

THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation



No. 51

VOLUME XV

SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1923

The Greatest Menace to America Is Alarming Decline of It's Agriculture

Can Only Be Restored by Stabilizing Prices of Farm Products—More Credit and Agricultural Conferences Are Of No Avail

By Basil M. Manly.

The greatest menace to the national prosperity and general welfare of the United States is not bolshevism. It is not socialism. It is not capitalism. It is not imperialism.

It is the alarming decline of American agriculture and the astounding migration from the farms to the cities.

Official figures of the Department of Agriculture disclose the fact that TWO MILLION farmers moved from American farms to American cities during the year 1922.

This is greater than the total populations of the six states—Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

It is twice as great as the flood of immigration which used to pour into the United States annually from Europe before the bars were put up.

It is probably the greatest movement of population in the history of the world.

The Department of Agriculture says that it was in part offset by a movement of 880,000 from the cities to the farms, so that the net loss to agriculture was only 1,200,000. But this is in part an illusion, because all experience has shown that only a small proportion of those who go from cities to the country remain there permanently, while it is notorious that the rural population when once engulfed in the city's maelstrom seldom returns to the farm.

Moreover this enormous movement from the cities to the farms merely emphasizes the condition of unrest and dissatisfaction which exists in all parts of the United States among the producing peasantry.

The farmers are being bankrupted and rendered destitute by the deflation of agriculture, and because they imagine they can improve their lot in the industrial centers. For the past five years they have been fed on false propaganda about the huge wages paid to railroad and industrial workers. They have not been told these things, so far as they are true, apply only to a handful of exceptionally skilled or unusually situated workmen, and that the vast majority have not earned enough in the past two years to pay for the subsistence of their families on even the miserable standards to which they are accustomed.

A fair sample of this lying propaganda appeared in the newspapers last week. Big headlines announced: "Coke workers use airplanes to go to work." The small type underneath told how one alleged coke worker had bought an airplane, but intimated that it was likely to become a habit among the coke workers because they were earning such big money. Lowell Mellett, one of the most experienced and reliable reporters in the United States, went to the coke regions to investigate. He discovered the truth. The general superintendent of one of the coke companies, an Englishman formerly in the air service, had bought an airplane. But, according to Mellett's story, the real coke-workers, the poor devils who pull the 12 hours a day, are almost in destitution because they lost their strike for better conditions last year.

There are today probably a million farmers and white-collar workers, who read the original story and did not read Mellett's exposure, who believe that if they could just get a job in the coke industry they would soon be on easy street and own an airplane or at least a Rolls-Royce.

Poor dupes of a perverted press! Although the farmers have been thus grossly deceived regarding city conditions, this is not the fundamental cause of their migration. They had to move. Millions were utterly ruined by the crash of agricultural prices in 1920 and 1921. In county after county, in the Northwest and South particularly, more than half of the farms were sold for taxes. Page after page of the county weeklies during the past year have been filled with tax sale notices of once prosperous farms.

Think of it! Men and women past middle age, thrifty and industrious, who counted themselves worth ten, twenty, thirty thousand dollars in 1919, sold out their old homes. Where could they go? To the poorhouse, to the insecure and bitter life of a farm laborer, or to the city. So hundreds of thousands, facing this miserable choice, have sold their little furniture and the few personal effects they were able to save from the wreck of bankruptcy and have come to the city.

For the present at least, in the high tide of an industrial boom, the city may absorb them. But what of

the future? What will happen when the factories, responding to the dwindling demand from the country for manufactured products, begin to ban their fires and cut millions from their pay-rolls without a day's notice?

Then there will be unemployment and distress, far worse than we knew in 1920, when 5,000,000 men and women were out of work. It will be worse even than the dark days of the "hungry nineties" when the jobless roamed the streets, hunting work at any price, and there were soup kitchens in every city. It will be worse for this reason. In the nineties, though factories were closed down, food was cheap and a few pennies would feed a family. Now, when the full effects of the agricultural migration are felt, food will be scarce and dear. What a tragedy that will be! Millions of men out of work and food selling at famine prices, because the countryside has been deserted by farmers seeking to better their lives in the cities.

Ask the people of Moscow and Vienna what this means. They know.

This movement from the farms to the cities is, therefore, particularly a menace to the workers in the city factories and on the railroads. It is a greater menace than the now nearly defunct "open shop" drive. It is a greater menace than unrestricted immigration.

The industrial workers have succeeded in checking the deluge of foreign immigration, but what of this greater tide that is moving from the country to the cities? It cannot be checked by putting up the bars, by passing immigration laws, establishing "quotas" and "selective tests."

It can be checked in only one way. That is by restoring agricultural prosperity, by stabilizing prices at a decent level by making the farm a place where a man can settle down to a life of industry with the assurance that if he produces the crops which the nation needs, he will receive enough for them to enable him to buy enough of the city's products to support his family in health and reasonable comfort and give the children an education.

This cannot be accomplished by the absurd method, which the Harding Administration has made notoriously famous, of enabling the already bankrupt farmers to plunge further into debt. It cannot be accomplished by agricultural conferences, complicated by which Secretary of Agriculture Wallace called last year, which were dominated by such agricultural grain gamblers and President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, J. Ogden Armour, the Wall Street bankers and the railroad presidents. It cannot be accomplished by any kind of fake legislation.

Only radical measures will be effective. We must go down to the roots of the trouble. That is what "radical" means.

What are the roots of this trouble? They lie in the monstrous system of distribution, which we have allowed to grow up in America, where the farmer gets only 37 cents out of every dollar that the city worker pays for farm products, while the city worker gets only 30 cents out of every dollar that the farmer pays for factory goods.

Thus the farmer and the city worker have one common enemy. That enemy is the monopolistic group which owns, controls and operates this monstrous system of distribution. By combinations, by consolidations, by price agreements, by manipulation of markets, by restriction of production, by stock watering, by multiplication of middlemen, by every device through which an additional dollar or penny of profit can be squeezed out between the producer and the consumer, they have created this frightful condition. They are destroying the American nation by draining off its substance in the form of profits to be squandered in wastefully luxurious living or in the promotion of imperialistic exploitation in other countries.

This system must be destroyed and a new system of cooperative distribution, for services not for profit, must be built in its place. This is a huge undertaking, but it is far less difficult in its essential elements than the organization of this nation for the Great War.

The farmers alone cannot accomplish it. They do not have the power, either politically or economically. They must have the help of the industrial workers. By this I mean the workers not only in the factories, but also on the railroads and in the mines, wherever men earn their living by performing useful service. I mean not only the manual workers, but also the so-called "brain workers" whose employment in the face of

serious question as to whether they have any brains. I mean, in fact, all those Americans who do not share in the gains of this monstrous system which converts two-thirds of every producer's dollar either into profits or into waste.

I do not believe that this can be accomplished at one great stroke.

The world cannot be made over in a day. But I do believe that it can be accomplished within a relatively short period of years by a series of carefully planned and wisely administered measures that will move forward step by step toward the ultimate goal.

Immediately, and perhaps from time to time during this period of progress toward a real industrial democracy, it may be necessary to put into force what the cynics are pleased to call "paternalistic measures," such as, for example, as stabilization of prices by government provision, and sale of a part of the crops. But why shrink from the word "paternalism"? A wise father strives to make all his children self-reliant and self-supporting. But, if through misfortune or even through misdeeds, some of them suffer reverses, he does not leave them to save themselves, and thus endanger the spirit and welfare of the whole family. No, the wise father goes to their rescue and helps them get back on their feet.

Just so this great nation, seeing its children of the countryside in distress, the prey of money sharks, grain gamblers and other parasites, should go to their rescue and give them every assistance not only to restore their independence and prosperity, but also to build for the future on a stabler foundation and with wiser plans than they have ever known before.

A MILLION FARMERS IN COMMODITY MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS

On June 1 of this year about half a million farmers held membership in the state or region-wide commodity marketing associations handling tobacco, cotton and wheat. The five big tobacco associations reported a total membership of 240,000, nine of the thirteen cotton associations reported over 130,000 members, and seven state wheat-marketing associations reported a total membership in excess of 35,000.

If to the half a million mentioned above were added the number of producers in other commodity associations, as for example, those handling milk, citrus fruits, cranberries, rice, potatoes, etc., the grand total would be in the neighborhood of one million.

FARMERS KEEP EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Farmers in some 1,200 counties kept accounts of the expense, labor and profit connected with their farming enterprises in 1922, according to a report of the department. By means of these accounts farmers made analyses of their business with the assistance of their county agricultural extension agents, to determine how to increase their net incomes over a period of years.

Cafeteria style is best at Farmers Union picnics, because it mixes the people up.

Radicals Create Near Panic in Washington

Predictions of Early Relief Measures For the Farmers Flying Through Air

By William Hard.

WASHINGTON.—Freight rates will be reduced. The valuation put on railroads by the interstate commerce commission will be lowered. The so-called "dividend guarantee provision" of the Esch-Cummins transportation law will be repealed. The tariff will be revised downward. The income tax surtaxes will be revised upward. Another "dirty farmer" and a "grimy working man" will be put on the federal reserve board. A bill will be passed paying every wheat farmer \$1.75 for every bushel of wheat he insists on raising.

Such are a few of the predictions flying free and loose through the air of Washington, as politicians today keep reading about the victory of Magnus Johnson in Minnesota and keep planning a new long line of legislative dugouts where they can find shelter from the supposed wrath to come.

Electricity to Stimulate Action. An interstate commerce commissioner two weeks ago prophesied reduced freight rates and all lowered railroad valuation if Magnus Johnson was elected. He did not mean that the commission would change its scientific opinions. He meant that the electricity in the air would stimulate action.

And under the flashes of it there is a sudden realization of a situation which already existed in the senate even before Magnus Johnson was elected.

With Magnus Johnson counted into it, the so-called "progressive group" in the senate will number seventeen. The Republicans not belonging to the "progressive group" will number forty-two. The Democrats not belonging to the "progressive group" will number thirty-seven.

The "progressive group," plus the Democrats, will outnumber the Republicans by twelve. And then there's Couzens. But this does not tell the real story. Among the Republicans who do not belong to the "progressive group," there is, for instance, Couzens, who is more "progressive" than several members of the "progressive group," but stays out of the "group" just because of what one of his colleagues calls his "onery independence."

Similarly, among the Democrats who do not belong to the "progressive group" there is, for instance, Walter of Massachusetts, who came to the door of the "progressive group" and then, for no reason having anything to do with ideas or policies, backed away.

On certain issues and projects commonly called "radical," the extremist "progressives" will have the support of some of the senatorial ultra-conservatives.

The bill for paying \$1.75 a bushel for every bushel of wheat was brought forward last winter, not by La Follette or any of his followers, but by Senator Gooding. Gooding is

regarded by La Follette—and everybody else—as a hard boiled conservative, but he comes from Idaho; and Idaho has wheat farmers; and Gooding will run as fast toward the public treasury on behalf of a wheat farmer as any Nonpartisan League senator from North Dakota.

Some Conservatives Will Go Along. A certain number of conservative senators will go straight along with the seventeen other members of the radical group and with the ten other strays "progressives" on certain propositions if the present progressive thunder storm keeps up.

It is not only keeping up, but spreading. Last fall it crept from the Northwest down into the lower peninsula of Michigan and all but spread a washout in the Republican primary. This year it is beginning to cross the horizon of Illinois. One of the most prominent of Illinois down-state regular Republican politicians says:

"The farmers in this state are very much embittered by the low price of hogs as well as of wheat. This year there is manifest in Illinois the feeling which upset things west of the Missouri last year."

Fear the Farmer's Temper. The senate is full of astute gentlemen like the one who said last spring:

"I don't believe in the rural credits bill, but I am going to vote for it because unless we give it to the farmer he will get madder and demand something worse." The point, therefore, is not the size of the radical group. The point is how mad the conservative senators will think the farmer is. Today they are beginning to think him so "loony" that they propose, as it were, to offer him the Brooklyn bridge before he can think of demanding the Erie tower.

—Kansas City Star.

ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION WILL MARKET COTTON FOR THREE STATES

Announcement is made that plans have been completed for the Arkansas Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association, Little Rock, Ark., to handle all the cotton of the two newly organized associations, the Tennessee Cotton Growers' Association, and the Missouri Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association. According to the plan the Arkansas association will finance the two new associations, will attend to their office work and all other activities, except their field service work. This will give the new associations the services of experienced sales and office forces, and it is believed that the arrangement will result in savings for the three associations, as the increased volume of business will bring a corresponding decrease in the overhead expense per bale.

GEORGIA CANE GROWERS ORGANIZE

Three thousand cane growers, located in 16 counties of Georgia, marketed their cane sirup last season through their new organization, The Cane Growers' Co-operative Association of Georgia, Ga. More than 27,000 barrels of sirup or nearly a million gallons were handled at an expense of not more than 5 per cent, a part of which went to help pay for the plant of the subsidiary company, The Cane Growing and Warehouse Corporation.

Cooperative Marketing of Pecan in Southern States Is a Success

Organization Admits Members Under Five Year Contract—All Nuts of Similar Grade Pooled Together and Proceeds Pro-rated

(By Wm. P. Bullard)

Co-operative marketing is taking hold of the public mind more than any other line of endeavor at the present time; and especially is it engaging the thought of the agricultural sections of the country. There is no game of chance that has greater risk to it than that of raising products from the soil. There are the elements of climate, including rainfall and heat, that must be contended with; and then there are insect and fungus troubles that beset, in more or less degree, everything that grows out of the ground; and after the farmer has succeeded in raising the crop, he must reckon with the speculators in the market who are ready and eager to pounce upon him and secure the profits of his labor at sometimes less than the cost of production.

While the grower can little fortify himself against the fatal elements of climate and can only partially fortify himself against insect and fungus troubles; yet he can, if he is unselfish and wise, join with his fellow producers in a co-operative movement that will get him the maximum of returns for the product of his toil.

Pecan Marketing Centralized

Pecans are becoming recognized as a big element of agriculture in the southern states and Florida not only has a great many flourishing groves, but there are large acreages planned to be planted in this state in succeeding years. The production of pecans is already becoming large and it has its own separate marketing organization already perfected in the name of the National Pecan Growers' Exchange, with present headquarters in Albany, Georgia. Albany was selected as the initial point on account of the heavy and old plantings in that section, there being fully 40,000 acres planted to the cultivated pecan in what is known as the Albany section; and taking the entire state of Georgia, there are probably 100,000 acres planted, with probably half that acreage in Alabama and Louisiana are planting largely, while the more western Southern states are largely given to seedling or wild nut production.

The National Pecan Growers' Exchange at Albany is a growers' pure co-operative non-profit, non-stock association, planned and operated along the most advanced California ideas and is as near a counterpart of the great walnut and almond marketing associations of California as it is possible to be. It is the design to have the national exchange be the marketing agency of pecans grown over the United States with the different growing sections divided into production or zone districts without regard to state lines.

A great many growers, not only in Florida but in Alabama, are now shipping to the Albany exchange and as soon as production increases sufficiently to justify either local or sub-exchanges will be established in these several producing sections and all of the units of the whole with the product graded and systematized as one unit and sold through the national exchange. As new units are established, it is likely that the headquarters of the national exchange will be moved from Albany to be more centrally located with respect to the areas of production.

How the National Exchange Operates. The national does not itself cure, grade, classify or pack nuts for shipment but this work is done by local or sub-exchanges composed of the local growers in the section. The local at Albany is known as the Albany District Pecan Exchange, and its organization and work is similar to a great many others that eventually will be established through the pecan sections of the country. This Albany exchange now has a property with buildings worth \$50,000, wherein nuts are processed for the market and as soon as ready for shipment go into the control of the national for sale and collection of proceeds and distribution to the growers. All the work is co-operative and all nuts of similar grade, class and character are intermingled or pooled together and proceeds divided on a pro-rata basis.

The national exchange has been in existence for five years and has been able to pass through all of the pioneer stages of marketing organizations before production was so heavy that it would be difficult to handle the crops. The National Exchange is now experienced in all the phases of handling pecans after they are harvested, including the shelling part of the game, and has opened selling agencies in all the principal cities of the country and some foreign countries. The National Exchange is now beginning to grow very fast, as growers are beginning to realize that the time has passed when they, as individuals, can hope to dispose of all

their pecans at a profitable price. The National Exchange admits members under a five year contract, similar to other standard co-operative agencies and its plan of operation and its marketing agreement have been approved by the leading lawyers of the country.—Farm and Live Stock Record.

SENATOR CAPPER URGES DIVERSIFIED FARMING

By John W. Wilkinson.

The fourth annual Farmers' Union picnic of Potawatomi and Wabasha counties was held at Wamego, Kan., July 16 in the Wamego City Park and a large crowd of farmers were in attendance. H. E. Smith, manager of the Farmers' Union Association was chairman of the committee that arranged the excellent program for the occasion.

Games and sports and moving picture shows were provided for the young folks while music and interesting addresses provided entertainment for the older persons. At noon an old fashioned basket dinner was served that was enjoyed by all. Among those present who took part in the program were Charles S. Barrett, president of the National Farmers' Union; John Tromble, president of the Kansas Farmers' Union; Jacob Taylor, editor of the Farmers' Union National Magazine; and Senator Arthur Capper of Topeka.

Senator Capper in the course of his address referred to the efficient management of the National Farmers' Union by Charles S. Barrett as its president and commended the work of the state and national organizations and the good that they are accomplishing for farmers. He also discussed some of the present day problems of farmers.

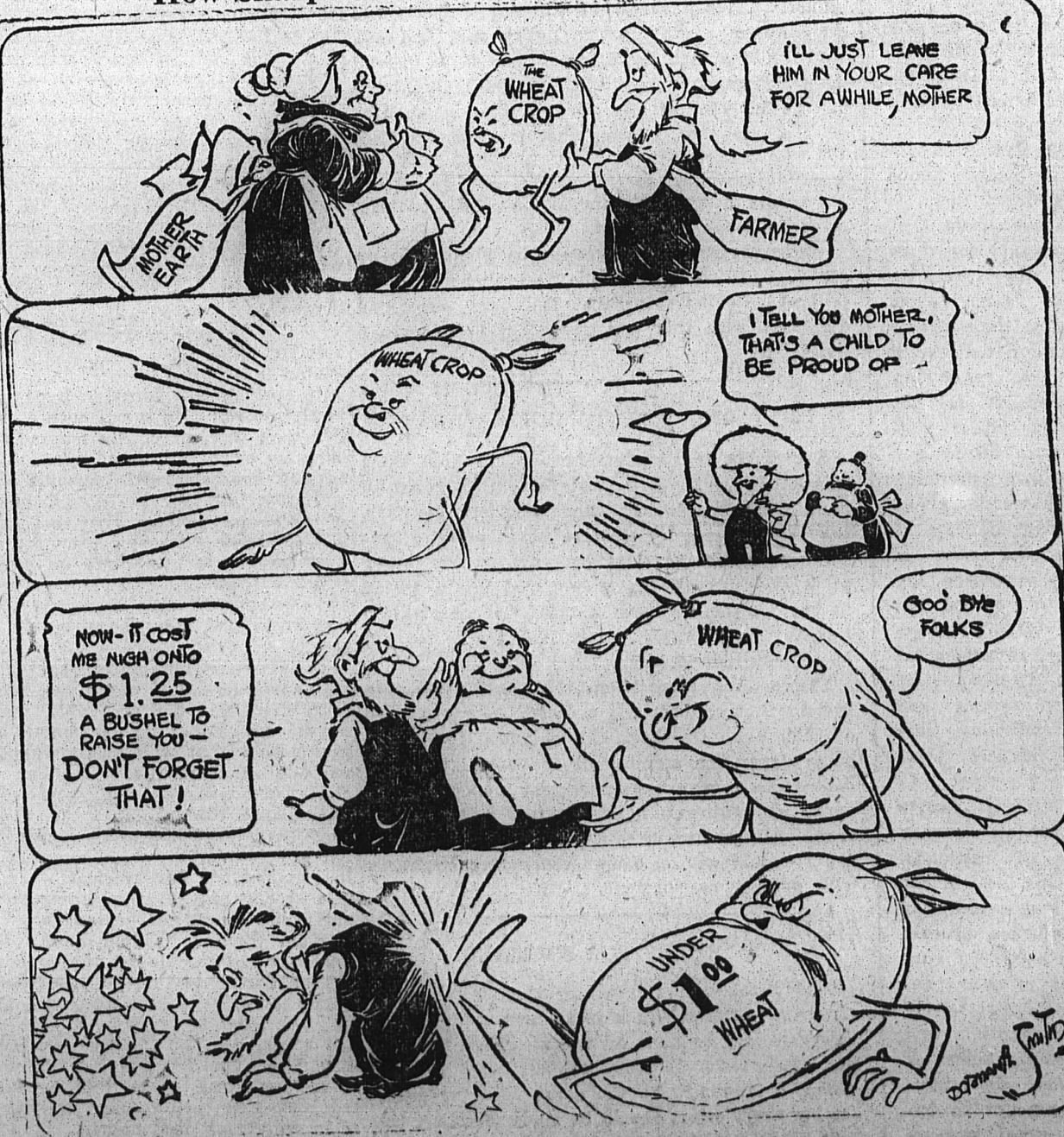
Senator Capper spoke in part as follows: "The farmer is losing 50 cents on every bushel of wheat he sells today at the market price of 70 cents. That means a loss of nearly 50 million dollars on this years crop if wheat stays at the present price. We are growing too much wheat. The sooner the Kansas farmer gets away from the one-crop idea, the sooner he will begin making money again. I never have claimed, and I do not know anyone speaking for agriculture who has ever claimed that all the troubles of the farmer can be cured by legislation.

"The farmer can be helped, and has been helped by sympathetic consideration of his problems at Washington. But it will take something more than a legislative program to put him on a profit making basis. Two things will help mightily. The first is diversified farming. The Kansas farmer must go stronger on dairying, poultry, hogs, grasses and livestock, and curtail his acreage of wheat. The other is co-operative marketing. Today the producer has absolutely nothing to say about the price he is to receive for his products. He is the only man in business today who is obliged to take what is offered him for everything he sells, and who is obliged to pay what is asked for everything he buys. He must organize for his own protection and market his products thru a general selling agency. His prices are absolutely unfair, and wholly out of balance with prices of all other commodities. He will get no substantial relief without organization.

"I believe co-operative marketing of wheat is practicable and that it can be made to work. But to do it the farmers must stand granite firm in their allegiance and behind the principles of co-operation. They must be willing to sacrifice. Co-operative marketing of wheat cannot come in a day. It is a tremendous undertaking and it must develop slowly. It requires vision and abundant faith but it promises emancipation from a situation that has grown ruinously onerous. The individual farmers' wholesaled backing is vital. He must be willing to work with his fellows for the good of all.

"While I believe in co-operative marketing I wish to give this word of warning: It is a business venture. The laws of business must govern it. If it brings better prices for your products it also will bring the temptation to increase production beyond the requirements of the consuming markets. That is a very potent danger and one that always should be kept in mind. You men who grow wheat know what happened in that respect as a result of the war. You have been growing too much wheat. California raisin growers know what it means. So do potato growers. But I have faith in farmers and their leaders so complete that I believe that danger, if thoughtfully considered, can be avoided and in a large measure finally eliminated if they will only stand together."

How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth



The Kansas Union Farmer

Published Every Thursday at Salina, Kansas By THE KANSAS BRANCH OF THE FARMERS EDUCATIONAL & CO-OPERATIVE UNION

Entered as Second-Class Matter August 24, 1912, at Salina, Kansas, Under Act of March 3, 1879.

Acceptance for Mailing at Special Rate of Postage Provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, Authorized July 30, 1918.

JOHN TROMBLE, Editor and Manager
W. C. LANDSON, Associate Editor
DON C. ESTES, Director of Advertising

Subscription Price, per Year \$1.00

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 E. 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, AUGUST 2, 1923

PAVING INTEREST ON GIFTS.

When the railroads of this country were being built into undeveloped territory the governments of the United States and for many states and minor municipalities aided in that work by making donations of lands and money and by the purchase of stocks with public bonds issued for that purpose. The lands, for the most part, have been sold and the proceeds used by the railroads for construction and other purposes. All of the cash received as gifts or from the sale of municipal bonds issued to purchase stock has also been applied to the same purposes.

The valuation act of 1913 provided that the amount of all grants, gifts, and donations to railroads should be ascertained by the Interstate Commerce Commission. This part of the law has been almost entirely ignored. It seems to be only fair that the amount of such gifts should be deducted from the final valuation figures to be reported by the commission.

The railroads accepted all gifts, converted them into cash and used the cash for construction and other purposes. They now include in their inventories all the property bought or built with donated funds and insist on their right to earn dividends on their total investment plus what was given to them by the public. In other words they demand that the people pay interest world without end on the great sums of money and the value of the great areas of lands which they donated to the transportation companies.

This modest requirement of the roads is not all the story in connection with the donated lands. Much of the original gift lands is still in the possession of the railroads. Some of it is in use for right of way and other operating purpose. Considerable areas are being held because of mineral deposits or for other speculative reasons. All of this donated property still in the possession of the roads is worth very much more than it was when accepted as a gift from the public. This increased value may not be entirely unearned increment from the railway point of view but it is largely due to the development of the country and the constantly increasing patronage of the roads by the people who made the original donations.

The roads insist that all this property which was of relatively small value when they received it as free gifts from the public shall be included in the valuation inventories at its present worth which is to be determined by the value of adjacent property. Just how much this would swell the valuation totals no one can say with anything like absolute accuracy but it will run into billions of dollars. The Union Pacific right of way, donated to that company fifty years ago, is four hundred feet wide through farming sections where lands are now worth hundreds of dollars an acre as compared with the preemption prices of \$1.25 and \$2.50 when the gift was made. Within the corporate limits of the cities through which this line passes there has been a much greater increase in the value of the donated right of way. Anticipating the work of the Valuation Bureau the Union Pacific a few years ago brought disposses proceedings against all farmers who had encroached with their fields and pastures on the 400-foot right of way and the courts sustained the contention of the road that it owned and is entitled to the possession of such lands even though not new nor at all likely ever to be used for right of way purposes.

The public appreciates the necessity for strong and effective railroads able to deliver needed services but cannot accept the principle that it should pay interest perpetually on the constantly increasing value of the donations made to secure transportation facilities.

MORE COURT MADE LAW.

Probably there are still a good many members of our organization who do not believe that this paper should mention the sacred supreme court or any of the inferior federal courts except in praise. Such men do not believe that there is any relationship between

cooperation and the federal judiciary. The following dispatch from Chicago should set them to thinking.

"An injunction restraining officials of the International Garment Workers Union from attempting to unionize the open shops in Chicago was granted today by federal Judge Carpenter. The attorney for the clothing manufacturers said that this injunction is similar to the Daugherty railroad injunction in effectiveness."

The court that would issue an injunction to restrain and prevent wage workers from organizing for self protection would on request make a similar order against John Tromble and the other officers of the Kansas Farmers Union to prevent them from making any further attempts to unionize the farmers of this state. It is only a question of time, present conditions continuing, when the courts will be asked to enjoin the farmers from forming marketing associations and agricultural organizations.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT LAW.

Friends of the Kansas Industrial Court insist that the recent decision of the Supreme Court has not materially affected or weakened that institution. Either they have not read the decision or they are kidding themselves and the people who have time to listen to their words so lacking in wisdom.

The truth is that the decision of the court goes much further than the average man realizes. In effect it lays down the principle that it is not competent for the congress or a state legislature to determine what industries are affected with the public interest. Judge Taft holds that only the courts can decide that question.

The decision that destroyed the Kansas Industrial Court not only invalidated the Kansas law but served notice on congress and the various state legislatures that no more such laws can be passed. Those who doubt this phase of the decision should get and read the full text of Judge Taft's opinion.

THE CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH.

Every one knows that a great deal of money is being made in the United States. The annual profits of the great firm of Land, Labor and Capital are enormous and are increasing with each succeeding year. There is no doubt of the rapid increase of wealth in this country. Accumulation goes on with increasing volume but what about distribution? Who gets the profits?

Just what the national wealth of this republic is at this time is more or less a matter of conjecture and guess work but it cannot be much if any less than \$600,000,000,000 a sum that dwarfs the accumulations of all other nations into insignificance. It is entirely right and proper that every producer of wealth should be interested in the distribution of the profits of the business in which he is a partner.

In this republic there are of course a great number of wealthy folks. There are also a countless number of enormously rich and powerful corporations which for the most part are the agencies through which the rich in an organized way use their wealth for the purpose of accumulating more riches. The most obvious reservoirs of our constantly growing riches are a comparatively few groups that have secured control of almost unthinkable quantities of the wealth of the republic. The banks, institutions that modern business practice has developed as necessities, are capitalized for more than \$7,000,000,000 and have control of resources amounting to at least \$60,000,000,000. The wealth and power of these financial institutions is increasing with extraordinary rapidity. The annual additions to banking capital and resources amount to billions. Nearly all banks are honestly managed. Nearly all bankers are good men and consider themselves good citizens. These facts have nothing to do with the growth of banking resources and capital unless indeed they may be regarded as contributing factors.

During the year 1922 seventy five life insurance companies in the United States added about \$700,000,000, to their reserves, that is they collected from their customers about that sum in excess of safety requirements for their policy holders. The growth of fire insurance reserves goes on at about the same pace. The two combined are increasing their assets at the rate of more than a billion dollars a year. Is this a disquieting or a reassuring process? To answer this question it is not necessary to assume that there is either dishonesty or graft in the business of insurance.

The railroads of the country own property which the government admits is worth about \$19,000,000,000. During the month of May of this year they earned profits at the rate of more than six per cent annually measured by their own valuations and made of record by their own system of accounting which is more or less rigorously supervised by governmental agencies both state and national. If the present rates for passenger and freight service are maintained the railroads will annually add several billions of dollars to the value of their property.

Agricultural wealth in the United States amounted to almost \$80,000,000,000 on January 1st, 1920. Unlike the property of railroads, insurance companies, and banks this total is not increasing but for three years and a half has been rapidly shrinking. The deflation process of 1920 squeezed at least \$15,000,000,000 out of farm values. Nor does what remains belong unencumbered to the farmers, that is the men who originally invested the capital and still contribute all the labor for the business of agricultural production. There are mortgages on farm lands and homes that amount to approximately \$11,000,000,000. A great propor-

tion of these mortgages are owned by the insurance companies which together with other investors in such securities are therefore in possession of something like one third of the farm land values of the country. The farmers obligations to the banks and merchants of the country can only be estimated but they must amount to five or six billions of dollars. It is therefore certain that the total value of farm property is decreasing in comparison with the holdings of other interests and that the farmers are rapidly surrendering title to the lands they operate.

Nearly all Americans are fairly good at arithmetic. Here is a problem that any one should be able to work out. Taking the value of the investments in railroads, banks and insurance companies ten years ago and comparing them with the present property holdings of these interests it is possible to determine a rate of increase or the ratio of growth. Applying that ratio to the future with the present holdings as the principal it is possible to determine with accuracy just how many years it will be until the banks, the railroads, and insurance companies will become the absolute owners of all that part of our national wealth which is not controlled by lesser corporations and interests with equal or greater power to hold all they get and accumulate more.

Apply the same mathematical processes to agricultural wealth and it is equally easy to calculate just how long it will be until all the property of the farmers of the United States will pass into the possession of the powerful interests that know how to protect themselves. Today more than forty per cent of the cultivated lands of the republic are operated by tenants and share croppers. That proportion constantly increases. Today the debts of agriculture amount to seventeen or eighteen billions of dollars and are constantly increasing. In just a few years rent, interest, taxes and railway rates will exceed in amount the annual values of farm production. A nation that has prided itself on being a farm and home owning people is reducing its agricultural population to a condition of tenantry and dependence that threatens the safety of the republic and of our free institutions.

There is no way out except through the effective, compact and intelligent organization of the farmers themselves in their own interest and in the interest of society and of orderly and free government.

BROOKHEART FOR STABILIZATION.

Senator Smith, Brookheart of Iowa who has just returned from an extensive tour through Europe in which he went as far east as soviet Russia is again at work in his office at Washington. He demands that the president call an extra session of congress to deal with the existing agricultural emergency. He further declares that unless something is done now for the relief of agriculture the independents will prevent the republicans from organizing the new congress and controlling the committees.

Brookheart is in favor of a wheat stabilization plan similar to that proposed by Congressman E. C. Little of the Second Kansas District in the last congress. He believes that if the government were authorized to buy agricultural staples at minimum prices properly determined no one would be able to buy for less. He maintains that such a plan would cost the taxpayers nothing in the long run because it would still be necessary to use all we can make in consumption and the regular dealers and convert would be forced to pay and would take all the crops at the minimum price or at higher figures. The eastern papers are unanimous in declaring that Brookheart's proposition is economically unsound. It may be so but the privileged interests might as well learn one time as another that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. This government will not be permitted to continue a stabilization policy for railways and for labor and leave the farmer to be ground to death on an unregulated market manipulated in the interest of gamblers in the necessities of life. All men concede that it necessary that the railways continue to be operated. It is equally important to the people, equally affects the public interest that the farms of this country continue to be cultivated.

Railroad guarantees should be abolished or farm guarantees should be established. Any federal administration that fails to recognize and deal with this emergency will be short lived.

ONLY ONE WAY TO HOLD WHEAT.

Everybody is advising farmers to hold their wheat. It might be a good thing if it could be done. Every grower, understands, however, that it costs a good deal to hold wheat. Insurance, shrinkage, loss by weevil or other pests and interest on money tied up in wheat in the bin all together amount to considerable items. The average farmer is not able to hold his wheat individually.

The pooling plan offers the only workable system that enables the growers to eat a part of their cake and keep the balance for some other day. The member of the association can deliver his wheat, take his sixty per cent advance and still retain his interest in the whole crop. All growers who want to hold their grain should at once sign marketing contracts with pooling associations.

GET READY FOR BOOSTING.

During this fall and winter the membership of our organization in Kansas must be doubled. This can only be done by the unselfish work of men and women in every active local in the state. Preliminary to the drive for new membership every effort should be made to collect the dues of farmers who are delinquent.

COMMENT ON WORLD'S NEWS FOR WEEK

Automobiles Must Be Selling Well

This year. Last Sunday's papers stated that already more than two millions of motor vehicles have been manufactured during 1923, and that the whole year will be the best in the history of the business. It is unthinkable that the American people have \$4,000,000,000 a year to invest in motor cars and an almost equal amount for repairs, accessories and gasoline and yet are not able to pay for their own bread.

With wheat at 78 cents a bushel the great body of American consumers who are riding around in high powered gas wagons are objects of charity dependent on the farmers for a good share of their living.

Brookheart Does Not Agree With Silver

That legislation can do nothing for agriculture. He believes that the present emergency due to loss making prices of American farm products must be dealt with in some fashion by congress. He has plans for the stabilization of prices all worked out. He wants the president to call a special session to consider measures for agricultural relief but it is reported that Mr. Harding believing that the worst is now over for the farmers will not agree to such a meeting of the new congress.

The senator from Iowa goes a little further and declares in almost so many words that unless Harding and his party find some way to help the farmer the republican organization might as well go out of business as he and the other radicals will join with the democrats and organize both congressional houses next November.

Probably Senator Brookheart has not consulted the democratic leaders. If they are very wise politicians they do not want to organize or control or be in any way responsible for the acts of the new congress.

Pollution Of Water Courses

By industry and sewage are offenses against common sense and decency that should not be tolerated by intelligent people. The filth that flows into the open rivers from the cities, poisons fish and animals, spreads disease, taints the air, pollutes the waters and destroys all possible pleasure in the use of one of God's best gifts to His children.

It is time to require all factories to dispose of their waste products in such a way that they will not menace the public health. It is time to discontinue the shiftless and filthy custom draining cities into open water courses. Modern science has not only learned how to dispose of sewage without danger to the public health but how to utilize the greater portion of such offal in making fertility to increase production.

Science knows how to use sewage for the benefit of humanity but greed and indifference stand in the way of the application of such knowledge.

England Is Now Writing Notes

To France urging that country to accept a reasonable settlement from Germany. The French are not willing to give up a single one of their claims against their beaten enemy. Nor can they be censured so very much. The mines, factories, and farms destroyed in France by the German armies have been restored only in part. The two million lives, the very flower of French manhood, that were destroyed by the war can never be restored. For generations will be weaker by reasons of the loss of the most virile blood of the republic.

There will come a time, however, when the responsible government of France must consider whether it will not be better to accept the best possible terms that can be secured from Germany in order that the workers of both nations may again get busy in restoring the losses of the war.

Edward D. Bok Wants to Do His Part

In making war forever impossible in this world. He is not such a very rich man but out of his modest fortune he offers a reward of \$100,000 to any one who will formulate a workable plan for the establishment of universal peace. He will pay \$50,000 when the plan proposed is approved by a committee on award submitted and the second \$50,000 when the plan is accepted by congress.

It is reasonably certain that Bok will never be called on to pay more than the first \$50,000. No mere mortal can hope to formulate a proposition that will be accepted without amendments, stipulations and reservations by the congress of this United States.

Labor In The English Parliament

Is second only to the conservative party in numerical strength. If Premier Baldwin should lose the confidence of the House of Commons and be forced to resign precedent would compel the king to invite the leader of the labor party to act as prime minister and form a new government. The English workingman is for universal peace and believes that the first step to that condition is in universal disarmament.

The House of Commons will soon

be asked to consider another disarmament conference. Labor leaders have served notice that consideration for such a motion will soon be asked. The rich and the great have been responsible for beginning most wars in the past. It would be entirely fitting that the end of all wars should be brought about by the action of the wage workers of the world, the class that furnishes most of the soldiers when statesmanship finally appeals international disputes to the supreme arbitrament of cannon and poison gas.

Nearly every international conflict in human history has been a rich man's war and a poor man's fight.

McAdoo Is The Favorite Candidate

Of the democratic leaders according to a pool of about 1000 of that sort of folks by the Literary Digest, Ford is second choice and Underwood takes third money with those who believe themselves to control the destinies of the party. Polls of 250,000 voters showed a different result. Ford was first and among democrats McAdoo was second.

It is quite evident that if the rank and file of the democracy have their way about it Ford will be nominated. If the professional politicians control the democratic convention McAdoo will be named. Now here is a chance for some stirring debate during the next few months. How would it do to discuss this question?

Resolved, That the politicians are better qualified than the rank and file of the voters to select suitable candidates for the presidency.

Republicans Have No Problems

To solve prior to the next national convention of their party. If Mr. Harding wants and will stand for another term he will be nominated on the first ballot. This action will not be unanimous but the president will have an overwhelming majority of the delegates.

The only disturbing influences in the next national convention of the administration party will be the delegations from Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Washington and Idaho and possibly from South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. La Follette will have the votes of this group of northwestern states but is not likely ever to get more than 150 or 200 votes at the very outside. Of course this guess is based on the belief that the progressive fever that is now ravaging that part of the country will be localized and its spread into adjacent territory prevented.

Of course if the voters of many more western and northern states conclude to vote just as they please the wisest man in the world would be foolish to undertake to forecast the result.

Smoot Is One of the Ablest

Members of that group of senators that for a long time have controlled the activities and determined the policies of the republican party. The senator from Utah has just sailed for Europe to study conditions over there. In an interview given out just before he started across Senator Smoot says that the annual expenses of the federal government will never again fall below \$3,000,000,000, that this year's surplus of \$310,000,000 is very gratifying but should not be made a basis for a demand for tax reduction because he does not believe that taxes can or should be reduced.

In discussing national needs Senator Smoot says that appropriations for next year must be greatly increased. This is a puzzling declaration and one that has significance and a meaning hidden from the average citizen. So far as what may be called ordinary or regular purposes are concerned the running expenses of the government can still be very considerably reduced. If there are to be increased federal outlays next year they must be needed for purposes known only to such initiates into governmental mysteries and policies as Senator Smoot.

What are the emergencies that are to call for increased appropriations? Is the republic in such danger from foreign enemies that great increases in the army and navy are necessary? Is a domestic upheaval or revolution impending? Does the government propose to set aside large sums for the stabilization of prices or for payment of subsidies? Smoot should not have left us guessing as to the nature of the increased appropriations that congress must make next year.

Lives Continue to Be Lost

In airplane and balloon accidents. Since the close of the Great War several hundred picked men, gallant young officers of the army for the most part, have lost their lives in this way. The whole purpose of all this experimenting is to develop more effective agencies to be used for air fighting in future wars. If every nation that calls itself Christian and civilized would spend just half as much money working plans for peace as it does in making preparation for war the day of universal disarmament would soon be at hand. The existence of armies and navies, of cannons and poison gas, of battleships and fortifications constitute the most serious

evidence that humanity lacks the intelligence that an all wise Creator has given to the lower animals.

Education As Dispensed by Colleges

Is coming in for a good deal of very sharp criticism right now. Upton Sinclair has written a book in which he undertakes to prove, and makes out a strong case, that all the great endowed universities are controlled by wealth and privilege. He charges that Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Princeton and about all the rest of such institutions no longer tolerate original investigation or permit free discussion either by professors or students of the great open and unsolved questions of these times.

Probably Sinclair is right in his conclusions but in our poor, pitiful human weakness what can we do about it? Fear of losing bequests and donations stifles study and originality in the endowed schools and fear of short appropriations and adverse votes in legislatures does the same thing for too many of our tax supported universities. Probably after all it will be a long, long time before men cease to be hedged in and their activities restrained and prescribed by their own limitations.

Sinclair and other critics must not forget that after all human beings are just that and nothing more.

The President Shows High Courage

In sticking to his convictions. Like almost every other man who has reached the White House Mr. Harding has turned out much better than was expected. With only limited experience in public life and none whatever in administrative positions the president has steadily grown in public favor as an individual. He is much better known and much more widely respected and admired than when he was inaugurated.

In his swing around the circle, a greater journey than was ever undertaken by any of his predecessors while in office, Mr. Harding has outlined his views on all the great issues of the day and has virtually served notice on his party that his policies incorporated in the platform if he is wanted as the leader for next year's campaign.

The president believes in railway consolidations, in the World Court as a tribunal for international arbitration, in cooperative organization of business for both labor and agriculture, in the rigorous enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment and of the Volstead Enforcement Act, in strengthening laws dealing with the production and the distribution of coal, in the budget system of administration and the reduction of taxation, in a selective immigration policy, in a get together movement for capital and labor, and in the event of another war that the wealth as well as the manhood of the nation should be conscripted.

Will the men who control the party organization permit the president to ask for re-election on this platform?

BOILED DOWN FACTS

Much of truth can be condensed into small compass sometimes and it is often rendered the more significant when done in a comparative way. For example, in these days when workers in the industrial trades are demanding one dollar an hour and upwards, there is keen significance in figuring how much of the farmer's labor is required to purchase one day's performance in some of these trades. No comment is necessary; the facts are impressive enough.

To pay a plasterer for one eight-hour day requires 783 of the farmer's eggs; a bricklayer's daily wage will call for 17 1/2 bushels of the farmer's corn, or the years total product of a half acre of ground; to hire a painter one day, in New York City would require 23 of the farmer's chickens, averaging three pounds apiece; to pay a plumber his \$14 for an eight hour day necessitates 42 pounds of butter or the output of fully a dozen of the farmer's cows, for a full 24-hour day; to pay a carpenter for one day's work takes a farmer's hog weighing 175 pounds representing eight months of daily care and feeding.

In the case of all these workers no capital is involved, it is their personal labor alone; with the farmer a large and constant investment is required, besides the startling inequality in surface values revealed. Can any nation expect to be, or to remain, economically sound which rests upon such injustices? Surely "boiled down facts" furnish food for serious reflection.—National Grange Monthly.

FRENCH CO-OPERATION.

WINS NEW SUCCESSSES French co-operators have triumphed over the current trade difficulties of bad markets, unstable currency, and the war-threatening activities of their own government and report an actual increase in sales of almost forty per cent during the past year. In place of a turnover of 152,600,500 francs in 1921, the French Co-operative Wholesale society reports a turnover for 1922 of 217,947,418 francs. This great Wholesale, the Magasin de Gros, is composed of 1600 affiliated societies and owns two large food factories. Over four thousand co-operative stores, restaurants and bakeries are managed by the member societies and serve more than a million members.

Department of Practical Co-Operation

State speakers will be present and address Farmers' Union meetings as indicated below. Requests for speakers within the date list should take into consideration the schedules already made.

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

To Local Secretaries And The Membership In General
We have the State Constitutions for 1922, "containing the Amendments as adopted," ready for distribution at 5c per copy.
C. E. Brasted, Secretary.

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

CRAWFORD COUNTY MEETINGS
AT GIRARD KANSAS
Girard Local No. 484 of the Farmers Union meets in Union Hall the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p. m.
L. E. Roof, Pres.
Roy W. Holland, Sec.

UNION LOCAL NO. 2019
Blaine O'Connor, Sec.
Regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at 7:30 p. m.
J. R. Horton, Pres.

ORDER PRESIDENT BARRETT'S BOOK
We now have a supply of the book "Trade Reuben's Activities in Washington," on hand and can fill orders direct from this office.
Make remittance of \$2.00 to C. E. Brasted, Salina.
C. E. Brasted, Secretary.

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING
The regular quarterly meeting of the Pottawatomie County Farmers' Union will be held at Westmoreland, Kansas, August 15. The meeting will be called at 1 o'clock prompt. Locals see that all delegates are present and have the proper credentials.
T. V. HEPTIG, Sec'y.

GEARY COUNTY ANNUAL PICNIC AUGUST 23rd
The Geary County Farmers' Union will hold its annual picnic at Logan's Grove, Junction City, on Thursday, August 23rd. All Farmers' Union members are invited to attend.
ALFRED HOTTON, Pres.

ANNUAL PICNIC DOUGLAS COUNTY
No. 10 Worden and High Prairie Farmers' Union locals of Douglas County will hold their annual picnic in G. W. Pitts' grove, 7 miles north-west of Baldwin, on August 15th. Governor Davis will be the principal speaker.
A team from the Boys Industrial School at Topeka will be present, and there will be two base ball games and other contests will be held.
Everybody welcome.
CHAS. J. GLEASON,
GEO. WARNER, Com.

PLEASANT HILL LOCAL TO HOLD ALL DAY PICNIC.
Pleasant Hill Local No. 787 planning a picnic for August 10th. It will be an all day and evening picnic with something doing from 10:30 in the morning on rest of day, with ball games and lots of amusements. We want all to join us and make merry for a day. Forget the "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is just as true today as in our grandfathers' time.
The picnic will be held on the "old Culver place," about 8 miles north and 3 west of Waldo. Be sure and come early. Literary program in forenoon and basket dinner at noon.
Committee.

HIGHLAND LOCAL NO. 1669 PICNICS.

Sunday, July 15th the members of Highland Local No. 1669, and their families gathered at the W. A. Wabers Grove, 7 miles south east of Paola, Kansas, and participated in a delightful picnic. At 12 o'clock the white table cloths were spread upon the beautiful blue grass and a cafeteria dinner was enjoyed by all. The dinner consisted of Salads, fried chickens, cold meats, roasts, dressings, fruits, sliced tomatoes, pickles, sandwiches and many other things too numerous to mention.

Also at one end of the long table another table was spread which consisted of cakes and pies of all descriptions, hot coffee and ice cold lemonade.
After the dinner was over, men, women and children took part in the contests of sack races, 8 legged races, carry me back races, foot races, hoop races, horse shoe pitching, tug of war and other games. Prizes were awarded to the winners. There were large swings for the children and card tables for the ones who could not take part in the contests. The day was far too short for such a gathering, but when the parties departed at a late hour, it was decided that they must have many such gatherings in the near future.

The ladies are now busy practicing horse shoe pitching, so they can challenge the men in this game the next time and win all the prizes.
This local has 125 members and it has more of such gatherings as mentioned above it should increase its membership. At the local meetings they have songs by all

Sometimes the young folks choir has some extra songs, and oft times they have cold lunches and also programs.
Highland local believes that such things should be for the betterment of a local.
Roy L. Lee, Sec., Treas.
Paola KaKsnas

ILLINOIS COURT SUSTAINS CO-OPERATIVE CONTRACT
Judge Edward D. Shurtieff, of the Circuit Court of McHenry County, Illinois, has handed down a decision in the case of the Milk Producer's Marketing Company of Chicago vs. Arthur L. Bell, in which the co-operative marketing contract is completely upheld. The court grants the application of the Milk Marketing Company against its member to compel him to specific performance of contract. The decision is regarded as an epochal one, since it is the first time a court ruling has been had in Illinois on the Sapro contract. In the course of his decision, Judge Shurtieff said:

"In detreming whether the contract in question is a valid contract and how it may be enforced—that is whether the foregoing bill of complaint states a case entitling complainant to equity, two cardinal and elementary principles should be borne in mind at the outset: First, that when sane men, intelligent and uninfluenced by fraud and undue influence, and there is no accident or mistake and no law violated, enter into solemn contracts and contracts under seal, it is and should be the policy of the law to enforce such contracts and agreements."

"Second, That it is and has been the public policy of the State of Illinois, to foster and encourage co-operation. This has been evidenced by the various acts of the General Assembly passed from time to time one of which has just recently been given birth by the late General Assembly."

"Milk is a perishable article. Its market now, furnished a demand for fluid or city milk, butter and cheese, the price of neither based upon the cost and all competing against each other in the same territory, leading to surplus, deficit and waste. This is to be taken notice of by defendant's contract. It might as well be argued that complainant had no right to separate the cream from the milk. Generally the powers objected to are express powers granted by the law. If any powers are being exercised by implication, defendant's contract fully shows their necessity. They are not ultra vires."

"Defendant contends that complainant has no power to borrow money, except by a majority vote of the membership and that the bill should allege that such action has been taken by a majority of the members. I do not agree with this contention. If complainant has borrowed any funds or made any loans the presumption is that complainant under the law has the right to make loans. If they have been made illegally, defendant has been a party to it and is stopped from raising that question in this action. Complainant was not even required to keep a record of the transaction."

"Defendant contends that the contract is not mutual; that the defendant producer contracts and agrees to do many things, but that the complainant does not agree to do anything. This is not strictly an accurate statement of the situation. The complainant has bound itself for a period of two years. It has promised to market the milk and cream delivered by the producer and such marketing must be done in a reasonable and proper manner. It has agreed to collect and divide the proceeds into separate funds and make distribution."

As to Liquidated Damages.
"But the most serious contention of defendant is that the contract itself provides for liquidated damages at the rate of 25 cents per 100 pounds for milk sold to other persons, and therefore that the complainant has an adequate remedy at law and that there is no equity in the bill. It will be noticed on a careful reading of the contract that it does not provide that defendant can pay the 25 cents per hundred pounds and be free from the contract. The defendant does not agree to pay such amount, but he further agrees that it will be impracticable and extremely difficult sulitng to the company from his default and defendant further agrees that his contract is one of a series dependent for its true value upon the adherence of each and all producers to each and all said contracts, and defendant further agrees and stipulates that in case of breach complainant may be entitled to an injunction. Plainly, the parties in this contract have not agreed that this payment shall be in full payment of a breach and it is not so intended by the wording and reading of the contract. The provision is therefore a penalty and not a liquidated damage."

"Defendant raises the question that in the law upon which complainant's charter is founded, and in the charter granted, there is no limit placed upon the duration of complainant's corporate existence and therefore its charter is void. That is a question which defendant cannot raise in this case, by authorities so ample and rules so elementary that it would be a waste of time to cite them."

"I am firmly of the opinion that a court of equity has the power, and in a proper case should grant an injunction, not to specifically perform the contract, but to restrain the defendant from the breach of its negative covenants. . . .
"Let the demurrer be overruled and defendant given leave to answer or plead within such reasonable time an counsel may suggest."

"Complainant's application for a temporary restraining order granted on giving defendant bond in sum of \$5,000, with surety."

"(Signed) Edward D. Shurtieff, Judge."

ROTATION OF CROPS ADDS NEW LIFE TO EARTH

We have in the United States a natural resource that is more valuable than all the gold mines, all the silver mines, all the coal mines and all the oil wells of the entire world. This natural resource is the soil. It is the nation's greatest asset. It is the source from which we have derived the wealth with which to build our homes, our schools, our churches and our cities. Our industrial development has been possible because of a good soil which has permitted the production of food at low cost. With a fertile soil the efficient American farmer has been able to produce food not only for himself and family, but for two other men and their families living and working in town.

Until recent years farmers and others have given little serious thought to the source of this great wealth upon which civilization so largely depends. The fertility of the soil has been taken for granted. It has the fall of rain in spring and the warmth of the sun in summer. They have said, "Our soil is fertile; it will never wear out." Men who have studied the problem have discovered that regardless of the development of new high yielding strains of crop plants and the manufacture of modern tillage implements that cultivate the soil more thoroughly and deeply, the yields of farm crops have not increased. In some of the newer, more fertile sections of this country the yields of crops have declined. For example, in Kansas during the past half century, the yield of wheat has declined nearly 20 percent and the yield of corn and oats over 45 percent. The soil will wear out, it is wearing out.

Rotation First Factor.
Fortunately the steps necessary to properly maintain the productivity of the soil are neither difficult nor expensive, if taken in time. The first step is to put into practice a rotation of crops. There are fields in the corn belt that have grown nothing but corn for fifty years. Likewise in the wheat belt there are fields that have produced wheat only. The soil becomes "sick" and "tired" of growing the same crop continually.

There must be a rotation of crops for the best results, just as the dairyman finds it necessary to change the feed of his dairy cows to keep them in a high state of production. A rotation which will include such crops as clover, alfalfa and soy beans will make it possible to greatly increase the productivity of many tracts of land.

A second essential step is to supply liberal quantities of fresh organic matter. It is largely from such compounds that the plants derive their food. Organic matter can be added to the soil in the form of barnyard manure, cornstalks, weeds, roots of plants and other crop residues. Shall we in this board Missouri Valley continue to burn our strawstacks and corn stover in the field, and waste our barnyard manure through carelessness and neglect, while our crops starve and decline to yield because they are denied this food? To con-

KILLS FLIES LIKE MAGIC

Wonderful New Chemical Discovered That Is Fatal to Flies—NOT A POISON—Harmless to Stock

Flies are dangerous and annoying pests that cost the farmer a great deal of profit every year. Now, through the discovery of a widely known scientist, you can easily and quickly rid the house, barns and livestock of these pests. This discovery is in the form of a remarkable synthetic chemical which is fatal to flies of all kinds and similar insects such as chiggers, mosquitoes and moths.



This new discovery, which is called FLY-KILL, is not a poison. It kills flies and insects as they die off like magic, neither human beings or stock are affected by it at all. FLY-KILL is also a repellent—flies will not come near livestock or buildings where it has been used. FLY-KILL is very valuable for cows and horses as flies do great harm to these animals and thus take profit from the farmer.
So confident is the distributing laboratories that FLY-KILL will rid your house, barn, and on live stock that they offer to send \$2.00 supply of FLY-KILL for only \$1.00 on the guarantee that if your fly troubles are not ended it costs nothing. This offer is fully guaranteed and is made for a limited time to introduce FLY-KILL to a million new users.
SEND NO MONEY—Just your name and address to the Fly-Kill Laboratories, 906 Calumet Bldg., St. Paul, Minn., and this offer will be sent to you.

to do so means a further decline in the productivity of the soils of this region.

Soil Must Be Protected
A third step necessary to prevent further exhaustion is to protect the soil properly against erosion by water and wind. Many fields in the humid section of this country that are rolling in topography have been seriously eroded by water, while in or fields that have been impro-

perly worked have been seriously injured by wind. The most valuable portion of the soil is removed in this way. Many fields have thus been rapidly decreased in productivity in a single generation. The present is a good time to consider such land. While prices of farm products are low, and labor is expensive, it cannot be farmed at a profit. Such land should be seeded to grass for pasture or to soil improving crops for its protection. This would prevent further deterioration of the soil and would leave the land in a more fertile condition for future generations. At the same time it would return the largest possible profit to the owner.

To be successful such a program must have the support of all classes of society. The farmer must be assured an adequate income to enable him to make the investment necessary in such a program. It is to the city dwellers' interest to see that agriculture is sufficiently profitable to justify such investments, and then to insist that the investments be made.—By L. E. Call.

THE FARMER AND THE "RING."

You often hear that the farmer and the wage earner must stick together, that their interests are the same; especially are the wage earners anxious to have the farmer do all the sticking while they are doing all the harm they can, and shouting all the trouble comes from the capitalists and profiteers.

Until the capitalist and profiteer do their share. The wage earners need not try to convince thinking people that he does not demand more than his share of profits. Now I do not think for a moment that the plasterer thinks he earns the equivalent of 14 bushels of wheat for a day's plastering, he demands it because he can get it. The question of right or wrong is not considered. This is not true of all trades. If those who build the house must receive extra high wages the tenant must pay higher rent, if the tenant pays higher rent he must get higher wages to

be able to pay the higher rent. And so it goes each raise of the employee the employer must raise the price of each article effected and so it keeps on going on forever and ever.

Here is where the trouble lies, the produce wage earners use to make his money from does not raise in value, really its value is lowered. Now let me state the proposition in another way: The farmer brings a hide to the produce man, gets \$2.50 for it. The produce man lowers the price from \$2.75 to \$2.50 so as to get what he thinks is due him. His clerk gets more wages to get his share. The railroad raises the freight to meet the demands of the workers owing to the raise in labor, the tanner must raise the price.

The higher the wages, profit and freight the lower the farm products. Now let us turn it the other way around. Let us have a coming mission formed and let all agree to a proportional product you will raise the farmers produce and what the working class buy will cost no more than it does now, for the value of a dollar is the amount you can buy with the dollar not in the number of dollars you give for what you buy.

I wish to call the readers' attention to other things that is never taken into consideration and is likely never thought of, to-wit: however much we dislike it as long as we trade with the rest of the world we can not boost our wages above them, for it is to them we must sell all our surplus, they can not buy if too much of the cost of the article is high priced, the same is true as to material. I will close by saying high wages is a myth. What a dollar will buy is true value. If all will leave out selfishness and work for the benefit of all the trouble can soon be overcome.

His employees must get more to meet the demands on them. The same is true of the shoemaker, the wholesaler, jobber and retailer. So it goes round and round, a raise in wages at one place in the ring forces all to take more—I said forces, a better word would be makes an excuse to take more.

Now, the trouble is the farmer is not in the ring, however, he is trying to get in the ring. Whether he succeeds or not is to be seen. Should he get in the ring, what would happen? Say he demands and gets \$5.00 for his hide, every body must share more (or thinks he must) so that when the farmer buys a pair of shoes he pays just twice as much

as he did before. There you are, going round and round the ring always ending where you were before. You are like a man lost in the dark of the night.

The farmer is feeding this gigantic machine called the ring and all he gets is his head "ringed" of.
H. D. Miller, in Farm Club News.

CO-OPERATION IN SWEDEN.

Farmers of Sweden have organized a cooperative movement whose success and achievements should arouse American farmers to emulate their stimulating example.

Despite the meager press notice it has received, agricultural co-operation in Sweden is playing a vital part in the economic life of that country. It has grown within 30 years to enormous proportions, with a membership of over 80,000 farmers, who now have under cultivation over one quarter of the total farming country in Sweden. These are organized in 1,353 local co-operatives, federated in a national union. This national union not only protects the interests of its members in the sale of their products, but arranged for the purchase of farm supplies. It has offices in New York, Buenos Aires, and Marseilles, where these supplies are purchased and farm products sold. It now has under construction four vessels of 9,250 tons each and another ship of 7,200 tons to transport the farmers' surplus crops to foreign markets, and is laying plans for a large mercantile fleet of its own.

In 1920 the Swedish Co-operative union had 363 stores in which it sold the products purchased in other countries. It also has a strong co-operative bank, with a capital of \$5,400,000 (par) supported by 62 branch banks in different parts of Sweden. The National co-operative union is doing an annual business of more than \$9,450,000. Beside this enormous trade of the Central Union, there are 19 branch co-operative wholesale houses scattered throughout the country, which do an

annual business of \$25,000,000 in the sale of seeds, fodder, manure, and other products to the co-operators.
The purchase of supplies and marketing of produce are only a part of the great work of the Swedish co-operatives. Another important branch is co-operative dairying, carried on with success that the private dairies are slowly but surely going out of business. The number of co-operative dairies has increased from 73 in 1890 to 555 in 1920, while the number of private dairies has fallen off over 33 per cent. In the same way the output of the co-operative dairies has steadily increased, with a corresponding decrease from the private dairies. While Sweden used to be a butter importing country, the widespread organization of the co-operative dairies and the increased output and improved quality of their butter has provided a surplus of unexcelled butter for export.
If American farmers want further proof that co-operation is possible and profitable they only need to look at Sweden's remarkable record. And this record is not unique. The farmers of Denmark, Holland, and all the agricultural countries of Europe are proving that the soil tillers' greatest hope lies in co-operative marketing and purchasing. In many of these countries the farmers are the most prosperous class, because by cooperation they have freed themselves from the exploitation of parasitic middlemen and enjoy a rightful share of the products of their toil.—Minnesota Daily Star.

Insects and disease frequently destroy from 60 to 80 percent of the fruit crop in an unsprayed orchard. Sometimes the trees are so weakened they die later. Spraying keeps the trees vigorous and the fruit unblemished.
Buy land that slopes toward the center, and marry a girl whose mother is good.—Japanese proverb.

Railroad Earnings Are Not Guaranteed

A common impression exists that railroad earnings are in some way guaranteed by the Government. This is not a fact.

The railroads were paid for the Federal Control period a fixed rental and were given an option for continuance of this basis for six months thereafter. This arrangement expired August 31, 1920, since which time nothing even resembling a guarantee has been in effect.

Under the Constitution a railroad has always been entitled to earn a fair return upon its property devoted to the public use, the percentage which constituted such fair return being a question for determination by the courts.

The transportation act says:
"In the exercise of its power to prescribe just and reasonable rates, the Commission shall...adjust such rates so that carriers...will, under honest, efficient and economical management...earn an aggregate annual...to a fair re- turn upon the aggregate value" of the common carrier property, giving "due consideration...to the transportation needs of the country and the necessity...of enlarging such facilities in order to provide the people of the United States with adequate transportation."

For the two years ending March 1, 1922, such fair return was fixed at 6 per cent. Since then it has been reduced by the Commission to 5.75 per cent.

In no year however have the railroads secured the fair return contemplated by the Act, as the following will show:

Year	Percentage Actually Earned
1920	0.33
1921	3.3
1922	4.14

It is entirely clear, therefore, that the law in no sense guarantees the earnings of the railroads. If it did, the Government would owe the railroads more than a billion dollars for deficits in 1920, 1921, and 1922.

Since January 1, 1923, the earnings of the railroads as a whole have been better than for the same period in any of the three preceding years, but the rate of return is still lower than the Interstate Commerce Commission has prescribed as reasonable.

The Transportation Act has not been the cause of increases in railroad rates. One of the authors of the Act has said:

"Rates have advanced simply because the cost of maintenance and operation has more than doubled since pre-war days while railroad rates, taken as a whole, are now about 54 per cent higher than they were before the Government took over the railroads at the beginning of the year 1918."

The price of transportation can only be reduced as the cost of transportation is reduced and the railroad's cost of living has increased in like proportion to that of the individual. Every effort, however, is being made to reduce it.

Constructive suggestions are always welcome.

C. R. GRAY,

President.

Omaha, Nebraska, August 1, 1923.

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