



# THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation

NUMBER 25

VOLUME XVI

SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1924.

## Farmers Union Seventeenth Annual Convention At Emporia, Kansas, Re-Elects All Old State Officers

Reports of All Departments and Activities Shows Remarkable Gains—Urge All Members to Join the Wheat Pool—Endorse New Farmers Union Co-operative Bank at Kansas City, and Authorize Organization of New Co-operative Elevator System And Produce Associations

### SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE KANSAS DIVISION F. U. & C. U. OF A.

The Seventeenth annual convention of the Farmers Union, Kansas Division was called to order at 10:00 o'clock A. M. Wednesday, January 16, 1924 at Emporia, Kansas, by President Tromble.

The meeting opened with prayer by Judge J. H. Rice of the Congregational church. The Hackney Harmony Hounds (a quartette composed of R. F. Chapman, J. C. Felts, Geo. A. Beach and J. G. Cochran) sang several songs.

The address of welcome, by the Mayor of Emporia was given at a banquet in the dining hall of the Kansas State Teacher's College Tuesday evening, January 15.

President of the State Teachers College also addressed a few remarks to the delegates assembled. John Tromble, president of the Farmers Union, made the response to these addresses of welcome.

Other persons speaking before the delegates at the banquet Tuesday evening January 15th were: A. C. Davis, Springfield, Mo., National Secretary; Chas. S. Barrett, National President, and William Allen White of Emporia.

**Order of Business.**  
The committee on Order of Business being ready to report, same was heard, the chairman, L. E. DeVoss reading the report.

Tuesday Morning, January 15, 1924.  
Farmers Union Jobbing Association. Meeting called to order at 10 a. m. Appointment of committees. Reading of Minutes of last year. Report by Mr. Tromble. Report of W. C. Lansdon. Meeting adjourned until 1:30 p. m. Tuesday Afternoon.

Farmers Union Jobbing Association. Report of L. E. DeVoss. Report of Auditor T. B. Dunn. Election of officers. Hearing of committees. Adjournment.

Tuesday Evening.  
Banquet at Cafeteria of Kansas State Teachers College, 7:15 p. m. Banquet followed by meeting of store managers.

Wednesday Morning, January 16, 1924.  
Banquet Room, Broadway Hotel—10:00 a. m.—Invocation by Judge J. H. Rice, pastor Congregational church.

Appointment of committees. Adjourn until 1:30 p. m. Wednesday Afternoon.

Address by Governor Davis. Nomination of officers. Annual report of officers and Board of Directors.

Insurance meeting. Wednesday Evening.

Speeches by A. C. Davis, national secretary; Chas. S. Barrett, national president; Jacob H. Taylor, editor of National Farmers magazine.

Thursday, Morning, January 17, 1924.  
10:00 A. M.  
Discussion of Farmers Union Bank. Discussion of Farmers Union Produce Pool.

Thursday Afternoon.  
Discussion of Kansas Co-operative Wheat Marketing Pool. Speech by ex-governor Frank Lowden.

Thursday Evening.  
Farmers Union Livestock Commission Co., E. E. Woodman, manager.

Friday Morning, January 18, 1924.  
10:00 A. M.  
Farmers Union Wheat Marketing meeting.

Report of committees. Announcement of election. Polls open at 8:30 a. m. for voting.

Respectfully submitted:  
L. E. DeVoss,  
W. C. Lansdon,  
C. E. Brasted,  
S. C. Towne,  
John Vesceky.

**Committees Appointed.**  
The following committees were appointed to make reports during the convention.

**Order of Business.**  
L. E. DeVoss, Kansas City, Mo.  
W. C. Lansdon, Salina.  
C. E. Brasted, Salina.  
John Vesceky, Timken.  
Sam Towne, Osborn.

**Constitution and By-laws.**  
C. E. Huff, Oronoque.  
E. E. Woodman, Kansas City.  
A. D. Rice, Delphos.

**Resolutions.**  
W. P. Lambertson, Fairview.  
C. C. Kilian, Green.  
C. J. Diederick, Seiden.  
E. A. Crall, Erie.  
Chas. Day, Allen.

### H. D. Collins, Erie.

John Vesceky, Timken.  
J. Henry Meyer, Girard.  
Credentialed:  
Roy Schmitt, Fairview.

D. W. Barrett, Oswatomie.  
Herman Schoen, Cawker City.  
Harry Neath, Kansas City.  
R. F. Chapman, Hackney.

Good of the Order:  
W. E. Hays, Oswatomie.  
Mrs. John Frost, Blue Rapids.  
M. L. Amos, Salina.

O. M. Lippert, Bison.  
Frank Rathburn, Downs.  
Alfred Docking, Manhattan.  
Mrs. Eva Beatty, Valley Center.

Juvenile Work:  
Mrs. Fred Miller, Colony.  
Mrs. C. S. Barrett, Anderson county.

Mrs. Grace Mustoe.  
Mrs. John Frost, Blue Rapids.  
Mrs. H. R. Green, Moline.  
H. B. Whitaker, Manhattan.

C. E. Henderson, Kincaid.  
R. F. Chapman, Hackney.

**Reports of President and Vice-President.**  
Reports were made by President Tromble and W. C. Lansdon of their work during the past year. (These will later be printed in full.)

A. C. Davis, National secretary, not being able to stay for the evening session, made a few remarks. (Mr. Davis' address will appear in a later issue of the Kansas Union Farmer.)

Meeting adjourned until 1:30 p. m. Wednesday Afternoon:  
1:30 P. M.  
The convention was called to order by President Tromble. Opening music was furnished by the Hackney Harmony Hounds.

The delegates then listened to a talk by Governor Davis.

The state lecturer, M. O. Glessner made his report.

A partial report of the Credentials committee was made by Harry Neath. Locals represented 242.

County Unions 24.  
Business associations 59. 329

A motion was made and duly seconded that we not have the roll called of the delegates present as it required too much time. Motion carried.

U. S. Godding of Jewell county moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last state meeting. Seconded by W. P. Lambertson. Motion carried.

**Report of Auditor.**  
(This report will appear in the February 7th issue of this paper.)

The report of the auditor, T. B. Dunn was read, showing the condition of the Kansas Union Farmer, the secretary's office and the treasurer's office.

Moved by Chas. J. Diederick and seconded by Chas. Day that we accept the report of the auditor. Carried.

**Secretary's Report.**  
The report of the state secretary, showing the expenditures of that office and the Kansas Union Farmer for publishing and postage was read by State Secretary C. E. Brasted.

January 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
Attorney fees for year 25.00  
Office rent 40.00  
Phone rent 7.05  
Telegrams 5.30

Supplies for locals 19.50  
Janitor 5.00  
Office help, regular and extra 265.63 \$546.88

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1591.61  
Postage 5 101.55  
issues 1693.16

February, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
Audit and dues in Auditing Ass'n 38.25

Office rent 40.00  
Phone rent 4.60  
Telegrams 5.30  
Office supplies 2.94

Supplies for locals 8.35  
Envelopes and postage 68.66  
Janitor 5.00  
Office help 230.00

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1127.19  
Postage 4 issues 90.61  
issues 1217.80

March, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
Office rent 40.00  
Supplies for locals 29.20

Postage 4.82  
Office help 250.00  
Phone rent 11.05  
Telegrams 10.14

Janitor 5.00  
Office supplies 2.25 \$518.46

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1177.34  
Postage 4 issues 90.61  
issues 1267.95

### Postage

4 issues 108.58  
issues 1285.92

April, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
Audit for first quarter 81.00

Office rent 40.00  
Office help 205.00  
Electric light bill 4.25

Phone rent 5.00  
Janitor 6.15  
Supplies for locals 15.50 \$477.55

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1297.09  
Postage 4 issues 101.72  
issues 1398.81

May, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
Office rent 40.00

C. E. Brasted, expense to locals 18.08  
Envelopes and stamps 56.16

Janitor 5.00  
Phone rent 4.40  
Telegrams 1.82

Office Supplies 1.90  
Office help 205.00 \$507.36

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1316.92  
Postage 5 issues 97.83  
issues 1414.75

June, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
C. E. Brasted, expense to locals 27.55

Office rent 40.00  
Office help 275.00  
Janitor 5.00

Phone rent 6.90  
Telegrams 1.70  
Supplies for locals 57.40

Premium on bond 42.50  
For Sec'y & help 7.06 \$644.72

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1192.36  
Postage 4 issues 89.86  
issues 1282.22

July, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
Office rent 40.00

Audit, second quarter 31.00  
Office supplies 11.60  
Office help 205.00

Phone rent 6.00  
Payment for installation of lights 5.00 \$473.00

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1195.64  
Postage 4 issues 92.44  
issues 1288.08

August, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
C. E. Brasted, expense to locals 24.78

Office supplies 3.50  
Office help 160.00  
Phone rent 6.65

Office rent 40.00  
Telegrams 10.50  
Electric light bill 2.15 \$422.58

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1202.35  
Postage 5 issues 94.58  
issues 1296.93

September, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
C. E. Brasted, expense to Des Moines 54.84

Office rent 40.00  
Office supplies 3.00  
Office help 205.00

Phone rent 14.85  
Telegrams 5.73  
Electric light bill 3.25 \$501.17

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$748.63  
Postage 4 issues 61.85  
issues 810.48

October, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
C. E. Brasted, expense to Kansas City 38.67

Office rent 40.00  
Supplies for locals 14.00  
Postage 27.06

Office help 205.00  
Office supplies 3.30  
Electric light bill 8.15 \$503.18

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$1002.76  
Postage 5 issues 78.26  
issues 1081.02

November, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
C. E. Brasted, expense to locals 8.14

Envelopes and postage 44.16  
Salary of office help 227.50  
Office supplies 17.35  
Electric light bill 3.20 \$557.49

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$799.62  
Postage 4 issues 63.61  
issues 863.23

December, 1923.  
C. E. Brasted, salary \$175.00  
C. E. Brasted, expense to locals 8.00

Office rent 40.00  
Office help 227.50  
Electric light bill 4.25

Phone rent 2.45  
Janitor 1.99  
Office supplies 16.56 \$470.75

Central Kansas Pub. Co. \$798.00  
Postage 4 issues 64.66  
issues 862.66

Taxes for last half 1922 \$156.58  
Taxes for first half 1923 286.12  
Motion was made by A. B. Gregg of Girard and seconded by W. C. Coffman of Madison that the secretary's report be adopted. Motion carried.

**Nomination of Officers.**  
Next in order of business, came the nomination of officers, members of the Board of Directors from the fourth & fifth districts and delegates to the National convention.

Nominations were called for, with results as follows:  
President, John Tromble.

Vice-President, W. C. Lansdon.  
Secretary, C. E. Brasted.  
Treasurer, Grant Bliss.

Door-keeper, M. V. Gates.  
Conductor, John Scheel.  
Lecturer, M. O. Glessner.

**Fourth District Member of Directors:**  
Carl Clark, McPherson.  
Charles Day, Allen.

J. C. Felts, Hackney.  
W. C. McMillan, Sumner county.  
**Fifth District Member of Board of Directors:**

John Vesceky, Timken.  
O. M. Lippert, Bison.  
Delegates to National Convention.

C. J. Diederick, Seiden.  
H. B. Whitaker, Colony.  
E. A. Crall, Erie.

Wm. G. Swanson, Vliets.  
J. Henry Meyer, Girard.  
C. E. Henderson, Kincaid.

W. C. Radke, Stafford.

## REPORT ON BUSINESS FARMERS UNION JOBBING ASSOCIATION

Year Ending December 31, 1923.

BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR—

In Wheat Consignments 12%

In total number of cars, including grain, hay, fruit tankage, coal and salt 22%

Percentage of profit for year 43% of Common Stock.

Surplus \$105.50

## BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 1923.

"ASSETS"

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash on Hand 43,183.76

Cash in Bank Current Acct. 10,000.00

Cash in Bank Time Deposits 54,688.87

Collateral Trust Account 280.00

Accounts Receivable Mds 6,181.29

Less Reserve for Bad Debts 875.90

Accounts Receivable Consignment 5,255.39

Notes Receivable 71,846.71 77,102.10

Suspense Bank Account 6,028.06

Commissions Receivable 4,177.77

Elevator Charges Receivable 11,563.48

Freight Suspense 1,516.89

Grain Advance 390.00

Grain Clearing Co. 61,702.04

Grain Clearing Co. deposit 11,610.00

229,399.21

MEMBERSHIPS:

Board of Trade K. C. 22,000.00

Board of Trade Omaha 2,600.00

Hay Dealers Ass'n K. C. 1,600.00

26,000.00

INVENTORY:

Automobiles 3,694.25

Furniture & Fixt. K. C. 2,444.25

Furniture & Fixt. Omaha 105.00

9,043.50

Less Depreciation 1,536.17 7,507.33

Grain on Hand 2,766.14

Merchandise 1,332.00

Office Supplies 250.00

Radio, Supplies & Equip. 115.00

4,463.14

PREPAID CHARGES:

Interest 97.95

Insurance 320.93

418.88

267,788.56

"LIABILITIES"

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable 7,512.68

Notes Payable 59,945.00

Commissions Payable 3,386.40

Freight 8,374.06

Grain Advanced Omaha 82,189.01

Grain Consignments 2,570.72

Grain Clearing Tax 33.06

Revenue Payable 568.45

Hay Consignments 8,993.94

Proceeds Payable 860.92

Weighing & Inspection, Plugging 80.50

168,814.73

CAPITAL LIABILITIES:

Capital Stock Preferred 34,980.00

Capital Stock Common 63,883.83

Surplus 105.50

267,788.56

the delegates for some little time. President Barrett read no introduction of the Farmers Union members of Kansas, having been in our state a number of times. His talk was very interesting, encouraging and instructive.

Mr. Jacob H. Taylor, editor of the National Farmers magazine was introduced and spoke on his work with the Farmers Union.

Motion was made and duly seconded that the meeting adjourn until 9:00 A. M. Thursday, Carried. January 17, 1924.

9 A. M.  
President Tromble asked that the Hackney Harmony Hounds open the meeting by singing.

The Farmers Union Co-operative Bank was discussed. The officers introduced. After much discussion, Mr. E. E. Woodman made the motion that stock subscription blanks be passed out to the delegates to give them the opportunity to subscribe for stock. Seconded by H. R. Green. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned until 1:30 p. m. Thursday Afternoon.

1:30 P. M.  
Meeting was opened with songs by the Hackney Harmony Hounds.

Farmers Union Insurance Company. C. E. Brasted, President of the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company's took the chair and asked the officers and members of the Boards of Directors to come to the platform. Reports of the Company were given by F. D. Becker, secretary, Chas. Simpson, field manager and C. E. Brasted, President. A general discussion followed.

**Address of Governor Lowden.**  
Ex-Governor Frank Lowden of Illinois was introduced and spoke to some length in regard to the farmers of Kansas pooling their wheat. (The address of Governor Lowden will be published at a later date.)

Meeting adjourned until 7:30 p. m. Thursday Evening.

7:30.  
After singing by the Hackney Harmony Hounds they were given three cheers by the delegates of the convention. A collection was taken to assist in paying their expenses to the meeting.

Farmers Union Livestock Commission. Mr. E. E. Woodman, manager of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Company of Kansas City was given the floor for a report of the Company. Miss Katherine Merigan assisted in giving this report. (The report will appear in a later issue of this paper.)

Mr. Roy Barnes, manager of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Company of Wichita showed a very pleasing gain in business of the company since its being taken over by the Farmers Union.

A general discussion followed. On motion duly seconded and carried the meeting was adjourned to 8:30 Friday morning.

Friday Morning.  
8:30 A. M.  
Meeting was called to order by President Tromble and the Hackney Harmony Hounds again favored the convention with several selections.

All delegates were asked to vote. Report of Executive Committee. The report of the Executive Committee was read by C. E. Huff, of Oronoque, chairman of the board.

"The Executive Committee of the Kansas Farmers Union submits the following report for the year 1923. During the year the regular meetings of the board have been held, matters of routine closely checked and the condition and needs of the union diligently considered. A spirit of harmony has prevailed within the official family and only such differences of opinion have arisen as necessitate the health of the organization and full consideration of all angles of the questions involved.

During the year a vacancy occurred by the death of Director V. C. Anderson. This was both an organization loss and a personal loss. The Board took steps to fill the vacancy, tendering the appointment to a respected member resident in that district, only to learn after the Board members had gone home that death had also claimed this member. No further attempt was made to fill the vacancy.

In addition to their regular duties, the members have, during the year, at the call of President Tromble, given considerable time to the several new state wide organizations. It seems to the Board to be a wise and far-sighted policy for the officials of the state Union to lend aid and encouragement and direction to these necessary new developments.

The future of the Farmers Union must depend upon the number and loyalty of its members, primarily. Since the depression resulting from the deflation of agriculture in 1920, a rather steady decline in membership has been experienced. Among the causes may be noted, actual inability to pay dues, discouragement with the movement because of inability of local organizations to show profits, or deliberate dropping out because of failure of local business organizations. For 1923 the average dues paying membership was roundly 27,000. For 1922 the number was somewhat less. At the end of the year, however, a returning tide seems definitely to have set in, and gains are being recorded.

The severest economy has been practiced in the administration of the affairs of the state Union. The number of employees has been kept at a minimum at costs as low as are fair and consistent with good work.

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W. C. LANSDON ..... Associate Editor  
DON C. ESTES ..... Director of Advertising

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Notice 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 five days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handled up until noon Monday on the week of publication.

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 ON APPLICATION



THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1924.

### A KANSAS ROADS PROGRAM.

The Kansas Agricultural Council made up of delegates from all the important farm organizations, the Convention called by the State Board of Agriculture and the Kansas Farmers Union have all adopted a highway program that is the same in all vital particulars. There is absolute agreement on one principle, that no more roads shall be built from the proceeds of bond sales.

Bond issues double the cost of construction. Such a method of building puts as many dollars into the pockets of money lenders as into better highways. It also defers payment of half the expense, in fact of all that part of the expense that goes into construction to a future generation that will have plenty of trouble in paying its own debts and providing for its own improvements without taking care of obligations that should have been met by the generation that created them for its own advantage.

There are abundant accessible sources of income for a pay as built system of Kansas roads. There are 400,000 automobiles in this state that pay a license for the privilege of using the public roads. From this source alone it is possible to provide a fund of more than \$3,000,000 for road construction without in any way impeding the program for maintenance. Each of these Kansas automobiles uses on average of 500 gallons of gasoline and 100 gallons of lubricating oil annually, or a yearly consumption of 200,000,000 gallons of gasoline and of 40,000,000 gallons of oil. A tax of 3c a gallon on gasoline and 10c a gallon on oil would yield an annual revenue of approximately \$10,000,000. In addition all drivers of commercialized motor vehicles should be licensed and all paid or professional drivers should be examined and licensed. Trucks and stages using the public high ways for transporting freight and passengers for hire should be required to pay adequately for the privilege. From all these sources it is possible to create an annual fund for road construction of approximately \$15,000,000 a year. That is as much money as can be used for road building in one year without waste or graft.

If the annual road fund of \$15,000,000 a year could be used on federal aid projects alone with the government putting in half the cost of construction up to 15,000 a mile as the law provides 1000 miles of road costing \$30,000 a mile could be constructed annually. This would complete the primary road system in about six years and probably as soon and certainly much more economically than if the money from the sale of bonds were all in hand at one time. In fact much more than 1000 miles of road can be constructed with a fund of \$80,000,000 made up of equal contributions from state and federal sources. It is not necessary to build more than 2,000 miles of concrete or brick road in Kansas. The balance of the primary roads can very well be graveled, built of sand-clay or even dirt surfaced. Probably 1,500 miles of the type of roads required for our permanent system can be built for the annual \$30,000,000.

There are a lot of impatient, progressive and greedy souls who say that the people of Kansas cannot afford to wait five or six years for the completion of a system of good roads. It is dead certain that we must wait that long or longer no matter what plan is adopted. The opposition to bonds and benefit districts is so strong and is growing so rapidly that any sensible man should realize that our necessary roads will never be built in that way.

The pay as built plan appears to have the following very important advantages over the system of construction by bond issues:

It will provide a system of primary roads in about 7 years; it will give us that system of highways without debt; when completed it will release an annual road income of \$15,000,000 that can then be used for the construction of secondary highways and for maintenance; it takes a great part of the burden of constructing highways from the farms and puts it in the shape of a toll on the actual users of the roads; and finally it sub-

stitutes a workable plan that can secure general approval for one that has been condemned by public opinion and must be abandoned.

### THE GALLED JADE WINCES.

The enemies of cooperative marketing are a fairly trustworthy index of the value of the system and of its prospects for success. If the Wheat Growers Marketing Associations are foredoomed to failure there is no reason for the bitter opposition to the cooperative movement that is being fostered by the speculative grain trade and the beneficiaries of that now thoroughly discredited system.

The Kansas City Grain Market Review of December 28th contained five paragraphs each of which discussed some phase of the cooperative plan. The first states that the handling costs or marketing expense of the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association with 12,000 members delivering a little more than 3,000,000 for 1922 was 14.6 cents a bushel. The second states that the marketing costs of the North Dakota Wheat Growers Association for the same year was 13.7 a bushel. The third is a statement by J. B. Brown, president of the Kansas Cooperative Grain Dealers Association charging that farmers who sold through pools in 1922 received from five to thirteen cents a bushel less than those who sold to their home elevators. The fourth is a warning that was printed in the Cooperative Manager of St. Paul, a Board of Trade sheet that masquerades as the friend of the producer, in which the producers of South Dakota are urged to "take time to investigate thoroughly promoters scheme." The fifth is a statement by before they endorse the wheat pool or any other Secretary Smiley of the Kansas Grain Dealers' Association predicting that the Kansas Cooperative Wheat Marketing Association will prove a failure and a disappointment.

The statement as to the cost of marketing wheat co-operatively through the Oklahoma and North Dakota Associations are purposely misleading. Undoubtedly the growers in those two organizations paid the marketing costs indicated and when they received their final settlements received an itemized account of what was done with the money. The biggest item is the charge for Local elevator handling which all grain must carry whether marketed cooperatively or sold to speculators who own such elevators. Weighing, inspection, storage, insurance, interest and other constant elements in the expense of wheat marketing account for all the balance except about six-tenths of a cent a bushel as the actual overhead expenses of the Growers Agency. In many of the pools this item was entirely absorbed by the gains made by raising grades as a result of conditioning and mixing at the terminal elevators. The statement that the expenses of cooperative marketing amounted to about four cents a bushel is a plain lie and known to be a lie by the men who are circulating it.

The statement made by J. B. Brown is either a deliberate lie or it is made in ignorance of the real facts. The Kansas Wheat Growers Association settled with its members in 1922 on a basic price of almost 91 cents a bushel for No. 2 wheat. Unless the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Federal Department of Agriculture are both wrong, the average basic farm price for wheat during the same year was a little less than 90 cents a bushel. Instead of getting from five to thirteen cents a bushel under the country elevator prices the poolers actually averaged about a cent a bushel above the average price paid by the speculative buyers to the non-poolers.

Brown ignores the fact that the poolers price is the average price for the year and does not explain that the 5 to 13 cents a bushel more than that received by non-poolers was not the average country price but the price obtained by the relatively small number of farmers who were able to haul their grain to market on the days when the prices were at the highest points for the year. Not many farmers were able to do that although some may have been so fortunate as to get the high dollar for a load or two of grain. Pooling enables farmers to get the average of the market during the season and when perfected and applied to the handling of sufficient volume will result in higher prices.

The statements and forecasts made by the Cooperative Manager and Secretary Smiley may very well be discounted as they come from men whose occupation and profits will be gone when co-operative marketing is fully established.

### OUR BIGGEST VICTORY.

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Kansas Farmers Union was held at Emporia last week. It is a great thing for an organization of farmers to have held together for seventeen years. It is a far greater thing that for all those seventeen years the Union has consistently pushed a program for the improvement of agricultural conditions in Kansas.

There are those who believe that the institution and the successful operation of six great statewide cooperative enterprises, each one highly successful in its own particular field of activity, is the greatest achievement of the Kansas Farmers Union. It is true that the Farmers Union Jobbing Association is the biggest and the most successful enterprise of its kind in the country. It is true that the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company is the most successful organization of its type in the world. It is true that the Farmers Union Mutual Life Insurance Company is the only Mutual of its sort that constantly pays its losses in full. It is true that the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission Company had doubled its business during the past twelve months and is now the largest firm on the Kansas City market. It is true that the Farmers Union Wheat Marketing Association has operated on the least margin of expense and has sold grain for its members at the great-

est advance over the treminal market prices. It is true that the Farmers Union Auditing Association has developed into service agency for the Kansas Cooperatives that has no real rival in its own field.

These things are all true and their truth can be proved by the unquestioned records of accomplishment. They make a record of success that has no equal anywhere in this country but they do not constitute the greatest achievement, even as a whole of the Kansas Farmers Union. The biggest thing that has been done by the Kansas Farmers Union is to demonstrate that farmers can maintain an educational organization for seventeen years and through all that time hold true to its program of organization, education and cooperation. The greatest accomplishment of the Kansas Farmers Union is that it has proved the falsity of the assertion that farmers will not stick together.

There are just a few Union men in rather high places in the organization who seem to believe that loyalty can be secured by scolding those who as yet have no clear vision of cooperative purposes and ideals.

### PERHAPS TOO MUCH HARMONY.

There are many members of the Union who attended the Emporia Convention that regard the harmony that marked the proceedings of that meeting as one of the most satisfactory evidences of strength of our organization. Perhaps they are right and then again it may be that they are wrong. There is such a thing as too much harmony. This is especially true if officers and employees become too much self satisfied with the endorsements of their work that are voted by a too complaisant convention.

It is natural and unavoidable that there should be members who do not approve of the policies of the officers and directors of the parent organization and of the various business projects which it has established. Some of these doubters have grievances that have a real foundation in fact. There are others who have been unconsciously alienated from the support of our enterprises by the never ceasing propaganda against cooperation. There are still others who have personal reasons for opposition to the officers of the organization. Many farmers have heard exaggerated stories about the salaries paid to officers and managers. There are, in short, a perfectly enormous number of reasons and excuses for distrust, doubt and opposition.

The best purpose that can be served by the Annual Convention is to remove all the obstacles in the way of united effort. The Locals, the County Unions, and the Business Associations that have grievances are entitled to be heard. The officers and managers against whom complaint is made have the right to their day in court and to an opportunity for explanation. The member who staunchly supports the administration through thick and thin whether right or wrong is a joy to the leadership but the critic, the protestor and the "show me" delegates also have their high usefulness in the organization.

A good many misunderstandings were cleared up at the Emporia Convention but without a doubt there were delegates who went home with some of their questions unanswered and with doubts still unresolved. The Convention was so overwhelmingly harmonious that the dissenters, even with real grievances, hesitated to express themselves. It should be clearly understood that our State Convention does not assemble to squelch or suppress a discontented minority but to clear up all misunderstandings in such a way that the enlightened and conscientious dissenters may be convinced that all is well and that a united support is possible.

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### CONTROL OF HIGHWAY FUNDS.

The people of Kansas are about all together in advocating a plan for paying for roads as they are built. There are still very wide differences of opinion as to who shall use the road funds and have charge of construction.

One strong group, doubtless thoroughly honest and conscientious, demands that the entire fund shall be used by the State Highway Commission. They hold that no connected system of state roads is possible unless the whole building program is under the direction of some centralized authority.

Opposed to those who would turn the whole business of state road building over to the Highway Commission are those who would have all the work done and all the money spent by the various boards of county commissioners with carefully worked out provisions that all the money paid in each county should be used in the county where collected. These folks claim that a connected system of highways has already been established by law and custom and that the several counties may be trusted to complete their proportionate part of the state system without undue delay.

There is still a third group that would have all the road funds collected put into one big pot and then distributed among the various counties in proportion to the mileage of the state highway system in each county. The counties would then spend the money and accept responsibility for the maintenance of the roads.

In discussion of this matter in the Locals of the Farmers Union it should not be overlooked that the county unit plan, the proposition for county commissioners to spend all the money collected in the several counties is the only one of the three that can be adopted without a constitutional amendment. This plan can be made effective by the next session of the legislature. In fact it can be made effective this year by a special session of the legislature called to enact a pay as built highway plan into law.

## COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

### Labor New Rules England.

Last Monday the House of Commons voted lack of confidence in Premier Stanley Baldwin, who at once resigned and with all his colleagues in the cabinet relinquished the responsibilities of administration. Following a custom sanctioned by years of observance King George invited Ramsay MacDonald, the leader of the Labor party to form a new cabinet and undertake the government of the British Empire as its Prime Minister. MacDonald is a Scotchman, the son of a workman and is himself without other education than he has been able to secure for himself. He is almost the only man to attain first place in the British government who lacked the advantages of university training at some one of the great English seats of learning.

The Labor party is now in power but is far short of a majority in the House of Commons. Prime Minister MacDonald may run against a vote of "no confidence" almost any day. The Liberals who voted with the Labor party to unseat Baldwin and the Conservatives may at any time unite with the Conservatives to destroy the Labor administration.

### MacDonald Must Make Up His Mind

To proceed in either of two ways that are open to him. He may continue in office as the responsible head of the Empire until the Liberals grow tired of supporting his policies and measures and join with the Conservatives to vote him out of power. That might be in a week, or a month, or with good luck the Labor administration might even last for a year but it is a minority government and cannot stand for an hour against a union of the two opposing groups.

Or the new Premier may challenge his opposition to a test of strength at the polls. To do this he has authority to call an election at any time and in that way ask the voters of the country either to confirm his selection by the King or to reject him. If he secures a majority of labor members of the House of Commons at such an election he and his Labor Associates can then hold office for several years. If he should fail to carry the elections he would be required by custom to give up office and the King would try again.

### Mellon Is Not Pleased

With the reception of his tax reform bill by the public. He seems to have believed that his proposals would be accepted by congress and the people with loud shouts of approval. The fact that the proposed tax reduction plan reduces Mellon's own tax about \$350,000 a year may have something to do with his approval of the project and just possibly may have some influence with a lot of folks who believe that there are better ways of readjusting taxation than by reducing the payments of the multimillionaires.

One of these days the people may ask some serious questions about Mellon. How does it happen that a man who was reputed to be the owner of FORTY MILLIONS of gallons of bonded whiskey when prohibition went into effect should be charged with the duty of enforcing the prohibitory law? How does it happen that a man who has an income of several million dollars a year was selected to administer the revenue laws and work out plans for tax adjustments and reductions?

In other words it is possible for the plain folks on foot to get a square deal from a man on horseback.

### Sinclair Has Gone to Europe

But no one knows just why. He may be going over to accept the job of being a king which is reported to have been offered him by the people of Albania. Or he may have gone over to escape a summons to testify about his peculiar business methods in persuading former Secretary Fall to lease him the oil lands on Teapot Dome. Or it may be that he has some inside knowledge or advance information about that oil business that makes it highly advisable for him to get out of the jurisdiction of any American constable with papers to serve.

### FARMERS UNION SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION AT EMPORIA, KANS. RE-ELECTS ALL OLD STATE OFFICERS

(Continued from page One)

of the day next preceding the election, and the election shall be held on the last day of the convention. 3. Substitute for Article 5, Section 7, paragraph 2, entitled "Assessments" the following: "The money now in the Building Fund, or which shall accrue to it hereafter, by the payment of dues for the years 1922 and 1923, shall be invested or deposited at interest, under the direction of the State Board, and the earnings used to pay the rental cost on the offices used by the State Union and if the earnings are more than the rental cost of the offices the remainder shall be added to the general funds of the State Union. Such earnings and disbursements shall be made a part of the report and audit of the transactions of the Secretary and Treasurer and the Treasurer shall report to the annual meeting of the State Union the form of investment or the place of deposit of this fund. Provided, that in any year in which the income of the State Union from other sources shall be sufficient to meet the cost of carrying on its work, then the earnings of the Building fund for that

It is also rumored that several other prominent gentlemen, including Albert B. Fall have either gone to Europe or are contemplating trips over there or to other more or less inaccessible places. Crooked business deals may be just as profitable as they ever were but they seem to lack the element of safety that once made them so attractive to rotten politicians and corrupt speculators and gamblers in high places in the political and commercial spheres of action.

Sinclair will not enjoy his trip to Europe and Fall will never get much more fun out of life.

### Coolidge Is Really Anxious

That congress should do something for the farmers. He knows that agriculture is in a very serious condition. He also appears to understand that the prosperity of the whole country, of every business and of every profession, is dependent on the prosperity of the men who work the farms.

In a special message to congress sent in by the president last Wednesday he recommended:

The refunding of the pressing past due indebtedness of farmers in the territories most seriously affected; Financial assistance through a Federal agency to enable wheat farmers to make the change from a staple crop system to diversified farming; The restoration, wherever it would be helpful, of the impaired capital of banking institutions in the distressed sections;

The creation by private capital of a substantial financing corporation to assist in the plan of reorganization;

The extension of the time during which the War Finance Corporation can make loans.

It will be noted that the president did not recommend any serious consideration of the measure creating a Federal export corporation with resources and machinery for relieving the home market from the burden of lower prices due to the exportable surplus of wheat.

### Diversification As a Measure of Relief

For distressed agriculture is a favorite prescription with many of the doctors who think they know how to cure the farmer of what ails him. The president has now fallen for that bunk and recommends that congress assist, presumably with loans, all farmers who want to switch from staple products to diversified farming.

Such a suggestion sounds good to a lot of folks who have become obsessed with the idea that all that agriculture needs is more cows, sows and hens in those districts where such animals are comparatively rare. They forget that there is now no shortage of dairy products, hog meat or poultry in this country. Farmers who know how, in sections with natural resources and climate suitable for that sort of production, are supplying all the normal home demand for eggs, chickens, butter and pork and are making considerable quantities of such things for export.

Any considerable addition to the number of producers of dairy and poultry products and of hogs, especially if subsidized by government, must inevitably result in disturbing farm programs and in lessened prosperity in those sections of the country that are now engaged in diversified farming. Natural conditions and the experience of seven generations of American farmers have developed a system of diversified agriculture in this country that rest on the sound foundations of climate, soil, labor conditions and market demands.

### Staple Cropping Sections

Cannot engage in diversified production with any reasonable hope of adding to their cash income. It is possible, however, to make every such section more nearly self supporting by producing the food and feed necessary for the family and the domestic animals of such farmers. Even in the semi-arid zones where wheat must continue to be the only cash crop of any consequence it is possible for farmers to produce enough food so that they can board at home.

year shall be added to the fund itself, and made a permanent part of the fund.

4. In Article 2, Section 1, page 31, entitled "Election and duties of officers" substitute in line 2 the word "December" for the word "November" to agree with Article 3, Section 1, page 34, line 4; and add following the word "Committee" in line 8, the words "and delegates and alternates to county and state meetings."

5. Substitute for Article 4, Section 1, page 35 entitled "Fees and dues" the following:

"The initiation fee of \$2.00 (Two Dollars) payable in advance at the time of the initiation, shall, after the first fifteen members, be divided as follows: Three-fourths shall be sent to the State Secretary, and one-fourth shall be retained by the local union to be used for expenses of the fees so received by the State Secretary, one-third shall be forwarded to the county union of the county in which the local is situated and two-thirds shall be added to the general fund of the state union."

6. Substitute for Article 4, Section 2, page 36 entitled "Annual Dues" the following:

"The dues per adult member shall be \$2.25 per year, payable annually in advance; provided, however, that the minor male members of the Union shall be exempt from paying state dues when there are one or more dues paying members in the family to

More gardening is possible. More fruit can be raised. There can be a lot more care taken in the preparation and preservation of fruits and vegetables to be consumed in the non-producing seasons. Wheat farmers may not be able to make much money in the hog raising business but they can grow enough pork for their own families. A few more hogs in the wheat belt this year would have furnished a fairly good outlet for the low grade milling wheat that was sold at such low prices.

Agriculture is pretty definitely diversified in this country but it is possible to make the farming business a little less of a speculation if more care is taken to make farms a little more self-supporting. It is a better balanced agriculture rather than any considerable extension of what is called diversified farming that is needed in this country. It is beyond question that agricultural prosperity would be considerably increased if farmers would all stop buying stuff that they can produce at home.

### Bok Is Being Abused

Like a pickpocket because the jury of award selected a plan for World Peace based on the League of Nations. Congressmen and senators are charging that the whole project is propaganda for the League of Nations. The loud coarse noises that many eminent but irreconcilable statesmen are making appear to be based on the assumption that there is some sort of moral obligation in advocating any sort of an international alliance for the purpose of promoting peace.

If this matter could be discussed with a larger use of brains and without partisan bias and prejudice some good might come from it. Just what would the objectors recommend? Or shall we admit that nothing can be done and that each of the fifty odd nations of the world must go right on in its selfish courses sowing the seeds of distrust, hate and prejudice that will inevitably flower and fruit into another devastating world war in which civilization and Christianity will be submerged?

The League of Nations is the only rational project for the preservation of world peace that has ever been seriously considered. Nearly fifty countries have adhered to it. If it is all wrong the critics should do much more than criticize. They should offer a substitute likely to be acceptable to as many nations as are now members of the only international association that is endeavoring to secure universal peace.

### Peace For All the World

Can be assured only when the nations are willing to unite on a program that will eventually erase the war concepts from the minds of men. There are a few fundamentals that must be recognized and accepted before the world can abolish war.

The first and most important step towards peace is the abolition of armaments. If the existing armies planned and maintained for offensive warfare were disbanded that would help. Sinking all the armed ships of more than one thousand tons burden would be another good thing. Civilized mankind needs armed forces only to protect life and property. The world needs a few policemen on land and water but has absolutely no use for soldiers.

The manufacture of arms and their distribution throughout the world must be stopped. All nations should agree never to go in debt for war expenses but to provide for the cost of unavoidable wars by conscripting property.

Finally it might be a good thing for all countries to agree that the age of compulsory military service for citizens shall be between forty and sixty years instead of between eighteen and thirty-five. Most of the international quarrels that result in war and in the slaughter of humanity that impoverishes the race by the destruction of the young, the competent, the ardent and the strong are fomented by men who are so old that they are exempt from use as cannon fodder under existing customs.

which they belong, but where there are no adult dues paying members in the family, one of the minor male members of said family must pay the regular state dues that all adult male members are required to pay.

All other minor male members are required to pay only the national dues of 25c per year. The dues of the adult male members shall be divided as follows: 80c to the local union, 20c to the county union, 50c to the publishing account for the Kansas Union Farmer, 25c to the National Union and 50c to the State Union. The local secretary shall retain the 80c and shall remit the \$1.45 balance to the State Secretary quarterly. The State Secretary shall remit quarterly to the National Secretary, 25c, and to the county secretary 50c for each adult male member as such annual dues are received by him.

7. Eliminate Article 3, Section 4, page 37 entitled "Soldiers Dues." 8. Add to Article 5, Section 2, line 5, on page 37 entitled "Duties and obligations of members" following the words "Not entitled to receive same" as follows: "or who shall originate or spread slanderous or malicious statements concerning any Farmers Union organization."

We further recommend that the Sections of Articles 1, page 16, entitled "Special and standing Committees" be properly re-numbered; and that Section 4 as now numbered be

(Continued on Page 3)







