



# THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation



VOLUME XXIX

SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1937

NUMBER 30

## DELICATE SITUATION IN NATL. FARMERS UNION AFFAIRS

Group From Clay County Demand Publication of Petition Asking Referendum Vote

### AN UNWISE PROCEDURE

President Vesceky Presents Arguments Upon This Threat To National Unity

Upon my return Thursday morning from a meeting of the Executive committee of Kansas Farm Organizations, I found the following letter from M. L. Beckman and members of the Clay County Farmers Union Executive committee on my desk.

Clay Center, Kansas, Jan. 19, 1937

Mr. John Vesceky, Salina, Kansas, Editor Kansas Union Farmer:

We the undersigned members of the executive committee of Clay County Union No. 40, respectfully request you to publish in the next issue of Kansas Union Farmer the enclosed amended petition for a referendum vote on the election of national officers and directors.

We believe the Kansas membership is entitled to the information contained in this petition and that it should be published as a matter of news. If, however, you do not publish it as news, we demand that you publish it as an advertisement at our expense. George Blackwood, Emory C. Alquist, John Slingsby, Wm. Goeckler, Secretary-Treas., M. L. Beckman, County President.

The Referendum Petition which was attached to this letter is according to the request of the Clay County Committee also reprinted in this issue of the Kansas Union Farmer. I had known since the Omaha conference of December 28, 1936, that a movement was on foot to nullify the wishes of the majority of the delegates to the National Convention and without a recall of Brother Graves, and, contrary to the specific provisions of the National Constitution, elect by referendum E. E. Kennedy in his PLACE as National Secretary. Because I felt that the rank and file of our membership are the best judges of the best interests of the Farmers Union too much at heart to fall for the silly accusations contained in the first petition, I did not want to create any dissension in our locals by publishing the petition and the reasons behind it in the Union Farmer. Since Brother Beckman and the Clay County folks demand that the petition be published, I will comply with their wishes and take the cover off and let our members judge for themselves what sort of a mess is being brewed in the Devil's Pot to make our members forget their pledges as Union Members and substitute Hate and Discord for the Love and Brotherhood that our Union is founded upon.

As I had no opposition for the office of National Vice President and was elected by a unanimous vote of the delegates to the National Convention, my offense must consist of the fact that I together with some members of the board, dared to tell President Vesceky that the original petition calling for the recall of Secretary Graves and the election by referendum of E. E. Kennedy was unconstitutional. The National Union Constitution provides only one way for the election of officers, that is by the duly qualified delegates to a regularly called National convention, and only one way to fill vacancies, which is by the National Board. If that is treason, Brother Wilmoth and the other petitioners can make the most of it. Personally I do not care if I am National Vice President or not. I did not ask for the nomination nor did I ask any one to vote for me, but I do seriously question the wisdom and the justice of the petition whose only result can be division of the Farmers Union into several warring camps and further I question the right of the signers of the petition to claim that they represent the wishes of even a majority of the membership in their respective states. In support of this statement I am reprinting an editorial from the last issue of the National Farmers Holiday News and some pertinent articles from the January 15 issue of the Michigan Union Farmer. There is much more that I could say about this subject, but will not unless it becomes necessary to clear up some misstatements which may be made in the heat of the controversy.

### Editorial from National Farm Holiday News:

Whom They First Made Mad—There is an old saying that "Those whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

The quotation aptly fits the present disrupters of the National Farmers Union. At any rate their madness is fast destroying what influence they had among the membership.

Not satisfied with trying to reverse the decision of the recent national convention in which E. E. Kennedy, national secretary, was defeated, the little group of disgruntled officers have extended it to include the vice president and new members of the board of directors.

To indicate how foolish they are, the petition asks that C. N. Rogers of Indianapolis, Iowa, replace John Ve-

secky of Kansas, when Rogers did not even run against Vesceky in the national convention. John Erp of Minnesota, who was low man in the vote for national board, wants to be put back in.

But as the petition's ridiculousness increases, the so-called Kennedy faction loses more and more of the influence it had. Only officers of a few of the smaller states ask for the petition, and most of them are on delicate footing at home. Robert Spencer, president of the Indiana division, has a membership of only 1,000 and a great part of them will not follow him into this thing. The Illinois division, for which L. Fred Winterthorn signed, is but a small fraction split by Kennedy off the national organization some years ago. John Erp in Minnesota has about 1,000, most of whom will shy at this latest split (the Minnesota organization has already split.) Not so much is known about the Ohio division, whose president signed the petition, but Ira Wilmoth, of Michigan, does not have the support of his state board in his action. In fact, he has been asked to answer for his actions before a board of arbitration. The state board published a statement saying that its attitude "was one of displeasure toward President Wilmoth's action."

Apparently there is now little danger that the reactionary Kennedy can again seize the reins of the great progressive organization. The only question remains is the amount of damage which will result from the splitting, dog-in-the-manger tactics.

### Union Member Analyzes

Petition Move—

The president of the Michigan Union Farmer is asking the members to sign a petition for a referendum to recall Mr. Graves as national secretary. No charges are lodged against Mr. Graves, either on account of incompetency nor is it charged that he has been a traitor. There are some insinuations, but no specific charges. The only ground for a recall seems to be that some of the delegates to the national convention wanted Kennedy, and because the man they wanted was defeated on a close vote, they are now asking that the decision of the convention be reversed and Kennedy be elected.

Looking at it from a sensible point of view it would seem that the action of the convention should stand, and Mr. Kennedy wait until next convention to try again. Mr. Wilmoth states that both can't be right, referring to Mr. Graham's vote and his own. I do not recall that the delegates to the national convention (Continued on page 4)

## CONDUCT SURVEY OF COOPERATIVES

William C. Gehrke Will Send Questionnaires To Every Unit In Kansas

Within the next ten days 775 letters will be mailed to that many cooperative units located in every part of Kansas. Later a special questionnaire will be mailed to the various regional and wholesale co-ops doing business in Kansas.

Primarily the information gathered is to show the growth in the cooperative units as well as the number of failures and the volume of goods handled. Practically every phase of economic activity will be touched including labor. This survey is conducted by Mr. Gehrke, who is principal of the High School at Smolan, at considerable expense and is done in connection with his work at the University of Denver which will be completed this summer. The information is the basis of his Master's Thesis, which he must complete before receiving his Masters Degree in Economics and Political Science.

We wish to urge upon every cooperator to be as prompt as possible in returning this questionnaire to Mr. Gehrke. Those units whose fiscal year ended before Dec. 31, 1936 should be able to make immediate returns even though it doesn't include all of 1936 business. The ideal report, however, will be that one which will include all business done to the end of the calendar year of 1936. The information must be received at the latest, before April 1, in order to give ample time for assembling and evaluating the material.

The office of the Kansas Union Farmer is greatly interested in this study. We wish to urge the utmost care from all of the co-ops reporting to give accurate data from your records, since this is the first study of this kind ever to be made in Kansas and we are anticipating an encouraging report.

Inasmuch as the Kansas Union has pioneered in the cooperative field, we are happy to assist Mr. Gehrke in any way possible. Since few colleges offer any work in the cooperative field, we feel indebted to Mr. Gehrke for making this special study of Kansas Cooperatives.

Mr. Gehrke during his recent visit at the State Union office informed us that at the Smolan High School, of which he is principal, he has been teaching the Farmers Union program in special classes for the last four years. He expressed his appreciation of the help he had received already in this work from our Farmers Union folks, and especially John Fengel, our director, who about five years ago started him thinking along cooperative channels and directed his attention to one of our greatest farm leaders, John A. Simpson.

A copy of the questionnaire will be published in our next issue.

## CLEVER ANALYSIS GIVEN ON NATIONS PURCHASING POWER

John Frost Prepares Article That Defies Anyone To Challenge The Answer

### IN WRONG HANDS

His Word Picture Shows Purchasing Power Rests In The Wrong Hands For Prosperity

There are in the United States about 50,000,000 persons engaged in seeking to be engaged in the business of labor, agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, and the professions. The total gross income of the nation for the year 1936 is estimated to be about \$60,000,000,000. That would be about \$1200 for each person in business and \$2400 for each family in which two persons were in business. Now, suppose that the 1,000 Captains of Industry that dominate or seek to dominate business, decree, that since they furnish or control the capital, or money, for all business and decide the plans for all business and do the hiring and the firing and furnish the brains? for business, that \$1 a day for the 300 working days of the year 1936 is enough for the 49,999,000 common folks in business, amounting to \$15,000,000,000, and that the remainder of the gross income, amounting to \$45,000,000,000, be divided among the Captains of Industry, or \$45,000,000 to each Captain.

Would that situation spell prosperity for the grand old United States? Each family of the common folks would have \$300 to spend, or \$600 if two in the family were engaged in business. With only \$300 to spend, a family could buy only the bare necessities of life. Even with \$600 to spend, a family could buy only the commonest food and clothing and household goods. And most of these common folks have no interest and doctor bills and interest and taxes and other debts to pay out of their small stipend.

Who can, in this age of machines and this age of mass production, buy enough to keep the farms, the mines and the factories in full production? Who can buy and consume the vast supply of wheat, corn, and oats and the meat and the cotton and the wool and the eggs and the butter from the farms of the United States? Who can buy all the products of the factories of the United States—the farm implements, the furnaces, the light plants, the stoves and ranges, the refrigerators, the carpets and rugs, the pianos and radios, the silk and rayon dresses and the clothing and bedding, the furniture and household goods, the autos and gas and tires, and the many other necessities and customary luxuries of our times? Who can afford to send their children to high schools and colleges and buy books and magazines and newspapers? Who can pay hospitals and doctors and dentists and lawyers for their high priced services?

Most certainly not the common folks having only \$300 to \$600 per family to spend. But the 1,000 Captains of Industry, each with \$45,000,000 gross income, can buy and consume the vast production of our country. A rich man cannot eat more than a poor man. The rich put most of their income into banks and stocks and bonds, and they use the rest to buy the entire output of industry, and industry closes many of its factories, and throws laboring men out of work, and makes a bad situation worse.

This illustrates a situation that has arisen during the 16 years of the Great Depression, caused by the Captains of the Money Trust shutting off credit in 1920, and by the Captains of the Stock Market overvaluing their hands in speculation and bringing on the stock market crash of 1929. The Captains of Industry by their greedy domination of business have concentrated wealth and income into the hands of a few—4 per cent of the rich people own 80 per cent of the wealth, and 96 per cent of the common people own only 20 per cent of the wealth of the nation. Our Nation Has Lost Purchasing Power by the greed and stupidity of the Captains of Industry.

Our national income must be more equitably divided in order that everybody shall have purchasing power to buy the output of industry, and keep farms and mines and factories busy to secure prosperity for all. Henry Ford recognized this when he set \$5 the minimum day's wages, so that his workmen could buy autos that they were making. If no one but the Captains of Industry have income sufficient to buy autos and the common conveniences of living, then they cannot be sold, the factories will be closed, and poverty will cover the land, and prove the saying of Goldsmith in his "Deserted Village": "Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

If the farmers and laborers and small business men and their clerks get their fair share of the wealth that their labor and skill and management have produced, then the great mass of common people can and will buy the food and clothing and household goods and radios and refrigerators and ranges and other necessities and common luxuries that the few rich cannot and will not buy. Purchasing Power in the hands of the common people will bring prosperity.

—John Frost.

### Dues Payment

Your 1937 Farmers Union dues are the same they were for 1936. The local secretary will collect \$2.75 for the year, of which amount \$1.95 is to be remitted to this office.

Will all local secretaries please collect the membership dues according to this schedule, which is outlined on page 34 of the 1935 dated constitution and by-laws.

Pauline Cowger, Secretary.

### "Large End Up" Rule Saves Hatching Eggs

Hatching eggs to be hauled or shipped to the hatchery should be packed snugly into the case with the large end up, says Berle Winston, in charge of the poultry office of the Bureau of Animal Industry, as hatching eggs are less likely to be broken when in this position than if they are packed with the small end up. The normal egg has an air cell at the large end, Mr. Winston explains, and it is necessary that the membrane separating the inner portion of the egg from the shell membrane be broken or shaken loose. Research at the National Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., has shown that eggs with tremulous air cells hatched only two-thirds as well as the eggs which had normal air cells. Packing the eggs with the large end up removes the pressure from the inner membrane.

Mr. Winston cautions that the egg case should never be placed on the bumper of an automobile, as the vibration at this point is possibly much greater than on the floor inside the car. If the hatching eggs are hauled in a wagon or truck the bed should be matted with straw which serves as a shock absorber.

In the early part of the hatching season it is necessary to gather eggs often as hatching eggs should not be allowed to chill. They should be stored at a temperature ranging from 50 degrees to 60 degrees. A frost-proof cellar or basement is usually a good place for storage.

Tests also have shown that hatching eggs should not be held longer than a week to ten days before delivery to the hatchery, Mr. Winston says. Held longer, the eggs decrease in hatchability.

### Importance of Heating Has Grown Over Years

The heating of the modern home is a much more important factor than it was a few years ago. Our forefathers had fireplaces and did not skimp on underthings, including skirts, and they got along very comfortably.

Then that inventive genius, Benjamin Franklin, invented an stove to hook onto the fireplace, and the fire farther into the room. The stove being of cast iron, the heat given forth was infinitely greater than that from the old fireplace.

Next the globe stove was detached completely from the fireplace, and the fire burned in a globe and the globe was closed up, and the heat radiated from underneath and looked with amused indulgence on those crude grandpa-stoves who knew not the luxury that they enjoyed.

Central heating in the form of the old "hot air" furnace mingled coal gas and ash with its warmth and the stove practically in the discard, and for years our brownstone-front houses were honeycombed with a multiplicity of ducts that not only distributed the heat with its accompanying nuisance but also allowed the second floor to listen in on the conversations in the parlor below.

As the ladies became more conscious of the beauties of the slim profile, need of more heat became acute. So warm by steam and hot water, and thirty years ago steam heat was the main claim to modernism in all real-estate advertisements. Then complications set in; hot water, indirect radiation, vapor concealed radiators, thermostats, and innumerable other gadgets appeared on the scene. And now the once despised "hot air" furnace has come back in the new guise of air-conditioning.

From being an incidental adjunct to the house, the heating—now he cooling as well—has become one of the chief considerations. The average layman has only a vague idea of what "air-conditioning" means. To most it embraces only, or principally—the summer cooling, while as a matter of fact that is only a small part. The main function of air-conditioning is the warming, cleaning, and humidifying of the air in winter. Summer cooling would only be operative, in most parts of the country, for a few weeks in the year, while the heating would function for many months.

SEED—It is time to prepare seed for spring planting. Cleaning to remove weed seed and other foreign material and testing for germination should become routine operations on the farm. If it is necessary to purchase seed of oats, barley, or other crops, one should be certain that such seed has been tested and labeled in accordance with the Kansas Seed Law, and that it is free from noxious weeds. The law prohibits the sale of any seed containing field bindweed seed.

Examine closely the window ledge which holds your house plants. If drafts are present, you can usually eliminate them with a bit of weather stripping, or putty, or paint, and so protect the plants.

## TEXT OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Repeats Faith In Government's Ability To Take Care of Its People

### A NEW CHAPTER

Administration Faced With A Challenge To Protect Against Economic Stress

My Fellow-Countrymen:

When four years ago we met to inaugurate a president, the republic, single-minded in anxiety, stood in spirit before the dedicated ourselves to the fulfillment of a vision—to speed the time when there would be for all the people that security and peace essential to the pursuit of happiness. We of the republic pledged ourselves to drive from the temple of ancient faith those who had profaned it; to end by action, tireless and unafraid, the stagnation and despair of that day.

We did those first things first.

Our new chapter with ourselves did not stop there. Instinctively we recognized deeper need—the need to find through government the instrument of our united purpose to solve for the individual the everlasting problems of a complex civilization. Repeated attempts at their solution without the aid of government had left us baffled and bewildered. For without that aid, we had been unable to create those moral controls over the services of science which are necessary to make science a useful servant instead of a ruthless master of mankind. To do this we knew that we must find practical and blindly selfish men.

We of the republic sensed the truth that democratic government has innate capacity to protect its people against disasters once considered inevitable. We solved problems considered unsolvable. We would not admit that we could not find a way to master economic epidemics just as, after centuries of fatalistic suffering, we had found a way to master epidemics of disease. We refused to leave the problems of common welfare to be solved by the winds of chance and the hurricanes of disaster.

In this we Americans were discovering not wholly new truth; we were writing a new chapter in our book of self-government.

Five Way Out of Chaos—This year marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the constitutional convention which made us a nation. At that convention our forefathers found the way out of the chaos which followed the Revolutionary war; they created a strong government with powers of united action sufficient then and now to solve problems utterly beyond individual or local solution. A century and a half ago they established the federal government in order to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to the American people.

Today we invoke those same powers of government to achieve the same objectives. Four years of new experience have not belied our historic instinct: They hold out the clear hope that government within communities, government within the separate states, and government of the United States can do the things the times require, without yielding its democracy.

Tasks in the last four years did not force democracy to take a holiday. Nearly all of us recognize that as intricacies of human relationships increase, so power to govern them also must increase—power to stop evil; power to do good. The essential democracy of our nation and the safety of our people depend not upon the absence of power but upon lodging it with those whom the people can change or continue at stated intervals through an honest and free system of elections. The constitution of 1787 did not make our democracy

Into Proper Subordination—In fact, in these last four years, we have made the exercise of all power more democratic; for we have begun to bring private autocratic powers into their proper subordination to the public government. The legend that they were invincible above and beyond the processes of a democracy—has been shattered. They have been challenged and beaten.

Our progress out of the depression is obvious. But that is not all that you and I mean by the new order of things. Our pledge was not merely to do a patch-work job with second-hand materials. By using the new materials of social justice we have undertaken to erect on the old foundations a more enduring structure for the better use of future generations.

In that purpose we have been helped by achievements of mind and spirit. Old truths have been relearned; untruths have been unlearned. We have always known that the self-interest was bad more economics. Out of the collapse of a prosperity whose builders boasted their practicality has come the conviction that in the long run economic morality pays. We are beginning to wipe out the line that divides the practical from the ideal; and in so doing we are fashioning an instrument of unimagined power for the

establishment of a morally better world.

This new understanding undermines the old admiration of worldly success as such. We are beginning to abandon our tolerance of the abuse of power by those who betray for profit the elementary decency of life.

An Era of Good Feeling—In this process evil things formerly accepted will not be so easily condoned. Hard-headedness will not so easily excuse hard-heartedness. We are moving toward an era of good feeling. But we realize that there can be no era of good feeling save among men of good will.

For these reasons I am justified in believing that the greatest change we have witnessed has been the change in the moral climate of America.

Among men of good-will science and democracy together offer an ever-richer life and ever-larger satisfaction to the individual. With this change in our moral climate and our re-discovered ability to improve our economic order, we have set our feet upon the road of enduring progress.

Shall we pause now and turn our back upon the road that lies ahead? Shall we call this the promised land? Or, shall we continue on our way? For "each age is a dream that is dying, or one that is coming to birth."

Many voices are heard as we face a great decision. Comfort says "take a while." Opportunism says "This is a good spot." Timidity says "How difficult is the road ahead?"

True, we have come far from the days of stagnation and despair. Vitality has been preserved. Courage and confidence have been restored. Mental and moral horizons have been extended.

But our present gains were won under the pressure of more than ordinary circumstances. Advance became imperative under the goad of fear and suffering. The times were on the side of progress.

To hold to progress today, however, is more difficult. Dulled conscience, irresponsibility and ruthless self-interest already reappear. Such symptoms of prosperity may become portents of disaster! Prosperity already tests the persistence of our progressive purpose.

Let us ask again: Have we reached the goal of our vision of that fourth day of March, 1933? Have we found our happy valley?

I see a great nation, upon a great continent, blessed with a great wealth of natural resources. Its hundred and thirty million people are at peace among themselves; they are making their country a good neighbor.

## UPHOLDS INTERESTS LIVESTOCK FARMERS

Senator Capper Opposes Ratification of the Argentine Sanitary Convention

Mr. John Vesceky, President, Farmers Union, Salina, Kansas, Friend Vesceky:

I enclose you my statement to the Senate the other day opposing the ratification of the Argentine Sanitary Convention now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. You will notice I called the attention of the Senate to Resolutions adopted by the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, The American National Livestock Association and other national livestock associations. I was unable at the time to obtain a statement outlining the position of the Farmers Union. If you can obtain something of that nature for me, I will be pleased to bring it to the attention of the Senate and of the members of the Foreign Relations Committee. I find that the livestock interests of the Southwest are almost unanimously in opposition to this foot and mouth menace.

Sincerely yours, Arthur Capper

### Danger From Foot and Mouth Disease

Livestock interests of the Nation are unanimously opposed to Senate Ratification of the Argentine Sanitary Convention now in the hands of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### Remarks of Hon. Arthur Capper, of Kansas in the Senate of the United States, January 11, 1937

Mr. Capper, Mr. President, I desire this morning briefly to call the attention of the Senate to the fact that the livestock interests of the Nation are unanimously opposed to Senate ratification of the Argentine Sanitary Convention, now in the hands of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

At the conclusion of a very brief statement of my own opposition to ratification of this convention, which would lower the bars wisely set up to protect the livestock industry and the consumers of this country against the dangerous foot-and-mouth disease I will place in the Record resolution and declarations against ratification from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National Grange. The American National Livestock Association.

The National Livestock Marketing Association. The United States Livestock Association.

These organizations represent an (Continued on page two)

## PROGRESS IN WORK IS WORD SENT BY SECRETARY GRAVES

National Secretary's Office Has Been Busy Filling Orders and Preparing Ballots

### STATES AT WORK

Organization Work Makes Progress In Many States; Will Support Farmers Union Legislation

By J. M. Graves

After a little more than one month of service as your national secretary, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the members and officers of the union in both the organized and unorganized states, for the splendid cooperation given this office.

Application for Charters. Applications for Organization Literature.

Applications for Programs. Together with the payment of dues, both state and local, and requests for radio addresses, convinces me that we are "set to go" and that 1937 will be the outstanding year in organization work of the Farmers Union.

The meeting held at Omaha, Nebraska, December 28-29 and 30, 1936, brought together as never before the leaders interested in all phases of the Farmers Union activities.

I am convinced that very great benefits to the organization will result from the action taken at that meeting will be published in all Farm Union papers, so that all members may be informed as to what took place, and be able to estimate the benefits to be derived.

Our office has been a very busy place. We have the cards printed and sent to the organized states; programs have been printed and required filled; radio addresses mimeographed and sent out; dues and responses taken and care of; general correspondence from several states and subscriptions to the paper received for, and properly credited.

We are now preparing the ballot for the constitutional amendment to be voted on, and they will be sent out soon.

Accompanied by Tom Cheek, President of Oklahoma Farmers Union, I attended a meeting of the "President's Special Committee on Farm Tenantry" at Dallas, Texas, January 4, 1937. I met Farmer General representatives from several states and listened with interest to the discussion of the problem. It is my intention to have more to say concerning this meeting and the problem involved later.

We are facing a condition now, not only in Oklahoma, but everywhere in the United States that makes it more necessary than ever before, that the Farmers have their own class organization. It is not necessary, or expedient for me to attempt to discuss this in detail. Read the National Union Farmer and be informed as to conditions referred to.

North Dakota, Oklahoma and Michigan lead at this time in the payment of 1937 dues. I feel sure that other states will follow their lead, so that the organization may be on a cash basis.

I have a copy of the resolutions passed at the annual meeting of the California Farmers Union, of which Mr. R. V. Garrod is President and Mr. Fred Millard is Secretary, which I hope to see published in the National Union Farmer. The resolutions are definite and evidently express the sentiment of the membership in that state. How nearly they agree with our national program, California membership should increase with such leadership.

Organization work is being started in Texas (the birth place of the union) under the leadership of Brother McConeky, of El Paso, and other Adams of Denison, both are men of proven ability and worth. I have had the pleasure of visiting Mr. McConeky at his home, and have observed him in action in Farmers Union work, therefore, I am sure that with the support of the able state officers, Mr. F. G. Norris, president, and Mr. E. Edwards, secretary, the Texas Union membership will at least double in 1937.

I wish to add concerning Texas, that there exists one of the most outstanding Farmers Union successful cooperatives in the United States, a cotton gin at Munday, Texas. Around this cooperative institution the Farmers' Union Organization was kept alive when its membership decreased at other places. Much credit is due Mr. Henderson and Mr. Edwards of this place, for through their efforts the organization was maintained.

In the unorganized states, Pennsylvania and Louisiana are now showing much progress in their organization work. Congress will soon be in session and I am sure that Oklahoma's entire delegation will be found supporting the Farmers Union National Legislative Program. From the fear of being defeated at the next election, but because they have the intelligence to understand the benefits that will result and the courage to vote accordingly. If all states were organized as Oklahoma is, our national legislative program would soon be enacted into law.

As I close this message let me urge you members to keep up the organization work, for really the power and influence of the organization lies more in the "fellowship" than in the "leadership."



## THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

KANSAS UNION FARMER EDITORIAL STAFF  
John Vesecky Editor  
Pauline Cowger Associate Editor

Published every Thursday at Salina, Kansas, by THE KANSAS BRANCH of the FARMERS EDUCATIONAL & COOPERATIVE UNION, 119 South Seventh Street, Salina, Kansas.

Entered as Second-Class Matter August 24, 1912 at Salina, Kansas, Under Act of March 3, 1872.

Acceptance for Mailing at Special Rate of Postage Provided for in Section 1008, Act of October 3, 1917, Authorized July 30, 1918

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

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

### NATIONAL OFFICERS

E. H. Everson, President.....St. Charles, South Dakota  
J. M. Graves, Secretary.....Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
John Vesecky, Vice-president.....Salina, Kansas

### KANSAS OFFICIALS

John Vesecky, President.....Salina, Kansas  
John Frost, Vice President.....Blue Rapids, Kansas  
Pauline Cowger, Secretary.....Salina, Kansas  
John Tommer, Conductor.....Waterville, Kansas  
John Scheel, Doorkeeper.....Emporia, Kansas

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B. E. Winchester.....Stafford, Kansas  
John Fengel.....Lincolnton, Kansas  
F. C. Gerstenberger.....Blue Mound, Kansas  
Wm. E. Roesch.....Quinter, Kansas

FARMERS UNION JOBBING ASSOCIATION—Central and Water Streets, Kansas City, Kansas. T. C. Belden, Manager.

FARMERS UNION COOPERATIVE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION—Colony, Kansas; Wakeeney, Kansas. N. A. Ormsby, Mgr.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION CO.—Suite 127 Live Stock Exchange Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.; Live Stock Exchange Bldg., Wichita, Kansas. Live Stock Exchange Building, Parsons, Kansas. G. W. Hobbs, Kansas City, General Manager; L. J. Alkire, Manager, Wichita Branch.

W. L. Acuff, Manager, Parsons Branch.

FARMERS UNION MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.—Room 202 Farmers Union Bldg., Salina, Kansas. G. W. Bushby, President-Manager.

FARMERS UNION AUDITING ASS'N.—Room 308, Farmers Union Bldg., Exchange Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.; Live Stock Exchange Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.; Live Stock Exchange Bldg., Parsons, Kansas. G. W. Hobbs, Kansas City, General Manager; L. J. Alkire, Manager, Wichita Branch.

INS. CO. Bldg., John Vesecky, President.

FARMERS UNION LIFE INSURANCE CO.—Room 200, Farmers Union Bldg., Salina, Kansas.

INS. CO. Bldg., Rex Lear, State Manager, Salina, Kansas.

THE KANSAS FARMERS UNION ROYALTY CO.—Room 219 Farmers Union Bldg., Salina, Kansas. G. E. Creitz, State Manager.

### FARMERS UNION MANAGERIAL ASSOCIATION

C. B. Thove President  
T. C. Belden Secretary

SALINA, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1937

## EDITORIAL

Last week Monday I received a telegram from Tom Cheek, President of the Oklahoma Farmers Union, asking me to pinch him for President Everson who on account of sickness could not meet his date at the Oklahoma State convention. I arrived in Oklahoma City Monday night and early next morning I started to the convention hall. The Oklahoma Union folks believe in getting up early in the morning. When I arrived at the hall about nine o'clock in the morning they were already going full tilt. Their credential committee was so busy that I had to get my tag at noon by special messenger. By noon the hall was full with many standing, and in the afternoon there was hardly standing room. I will not try to give an account of all the good things they had at the convention as that would take too much space. As you may know all the state wide business in Oklahoma is done by departments of the state Union. All their activities have done well during the last year. Their Insurance company had very heavy losses during the year but is in fine financial position. Some of the Cotton Goss had a hard time to get along on account of the short crop of cotton. They need and should have a cooperative cotton seed mill, but on account of the monopolistic control of the cotton seed products, it has not been possible for any individual or cooperative to break into the business. With a little more increase in cooperative experience and some addition to the already considerable cash reserve of the Oklahoma Farmers Union I am sure that Tom Cheek and his boys will soon show the Cotton seed trust where a goat has its tail.

One of the most interesting reports to me was the one made by Dr. Shaddid on the cooperative hospital at Elk City, and the trials they are compelled to go through in order to get hospitalization on a basis low enough so that common folks like we farmers could afford it. Any of our locals that can possibly do so and can assure the Doctor a good audience should get the doctor to explain the plan to them. I believe that the cooperative hospital is one of the foremost humanitarian moves made in the last century. Dr. Shaddid and his backers, the Oklahoma Farmers Union, deserve the thanks and support of us all for blazing the way. I made my talk at 7 o'clock in the evening. After finishing my talk I had a little time before my train left to witness the presentation of a gold watch and chain to State Secretary Zeb Lawler. The watch was presented to him by the members of the various locals and the Juniors in appreciation of his 20 years of loyal unselfish service as Secretary of the Oklahoma Farmers Union.

I wish that I had the time to give you all the good things that I heard at the convention and name all the fine Farmers Union folks that I met. In passing I must not forget to mention that Oklahoma is going to stand solid 100 percent behind National Secretary, and long time personal friend of John A. Simpson, Jim Graves in the efforts now being made by the wrecking crew to recall him. I am sure that our Kansas Farmers Union folks will also be glad to learn that Mrs. John A. Simpson is much improved in health and was able to attend the convention. I had a nice visit with her and Miss Mildred and John. They all wished to be remembered to their hosts of friends in Kansas.

Wednesday I attended a hearing in Jake Mohler's room in the State Capitol on the Bindweed bill. Both the Senate and the House Agricultural committees were present. After the hearing we farm organization folks went to the headquarters in the Jayhawk Hotel and discussed pending legislation. At noon we all attended a joint legislative and farm organization luncheon at the Kansan Hotel. This is the first of a series of Wednesday noon luncheon meetings of members of the state legislature and farmers at which they eat together and after the meal they discuss bills of especial interest to agriculture. It seemed to me that the whole legislature was at this first luncheon. The lieutenant governor was also there as were some of the state officials. Mr. Clyde W. Coffman, our legislative representative, opened the meeting and introduced the speakers. After the introductions the Farm Legislative Luncheon Club organized by electing Representative Gerald Gordon as chairman and Senator Hackney as vice chairman. Mr. Coffman is to serve as secretary and aid to the officers. After the election of officers and short talks by visiting professors from the Kansas State College on Bindweed eradication and wind erosion the meeting adjourned. After the luncheon we farmers again met at the headquarters in the Jayhawk and discussed our legislative program until about four o'clock when the Executive Committee meeting adjourned to meet again at the call of our Legislative Representative or the President. Friday, January 22 I was billed to speak at a local meeting in Cicero, Sumner county, but on account of the cold weather and bad roads the meeting was postponed until some later date.

## The Cloak Room

By  
W. P. Lamberton

The Kansas delegates who participated in the WPA parade here last week were a sincere and courageous group of citizens.

A Congressman from the South said the one thing Republican about the inauguration was the weather.

Only two Presidents, Pierce and Cleveland, ever gave inaugural speeches from memory.

The longest of such addresses was that of William Henry Harrison which was five times as long as Washington's in 1789; and his length of service the shortest, just one month.

The first independent citizen to become President was Martin Van Buren 100 years ago, all prior to him having been born British subjects.

When the Vice President took his oath Wednesday there was not the same solemnity manifested by the crowd as was given the President. Yet nine who have taken this oath, later became President.

Sen. Morris Sheppard, who gave his seventeenth annual Prohibition speech last Saturday, is the dean of Congress. When his present term expires he will have had forty years of service in the two Houses.

"Amendment-itis" is a new ailment on Capitol Hill. Since the success of the veteran Nebraska Senator in adding amendments to constitutions, ambitions to go down in history "a la Norris" have cropped out.

Wm. H. Snodgrass, elected to the U. S. Senate, has not taken his place to date, but remains a member of the New Jersey State Senate, because of a wrangle which exists among a Republican governor, a Democratic House and a Republican Senate with a one-vote margin.

### WASHINGTON IMPRESSIONS

(By C. W. H.)

Recently Congressman Carlson introduced in the House an amendment resolution to end the issuance of tax exempt securities. A similar amendment had been previously introduced in the Senate by Senator Capper. In the introduction of this amendment Congressman Carlson realizes that much argument will be forthcoming as to why it should not be presented to the states, but he does not believe the arguments will outweigh those in favor of its adoption. Already different members have voluntarily offered their support, believing as he does, that the issuance of tax exempt securities tends to encourage extravagance in government expenditures. It is estimated that the people of the United States now have some forty billion dollars invested in tax exempt securities.

Although we are spending our third winter in Washington, we made our first visit to the Government Printing Office last week. As the Congressman was with us (or we with him) we got to see more than the ordinary visitor. For instance we got into the department where they print the cards and postoffice money orders. The rapid presses print 10,000 cards a day. They are started through in big sheets and come out printed, cut, counted and banded. To one who is interested in the printing industry, a trip to this plant is a most fascinating one, although the bigness of it is dazzling to a country editor. Nearly 5,800 men and women are employed and last year they received wages totaling \$11,477,887.43. No employee is allowed to smoke while on duty, so a lot of them have developed the Star, Climax or Horseshoe habit. And this call for a machine to clean the cuspidors. It not only cleans them but perfumes them.

Congressman Hamilton, of Virginia, who is starting his political career in the diamond jubilee congress, reported to police soon after his arrival in Washington that sneak thieves had stolen an old-fashioned night shirt from his car parked near the Capitol building.

Usher L. Burdick, the 250 pound representative from North Dakota, and who was once a football star at Minnesota, grew dissatisfied with his committee assignments, resigned from all of them, and served notice of his intent to fight and filibuster. A one-man army can develop considerable nuisance value on the floor of the House. He can object to every unanimous consent request which arises for the consideration of bills, to making of extensions of undelivered speeches in the Record to recesses, and a host of other things. Burdick is listed as a Republican, sits with the Farmer Labor group, and has plenty of pride and fighting spirit. He prefers a nearby Maryland farm to a Washington apartment, and his hobby is raising goats.

Committee assignments are not always based on geography, personal aptitude or business background. Witness the experience of Congressman Johnson from Minnesota who was assigned to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

When appraised of it, he remarked that he had but one Indian his Indian, Sam Indian, is about 41 years old, is made of iron and stands in front of a cigar store in his home town.

To preserve the famous Stradivarius violins in the Library of Congress, many of which are worth a king's ransom, they are permitted to be used in concert work in the Capitol for certain periods in the year. Experts say that reasonable use preserves them. When taken out of the Library, they are under constant escort.

### CHAMPIONS INTEREST OF LIVESTOCK FARMER

(Continued from page one)

accurate section of American agriculture, and particularly of the livestock industry in the United States; and I wish to say that they express my own views in this matter. I am opposed to letting down the bars to the twosome or w. nations against which we have found it necessary to impose quarantine restrictions for protection against foot-and-mouth disease. In taking this position I am standing for the protection of both the livestock and the producers of livestock. We have had a few examples in the past of what damage the foot-and-mouth disease does when it gets a foothold.

The immediate blow falls upon the livestock industry. Losses run into millions in States into the tens of millions for the livestock producers.

This blow to the prosperity of the livestock producers is followed by sharp rises in meat prices to the consumers who are penalized millions upon millions of dollars in increased meat prices due to the shortage of livestock herds infected with the foot-and-mouth disease.

It is my contention that the Senate has no right to imperil the lives of the American consumers by ratifying such a convention as that proposed in the convention now in the hands of the Committee on Foreign Relations. I hope the committee will refuse to report the convention to the Senate. That is all I have to say on this matter at the present time. I ask that the resolutions and statement which I send to the desk be printed in the Record at this point as part of my remarks.

The Vice President. Is there objection?

There being no objection, the resolutions and statement were referred to Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed in the Record.

Resolution adopted by the house of voting delegates at the Eighteenth Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation, December 11, 1936, in Pasadena, California.

We favor strengthening rather than weakening Federal quarantine regulations against foot-and-mouth disease. Accordingly, we oppose the proposed sanitary convention with the Argentine and commend the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations for its refusal to report this document to the Senate.

We believe that Federal laws and regulations with respect to all sanitary quarantines relating to agricultural products be strengthened to fully protect American producers and consumers.

We commend the program for the control of bovine tuberculosis which has been carried on in the past three years by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States department of Agriculture.

Under this program the long struggle against bovine tuberculosis has been accelerated but not completed. Substantial progress has been made in the elimination of animals infected with Bang's disease and bovine mastitis. We urge that Congress appropriate sufficient funds to continue this program on a voluntary basis.

Resolution adopted by the National Grange in 1936 at convention at Columbus, Ohio, November 11 to 19, 1936.

### Argentine Sanitary Pact

Since American agriculture in the past has suffered heavy losses from foot-and-mouth disease brought in from other countries we are opposed to the ratification of the pending convention or treaty with the Argentine. Approval of the treaty would open our markets to imports of animal products from zones or areas in the Argentine that are reported to be free from foot-and-mouth disease, although it is prevalent in other parts of the country. This would expose our flocks and herds to the danger of infection.

Resolution unanimously adopted at the semiannual meeting in Chicago of the board of directors of the National Livestock Marketing Association in December:

Argentine Sanitary Convention Whereas, through vigilance and heroic efforts against the scourge of infectious and contagious diseases among animals, the United States has been kept free from a serious condition that might have developed without such effort;

Whereas, the serious disease has occurred within the United States it has been immediately controlled and this country has been saved from situations which exist throughout other nations, of taking foot-and-mouth disease as a regular occurrence;

Whereas most of these outbreaks have been where they could be controlled, but an outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease which would contaminate domestic and wild animals on the open plains, the deserts, and mountain regions of the West would spread infection and be uncontrollable, with the probable effect of almost annihilating both domestic and wild animals, thus destroying the meat-food supply of our Nation and one of our major industries; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the directors of National Live Stock Marketing Association

## Neighborhood Notes

### RESOLUTIONS FROM RILEY COUNTY MEETING

The following resolutions were adopted by the Riley County Farmers Union, meeting in quarterly session at the Center Hill schoolhouse January 16.

I Whereas the regrettable condition exists, that the two major parties' conventions are ordinarily dominated by international bankers who for good reasons, later dictate to the party, successful in attaining the political power.

Whereas such administrations through their elusive tactics are continuing to turn a deaf ear toward the stopping of further farm foreclosures and instead are creating new farm tenancy daily rather than to diminish that number.

Therefore we look with contempt upon the administration' present 'concern' over the nation's tenant situation and as a means of solving the tenant problem to very great extent in a way that will produce notable results to the present tenant and to whom are swiftly approaching tenantry and peasantry. Therefore we do respectfully ask our 1937 state legislature to memorialize congress to pass the Thomas Massingale cost of production bill and also the Frazier Lemke Refinance Bill and to look with suspicion upon so-called representatives of any 'farm organization' who 'for 30 pieces of silver', plays up to politics rather than farm legislation.

II We appreciate the cooperation and support of the Kansas Labor organizations in their support of the National Farmers Union farm program.

We further extend our appreciation to the Kansas Allied Workers for their assistance they rendered to distressed farmers in the vicinity of Topeka during December and January.

III We favor state legislation, creating a homestead exemption bill up to \$2,000, and a graduated land tax.

IV We urge the retention of the tax exemption on agricultural gasoline in a revised law which will eliminate the unsupervised tax evasion which now exists.

V We wish to emphasize the benefits of foreign markets for our agricultural products, but we must not overlook the importance of first retaining our home markets. Our present distress is due largely to personal efforts of local crop reductionists and imports by importers of foreign products which in turn is exchanged for our farm implements which we ourselves should be in a position to bargain for.

VI We most heartily appreciate the kindness of the ladies of the Center Hill Local for the most excellent coffee.

Fraternally yours,  
Gust Larson  
Sec'y.

In meeting assembled this 2nd day of December 1936 do hereby vigorously protest any modification of any regulation which now prevents or will hereafter prevent the importation of livestock or meat from any country or section thereof that has foot-and-mouth disease within its borders; and be it further

Resolved, That the secretary communicate with the President of the United States, and Secretary of State the Secretary of Agriculture, and all Members of the Senate, requesting that the Argentine Sanitary Convention be not approved.

Resolution adopted by the American National Livestock Association opposing the Argentine sanitary convention:

Argentine Sanitary Convention Whereas, Argentine sanitary convention, now pending before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, would permit the importation of livestock products from zones purported to be free from rinderpest of foot-and-mouth disease; and

Whereas under the present provisions of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act importation of such products is prohibited from countries where these diseases exist; and

Whereas under the measure of wrier exclusion our country is now free from the ravages of these dreaded diseases; Therefore be it

Resolved, That we vigorously oppose the ratification of the proposed Argentine sanitary agreement, and demand the retention of the present embargo against importation of livestock or its products from countries where either rinderpest or foot-and-mouth disease exists.

From statement by D. M. Hildebrand, president of the United States Livestock Association, to members of his association:

Without question, if the Argentine sanitary convention is approved, it will jeopardize the interests of every livestock producer in the United States.

We cannot afford to subject our livestock to the danger of foot-and-mouth disease. Furthermore, it is unfair to our producers to have to compete with a country that is not on grass, in a country that is not subjected to the many hazards which surround livestock producers both in the range and Corn Belt areas of the United States.

There is no question in my mind but what the Argentine sanitary convention would bring disaster and fallure to the livestock industry throughout the United States if permitted to pass. It will take the combined efforts of all interests to prevent approval of this measure, and I want to urge you at this time to contact your representatives in Washington to not only use their votes but their influence to defeat the proposal. I believe this to be one of the most important problems confronting the

President, United States Livestock Association.

### POSTPONED MEETING

On account of the storm the Farmers Union meeting scheduled for January 9th, has been called for Friday evening at 8 p. m. January 22, at the Moodyville schoolhouse. A representative of the Fairbury Creamery will be on hand. All members are requested to attend, as our State Legislature as well as our National Congress are both in session.

W. H. Pierson,  
Pottawatomie Co. Farmers Union.

### LETTER FROM CLAY CENTER

Mr. John Vesecky:  
Dear State President  
Farmers Union:

I am 72 today. I am sending to you a clipping from The Topeka Daily Capital, which dispels the ignorance of us busy farmers and workers upon whom the office holding classes saddle most of the income, taxes, state and national. John Frost tried to figure out in his extensive argument before our Supreme Court Judges had to pay a big income upon their salaries. Was Mr. Frost ignorant and just guessing? Now there is a serious division going on within "The National Farmers Union"; and referendums are being circulated to unseat some of those the convention at Des Moines elected. I move that the so-called National Farmers Union, be dissolved; and that each and every State Union be, and is a sovereign Farmers Union within itself. That the Farmers Union state membership dues and fees within, and through their own elected State Farmers Unions of each State send to congress and State Legislatures at least two elected members to promote and urge farmers measures before National and State legislatures. That State unions of farmers officials, use the dues and fees now paid to The National Union officials to encourage and promote State Farmers Union cooperatives, and to get for farmers "Farm to Market" roads, and urge upon congress and state legislatures, the grading and standing of all rural routes, the state working in cooperation with the national government. I think the State Farmers Union should be a supreme body of Farmers Union members; all working close at home to better local farm needs. For politically we 18 or 20 millions of Americans on farms are party-divided and are about zero in National elections. For even if all farmers were united in one political party, People of other trades and occupations have around four votes to our farmer's one. Mischievous has been framed into unjust and class laws; if what Pegler says is true about the salaries of public office holders. The rich, too, have the tax-free bonds, with which to evade taxes. The reasons that I would dissolve and abolish our National Farmers Union as an agency of state unions, are: The states have only a smattering of actual farmers in their Locals. These weak local unions, should work in home-cooperatives, and thus build up big cooperative memberships at home points. Each state would by sending two farm boosters to congress, would have more power and influence on congress than the National Union has had in the past, with a few weak locals in the several states. We want farm-to-market roads and good rural route roads. We can get them by state and national government aid cooperation. Farmers pay gas and oil taxes and are entitled to this consideration.

Cordially,  
J. D. Shepherd,  
Route 5  
Clay Center, Kans.

A TRIBUTE FROM COMRADES (Clay County)

With the passing of Peter D. Printz from our midst, humanity has lost a true friend.

Throughout a long life he used his influence that the workers on farm, in mine, factory, and mill, might have the value of the wealth which they produced.

His efforts are not lost. His kindly help and friendly encouragement will be remembered, and we will help make the pathway easier for us who carry on in the cause for which he worked.

We extend sympathy to immediate relatives and in memory of our comrade we quote:  
You've fought your fight, a long good night.  
Is what we now must say.  
Sleep on, Sleep on, your task is done,  
Brave fighter for "The Day."  
Kind Mother Earth who gave you birth,  
Receives you to her breast;  
For us the Fight, for you the Rest,  
The night of well earned Night,  
Wheeler local, Farmers Union.

LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Farmers Union Local No. 1330 met with Mrs. J. P. Hemphill, Tuesday, January 19.

The meeting was opened by Mrs. Wohler, chaplain, leading in the repetition of the Lord's Prayer followed by fourteen members answering roll call with quotations from the Bible.

Mrs. Thelma Koupel and Miss Tempero were guests of the Auxiliary. After the business meeting the time was spent with reading and discussion of articles on the current happenings of our day.

Adjourned to enjoy a short social

livestock industry for the year 1937.

It is my New Year's wish to you all that 1937 will bring about closer harmony and cooperation between all phases of the livestock industry.

trust the new year will bring prosperity to every livestock producer throughout the United States.

D. M. Hildebrand,  
President, United States Livestock Association.

Additional things to be thankful for Shortly before Thanksgiving Helen Stevens Fisher asked Farm and Home Hour listeners to write her the things they were thankful for. Among the many letters she received, one listener said she was "thankful that her husband didn't have pyorrhea, as the dentists first suspected." Good health according to Mrs. Fisher, still remains the No. 1 item on the "thankful list" of the American people.

hour during which the hostess served refreshments.  
Emma Mall, Secretary.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AT LONE STAR LOCAL

We are sending in dues for some of our members at this time, please notice there are two members paying 1936 dues.

Our meeting was postponed from December and was not held until January 12, 1937.

We intend to make a membership drive in the next two weeks, and hope to collect back dues from a number of the old members to our list.

The new secretary elected for 1937 is Mrs. Olin Heffner and Mr. Otto Hack was elected President.

Otto Hack

### FAIR ENOUGH

By Westbrook Pegler

Others Pay and Pay While Office-holders Slide Through Without Digging Up Taxes

New York, Jan. 18.—This is the time of the year when people who pay income taxes will be impressed by a reminder that millions of men and women drawing good salaries from state, county and municipal offices and jobs throughout the country are not required to pay any federal tax on this money.

It is also worth mentioning again just now at the approach of the annual order of figures and schedules that federal officials and employees are exempt from state income taxes.

Exchange Courtesies

There is a touching exchange of courtesies between the two authorities. The federal government, with a fastidious regard for the integrity of state and local government, generously declines to exact either a tax or an accounting from officials and employees of the subdivisions. Those states which have their own income taxes on producers and earners as well as on the idle rich, extend a similar courtesy to federal officers and employees. And, if the individual happens to hold one of those state offices which are defined as constitutional he is exempt from both.

These constitutional offices include that of mayor and governor, and many positions on the bench and there are among the totally exempt salaries some of the most luscious public rewards in the United States.

Receive Other Favors

In addition to the tax exemptions many patriots in these brackets received free automobile service at the expense of those who do pay taxes and the governor of New York has the use of the executive mansion through the abundant generosity of the same good providers.

There is a vague and unconvincing legal excuse for this discrimination in favor of a public servant receiving from \$12,000 to \$25,000 a year and against the man with a \$3,000 income but it is hardly worth reporting.

The fact remains that literally millions of men and women belonging to a class that is largely parasitic are not required to meet the same obligations that fall on persons who have to make their living in competitive conditions and who receive much less pay.

Then Come Pensions

Then, too, most of the great class of exempt Americans may look forward to retirement at a comparatively early age on pensions which are at least sufficient and many of them, retiring in the prime of life, go into the crowded work market and take full-time jobs which otherwise might be given to people in actual need.

The guests of the taxpayer in most cases get longer vacations than the people who support them, and those who are immune to the hazards of political upheaval of ours have security in their positions. Pensions are automatically due at a certain time and may be demanded regardless of whether the individual is still fit to perform the duties, nominal or otherwise, involved in the job.

One public official of New York who retired a few years ago in robust health after more than 30 years at the public trough was reported to have received a pension of \$18,000 a year.

School teachers, whose vacations are as long as those of the children, firemen, policemen, mayors, aldermen, sheriffs, deputies court clerks and attendants, hundreds of thousands of inspectors and office employees, judges, chauffeurs, commissioners, wardens and jailers, governors, members of the state legislature, attorneys general and the very men and women in the income tax department, who collect on the incomes of the producing class are exempt from at least some income tax if not from both.

The fact that a public salary may be well within the brackets at which other earnings are heavily taxed is held to have no bearing on the case.

Just a Cheery Reminder

A man earning \$3,000 a year and paying both federal and state income taxes and subject to peremptory demands on his time and arbitrary, personal interpretation of the tax laws may live next door to a public official drawing \$5,000 a year free of taxes.

He would not be likely to live that close to a \$22,500-a-year judge or a \$15,000-a-year prosecutor because after all \$3,000-a-year people do not intrude on their betters even though their betters be deadhead citizens of the republic.







# DELICATE SITUATION IN NATIONAL FARMERS UNION AFFAIRS

(Continued from page one)

al convention from Michigan were instructed to vote for any particular officer. Had it been the intention of the state convention to so instruct them, they could have done so. Not doing so is reason enough to suppose that they left the delegates free to use their best judgment in voting for national secretary. Mr. Wilmoth did this; so did Mr. Graham. That they did not see eye to eye is no ground for charges of betraying the membership, either by Mr. Wilmoth or Mr. Graham.

If, however, it is the contention of any member that Mr. Graham, in voting for Mr. Graves, went contrary to the expressed wishes of the state convention, there is a way that can be settled in an orderly manner, without stirring up the entire membership.

Mr. Wilmoth, or any other member, can file formal charges against Mr. Graham and have him brought to trial before the Council of Arbitration, a body created for that purpose. There Mr. Wilmoth could produce his evidence, and Mr. Graham could make his defense, and the Council could decide which was right.

That the delegates were by no means of the same opinion is evident to one who wanted to listen to remarks made at the state convention at Big Rapids. A divided vote is very likely to be nearer right than a solid vote for Kennedy would have been.

Now in regard to Mr. Wilmoth, and the part he is taking in this move. The communication sent out appears to be of an official nature. The envelope has the official return of the State President in the corner.

The enclosed form letter is signed by Mr. Wilmoth, State President. Is the Michigan Union officially backing this petition for the recall? Or is Mr. Wilmoth using the Michigan Union, without proper authority, to satisfy a personal spite? There is nothing on record anywhere that commits the Michigan Union, officially, in this matter, except Mr. Wilmoth's action.

In the letter sent to me I noticed a very significant fact. The address is printed on a pink slip of paper. Exactly the same as comes on my Union Farmer. It is exactly the same, even to the date of expiration of my subscription. It is my opinion that the whole thing was cooked up by Kennedy, that the same thing is being done in the other states that take the Kennedy paper, and that the Michigan Union is being made the cats-paw to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for Kennedy. He is willing to wreck the whole thing to gain his ends, as some say he did in Illinois, so that he may regain his job, which I believe, is his first consideration.

If this is allowed to go on we may dismiss the Union as something that might have been, but was destroyed by short-sightedness and the influence of narrow minds. If we are to save anything from our wreck we must act now or shut up.

I have issued warnings that these things would come time and again, but well-meaning but shortsighted people failed to heed. I was the victim of a similar frameup, like one now being arranged for Graham, two years ago. It passed unnoticed by most members because I was of no particular importance, but chickens come home to roost.—John Sparbel.

## Attitude of State Board in Regards To Referendum

At the Board of Directors meeting of the Michigan Division of the Farm Union held at Lansing, Michigan, on January 7, 1937, in the Central Methodist Temple, Mr. Lee Hestis stated that he thought it would be good to publish in the Union paper, the attitude of the State Board of Directors in regards to the petitions circulated through the state by our State President, Mr. Ira Wilmoth, on December 30th, 1936, show that newly elected directors C. C. Talbot of N. D., moved that the "Nebraska Suit" now pending in the Supreme Court of Nebraska, be withdrawn. The motion was seconded by director Nelson of Wisconsin.

The roll-call record vote on that motion resulted as follows: Talbot, (N. D.) "Yes"; Plummer, (Colo.) "No"; Nelson, (Wisc.) "Yes"; and Irby, (Ala.) "No."

Chairman Everson thereupon ruled that inasmuch as Director Kennedy is the President of the defendant organization, he was disqualified from voting on this motion. Since the motion failed to receive a majority vote of those qualified to vote on the question, the motion was declared lost.

Fourth—These, we believe, are but some of the methods employed to weaken the financial resources and the efforts of the "National Union" to carry out its educational, cooperative, organization and legislative program and to accomplish the desire of a certain group of officials and delegates of certain State Union to soften or suppress the activities of the National Union with respect to the policies of the Federal Government or projects in which they have a selfish interest as salaried employees and recipients of favors of funds and that those officials and members entered into a series of trades and deals, involving the voting delegates from certain other states to deny and defeat the will of the membership, who sent them to the National Convention as delegates from their own and other states.

Therefore, and because of the extraordinary importance of this petition we ask you to submit these questions to the membership at the earliest moment and that you safeguard so far as you may be able, the referendum vote.

Submitted by  
Ira Wilmoth, President Michigan Farmers Union; Robert Spencer,

President Indiana Farmers Union; G. S. Hagens, President Ohio Farmers Union; John E. Esp, President Minnesota Farmers Union; L. Fred Wintertoth, Wm. E. Tanner Director of United Farmers of Illinois.

I am sure that every fair minded, loyal farmer Union member will realize that this petition with its insinuations and innuendoes upon the integrity and character of such recognized Farmers Union leaders as are James Graves, C. C. Talbot and H. G. Keeney can have but one purpose and but one possible result if the hopes of the conspirators are realized, namely the splitting of the Farmers Union into several weak and nationally unimportant units and ultimately the end of our Union. The important thing in this connection is not who shall not be the officers of the National Union, but shall the eternal principles of Equity, Justice and the Golden Rule as they have been in the past. Shall the Union itself be sacrificed on the altar of unbridled ambition and desire for autocratic power. I am calling all loyal members to come to the support of their own class organization and show their loyalty by the most intensive membership drive that we have ever put on. Every member farmer every week and try to get him or her to join the Union. Every local secretary personally interview all delinquent members and get them to pay up their 1937 dues promptly and thus show those who would wreck our organization that we thrive on opposition and grow faster and the stronger for their efforts to cause dissensions and quarrels among us.—John Vesceky.

## TEXT OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

(Continued from page one)

bor among nations. I see a United States which can demonstrate that under democratic methods of government, national unity and human comforts hitherto unknown—and the lowest standard of living can be raised above the level of mere subsistence.

## Millions Denied Necessities

But here is the challenge to our great democracy; in this nation I see tens of millions of its citizens—A substantial part of its whole population—who at this very moment are denied the greater part of what the very lowest standards of today call the necessities of life.

I see millions of families trying to live on incomes so meager that the pall of family disaster hangs over them day by day.

I see millions whose daily lives in a city and on farm continue under conditions labelled indecent by a so-called polite society half a century ago.

I see millions denied education, recreation and the opportunity to better their lot and the lot of their children.

I see millions lacking the means to buy the products of our land and sea and by their poverty denying work and productiveness to many other millions.

I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished. It is not in despair that I paint this picture. I paint it for you and for the nation seeing and understanding the injustice of it, proposes to point it out. We are determined to make every American citizen the subject of his country's interest and concern; and we will never regard any faithful law-abiding group within our borders as superfluous. The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

If I know aught of the spirit and purpose of our people, I can listen to comfort, opportunism and timidity. We will carry on.

Trustees for the Whole People

Overwhelmingly, we of the republic are men and women of good will—men and women who have goals and who have a sense of purpose as well. They will insist that every agency of popular government use effective instruments to carry out their will.

Government is competent when all who compose it work as trustees for the whole people. It can make abundant progress when it keeps abreast of all the facts. It can obtain justified support and legitimate criticism when the people receive true information of all that government does.

If I know aught of the will of our people, they will demand that these conditions of effective government shall be created and maintained. They will demand a nation uncorrupted by canyons of influence and, therefore, strong—among the nations in its example of the will to peace.

Today we consecrate our country to long cherished ideals in a suddenly changed civilization. In every land there are always at work forces that drive men apart and forces that draw men together. In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up—or else we all go down—as one people.

To maintain a democracy of effort requires a vast amount of patience in dealing with differing methods, a vast amount of humility. But out of the confusion of many voices rises an understanding of dominant public need. Then political leadership can voice common ideals, and aid in their realization.

In taking again the oath of office as president of the United States, I assume the solemn obligation of leading the American people forward along the road over which they have chosen to advance.

While this duty rests upon me I shall do my utmost to speak their purpose and do their will, seeking divine guidance to help us each and every one to give light to them that sit in darkness and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

referendum, the call and the imperative mandate shall not be denied the members of the Union.

Five per cent of the membership may petition the President to submit to a referendum vote any measure, or ask the recall of any officer, and upon receipt of such petition he shall submit the same to a referendum vote of the entire membership at such time and in such a manner as may be directed in the by-laws.

Therefore, we the undersigned members in good standing of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, comprising a total number of members equal to more than five per cent of the entire paid-up membership of the National Union, as shown by the records of the National Secretary on November 18, 1936, do hereby petition you to submit to referendum vote of the entire membership of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America, the following questions:

1.—Shall the election of National Vice President by the delegates to the 32nd Annual Convention of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, held at Des Moines, Iowa, November 17th and 18th, 1936, be reversed and J. M. Graves, of Perkins, Oklahoma, as National Secretary-Treasurer, be recalled and Edward E. Kennedy of Kansas, be elected National Secretary-Treasurer for the Fiscal Year of 1937?

2.—Shall the election of National Secretary-Treasurer by the delegates to the 32nd Annual Convention of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, held at Des Moines, Iowa, November 17th and 18th, 1936, be reversed and J. M. Graves, of Perkins, Oklahoma, as National Secretary-Treasurer, be recalled and Edward E. Kennedy of Kansas, be elected National Secretary-Treasurer for the Fiscal Year of 1937?

3.—Shall the election of two members of the National Board of Directors by the delegates to the 32nd Annual Convention of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, held at Des Moines, Iowa, November 17th and 18th, 1936, be reversed and C. C. Talbot of N. Dakota and H. G. Keeney of Nebraska be recalled and John C. Esp of Minnesota and J. M. Graves of Oklahoma be elected members of the National Board for the Fiscal Year of 1937?

We further submit that we are employing our right under the Constitution of the "National Union" in the exercise of the Initiative and Recall for the following reasons and causes:

1st.—The action of certain delegates to the 32nd Annual Convention, in casting their votes so as to defeat certain national officers and directors and elect other officers and directors, referred to above, was dictated by the same influences, using the same kind of subterranean methods that directed the political bludgeoning that resulted in the defeat of the Frazier-Lemke Refinancing Bill in the last session of Congress.

Second.—The action of the delegates from the State of Nebraska, in voting so as to defeat certain National officers and directors and to elect the new director now on the Board, was we believe, promised upon an agreement that they (these newly elected directors) would vote to drop the "Nebraska Suit," proof of which is now a matter of record in the minutes of the last Board meeting as set out below:

(The "Nebraska Suit" is an action at law, instituted by the National Union against the Nebraska State Union to recover National Dues in the amount of \$4,095.00 which had been remitted by the membership in Nebraska as National dues for the year 1934, and which the State Union under the presidency of H. G. Keeney, one of the newly elected directors, refused to remit to the National Union.)

The proceedings and minutes of the meeting of the National Board of Directors, held at Omaha, Nebraska, on December 30th, 1936, show that newly elected directors C. C. Talbot of N. D., moved that the "Nebraska Suit" now pending in the Supreme Court of Nebraska, be withdrawn. The motion was seconded by director Nelson of Wisconsin.

The roll-call record vote on that motion resulted as follows: Talbot, (N. D.) "Yes"; Plummer, (Colo.) "No"; Nelson, (Wisc.) "Yes"; and Irby, (Ala.) "No."

Chairman Everson thereupon ruled that inasmuch as Director Kennedy is the President of the defendant organization, he was disqualified from voting on this motion. Since the motion failed to receive a majority vote of those qualified to vote on the question, the motion was declared lost.

Fourth—These, we believe, are but some of the methods employed to weaken the financial resources and the efforts of the "National Union" to carry out its educational, cooperative, organization and legislative program and to accomplish the desire of a certain group of officials and delegates of certain State Union to soften or suppress the activities of the National Union with respect to the policies of the Federal Government or projects in which they have a selfish interest as salaried employees and recipients of favors of funds and that those officials and members entered into a series of trades and deals, involving the voting delegates from certain other states to deny and defeat the will of the membership, who sent them to the National Convention as delegates from their own and other states.

Therefore, and because of the extraordinary importance of this petition we ask you to submit these questions to the membership at the earliest moment and that you safeguard so far as you may be able, the referendum vote.

Submitted by  
Ira Wilmoth, President Michigan Farmers Union; Robert Spencer,

President Indiana Farmers Union; G. S. Hagens, President Ohio Farmers Union; John E. Esp, President Minnesota Farmers Union; L. Fred Wintertoth, Wm. E. Tanner Director of United Farmers of Illinois.

I am sure that every fair minded, loyal farmer Union member will realize that this petition with its insinuations and innuendoes upon the integrity and character of such recognized Farmers Union leaders as are James Graves, C. C. Talbot and H. G. Keeney can have but one purpose and but one possible result if the hopes of the conspirators are realized, namely the splitting of the Farmers Union into several weak and nationally unimportant units and ultimately the end of our Union. The important thing in this connection is not who shall not be the officers of the National Union, but shall the eternal principles of Equity, Justice and the Golden Rule as they have been in the past. Shall the Union itself be sacrificed on the altar of unbridled ambition and desire for autocratic power. I am calling all loyal members to come to the support of their own class organization and show their loyalty by the most intensive membership drive that we have ever put on. Every member farmer every week and try to get him or her to join the Union. Every local secretary personally interview all delinquent members and get them to pay up their 1937 dues promptly and thus show those who would wreck our organization that we thrive on opposition and grow faster and the stronger for their efforts to cause dissensions and quarrels among us.—John Vesceky.

## COOPERATION AND THE LAMP OF LEARNING

(Continued from page 3)

STENO: (Entering and addressing chairman) Pardon my intrusion, But I am an experienced stenographer and am looking for a job. Where can I find work?

EDUC: Right here, Sit down at that table and make an outline of the findings of this committee. Mr. STENO: (Speaking to No. 6), will you please give the girl the points which you have just mentioned. (Six goes over and speaks to Steno, in pantomime, for a short time.)

FIRST CITIZEN: Mr. Chairman, here is a good point in the book, "Sweden, The Miracle Way," (Picks up the book and reads P. 1, paragraph 3).

EDUC: That agrees with The Saturday Evening Post report which points to the Rochdale principles as the successful plan.

SECOND: Mr. Chairman, shouldn't we have before us a list of the Rochdale principles.

EDUC: Will some one please discuss this topic?

THIRD: (Rising) Mr. Chairman, (Gets chart No. 11, hangs it on wall and reads it, pointing to lines with a stick).

EDUC: Thank you. FIRST: (Rising with Reference No. 8 in his hand) Mr. Chairman, Page 8 of this book gives another point which is pertinent. (Reads) "One reason for the practical success of cooperation has been the program of education."

EDUC: What does the author mean by "Education"?

FIRST: Mr. Chairman, they teach the rank and file of their members the principles of cooperation. This book, with cooperation in Sweden. They teach cooperation to the employees of co-ops, to the managers and to the Board of Directors. They emphasize the education of all members.

SECOND: Mr. Chairman, the department of education in Minnesota has published a valuable book on cooperation—their "extension program in Adult Education." On page 32 we find a discussion of one reason why the cooperative wholesale society of England succeeded so well. (Reads) "The feature of the program is the education of the members."

EDUC: That is another point in favor of education in cooperation.

SECOND: Yes, and listen to a statement from page 37 about cooperative teaching in Sweden, (etc to end of paragraph on the subject of the very low level of education in Montgomery of Manhattan recently. He had heard the Japanese leader, Kagawa, lecture and he said Kagawa message to American cooperatives was to pro-rate less of the profit. Leaving more to accumulate as a capital in the treasury. All businesses have reverses, and he says American cooperatives fail because they do not keep large enough reserve funds. Last summer, I read a thesis by Forest Chapman, a Kansas University student, on the subject of cooperative management. According to Mr. Chapman, a poor manager is a common cause of failure.

THIRD: (rising with Ref. No. 2) Mr. Chairman, H. Clyde Filley has written a book, entitled, "Cooperation in Agriculture." And I read a list of reasons why cooperatives in the U. S. failed in 1920-21. On page 367 he stresses the very point that was mentioned by Kagawa about establishing a reserve fund. But on page 368, is a paragraph on the subject of the manager. I'll read it. (Reads) "Fourth: (Rising with Ref. No. 4) Mr. Chairman, I have here a book printed in England recently. The title is "Cooperation." It has a whole chapter on the subject of management of cooperatives. I'll read a few lines (Reads lines 6-11 on page 277) According to this the Board of Directors is important as causes of success or failure."

EDUC: Has any one found anything else in regard to the Board of Directors?

Third: Mr. Chairman, Filley, on page 368, gives an unsatisfactory Board of Directors as a frequent cause of failure. Besides being interested in the success of the organization, the Directors, according to Filley, should be well informed on principles of cooperation. And they should require frequent reports from the Board of Directors.

FOURTH: Mr. Chairman, this English publication has a good discussion on page 72. I'll cut a few lines from this page: You'll not want to hear it all just now. (Pretends to read) "The trustees were not very responsible at the end of the period of their management. They could hold office for life." "Societies suffered also for lack of competent business management." Credit trade was permitted with out proper safeguard. Accounts were carelessly kept. The authors go on to point out the menace of dishonest managers, the hazard of letting directors have too much control and members too little control, and he points to the peril of ignorance among the rank and file of members. Such were the difficulties before the time of the Rochdale pioneers.

SIX: Mr. Chairman, I have here a press release, reporting a speech before the American Institute of Cooperation at Urbana, Ill., in 1936 by Talmage Defrees, President of Illinois Fruit Growers' Exchange. Mr. Defrees was one of the speakers at the success of a cooperative, and one of these is: "Marked activity and cooperation of the Board of Directors." He explains that the directors should not be a mere rubber stamp in the hands of the manager.

EDUC: What other two ingredients of success mentioned by Mr. Defrees?

SIX: Sound management and loyal members.

EDUC: What does he mean by "Loyal Members"?

EDUC: Mr. Chairman, the English reference (No. 4, p. 71) has a few lines on the subject of the loyalty of members. It states that before 1844 "working people had not yet learned to stand by their leaders and to give loyal support to their own organizations." That was one reason why cooperation had failed in those days.

FIFTH: Mr. Chairman, according to J. W. Jones of the farm credit administration (From press on American Ins. of Cooperation, Urbana, Ill., 1936) co-ops lose the patronage of members if members have not a sense of ownership and responsibility as members.

SECOND: Mr. Chairman, Mr. C. C. Teague, President of California Fruit Growers' Association says: "The main reason for loss of members in a cooperative is lack of information in the hands of the individual member, about what his cooperative is doing and why it is doing a thing in a certain way and not some other way." (Press release, Amer. Inst. Cooperation, Urbana, Ill., 1936) Those were his exact words.

EDUC: Where did he make that statement? (Addressing No. 2)

SECOND: I was quoting from his address before the American Institute of Cooperation, at Urbana, Ill., in 1936.

EDUC: According to our evidence education of the members is important as a factor of success in cooperation. What provision should be made for the support of this education?

SECOND: Mr. Chairman, may I refer again to the chart which I read. In order to teach the principles of cooperation, the Rochdale Pioneers set aside 2 per cent of their earnings for the education of members.

FIRST: Mr. Chairman, according to an editorial in the June, 1936 issue of the Social Frontier magazine, published in New York. Nova Scotia has the best cooperative movement in America and it is based on the fund program of adult education, headed up by the extension division of a university which has 1000 study groups. There, no cooperatives are organized unless prospective members are well schooled in the principles of cooperation.

THIRD: Mr. Chairman, in Ohio, during the winter of 1934-35, 10,000 adults in 325 local groups studied consumers' cooperation. This winter, 1935-37, Ohio county agricultural agents are conducting a state-wide program of adult education in cooperation.

SECOND: You will be interested in what Wisconsin is doing in cooperative education. Let me read from the Minnesota extension course (Reads the last paragraph on page 66 of reference 3).

EDUC: (Walking over to Steno) Are you getting all these points?

STENO: I believe so, I have made notes on all the reports given and I have summarized the material in two charts. (Presents Educ. with charts No. 6 & 32)

EDUC: (holding up the charts so he can examine them) Now we have something to present to Uncle Sam. (Turning to the committee) Thank you, Gentlemen, for your help in supplying data for these charts. Look the material over and see if you are satisfied.

FIRST: (After all have seen the charts briefly) I move to accept the girls charts as a good summary of the discussion.

SIX: I second the motion.

EDUC: All in favor say "Aye."

ALL: Aye.

EDUC: The committee is now adjourned. (All excepting Educ. file off stage to audience. Educ. addresses Uncle Sam who is in the wing off stage.) Uncle Sam, We have something to show you.

SAM: (Coming out on stage) I notice you have been busy. What is this you have prepared for me?

EDUC: We believe that education of the rank and file of the members of cooperatives will eliminate most of the failures. These charts list the main topics which we believe should be emphasized in such education.

SAM: (Examining the charts) You have done well. I'll call all the co-ops to give them instruction in regard to how to proceed. (Passes off stage. Goes down to front of audience, hangs up charts and discusses as follows.) I have asked Education to determine for us why some cooperatives succeed and others fail. These are the conclusions of the committee. (Reads both charts.) Now Mr. and Mrs. Audience what do you think are the causes of success and the causes of failure in cooperatives? It is your turn to talk. In order that you may discuss this important matter, I am going to turn our meeting over to the group leader who will lead an informal discussion on the subject.

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