

THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

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Floyd H. Lynn, Editor and Manager

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SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1933

A GOVERNOR'S OPINION

Governor Alf Landon of Kansas likes the Kansas Farmers Union, and he likes what it is doing and what it has done. Proof of this statement is found in the fact that Governor Landon used when he addressed the annual state convention of the Kansas Farmers Union in Lawrence on Wednesday evening, October 25, Kansas, by the way, has been fortunate in the matter of having governors who have sought to do the right thing for agriculture.

After a few brief remarks in which he congratulated the Kansas Farmers Union on its leadership in the person of Cal Ward, whom the governor has known rather intimately for some years, Governor Landon went on to say:

"Meeting with the Farmers Union here is a pleasure and a privilege. Anyone who is anyone living in Kansas must be deeply interested in agriculture, the great foundation industry of the state and nation. Likewise, in this day of great organizations, the farmer and his sincere friends are looking toward farm organizations as one of the necessities to agricultural equality and economic stability.

"I want to commend the Farmers Union and members of the Union for the part they have taken in furthering the organization of farmers. The Farmers Union has been one of the pioneers in the movement to understand the importance of an organized agriculture. All other industries in business and in labor are joined into associations and unions and through their united efforts and cohesiveness have been able to assist themselves.

"The Farmers Union has played a very important part in giving the farmer effective voice in making the farmer heard at state capitals and the White House. The state has sponsored and encouraged the development of co-operative marketing associations for the interest and benefit of farmers.

"The power of united agriculture with competent leadership to guide it, can be of great service in helping the farmer to overcome present economic and social problems." It is our opinion that the good government of Kansas had a very good reason for saying these things. He is governor of a great state, wherein agriculture by far the predominating industry. Governor Landon sees in the Farmers Union an organization which is making conditions better for agriculture, and which is, therefore, making conditions better for the state.

Blazed Trail, Marketing Trail
The governor sees in the Farmers Union an organization of Kansas farmers with which he can join hands in a fight for better conditions—and Governor Landon is sincere in his fight to bring about better conditions for his state. He said, at the close of his address:

"Your organization has advocated and engaged in cooperative marketing. You have been a trail-blazer in the field. Your influence long this

line as in other aspects of farming has been and will continue to be felt in the development of policies, state and national, for the betterment of the farmer and rural life.

"I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of the further development of the cooperative marketing idea—the building of a marketing system owned, controlled, and operated by the farmers themselves. Time, patience, and persistence, and the leadership of farmers will be necessary to accomplish worthwhile results. But, the plan is sound and worth almost any sacrifice in order to obtain its end. Here is where government can lend a powerful helping hand."

Appreciate Governor

The Farmers Union, on the other hand, is appreciative of the efforts of Governor Landon. As an organization of farmers, we appreciate the work he has done to secure better farm legislation than we previously had. He seems to seek the farmers' viewpoint, through the farmers' own organization, and then works to the end that farmers shall have what they justly demand. One proof of this statement is found in his action in extending the moratorium on foreclosures for another six months last fall, when the period fixed by the state legislature had expired.

Governor Landon had expressed his disappointment at the failure of the federal farm credit setup to function promptly and adequately. Prompted by a desire to prevent foreclosures of farms in Kansas, he sought to arm himself with full information regarding how many farms were threatened with foreclosure. Accordingly, a few weeks ago he sent letters to clerks of the courts in every Kansas county, asking them to furnish him with a list of farms in foreclosure. Upon receipt of this information, Governor Landon, on October 25, sent the following letter:

October 25, 1933
"Mr. Henry Morgenthau Jr., Governor, Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Morgenthau: The agricultural situation in Kansas and other farm belt states is lamentable. Foreclosures threaten hundreds of farmers who are unable to meet obligations at existing commodity prices, and prompt and vigorous action is necessary to save scores of farms from eviction from farms and homes."

"Clerks of courts in 94 of the 105 counties of Kansas have supplied me with data which shows that 1,518 farm foreclosures are pending in the courts of these counties. This does not include hundreds of farms which have already been sold at sheriff's sale under the terms of the Kansas law, which provides 18 months in which to redeem, and also where redemptions have been extended by moratorium. Judgments have already been taken against many other farmers whose farms will be sold within thirty days. These and a great many other farmers are being crushed by debts created under a different and much higher commodity price level. Long time

loans at a low rate of interest would do much to relieve this situation if put into operation swiftly. I urge that action be taken at once to remedy this situation. Unless the farm credit administration functions without delay hundreds of Kansas farmers will be ruined, and they will be deprived of their homes through foreclosure action, either pending or under way in the state and federal courts.

"I stand ready to lend every assistance to the national administration in meeting this grave problem. As Governor of one of the farm belt states, I will appreciate definite suggestions on how I can be of service in meeting this grave problem. Legislation for unemployment relief now going on in Kansas has indicated startling increased need from rural districts. Yours very truly,

Alf M. Landon,

"Governor."

The governor read this letter to the Farmers Union convention at Lawrence, and those gathered there showed their appreciation. The governor continued:

"We have heard a lot about the farm credit organization, but it does not seem to me to have told farm leaders if any farmer was about to lose his farm, notify him by telegram collect. I think I am very conservative when I say there can be a right delay in this matter. We have a right to insist if they are going to do anything to do it right away. That is one thing they can do."

Significant Paragraphs

Other paragraphs from his Farmers Union address follow:

"I believe it would be very helpful if the national government would devote more attention to the problem of long time farm loans at low rates of interest, not only as new loans, but to supplement the debt burden now bearing so heavy on the farm with commodities at present price levels.

"Likewise, this credit program should make it possible for the farmer to secure adequate loans with a reasonable interest rate to finance certain farming operations such as livestock feeding and in some instances production of a crop."

"The country today is passing through a great political revolution. This revolution is equally active in the economic world. Great progress in the way of time saving and labor-saving machinery has completely upset the world as well as the nation's economic structure. Thus unparallelled development has thrown old economic thought out of order, for the time being and possibly for all time."

"The state can be of assistance in this movement by properly re-adjusting its system of taxation. Some method of taxing land according to its use must be put into operation. I am convinced that the income tax is a step in the right direction, which will make it possible to relieve land of at least a part of its tax load."

"So far, whatever disappointing has obtained have been disappointing to the farmer. On July 15th the farmer was more favorably situated economically than he is today. On that date the ratio of his purchasing power was 72. By 15th of August, the ratio had dropped to 64, and by September 15th, had dropped to 61. The whole scheme of NRA will break down unless this situation is speedily remedied."

"It is true, however, that in a situation as complex as this, we are now confronting, and in a program as comprehensive as the one the national government is undertaking, a great deal of time is required to determine what the ultimate results will be."

"Partly owing to the fact that the Kansas did not have an unsound and exaggerated land boom as some of our neighboring states, partly because we did not plunge into the wild stock market boom experienced by so many of our eastern states, we are much better off than a great many of our neighbors."

"When the stock market crash came in 1929, it looked as if we might have learned our lesson. Corruption in high places had gone hand in hand with the craze for easy money in the market speculation. But with the slight indication of business revival this spring, we saw the starting of another wild speculation boom. No nation can exist, no civilization can live, no people can prosper when gambling takes the place of honest toil and industry; when men are measured by the money they have—the wealth they have piled up, irrespective of the way that money and that wealth was obtained. The test must be, not how much is he worth in money, but how did he get his money, and what is he worth in character?"

"The manipulators of great wealth—our so-called leaders of finance and government, have shaken our confidence. Derelict and corrupt public officials have undermined the trust in government. This condition tends to destroy the constructive efforts of conscientious leaders, both public and private—men with vision and purpose."

"So we are lacking today, first in the mutual understanding and confidence which is essential between government and industry; second, too many of our leaders of industry and finance have overlooked the fact that the public Good Will, which is recognized in law as an asset that can be listed by any corporation, is as essential to the success of a particular corporation."

"We have watched men acquire fortune and power without asking how they acquired it. Often these men were amazingly ignorant of the first principles of honesty and fair dealing, whose greed is insatiable, whose pride and financial transactions were a mere maddening madness. We have been going through an Alice-in-Wonderland period of high finance with the mad haters in command of too many of our great financial institutions. Power converted into such practices is the evil and curse of modern finance—not only to the general public—but business itself suffers, the good with the bad."

"This situation does have something

to do with business, including farming. The joy ride we all enjoyed in the late twenties is at least partially responsible for our present troubles. It appears to me that a similarity exists between this speculative craze for easy money and get-rich-quick fever by way of market speculation and the one crop farmer who gambles everything on one crop. In some parts of the state, and in many instances, at least some diversification would be practical and of much protection to the producer."

"The American home is the foundation on which American business and American liberty were founded and have been maintained. In my judgment, any consideration of Land utilization must not overlook this great fundamental value of the farm."

"A few years ago the movement of the population from the farms to the cities was giving extreme concern to those who were studying the problem. From 1920 to 1929 there was a steady movement from the farm to the city, but this movement has been reversed in the last three years. In 1929, 477,000 people moved from the farm to the city; in 1930 the net gain of the farm population over that of the cities was 17,000; in 1931, 214,000; in 1932, 533,000. It is of significance, however, to note in the report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, that in 1927, a prosperous year in cities and a comparatively unprosperous year in the rural districts, 1,705,000 persons left the cities and went to the farms."

"Good citizenship requires that every possible encouragement be given to this type of farming that is dominated by the 'home' attitude, that involves family-sized farms, and that is based on a long-time program of farm practices for the conservation, improvement, and enjoyment of the natural resources and human resources of the farm."

American background of material and social progress traces to the farm and farm parentage. Always the farm has been a home and an economic unit of production. When monetary returns from farming were not great enough to account for the persistence with which people retained their investment in the land, the desire for an independent home could be blamed."

"The farm home has always offered an atmosphere of development and growth which it was possible to give up an American family of strength and character. Great leaders in business, in public life and in scientific fields to day were born and spent their childhood on farms. They turned to other fields, but the foundation of character and their ability to overcome adversity were laid during youth in rural homes."

"A farmer's financial remuneration must be sufficient to enable him to maintain a satisfactory standard of living. He must be in a position to send his son and daughter to college and to give other business men with like ability and with an equal amount of capital invested is able to do."

DON'T WANT SALES TAX

The Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations is maintaining headquarters in Room 300, Jayhawk Hotel in Topeka, during the present special session of the Kansas legislature. This committee, composed of the farm organizations in the state, is on the job in the interests of Kansas farmers, and is doing a creditable job. H. W. Behrens, former state senator from Osage county, has had charge of the committee's activities.

One of the important pieces of proposed legislation which the Committee has worked to block was the state sales tax, which would have placed a tax of 5 per cent on food stuffs. Big interests do not want to be forced, through the income tax, to pay their share of governmental expenses, and they see that the real estate, including farms, of course, are not going to be able to keep carrying the most of this burden as they have been doing. Therefore, they have introduced this sales tax measure, and they make a big noise about doing it "for the farmer." They say their purpose is to relieve the land from its tax burden. What they really have in mind, most farmers believe, is to relieve themselves of any added burden through the income tax.

The passage of such a sales tax measure would place the principal burden of governmental expense upon the common people who do the buying of the necessities of life. It would be a good thing for the big interests.

Farmers should let their legislators know that they do not ask for any such tax law, but that they want the big interests to pay taxes according to their wealth, whether intangible or tangible.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

CAL A. WARD

President Kansas Farmers Union

A HARD PULL

Our readers are familiar with the fact that the writer has spent considerable time the past few months in working and cooperating with the representatives of the Government, and especially with the representatives of the Department of Agriculture. Much of my time has been spent in Washington working with the Wheat Administration in an attempt to expedite matters and get the cash benefits out to the farmers.

It is to be assumed that our people realize and appreciate the magnitude

of this agricultural program as a part of the so-called "New Deal." Our farmers who have exercised patience and tolerance through these years of distress, suffering and disappointment are entitled to a lot of consideration and sympathy. The writer is well acquainted with farm life and with the mental reactions that come to one when things go wrong and when we are unable to assemble together enough cash to meet our necessary expenses. Of course, this is the condition of agriculture at the present time.

In normal times when prices are low for the farmer's commodities he stands the shock quite well because he feels assured that it will last only for a brief time and that better prices are presently at hand. The past several years have been a period of bitter experience. It has been one long constant downward trend of farm commodity price levels, and it is no wonder that the farmer is discouraged and losing confidence in leadership.

We who are attempting to represent the farmers are doing all that we can to impress those who are at the head of our various Government departments of the true conditions as they exist in the country. It is to be assumed that those in authority realize and appreciate that our farm commodity prices must seek higher levels if agriculture is to be saved from total collapse.

MUST HAVE ACTION

The writer has attempted to be optimistic as to the outlook for the future. It is my profound opinion that confidence, among other things, is tremendously needed in order that we may have teamwork and constructive action on the part of the masses of the people. But confidence alone will not suffice. There must be action!

The writer has contacted and visited a great many of the governmental departments here in Washington. I have talked to the President and his advisors. I have my own convictions and I am convinced that this Administration with all of its subdivisions and leadership is putting forth a heroic fight to gain ground. It is a long, hard pull, and the President is fully aware of this. He has stood to our people. The facts are, when one has made a thorough investigation, it is found that slowly we are pulling out. It is going to take time to effect a lot of readjustments which are necessary and fundamental working toward recovery.

I am convinced that in the Department of Agriculture the farmer has friends. There seems to be a splendid degree of cooperation between the various divisions and subdivisions of the Department. I would have our readers know that the present Administration believes in a planned and well organized agriculture. The Administration appreciates the value of organization and cooperation. The Administration also wishes to cooperate with farm organizations.

The writer is convinced more than ever that if we are to win in this struggle for better times we must have the support of the majority of our farmers. This support must be crystallized into strong working units. There is no organization that fits better into agriculture's program and picture at the present time than the Farmers Union. This organization is recognized here at Washington. Three members of the Farmers Union are members of the National Wheat Advisory Committee.

A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING

We who are here are doing our utmost to narrow the apparent gap that seems to be between the farmer and the authorities at Washington. The one disappointing thing to be observed in that light is the lack of understanding that seems to exist with some of those who have been long with the Government. It is up to us farmers ourselves, through our leadership, to correct some of these conditions. It can be done, and we have never had a better chance than at present.

The writer wishes to impress our people with the need of closer cooperation. The football team faces failure and does not expect to win unless there is teamwork. Just so it is true in this hard pull which our farmers and the Government face, especially under conditions as at present, and during these times the President of our country with all of his subordinates is entitled to the support of every patriotic citizen of the country. The writer holds the theory that we will get a lot more and these adjustments will be made more rapidly if we put a shoulder to the wheel and be a booster rather than a dead weight and a knocker.

I am sure that there are indications that the Administration's program, so far as agriculture is concerned, is gaining ground. Of course, there will be a lot of mistakes made, but if we follow in line with the procession and do our part to cooperate with those who are in leadership our chances for recovery are tremendously greater than if we do otherwise.

NEED MORE FARMERS IN UNION

The need of more farmers in the Farmers Union is evident. Kansas and Kansas farmers have a wonder-

ful reputation here in Washington. We should make ourselves more effective by becoming a strong organization. This will require a large militant membership. How will we secure this membership? This is the question. We will increase our membership comparable to the way we apply ourselves to this program.

The wheat program has been slow, but Kansas farmers will soon be getting their cash benefits. This is the first time in the history of our country that such a thing was ever accomplished. Is twenty-five million dollars worth anything to the wheat farmers of Kansas, and will the millions of dollars that the hog and corn growers receive be worth anything to you. If it is, join the Farmers Union and support its leadership. If it isn't throw up your hands in despair and be content with facing a total collapse of our industry.

It is a long, hard pull, but we will win if we cooperate and work together.

UNCLE ANDY SAYS!



We must give the President credit for flying in the face of Wall Street and breaking all precedent by raising the price of gold and eventually putting a less weight of it behind the dollar. He seems to be going on the theory that cheapening the dollar as compared with gold will raise prices and make debts more easily paid.

We sincerely hope he is right and that it will result in a general rise in the price level. It will at least have the effect of making our stock of gold go much further in its monetary use. But the hitch is we have not been using all the gold we had at the old price as a backing for currency. Our money managers have been neutralizing much of our gold stock, not permitting it to be used in its monetary capacity.

I shall watch this experiment with great interest because it is contrary to my life-long teaching. We had supposed that the quantitative theory of money, now so generally accepted, would not be further doubted. That is that the volume of money in circulation determines its buying power, no matter whether it is gold, silver or paper, so long as it is current money of the nation.

When we begin searching for values or standards of value, we tread on very uncertain ground. The Supreme Court in the Greenback decision, 12th Wallace reports, says: "The constitution does not speak of a standard of value" and that "value is an ideal thing" (a thing of the mind). It all harks back to the self-consciousness of man being—to whatever will sustain him and comfort human life. Looking at it in that light, there cannot be such a thing as intrinsic value apart from human welfare or consciousness."

The President's recent radio announcement for a commodity dollar is at variance with his present gold campaign. By a commodity dollar is meant a dollar based on the general commodity price level and the volume of dollars governed by the commodity price index number. That volume would be increased, and if prices were rising too much the volume of money would be decreased. This is what is called a "managed currency," also promised by the President.

Still I can see a ray of consistency in the whole scheme. It is proposed by Irving Fisher of Yale and Warren of Cornell and many other economists that all gold coin be called in, and no more coined, and that gold be kept in more coined, and that gold be stamped as to weight and fineness and subjected to the same price control as all currency as above mentioned. So that money would still be redeemable in gold of a stable value—that is, a stable buying power.

This should suit everybody. The gold worshippers would be sure of gold redemption of a stable value. They couldn't very well be assured of gold because they would be assured of gold of stable commercial value. The great industrial and farming interests would then be relieved of the dread uncertainty of a fluctuating currency and its consequent panics and booms. A controlled currency, gold included, based on the commodity price level and managed by the Government would forever relieve us as a nation of foreign dictation or other foreign influence in our monetary affairs. Gold redemption would then become a matter of bookkeeping. Much or little would be paid out, but always of the same buying power.

It is proposed to bring prices up to the 1926 price level and hold them there as near as is humanly possible. It will take quite an increased money volume to do so. That is popularly called inflation, which isn't. It is restoration—just getting back to normal.

I regret to state that with all our efforts prices will never be quite sta-

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

ANNOUNCE RENO

MEETINGS TO BE HELD

Two notices have come in from Farmers Union members announcing meetings in Kansas which will be addressed by Milo Reno of Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Reno is head of the National Farm Holiday Assn. The first notice is from H. P. Anderson of Neosho Falls, head of the movement in Kansas. It follows:

"National Farmers Holiday Association of Kansas will hold a meeting at Neosho Falls, Kansas, Saturday, November 25, 1:30 p. m., at Memorial Hall. Milo Reno, Des Moines, Iowa, National President of Farmers Holiday Association, is to be present. The other notice comes from Gust Larson of Leonardville, Kansas. It says: 'Milo Reno, president of the National Farmers Holiday Association, will speak in Simmons Hall at Marysville, Kansas, Monday, Nov. 27, at 2 p. m.'"

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

(Cowley County)

In memory of Ayalias Cullumber Youle, who departed from this life, Thursday, November 9, 1933. Whereas it has pleased our Heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom and mercy to remove from our midst, a faithful Union member, and beloved sister, the wife of our President, brother Frank Youle.

Therefore, it is resolved that we, the members of Bethel Local No. 1969 do hereby extend to our brother, Mr. Frank Youle and family, our most sincere sympathy in their great sorrow. And, be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the sorrowing family, one to the Kansas Union Farmer for publication, and a copy written on the minutes of our next meeting.

Rol Workman, Sec.
Mrs. Elmer Fowler,
Mrs. Wylie Logan.

NOTICE OF WASHINGTON CO. ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Washington County Farmers Union will be held at the Majestic Theatre in Washington, December 1, Friday, at 11 a. m. Locals please send delegates. J. T. Poland, Co. Sec.
H. F. Wesche, Co. Pres.

GREENWOOD CO. MEETING

The fourth quarterly meeting of the Greenwood County Farmers Union will be held in Madison, Kansas, in the basement of the Christian Church. Basket dinner at noon; also election of officers for the coming year, as well as any other business which may come before the meeting. All members are urged to attend this meeting. The date is Friday, December 1, 1933. CHAS. A. ROBERTS,
Greenwood County Secretary and Treasurer.

ELLSWORTH CO. MEETING

The Ellsworth County Farmers Union, No. 41, will hold their annual meeting December 9, at the Odd Fellows Hall in Ellsworth, commencing at 10 o'clock. All County Union members and prospective members and their families are expected to come to Ellsworth on that day with filed baskets, and have an all day reunion and picnic dinner together. There will be a speaker and some entertainment is to be expected on that date. DAN H. KATTMAN, Sec.

JOBBING ASSOCIATION REPORTS INCREASE IN COAL SHIPMENTS

The Farmers Union Jobbing Association at Kansas City reports a decided increase in the number of coal shipments of coal made this year. Up to the present time they have already shipped a greater number of cars than were shipped during the entire season last year. This increase has been made in spite of the fact that some Kansas mines were inactive for a month's time. We can expect cold weather to set in most any time now, and the Jobbing Association urges its dealers to book their orders for immediate delivery in order to avoid delay. As a rule a good many dealers find themselves short of coal when the first cold snap sets in, and as the mines are flooded with orders at that time it is practically impossible to make immediate delivery. The Kansas coal mines are again in full operation as all labor difficulties have been ironed out.

Prompt shipment can be made on any coal from Imperial mines at the present time. Prices per ton have shown some advance, and even further increase in prices may be expected. The preparation and quality of Imperial deep shaft coal has been excellent this year, and no complaints have been experienced. The difficulties at the Henrietta, Oklahoma mines have been straightened out, and the Jobbing Association can make shipments on any size of Henrietta coal. This is a genuine deep shaft product, and is giving wonderful satisfaction. The Co-Operator.

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