

THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation

VOLUME XVII

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The Farmers Union in Oklahoma

President Simpson Outlines the Workings of the Union in His State and Defines the Duties of the Farmer to His Community.

(Speech of John A. Simpson given over radio, Farmers' Union Broadcast Week in Chicago, Ill.)

Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America is what its name implies, educational and cooperative. It is a good name, and no man can successfully stand and criticize either of the two subjects covered in our name, education and cooperation. It would seem that the ten men who met in Raines county, Texas, September 3, 1902, must have been inspired to select such a splendid name for the great organization that started in that little meeting. In Oklahoma, we bend every energy to live up to this good name. We put forth all our efforts in the direction of construction, instead of destruction. We believe in building up instead of tearing down. If we cannot construct buying and selling machinery better than that in use, we do not want that in use to go out of business. We feel that if we do construct something better, that what is in use will automatically go out of business.

In living up to the name of Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America, we have many lines of activities and endeavors.

Educationally. Educationally, we have farmers going all the time attending regular and special meetings of Local and County Unions. We have our own official organ, the "Oklahoma Union Farmer," that goes to every member in the state twice each month. Besides, we send out special literature and general letters from time to time. We know we are getting results educationally, because organizers for the Cotton Growers' Association, the Wheat Growers' Association, and the Broom Corn Growers' Association, all say their work is easy in Farmers' Union communities. They say Union members understand the cooperative language. The saying it is easier to get a 50 per cent sign-up in a Union neighborhood than to get a 25 per cent sign-up in a non-union one.

We know that our educational work is a success, because in road bond elections and on other public issues coming up, our members are nearly always 90 per cent harmonious in their activities in these subjects, and 100 per cent efficient in their efforts to carry or defeat such measures.

We know we are making progress educationally, when a survey shows that 80 per cent of our members are doing some buying or selling cooperatively and 50 per cent are carrying their fire, lightning and tornado insurance in the Farmers' Union Mutual Insurance company, although our mutual insurance company has just been in operation two and one-half years.

Co-operatively. Our efforts in cooperation divide themselves into two heads, cooperation in a business way, and cooperation in a legislative way.

In a business way, we have more than one hundred cooperative cotton gins, grain elevators and stores in the state, that do an annual business of from thirty thousand dollars to over a million dollars. They do a combined business of more than thirty million dollars a year, at a profit to members in a better market and in dividends, of more than six million dollars.

The State Union furnishes the machinery through which our members do much cooperative buying and selling. The State Union dominates the twine market of the state. We have handled one and three-quarter million pounds of twine during the last year, the value of which was one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, and at a saving of, at least eighty thousand dollars to our members. The average price of twine sold over the state this season was 15 cents per pound, while the average price of the twine sold by the State Union was 10 cents per pound.

Within a year the State Union headquarters has sold to its members in carlots beside twine, coal, corn, kafir, oats, barley, hay, flour and mill feeds, cane, sudan, and other seeds, potatoes, cabbage, apples, fence posts, salt, sugar, oyster shell and other non-perishable supplies. The State Union has sold for its members in carlots potatoes, hay, oats, chickens, turkeys, peaches, watermelons, and other products of the farm. Within a year the total carlot business in buying and selling has been more than three hundred cars of a total of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and on which we made a saving to our members of more than forty thousand dollars.

From July, 1923, to July, 1924, we have written about two million dollars fire, lightning and tornado insurance, that for a five-year policy in an old line company would have cost one hundred thousand dollars. We have saved this one hundred thousand dollars to our members, because 10 per cent interest each year on that amount of money pays all the losses on these policies. In other words, our members saved the principal on every five-year policy they took with the Farmers' Union.

In a cooperative legislative way, the Farmers' Union of Oklahoma presents the farmers' side of every case, that comes up before departments of

state government. The 1923 legislature appropriated eight million dollars more than any other legislature had ever appropriated before. The railroads of the state knew that this meant that the State Board of Equalization would raise the valuation of somebody's property, and they sent men into every county of the state to dig up evidence and testimony to present to the State Board of Equalization to show that it was farm values, that were too low and that they should be raised. The Farmers' Union of the state prepared the farmers' side of the case, and in more than a week's battle furnished the evidence that kept the State Board of Equalization from raising the value of farm lands in any county of the state. Two years before, when the Farmers' Union was not strong enough, financially, to prepare a case for the farmers' side, every county of the state had farm values, by virtue of the fact that the Farmers' Union was able to present the farmers' side of the case before the State Board of Equalization, was more than a million dollars in taxes.

In hearings before the Corporation Commission, the Farmers' Union brought out testimony, that resulted in reduction of switching charges to farmers by telephone companies in towns and cities, that amounted to more than one hundred thousand dollars. The Farmers' Union presented testimony in hearings before the Corporation Commission and before the Interstate Commerce Commission on freight rates, affecting the farmers of the state of Oklahoma, that enabled these commissions to make reductions, showing a saving of more than a million dollars a year to the farmers of Oklahoma. The cotton gins of this state by law are public utilities, under the jurisdiction of the Corporation Commission. Each year the commission sets a day for a hearing to determine the price of ginning, and the price of bagging and ties. Last year the evidence produced by the Farmers' Union of Oklahoma, enabled the Corporation Commission to fix the price of ginning at \$2 a bale less than they would have been compelled to fix it had we not been present and produced our evidence. It also, enabled them to fix the price of bagging and ties at 25 cents a pattern less than they would have been compelled to fix it. The state produced nearly seven hundred thousand bales last year. This saving of ginning and bagging and ties to the farmers of the state was more than a million and a half dollars.

Summary. Thus, we are sure that Farmers' Union enterprises in Oklahoma have done a volume of business exceeding thirty-three million dollars, on which they have made and to their members over six and one-fourth million dollars. Besides, the evidence produced before the Corporation Commission, the State Board of Equalization, the Interstate Commerce Commission, has meant a difference in those matters of, at least three million, six hundred thousand dollars. This means that through cooperation in a business way, and cooperation in a legislative way the Farmers' Union of Oklahoma has saved to its members in one year more than ten million dollars.

Union Speaks for Farmers. The Farmers' Union is the mouthpiece of the farmers of Oklahoma. The organized farmers of any state speak for all the farmers of that state. If the governor of Oklahoma, or any other state official or department of state government, wants to know what farmers are thinking on any subject, they call in those who represent the organized farmers of the state. The unorganized farmers count no more in public affairs of Oklahoma, than the mules they drive down the cotton rows.

Two Governments. The Farmers' Union members of Oklahoma realize that in every nation there are two governments, industrial government, and political government. They further realize that the political government always rests on the industrial government. Government is only organization, and the industry, that is not organized, simply has no government. Knowing that the political always rests on the industrial members of the Farmers' Union of Oklahoma are doing everything in their power to get their industry organized. They know that this is of prime importance. They know that success of a group in politics can be of very little value, unless that group is organized. For a group to elect a friend to public office, and not support him with organization, is like a country, that would take a boy into the army and stand him up before the enemy without either arms or ammunition to defend himself.

Classes Rule. The members of the Farmers' Union of Oklahoma know that the state and nation are ruled by the classes. They also know that the only way a class can take part in the running of the affairs of Oklahoma, or of the nation, is to be an organized class. We, members of the Farmers' Union in Oklahoma know that the members of our legislature do not write the bills, that become laws. We know that the members of the congress of the United States do not write the bills that become laws. We know that every

bill in our state, written in the interest of bankers, was written and prepared long before the legislature convened by attorneys employed by the State Bankers' Association. We know that every bill written in the interest of doctors in our state, was prepared by attorneys of the State Medical Association. We know that every bill, written in the interest of teachers, was prepared by attorneys, employed by the State Teachers' Association. We know that every bill written in the interest of the laboring boys of our state was written by attorneys, employed by the State Federation of Labor. We know that what bills have been written and passed by the legislature in the interest of farmers, were prepared by the farm organizations of Oklahoma. We know that this August, when the question of what the price of ginning shall be come up before the Corporation Commission, that the Bankers' Union, the Teachers' Association, or the Teachers' Association will not be there, fighting for a low price of ginning for the cotton farmers of the state. There will be but one organization fighting for the cotton farmers, and that is one of their own. Let me call a splendid witness, who will give testimony corroborating the statements, that members of legislative bodies do not write the bills that become laws.

In the good state of Illinois away back in 1873, a young man was elected to congress, and he served in that capacity every year of that time, except four, down to March, 1922. For forty-six years Uncle Joe Cannon served as a member of congress, longer than any other man in the United States ever served. Just before Mr. Cannon bade farewell to Washington a little over a year ago, a newspaper reporter interviewed him, and that interview was published in the March 17th issue of the "Literary Digest." Among other questions this reporter asked Uncle Joe was this one: "How do congressmen compare today with forty years ago?" His answer was: "There are some strong men in congress today, but not as many as forty years ago." Then the reporter asked him: "How do you account for this?" And Uncle Joe said: "Things are different today than they were forty years ago. Forty years ago there was no such thing as propaganda. Forty years ago a congressman seldom saw a lobbyist in Washington. Forty years ago congressmen did their own thinking and wrote the bills that became laws. Today, it is different. Today everything is done by propaganda. Today there are more lobbyists who live in Washington than there are congressmen and senators. Today, congressmen do not do their own thinking; they do not write the bills that become laws. They are written by the organized classes and forced through congress."

With unequivocal testimony from so competent a witness, we members of the Farmers Union in Oklahoma, firmly believe that no man who loves his state or who loves his nation, would stay out of his class organization money invested. The persons receiving the largest amount of dividends any one year are shown below: John D. Miller sold 8767 bushels of wheat. His refund check of interest and dividends was \$324.99. J. H. Shehan sold 3521 bushels of wheat. His refund check of interest and dividends was \$303.00. This business Association has 160 members and each one received a refund check. The Farmers Union Organization made this possible, and the loyalty of the membership made it a success. The first step is to keep your dues paid. Pay your dues to your local secretary.

1923 dues are \$2.75.
1924 dues are \$2.25.

(Continued on page 3)

The World's Ten Greatest Men

To the Editor of the Kansas Union Farmer: I consider the following named men as the ten greatest men in the history of the world.

First	Sixth
Second	Seventh
Third	Eighth
Fourth	Ninth
Fifth	Tenth

Signed

Post Office

Local

GOOD NEWS FROM FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION. WICHITA, KANSAS

Wichita Union Stock Yards has attempted to provide a sanitary, modern stock yards with all of the facilities for the handling and marketing of live stock with a yard capacity of handling 15,000 cattle, 14,000 hogs, 5,000 sheep and 2,000 horses and mules per day. Last year 1,260,339 animals were handled.

Wichita is located in the south central part of Kansas and is the gateway from Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico to Kansas and Nebraska, also eastern states, and is peculiarly situated for the exchange of stock cattle from the former territory that is Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico to the latter. This natural advantage of location provides the shipper with a means of saving time to say nothing of the saving in cost of transportation. The time saved in shipping also brings the cattle to market in better and fresher condition.

This market has two large packing houses and three small ones. As a rule hogs are sold on this market at Kansas City packers prices, but if there is ever a slight difference in price, the freight between here and Kansas City would more than offset the difference.

With these facilities at hand we have located a house at the Wichita market and expect to hold first place on the Yards here in the not very far off future. Our sales force is comprised of experienced salesmen, and we are bettering our service daily. We represent the FARMERS, and you who appreciate what co-operation means should patronize YOUR FIRM.

THE FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION, Fred Miller, Manager.

FREIGHT RATES AND A SQUARE DEAL

Agriculture is the biggest patron of the railroad so far as freight is concerned. The bulky raw products of the field and feedlot keep the freight cars loaded on the way to the factories and the finished merchandise made from them fills the cars coming back. Between the producer and the consumer the railroads charge freight twice and sometimes more.

The farmer gets for these products a sum the consumer is willing to pay less transportation and other charges, so the amount of the freight charges directly influences the price the farmer gets, and today is cutting into his meager returns. Freight rates should be reduced materially in the case of farm products. Railroads, without impairing the service they are rendering, can reduce their charges on grain and livestock materially. This is especially true of the larger systems which have been piling up huge surpluses, in some instances nearly equaling their common stock capitalization. Why should they be secure in earning large

returns, when other industries are not given an equal security? Certainly the Interstate Commerce Commission and no other Governmental authority, guarantees any security of income of return to the farmers. No one fixes the value of a man's farm, and then agrees to let him charge for his products prices that will yield him a fair return.

The Each-Commiss law does exactly that for the railroads thru the provisions of Section 15a. I am in favor of the repeal of that section and I am hopeful that Congress will take action.

No one desires to injure the railroads in any way or to make it difficult for them to maintain good service, but freight rates can be reduced and relief given to the farmer, without important patron, the farmer, without doing so. The vision of railroad executives should be broad enough to see that in the long run fair treatment of the farmers and the consuming public, is bound to benefit the carriers. The days, when the practice of "exact all the traffic will bear" rules are gone.

ARTHUR CAPPNER

THE FARMERS UNION MUST SUCCEED

It will soon be twenty two years since the Farmers Union came into existence after others had failed and gone to pieces.

Shall history repeat itself? Remember "Eternal vigilance is the price of progress." Unless we exert every effort, use every means at our command we may see the fall of the greatest farm organization of all times.

If the Farmers Union should fail, to attempt to build another in the next twenty years will be too late to save agriculture.

The Farmers Union must succeed; we must avert the danger that will follow its downfall. What of the future? Success of the Farmers Union or serfdom for the American farmer.

We are approaching a very important time in the history of the Union in 1926, at the next State Convention we will be called on to settle the question of financing our Union, every Local should thoroughly discuss this proposition and instruct their delegates as to their wishes.

We have abiding faith in the people and believe if they only understand, they can be depended upon to decide the question right.

In discussing this question we should keep the condition of the tillers of the soil in mind and the success of the Farmers Union, never lose sight of saving the organization.

We have advocated and still believe that our business enterprises should furnish the missing link in financing our Union, besides creating a sinking fund for expansion or new enterprises.

It is brought to our attention that the law does not permit the paying

Get The Right Man At the Helm

Failure to Select Right Leaders Responsible for Lack of Success in the Co-operative Movement

By John Gratton of Colorado.

Often times we think that we are independent of the world and the other fellow, and some of us manage pretty well to keep our nose out of the other fellow's business. Yet with many people the other fellow's business, which pertains to his personal affairs and really concerns no one but the parties interested, is the very business that such people are interested in.

We refuse to carry a pedestrian as we pass him on the highway because a few days before a stranger, taken into a car to ride, murdered and robbed the owner. Those murderous acts, apparently so distant from the man about, reflect to the disadvantage of every honest pedestrian on the highway. We may want to borrow some money on chattel security, and we find it will cost us an exorbitant rate of interest, not because of anything we have done, but because others preceding us have destroyed the security.

We have made trouble for the lender to collect his money, have run off without paying the debt, so that banks will not make these kind of loans and we suffer for the acts of others. When we pay our bills to the merchant, do we stop to think that we are paying our part of the merchant's loss to all those who do not pay their bills? In fact, the support of every crook, every deadbeat, every criminal, comes out of someone else.

When we go to sleep in a sleeper at night, do we stop to think how many individuals our safety depends on? The engineer at the head of the train could be a fool, a knave, or drunk, and wreck the train. Someone has to pay all the wages and all the salaries, and all the prices, and all the mismanagement and all the inefficiency, and if we do not pay such things direct they are tacked onto the price of the things we buy and we pay them indirectly. Every dollar in our possession we have taken from someone else, if we have given full value for that dollar we are doing our part as a citizen; if not, we need looking after by the rest of the citizens. A business transaction is a way whereby one possessing something which he cannot use turns it to another who can use it for something that he can use. When such transactions are carried on without fraud or deception, that is clean-cut business. This applies to selling labor, selling professional services, selling goods, and those who become rich under such methods are the people who are the best custodians of the wealth of the world. The world or society owes no one a living unless they do something for that living, but everyone owes society something for the protection and opportunity afforded by society.

In government, do we really allow our public servants to do the thing the best way? Our national government will build a better road, a better building, will quell a riot, or enforce the law better than a local government, because the national government is farther away from the petty influence of the people. We are much more certain about the construction of an engine or a water system than we are about government, because government is everybody's business, while the engine is constructed by a mechanic and the water system by an engineer.

Passing the Burden On
Taxes are high and the owner of the building complains, but he adds it to the rent, and the man who pays the rent adds it to his goods and it is passed on to the man farthest down who pays the tax without knowing it and votes for high taxes because he

of any fund of our business to the fraternal Union, then that brings us face to face with a legislative question that needs our immediate attention.

Did you know there is an election on? Now is the time to act, let no one go to our legislative halls, either State or National, who will not subscribe to the cooperative needs of our organization and its business activities.

Cooperation is the salvation of the farmer and wage-earner. Organization—At the recent conference in Des Moines we suggested a closer working contact of our organization forces as a means to help finance our Union. We believe that a closer contact between our county organizers (and every county should have one) and the State organization force would help materially in increasing the membership, increased membership means more finance.

This proposition has not had the consideration it deserves. As we have abiding faith in the people, we bring this proposition to their notice for consideration and settlement. Brother Long in the last issue of the I. U. F. under the caption of "Develop Leadership From The Ranks," suggests that each local should have an organizer and business agent both in the same person and so on up to county and state; while we had in mind the uniting of the organization forces, we can heartily endorse our brother's idea. We must get our organization working in closer contact both in all livestock.

thinks someone else pay them. A railroad pays high taxes, high wages, high salaries, and maybe for some mismanagement, but they pass the burden on by increased freight and passenger service. The merchant adds the extra freight onto his goods and thus passes it on to the man farthest down, who thinks that freight rates do not concern him. A strike in the coal fields costs the owners millions of dollars, and the state millions more to preserve order. The state adds it to taxes and it passes down. The mine owners add their loss to the price of coal and it is passed down through a number of channels of industry and home consumption.

We are all interested in the welfare and wages of labor, and we are not in sympathy with the mine owner or railroad or manufacturer, so we delight in every wage increase. We will also delight in every tax increase thrust onto those industries, but they will only add it to their products and pass it on to the one farthest down.

The great cost and waste of war is aimed to be distributed among those most able to pay, but like the rest, it is passed down to the man who cannot pass it farther.

Every man who can set a price on his products can pass on the burden of cost and taxation to the one farther down. Organized labor can hand it to the industry and the industry add it to the price of their product. The ones farthest down constitute a large majority of our population. They are the ones who must depend upon supply and demand, as they have no price fixing within their power, but they have a voting strength, which, if directed towards efficient and intelligent government, could eliminate much of the waste and extravagance which is handed to them to pay.

The great unorganized laboring class is a victim of these conditions. As I heard one man say to another: "I am working on this job for \$3 per day so the boss can afford to pay you \$15." The 30,000,000 people who live on the farms have already grasped this principle as a reality, not a theory. What I wish to show here is that the ordinary wage earner, the ordinary small man of affairs, is really more vitally interested in affairs of industry and government than he thought he was. He, like the American farmer, should be a progressive, calling for regulation of big price fixing institutions, and a conservative, demanding efficiency and economy in government and industry.

There is no possibility of organizing the 90 per cent of our population into a price fixing organization against the 10 per cent who can set the price on their products. In short, there would be simply forming another government, if it were possible. It is simply dream and impractical vision to think of organizing the farmers into a price fixing union. The farmer is organized now by the millions into different organizations purporting to be for his benefit, and yet he cannot, nor never can approach a price fixing position, unless it be in very limited areas, and even then these have all failed.

Any business to exist must be able to make expenses, and few will care to maintain a business long without a profit, so if we do not allow them to reduce their expenses we must allow them to increase their prices.

its business activities and its organization work. This will again suggest finance, some person at the local and county organizations will have to receive some remuneration for their services.

This organizer and business agent could be financed by a small percent from business done and members taken in. It does seem to us as such a system must be inaugurated if the Union is to grow and our Co-operative business thrive.

Big Business has some one daily looking after their interests. Why not the farmer?

What of our State Exchange and Marketing plans?

They all need our attention, this is truly an important time for the Union. Will we rise to the occasion and take charge of our own business. Our officers cannot put these things over—its up to the membership.

John F. Utz, Betherville, Ia.

FARMERS' COMMISSION HOUSE
An interesting experiment in the development of cooperative marketing is the recent opening of a farmer-owned and controlled commission house at Philadelphia. This has been undertaken by a group of prominent New Jersey growers. These farmers have incorporated, and will handle their own produce, and that of any other growers who desire to do so. An experienced commission man has been employed as manager.

Provide a patch of Sudan for hog and calf pasture. It is excellent for working in closer contact both in all livestock.

The Kansas Union Farmer

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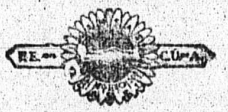
Notices to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

All copy, with the exception of notices and including advertising, should be in seven days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handed up until noon Saturday on the week preceding publication date.

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES OF APPLICATION



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1924.

FORD AND FARM BANKING.

Like every other sensible man in the country Henry Ford is concerned and somewhat worried over the condition of agriculture. A few months ago he declared that farmers do too much work by hand and that they must learn how to make a larger and a more profitable use of machinery if they are to earn enough to feed, clothe and shelter themselves and in addition buy the things that they think they should have in addition to the bare necessities of life.

No one paid very much attention to Ford's first attempt to enlighten the country about the trouble with farming. Since then he has been doing some more studying over the matter and has reached some additional conclusions which he has just given to the world through the columns of the Country Gentleman. Several times this writer has been impelled enough to jeer at Ford's views on agriculture but there is nothing in this latest interview to provoke jeers, sneers or mirth. The Detroit timer has got his feet square on the ground this time and most of what he says is so true and so well put that no one who has the good of his country at heart can afford to ignore it for as much as one short minute.

Ford now admits the truth of three propositions that have been stated many times in these columns. He says that farmers are not making any money now, that on the contrary they are getting further behind all the time. He goes further, as all thoughtful men must, and declares that in his judgment no money has ever been made in farming operations. He admits that some farmers have accumulated more or less wealth but points out that they have done so by mining their soils, by overworking their women and children, and by the increased commercial value of farm lands that are actually decreasing in productive capacity and possibilities. This is all old stuff but it may wake up a few people because Henry Ford, the richest man in the world, says it. Last of all Mr. Ford says that no money will ever be made in farming operations until the whole system of agriculture as practiced now and for a long time past is completely revolutionized.

All this runs along with what this paper has been saying for a good while and so far there is agreement between Henry Ford and the Kansas Union Farmer. When it comes to causes of failure of agriculture the great manufacturer mentions several things that may start controversies. He believes that farming is unprofitable because it is, even at the best, only a part time employment. He says that the average farmer does only about two months of productive labor in each year and spends the balance of his time in useless and futile jobs that do not pay and never can be made to pay or just plain loss if he is in a one crop line of production. Ford also says that the farmers are no longer satisfied with the things that they must have in order to live but demand conveniences and luxuries that cannot be paid for out of the profits of their business and therefore are being bought with money withdrawn from capital. He does not attach very much importance to marketing, he has no confidence in cooperative agencies, and he is quite certain that government cannot do a great deal of good by meddling in the business of agricultural production or marketing.

Ford believes that small volumes of production, mostly by hand labor, can never be profitable. His idea seems to be that all farm animals should be produced in large groups. He would have the farmers in a convenient territory form some sort of a corporation put all their cows into the company. He does not believe that three hundred farmers each keeping a small and dairy herd of ten cows can ever produce milk and butter

profitably. He does believe that if they will put their three thousand cows all under one management and apply factory methods of production that there will be profits for the entire group. And so with other forms of agricultural production. He maintains that by applying the principles of factory management to agricultural production much of the labor expense can be saved and that such high wages can be paid to the necessary man that good workmen can be kept in the country.

If Ford is right neither cooperation nor legislation can ever make farming as now carried on, yield profits. The individual farm as a self supporting and self contained industrial unit and the home of a happy, safe and prosperous family must soon become extinct. The farm of the future, if Ford is right, may be a home it is true, but it will be the home of a factory operative who will put in a few days in the year working the soil or bossing those who do and all the balance of his time working in a car-buretor, valve, or tire factory.

There seems to be at least two things wrong with the Ford plan for solving the problems of agriculture. In the first place it is altogether likely that the increased production of carburetors, valves and tires would soon run the demand for such things and so make such labor unprofitable. In the second place, it is certain that men who farm only a month or two in the year and work in factories the balance of the time will be neither good farmers nor good workmen. Still Mr. Ford may be right. It is certain that farming does not nor never has paid. The farmers themselves offer no solution for their own problems. Possibly the transformation of manufacturing to the country and the reorganization of farming along factory lines is coming. At any rate it will be good for the farmers to read what Mr. Ford says about it. He has never before expressed himself with half as much sense.

DIVERSIFIED FARMING FALLACIES

For quite a while the bankers of the country and especially the country bankers in the one crop sections have advocated diversified farming as a solution of the problem of unprofitable agriculture. It has been pointed out that in those states where diversification has been practiced for a long time the farmers are in sound financial condition. The dairy districts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and New York; the fruit and poultry producing counties of the eastern states; and the truck growers of various parts of republic are cited as examples of the profits that are possible through diversification.

It must be admitted that they are very strong arguments against one crop farming and equally strong reasons for urging a reasonable amount of diversification. Had this campaign been conducted a little differently and by men who enjoy a little more of the confidence of the farmers it might have had more beneficial results. As a matter of fact it is likely, in many sections, to do much more harm than good because it has not been carefully worked out with reference to the supply of the new products that farmers are urged to make not with any intelligent comprehension of the financial, climatic, and labor difficulties that are in the way of its success.

The original slogan of the banker-farmer movement was "The Cow, the Sow and the Hen." Farmers were urged to build up dairy herds, to increase their poultry flocks and to go more generally into pork production. As a matter of fact the demand for meat dairy and poultry products has long been fully met by the farmers of the United States. As a nation we are producing and have for a long time been producing all the eggs, chicken, pork, butter and milk that can be sold profitably in this country. Any increase in any of these products in one section of the country necessarily comes into competition with farmers who have long been producing identical products in other sections. If the new diversifiers are able to make money it is certain that they must crowd equally hard working farmers in other parts of the country out of the business.

It is certain that every farmer should be self-supporting if possible. The farmer who does not make enough food and feed on his own place for his family and live stock is not likely to get ahead. Also his farm is certain to become less fertile from year to year. It is true, however, that nature has prohibited diversified farming for general markets in many sections of the United States. The wheat farmer of western Kansas cannot hope to make any money out of the dairy business. He must buy too much feed. He must do hard and unaccustomed labor. He is in competition with men in New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and other dairy states who know the dairy business through and through. He is so far removed from the markets that the railroads take away all possibilities of profit.

Diversification is a national not an individual problem. The wheat farmer, making his place as nearly as possible self supporting, should concern himself with the problem of improving the quality of his wheat and increasing his yields. The dairy farmers should breed better producers, work out more economical methods of making and marketing their products, and sow wheat only where it is absolutely necessary in their crop rotation system if the fertility of their soils is to be maintained. It is true that unemployment on the farm is unprofitable but every intelligent wheat grower can find year round work for himself and his boys without rushing into a new line of production of which he knows nothing. Each section of the country must specialize for money crops on the few things that climate, soil and markets make profitable.

In a sense all our agricultural problems are

national rather than local. That is why there must be a large use of common sense by the farmers in every section of the country if agricultural prosperity is to be established. That is why nothing worth while in the way of agricultural rehabilitation can be accomplished without the educational influences and activities of nationwide farmers organizations like the Grange, the Bureau and the Union. The farmers must solve their own problems through organization, education and cooperation.

THE BIG GRAIN DEALERS MERGER.

The papers report that the grain dealers merger, alleged to have been brought about by the farmers of the middle, is now in operation as a single marketing agency. The five concerns in the trust are the Armour Grain Company, the Rosenbaum Grain Corporation, J. C. Shaffer Grain Company, Rosenbaum Brothers, and the Davis-Noland-Merrill Grain Company. Except the last named all are Chicago concerns.

The Grain Marketing Company has a terminal elevator capacity of 50,000,000 bushels which includes storage houses in Kansas City, Omaha, Minneapolis, Winona, Ft. Worth and several places in the east. There are also central market or terminal elevators at Chicago, Cleveland, Toledo, Fairport, Erie, and Depot Harbor. The export facilities are located at Galveston, Texas City and Norfolk. Of course the offices, private wires, news services and foreign and domestic trade connections of the old firms are also included in the merger.

In addition to the physical property and commercial good will transferred to the new company the original owners have entered into a contract to OPERATE the new company on a straight salary basis for a period of five years and during that time to train men to continue the management successfully when their contract expires.

So far then as the first five years is concerned the so-called Farmers Grain Company is simply a merger of five big existing old line trading corporations. A so-called cooperative association has been set up and is represented to have something to say about the management but actually cannot control because control will very naturally be retained by the men who still own the property and are operating it subject to a contract to sell at the end of five years.

To complete the plan it will be necessary for the promoters of the merger to raise \$26,000,000 during the next five years. If the proposition were truly cooperative this might be done by deductions from each bushel of grain handled for the producers. All its volume will be bought directly from local elevators throughout the country which means that growers will relinquish all interest in the grain long before the new company takes title. The only way to raise the required twenty-six millions of dollars, therefore, is to sell stock of various sorts—common and preferred of various types—to farmers and farmers elevators throughout the country. Whether that amount of stock can be sold to farmers within five years remains to be seen. The sum required is well within the means of the grain growers in the middle west but they are not likely to invest their money in that sort of an enterprise while there are still billions of dollars of wild cat oil stocks unsubscribed.

The big men in the old companies frankly admit that they want to get out because they are not making any money. They claim that their business is in financial distress because of the meddling of the government with their affairs through the Capper-Tincher and other restrictive and regulative acts. The real truth appears to be that the are alarmed at the growth of the cooperative marketing movement and have promoted this merger in the hope that it will be an effectual backfire against farmer controlled cooperatives.

Every farmer should know that even if the merger is completed the new agency cannot be cooperative. Its plans violate cooperative principles in many different and important particulars. It provides for continued operation on the speculative markets; it puts a great volume of farmer owned capital at hazard in grain gambling activities; it permits business with non members; it incorporates with few exceptions are not producers of the commodities to be handled and therefore neither farmer operation or control is likely.

Finally, the most vital and fundamental objection to the plan is that it provides no machinery for the ORDERLY MOVEMENT OF GRAIN FROM THE FARMS OF THE PRODUCERS TO THE MILLS AND WAREHOUSES OF THE MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS. If the element of orderly marketing is anywhere included in the plans it is only for the movement of the grain after the growers have parted with their title to it. A vague intimation that patronage dividends will be paid is plainly for the purpose of reassuring the farmers who have a clear understanding of the processes of orderly cooperative marketing.

The whole scheme, so far as it is in good faith, is based on the assumption that grain growers will never voluntarily engage in cooperatively marketing their own products and that all attempts now being made in that direction must fail from lack of experience, ability or honesty on the part of the men selected by the farmers as officers, managers and salesmen. The grain dealers really believe that they have built up a system that farmers cannot comprehend. Perhaps these assumptions are correct. What about it brethren?

Corn Prices Are Declining

So steadily that it is now almost certain that by the time the new crop gets to the market it will not bring more than sixty cents a bushel at the shipping stations. That means that farmers will get about enough money for their corn to pay for the cost of production if the are satisfied to make no charge for their labor.

For several weeks the price of corn has been good but no farmer has failed to take note of the fact that it was during a season when nearly all the marketable corn of the country had passed out of their hands at much lower prices and was in possession of the traders. The money made on corn this summer went almost entirely into the bank accounts of men who could not identify a two row cultivator if they were to meet one in the road.

Wales Is Now Visiting

In the United States. He seems to be a right interesting and human sort of young man. He loves to dance. He likes the girls well but not unwisely. He is interested in athletics, especially in polo which is a game that is much better known in England than in this country. In the right sort of company he will shoot craps for reasonable stakes and it is rumored that he is anxious to learn the great American game of draw poker. As he will only be over here a couple of weeks of course it is not possible. Considerable numbers of Americans, young and older, have been devoting years to poker and are willing to admit that they still have much to learn.

The Prince of Wales is the oldest son of King George of England and in the course of nature will himself be a king. He is more like his grand father who visited Washington during Lincoln's administration than his father. The prince is the great grandson of Queen Victoria and if he becomes king will be the ninth sovereign of the German House of Hanover to occupy the British throne.

The Prince Is Thirty Years Old

And is unmarried. His royal kinsfolk and the people of England are anxious for him to settle down in life and do his part towards perpetrating the royal English line. In the old days the prime minister would have selected a wife for the prince but these are new times even for royalty. There is a belief that Wales will pick his own wife and that there will be no objection if he selects an American girl; especially if she happens to have a lot of money.

That our girls and their mothers believe that the Prince may take a bride from this side of the Atlantic is pretty well proved by the fact that about a hundred American young women of marriageable age, acceptable social standing and considerable beauty found it convenient to come across on the same ship with his royal highness. The news papers as yet have reported no romantic incidents occurring on the way over.

Foster, Communist Candidate

For the presidency, is in a happier position, in some respects, than any one of his opponents. He can say just what he wishes without any danger of interfering with his chances for election. His position in the voting is assured. He will finish fourth and nothing that he can say will deprive him of enough votes to lose him that honor.

Foster has no very high opinion of Coolidge, Davis, La Follette, Dawes, Bryan or Wheeler. He says that Coolidge and Davis represent capitalistic big business and that La Follette is the candidate of the well to do farmers and trades unionists of the country. In his campaign he attacks the wage system, the League of Nations, the Dawes Plan, Sam Gompers, republicans and democrats, and La Follette. He seems to have an especial grudge against the Wisconsin Senator who is denounced as "not even a socialist." His party is not interested in prohibition, is in favor of socialism, is against the Ku Klux Klan and the capitalistic system.

In the opinion of Candidate Foster Senator La Follette is a "Pseudo Leader." President Coolidge is a "Strikebreaker." Bryan is a "Fascist" and all of them together are campaigning to postpone the day when this country will be controlled by the working classes and the farmers.

Some platform, but Foster will get a good many votes at that.

La Follette Drew Fire From Evans.

The Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan when he denounced that organization as un-American. In a speech delivered in West Virginia the Klan leader announced that his organization would fight La Follette but would re-

PROSPERITY OF FARMERS A JOKE.

"The city folks are sure going to be a disappointed bunch if they believe all these stories in the papers about all the spending money we farmers are going to have to blow in this fall and winter," said a wheat grower from Harvey county who was in the pool headquarters office last week. The member's name is not printed because the business is not "booster" him for throwing a wet blanket on all the booster stuff which is being printed right now.

"Just what are the farmers of your vicinity doing in the way of paying their debts?" was asked the farmer.

"They are paying their store bills and thus laying the foundation for another year's credit. They are largely paying their crop mortgages

COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

main neutral as between Coolidge and Davis. Since then Davis has attacked the Ku Klux Klan by name and has asked the president to state his position and take the whole Klan problem out of politics. Mr. Dawes has also discussed the Klan which he says employs bad methods in attempting to secure desirable results.

It may be that Wizard Evans will yet be compelled to nominate him self for the presidency in order to get a candidate whom he can support and who will approve the methods of the wizards, the Kleagles, and the cyclopes.

Tourists Have Spent a Billion

Dollars in Europe this summer. Most of that money, has already come back to the United States to pay interest and debts that the Europeans owe over here. The balance has been used to buy goods from American producers. Even with the reduced purchasing power of the old country folks the balance of trade, in spite of the spendings of tourists will continue to be in favor of the United States for a long time.

If the comparatively small number of Americans who went to Europe this summer spent a billion dollars what has it cost the millions of ramblers who are "Seeing America First" from their automobiles? If the United States were not the most prosperous country in world gasoline purchases would bankrupt the nation in a single season.

Greece And Denmark

Are dismantling their navies and disbanding their armies. Denmark has never gone in for much militarism but Greece has been spending about half a billion dollars a year and is bankrupt. Inasmuch as no small nation can ever build up sufficient military strength to resist one of the great powers it is not strange that some of the little countries have concluded that they can get along without any military forces except for police purposes.

Unless other and larger nations adopt a policy of disarmament war and bankruptcy are both certain in the near future. There are now nine millions of men being drilled for military service in Europe. There is not a nation in Europe that can afford to maintain either an army or a navy. Nor is there a nation in the world that has the slightest use for armed men or war ships if all will agree to a policy of universal disarmament.

Disarmament Is the Hope

Of civilization. And it is the only way through which the solvency of most of the countries of the world can be restored. President Coolidge should be assured by the people of this republic that his plan for calling another disarmament conference in the near future has the hearty approval of all good citizens. The United States is still in a position to secure universal disarmament.

The debts due this country by the great nations of Europe should be used to end militarism. All our debtors should be told that this country will tear up their I. O. U.s if they will quit spending their incomes on soldiers and ships. Of course we should afford to make such an offer. Our own army and navy costs us nearly a billion dollars a year. By disarmament we can save expenses equal to the whole amount of allied debts due us within twenty years. In fact that is a sure way to collect what is coming to us from Europe and there is no other that promises the slightest success.

The common sense of humanity, all the precepts and principles of Christianity, all the necessities of trade commerce and civilization, all the voice of youth and progress calls for universal disarmament. Shall the world still permit the old men who never fought in any wars to maintain the traditions and spirit that slaughters the young by millions in each succeeding generation?

Politics Is a Peculiar Pastime

Engaged in by many men who might have a lot more fun playing some game with which they are familiar. George Harvey who has been an editor and an ambassador to England and is again an editor employed by the Washington Post is sure that John W. Davis is an admirable man but knows nothing about the way to run for office.

Davis is obsessed with the idea that the way to beat the republicans is to show them up. Harvey thinks that sort of campaigning is beneath the dignity of a candidate for the presidency and is in truth a sort of mud slinging proper only for the gutter-snipes of public life.

Harvey is much too critical. If the

candidates should all agree to cut out the high end of their speeches the campaign would no longer interest the low brow who after all are much more numerous than the high brow editors.

Charley Bryan

Believes that Good Women

In political life will be able to counteract the influence of the bad men who have had the game all to themselves for so many centuries. In his speech of acceptance he says:

"Everything that is good and wholesome will be benefited by woman's counsel. Every righteous cause will triumph the sooner because of her political activity. She will not only be the vigilant defender of health, education and spiritual life, but as the treasurer of the household she will powerfully assist in the introduction of economies in the government."

That seems a fairly successful attempt to recognize the importance of woman in political life and it may please the woman but sorely affronts the critical and fastidious Mr. Harvey. He likes Bryan's compliments to the fair sex no better than he does the muddling of which he accuses Davis. With witty and withering sarcasm he holds it up to public ridicule as an example of faulty English and as complete and perfect illustration of the things that no candidate should say.

It is only too plain that nothing that Davis or Bryan can say or will say during the campaign is likely to tickle Harvey's literary palate or nourish what he secretly calls his intellect.

Platforms May Mean Even Less

Than usual in the political campaign that will close with the election of Coolidge, Davis, or La Follette to the presidency in November. The voters are likely to scrutinize the candidates much more closely than the party platforms. An eastern editorial writer very wisely observes:

"Unless we are greatly mistaken in the inner heart and judgment of the American people, their verdict, whatever it may be, will be reached this year not because of any principle or program as expressed in a party platform. Their instinct will travel swift and direct, to the leader who most truly personifies the American spirit. Whoever appears to them most native in heart, in spirit, and in purpose will be accorded their trust and approval. Whoever expresses most clearly the homely, unaffected, upright, downright Americanism which is their heritage will triumph."

If this forecast is correct it means that the voters of the republic are not going to elect a party but a man to take charge of the executive branch of the government for the next four years.

Eastern Newspapers and Politicians

Are greatly wrought up over the possibility of Governor Bryan reaching the presidency through the failure of the electoral college or the House of Representatives to select Coolidge, Davis or La Follette. They are almost as hysterical over the outlook as their predecessors were in 1860 over the probable success of an Illinois rail-splitter and country lawyer of the name of Abraham Lincoln.

It is too bad that our eastern fellow citizens cannot contemplate the elevation of a plain, honest, direct and homely westerner to the presidency without falling into fits. Charley Bryan may not be another Abraham Lincoln but he has been a good governor. Should he be elected to the vice presidency by the senate and succeed to the first office by reason of the failure of the representatives to elect a president the east may be assured that the government will still live, that an honest man will be in the White House and that none of the liberties of the people will ever be destroyed by any act of his.

Texas Will be the First State

To elect a woman for governor. Mr. Ferguson, at this writing appears to have been nominated by a great majority, possibly more than 100,000. There were several other candidates. Mrs. Ferguson's victory. The people of Texas have finally decided to right the wrong that the legislature of that state committed eight years ago when it impeached Farmer Jim Ferguson and removed him from office. The opposition to the Ku Klux Klan united in the support of Mrs. Ferguson and of the other candidates for state offices who received majorities in the "run off primary" last Saturday.

The Lone Star State seems to be taking the place once occupied by Kansas. Now it is Texas that does the things that were never done before.

which will grow. I don't believe we spend all our time joy-riding around the country as some of the city folks accuse us. But crops have been poor for two or three years with many of us. What little we did have to sell brought almost nothing. We are thankful for a good crop and little better prices this summer but the fellow who thinks the farmer is already rolling in wealth is mighty badly mistaken."—Wheat Growers Journal.

U. S. POPULATION DOUBLES IN EVERY THIRTY YEARS

The population of the earth has doubled in the last 90 years. Today it is estimated at 1,747,000,000. The population of the United States has been doubled every 30 years during the last century. If this rate continues, it will have grown to 700 million in less than 100 years.

