

The Kansas Union Farmer

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C. E. HUFF, Editor and Manager

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

Change of Address—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.

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



THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1927

IT MAY HAVE BEEN NEW TO THEM

Every idea is new to the man who has just got hold of it. And the fewer ideas he has the newer and brighter the new one is apt to appear. An article in the Capper's Farmer last week concerning the establishment of the Producers Live Stock Commission firms is a case in point. About 1917 the Farmers Union opened their live stock operations at Omaha, under the management of Charlie Watts. A little later Sioux City and St. Joe were opened up, and in 1919 the firm at Kansas City was established. By 1920 all of these Farmers Union companies were operating heavily and had fully proven their worth. Not only so, but these firms had fought and won some difficult battles in establishing their right to operate. They had accumulated a fund of experience as to methods, had secured competent employees, and had established themselves in the confidence of the livestock growers. Yet as late as 1922 the Fifteen Infallible Christopher Columbus set sail upon the uncharted seas of co-operative livestock marketing and discovered—whatever they discovered. We like these people personally, and are certainly in favor of co-operative marketing. But we cannot forget that some of these houses which they proceeded to establish were put into direct competition with the already-established co-operative houses, and that there was not a little hot-hatting in the process. Hence we recent a little the chestiness of the claims made in the article which follows:

"A post oak tree sheltered the original meeting of a co-operative marketing business which sold 134 million dollars worth of livestock in its fifth year. The delegates to that meeting were C. B. Denman, Hammington, Mo., and J. R. Fulkerson, Jerseyville, Ill.

"From this original meeting the idea of selling livestock co-operatively under a national marketing plan developed, and was later formulated into a definite working program by a committee of fifteen men, appointed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, all livestock producers and students of marketing. This program was written into a constitution and bylaws for what is now the National Live Stock Producers' Association.

"The first co-operative livestock commission firm under the plan outlined by the 'committee of fifteen' opened on the East St. Louis market January 2, 1922, without a dime's worth of business and without a hoof of stock to sell. It had a place to do business, about 14 by 20 feet, in the Live Stock Exchange building. It had a collection of second hand furniture. It was in debt \$4,000 to the farm bureaus of three states. But it had a big idea which centered around the farmer's right to market his own products to the best advantage.

Other co-operative commission firms were organized in rapid succession. The co-operatives at East Buffalo, N. Y.; Chicago; Fort Worth, Texas; Indianapolis, Ind.; and Peoria, Ill., were established the same year. Those at Cleveland, Ohio; Evansville, Ind.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Pittsburgh, Pa., got under way in 1923; Sioux City, Iowa, in 1924; Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1925 and Detroit, Mich., was affiliated in 1926."

There is need for closer federation of farm marketing organizations and agencies. The producers are now asking, in apparent sincerity, for some form of re-organization by which such duplications of facilities as now exist at Kansas City may be eliminated. They ought to be eliminated. But the Farmers Union was operating in Kansas City for a long time before the bright idea "originated" in the minds of these good people, and for four years before the Producers opened there, and rather feels that it was not responsible for the duplication. "We are trying to be humble, but are a contrite, and find it a bit hard to treat with folks who still hold an exalted sense of their own superiority."

WINNERS OF KANSAS ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Two hundred fifty students entered the second essay contest of the Kansas Co-operative Wheat Marketing Association, Wichita, and 70 manuscripts were submitted. The subject of the essay was, "What the Wheat Pool Means to the Kansas Farmer." All papers were judged by representatives of the Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, and prizes have now been awarded to the winners, \$25 for first prize, \$15 for second, \$10 for third, and ten prizes of \$5 each for the next best essays.

VITAL ISSUES

Wildcat Co-operation and Workers' Capitalism. Is labor capitalism, as sponsored by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and functioning in the guise of co-operation, on the verge of moral bankruptcy? From the early part of 1920 when the great banking scheme was first launched, experienced co-operators in this country have protested against the manner in which the word "co-operation" was appropriated by certain financiers and speculators for the purpose of winning the support of the workers throughout the United States. Those protests went unheeded; the financial careerists started on their wild plunge along the road of capitalism and today the Brotherhood finds itself facing the results which inevitably must follow.

Late in 1919 the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, one of the oldest and most aristocratic of labor unions in the United States, embarked on a career of labor banking under the leadership of its Grand Chief, Warren Stone. The first bank, known as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Co-operative Bank of Cleveland, had a phenomenal growth, during the first year and a half, when assets leaped upward at the rate of a million dollars per month.

After the Cleveland bank was established, the organizers went rapidly from one city to another starting new banks, investment companies and holding companies. In 1926, the list of cities in which these Brotherhood financial institutions were organized was as follows: Cleveland, Minneapolis, Spokane, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, San Francisco, Boston, New York, Philadelphia. The complete list is an imposing one. The total capital of the financial institutions was in excess of \$23,000,000.

Nor did the Brotherhood stop here. Within the course of these same five or six years it is reported to have acquired two skyscrapers and an apartment hotel in Cleveland, a \$35,000,000 office building in the financial district of New York, a majority of the stock in the great Wall Street institution, the Empire Trust Company, and three coal mines in West Virginia and Kentucky (capitalized at \$3,000,000).

The final great plunge was into the real estate game in Florida at the time when Florida looked like a gold digger's paradise. The Brotherhood purchased approximately 30,000 acres and began to lay out a seashore resort to be known as "Venice," at an outlay of approximately \$15,000,000.

All in all, these labor capitalists within the course of six brief years organized or took over financial, industrial or real estate enterprises capitalized at almost \$30,000,000 and having total resources of almost \$100,000,000. The intoxication of the leaders was communicated to thousands of the rank and file members of the Brotherhood, and the United States saw visions of a future in which the entire labor movement was to become capitalistic and the old conflict between capital and labor ultimately and forever ended.

Then, just at the height of this tremendous prosperity, the organization began to slip. Warren Stone, who led and inspired the entire movement, died and W. B. Prenter, who has been first vice-president under Mr. Stone, succeeded to his place. Real estate in Florida blew up and the investors in the city of "Venice" found themselves losing money overnight at even a greater rate than they had anticipated for the making of large profits. The investment in the massive Wall Street office building was liquidated and soon afterward the Brotherhood sold out its interests in the Empire Trust Company. Within another year the Engineers Bank in New York was sold and the bank in Philadelphia turned over to the notoriously anti-labor "Mitten Men and Management," the same concern which had undertaken the reorganization of the fake co-operative bank known as the "Producers and Consumers' Bank" of the same city.

Although this convention was conducted in secret, was used to bolster up the failing real estate development in Florida. At the same time a frantic publicity campaign was carried on in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' journal and elsewhere, with a view to the sale of thousands of these lots at the new "Venice-by-the-sea." Individual members of the Brotherhood reported that their mails were flooded with sales literature emanating from "Venice."

Finally, there appeared the semi-annual report from the original Cleveland bank which showed a falling off in deposits of \$1,600,000 during the first six months of 1927. Then came the regular convention of the Brotherhood and the storm broke.

Although this convention was conducted in secret, still it was inevitable that a great deal of news should leak out. "Mitten Men and Management" sent representatives from Philadelphia to Cleveland to propose that this concern take over the major part of the control of all the Brotherhood's business institutions. Apparently the proposal was rejected for Mr. Mitten quickly returned to his city. However, the convention appointed a special investigating committee and instructed it to make a thorough and complete survey of all the Brotherhood's financial institutions and then to bring recommendations back to the convention.

Exactly what those recommendations were may never be known outside of the B. L. E., but rumor reports that the four chief officers responsible for the administration of the financial structures were "found guilty of such carelessness, laxity and indifference in the performance of their official duties, that they were not, nor have they been for a long time past, fit persons to hold office of any kind in our organization. It is further strongly recommended by unanimous vote by our committee of ten that the convention in executive session demand and accept the immediate resignation of Brothers Prenter, Griffing, Daugherty and Lindquist."

The office of president, created by Mr. Stone and since his death occupied by Mr. Prenter, was by action of the convention abolished and the Grand Chief Engineer, Alvaley Johnston, is now in supreme authority in the Brotherhood. George T. Webb, who although not a member of the Brotherhood was Mr. Stone's right hand man and chief executive of many of these financial institutions, has probably been discharged also.

But meanwhile, the financial institutions themselves are in temporary difficulties. According to unofficial reports most of the organizations are quite solvent but some of them do not have their assets in a firm sufficiently liquid to satisfy the bank examiners.

Therefore, before the convention closed, a proposal was made (and apparently adopted) to the effect that 60,000 members of the Brotherhood should be assessed \$5 per month for the next two years thus a sum of \$7,200,000 would be raised.

There are approximately 86,000 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and there are tens of thousands of other workers throughout the country who have been taught since 1920 that this kind of far-flung wildcat speculation is legitimate co-operation. They are now being once more disillusioned; and a few experienced co-operators are lamenting the fact that once more the co-operative movement has received a tremendous setback because of the consuming desire of a few ambitious-crazed labor leaders to plunge into the whirlpool of capitalistic business. When will our Co-operative Movement in this country be strong enough, intelligent enough, and courageous enough to come out openly in denunciation of these recurring raids into the domain of legitimate co-operation by speculators who know and care nothing about the aims, purposes and methods of the genuine Co-operative movement?—C. L. in Co-operation.

GLIMPSES OF CO-OPERATION

NORTH DAKOTA HOLDS A PICNIC

Recently the Farmers Union of North Dakota held a state picnic at Valley City. About 2,000 are reported in attendance for the 2-day session. Very able speakers, including Milo Reno, of Iowa, and Frank Murphy, of Minnesota, were present. The Farmers Union is comparatively new in North Dakota, and is developing rapidly. They have the chance of profiting by the experiences of other and older organizations, by both our successes and our failures. Their state papers will carry soon a full-page history of the Kansas organization, which we are preparing. This new state is able to use, to their full advantage, many of the organized facilities which others have patiently built through many years. This is true of insurance, both property and live stock. The additional volume which they add makes for more efficient and economical operation, and hence is a gain to those who built the machinery. The movement grows.

FARMERS JOIN POOLS IN FITS OF TEMPER

Very Few Growers Reason Enough to See the Real Benefits of Plan, Says Writer.

By Allan Sandy

Get a farmer mad enough and he will do almost anything. He will even join a co-op.

This, in fact, seems to be the principle trouble today with most farmers and with most co-ops. The average tiller of the soil fails to reason out the value of co-operative marketing—but under stress of emotional anger toward the middleman or the grain exchange, or any other factor in the old line system of marketing, he will eagerly sign a co-op contract in order to vent his spleen.

The average farmer joins a co-op in the midst of temperamental turmoil. Perhaps he has just had a row with the elevator manager and wants to get even. Perhaps he has heard an impassioned orator lambast the old-fashioned marketing systems, and he is moved to "join the cause." Perhaps he has read an article on co-operation and is suffused with an optimism which demands immediate action in the way of signing a contract. But in any case it is safe to say that he probably takes his co-op as he took his wife—in a blind fit of optimistic fervor.

All of this, of course, is detrimental to the welfare of the pool. After the average farmer has been a member of some little time, his emotions begin to cool off. He forgets how mad he was—and since he has acted only upon emotional reactions, he has

stopped to figure out the real value of co-operation. He probably even fails to realize that he ought to co-operate. He falls back on the belief that, after all, his troubles may simply be caused by unfavorable weather—and that he ought to have better luck next year.

The exceptional farmer, of course, joins in a co-op because he has studied the matter thoroughly and has become convinced in his own mind that co-operation means something for the American farmer. When this exceptional farmer joins a co-op he joins the co-op to stick. His emotional fellow-farmer withdraws from his marketing association in the same haste that he joined and for no particular reason, except that—(just as when he joined)—he is acting on impulse rather than reason.

FARM INCOME DROPS TO A SLIM FIGURE

Economic drought is shriveling the American farmer's income to the vanishing point, and if the average grower allows himself wages equal to those paid his farm hand, the return on his investment last year amounted to only 2.7 per cent—or a good deal less than he would make if he quit farming and put his money in a savings bank.

If the farmer does not allow himself any wages at all, however, his 1926-27 operations will show him a net income of 4.5 per cent on his capital invested—and in addition he will have \$627 left over. Out of his \$627 he has nothing to pay except his hired labor, his overhead costs, his family's food and clothing and his own salary, if any.

These income figures, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, show a decrease of 20 per cent under the preceding year. During the 1925-26 season the average net income was \$952 and the average income after allowing the 4.5 per cent interest on capital invested was \$890.

During the same year the capital of agriculture—the value of farm property—declines another \$1,457,000. The return to the farmer and his family for labor declined 10 per cent. At the same time wages to farm labor increased two per cent and earnings of factory employee was the same over two years.

WHEAT PROSPECTS GOOD

With world wheat prospects for 1927 indicating a yield nearly equal to 1926, world market conditions will be at least as favorable as last season, according to the Department of Agriculture's prediction.

NOT SO APT TO TURN OUT HALF BAKED

To Preserve Children

Take: 1 large grassy field, 1-2 dozen children, 2 or 3 small dogs, a pinch of brook and pebbles.

Mix children and dogs well together, and put them in the field, stirring constantly. Four brook over pebbles; sprinkle field with flowers; spread over all a deep blue sky; and bake in the sun. When brown, remove and set to cool in a bath tub.—North Carolina Health Bulletin.

UTILITY PROBE

Senator Walsh of Montana is back from his annual trip to Europe with a program which the democrats will back. The principal item is an investigation by the senate into electrical power conditions, especially with reference to the growth in capitalization of public utility and holding corporations in the gas and electric field.

The Walsh investigation would dig into the manner of issues of stocks and bonds, and the price realized and the value received by the various corporations. The senator is of the opinion that new legislation is necessary to protect the public.

FORM LAND FINANCE COMPANY

The Northwest Land Finance Corporation, capitalized at 25 million dollars, has been formed by bankers, business men, real estate dealers, and public officials in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana, to take over foreclosed farms, make them ready for resale, and finance their purchase by other farmers, according to newspaper dispatches from St. Paul, Minn., on June 27. The purpose of the corporation, the reports say, is to "re-establish land values."

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REFLECTIONS

ties not only are consulted but have a determining voice in fixing the price of their service. This price may be governed somewhat by the conditions of competition. But, fundamentally, the manufacturer, the merchant, the lawyer, the doctor, and the banker, fix the price which the world must pay for the services which they render.

Doesn't Care What Bait Calls Uses So Long As He Is "Fishing For Fish"

Interested Only, Kentucky Senator Says, When President Begins Angling for Species "That Walks on the Ground;" Calls Farm Problems Grave.

(From St. Paul Pioneer Press of July 12, 1927.)

"I don't care what kind of bait President Coolidge uses when he fishes for trout. I don't even care if he gives these poor trout only half a worm in furtherance of his program of economy. But when he starts fishing for fish that walk on the ground, I aim to find out what he intends to use for bait."

This was the introduction with which Senator A. W. Barkley of Kentucky opened his speech at the Northwest Farm conference Monday.

"No one who is to any degree acquainted with the agricultural conditions in the United States at this time can deny that there is a serious farm problem confronting the people of our country," he declared.

Economics Enters Problem

"There are many people in our country who are short-sighted enough to regard very lightly the economic side of agriculture. They take the position that the world has been in existence for a long time, and that people always have been found who were either willing or compelled to till the soil. But economics has entered into the question of agriculture, and practically every other vacation that exists among men."

"The farmers of the nation find themselves in a peculiar situation which does not attach to any other character of enterprise to the same extent. Industry is well organized in every part of the country. Finance is organized. The professions are a greater or less extent organized; and whether, by reason of the organization, or by some other power, those who engage in these various activities

was slow work at the start as farmers know nothing of our Union but it is easier now.

I found one of your papers here at home, Vol. 4, No. 8. It's a dandy, the best I have seen. Can you furnish me with half a dozen copies more or less of that number? It is an issue of Oct. 11, 1911. If you can please send me a bundle as I want to send them to my organizers in Nebraska. If you have any other dates send them also. I believe it will be the means of securing other subscribers. Let me hear from you soon. I will furnish you occasionally with an article for your paper. With the best of wishes for your success, and am always your friend and brother.

O. F. Dornblaser.

SHOVELED THEIR WAY INTO THE MARKET

J. B. Shields wrote from Lost Springs: At one time last week we were loading wheat at Lost Springs, Lincolnville and Antelope at the same time, thus getting out three cars in one day, scooping it all; and all three places have elevators running, too. We had a thousand people at our picnic, and the parade and speeches were fine. We organized a local at Tampa last Tuesday night, and have a prospect of two more in the county soon.

AN ELOQUENT PLEA BY BARRETT

The National Conservation Congress was to meet in Kansas City, and President Chas. S. Barrett had an article in the Kansas Union Farmer, pleading that the farmer himself be conserved. It was a fine appeal, but soon after fifteen years to have been rather vain. As a matter of fact it has been proven wholly useless to appeal to anyone to conserve the farmer. If the farmer does not do his own conserving it will not be done. Barrett says:

To conserve the farmer who pays property taxes the largest share of direct and indirect taxes in this country. It is essential to provide means to increase his community facilities to supply more nearly resembling urban localities, to give him more and better schools, to make his home life more enjoyable.

We boast of the growing size of our cities. To make great cities have been the American dream. Is it not time to transfer some of this energy to the country, to build up rural districts, to make them blossom, to make them more attractive, to make them so attractive and so full of opportunity, in fact that the denuded drift from the farm to the city will cease?

We talk of patriotism. At every crisis in this country's history it has been the farmer that

SURPLUS CONTROL, THE BASIC PROBLEM OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

(Continued from page 1)

the Federal Land Banks and the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks but government agencies, serving a great public need, and administered by a Federal board, appointed by the president? What is every act restricting immigration but a law, in effect, for surplus labor control?

In its final analysis the whole question of agricultural surplus control through the medium of joint action between a Federal board and local organizations of producers, must resolve itself into a matter of the administration of general principles, rather than one of legislative definition and direction. It is on this broad ground that legislative creative action may be safely defended and justified. If the fundamental object to be attained is desirable and sound, the endless quibbling over methods and

details only serves to muddy the water and confuse the issue a t stake. Under our system of government, we are particularly dependent upon the integrity and efficiency of our public servants, and we must proceed upon the assumption of the presence of these two qualities. In the case of any remedial legislation for agriculture, we would have to assume that the Federal board upon which would devolve the administration of the act would be competent to discharge its duties, without doing the things which seem to fill with apprehension the minds of those who oppose such legislation. Such a board would not be composed of doctrinaires, day-dreamers or fools. The men on it would have common sense enough to know that if they took one step hurtful to any other industry, or to the country as a whole, the board would not survive the next session of Congress. But they would be guided by no such apprehension. We assume sane and

reasonable action on the part of other boards. Why is it so preposterous to assume similar action on the part of a board devoted to the interests of American agriculture?

Therefore, we need not stop to inquire into just what agreements such a board would make with producers, or exactly how it would meet its problem, or just what action it would take under a given set of circumstances. It would probably act as the Federal Reserve Board acts, or any other board of large responsibilities, charged with duties of very great concern to the public and of far reaching consequences to the entire nation. To demand in advance a bill of particulars on the basis of a hypothetical situation, is directly to such legislation. Such a board would be charged with the duty of studying the problems of American agriculture, particularly as related to surplus control and the orderly distribution of agricultural products into and through the channels of trade. It would be clothed with authority, acting in conjunction with the producers themselves, to devise some means of ameliorating such problems, or at least minimizing their harmful results. No law creating such a board could ever approach finality in its original form. The chief concern of the proponents of such legislation is to establish a point of departure from the policy of laissez faire; to urge that in justice to its importance and to its needs, American agriculture could even have been undertaken in behalf of other industries and other groups.

We should be the last to quarrel with those who do not at once favor such legislation as is here defended. We have not long believed in it ourselves. A lifetime of ultra conservative thinking in matters governmental and economic has not made it easy to accept a different view. But long and earnest study has brought conviction that the outstanding problem confronting American agriculture, perhaps the most important economic problem now before the American people, is that of the proper handling of agricultural surpluses. And with that conviction has come the further one that the problem is too great to be solved by unorganized agriculture, without governmental intervention and aid. It is a problem of dull and prosaic aspects. It presents nothing of the spectacular and bizarre. Yet it touches the lives of millions of America's millions that is probably true of any other one of her many problems. Upon its wise and just solution depends the future of American agriculture, and in that future is bound up the fate of America herself.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
Editor Kansas Union Farmer,
Salina, Kansas;
Dear Sir:

I submit the enclosed manuscript. Please publish. Price, nothing.
If, for any reason, you do not wish to publish, please return.

Yours,
A. F. Thowe.
Salina, Kans., July 19, 1927.

Mr. A. F. Thowe,
Harris, Kansas;
My dear Mr. Thowe:

Your manuscript at hand and I have read it rather carefully and with a great deal of interest. Before publishing it, however, I want to write you for a little clearer statement of the article itself. If you will permit me to say so, I think that the article is rather beside the mark. You may have in mind some other proposal for aiding the wheat growers than any with which I am familiar.

If you are thinking of the Surplus Control Act, this certainly does not contemplate price fixing in any such sense as your article implies. That act will go no further in attempting to fix the price of wheat, or any other commodities, than merely to remove from the domestic market any surplus above home needs so that such part of the crop as was to be consumed in America might enjoy the full protection of the tariff. That portion of it which must be sold abroad will necessarily be sold at world prices and the loss ensuing will be assessed against the total production of the crop season. It is thought that this plan will prevent a tendency to over production.

It may easily be that I have not caught your meaning and when we publish the article, I want to be as free to comment on it as you were free in writing it. Please write me a brief personal letter setting forth rather more fully what you have in mind. Please do not misunderstand

me, I do not pretend to know everything and have no wish to deny any member of the Farmers Union his right to fullest expression of his opinion in matters about which he is so concerned. It is true nevertheless, that in carrying forward a program, the major issues must not be confused.

With kindest regards, I am
Yours respectfully,
C. E. Huff.
Harris, Kansas, July 28, 1927.

Mr. C. E. Huff,
Salina, Kansas;
Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th on hand. I have studied it over several days. If I get the meaning of your letter, you wish to comment on my article, "The Four Wheat Questions," but are at a loss as to what to say.

You don't see what my article will demolish? Evidently you were looking around to see what my article would demolish, but could not find anything. I have studied your letter over for some time, and scratched my head about it, and it seems to me you can't rip my article to pieces, nor add anything to it.

The same might be said about Lincoln's Gettysburg speech. No one can rip it to pieces, because Lincoln told the truth, neither can any one add anything to it, because Lincoln said all there was to be said on the subject.

Do you mean that my article is as good as Lincoln's Gettysburg speech? I don't believe it, but anyway I thank you for the compliment. Hoping you will publish it soon.

Yours,
A. F. Thowe.

THE FOUR WHEAT QUESTIONS
If the price of wheat can be fixed, it can be fixed at any sum, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00, yes, any sum. For the purpose of showing what the questions are, let us assume that the price will be fixed at \$10.00 per bushel.

The question that will appear first lies hidden in the weed patches, and will appear about a year after the price has been fixed. The weed patches where lies hidden in are the millions of weed patches you see everywhere, such as vacant lots, back yards, fence corners, roadsides, brush patches, etc. These weed patches are exceedingly fertile, and could produce wheat at the rate of 30 to 40 bushels per acre. Anybody could get several hundred bushels of wheat, which at \$10.00 per bushel would be exceptionally good pay for a year's work. And this 30 to 40 bushel weed patch would be dumped on to the market at the same time the farmer brings in his 10 to 15 bushel per acre wheat. And then everybody, farmers, bankers, politicians, yes, indeed everybody, will be asking the first wheat question. And the question will remain until it is answered, in which case it will cease to exist, or the price of wheat is unfixed, in which case it will go back to its hiding place.

The second wheat question lies hidden in the kitchen, and will appear when the women buy the flour from the \$10.00 wheat. And like the first question, it will remain until it is answered or the price is unfixed.

The third wheat question lies hidden in the corn fields, cotton fields, pastures, orchards, etc., and will appear when the corn farmers, the cotton farmers, the cattle farmers, etc., want their prices fixed. Then everybody will be asking the third wheat question, and like the other two, it will remain until it is answered or the price of wheat is unfixed.

The fourth, and master question, lies hidden in the jungles of South America, Africa and Asia, and will appear from 25 to 50 years after the first wheat question. At \$10.00 per bushel has appeared, plant wizards would soon be at work developing a strain of wheat adapted to the tropical jungle; for the successful Rich man or nation of the future, who would be the new strain of wheat is perfected, then millions of people could be invited from all over the world, including the Chinese and Japanese, to come and conquer the jungle and make it blossom as wheat fields. Yes, the jungles can be conquered. The prairies were conquered! Think of the wheat that is produced on our western prairies, and then remember that the jungles were once considered uninhabitable. And then think of how much the jungles might yield! Yes, the jungles of South America alone could produce wheat enough to feed all the world, and leave an enormous surplus to be sold to the jungles of Africa and Asia would still be in reserve! Then the farmers of this country would not have to raise any wheat at all, but could ask the four wheat question instead! And this question, unlike the others, would never cease to exist. Neither would unfixing the price do good, for, once the jungles were conquered, the people living there would remain there, and continue raising wheat.

I did not say that the price of wheat should be fixed at \$10.00 per bushel; I simply used that figure that I might clearly show what the four wheat questions are. Of course no one would fix the price of wheat at \$10.00 per bushel. That would be foolish. And \$5.00 per bushel would be half as foolish, and so on, if such were possible. And if you don't understand all this foolishness, ask your politician to explain it.

Of course, no one knows whether all this foolishness will ever happen, for Russia might "come back" and spoil it all. If Russia should again produce wheat at the pre-war rate, 4 to 8 bushels per acre, she would flood Europe with wheat, which would end price fixing at once. And again, Russia might do more than "come back." She might improve her farms and produce wheat at the rate of 30 to 40 bushels per acre, and more, and flood not only Europe but also America with wheat.

No, you can't tell, Russia might spoil it all.

Comment: The McNary-Haugen bill proposes to fix prices only in the same way in which the tariff now fixes prices on all protected items of commerce. In other words, since all such articles are upon a higher price basis than the world market, the bill

Department of Practical Co-Operation

We are changing the policy of this department, beginning the first of the year. The Meeting Notices that have appeared heretofore were 100% locals for 1926. At this time we are showing only those that are 100% for 1927. All 100% locals for 1927 that wish their meeting notice to be published will receive this service free of charge. Locals that are not paid up in full but want their meeting notice published can have space in this department for One Cent per word per week.

ALLEN COUNTY
LIBERTY LOCAL NO. 2145***
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. Ray Wilson, Sec.

SILVER LEAF LOCAL NO. 2156***
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Mrs. M. A. Fender, Sec.

DIAMOND LOCAL NO. 2081***
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. Mrs. R. C. Parish, Sec.

ALLEN CENTER LOCAL NO. 2155***
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Mrs. Jno. Page, Secy.

FAIRVIEW LOCAL NO. 2154***
Meets the first and third Wednesday nights of each month. Mrs. Chas. L. Stewart, Secy.

CHASE COUNTY
COTTONWOOD VALLEY LOCAL NO. 1833***
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. L. K. Graham, Sec.

CHESTER COUNTY
NEUTRAL LOCAL NO. 2148***
Meets the first Tuesday of each month. C. A. Atkinson, Secretary.

OWSLEY LOCAL NO. 2084***
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Joe Farmer, Sec.

CLAY COUNTY
FOUR MILE LOCAL NO. 2144***
Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. G. W. Tomlinson, Secy.

COFFEY COUNTY
SUNNYSIDE LOCAL NO. 2144***
Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Mrs. H. B. Lusk, Sec.

DOUGLAS COUNTY
CARGO LOCAL NO. 2144***
Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. R. E. Tutchter, Sec.

ELLIS COUNTY
ADVANCE LOCAL NO. 1889***
Meets on the first Monday of each month. P. F. Svoboda, Sec.

LIBERTY LOCAL NO. 2155***
Meets every first and third Monday of each month. Ed. Mog. Secy.

TRIVOLI LOCAL NO. 1901***
Meets the first Monday evening in each month. W. H. Fleming, Secy.

HAYS LOCAL NO. 864***
Meets the first Friday in each month, alternating Pleasant Hill at 7:30 in the evening with Hays Court House at 2:00 in the afternoon. Frank B. Pfister, Secy.

EXCELSIOR LOCAL NO. 605***
Meets the first and third Monday of each month. Joseph L. Weber, Sec.

PLEASANT VALLEY LOCAL NO. 1804***
Meets the first and third Monday of each month. Frank Reiminger, Secy.

GREENWOOD COUNTY
NEAL LOCAL NO. 1817***
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. J. C. Graves, Sec.

GOVE COUNTY
PARK LOCAL NO. 809***
Meets the last Saturday of each month. Jas. Hein, Secy.

PLEASANT VALLEY LOCAL NO. 1309***
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Wm. T. Flinn, Sec.

JOHNSON COUNTY
SHARON LOCAL NO. 714***
Meets the last Friday evening of each month. Mrs. Gussie K. DeVault, Secy.

BUCKEYE LOCAL NO. 2073***
Meets the first Wednesday night of each month. Roy Edmonson, Sec.

MIAMI COUNTY
The Miami County Farmers Union will hold their annual picnic at Oswatomie, Kansas, on Labor Day, Sept. 5th, and extend an invitation to all of our state officers and employees, also all state-wide business institutions and employees and hope that all can attend so wish you would publish this for me. The committee takes this method of extending invitations to all.

Committee:
T. R. Reiter,
P. H. Heidecker,
Geo. Frank

FARMERS UNION DOIN'S
Stafford County
County Correspondent.

The county union met in its regular bi-monthly meeting in the Odd Fellows hall at St. John. The meeting was in charge of the president, Ward J. Spencer. Owing to the inclement weather there was not a very large crowd present.

It was reported that the state live stock commissioner, Mr. Mercer, announced that Stafford county was an accredited area free from Borine T. B. which would allow all shippers a premium of 10c per 100 on all hogs.

It was agreed upon to have a Stafford county exhibit at the state fair sponsored by the Union. Committee was appointed to take charge of same. Valley Center presented a short program which was well rendered.

Our annual Stafford County Farmers Union picnic will be held August 17 at the Rhooms grove.

UNION LOCAL MET JULY 22
It being the first meeting after harvest, they had an ice cream supper. A large crowd was present. Our next meeting will be August 12 with the college students of Union Local in charge. A large crowd is urged to be present.

ANDERSON CO. UNION NOTES
The Ladies Auxiliary held a very successful county meeting at Garnett, Kansas, in the court room of the court house, Wednesday afternoon, July 27th, and although the day was extremely warm, there was a good attendance, perhaps between 35 and 40. We are mighty glad to report a good attendance, as the women of the farm are usually busy and are slow to respond to movements of this kind, however most of the women folks are beginning to realize that it is to their advantage to take an interest in the co-operative movement if it is to succeed.

The crying need is the teaching of co-operation to the youth of the land in order that they may be co-operative minded in the beginning, just as they do in Denmark and other countries where co-operation has been so much of a success.

It is hoped through this organization together with farm clubs already organized to work out a program whereby the entire farm women movement may be brought into closer touch and whereby we may be able to arouse the farm spirit to a sense of the important place that agriculture should assume, both in civic and social affairs, and to arrest if possible the trend of the sentiment of certain factions in this broad beautiful land of ours that agriculture must be corporatized.

God Himself signified agriculture by starting the first family in a garden, and we cannot believe that God ever intended any corporation to own and operate His great out of doors.

The program for this meeting was carried out as arranged. The chairman called the house to order, a short business session was held, and the place of meeting decided upon for the next meeting. The meeting will be at the home of Mrs. D. W. Neil, four miles south and one mile east of Garnett, this being a very centrally located place for the majority of the membership.

After the business session there was a short miscellaneous program, song by the audience, Union Home readings by Addie Harding, Mrs. W. Neil and Mrs. James Irwin. Mrs. Myers, county treasurer, gave a short address, stressing several points of interest in the taxation system and as to why our taxes are higher than years ago. Among the items brought out we believe she said that while several corporate industries were doing business in the county, yet summing it all up the farmers are paying forty per cent of the tax of the county.

It is to be considered a trifle high to be considering the purchasing price of the farmer, a dollar as compared with some others mentioned, but we are open-minded, we just want to find out about it.

So far from Russia's return to heavy production ending "price-fixing" at once, the very contrary would be true. For agriculture is still a basic industry in America, and its destruction from without could not be countenanced. So "Question Four" misses the situation completely.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION
is designed to permit the agricultural producer to sell his commodity on a comparable level, so far as the domestic market is concerned. Since prices would be artificial to the extent of tariff, perhaps, but otherwise wholly natural, and subject to all of the laws of price. Hence it could never be an extravagant price, as the "First question" has it. Whether of wheat or some other commodity it would of necessity be such a price as consumer would accept. So "Question Two" answers itself. The McNary-Haugen bill offers equal advantage to all major commodities with wheat. It is not a one-crop proposal. So the "Third Question" is not a question at all. The McNary-Haugen bill is specifically designed to protect the American farmer as fully as possible to the extent of the tariff, in his home market. It proposes to give him a price for his commodities which will represent a fair exchange-basis between what he sells and what he buys. It will in no way offer any inducement which they do not now have to the Chinese to raise wheat. But if lands not now producing should be brought into competitive production, it will make such an act a still more imperative necessity.

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BUCKEYE LOCAL NO. 2073***
Meets the first Wednesday night of each month. Roy Edmonson, Sec.

MARSHALL COUNTY
SUMMIT LOCAL NO. 859***
Meets second and fourth Wednesday night each month. Neils Samuelson, Sec.

OTTAWA COUNTY
SAND CREEK LOCAL NO. 452***
Meets the second and last Friday of the month. Walter Lott, Sec.

GROVER LOCAL NO. 108***
Meets every other Wednesday night. Anna Bremerman, Sec.

RILEY COUNTY
ROCK ISLAND LOCAL NO. 1159***
Meets the first Tuesday evening of the month. Chas. Trumm, Sec.

GRAND VIEW LOCAL NO. 1214***
Meets on Friday night every two weeks. Esther Sherman, Sec.

RUSH COUNTY
SAND CREEK LOCAL NO. 864***
Meets the first and third Friday of each month. A. R. Wilson, Sec.

SMITH COUNTY
OAK CREEK LOCAL NO. 1155***
Meets the first and third Monday of each month. H. J. Schwarz, Secy.

STAFFORD COUNTY
UNION LOCAL NO. 2019***
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. John Bateman, Sec.

TREGO COUNTY
VODA LOCAL NO. 742***
Meets the fourth Friday in every month. Alfred Rensmeyer, Sec.-Treas.

WABAUENSEE COUNTY
FREEMONT LOCAL NO. 2014***
Meets the first and third Friday of the month. A. W. Eisenmenger, Sec.

WASHINGTON COUNTY
HERKIN LOCAL NO. 1427***
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Henry Eden, Sec.

Mrs. Myers always gives us something interesting to think about, and it is great to be able to make anyone think in this hurry and worry and mad scramble of the now.

The main address of the day was by Mr. Bullard, president of the Farmers Union Produce Association, and a farmer. We have heard Mr. Bullard on different occasions and find him always an interesting and interested speaker.

He said among other things that if he should take a text it would be that upon which the Farmers Union is founded, the application of the Golden Rule, to establish justice, secure equity, to apply the Golden Rule, and folks it seems impossible to fail, builded upon as firm a foundation, equality and justice for all.

Mr. Bullard said among other things that if he would presume to offer any suggestions to the ladies of the young generation it would be, "Not to be impatient," that while we may seem to be building slowly, was a fine showing that we were building wisely, that anything built up hastily upon sentimentality and emotionalism seldom withstand the test of time, and he pointed out the fact that just nine practically bankrupt farmers down in the state of Texas started the great big movement that is now the Farmers Union of America.

Women and man too might have been present Wednesday for we thing the meeting was worth while and will have a beneficial influence upon those who were present.

Mrs. Campbell closed the meeting with a few well chosen remarks and the poem, *Be the Best of Whatever You Are*.

We would like to say that one woman who came to the meeting had a very successful dinner and then drove twenty-five miles in order to be there. Folks, it's great like this that will help to win any program. We think most of the women who came made some sacrifice, as the country is full of doing from all the other busy work that is always with us. We hope that the entire membership will attend the county meeting at Mr. Van Sickle's which will be August 6th. And we will ask every woman in the Union to wish to be present at the Union Auxiliary meeting, which is an all-day meeting with Mrs. Neil.

LOCAL DOINGS
The Mt. Zion folks had a very nice time at an ice cream supper July 12th. They talked of having a speaker in the near future and a general big time. Dr. McLaughlin is president of the Local, and Mrs. Frank Carns, secretary.

The Centennial Local has inaugurated a new plan in their Local whereby they meet just once each month, have a short business program, then literary, program of some kind and serve refreshments. They report this plan to be working fine and say they had about forty present at the last meeting. This is fine for Centennial as this has never been a very large Local but they are a lively bunch, so wish you well, Centennial. Charles Watkinson is president. We do not know the secretary.

Old Belview, the pioneer Local of Anderson county, is always doing something. They had planned a big time the 21st, we believe it was, but it rained for them. A few got out, takes a pretty stiff rain to rain or storm out Belview. Ray Donald is president of this Local and John I. Anderson, secretary.

Write the county correspondent of your doings of other Locals. We are always pleased to write up the activities of all the Locals. Glad to know that you are still on the job, the big thing is the support of our state-wide activities and we can do this best by live, active Locals, the object folks is to join hands in the state-wide operation and eventually world-wide.

Why have it said of us that we will not organize, that we organize in factions and then the factions fight? Why can't we join hands with all farm organizations in some big program to not only benefit the farmer folks but all the folks, as when agriculture is prosperous all classes are prosperous, and not at the expense of do is build the machine of co-operation and we are not afraid that the parts will not function when the proper time comes. We thank you.

County Correspondent.
We are glad to be able to report that Mrs. Gretten, the county secretary of the Auxiliary, was able to be with us after a long painful illness.

Collins Mortgage Company

1308 Federal Reserve Bank Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

Make Your New Loan On A Permanent Basis

Investigate our AMORTIZED LOAN before renewing your farm mortgage.

Points you should consider: 1. Loans made to run from 5 to 34 1/2 years at your option. 2. No commission to pay. 3. Low rate of interest. 4. No renewal necessary.

If you wish additional information, fill in and mail to us attached coupon. Our correspondent will then see you.

Please furnish me, without obligation on my part, information regarding Collins Mortgage Company loans, advising me as to rate, terms, etc.

Name..... Address.....

.....Amount desired to borrow.....

Description of land.....



All for One

An Advertisement of
the American Telephone and Telegraph Company

A SLEET storm descends, carrying down trees and wires. A wind turns outlow and blows down a pole line. Or some swollen river rampages through a circuit of destruction.

But wherever angry nature attacks the Bell Telephone System there are repairmen trained to meet the emergency, and everywhere trained in the same schools to the use of the same efficient tools. Supplies of surplus equipment and materials are kept at strategic points whence they may be rushed by train or truck to the devastated area.

Throughout the Bell

System, all construction and practice are standard, so that men and supplies, when necessary, may be sent from one state or company to another.

There are twenty-five Bell Companies, but only one Bell aim and ideal; stated by President Walter S. Gifford as: