



THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation

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THE KANSAS FARMERS UNION WAS NOT DEAD--ONLY SLEEPING

NEWS OF THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

ALLEN COUNTY
Our Annual Picnic was held in Moran Park Sept. 21st. A good crowd was present. Our business meeting was held just before noon. As usual we had a fine dinner. After dinner the Moran band furnished music for us. Then we were favored with a short program given by the various locals.

Mr. E. L. Bullard came and gave his usual good talk. He has been with us several times and each time we are just as eager to have him return.

We also had a good ball game between Golden Valley and Fairview. Golden Valley won the game.
Mr. Chas. Wray was chosen as county delegate to the state convention at Parsons. Mr. Wray will be a good man for the place, and we hope each local will send a delegate to Parsons. A great many of our members are planning to attend the convention one day or more. It being close every member in Allen county should try to go if possible.

The Allen County Farmers Union conducted a booth at the County Fair which was held the latter part of August. We know this did a lot of good for the Farmers Union in general. Success was brought about in this event by the cooperation of loyal members of the committee, the locals and state institutions. About 1000 people registered at the booth in the guessing contest which was conducted in connection with Mr. Ormsby's egg breaking machine. A sack of flour and a pound of coffee was given the winners each day by the LaHarpe Farmers Union.
The Allen County union is making a steady growth and we hope to increase our membership during the drive. I heartily agree with Mr. Chas. Simpson that we could not only increase our membership but help them if we did business on a strictly membership basis.

C. A. HOUK, Secy.

MARSHAL COUNTY
Blue Rapids, Kans., Oct. 8, 1929
Sec'y A. M. Kinney,
State Farmers Union,
Salina, Kansas.

Dear Secretary Kinney:
After some preliminary work, we organized a Local at Cottage Hill, 6 miles south of Waterville, in a fine community with a fine Standard school house. Rather it was a re-organization, as a Farmers Union had existed there and had gradually faded out. Congressman Strong gave a fine talk on the benefits and necessity of farmers organizing after which 26 men organized, or reorganized the local. About half a dozen of them were old members of Cottage Hill that demitted to another local when Cottage Hill faded out. I told them I thought they could open under their old charter without going to the expense of paying for a charter again. That is correct, is it not?

What does a new local have to pay for a charter, if anything? Please give me full information as I thought some new locals organized as well as old locals re-organized in our drive for membership in this county. Under the agreement of the leaders in the contest between the East and West halves of the county, we are not charging anything for the work of securing new members.

Mr. Chas. Stenson of Waterville is Secretary of the re-organized local and he will write to you for by-laws, receipt book, application blanks and a full list of supplies soon, I think. Please give him full information. A good many other members can be secured there. Mr. Ernest Pishney was elected President and he is a live wire.

ASK FARM BOARD TO CONSIDER CO-OPERATIVE PURCHASING PLAN

The Board of the Union Oil Company has asked the Federal Farm Board to give consideration to co-operative purchasing organizations. The following resolution was adopted at its recent meeting: "We respectfully ask that the Board give due consideration to the needs of co-operative purchasing associations, as well as co-operative marketing associations. We make this request believing it is just as important to have farmers money on their purchases as it is to raise the price of commodities they sell, since the supplies they purchase enter into the cost of producing farm products."

"We received our Union Certified pump globes and they are fine. They show up at night better than any globes I have seen," is an extract from a recent letter written by Harry Porter, Manager of the Putnam County Cooperative Oil Company at Unionville, Missouri.

C. Mazachek, manager of the Farmers Equity Elevator Company at Thunderhawk, South Dakota, wrote us a few days ago. "Our customers are well pleased with the car of Union certified gasoline we bought from you. We will need another car soon." This company became a member of the Union Oil Company when they installed their bulk station a short time ago and began the distribution of petroleum products.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Union Oil Com-

pany, a long list of prizes for members secured. How are you going to know for sure about the number of members secured, and how are the persons securing the members to prove that fact? I rather presume that the application blanks for the new members will have to be sent you with the certification of the local secretary that the new member has paid his dues and naming the party to be credited for securing the new member named on the blank application. You ought to explain how this is to be done in the Kansas Union Farmer so that all may know, and avoid doubts and disputes.

Will you send me some more application blanks?
Congressman Strong spoke at Herkimer last Thursday evening and has agreed to address two other meetings in the membership drive before he returns to Washington.
Cordially yours,
JOHN FROST.

Comment: With regard to some of the questions raised in the letter from Mr. Frost:
When the local is re-organized, and no new charter is issued, the members will have remitted to this office by the local secretary the regular initiation fee of \$1.50 securing of which \$1.00 is returned to the county organization by this office as is provided for on page 36 of the constitution. Also, the dues according to the time of year in which they come into the Union. A table has been compiled where you will find in the back of the constitution, which shows the amount of dues the new members are to pay, according to the time of year they make application for membership into the Union. This is in line with page 37 of the constitution and by-laws.

When a new local is organized, the full \$2.00 initiation fee for the first 15 members, totaling \$30.00 is to be sent to this office as charter fee for the new local. After the first 15 members, the regular initiation fee of \$1.50 is remitted.
In counting the new members or re-instatements for the membership contest, the person securing these should turn the money collected to the secretary of the local where that individual wished his membership placed. You will accept from the local secretary a statement certifying that you secured this membership and money. This statement is to be sent by you to us and kept on file here so we will have definite information and knowledge in computing the winners in the contest.
Only dues paying members will be counted for prizes in the membership contest.

A. M. K.

LINN COUNTY
Parker, Kans., Oct. 8, 1929.
Mr. A. M. Kinney,
Salina, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Kinney:
I am making my first report to your office about our drive for membership. Last night Pleasant Home local 2055 initiated 5 new members, the first in our local. I was in Blue Mound once but just got started good.

Our county meeting will be in Goodrich Saturday of this week. We are planning on starting the drive in earnest at that time. I have written or seen all the local secretaries and told them the drive was on, but have not heard from all of them yet. Will see all in the near future. We may not get much done before the state meeting but we are planning for a big drive this winter.

Send all the information you can as it helps.

V. F. Carrico,
County Organizer and Secretary.

THE DEFLATION PERIOD FOLLOWING THE WAR WAS ALMOST A KNOCKOUT BLOW TO THE FARMERS OF KANSAS--

IT PUT THEM TO SLEEP, DISCOURAGED, ALMOST READY TO GIVE UP; THE STRUGGLE WITH CONGRESS, TRYING TO GAIN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT

THERE IS A FARM PROBLEM TODAY

Disturbed Them Some, But Did Not Waken Them--Now the Government Alarm Clock is Ringing So Loud That They Cannot Sleep any Longer

Congress has recognized the FARM PROBLEM, and has pledged the aid of the government in solving it. Our new NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING COMPANY will soon be ready for business, and it is up to the farmers themselves to say if they will accept this aid; to do so, they must join a FARM ORGANIZATION.

The alarm has been sounded; the farmers are waking, Aroused to the need of an organized hand; They are joining the Union, their lethargy shaking; For cost, plus a profit, they've taken their stand.

For ages, the farmers great burdens have carried, Imposed by a system they did not control; Their lives with high taxes and mortgages harried, They almost lost sight of the ultimate goal.

The goal of a Nation of farmers contented; A price for their products honest and fair; Downfall of our farmers, to peasants, prevented; This is the goal of the farmers who dare.

A. M. K.

Notice to Members!

CALL FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KANSAS DIVISION OF THE FARMERS EDUCATIONAL AND CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT PARSONS, KANSAS, OCTOBER 30-31, NOV. 1, 1929.

The Kansas Division of the National Farmers Union will convene at Parsons on October 30, 1929 at 10:00 a. m.

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union will hold a meeting on Monday evening, October 28, 1929 at 8:00 p. m.

The Farmers Union Managerial Association will hold its meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 1929, at 1:00 p. m.

Tuesday evening will be a general get-together meeting.

Wednesday morning, October 30, 1929 at 10:00 a. m., the Farmers Union will convene in annual session and with a few intermissions will continue in session until all the business necessary to come before the meeting is transacted.

Thursday morning the Convention will proceed to nominate its officers and two directors. One director from each of the Fourth and Fifth Districts.

Friday morning will be election of officers.

Delegates to the Farmers Union annual meeting are requested to have their credentials in the hands of Secretary Pishney five days before the date of the annual meeting.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

1. One delegate for each local union in good standing in the State Union, October 25, 1929.
2. One delegate for each county district union in good standing as above. A county and district union to be in good standing must have five or more local unions in good standing in the state union October 25, 1929.
2. One delegate for each county or district uniooperative Business Association and in case of county Farmers Union Co-operative Associations, each unit of such association is entitled to a delegate. All delegates must have credentials of the organization they claim to represent.

A delegate must be a member in good standing of the organization he is elected to represent at the Annual Meeting.

DELEGATES ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR CREDENTIALS TO A. M. KINNEY, STATE SECRETARY, SALINA, KANSAS, AT LEAST FIVE (5) DAYS BEFORE THE DATE SET FOR THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

C. E. HUFF, President.
A. M. KINNEY, Secretary.

NOTE: If the delegates will kindly mail in their credentials then we can list them and thereby assist the credentials committee and make the work much less for them than it will be if the delegates bring in their credentials to the meeting.

DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS

The Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America

This is to Certify that Farmers _____ (Delegate)

P. O. Address _____

_____ (All-rnate) who are members

P. O. Address _____

in good standing of _____ Union No. _____ State _____

were elected as delegates to the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Farmers' Union which meets at Parsons, Kansas, on October 30, 1929.

_____ Secretary

_____ President

LESSONS FROM THE INCOME TAX

The income tax is the only general tax founded squarely on the principle of ability to pay. The four adjustments of the income tax are made specifically to fit the tax to ability to pay. A study of these four adjustments will be a study in four lessons on how to improve the general property tax.

1. The income tax is applied to the net income and not to the gross income. Two taxpayers may have the same gross income, say \$10,000. But the business expenses of one is \$4,000 leaving him a net income of \$6,000. The business expenses of the other is \$8,000, leaving him a net income of \$2,000, and only 1-3 the ability to pay taxes. This very clear and important adjustment is made everywhere in applying the income tax. But the general property tax very stupidly and unjustly applies the tax to the gross, or total property, with no subtraction for mortgages or debts. It is irrefutable that a citizen owing \$10,000 on his \$25,000 farm is not able to pay a \$250 general property tax as the citizen whose \$25,000 farm is unencumbered.

2. The income tax allows an exemption of net income from taxation, of a sum equivalent to a reasonable allowance for family, or personal, living expenses. That is, after net income has been determined, there is subtracted \$500 or \$1,000 or \$2,000 or even as high as \$3,500 in the case of the U. S. income tax, before applying the tax. In terms of property this would be a startling exemption. As a general average, property is considered to yield about 6 per cent income. An exemption of \$500 income then means that 6 per cent of the property exempted equals \$500. Then 1 per cent of the property exempted would be 1-6 of \$500, or \$83. Then 100 per cent, or all of the property exempted would be 100x\$83, or \$8,300. The U. S. income tax exemption of \$3,500 income is equivalent to a property exemption of \$58,300. But under the Kansas general

property tax, \$200 is all the exemption allowed. It is clear that a citizen must have a reasonable exemption for actual, minimum living expenses before he can begin to pay taxes.

3. The income tax usually is adjusted to bear lighter on earned income (from wages, or salaries) than on income from investments (from business). A clerk with a net income of \$12,000 is not as independent as a merchant with a net income through sickness, accident, or dismissal. Hence the U. S. income tax provides that earned net income shall pay only 3-4 the rate of tax of investment net income. This is an adjustment to make the income tax strictly in accordance with the principle of ability to pay which principle seems very largely overlooked in the general property tax.

4. The income tax is usually graduated so, as to levy a higher rate on higher incomes. A 5 per cent tax on a net income of \$1,000 would be \$50, leaving the taxpayer \$950 to support his family and increase his business. A 5 per cent tax on a net income of \$100,000 would be \$5,000, leaving the taxpayer \$95,000 to support his family and increase his business. (a) The family with the \$950 net income, the poorer family, is usually the larger family and furnishes more citizens, more labor power, more war defense power, more consumption (in proportion) for industry's goods--than the family with the \$95,000 net income. (b) The \$950 left the poorer family still leaves that family perilously near need. The ability to pay taxes increases out of proportion to the distance from the poor house. (c) Swollen incomes usually mean favored taxes for a reasonable graduation of taxes upward as incomes climb beyond need. But the general property tax brutally taxes the poor washer woman's hovel at the same rate as the millionaire's palace.

John Frost.

MARSHAL COUNTY MEETING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

The third quarterly meeting of the Marshall county farmers union, held in Blue Rapids, was the most successful meeting of the year from an educational standpoint. The morning session was devoted to reading the minutes, and appointing committees, after partaking of a splendid dinner served by the lady members, the meeting was called to order by President Wempe and opened by all singing "America." The following program was then given: Readings by Mabel Arnott, music by Miss Stryker, readings by Miss Osten, song by Mrs. Ed Fincham and Mrs. Milo Summers, song by Miss Miller.

The credential committee next reported 11 locals present, with 40 delegates answering roll call and a large number of visitors also present. The resolution committee then reported the following resolutions, which after discussion were adopted:

1. That we go on record and petition the Kansas Farmers Union assembled in annual convention to recommend the various state wide activities, to amend their various constitutions and by-laws specifying, that no officer, director, manager or employee be permitted to vote any proxies.
2. In view of the abuse in the using of proxies, we respectfully petition the Kansas Farmers Union to recommend the various state wide activities, to amend their various constitutions and by-laws specifying, that no officer, director, manager or employee be permitted to vote any proxies.
3. We go on record as opposing any member, serving on any state wide board, who is not eligible to membership in said institution, according to the principles on which such institution was organized.
4. We request the annual convention assembled to prohibit the circulation of Farmers Union, or any other campaign literature on the floor of the convention.
5. We favor that in our state convention, more time be given to business and discussion, and less time to set speeches.
6. We again renew our statement of faith in our state and national president, Hon. C. E. Huff, as a member of the committee of sixteen to help state a national farmers trading corporation under auspices of national farm board.
7. We fully appreciate the great responsibility he has undertaken. We firmly believe that President Huff will leave no stone unturned, to create a successful corporation at the same time preserving and strengthening our already existing co-operative enterprises. We pledge President Huff our full support and sympathy in his great undertaking.
7. Resolved: that we will use our influence to urge and assist our co-operatives to federate into a state unit looking toward an eventual national co-operative unit. It is imperative that this be done, that we may more fully participate in prospective national farmers trading corporation about to be instituted.
8. We call to the attention of farmers that the Federal Land Loan bank of Wichita makes loans to farmers at the lowest rates anywhere and the borrowers are not required to pay any commission to secure their loans, nor

do they have to pay any mortgage registration fee or tax on the mortgage. We request the president and secretary of each local to bring this matter to the attention of all their members.

9. In order to encourage the educational and social work of our Farmers Union. We urge locals to visit other locals and arrange joint meetings and joint programs with the Federal Farm Board, and the co-operative organizations that are working with the board.

10. Regardless of our views as to the best method of farm relief, we urge a cordial co-operation with the Federal Farm Board, and the co-operative organizations that are working with the board.

11. While desiring good roads as fast as we can afford to pay for them we call to the attention of farmers that the highway amendment to the Kansas constitution adopted last fall was for the purpose of securing federal aid, and in connection with the adoption of the gas tax amendment, and the 50 per cent increase in the gas tax, was to end bond issues and lessen property taxes for roads. The gas tax is the most equitable tax for the building of road. The new road laws provide for refunding assessments and taxes heretofore paid for benefit district roads and contemplated the elimination of the benefit district plan of building roads by means of bonds and interest, and assessments for 10 years or more--all of which raises taxes for a long term of years, nearly all of the burdens falling on farmers.

12. Since the Federal Farm Board has announced that "a farmer to secure any benefit from federal farm relief must join some farm organization," and since our state officials have called for a membership campaign, we hereby institute a membership contest between the east and west halves of the county, under the

(Continued on page four)

C. E. BRASTED A CALLER AT THE STATE OFFICE

We were pleasantly surprised by a visit this morning from our former secretary, C. E. Brasted.

Mr. Brasted returned home from the west coast last week, but has been too tired to come to the office before.

He reports a good visit with his children and grandchildren, and that the west is a fine country.

One little incident that Mr. Brasted recalls makes us believe that we can't get away from the Farmers Union wherever we go, Mr. Brasted had a cabin spending a few days down near the bay and the President the only Farmers Union local west of the Cascade Range in the state of Washington, came to see him, invited him to attend a meeting, but to Mr. Brasted's great regret, it was impossible for him to accept that invitation. We all wish he could have gone.

school- If it is to be remedied, there
a teach- be some central organization
s deplor- (Continued on page 6)

