden of distribution and the cost of the manipulation of gamblers. That accounts for my interest in this matter; I am talking for these people."

IN TEXAS THEY KNOW

Among the states prominent for their understanding and support of the Agricultural Marketing Act, and the work of the Farm Board, as administration of the Acts in Texas. Not only has Texas made noteworthy progress in cooperative marketing, but her representatives in Congress have stood with the state's agricultural interests. The following from an editorial in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram is to the point:

"The greatest achievement of the Federal Farm Board lies in the encouragement it has given to farm cooperatives. Its efforts to assist cooperatives in obtaining better marketing conditions are aimed at the promotion of an essential element of organized action. The opportunity for genuine service through federal legislation is, in all probability, limited to just such activities.

Members of farm cooperatives realize that the farmer industry to be remunerative must do away with crop surpluses. They are endeavoring to work toward that desirable goal. The extreme difficulty of accomplishing this result throughout wide regions must be recognized. Yet determination to the desired end will have to be made."

MAY CURE BORROWING FEVER As a commentary on the financial state of mind we were in during the ten years following the war, the borrowing propensities of several of our leading states are worth looking at. The New York increased her borrowings since the war 221 percent; Illinois 877 percent; California 1,099 percent; Missouri 1,842 percent; New Jersey 10,476 percent; and Michigan 808 percent.

A number of the principal cities were not far behind the states. New York City shows an increase of 104 percent during the same period. Chicago 467 percent and Philadelphia 377 percent.

We were bent on self-destruction and were riding for a fall when the world debacle struck our shores in 1929. If nothing good comes out of the depression beyond checking the dreadful extravagance of states and cities it will have accomplished something for the American people.

IN A NUTSHELL "Farm organizations and the private grain trade are approaching a showdown on the Farm Board, although the chances are that the final showdown will be delayed until the next session of Congress. The private grain trade wants to withdraw all funds from the Board which it can use in handling, or in assisting the farmers' cooperative marketing association to handle wheat, cotton and other farm products. The farm organizations want the Agricultural Marketing Act continued, and also want the Board provided with adequate funds to assist in financing cooperative marketing to the extent provided in the marketing act."—From a statement by Senator Capper of Kansas in the Missouri Ruralist for May.

PROGRAM READY FOR MEETING OF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

(continued from page 1) Lenses which come up in every day affairs at elevators and stores. Some of the most able and experienced cooperative managers in the middle west are on the program. Some of the highest points of interest will be

reached in the informal and round table discussions. This is a meeting to which managers may bring their problems. It will be a clearing house for ideas.

Following is an outline of the program:

Wednesday, May 25
Eagles' Hall, Salina, Kansas
C. B. Thowe, presiding
1:00 p.m. Reading of minutes, by Sec. T. C. Belden.
Appointment of committees
Chairman's report.
2:00 p.m. Talk by Judge E. A. Crall, Erie, Kansas, F. A. Jobbing Assn.
2:30 p.m. Talk by E. G. Tharp, Protection, Kansas, Farmers Group, Commission Co.
3:00 p.m. Talk by Howard Cowden, North Kansas City, Mo., Union Oil Co.
3:30 p.m. Talk by Dr. Schoenberg, North Kansas City, Mo., Union Oil Co.
4:30 p.m. Round Table Discussion. Bring your own ideas.
6:30 p.m. Banquet and Entertainment. Rorabaugh Tea Room.
Thursday, May 26
Eagles' Hall, Salina
C. B. Thowe, presiding
9:00 a.m. Address by R. H. Montgomery, Larabee Flour Mills Co.
10:00 a.m. Address by Sam Ray, farm organization, Mills, Inc.
10:30 a.m. Address by George Prothy, Union Pacific, Railroad.
Discussion.
2:30 p.m. Ball Game. Oakdale Park, Salina.

URGES FARM BOARD TO RALLY TO SUPPORT OF ORGANIZATIONS

(continued from page 1) you think you should wait for your neighbors to get organized before you do? Every intelligent farmer listening tonight knows without being told any more about it that he owes it to his own identity to agriculture as a class—to identify himself with the progressive state, township, what it deserves, that if you belong to only one organization, you will select the Farmers Union. But at any rate and in any event if you are a farmer and believe in the general class of agriculture getting organized, you should join some farm organization—if not the Farmers Union, then some other group.

You are needed, and this fight which is being carried on in Kansas City at the present time, may cause the state, township, what it deserves, just how much you are needed, in order to make our organization more effective and more complete. If the forces who are carrying on the rate fight were representing an organization which included every farmer in the state, they wouldn't be any fight at all. We would get what we asked for without any argument, as long as we should be reasonable in our requests.

What It All Means

It occurs to many farmers that this present contest before the interstate commerce commission, between the carrier interests on one hand, and interests of the producers of food and commodities on the other hand, has a significance which will cause its influence to spread far beyond the boundaries of the states directly affected by the decision—whatever it may be. If the commission should decide against the farmers, it will mean more than the fact that the Kansas farmers and farmers of neighboring states will have to contribute unjustly to the railroads. It will be a blow to agriculture in general. It will prove conclusively that the farmer is the under dog, and that he can figure a chance; that the farmer still has a chance; that his rights are being recognized to some extent. It will mean that every farmer must see the value of organization, and must see the definite advantage of affiliating himself with a good farm organization.

It is more than a fight between the farmers of the mid-western states and the railroads, over a few million dollars each year. It is a test to determine whether the farmers, who till the soil, take the risks, carry the principal burden of cost of neighboring states, and feed the nation, are to be ignored while farmers are handed out to those who traffic in that which the farmers produce; and who seek to be guaranteed a certain profit on their operations, regardless of the economic condition of the classes who are called upon to support them.

I cannot believe the farmers will be so completely ignored even though we are not organized nearly to the extent we should be for proper recognition.

My appeal to you in closing, friends, is for you to rally to the support of your own organizations. Place your support definitely where it belongs, and make that support effective, by becoming a member in good standing of the Farmers Union or some other farm organization of your choice.

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