



THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation



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The Co-Operation Cure

When We Get Together and Stick, Surplus Will No Longer Fix Prices.
By Frank O. Lowden in The Country Gentleman.

In no other realm except agriculture does the price of the exportable surplus fix the price of the great bulk of the particular product on the home market.

Take wheat as an example. Under existing conditions the price at Liverpool not only determines the price we receive for our export wheat but also fixes the price of that very much larger portion which we consume at home.

Shall we suppose conclude that this condition is inevitable and must remain so?

The markets of Europe are demoralized, their exchange in chaotic condition, and European buying piece-meal by a hand to mouth policy.

How long the world's markets will remain in this sad state no living man can say.

Now in every field of production except farming we have declared our independence of the European market. The manufacturer, like the farmer, may at times produce too much of his goods for the domestic market. If so, he sells his surplus abroad in competition with the rest of the world for whatever he can get, perhaps for less than cost.

But he does not allow this to control the price of the products he sells at home.

Import duties afford him protection.

And he justifies the price discrimination with the argument that greater production at a more uniform rate enables him to make the price of his product to the domestic consumer less than it would have been in a long series of years without this foreign outlet.

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But let me pursue this matter of prices a little further.

I am reliably informed that the bread prices are now on a basis of \$1.50 wheat. In all fairness a farmer might receive more for his wheat without affecting the bread prices.

Indeed, since the Congressional Joint Commission of Agricultural Inquiry found that the farmer gets only thirty-seven cents of the consumer's bread dollar, it would seem possible for the farmer to receive a dividend from the other sixty-three cents without worrying the consumer.

The spread between farm prices and retail prices is so great that retail prices need not be affected by a substantial increase in farm prices.

Factory Owners Show the Way.

Positively there can be no question of the legal basis, the economic soundness, the ethical rightness, and the essential justice, as well as the remedial efficacy, of agricultural co-operation.

The products of the farm are fundamental necessities of life and civilization.

The consumer is willing to pay fair prices for these products. Many consumers take it for granted that the farmer is getting his just share of the final retail price, in the same manner as do the manufacturers of shoes, shirts and sewing machines.

But beyond question the farmer does not get an equitable part of the consumer's dollar.

And the only reason I can discover why the farmer suffers this disadvantage as compared with the manufacturer is that manufacturing is highly organized whereas agriculture is not.

The manufacturer tries to adjust his output to prospective consumption. The farmer has not done so.

The manufacturer, if he finds that his output is in excess of demand, has produced a surplus, sells it abroad and prevents it from ruining his business by glutting the home market.

The unorganized farmer has simply let the tail go with the hide, by selling his whole output on the home market regardless of consequences.

The American manufacturer has found the only practical way of handling the problem of a surplus.

The farmer must do likewise.

Many co-operative associations for the sale of farm products are being organized. There are now about 9,000 of them in the United States, in greatest numbers in the corn and wheat belts, but some in every state. More than 5,500 deal with grain, dairy products and livestock, but a great variety of commodities are on the list.

Last year these co-operatives handled more than \$2,000,000,000 worth of products. That's a promising start.

Some of these associations may fail either from indifference among their members or from lack of efficient management or as a result of too small a volume of business or from an unwise attempt to hold prices too high.

But recently organized associations are seeking to avoid the price-fixing peril. For too-high prices lead to overproduction and all its attending evils.

Hence for the most part these organizations recognize the fact that in the long run the law of supply and demand fixes the price of commodities. But they are exerting every effort to equalize the flow of produce to market, so as to prevent the needless wild fluctuations of prices.

The present frame of mind of the farmer is causing some worry here and there.

Is it to be wondered at that he should at times lose a bit of his patience and serenity?

The farmer is not satisfied, nor will he be until an equilibrium is re-established between the prices of hogs and wheat, and shoes and furniture.

When the total value of an unusually large crop is less than that of a short crop, he concludes that there is something wrong with the system of distribution.

He requires no higher mathematics to know that 12,000,000 bales of cotton should be worth more than 6,000,000.

But two and two don't always make four in our present disjointed method of marketing, in which, paradoxically, plant diseases, insect pests and short crops may prove the farmer's best friends.

All these considerations drive the farmer into cooperation as the best and most feasible remedy for his marketing troubles.

Right now is the time for the farmers of America to show their loyalty to their organizations, and to give whole-hearted support to co-operative marketing societies.

For the first time in American history such societies are beginning to gain recognition from the business world.

Takes Gamble Out of Farming.

The federal reserve board has recognized them as legitimate agencies through which to extend credit to the individual farmer.

They have received the same treatment from the war finance corporation.

Such credit recognition by bankers is a great step forward in the history of cooperation. It indicates that the business world clearly sees in the cooperative movement a new

and mighty force in the distribution of farm products.

But the farmers themselves in increasing numbers and with growing steadfastness must stand by the movement, if it is to solve the troublesome problems.

One of the prime causes of failure in cooperative societies is lack of faith on the part of farmers in the locality covered by the organization.

For a cooperative venture to succeed fully it must control enough of a particular commodity to be an important element in the local market. The volume of business must be such as to command respect and attention from the trade.

The sudden, erratic and unpredictable fluctuations in prices on an uncontrolled farm-produce market make farming a continuous gambling game. Hog prices may show a sickening drop between the time of shipment and arrival at market.

But by virtue of its pools, averages, warehouses, storage and orderly marketing, cooperation takes the gambling out of farming.

The prices which the Danish co-operators receive for their butter and bacon show no unexpected variations.

In this country a wider and more enthusiastic support of existing co-operative organizations would materially stabilize the flow of produce to market, and also the prices received for it.

The time is ripe for great and permanent progress in the development of the cooperative idea. Nothing can stop the movement if the farmers will do their part.

Must Convert the Pull-backs.

Too often the establishment of an association has to fight against the influence of the non-cooperative farmer, who hopes to share in the general benefits of price stabilization without supporting the organization. That's the man we need to be reminded where his duty to the community lies.

But occasional cooperative failures need cause no undue concern. We can't expect to avoid all mistakes.

I undertake to say, however that in no new business movement of equal magnitude have the failures been as few as in our cooperative societies.

The movement began without much experience, but we are rapidly acquiring the needed experience. Co-operative leaders of great ability are developing and are profiting by the mistakes of the past.

Failures are becoming fewer. There is every reason for a surer faith in the future of cooperative marketing than ever before.

But although most farm communities are already organized to some extent along business lines, we must not rest with the formation of small local societies.

The local societies in turn must be affiliated in state and national federations. In no other way can farm products be efficiently distributed.

However hopeful the local shipping associations may be, they must be federated into larger groups before the flow and diversion of products to market can be properly controlled.

The movement of other products is controlled in that way. Farm products must follow the same course.

Cooperation means working together, and the cooperating farmers must work together, not merely talk together.

(Continued on page 2)

Pool Contracts Secured Daily

MARION COUNTY PERFECTS ITS ORGANIZATION FOR THE WHEAT POOL

The leading farmers of the County met in the board of directors' office last Wednesday to set into action the Wheat Pool for this county. The farmers were full of enthusiasm having the assurance that a great tool had been placed in their hands whereby they could market their next crop with more certainty of a sale and a greater net profit to their wheat farming enterprise. Every inch of the project was carefully surveyed and the very best men obtainable were selected to carry on the Local organization. Leading men from nearly every community were present and active initiative steps. It was certainly an inspiration to watch this crowd of earnest wheat growers take upon themselves the duties of wrestling from the hands of the life-long skilled profiteers and profit-takers their relentless system of robbing the helpless farmer. These breadbasket signers of the Wheat Pool Contract did not look upon this task as one of mere charity, doing something just for the benefit of all; but it is of getting the most good out of it for themselves. For it is evident that no one else can profit thereby unless they too sign up and get directly into this great marketing system; a system that puts the producer in direct touch with the consumer without having a long line of unnecessary middlemen to gouge and gorge the price from both the producer and consumer. In other words it is simply a system whereby simplicity and efficiency are the keywords. Honesty and Justice is the balance wheel that will keep the organization going.

This is not an experiment. It has been tried in several instances in nearly every case a complete success. The failures that the opponents have glaringly pictured before the farmers were not the result of ignorance and poor judgment but that of drastic trickery played by the old Grain Gambling clique whom we know to have piled up millions of dollars that rightly belonged to the producer and consumer. The Wheat Poolers present last Wednesday were fully aware of all of this and took every precaution necessary to avert any further demoralization of the farmer's confidence in this trustful project.

The permanent officers elected to serve one year for the County were: Mr. John P. Fengel, of Lost Springs, for President and Mr. Martin I. Shields, of Lincolnville for Secretary. Both of these men have had lots of experience in Farmers Cooperative societies. They are students of progress and active workers. The President is widely known for his voracity of attacking the forward plunderers of American agriculture. I dare say that he needs no introduction to the farmers of Marion county.

The next duty of the assembly was that of selecting a suitable delegation to represent and cast the vote of the county at the meeting of the Nineteenth District, in which we are a part of, at Eldorado, the following Friday, June 28th. According to the number of Contracts that had been signed in Marion County prior to May 24th, we were entitled to three electors. The men elected were: John P.

Fengel of Lost Springs, Shirley A. Van Scoik of Marion (he lives near Aulene), and Samuel Eitzen of Hillsboro. The alternative was: John M. Lentz of Marion (he lives near Eitzen).

On Friday all four of these delegates went to Eldorado to meet with the representatives of eight other counties that compose the Nineteenth District, namely: Chautauqua, Cowley, Elk, Chase, Greenwood, Butler, Lyons, and Morris. These were to represent and cast the ballot for this District for a Director on the State Board of Directors that regularly convenes at Wichita. There are at present twenty-one Districts and twenty-one directors. It is the duty of these directors to set the price, find the best markets, to sell the wheat, and do the business of the State Pool.

Senator H. R. Green of Moline was chosen Director for this District. This man has been serving the State Senate and the duty of his ability. He is really a farmer, one of the chief promoters of the State Cooperative Banking Law, aided the Scully tenants in their much needed legislation, and numerous other farmers' movements. He is without doubt the best man in the district to work for our interests.

Do not fool yourselves by thinking that it is already too late to sign the Contract to sell this crop of wheat. The fact is: That there are nearly as many signing daily as there were during the Drive. But this much is so, or at least has been so in some of the other Pools; that some of the "stay-out" and "liberty-lovers" are now clamoring to get into the Pool and can't. Take warning neighbors, when the tide turns you too may be left out. We that have signed and started the Local at Marion believe that we are far safer in the Pool than we were when we were at the mercy of the vicious grain dealers, gamblers and the horde of parasite middlemen.

THE KENTUCKY LESSON.

A few weeks ago a group of Kansas papers sent a trained reporter to Kentucky to get the truth about the cooperative marketing venture in that state. The reporter went because it was reported in Kansas that the Kentucky enterprise had failed. The reporter went predisposed against the Kentucky plan. When he got to Kentucky he found that the plan was a success. He has been printing his stories in the Gazette along with other Kansas papers and these stories certainly point the way to a realizable Kansas goal.

Cooperative marketing done in state units surely saves money to the farmer. It is his one best hope for better time. Railroad rates and lower taxes will help a little and they would come. But they will help only a little. A stable market and a fair price are the things that the western farmer needs. And cooperation is the only way to get these things. Now is the time to begin.—From the Emporia Gazette.

Standard Blackbuck outlived Pink kaffir in eastern central Kansas five bushels per acre on an average during an eight year test.

Shawnee county has increased its potato yields 20 per cent in the last five years by adopting better cultural and marketing methods advocated by K. S. A. C.

SNIPES HUNTING!



The Untactful One-Crop Farmer

He Protests Against Too Much Free Advice From Elsewhere.
By Charles B. Driscoll, Editor Wichita Eagle.

I am editor of a daily newspaper that has 300,000 readers in the wheat belt. I am a veteran at the job of handing out free advice to the wheat growers. I observe that my field is being forcibly entered by high-powered experts from West End Avenue and thereabout. I am growing restless under the sting of this Eastern competition, and I am resolved to ask the next Kansas Legislature to put a prohibitive tariff upon imported advice to Kansas farmers, and maybe I shall ask Senator Arthur Capper to put a dirt farmer on an editorial board of every New York magazine.

Out here in Kansas, we have a sentimental attachment for wheat. Just as the poor misguided New Yorker retains an undying affection for the invincible bottle that puts him into Bellevue and bankruptcy, so do we Kansans, from year to year and from decade to decade, sing the praises of wheat even while wheat is making us economically sick. At the beginning of each fiscal year we swear off, but two dark moons later finds us stealthily sowing another crop. Perverse insanity? That's obviously a snap diagnosis. It's too easy to be altogether sound.

About five years ago I began writing for farmer consumption an endless series of editorials, advocating the reduction of wheat acreage. At that time this advice was quite generally looked upon as fanatical and immoral as well. King Wheat had been personified among us as a smiling old deity, second only to Santa Claus in the category of household gods. To attempt to lessen the extent of this jolly old monster's domain was little short of blasphemy, and was worse than ordinary heresy. But the advice went out, free and unlimited.

Remain on the house-top long enough and keep on shouting the same thing loudly enough, and some time, some day, you will hear something suspiciously like a chorus responding very like an organ accompaniment swelling from the distant hills. But, frankly, I am becoming somewhat nettled by the enthusiasm and boisterousness with which the journalistic chasers now join in admonishing the wheat farmer to stop raising wheat, to diversify or starve. It is more than advice now. It becomes a booming command, with the accompaniment of much clashing of symbols and beating of big drums along the lower reaches of the Hudson River.

I desire to defend my friend the Kansas farmer against the quite universal charge that he is a fool and a lazy lout because he continues to produce wheat. I still sit in my office and write the editorial that moral diversification of farming. I still hang back upon the heads of prize-winning dairy cows, and I'm ready to tell the world that there is another side to this question. The Kansas farmer who continues to raise wheat is not generally guilty of such moral turpitude or bad agriculture. It's time that somebody should stand up for this widely abused producer of that which is made into expensive bread.

Take my friend Frank Mallinton, who farms 3,000 acres out by the little town of Milton. At all the local Broadway broadcasters are saying about wheat farmers were true, I'd shun Frank as an unwholesome influence, for Frank raises 2,999 acres of wheat every year. The other acre is taken up by the house, garage and barns.

Recently I met Frank on the street and he extended his right hand in greeting.

"Hands that have touched wheat money shall never touch mine," I told him. "Haven't you been reading my philippics against the wheat farmer for years and years, and don't you continue to raise wheat nothing else?"

"That's all right," he replied quickly, "have no fear. These hands haven't touched wheat money for so long that the curse has been all wiped away long ago. My hands are clean."

So we fell to talking about wheat. "Why don't you take some of this free advice that you can get out of the papers and magazines, or out of the air, and diversify?" I demanded. "Haven't you heard that it's bad business to devote all your efforts to the production of one staple?"

"Yes, I've heard that," he replied, thoughtfully. "And I've often wondered whether Henry Ford ever heard it. Somebody certainly ought to hasten to Henry and let him know that he's proceeding on the wrong principle. He ought to have a milk condenser in one corner of his plant and an overall factory along one side of it. He ought to branch out into perfumes and lipsticks. He's head ed straight for ruin, devoting all his energy to the making of one staple article."

"But," I put in heatedly, "Henry is getting by, and you are not. Henry is making an article for which there is demand."

"That's right," said Frank, thoughtfully. "Henry is doing that. Why I understand the children in Germany are starving for automobiles. And there's no demand for bread anywhere."

I always had noticed that Frank was impractical, so I tried to nail him

down to cases. And he did tell me a few things about his business that interested me.

Frank has raised wheat all his life. He knows how to raise wheat, and he knows how to handle it. He doesn't know anything about any other kind of farming. He's a specialist. He maintains that a specialist in the production of the one essential bread-stuff ought to have the right to go ahead and raise that stuff so long as there is a world-wide demand for it. Not very good reasoning, but it shows how Frank's brain works. He's a sentimentalist.

Frank has about \$9,000 invested in wheat-farming machinery. This machinery enables him to produce his wheat at a minimum cost per bushel. His labor here places his wheat kind of farming. He's a specialist. He maintains that a specialist in the production of the one essential bread-stuff ought to have the right to go ahead and raise that stuff so long as there is a world-wide demand for it. Not very good reasoning, but it shows how Frank's brain works. He's a sentimentalist.

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION



THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1924.

THE TAX AMENDMENT TO THE KANSAS CONSTITUTION.

By Eric Englund

Department of Agricultural Economics K. S. A. C.

At the general election next fall the people of Kansas will again vote on a tax amendment to the state constitution. It is not easy for those who have had little opportunity to make a thorough study of this amendment to know the merits of it. In this brief article I shall try to point out some of the more important features of the tax amendment; (1) How the present amendment differs from the amendment defeated two years ago; (2) Why it is proposed; (3) What classification of intangible property would mean to Kansas; and (4) objections raised to the amendment.

The constitution of Kansas was adopted more than half a century ago; and we are now contemplating an important change in this the fundamental law of our state. Changes in law follow haltingly behind economic changes. Legislation often lags behind economic needs, because these needs must be acute enough to overcome the inertia of the public mind before necessary laws can be enacted.

This tendency of human beings to adhere to things as they have been, in the face of new conditions, is perhaps more pronounced in taxation than in any other phase of public policy. Many people regard taxes, as a necessary evil; and the human mind prefers evils which it knows not of. Or as Kipling says: "Stick to the devil you know." But this does not help to solve our problems of taxation. We can secure tax reform (1) by studying the problem before us, and (2) by lending our support to legislation that fits economic conditions of the present time.

The tax amendment of two years ago was defeated because our citizens had not given it sufficient thought and study. The first fact to bear in mind is that there is an important difference between the amendment defeated two years ago and the one now before us. The former amendment would have enabled the legislature to classify all property for taxation, while the one we shall vote on next fall would only make it possible to classify minerals and intangible property, such as "money, mortgages, notes and other evidences of debt." It does not propose to give the legislature any new power over real estate and other tangible property, except minerals. This distinction should be a real consolation to those who opposed the amendment two years ago on the ground it would give "too much power to the legislature."

Every business man knows that an arbitrary advance in the price of a commodity will reduce sales. In other words, it is possible to charge more than the traffic will bear. The same is true in taxation. When rates are beyond what the traffic will bear, they will dry up the source of revenue.

There is great difference between classes of property from the standpoint of the effect of high rates on revenue. Herein lies a fundamental reason for classification. Certain kinds of property are more visible and more immovable than other classes. Those classes that are "invisible" and more movable can be moved from one state to another where tax laws are less oppressive, and can be hidden from the tax assessor. For this reason, the general property tax such as we now have in Kansas drives intangible property, money, notes, mortgages, stocks and bonds and other evidences of debt, out of the state or into hiding. Consequently, very little intangible property reaches the tax rolls in Kansas, and other property that cannot escape must bear more than its share of the burden. The State Commission says in its report to the last legislature that of the privately owned money on deposit in the banks of Kansas about March 1, 1922, only 16 per cent reached the tax rolls. A few years ago this commission estimated that 700 million dollars of legally taxable intangible property escaped taxation in this state.

Not only do we drive intangible property into hiding or out of the state by an excessive rate, but also by applying this rate to a higher valuation. Intangibles that reach the tax rolls are hit harder than any other class of property because as a rule they are assessed at full value, while real estate and other tangible property are generally assessed at less than full value. City real estate in sixteen counties in Kansas that sold for \$18,066,000 during the ten year period, 1913-22, was assessed at 73 per cent of sale value. We have record of \$65,782,000 worth of farm real estate that changed hands in bona fide sales in fifteen counties during the same period. This real estate was assessed at 65.3 per cent of sale value. In the mean time, intangibles that were not hidden from the tax assessor were generally assessed at full value. Hence, by high rate and high assessment we create every possible inducement for owners of intangibles to withhold their property from the tax rolls.

We need classification of intangible property in Kansas for two reasons: (1) To bring more of this property on to the tax rolls where it would bear a larger part of the cost of government than it now bears, and thus relieve other property of a part of the burden; (2) To aid in building up Kansas agriculture and Kansas industries by making more capital available for productive enterprises at a lower rate of interest.

Experience is the best guide in this matter. Let us assume, for illustration, that the tax amendment will be passed and that the legislature will levy a rate of 3 mills on the dollar of intangibles, such as has been done in Minnesota and several other states, what results can we expect of such classification in Kansas? Would it increase the amount of intangible property taxed and would it raise more revenue from these classes of property?

In endeavoring to find an answer to this question, the experience of Minnesota is illuminating. That state applied the general property tax rate (28 mills on the dollar) in 1910. In that year, 6,200 people were taxed, with an assessment of \$13,914,000 and a revenue of \$389,586. In 1914, after classification had been in effect four years at a rate of 3 mills to the dollar, 73,266 persons were taxed, with an assessment of \$196,548,000 and a revenue of \$589,645. This revenue exceeds that of the last year of the general property tax by nearly \$210,000. In 1922, 109,081 persons were taxed, the assessment being \$400,689,000, which at a rate of 3 mills yielded a revenue of \$1,202,067. This revenue, which is about three times as great as the revenue obtained under the old law, was distributed among 109,081 people as compared with 6,200 in 1910.

The following table shows more fully the general results of classification in Minnesota. The data are adapted from Tax Commission reports of that state.

Year	Rate per dollar	Persons	Assessment	Revenue
1910	28 m	6,200	\$13,913,806	\$389,586
1911	3 m	41,489	115,481,807	346,445
1912	3 m	50,564	135,369,314	406,108
1913	3 m	57,068	156,969,892	470,910
1914	3 m	73,266	196,548,307	589,645
1921	3 m	119,161	424,816,226	1,274,445
1922	3 m	109,081	400,689,948	1,202,067

Similar data can be obtained from other states. Maryland, North Dakota, Kentucky, and other commonwealths where classification has been tried. For example, the following from the city of Baltimore:

Year	Rate per dollar	Assessment	Revenue
1896	21.75 mills	\$6,000,000	\$130,550
1897	4.75 mills	58,703,795	278,846
1918	4.50 mills	216,000,000	972,000

Experiences of these states show that we have now gone far beyond what the traffic will bear in taxing intangible property in Kansas, and that we could bring much of this property out of hiding and get from it more revenue than we are now getting if we should follow the example of other states and adopt an amendment to the constitution permitting classification of intangible property.

The present high rate applied to intangibles helps to keep up the rate of interest in Kansas and it also results in severe double taxation. The owner of a mortgaged farm now pays the general property tax once on the whole farm, and once again on the mortgaged portion of it. This problem could be solved by classification of property. The legislature has repeatedly attempted to solve this problem, but without success because our constitution does not permit classification.

The Tax Commission of the state of Kentucky says, in a letter dated March 7, 1923, "Since the adoption of the present revenue law in Kentucky, which provides for a classification of property for the purpose of taxation, beg to say that the bank deposits have increased wonderfully and the rate of discount in the banks of Kentucky is now 6 per cent. Before the adoption of the present law, in many counties and some of the large cities as much as 8 per cent was charged because of the scarcity of available funds."

Kansas is now virtually a closed market to Kansas investors. Consequently, capital accumulated here goes out of the state where the tax laws are less severe.

On the basis of the experience of other states, the present system does two things: (1) It heaps the tax burden on those properties that cannot escape. (2) It drives capital out of the state, and thus maintains a higher rate of interest on loans than would be the case if we had different tax laws.

Three objections are frequently raised against the amendment. One says, "It is unfair to tax the other fellow's property at a lower rate than mine." "If it is fair to tax intangible property at all, is it fair to tax it at a lower rate than tangible property?"

But this is to overlook the whole issue. Fairness does not rest upon the superficial consideration of rates. It rests upon results, and it has been shown that the present system fails to get results. On the contrary the tax burden to fall more heavily on property that cannot escape taxation, creates vicious double taxation, and helps to keep the rate of interest high.

Another objection is that people cannot be made honest by law. "If people are dishonest enough to hide property from the tax assessor, a new law won't make them honest." Those who hold to this objection are asked to study the figures given above, showing the results in Minnesota. Their special attention is called to the column giving the number of people assessed at the different rates. We must recognize that there is a limit to what law can do. There is a difference between legal phraseology and results, between words and accomplishments. We may not be able to make people honest by law; but facts show that other states have assessed more persons and more property at a low rate on intangibles than at a high rate, and that more revenue has been obtained under classification.

A third objection sometimes advanced in Kansas against classification of intangible property is that it would "take revenue out of the local taxing districts and dump it into the state treasury." It is argued that revenue derived from classified intangibles would not go to local taxing districts where the property is located. The fact that this is done in Kentucky is held up as evidence that such would be the case in Kansas. This is to go far afield for consolation and to overlook many facts along the way.

In the first place, revenue from classified intangible property can be distributed among the local taxing units as it is now. In fact it is distributed in many other states that have classification of property. For example, Minnesota divides revenue obtained at three mills on the dollar for intangibles, as follows: one-sixth to the state, one-sixth to the county, one-third to the city, village or town, and one-third to the school district in which the property is assessed. (Sec. 13, Chapter 285, Laws of Minnesota, 1911).

The constitution of Kentucky (paragraph 171) gives the legislature of that state power "to divide property into classes and to determine what class or classes of property shall be subject to local taxation." Accordingly, the legislature has enacted a law (Paragraph 4019a-10, Kentucky Statutes, 1922), making all intangible property, with minor exceptions, subject to taxation for state purposes only. But no such provision is found in the constitution of Kansas. It is therefore wholly erroneous to assume that classification of intangible property in Kansas would inevitably result in a withdrawal of this revenue from local taxing districts, for state purposes.

THE TAX AMENDMENT.

Several members of the Union have asked for information about the amendment to the state constitution to be voted on this fall that has for its purpose the classification of intangible property for taxation. Many suppose it to be identical with some what similar propositions that have been submitted and rejected during the past ten years.

There are very material differences between this amendment and those that have failed. This proposition deals only with intangible property, such as notes, mortgages and bonds and with minerals. Its sole purpose is to enable the legislature to work out a taxing system that will remove some of the unequal burdens for the support of government from lands and require heavier payments from the owners of a form of wealth that has not done its part.

Elsewhere on this page, in order that it may be seen and read by all Union men interested we are printing a complete analysis and discussion of the amendment which has been prepared by Eric Englund of the Department of Agricultural Economics of the Kansas State Agricultural College. If any further information than this article contains is required members should feel free to write to this paper or to Prof. Englund for additional facts.

AFRAID OF SUCCESS.

Some farmers are staying out of the cooperative wheat marketing association because they seem to be afraid that it will succeed. They say that higher prices will either increase production beyond the demands of consumers and finally run around again to a losing level or result in an increase of prices of commodities which the farmers must buy for their own use. It is always wise to solve one problem at a time.

The purpose of a cooperative marketing association is to get higher prices for the commodity organized and handled. There is no reason why it cannot do many other things in interest of its members. If production must be regulated in order to maintain profitable prices it is certain that organized farmers can do more than individual producers in that direction. If injustice and extortion in prices is attempted it is equally certain that powerful organizations of growers can do much more than individuals in redressing and correcting such evils.

WHEAT POOLING SPREADS

Minnesota now has more than eight thousand wheat poolers producing more than forty per cent of the annual average crop of that state. The new Indiana pool of thirty per cent of the wheat is ready for operations. The Montana and North Dakota pools are growing rapidly.

Kansas farmers believe in pooling and about ten thousand are contract signers. There should be fifty thousand members of the Kansas Cooperative Wheat Marketing Association. Within five or ten years the speculative system of selling wheat will be as obsolete as the cradle and flail.

COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

Women Delegates Participated

In the national republican convention in considerable numbers. There will be as many or more in the New York assembly of the democratic party. The women delegates at Cleveland were neither very busy nor very happy. Those who go to New York to help nominate the democratic candidates and assist in the formulation of party policies will be no better pleased than their sisters who were at Cleveland.

Women are elected as delegates to national conventions not for the purpose of securing their advice and their cooperation in party management but solely to keep them in the right humor to do their part in campaigns and at the polls. Women are in politics by virtue of the suffrage amendment to the federal constitution but have not yet learned the game.

A Woman For Vice President

Was suggested at the Cleveland convention. The idea was no more than a whim with the hard boiled politicians who controlled that meeting. It is just as well. They are hundreds, probably thousands of honest, patriotic, well meaning women in this country who have a better education, more acute and clearly, speak more force and logic and are more useful and altruistically ruled by their own high ideals than is the man who was finally nominated for that place.

There are at least two good reasons why the republicans did not nominate a woman for vice president. Able, high-minded, pure and devoted as they are there is not a woman in the country who has the experience, the parliamentary training, and the political skill to justify her election to an office of the first magnitude. The time will come when women will be given the highest official responsibilities but not because they are women. They must learn to be statesmen and politicians and expect preferment on their merits rather than their sex.

Queens Have Ruled Empires

Of world wide area with success. Elizabeth of England, Catherine of Russia and Victoria of these later days left imperishable fame as administrators. The race has not produced their superiors of either sex. They did not reign and succeed because they were women but in spite of the handicaps of sex.

None of the great women sovereigns whose reigns have illuminated the pages of history went to their high duties in response to the demands of political expediency or as a recognition of the right of womanhood. They were trained to the job from childhood in a stern school that fashioned them for the responsibilities and dealt with them as all men more rigorously because they were women. As rulers they were statesmen, not statewomen.

Borah Refused Consideration

Even of the office of vice president. Lowden declared that as the leader of two great farm organizations he could be more useful to his country than as president of the senate and a courtesy member of the presidential cabinet. Public men of the first rank do not seek the vice presidency and many of them refuse to consider the place.

The vice presidency is a very important place in our system of government and frequently leads to the White House. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren and Theodore Roosevelt were elected to the first office after they had each served in the second place. John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, Chester A. Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge each became president because of the death of his predecessor. Nine of the twenty-nine presidents of the United States have first served in the vice presidency.

The office is one of dignity, responsibility and hard work. It is difficult to conceive of a place more important or more tiresome. To preside daily as a non member over a body like the United States senate is a job that must be unpleasant in the last degree. There is no opportunity for actual participation in the great affairs of government but there

The Co-Operation Cure

(Continued from Page 1)

A necessary provision of the cooperative contract is that requiring members to sell through the association all they produce of the commodity in question. The courts have decided that this is a valid contract and that cooperative societies have the right to enjoin a member from selling outside of the organization.

Indeed, I would go further and say that the cooperative contract should provide that, if a member planted a larger acreage than the previous year or than his normal area, the product of this additional acreage must be segregated and handled separately, the offending member bearing the loss, if a surplus thereby resulted.

For in order to transform agriculture from a game of chance to a stable business production must be approximately adjusted to consumption. There is no way of accomplishing that end except through cooperative effort.

What should the government do about cooperative enterprises? Congress has authorized the form-

is always the chance that death may open the road to the first place and therefore parties and conventions must nominate vice presidents who are fit to be president. Those who go to the first place achieve immortality or fame, those who do not are soon forgotten that not one per cent of the most highly informed citizens of the United States can write out a correct list of the men who have held the vice presidency.

Japan Is Greatly Excited

Over the exclusion provisions of the new immigration law. A few days ago a band of political ruffians broke up a party that was being attended by a number of Americans and their wives. The police, apparently sympathizing with the purpose of the disturbers, made no attempt to maintain order. Many Japanese newspapers are printing inflammatory and abusive articles about America. The movement to exclude all American made products from that country is restricting oriental markets for American merchandise to such an extent that many exporting houses are threatened with bankruptcy.

Japan will also take a hand in the game of excluding undesirable immigrants. A demand that all American missionaries retire to their own country has already been made and will probably be rigorously enforced. The thousands of American business men in Japan find themselves surrounded by a hostile population and many of them will be forced to abandon their investments and look for opportunities in other countries. Exclusion for racial reasons has so sorely wounded the pride of the proudest people on earth that it will take the diplomacy of generations to restore the good will that dated back to Admiral Perry's visit to Yokohama in the middle of the eighteenth century.

War With the Japanese

Is quite unlikely but may come. If so the only danger to America is in the Philippines. It is likely that Japan is strong enough at sea to occupy the island and has enough soldiers to hold on for a long time in the face of every resistance that can be offered by this country.

America never had the slightest excuse for the occupation of the Philippines. The only sound reason for this country holding a foot of non continental territory is the necessity should strengthen the United States. The Philippines are a source of weakness. If they are seized by Japan they must be recovered, a job that will take years, billions of treasure and perhaps a million lives.

We should our country maintain the occupation of a country that wants to be free, that seems to be ready for the responsibilities and the opportunities of independence and that for us is merely a satrapy for the employment of pro consuls and the expenditure of life and treasure?

Swimming Is One Sport

In which the women appear to have all the best of it. Eighteen young women, most of them under twenty, will go to Paris from the United States to compete in the swimming events of the Olympic games. One American girl won an Olympic championship four years ago and almost certainly will take the second this year before she is eighteen years old.

A good many folks do not understand why women are such good swimmers. The explanation is easy enough. They are so heavy for their bulk and when their muscles are properly developed they do not have to carry the overhead of bone weight, especially in the head, that handicaps the average man in the water.

Coolidge Has the Confidence

Of the common folks of the country in a most unusual measure. He has never gotten very far away from the people. When he considers a proposition to spend a big lot of public money he applies the same principles that an ordinarily competent and frugal business man would apply in regulating his own expenditures. The president knows that no concern,

ation of cooperative societies. Farmers have found them helpful. Economists have praised their operations and adjudged them sound. The federal reserve system considers them good credit risks.

Price relations are wrong and out of joint. Looking at the question from the broad viewpoint of national welfare, we may well shrink from the possible consequences in the coming years, unless a better system of farm marketing is devised to put agriculture on an equal footing with other industries.

Indeed the real problem is no less than that of restoring a proper and healthful balance between the farm and the shop.

The farm problem is not a class problem. It lies at the root of our institutions. We are fundamentally an agricultural nation set apart by Nature to that destiny. In times of stress we have often had occasion reverently to thank God for the American farmer with his sanity, his patriotism and his untiring energy.

Turning for a moment from the smokestacks to the fields, let us honestly strive to bring the farmers' dollar back to par.

And the password to this happy solution of our farm-marketing troubles is cooperation.

Good cream is clean cream kept cool.

not even if it is as big as the United States, can survive unless it lives within its income.

The republican party has acted with wisdom in giving the president a practically unanimous nomination to succeed himself. In the present state of the public mind it is not too much to say that Calvin Coolidge is the only member of the party whom a majority of the people would consider as a candidate for the presidency this year. It remains to be seen whether he can personally carry the load that has been imposed on him by his party associates. The democracy, meeting next week in New York, can hope to win only if party has the wisdom to select candidates as folksy, sound at heart and strong of conviction as Calvin Coolidge.

This Column Meets the Approval

Of all the members who have accepted the invitation to vote whether it shall be discontinued. Here is a letter from Mrs. Grace Stephenson of Hoosier who expresses about the same sentiments that are found in all that have been received on this subject up to this date:

"You said to write and tell you if we want your column of comment discontinued. We do not want it discontinued. To us busy farm people it is like an open window. We get a clear glimpse of the world, and an opinion that we can trust. We know that it is neither propaganda nor paid advertising. This is one, yes, two votes for the column. We appreciate every part of our paper, keep it up and make it better. We are for the Union and the Kansas Union Farmer."

Vocational Public School Training

Shows results worth while at Wakefield. The boys of the Community High School at that place are learning by doing which is one sort of education that stays with students after they finish their courses of instruction. The following story reprinted from the Kansas City Times indicates the magnitude and the value of the work that is being done by Mr. Vinke and his pupils:

Yesterday three carloads were marketed in Kansas City with the boys of the Wakefield, Kans., high school. One carload was steers that sold at \$9.50 and two carloads of heifers brought \$8.75. A considerable amount of money has been placed by cattle feeders in the vicinity of Wakefield as to which of the two carloads of heifers would sell the highest, but as they sold at the same price wagers were a draw.

The Wakefield high school is carrying on the most extensive feeding operations of any public school in the United States, that of the vocational class, composed of thirty-three boys, under the direction of Louis Vinke, is doing the work. Last year a class composed of fifteen boys fed sixty-five head of cattle, and made a net profit of \$850. Half of this amount went to the school and the rest was divided among the fifteen boys. This year the class consists of thirty-three boys and they are feeding 325 cattle. Of the entire lot 120 have already been marketed and the others will be marketed later.

The boys are divided into eleven squads of three each. Each squad looks after the cattle, doing all the work for one week at a time in regular rotation. The feed yards are about one-half mile from the school building and the boys have no trouble in going from class room to where the cattle are. Mr. Vinke, who accompanied yesterday's shipment, stated that the feeding is not in the form of an experiment to determine gains or most desirable feed rations, but is to give the boys actual experience in feeding cattle and to make money if possible. The 325 cattle that the boys have been feeding this season were bought November 17 when they averaged 360 pounds at \$6.75. They were divided into three lots, some receiving corn, one pound of cottonseed meal, prairie and alfalfa hay; another lot substituted Kaffir silage for part hay ration, and the third had the addition of three pounds of premium molasses. The money to buy the cattle was loaned by Mr. Vinke. The school board and Mr. Vinke, indications are that this year's operations will return a fairly good net profit.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE ON CLUB WORK.

"In a few short years the boys and girls whose homes are now on farms will be the men and women of the nation. It long has been recognized that we derive some of the most virile manhood and womanhood from the farms and whether they remain in the country or move to the towns and cities their early training and associations always have marked influence upon their thoughts and activities as men and women. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that we all take an active interest in the clubs to which the farm boys and girls belong. I have been personally interested in the growth of these clubs, and their present membership of over 700,000 is a source of great satisfaction to me. We must double and treble this number for there are 8,000,000 children on the farms of this country."

"Probably no activity is of more importance to the future standing, prosperity and social position of agriculture than the Boys' and Girls' Farm Clubs. Their activities warrant the belief that they will greatly aid in the solution of many of the problems of farm life and it gives me very great pleasure to accept the honorary chairmanship of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work."

BOYS CLUB WORK.

"Dad," you did not belong to any kind of a Demonstration Club perhaps, but conditions are changed. It is harder to "get by" now than

Sherman in his march to the
was followed by as loyal a bunch of
young men as ever marched a
dry road or waded a Georgia swam
Peach Tree Creek, will be long
remembered by those that were th
and I remember that as the pl
where a bullet cut the flesh to
bone as it passed thru the leg
my Father. Camp life that night
was very disagreeable, a

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ay

ers Union at Kansas City. He will return to Nebraska and on June 2 he will speak at the Boyd County Farmers' Union picnic at Anoka, and in the evening of the same day will address a Farmers Union meeting at Niobrara. He cannot fill any date in this state between the 17th and the 21st. It's expected that he will speak in Stanton and Pierre counties, but the time and place of these meetings have not been determined.

(Continued from page 1)

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Department of Practical Co-Operation

UNION MEETING NOTICES

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

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

A. C. BROWN, Co. Pres.

SILVERDALE LOCAL NO. 2051.
Silverdale Local No. 2051 meets every second and fourth Wednesday in the month at the Silverdale School House.

J. F. Lewis, Sec.

NEWBERRY LOCAL NO. 1922.
Newberry Local No. 1922 meets regularly, the first and third Monday nights of each month. The members make the union what is. You help make it a success in every way by doing more than your part and attending these meetings.

R. J. Muckenthaler, Sec'y-Treas.

UNION LOCAL NO. 2019.
Regular meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, at 7:30 p. m.

Geo. Speed, Pres.

Alice Kendall, Sec.

CARLETON LOCAL NO. 1911.
Regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

R. J. Muckenthaler, Pres.

R. J. Logan, Sec.

CLEVELAND LOCAL NO. 364.
Cleveland Local No. 364, Neosho County, will hold their regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. Come out and boost. Don't stay home and kick.

George J. Schoenhofner, Sec.

PLEASANT VALLEY LOCAL.
Pleasant Valley Local Union No. 1309 meets every first and third Wednesday evening of each month.

E. J. Kissinger, Pres.

W. T. Plinn, Sec.-Treas.

NEOSHA COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETINGS.
The regular quarterly meetings of the Neosho County Farmers' Union will be held in the I. O. O. F. hall in Erie, Kansas, on the second Saturday of the following months: March, June, September and December.

E. J. Clark, Pres.

J. O. Foust, Sec.

LIVINGSTON LOCAL NO. 1934.
Livingston Local No. 1934 meets regularly on the first and third Friday nights of each month at Livingston School House. A short program is prepared for each night.

Clyde B. Wells, Sec.

GIRARD LOCAL NO. 494.
Girard Local No. 494 meets in Union Hall over the Crawford County State Bank in Girard, Kansas, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p. m.

W. D. McClaskey, Pres.

Roy W. Highland, Sec.

BROGAN LOCAL NO. 226.
Brogan Local No. 226 meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Visitors are always welcome.

George Baumgartner, Sec.

PRETTY CREEK LOCAL 1652.
Pretty Creek Local No. 1652 meets every first and third Friday nights of each month at the Hinerille School house. Come out. Don't stay home and kick.

H. C. Mathies, Sec.-Treas.

FONTANA LOCAL 1789.
Fontana Local No. 1789 will meet the first and third Friday nights regularly.

All members should be present.

W. A. Boze, Sec.-Treas.

W. H. Slyter, Pres.

UNION VALLEY LOCAL 1679.
We meet every two weeks on Tuesday. All Farmer Unions member welcome.

Owen Hunsperger, Pres.

I. M. Wagner, Sec.

TREGO COUNTY MEETING.
JUNE 21.
The regular quarterly meeting of the Trego County Farmers' Union will be held at Wakeeney, Kansas, Monday, June 21st. All locals requested to send a full delegation.

Day Cypher, Sec.

NORTON COUNTY MEETING.
JUNE 19.
The Norton County Farmers' Union will hold their semi-annual meeting at the Oronoque Christian church on Thursday, June 19th.

Dinner will be served in the church basement. Speaking and discussion of honest wages will be a part of the program. Bring well filled baskets.

W. S. PORTER, Sec.

HONOR ROLL.
The following secretaries of Farmers' Union Locals have reported to the state office every member on their rolls paid up in full for the year 1924.

Bellview — 2042—John T. Anderson, Sec. 52 paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Burmeister — 943 — Roy Hunter, Ellsworth sec. 24 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Athelstone Central—1171—Ralph Heikes, Wakefield, Sec.—12 members paid for 1924—100 per cent.

Summit—1574—Mrs. Alice Ames, Madison, Sec. — 30 paid for 1924—100 per cent.

Pleasant Valley —1804 — Frank R. Erbert, Ellis, Sec. — 18 paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Fairdale — 927 — Carl W. Mayer,

Browster, Sec., 13 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Rydal — 763 — G. S. Duncan, Beebeville, Sec. 31 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Star — 1227 — I. P. Bruening, Robinson, Sec. 29 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Catherine — 884 — Wm. R. Staab, Sec. 7 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Hays — 1130 Mrs. Everett Alquist, Sec. — 76 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Sylvan Grove — 1555 — J. A. Reichard, Minneapolis, Sec. — 11 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Point Lookout, 1072, Jno. Hoffmies, Esbon—all members paid for 1924—100 per cent.

Neutral, 903, John Costello, McClure 11 paid for 1924—100 per cent.

Independence, 1419—Hugh Winslow Sec., Wellington, Kans.—19 paid for 1924—100 per cent.

Liberty, 925 — Ed. Mog, Sec. — 42 members paid for 1924, 100 per cent.

Twelve Mile, 2002 — R. L. Pearce, Sec., Downs—12 paid for 1924—100 per cent.

Walnut Grove — 1308—Robert J. Meyer, Girard, Secretary—100%.

Victor—1516 — W. G. Harris, Burrton, Secretary, 5 members—100%.

New Hope—1834—S. Tibble, Cedar Point, Secretary, 8 members—100%.

Gem—1689—G. E. Weir, Pittsburg, Secretary, 10 members—100%.

Survey — 34 — Grant Bliss, Woodston, Secretary, 9 members—100%.

Star—831—Willis J. Billings, Linn, Secretary, 6 members, 100%.

Olive Hill—1120—A. F. Braun—Clay Center, Sec.—36 members, 100%.

Coin—1657—S. M. Beason, Orion, Secretary—7 members—100%.

Bushong — 679 — H. C. Harder, Dunlap, Secretary, 10 members, 100%.

Hunt — 1107 — J. L. Kongs, Corning, Secretary — 19 members 100%.

Santa Fe—1717—Marion Johnson, secretary, Lyons. Thirteen members — No. per cent.

No. 5 — 761—Clarence W. Smith, secretary, Phillipsburg, six members — 100 per cent.

1803—Maple Grove—Howard Timberman, secretary, Hepler, Five members, 100 per cent.

1935—Kaw Valley — Jerome Van Hise, secretary, Belvue, 10 members, 100 per cent.

1669—Highland—Roy L. Lee, secretary, Paola, 80 male members, 56 female members, 100 per cent.

1654—Prospect, Martin Robe, Jr., Secretary, 22 members, 100 per cent.

Prairie Star—944—E. W. Podien, secretary, Wilson, 15 members, 100%.

Herynk 1427—Henry Eden, Sec. 13 members, 100%.

Koeber 914—F. A. Korber, Seneca, secretary, 91 members, 100%.

Hito 1497—W. C. Coffman, Madison, secretary, 22 members, 100%.

Eagle Star—928—C. G. Conrad, Du Bois, Nebraska, secretary, 21 members—100%.

Eureka—911—Harvey Strahm, Sabetha, Kansas, secretary, 37 members 100%.

1267 — M. T. Anderson, Windom, Secretary, 100% with 22 members.

Pleasant Run — 2016—Ida M. Bell, secretary, 100% with 24 members.

Marine—643 — Albert Sparman, Green, secretary, 100% with 21 members.

Walsburg—1198—V. E. Oman, Secretary, Leonardville, 13 members paid for 1924. 100 per cent.

Sand Creek—804—Alex R. Wilson, LaCrosse, 22 members paid for 1924 — 100 per cent.

Osage Valley—1683—T. A. Reiter, Secretary, Paola, 100 per cent with 25 members paid for 1924.

OUT-OF-DOORS MEETING.

Oakdale, Salina's beautiful natural park was the scene of the meeting of Rural Rest Local No. 2133 on Saturday evening, June 7.

The principal business of the meeting was getting the food spread up on the tables in real picnic style in order that the members could enjoy the good things to eat prepared by the lady members of the local.

Coffee was "perked" in a five gallon can at the City stove erected for the benefit of the numerous tourists who inhabit the free camping grounds from May until October. The eats consisted of sandwiches of all kinds, pickles, fruit and cake.

The future members of the order (the kiddies) enjoyed themselves on the numerous swings, merry-go-round and slippery slide until time to go home.

A new plan of financing cooperation with revolving loan capital, instead of share capital, is being tried by the Osceola County Cooperative Creamery Association at Sibley, Iowa.

All of the capital to buy the plant the association took over was borrowed from a friendly bank. From the returns to each member for butterfat is deducted 1 cent a pound to apply on this debt. As soon as a member has contributed \$10 in this way, he is given a certificate of indebtedness for that amount, which draws 5 per cent interest.

The association started a little more than a year ago owing the bank \$19,000.00. This has been reduced to \$15,000.00. The reduction of \$4,000.00 in the debt to the bank has been replaced with certificates of indebtedness held by the members. In the course of time, all the debt will consist of certificates of indebtedness in the hands of patrons. Then the plan is to begin taking up the oldest of these and replacing them with new ones.

Thus if a member ceases to patronize the creamery or moves from the community his certificates of indebtedness will be taken up in the course of a few years. The association will automatically renew itself, and will always be in the hands of those who are active patrons. Furthermore, each member provides capital in proportion to his patronage.

While the Sibley association borrowed all its original capital from the bank, the plan could be worked just as well by the farmers themselves contributing the original capital, just as they would subscribe stock, and taking certificates of indebtedness. This would probably be necessary in most cases, because bankers could not usually be found who would put up all the capital to start.

The Sibley association was organized under the Iowa non-stock cooperative law. Nebraska has no law providing for this kind of organization.

OTTAWA COUNTY HOLDS MONTH PICNIC

The annual picnic of the Ottawa County Farmers Union picnic was held in the Markley Grove at Minneapolis, Wednesday, June 11th.

Threatening weather may have kept some of the folks away, but more than 1200 were there with well filled baskets of all the good things to eat that a hungry person could imagine.

We don't know whether long experience has given the state officers a faculty for hitting a place of this sort right at the psychological time or not but the fact remains that the party from Salina consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John Tromble, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Brasted, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simpson, Miss Sylvia Bruce and Don C. Estes, arrived there just at 12 o'clock which was the hour that the eating began.

They were immediately welcomed by the president of Grover local and invited to partake of the feed which had been prepared.

The spirit of cooperation manifested in Ottawa county by all the people is one that is to be commended. The Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, the band for the day be- sides 25 gallons of ice cream and cones for all who cared to partake.

Not only that but the merchants of the town closed up their places of business at 3 o'clock in the afternoon so that their employees might participate in the festivities at the grove.

An excellent program had been provided and everyone connected with it in any capacity did themselves proud. The morning festivities consisted of athletic contests and real worthwhile prizes were given to the winners. The prizes were all cash donations ranging in size from 50c to \$3.00.

The following is a list of the races and other stunts which were decided in the morning and the announced winners in the order in which they finished:

Morning Session.
50 yard dash—Boys under 12—Dun- ane Harvey, Roy Weaver, Louis Pick- erel.

30 yard dash—Girls under 12—Melba Oswald, Pauline Hayes, B. Harvey.

50 yard dash—Girls over 12 — E. Hiller, Mary Fitch, Bernice Niem- an.

100 yard dash—Free for all—E. Jackson, W. Edman, I. Edman.

30 yard dash—Girls under 12, hand- icap—Bernice Harvey, Pauline Hayes, Edna Ghibler.

30 yard dash—Boys under 12, hand- icap—L. Garry, A. Powell, W. Harvey.

Potato Race—Girls under 10 — Laura Hayes, Bernice Harvey, Lou- ise Nieman.

Potato Race—Boys under 10 — Ce- cil Babcock, Ames Clanton, Dean Standifer.

Sack Race—Boys under 12 — Har- ry Nordyk, Don Nieman, Arthur Nordyk.

Sack Race—Free for all — Harvey Miller, Charles McHisser, R. E. Best.

Lean Men's Race—I. Edmans, W. Edmans, E. Jackson.

Fat Men's Race—Ed. Weaver, Dick Postdewit, Andy Shuler.

Nail Driving contest for women only: Evalyn Clanton, Mrs. A. Hile, Mrs. A. Freeman.

Oldest married couple on grounds — Mr. and Mrs. George Forney.

Family with largest number of children—Mr. and Mrs. Freeman and Mr. and Mrs. Palmer.

Family coming the greatest distance — Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Olson.

Afternoon Session.
Immediately after the big dinner County President Watts announced the starting of the afternoon program. The first speaker introduced was Mayor Viers of Minneapolis who made a short address of welcome which was responded to by C. R. Crist. Mr. Crist also gave a few minutes talk on district pool meeting held at Salina on the 6th.

The first number in the contest by locals was given by Mt. Pleasant Local a song entitled, "Hurrah for the Union."

This was followed by a short address by President John Tromble of the State Union. Mr. Tromble talked in his usual forceful manner getting over his message of the plight of the farmers in a way that everyone could understand.

The next number was by Mt. Pleasant local a playlet entitled "The Echo." Members of the various locals took part in the following program:

Reading and play entitled "Feeding the Calf" by Cedar local. Music and recitation by Summerville Local; Exercise and Reading by Springhill Local; Vocal duet by Creek local; Recitation and Reading by Sylvan Grove Local; Piano Solo and Recitation by Burnham local. Two playlets entitled "Coolidge Creek Courtship" and "A Brilliant Idea" by Grover local.

The judges of the local contest selected were Jess Shibley, Charles Zuker, and Albert Freeman. They awarded the first prize to Center Local, second, Grover local and third Springhill local.

County President Albert E. Watts is to be congratulated on the efficient organization which he has welded together in Ottawa county. The cooperation extended to him by the

various locals and members in staging this year's picnic is a real testimony that "in Union there is strength." Mr. Watts has a great deal of pride in his county organization which consists of 17 live locals. His home local Battle Creek has the distinction of being the only local in the United States that meets every Tuesday evening and is the venue of the largest locals in the county. They also hold more wheat contracts and more Farmers Union Insurance policies than any other local in the county.—D. C. E.

WHY THE LETHARGY?

Why there should be so much indifference among farmers to keeping up their membership in a farmers' organization just when agriculture is suffering depression and needs organization so badly is something that puzzles us considerably. The Farmers' Union of Nebraska closed the year 1923 with only a little more than half as many members as it had five years ago. So far this year, the number of paid-up members is somewhat behind 1923.

This condition is by no means peculiar to Nebraska. In several states a similar decline in farmers' Union membership has occurred. Nor is it limited to the Farmers' Union. Other organizations have suffered even worse slumps, not only in the United States, but in Canada. Not for a score of years have farmers shown so much lethargy toward their organizations.

Some farmers would deny that a general farm organization is needed to promote and foster cooperative enterprises and to crystallize farmer sentiment on public questions. In fact, most farmers would consider it a calamity if all farm organizations were to retire and leave farmers without any sort of general educational and protective organization. And yet an increasing number of farmers in the last three or four years have been failing to support their organization.

Can anybody suggest why so much indifference prevails, and what can be done to overcome it? Is it not time for every farmer who believes that cooperation is the way out, and that cooperation needs a supporting general organization, to begin considering seriously how to rebuild our organization, and to take some responsibility in regaining members and adding new ones?—Nebraska Union Farmers.

A BARN DEDICATED.

As the shades of the night crept over the Frank Noller home, whistlers and purring of cars were heard in the distance, waiting for Frank to retire (his bedtime most generally is when Biddy goes to roost).

It was the crowd's desire to give him the surprise of his life, which was accomplished to the fullest extent.

The first car driving in found Mr. Noller in dreamland and in his hurried awakening, shoes were forgotten as he stepped out of the door.

He stood not sockless Jerry, but a sockless Frank. Shoes donned he joined the merry-makers and ushered them to his nice, new, well-lighted barn.

A crowd of fifty-three took part in games, contests some as on-lookers who enjoyed it as much as those taking part. Among them was our oldest pioneer, Bro. Jesse Howe. Mrs. Noller held a peanut contest for the young folks and a box of candy was awarded to the one who found the most peanuts also one for the older ones guessing on a glass of candy of beans. Oranges were served by the hostess.

In giving a small program Guy Jones gave a talk filling the place as best as he could as a substitute for Pres. Calvin Coolidge. Mr. Noller had made the remark that President that he would like to have President Coolidge give the speech, but as the speech was a speech, he was chosen to take his place. After the speech a response by Mr. Noller and a song by Charles Fox. Delicious ice-cream and cake were served after which all went to their homes wishing the happy hour never slipped by.

Bro. Noller family royal entertainers. Long may they live, also his new barn for a shelter to his stock in time of storm.

Bro. Tromble please do not think that Local 540 is a sleepy head, knowing the greater share of the members so well that would sound unreasonable. We hope to gain in number by another year and show the people around here that the Farmers' Union has not been blown to pieces, although we live in windy Kansas.

Mrs. Charles Oplinger, Secy. and Treas.

MANAGER'S ASSOCIATION NEEDED.

My Dear Editor:—

There are so many reasons for the organizing of the Farmers' Union Managers Association, that it is hard to pick out the strongest one.

Do not think there is a more loyal, capable bunch of men in Kansas today, than the Farmers' Union managers; but we want an association of our own, where we can elect our own officers, arrange for our own meetings and solve our own problems.

We need this association to bind us more closely together; where we can meet to discuss (and cuss) the issues which we will meet in the management of our business.

Some of the good which we hope to accomplish through this association:

To promote and keep alive a higher spirit of loyalty to the principles of cooperation and to our State institutions; and to work for a better unity and cooperation between our local associations.

To encourage and aid the local manager with the problems which he encounters from time to time, and to gather information which will aid him in the conduct of his business.

To establish and maintain a department for the collection of rail-

road claims, to audit freight receipts and collect over charges.

There are so many things that will work out for good to the cooperative movement, in this association, that every member of the Farmers' Union should boost for it.

In conclusion, I want to ask every men and institution connected with the Farmers' Union in "Get behind this thing and push."

A. M. KINNEY,

Chairman Organizing Committee.

THINK THIS OVER

You may ask the question "What is there in the Farmers' Union?" I shall answer it by asking another question, "What is there in the Hudson river?"

The Farmers' Union is to the member that embraces it, just what the Hudson river is to the valley that embraces it.

The Hudson river refreshes and enriches the soil of its valley. The Farmers' Union refreshes and enriches the minds of its members.

The Hudson river furnishes transportation, thereby providing an outlet for the products of the valley, a means of receiving necessary commodities from other sources. The Farmers' Union furnishes the means through its cooperative enterprises to dispose of the products of its membership and also provides a means to procure the necessary commodities at the lower price through volume purchasing.

The Hudson river furnishes the power to run dynamos, thereby furnishing light up and down its valley. The Farmers' Union through its many educational features furnishes light to its membership as to the true condition of the affairs that they are most interested in.

The Hudson river is useful in thousands of ways to its valley. Likewise the Farmers' Union is useful in thousands of ways to its membership, entirely too many and too well known to need repeating.

I use the Hudson river for an illustration for the reason that every other river on the globe, at sometime, due to heavy torrents, earthquakes etc., has changed its course to some extent, while the magnificent Hudson flows today in the same channel God gave it in its creation.

While every farm organization that has ever been created has done its share of good, every one of them at some time during its history have gone off on a tangent, following some more or less unsuccessful venture, with the exception of the Farmers' Union. Like the Hudson, the Farmers' Union since its organization has followed the same channel, promoting fraternal and educational improvement, and providing the TRUE cooperative institution through the Rochdale plan of purchasing and the Denmark system of marketing.—C. S. Frogg in Kentucky Union Farmer.

HOW AN INCREASE PRICE TO THE FARMER WOULD AFFECT THE CONSUMER.

The average consumption of wheat in the United States per capita is approximately five bushels per year. Should the price of wheat be increased 50 cents per bushel to the farmer above the present price and the price of flour to the consumer would increase in the same proportion, the increased cost to the consumer would be approximately \$2.50 per year. Would this work any great hardship on the poor laboring class of our country who are our largest consumers of wheat products? Suppose that a laboring man with a family of six is working in a big factory in the east. They must pay \$15 per year more for their wheat products on the above assumption. At present, this laboring man belongs to his labor organization and draws a good reasonable wage, is only working two-thirds time because of the lack of demand for their products because the farmer has become a non-purchaser. He has gone on a buyer's strike on everything except his absolute necessities, because of his desire to do so but because of inability to buy.

Carrying through the above assumption, the farmer would be getting 50c per bushel more for his wheat, than before and he would be able to pay a part of his obligations long past due. As this money would come into the community, it would come into circulation and many long standing debts would be paid. From this additional amount, the farmer may be able to give the house a coat

of paint or put a new cement foundation under the