





## The Kansas Union Farmer

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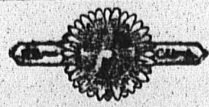
C. E. HUFF.....Editor and Manager

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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.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1923

### DAY BY DAY IN EVERY WAY

Quite a few highly estimable folks are wrought up because a great deal of publicity is being given to the unfavorable position of agriculture. They are divided into two groups. One attitude is typified by persons like Mr. McKelvie of Nebraska, who was invited to speak during the recent Farm and Home Week at the State Agricultural College at Manhattan. He disposes of the problem by a graceful sweep of the hand and a flat declaration that he doesn't believe any problem exists. That is very simple and effective. It doesn't explain why the National Industrial Conference Board reached the opposite and startling conclusion that an acute and dangerous situation does exist. Nor why the Business Men's Committee of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce confirmed that conclusion. Nor why the Land Grant Colleges, after searching investigation, agreed substantially with the others. A smile and an oratorical gesture clears up the whole thing. "We are tired," they say, "of hearing this stuff. There is really nothing wrong. Nothing at all. Forget it."

The other group seems to admit that there is ground for the reports, but that to say so publicly is very damaging. The farmer is in a bad plight, but he must not even admit, much less openly declare it. It is bad psychology. It hurts his mental outlook. It hurts his credit. And it pains the sympathetic souls who hear it—O terribly! It also hurts business. It is not really the fact of the evil condition of the farmer that does the harm. They might not care so much about that. But the publicity is a thing just too gosh awful to bear. There ought to be a law again it.

The Public Service Magazine for February carries an article showing that "Adequate Farm Mean Adequate Service," and pleads for ten-cent street car fares generally. The article insists that it is a short sighted policy for any city not to insure the public service corporations generously adequate incomes. It is good for everybody—especially the corporations.

But on another page the editor treats the case of a city which has suffered heavily from the publicity given the farm situation. Not from the condition, mind you. It was only from "hearing that the farmers were broke." It seems to be the editorial opinion that the condition of the farmer doesn't hurt him as long as no one tells him of it. But as soon as he hears that he is in bad shape he quits buying, quits paying his bills, increases his mortgage debt by some eight billion dollars, lets his bank go broke from carrying "frozen assets"—notes which the farmer refuses to pay because some demagogue has told him he is in bad shape. Why won't we be sensible! If we were just to report each day the magic formula—"Day by day in every way I'm getting richer and richer," everything would be all right. For it is one thing for a public service corporation to howl about inadequate returns, and to insist that everyone will suffer from it. And it is quite something else for an industry which engages one-third of the American people to insist upon a return for its investment and labor. The rate situation cripples the service, the farm situation is bad psychology. One is a financial fact, the other a bad state of mind. Quoting the proverb "Weep and you weep alone" was unfortunate in an article designed to prove that a great city was reduced to tears at the paid weeping of a few politicians, as fancied. It ought in this case to be "weep, and we'll all weep with you, tho' we'd rather you wept alone." We laugh at this editorial weeping:

Acertain mid-western city has been in the dumps from a business standpoint for several years. The reason has seemed obscure. The city is most strategically located with reference to about everything necessary to make it grow and prosper. It is the metropolis of one of the most fertile, productive farming regions in the world. Its railroad facilities could scarcely be excelled. Its seasons have been about as nearly normal as seasons in other parts of the country. But for half a dozen years the city has been on the decline, or had been until a little while ago when slight improvement seemed manifest, due, no doubt, more to general than local conditions.

The writer asked a friend, a leading citizen of this city, how he accounted for the strange decline in prosperity there. The answer in a nutshell was this:

"Two factors, I should say, first, lack of adequate leadership; second, largely psychological. We have some very good men, some successful men, but no definite, outstanding leader; no well-defined spirit of leadership. Then, second, I should say our adverse condition these last few years has been largely a matter of psychology. We are the center of a great farming section, also of the radical political movement. We had been reading in our newspapers and hearing from our political orators that the farmers were broke. The farmers heard of it and decided it must be true. If we

were broke, they argued, we must stop buying. The man in town decided that if the farmer was broke he must be and so he must stop spending his money. Soon the cycle encompassed us all. Several of our leading stores, a large department store or two, went broke and closed their doors, not to reopen thus far. The 10-cent stores began to multiply. An element of cheapness supplanted the aspect of stability and prosperity. Business failures increased in number. Banks, of course, hedged. Altogether, our city has suffered a serious setback, which will require years to overcome."

Largely psychological! No question about it. "Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone." Who can ever measure the harm, the destruction, that has been wrought by the calamity howler, who in this latter day is the radical in politics. "Progressive," indeed. The most reactionary element that has ever found an influence in American politics is this radical faction which dares call itself progressive and which centers in some of our great middle western states. It is directly responsible for more business depression than we can ever really know. Only one interest is benefited by it, that is itself and its benefit is purely selfish; getting and holding office.

The community that falls for this transparent demagoguery deserves something of what it gets.

### MOBILIZING FOR ACTION

Kansas Union Prepares to Move Forward Along the Whole Line

Perhaps the most significant thing which has occurred within the Farmers Union in Kansas in a long time is the present plan for membership recruiting.

Quite a number of other states have been carrying on consistent campaigns, and their membership is rather steadily increasing. Older states are finding it easily possible to renew their membership in many areas where the Union had gone down. Oddly enough, it is often easier to see the value of the Farmers Union when it has gone out of a community than while it was operating. Few who have had the advantage of co-operative marketing facilities, and have experienced the possibilities of that method, even in small part, are willing to remain long without them. And new states are making great strides in development. Montana has set a goal of 5,000 members for the year, and "Jimmy" O'Shea, President of the Montana Union, is actively at work, ably assisted, to reach it. North Dakota reports rapid gains, almost equal to the best record they have yet established.

The time is ripe in Kansas. It is apparent, where our institutions are sound and prosperous (and as a whole they were probably never in sounder condition than now), that we need a great increase in adherents locally, and a closer relating of the whole business program. Requests are coming in "most daily for organization work. Some locals are putting on membership drives with great success. Entire counties are planning campaigns. Meetings are well attended. The general publicity which we have had for the past months is reacting favorably. The hysteria of the war and the apathy

which followed deflation have given way to the better impulse to build, to act together in the common interest. Where Farmers Union businesses have failed it has not been due to faulty principles but to violation of our principles, and that fact is being accepted. Errors will not be repeated. The time is ripe in Kansas.

We need more members. A community with a Live Stock Shipping Ass'n needs a large enough part of the whole group to insure frequent shipments. A cream station which handles a large volume does it cheaper and deliveries are usually in better condition. If we are to establish successfully at strategic points in the state several churning plans we must have a close-knit organization in those areas. A grain elevator ought to have at least enough grain to enable operation at low overhead. The savings made by an oil station will depend upon the gallonage it delivers. We need more members, and we need, in my opinion, to confine our activities to that membership as closely as we can. So nearly as may be we ought to limit the benefits of the Union to members of the Union. Such an attitude is not selfish or narrow. If there is no advantage in membership there is presently no membership, no union, and NO ADVANTAGE FOR ANYONE.

So it is tremendously significant that plans are now under way for a continuing campaign to increase our membership, to co-ordinate our activities more closely, and to aid in developing local units. Nothing spectacular is contemplated. No circus methods will be employed. But carefully and energetically the work will be carried on. Someone will be put in charge of organization plans. A few special men will be employed, no doubt. But for the most part dependence must be, as always, upon the hundreds and hundreds of loyal Farmers Union men a woman in the ranks. They have the confidence of their neighbors. They know the history of the Union in their own communities, its successes and failures. They have the Farmers Union cause at heart. With their support this new and enlarged program will "go over." And that support will not be lacking.

Such financial help as will be required will be furnished by the state-wide business organizations, which accepted the plan presented to them at their recent meetings in Kansas City. This will be an entirely legitimate investment on their part in the very thing upon which their future depends—the Kansas Farmers Union, its membership and program. It may not require much help. It might not need any. But we know in advance that we can go through with the undertaking, and not be compelled for financial reasons to stop in the midst of it.

We are deeply interested to know the reaction of our membership to this proposal. Are you for a program of building, beginning with membership and extending through our whole range of business activities? Do you believe it can be done? And now? And will you help? I hope a flood of letters from individuals and locals, and business organizations and county unions will come pouring in, saying "We are. We do. We will." The future is ours, and we are preparing now to claim it!

## GLIMPSSES OF CO-OPERATION

### CO-OPERATIVE OIL STATIONS

The Department of Markets of the state of Wisconsin has lately conducted an inquiry into the operation of oil stations on the co-operative plan in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The entrance of the Co-ops into any field seems to be the signal for a price war. Margins have declined where the co-operative stations have opened, but they are succeeding in spite of that in making an additional return to their members.

An analysis of their study reveals the following conclusions:

A co-operative group planning to enter this field should anticipate a minimum cost of fixed assets close to \$4,000.

The capital stock paid in should approximately equal the cost of the plant and equipment.

The company planning to enter this business should be able to count on not less than thirteen gallons of gasoline and kerosene combined for each dollar of total assets, and not less than forty gallons for each dollar of plant investment.

The company with a \$4,000 plant and total assets of \$12,000 should do a business of \$27,000 per year. The operating statements of these nineteen companies show a net profit of 11.7 per cent of sales; 33.6 per cent of assets; and 69.9 per cent of owners' net worth at beginning of the year.

Eleven of these companies earned over 50 per cent, and four of them better than 100 per cent, on the owners' interest at the beginning of the year.

These results are remarkably good, but they are exceptional. Co-operative oil companies can not expect to make so good a showing as this in the near future.

Operating statements of fourteen companies show average Gross Profit of 4.56 per unit of sales; Expense of 2.72c per unit; Net Profit of 1.84c per unit.

A company entering this business should plan to keep its expenses down to two and three-quarters cents per gallon.

We recommend caution to the co-operative oil companies planning to enter the service station business at this time.

The chief advantage of the co-operative over the private oil company must be obtained through having a large assured gallonage in a compact territory. This is best guaranteed through the sale of stock to a large number of prospective patrons.

The co-operative company does not need to cut prices in order to benefit its patrons. The most important single requirement for the co-operative oil company is a large number of members who will continue to buy from it even when prices were made the private companies' prices look more attractive.

We do not believe that a sound co-operative, excising due care in keeping expenses down, can be put out of business by anything short of a long-continued price war that would drive all the private independent oil companies to the wall also.

Present margins in Kansas are generous. The money we put into the road fund at 2 cents per gallon is said to equal only about one-third of the money we are putting into filling stations in profit margins. On the present basis any good Farmers Union organization could reasonably expect to get back their entire first investment in three years, at

most, in savings.

Nebraska is developing oil stations, centralizing their purchases as closely as they can through the Farmers Union State Exchange. They are buying in the open market, and the product is sold under Farmers Union label. Purchases are made on the basis of strict specifications, and a quality product is assured. To sell goods under a trademark belonging to someone else is to be always at the mercy of the owner, after establishing the brand with our members. To buy by specifications and to use our own label is to keep our independence.

It is a part of the general plan for an extensive development of the Farmers Union in Kansas that the Jobbing Association shall aid in establishing bulk oil stations, and in centralizing their buying power. There was ever a time in its history when the Kansas Farmers Union had as much to offer of advantage to its membership, now when it was so well prepared to render effective service. We ought to increase our membership by fifty per cent within the next two years.

### FARMERS UNION AT CHICAGO HAS RECORD

Record-breaking business, totaling almost fifteen million dollars gross sales of Cattle, Hogs and Sheep during 1922 was reported by Frank E. Wheatcraft, Manager of the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission at Chicago stockyards at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the co-operative sales agency held January 18.

Despite a serious shrinkage in total receipts of livestock at Chicago market the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission increased its hog business by 1078 carloads or 81 1-2 per cent, reaching a point where the co-operative agency leads the world's largest public market on many days and ranks second throughout the year. The net gain in total carloads for 1922 as compared to 1926 amounted to 956 carloads or 14.4 per cent. This splendid record is the more encouraging to officials and directors of the Farmers Union livestock department because it shows that co-operative marketing is winning new adherents throughout the Corn Belt, regardless of whether they belong to farmers organizations or otherwise. Several of the largest privately owned commission houses suffered losses ranging from 500 to 2,500 carloads during the same period that the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission made such substantial gains.

Headed by Milo Reno, General Manager of the Farmers Union Live Stock houses at Chicago and St. Paul, the Board of Directors gave the most careful consideration to a program for 1923 which will place Farmers Union sales agencies in a position to materially influence livestock prices. Frank E. Wheatcraft, Chicago manager, and Chas. D. Egley, manager at St. Paul, Minnesota, presented some plans for expansion of the business which may be submitted to the membership for referendum approval.

Board members in attendance at Chicago on January 18th, included Albert Lohff, Holstein, Iowa; Robert H. Moore, West Branch, Iowa; John Tank, Walcott, Iowa; Paul P. Moore, West Branch, Iowa; W. A. Kearns, Granger, Missouri; Henry Lambert, Ashton, S. D.; J. F. Mallaney, Bourbonnais, Illinois; L. E. Hauge, Michigan City, N. D.

## REFLECTIONS

### SOMEONE HANDED HIM ANOTHER FARM RELIEF, ALSO

President Coolidge made a weird reference in his speech at the dedication of the National Press club building at Washington Saturday about foreign influence in our American press. As one who reads the American press for a living, who has known it now more than 40 years intimately, the editor of The Gazette feels that he knows as much about it as President Coolidge. And this must be said: That whatever influences there are about the American press tending to support the mammoth of unrighteousness, foreign influence is not one of those. Someone has been telling our innocent president fairy stories if he thinks there is any foreign influence in the American press. Probably the thing which has deteriorated the American press more seriously than any other one thing in its 200 years of brilliant history is the country club. Here the owner and publisher meet the owners of great industrial and commercial concerns of his community, be it large or small, and that class opinion largely influences him. So it often happens that too much bias is often found in the American newspaper toward what might be called "the owning and ruling commercial classes." It is not corruption; it is not a sign of weakness on the part of the publishers; it is merely an inevitable result of loafing around the country club with his fellow plutocrats after a October or a summer's day. But as for foreign influence, there is none of it. President Coolidge knows less about the press than any president we have had in a generation except Taft. He is a good and great man, but someone has handed him a gold brick—William Allen White.

Some things are of that nature as to make One's fancy chuckle, while his heart doth ache—Bunyan.

We are told that "this year's world output of motor cars will run into millions." We are glad of this hint, and will try not to be one of those millions.

"How do you know she is a telephone girl?" "I have said 'Hello' to her twice and she has taken no notice."

DR. GRENFEEL SAYS MODERN YOUTH IS CHIVALROUS  
Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, explorer, surgeon and builder of a civilization,

### News From The Locals

DISTRICT 103 NO. 853  
To the Farmers Union:

Here's a few lines I let you know District 103 Local Oakland, Cloud Co. is not dead yet.

We had a very enthusiastic meeting the evening of the ninth. Also the roads were bad we had a fine crowd out. Took in some new members and a lot of old ones paid up dues.

We then proceeded to all settle down and enjoy, for enjoy it we did. It sure was a fine talk by E. L. Bullard.

At the close of his address the ladies served a fine supper which all enjoyed but all said they would much rather have heard Mr. Bullard talk than to have had supper and all united in inviting him back again at the earliest possible date.

We have felt somewhat discouraged because some of our members had dropped out but after listening to Mr. Bullard's talk we were made to see that the ones that had stood firm were the worth while ones and we had not lost much by the "chaff" being fanned out.

A number of friends from the Carmel Local visited us the night of our meeting and we enjoyed them very much as they sure are a up and doing bunch.

Respectfully,  
H. A. Cote, Sec'y.

### WOODSON COUNTY

The Woodson County Farmers Union will meet with Burt Local 2089 Saturday, Feb. 25. We invite all farm people to visit with us that day, especially if they bring big baskets full of good eats.

S. C. Cowles, President  
L. L. Byfield, Secretary

### MIAMI COUNTY

The Miami County Farmers Union No. 59 will hold its first quarterly meeting at Paola in the City Hall on March 3rd at 10:30. Have your delegates there as a lot of business will come before this meeting and each Local should be responsible at this meeting.

W. Slyter, President.  
W. J. Prescott, Sec'y.

The first quarterly meeting of Riley County Farmers Union No. 45 will be held at Oak Grove school house Saturday, March 10, 1923 at 10 o'clock a. m.

All Union members are invited.  
Gust Larson, Sec'y.

### KANSAS CITY HAY DEALERS' ASSOCIATION ADOPTS FEDERAL INSPECTION

All hay arriving on track at Kansas City for members of the Kansas City Hay Dealers' Association is now receiving Federal inspection in accordance with an agreement recently completed between that association and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. The United States standards for hay also have been adopted by the association as its standards. This means that practically all hay handled in the Kansas City market will receive Federal inspection, as nearly all dealers in that city are members of the association.

Daily market reports, which reflect the prices for hay in that market based on Federal grades, are being issued and distributed from Kansas City.

was in Chicago recently, his chief purpose being to raise funds for the remarkable pioneering work he has been doing in Labrador for nearly a generation. Of his activities he spoke modestly, but indicated its general scope in these few words: "We have five hospitals, and co-operative marketing and buying societies and schools and two large orphanages." He ministers to about 5,000 fishermen. Of modern youth he had something optimistic to say. "Youth today," he believes, "is the most chivalrous that ever existed. Of course, young people do not like to have doctrines shoved down their throats, but that is nothing against them."

### AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

I think he would have hated this white shrine,  
This pomp of marble gleaming in the sun,  
He whom a cabin sheltered from the cold,

Who knew a cabin's rest when day was done,  
And men who dwelt in cabins were his friends,  
In cabins and in little prairie towns,  
He was of them and they of him, and each

So trusted other that when peril came  
And threatened all their fathers' toil  
They gave to him the guiding of the State.

And though he walked with princes still he knew  
He held his place securely in their hearts.

What can the marble's splendor mean to him?

Strange how we litter all the earth with shrines,  
Dark shadowed chapels where no sunlight falls,  
For those who knew the sun, the touch of rain,

The hope of sowing and the joy of reaping,  
And all the round of simple things in life—  
The saints and seers and prophets of the race,  
Who called to farther goals and led the way.

We carve from dull dead stone their travesties,  
We cover them with incense and great praise—  
In any way to keep them from our hearts;  
In any way to keep from following after

as City. This work is being done by the market committee of the association, working in conjunction with the Kansas City office of the Grain, Hay and Feed Market News Service maintained by the Department of Agriculture.

A large increase in the opportunity for buyers and sellers to handle hay on Federal grades is provided by these arrangements, as Kansas City is the largest hay market in the United States, handling annually about 25,000 cars.

Producers and country shippers of hay who can reach the Kansas City market with their product can study these market reports and sell or consign their offerings at a time when they think conditions are most advantageous. They can be assured that when they reach the market they will receive a fair and impartial inspection on the basis of standards that will reflect closely the value of the hay. If the hay has been consigned the price at which it is sold can be compared with the price given in the market reports for that grade on the day on which the sale was made. This, the shipper can determine whether his Kansas City representative obtained a fair price.

Likewise, consumers of hay can make purchases in the Kansas City market on the basis of United States standards and obtain a Federal certificate showing the grade of the hay with the other papers covering the shipment. In this way, they can be assured of obtaining the kind of hay purchased.

Federal inspection at Kansas City will be made by two federally licensed inspectors employed by the Kansas City Hay Dealers' Association and trained in the use of the United States hay standards. The work of these men will be supervised by employees of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, stationed at the hay standardization laboratory in Kansas City, who will also be available to assist in making inspections when additional help is needed.

BE SURE OF YOUR ALFALFA SEED

"Don't sow any alfalfa seed without definite knowledge of its origin," is the counsel of J. C. Mohler, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. "It is a loss of money, seed, time, and a year's crop to sow in Kansas southern grown alfalfa seed," says the secretary, "because it is not adapted to Kansas conditions and the crop will winter kill."

"Be particularly careful this spring as to the origin of the seed to be sown, for the Kansas alfalfa seed crop of last year was very short. Hence, the supply of Kansas Common, which is the best for Kansas seeding, is unusually limited. If seed of the Kansas Common alfalfa cannot be secured, then northern grown seed is recommended."

"Quite a bit of southern seed has been shipped to Kansas in the past few months. It is generally bright and good looking and on appearance alone would seem attractive. Some southern alfalfa seed is offered in Kansas as untested seed, presumably in order to avoid imparting information as to origin. Under the law, tested seeds must bear a label stating where the seed was grown, as well as the percentage of purity and germination. Read the label carefully, and give the information it gives, which will serve as a basis for selection in buying. The safe plan is to buy and plant only tested seed."

"The Board's seed laboratory at Manhattan will test fruit of charge any samples of seeds sent to it by

On that stern path that leads at last to peace!  
I think he would have hated this white shrine!  
William E. Brooks in The Christian Century.

### AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES SHOULD FIND ONLY PLEASANT FACTS

At the risk of annoying those who are tired of hearing the complaint about farming conditions, we reprint from Wallace's Farmer a report made public recently by the Missouri College of Agriculture.

"Cost analyses of seventeen Missouri farms that have kept records in co-operation with the College of Agriculture since 1914, show that the purchasing value of the average labor income on these farms, after all other farming expenses and charges were paid, ranged from \$3,273 in 1917 to \$664 less than nothing in 1921. In 1920 and 1921, these farmers paid \$427 and 664, respectively, for the privilege of farming their own land, yet these farmers are far above the average in Missouri."

For only the three war years was the purchasing value of the labor income above \$2,000 per farm, the remaining ten years the adjusted income ranged downward from little more than \$300 in 1915 and 1925, little more than \$500 in 1926, to \$400 in 1914, 1916 and 1924 and less than \$100 from 1920 to 1923, inclusive."

### WHOLESALESALE NOW FIND OUT WHAT IS WRONG

Representatives of wholesale houses (these are said to be 80,000 wholesalers in the U. S.) are meeting in Washington to find out what it is all about. Orders are smaller and smaller, and their total volume is declining.

The greater part of their business has naturally been with merchants in towns and villages. Chain and department stores have not been, generally, patrons of jobbers. These have gone more directly to sources for goods.

Their reports indicate that 60 per cent of the American people still live in open country or in towns under 10,000. Wholesalers are unable to believe that all of them drive to the big cities to trade. Maybe they will find decreased purchasing power on the farms. Some other groups have.

Kansas farmers, and they are invited to utilize liberally these facilities. The laboratory can make accurate reports on purity and germination, but it cannot by examination determine the origin of seed. The seller should be required to guarantee its origin, as done under the label accompanying tested seeds.

"The Kansas seed law was designed to protect our farmers in the quality of the seeds they plant. If tested seed is planted, the risks are greatly reduced. To know what one is planting the surest way is to use only tested seed. Even when buying seed grown by a neighbor it should be tested, to be certain of germination and the matter of noxious weeds. Let the state's seed laboratory serve you. That's what it's for. Use it. Any inquiries or questions will be gladly answered by the State Board of Agriculture."

### IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING SALE OF AGRICULTURAL SEED IN KANSAS

Under authority of Chapter 3, section 14, of the Session Laws of Kansas of 1925, the following regulation is hereby officially adopted:

"Labels for 'Untested' Agricultural Seeds' shall, in addition to the information previously required, also state the origin of the seed under the heading 'Where Grown.'"

This regulation, which amends the form prescribed, and identified as "Style C. Label for Untested Seed," in the report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Vol. XLVI, No. 181-B, for the quarter ending March, 1927, and entitled "Agricultural Seed," shall be in full force and effect on and after the 20th day of February, 1928.

By J. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Kansas State Board of Agriculture.  
Issued this 16th day of February, 1928.

### WHERE PRIDE OF FARMERS' WIVES IS CENTERED

WINNIPEG—Fruits, flowers, and vegetables grow and flourish abundantly on the majority of the farms of Western Canada, a recent investigation made by the Canadian Government Forest Service of the Department of the Interior discloses. The kitchen garden on the farms of the Canadian prairies is a source of great pride to the farmers' wives.

This year an inspection of 3,812 farms in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were made. Of this number 3,411 had good vegetable gardens; 1,258 were growing small fruits; 379 had ornamental shrubs; 265 were testing standard apple trees and 213 were growing plums. Twenty years ago the number of prairie farms with pretentious flower and vegetable gardens was small and little attempt was made to grow fruits. Now a great variety of home-grown fruits is common on the prairie farm home menu, while vegetables of a wide variety grow to perfection. For two years in succession a Manitoba farmer has won the cauliflower championship at the American Vegetable Growers Association annual show.

The successful growing of orchard fruits is linked with the development of shelter belts of broadleaf and evergreen trees. Agricultural experts believe that it is reasonable to expect that in the near future most of the farmers in the Canadian west in addition to increasing their dairy production, growing wheat, vegetables, flowering small fruits, will also be growing orchard fruits ranging from cherries to apples in their own orchards.







# THE DAILY DROVERS TELEGRAM CONTINUES FIGHT

## Direct Buying Of Hogs In The Country Detrimental To Producers

LETTERS DELUGED SENATOR CURTIS

Farmers Writing Protests Against Direct Buying Of Hogs

DEMAND ACTION

Want Congress To Pass The Capper-Hoppe Bill Putting Private Stock Yards Under Government Regulation

(Drovers Telegram)

Farmers of the cornbelt are demanding action by their representatives in congress for protection against direct buying. Senator Curtis of Kansas is quoted as saying that he has received hundreds of letters from Kansas farmers who say that the practice of direct buying is undermining the stability of agriculture. They are seeking for legislative relief. These farmers are looking to the passage of the Capper-Hoppe bill as a measure of relief which will bring the marketing of their hogs back to a competitive basis of open market conditions. This bill, which is an amendment to the Packers and Stock Yards act of 1921, would place all stock yards under government supervision and would do away with weighing, grading, and handling by packer representatives at private yards without government supervision.

Practically all classes of farmers' organizations have passed resolutions condemning the packers' practice of direct buying. Business men's organizations are taking note of the effects of the practice and are anxious for the condition to be corrected, for they realize that trade conditions are menaced by any condition which reduces the farmers' income from live stock.

The Old Backbone

A Kansas man writes in to say that he has 145 hogs weighing from 250 to 350 pounds; that a packer buyer proposed to split, half to the packer and half to the open market; that when the return should come from the market the packer would give 15 cents per hundred more than the split to market brought. "Give me some idea as to what you think about this," he farmer writes.

This proposition is a fine illustration of the bait which the packers put on the hook when angling for the good will and patronage of the hog producers. It is a most difficult bait to withstand, and only those farmers who recognize the wrong principle of direct buying, and that it is undermining the open markets through eliminating competition, will be able to withstand such apparently generous bait.

No offer, no matter how generous, would be considered unwarranted by the packer if it could stop the present swing away from direct buying.

The hog producer who receives special consideration from the packer buyer to win him over to the plan must know that direct buying is in the favor and to the advantage of the packer or the plan would be discontinued. It is apparent, therefore, that the packer realizes that when the grocer gives two cents of gum drops to the housewife who buys the family groceries she will come back again, and that the hog owner who receives special consideration will not have will power enough to say "get thee behind me, Satan."

Such baits as this, which seem to the advantage of the producer to accept as an immediate benefit, are the handiwork to overthrow the direct system, and the packer knows it.

Men of the farms, stiffen up the old backbone! Breaking the Sheep Market "I think it would be well enough to warn the shepherds to stop the practice of selling direct before they ruin the sheep market like the hog market," writes a Kansas feeder who has been pleased with the Telegram in its campaign against direct buying.

Confirmation that others are thinking the same way about direct marketing of sheep and its influence in depressing the market comes from a reader at Greeley, Colo., who says: "Lamb feeders' associations in North Colorado and territory tributary to the Denver market are trying to keep too many lambs from being bought by the packers in Denver and forwarded to Chicago and the river markets, as it depresses the market with direct from Denver the same as country buying of hogs. This condition applies especially this year with the big end of the lambs located out here."

The practice of the packers in buying fat lambs on the Denver market, taking advantage of the feeding in transit freight rates to Missouri river points, is just another manifestation of the packer tactics of using direct receipts to break down basic market prices. With the fat lambs bought in Denver, the market at Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Omaha or any other market, can be depressed and this depression in basic markets is later reflected in the Denver market, of course. It is a system which works to the disadvantage of the sheep production industry.

The principle involved in this method of buying sheep is the same as that involved in direct buying of hogs and if the packers are able to lower the market for hogs and sheep, it stands to reason that they will endeavor to apply the same principle in the purchase of cattle. Such a movement on their part need not surprise anyone.

The Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has adopted the following resolution: "Whereas, the past development and the future growth of Kansas City rests largely upon the agricultural prosperity of its surrounding territory,

and live stock is the medium by which the products of our soil are marketed and the fertility of our soil is maintained, and Whereas, open competitive public markets are absolutely vital for the protection and prosperity of producers and consumers alike,

Be it therefore resolved, that the Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, Missouri, is heartily in favor of the present open and competitive market. That we are opposed to any and all systems that threaten the permanency and stability of same, and believe that Senate Bill No. 2805 and House Bill No. 9288 are progressive steps to the betterment of the agriculture committee of the senate and house of representatives.

How Nebraska Is Doing It J. W. Moeller, an extensive feeder of Walnut, Ia., thus relates to South Omaha Journal-Stockman what is going on in Nebraska and Iowa:

"I am certainly pleased with the effect this campaign against country buying of hogs by packers is having and only hope that the sentiment against it continues to spread fast enough so that before a great deal of time passes packers will be forced to depend as much on the open markets for their supply as they did a couple of years ago.

"While the feeling toward shipping hogs to the open and competitive markets is strong among the Iowa farmers and raisers I visited several towns in Nebraska recently, particularly around Syracuse and I want to say that I only wish the fellows around my neighborhood would put up the fight against direct buying that they are in this state.

"In some instances farm organizations and shipping associations have signed up all communities sign up or packers in the country and in a few cases in Iowa they have gone nearly that strong, but I would like to see it 100 per cent and not nearly that. This situation will not be straightened out in my estimation until the hog raisers of all communities sign up or make some sort of an agreement to refuse to sell direct to packers, or to buyers who do sell to packers, and stick to the agreement.

"Until farmers draw up this agreement and live up to it I hardly think there will be much of a rise in hog prices. Everyone knows, or should know that regardless of who the buyer is or what the commodity is, the price is always the greatest when the party purchasing the article is forced to meet where competition is strong, and that certain thing. Unless we can force these packers back onto the central markets for their entire supplies we can't look for any noticeable improvement in conditions in the way of an advance in prices so let's get together and quit selling to packers in the country."

THOMAS E. WILSON OPPOSES PACKERS BUYING DIRECTLY Company Will Discontinue Practice Here if Others Will Do Same

A stand against the practice of direct buying of hogs in territories supporting a central market has been taken by Thomas E. Wilson, president of Wilson & Co., packers.

During a tour of inspection of the Wilson plant here yesterday, Mr. Wilson set forth some ideas he has on marketing conditions, especially in their relation to the hog market. "I am opposed to direct buying of hogs where there is a central market and I would be in favor of seeing the practice stopped in the Kansas City territory," Mr. Wilson said.

He explained that his company is forced to buy hogs direct to supply some of its plants where there is no adequate central market. In Kansas City, however, he said, he would like to see all hogs shipped to the central market so all buyers could have an equal chance to bid on them.

Must Meet Competition Here "As it is at present," he said, "we are forced to go out and buy hogs direct to meet competition and keep our Kansas City plant operating at capacity."

"Do you mean, Mr. Wilson, that you have to buy direct so you can get hogs as cheaply as your competitors?" it was asked.

"Well, it figures out about that way," he replied.

"And if your competitors would quit buying direct, you would be glad to quit, too?"

"Yes, I would, especially in this territory where when a packer buys direct the others have to do it in self defense."

He was then asked if he believed the practice of direct buying by the packers was sound economically.

"Well, I'll say at least that it is for the packers," he replied.

As to the farm end of it, he believed the direct buying practice might prove detrimental if developed much further.

See No Harm As Yet "I don't believe direct buying has hurt the packers much yet," he said. "Of course, if it came to the point where it eliminated central markets it might be extremely detrimental or beneficial, just according to your viewpoint."

As Mr. Wilson said his company is not opposed to the Capper-Hoppe bill which would provide government regulation for privately owned stockyards.

He said, however, he did not believe the bill would do space. Write and tell us in a few words that you are going to be with us in the attempt to get more money for your hogs.

Editor Telegram—I have read your paper for about 35 years and I know that you are working in the interest of the producer. I have read all your articles on the direct buying of hogs and I know that the only right way to sell them is to send them to an open market. Yet I have shipped or sold my cars direct. Now I am willing to cast my lot with the fellows that are going to ship to the open market, and if they ride I will ride with them. I am getting too old to push, anyway.

Now, Mr. Editor, I think you have the interests of the hog growers at heart when you fight direct buying and I am going to cast my lot with you to see what the result will be. But I am a farmer in a farming country and the hog business is not the whole solution. I have the same idea that can pay \$430 for a common header and an equal amount for all other machinery and pay taxes and other required expenses and turn this land over to the next generation in as good shape as we found it. If you can, I am in a good position to give him a chance to demonstrate it.

Codell, Kans. S. R. TUCKER. Editor Telegram—Keep your fight on the direct buying of hogs. A regular shipper in this county, Chase, buys for Wilson & Co. I am told by a reliable Dun county man that on January 28 Wilson & Co. paid 60c more per cwt for hogs in Benkenan, Mo. county, than the same firm paid at Waukegan in Chase county which adjoins, and where the packers hold the fort. Explanation—at Benkenan the shipping association has been revived. Packer buyers are visiting the fat cattle owners in these parts trying to buy their cattle. If any goodly number of cattle owners are twiddled into selling to the packers, then Mr. Cattelman look out.

Enders, Neb. O. F. PRIAR.

Hugh Craig, Hiawatha, Kans., in a letter to the Telegram says, "You surely started something when you began your drive against direct buying. Plenty of people are willing to follow you now, but it is the course of duty, credit. Organization may do something to correct this situation, but it requires government compulsion to entirely cure the trouble.

"So with the control the surplus problem, without some such provision as is proposed in the McNary-Haugen bill, slackers and traitors among farmers will defeat the efforts of even a great majority to make organization a permanent thing. If you do not, the majority was not made absolute and final. Industry and labor in effect have this group government, having secured the degree of governmental assistance necessary to make them successful."

"Corn is higher than last year, the supply of hogs about the same, and yet the price of hogs is \$4 a cwt lower. This gives the lie to those who decry government interference with 'supply and demand'."

"The law of supply and demand do not protect the farmer. They can be so influenced as to ruin him. The McNary-Haugen bill seeks to influence supply and demand in favor of the farmer rather than allow these forces to be influenced against him to his ruin."

"We are going to remain a protected industry. Under protection we must have the McNary-Haugen bill. The McNary-Haugen bill should be supported by every farmer. If each of us would write a postcard saying we want the bill passed it would be needed to right general conditions and the Capper bill to give immediate relief to the hog raisers."

A Man Cured Editor Telegram—"The packers' confession, 'It is the policy of the packers to eat till late and buy their hogs cheap.'"

As I remember, it was in the fall of 1923 that I shipped a car load of hogs direct to a packer in St. Louis, and on the same day the Co-operative shippers of Queen City had a car of hogs at the National Yards in St. Louis. All loaded and shipped on the

same day and train. My hogs were my own raising and feeding and were uniform of good weight and finish.

The other hogs were delivered to Queen City by a number of parties so anyone acquainted with the hog business knows about what they would get as to uniformity, weight, etc.

When my hogs had been weighed and the price ascertained, I went over to the National Yards. When I arrived there I met the Co-operative shipper and to my surprise his hogs sold 15c per hundred higher than my hogs were marked.

I asked him (the Co-operative shipper) to go with me over to the packing plant and I told them that I was not satisfied with the price, that I had a better load of hogs than the Co-op, to which their manager agreed and that they out-sold me by 15c.

After some argument, all I got was his confession. I left with a decision that I had shipped my last hogs direct.

I have shipped hogs at different times since then to the National Yards and have always been satisfied that it has more than paid me the difference in expense. They claim they give us the market, but I claim they do not always, but I claim they have just a word to say about the price.

G. A. SIDWELL. Queen City, Mo.

NEARSIGHTEDNESS K. C. Drovers Telegram, Feb. 16, 1928. The Chicago Drovers Journal wrote the packers are picking on Mondays to flood the hog market with more than a deluge of hogs bought direct. The Drovers Journal must have a suspicion, but permits me to cast my lot with his conclusion.

On the last two Mondays here were so many hogs on the markets and in direct hands that only a fool could expect a price level to remain undisturbed and the packers, through distress and market purchases, were thus on Monday fortified against anything that might happen later in the week.

Massing hog receipts on Monday insures a low level for the week. This is one of the ruinous factors of the hog market.

Something like 1,700,000 lambs are being fed in Colorado and the packers, through purchasing all they can at Denver and using the feed-in-transit rate, bring those lambs to eastern markets and sell them promptly and effectively bump the prices. Then the bunn at the river markets is transmitted back to the Denver market.

It must be a near-sighted farmer, indeed, who cannot see what is going on. This hog farmer is selling his stuff to the packer and then the packer takes the stuff and raps the farmer over the head with it.

Top on Lambs \$16.00

Receipts this week are about 20,000 more than a week ago. The packers having about 100,000 direct from other lamb sources and we have had more Colorado lambs on sale than any time this season. Our market had a top of \$16.00 today for a few choice loads of lambs, the bulk of the lot selling at \$15.50. The market is closing a little weak today. We sold some yearling wethers this week, averaging 93 pounds at \$15.00 and some ewes as high as \$10.00. Would advise any one who has marketable lambs on hand to let them come as we do not look for the market to go any higher.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 16, 1928.—It Can Be Done

We are glad to report that our business for the first six weeks this year is about double that a year ago. Be your own ambassador; represent yourself; have your say by shipping to us. You can't lose. Success is sure. It can be done.

STEERS: The worst break of the year, a decline of 50 cents to 1.00, the better kind breaking most. Top for the week \$16.25, practical top \$15.00, bulk of good cattle selling at \$12.50 to \$13.00. Main stream at \$12.50. Cows fair to good 11 to 12 cents. The cheaper dogie kinds now selling too close to pretty good grades. Best yearlings \$12.50 to \$13.50, fair to good \$11.50 to \$12.50. Plain short feds \$10.50 to \$11.00. We still believe will pay to make cattle better good.

STOCKERS & FEEDERS: 25 to 50 lower, most decline on feeders; very few strictly choice here, also few thin stockers. Best whiteface feeders 11 to 12 cents, fancy higher, fair to good \$10.50 to \$11.00. Good 10 to 11 cents, fair to good \$9.50 to \$10.00. Strictly choice whiteface stockers 12 to 13 cents, fair to good 11 to 12 cents, medium 10 to 11 cents. Shorthorns dollar less.

LINGS & HEIFERS, MIXED YEARLINGS & BULLS: Receipts of cows and heifers about normal this week, but demand was limited and trading very slow. Cows were about steady first three days, but the market slumped sharply today on all killers except canners and cutters. The market is leading to packers closing today 25 to 50 cents under week ago. Heifers have been hard to move all week, today's market 50 to 75 cents under close last week. Canners \$4.75 to \$5.00, cutters \$5.25 to \$6.00. Fancy heavy cows \$9.25 to \$9.75 today, \$10.00 to \$11.00. Light cows to bring \$9.00. Bulk of fat heifers 10 to 11 cents. Stock cows and heifers steady, also bulls.

CALVES: Uneven trade all week, prices closing about steady on veals and 25 to 50 lower on medium weights and heavies. Top veals \$15.00. Fat 300 to 400 lb. calves 10 to 11 cents. Lightweight baby heaves 50 lower, selling at \$11.00 to \$11.50. WE SOLD a number of veals yesterday at 16 cents, although Drovers Telegram quoted top of 15 cents. Stock calves steady.

COGS: Lower market. Trade today slow and uneven, 5 to 10 lower, top \$8.10 on 170s to 220s. Desirable 160s to 230s \$7.90 to \$8.10, few 240s to 325s \$7.50 to \$7.90. Stock pigs \$7.00 to \$7.40. Stage \$6.25 to \$7.15.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Good market first of week, lambs reaching \$15.65, but lower last two days, market 10 to 15 off today, top \$15.10, bulk \$14.50 to \$15.00.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

FARMERS UNION BEATS THEM ALL

Your Own Firm led all other sales agencies at Chicago yesterday, handling Fifty Six Cars of Cattle, Hogs and Sheep. This makes a new record business for Farmers Union Live Stock Commission. Receipts this week

will come very close to 300 carloads. For the month of February receipts should exceed a thousand carloads. Nothing could prove more conclusively the success of the live selling is going to succeed in overturning the old system of peddling live stock and establish a new method under which the farmers will have a real voice in fixing prices of Cattle, Hogs and Sheep on Cost of Production plus profit basis. Here are some interesting figures which you might give to your local newspaper for publication:

January 1928—961 Cars; January, 1927—831 cars—Gain 31 per cent. To date Feb., 1928—575 Cars; Feb., 1927—399 Cars—Gain 45 per cent. This tremendous growth in sales is the strongest proof that Farmers Union is getting the highest prices and giving the best service that it is possible to obtain under present marketing conditions.

Cattle \$1.00 to \$2.00 Lower. Prices on steers are sharply lower although market receipts do not show any material increase. The buyers have evidently determined to "lay-off" and break this cattle market down more nearly in line with the ruinous Hog Prices. Steers are selling from \$13.50 up show \$1.00 to \$2.00 loss. Choice and select \$13.50 have lost 50 to 75c since last Wednesday which was the high time last week. The better grades of cows and heifers are also about 50 to 75c lower while these lower priced cows are steady to 25c lower. This condition in the cattle market simply goes to prove that live stock men must get together and "CO-OPERATE." You can't have PORK selling below cost of production and continue a profitable cattle trade. Farmers Union Live Stock Commission has made some splendid sales on fat cattle and butcher stock during the past week for shippers from Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois. We want to handle your next shipment of cattle—a trial will convince you that the farmer-owned selling agencies can get the price and give service which will justify you in forgetting all about "split shipments."

Hogs Lower Again

A hundred thousand hogs Monday big packers having nearly 20,000 "direct" to their plants. With this big advantage prices were forced lower. Armour plants had about 14,000 head of these direct hogs and the market supply showed about 100,000 when actually about 8,000 were "on sale." Tuesday the hog market came back 10c but Wednesday and today prices are weak to lower. \$3.40 is the extreme top; bulk of light hogs \$3.15 to \$3.30—butchers from \$3.00 to \$3.20. The general feeling in the trade is that the hog market will continue for the next couple of weeks. With Lenten Season coming on, there is not much prospect of a better pork trade and we therefore advise shipping hogs that weigh from 240 to 260 lbs. upward. Ship to Farmers Union Live Stock Commission and help establish Sales Control through your own firm at Chicago.

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FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill. Thursday, Feb. 16, 1928.

FARMERS UNION MADE BIG GAIN

Union Behind Principles of the McNary-Haugen Farm Bill

(By A. C. Davis, National Secretary-Treasurer, Springfield, Mo.)

An outstanding event in Farmer Union circles in 1927 was the organization of the North Dakota State Union, thus adding one more to the long list of organized states. North Dakota is a grain and live stock producing state. The Farmers Union promotes co-operative marketing. The appeal to North Dakota farmers was therefore made to market grain through the Farmers Union National Association operating at St. Paul and live stock through the Farmers Union Live Stock Commissions at Chicago and South St. Paul.

While the total volume of live stock and grain handled by these institutions during 1927 is remarkable, the savings made to shippers is astonishing. The farmers' own agency gives the shipper exactly what his grain is worth. By thus earning for him from \$250 to \$500 per car on grain above the street price the volume has so increased as to almost swamp our agency.

Farmers of the northwest still have strong leaning toward Federal legislation as a remedial agency for farm relief, but they are also noting the powerful weapon of co-operative marketing which they hold in their hands. The Farmers Union pioneered the movement to market live stock co-operatively. The first such house was operated at Omaha in 1917. Houses are now operated at every primary market in the middle west. More than six million dollars have been returned by these co-operative houses to shippers since the movement was initiated.

Creameries Promoted

Co-operative creameries came in for their share of expansion in 1927. The Farmers Union creamery at Kansas City had scarcely gotten under way at the beginning of the year. Today its output places it as one of the largest, co-operative creamery in the world. The Nebraska State Union has had to promote two additional creameries to take care of the tremendous growth of this form of co-operative industry. Why not when the patronage profits run from 2 to 3 cents per pound on butter fat?

Property insurance companies operated by the Farmers Union in every state in the middle west were singularly successful during 1927. The cost of insurance under our own companies is approximately one-half the cost under the old line insurance companies. Rather an inducement to patronize

one's own institution. It is quite possible that the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company of Kansas is one of the largest of its kind in this country, having now in force policies to the value of \$61,000,000. The total insurance carried by Farmers Union companies now is \$155,800,000.

The Farmers Union Mutual Life Insurance Company has had a phenomenal growth since its inception in 1922. During 1927 the amount of insurance in force was increased about one and one-half million dollars, bringing the total insurance in force at the end of the year to \$3,300,000. This is a strict legal reserve company, chartered under the rigid insurance laws of Iowa.

Gas and Oil Stations

A rather new field for co-operative endeavor among farmers was injected into the picture during 1927. Co-operative gas and oil stations have sprung up as by magic in some sections of the country, more particularly in Nebraska. Farmers Union members operate these institutions in much the same manner as they do other forms of mutual self-help. In some of the smaller villages and rural communities, the Farmers Union is now the chief distributor of oils and gas.

State-wide trading and jobbing associations owned by Farmers Union members and operated for their benefit, continue their popularity as contributing factors to the solution of the farm problem. Through these agencies master contracts for machinery, twine, fencing, hardware, lumber, and the thousand and one things whose cost plays an important part in the upkeep of farms, are made and the volume of business through them runs into many millions of dollars. One house alone did business in 1927 of one and three-fourths millions of dollars.

Our organization in the southern section of the country is paying particular attention to cotton marketing and to the splendid savings to be made by gaining the staple co-operatively.

The Arkansas Farmers Union Cotton Association is owned by and operated for members only.

The Oklahoma State Union made a special campaign and organized the 1927 thirty Farmers Cotton gins. Quite a feat when one recalls that the investment for machinery alone for these gins amounts to about \$1,000,000.

Membership Gains

The year of 1927 was fairly successful both as to the growth of the Union and the increase of business among its activities. The total co-operative turnover runs into many millions of dollars upon which the prorate to our members was quite handsome.

Let it be remembered that all patronage of Farmers Union activities is voluntary. With but two exceptions, none of our business institutions, large or small, have anything resembling a contract with its patrons. They depend entirely upon ability to function in their respective capacities equally well by comparison with old line institutions and to return all profits above operating costs and a possible small reserve, to patrons as dividends. That they continue to grow year after year is proof of the pudding.

Within the past year or so a new school of thought has begun to develop in the Farmers' Union more particularly in the northwest group, concerning the patronage dividend based upon the Rochdale plan. The thought is to use the accumulated profits as reserve for the control of credits, rather than as dividends to individuals. The argument that so long as co-operative marketing has not power to become a bargaining factor in marketing no assurance of profitable production can be expected, however well the institution may function in the saving of commissions, would seem to have considerable weight. This plan is attracting considerable attention and is being tried out by some of our institutions.

PHOOL PHILOSOPHY

I was sitting in a hotel lobby the other day, listening to a bunch of traveling men discuss the political situation; four of them said they believed a certain man running for governor would make us a good governor, but that he did not have any chance to be elected because the "Old Guard" was against him. So they were going to vote for another man.

I am reminded of something I read a long time ago about this country. "This is a country where men vote for something they don't want, or fear they will get something they do want by voting for it."

Now wouldn't that burn your celluloid collar? Here were four men of average intelligence, who recognized the ability and honesty of a man out for public office, but they would not vote for him because they were afraid he would get beat.

The right to vote our honest convictions should be the most highly prized right which we have; and goodness knows we do not have many rights left any more; this right was bought with the tears and blood of patriots through seven long years of war against the strongest nation of the earth at that time. Men sacrificed themselves, their families and their fortune for this right to govern themselves; and we their descendants are so indifferent that we cast it aside like a worn out plaything, or else use it to keep some politician in office or to keep some other politician out.

If I believed that a candidate had the ability and honesty to carry out the principles which I believed in, why I would vote for him if I knew my vote would be the only one he would receive.

We have so far lost sight of the ideals of the men who won our liberty from King George, and established the thirteen colonies as an independent nation, that our government is now a government of the people, for the people and by the people, has degenerated into a government of special privileges for big interests, by politicians. When we stop acting like phools and do our duty by going to the polls and voting our honest convictions, there will be some hope of changing this condition.

There is a church in Emporia, Bill White's town, which as put it all over the rest of the churches there; this

church has organized a club, with membership dues and are putting on Sunday picture shows. Of course there is a law in Kansas forbidding Sunday shows, but they get around the law by their club memberships. Of course these picture shows are supposed to be highbrow stuff, and far above the intelligence of the average garden variety of citizens, but the fact remains, that picture shows are banned on Sunday by the Kansas law. I suppose these same church members would raise their hands in horror, and hold one taking a drink of bootleg liquor. What is sauce for the goose is not always sauce for the gander. I am surprised though, that this will be allowed in a town where Old Bill and Young Bill are both on the job directing and guarding the people's morals.

D. A. M. PHOOL.

DOING THEIR BEST

Another communication comes from C. R. Cropp, manager of the Farmers' Shipping association of Oxford, Furnas county, Neb., just over the Kansas line, who sends the Telegram a copy of a letter for a public meeting to be in Oxford next Monday. The call says:

Oxford, Neb. Are you interested in keeping our public markets open for the sale of our live stock? They are slowly but surely being closed by direct packer buying. Farmers are called to meet in Oxford, Monday, January 9, at 1 p. m. to organize for the protection of our markets and the protective markets. Do not fail in performing your duty. Be there on time.

C. R. CROPP. Manager, Farmers' Shipping association.

THE DRYGOODS BOX

RIGHT AND JUSTICE GOOD MOTTO

Editor Kansas Union Farmer. Dear Sir:—

May I be allowed to say that when a member of the Kansas Farmers Union tells some of our Congressmen what the farmers of Kansas want and they do not dare deny it but answer by saying that this chap is rushing into print for political purposes, it merely indicates to a dirt farmer who has kept well informed on both political parties what the farmer who is making the charge are doing just what they accuse the other chap of trying.

I would like to meet face to face with every farm man and woman voter in our state and say "if we (meaning all farm voters) will just once vote against every office holder, high or low, that does not use every honorable means to get what the farmers asked for, once will be enough" for that will show the ones who get elected that we expect what we ask for and all that we ask for is justice for ourselves and our children.

To the farm women voters I want to say I talked and wrote for Women's Suffrage in 1888 until it became the law of our land because I thought surely the women would honestly vote in the