

The Kansas Union Farmer

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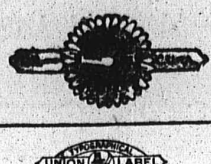
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Notice to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

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. A. are at liberty to ask questions on any phase of farm work. Answers will be either published or mailed.



THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1927

TAXATION REFORMS POSSIBLE

The legislature added a couple of millions of dollars to the annual tax bill of the people of Kansas. This additional expense is doubtless a mere incident of the development of the state and of the various institutions dependent for their support and usefulness upon the public revenues. There is no evidence that a single dollar of the state appropriation is not necessary. It is also certain that the annual expenses of our state government are well within the paying ability of the people. We are concerned, however, with the distribution of this tax burden. Each beneficiary or citizen should pay his or her proper proportion. Under our existing tax laws this result cannot be reached.

Under the provisions of our constitution, formed in 1859 and effective in 1861 the bulk of all taxes for state purposes, in fact for all purposes, is levied against property. The individual citizen, as such pays nothing in the shape of poll or income tax. The ownership of property, entirely regardless of earning power and not the receipt of income determines the amount of tax that must be paid by each person, natural or artificial, in Kansas. This is a bad system and is worse for farmer than anyone else because his possessions are nearly entirely made up of tangible property that never escapes the vigilant eye of the assessor, but principally and primarily because the farmer has no power to price his products and so pays a part of the burden on to ultimate consumers.

The railways, the merchants and the manufacturers are assessed on the value of their physical property but all are engaged in business enterprises that are of such nature that taxes can be included in operating expenses, added to the sales prices of goods or services and passed along to consumers of commodities or users of services. Of course full advantage is taken of these conditions

and the result is that the farmer is the goat and in the wind-up pays most of the property taxes.

A great majority of the states have relieved lands from taxation for state purposes. A state tax on lands measured by local assessments can never be fair to all sections. The most efficient state tax commissioner ever created is powerless to readjust and equalize land appraisals made by more than 2,000 local assessors. The result is that many counties pay too much land tax and the remainder pay too little. That land taxes for state purposes should be abolished is too evident and obvious to require discussion and yet we permit this unfair system to continue from year to year and through its working, the farmers of Kansas annually contribute large amounts, not of income but of their capital, to state expenses.

After all, however, state appropriations are a very small part of our annual tax bills. Schools, roads and other local or municipal expenses absorbed by far the greater part of the public revenues. Real tax reform must not only relieve land of state taxes but must provide some means for taking local burdens off the farms. For roads that have already been done in considerable measure by automobile licenses and gasoline taxes but practically the whole burden for the support of schools still rests on the land. Any tax reform that does not take new sources of income for schools will fall far short of the relief that is needed. Nor is there any great difficulty in this problem.

Some state taxes should be worked out that will add materially to annual dividends from the state school fund. Several states have imposed substantial sales taxes on cigars, cigarettes and tobacco and turn the entire revenue so realized over to the schools. If we are to maintain our democratic system of elementary schools there must be larger incomes for the weaker districts. It is easily possible to create an annual state school of many millions of dollars by devising special taxes to be used for that purpose and no other.

It is a good while until the next meeting of the legislature but it is none too early to begin working out a fair tax program.

Among the different products handled by the Adrian Community Market, Adrian, Mich., during 1926, were eggs, poultry, potatoes, onions, berries, pop corn, flour, apples, pears, honey, maple syrup, hides and skins. This market was established by the business men of Adrian and the farmers of the surrounding territory for the purpose of furnishing an outlet for all farm products. The products for which there is no local demand are taken by truck to Detroit or Toledo for sale.

WORLD WHEAT MEETING

There will assemble at Kansas City on May 5th a conference with greater possibilities for good to farmers than any other meeting that was ever held in the world. This will be the international convention of representatives of wheat growers and of wheat growers' co-operatives selling associations. In addition to representatives from this country there will be delegates from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, the Argentine and every other country that produces wheat for export.

The farmers of Kansas are vitally concerned in the work of such a meeting. Among other countries represented there will be a large delegation from Canada, the one wheat-surplus nation that has made some worth while progress in the pooling movement. It is reported that around 75 per cent of the Canadian wheat acreage is pooled and that the price of wheat, determined largely by the pool, is five or six cents a bushel higher in Winnipeg than in St. Paul. If so these things demonstrate the power of the pooling principal and at the same time relieve American wheat growers of danger of Canadian competition on our own markets.

FARM RECORDS STOP THE LEAKS

Farm record keeping shows farmers where the "leaks" are, is the experience of hundreds of farmers who have started record keeping under the direction of the Agricultural Colleges' Extension Service, Cow Testing Associations, Farm Bureaus and other organizations. When they start cost accounting they immediately improve their plan of operation and increase their efficiency.

Net profit may be defined as sales price per unit, minus cost, times the quantity of the product produced. The two items more easily adjusted are decreasing labor costs by the use of larger and more efficient machines and increase in yield by better farming methods. How little the average farmer actually knows about his costs and profits is shown by the following facts, gathered in seven Iowa counties in the heart of the corn belt by the railroad which serves the territory and the Chamber of Commerce of one of the county seat towns.

1. That the valuation of the land as taken from bona fide sales was \$141.89 per acre.
2. That the value of the buildings was \$30.00 per acre.
3. That, due to the inflation of appraisers to make loans look good, mortgaged land was worth \$63.00 per acre more than un-mortgaged lands.
4. That the average mortgage was more than \$10.00 per acre and more than 40 per cent of the inflated value.
5. That poultry and dairying are major operations on the farm.
6. Careful inquiry brought out the information that there were no books of any nature kept on 99 per cent of the farms.
7. That not one farmer interviewed could tell except in a general way either the man hours or horse hours necessary to raise a bushel of corn.
8. Not one could be found who would consider plant food in the soil of value unless it was put there by manure, legumes, or purchased fertilizer.
9. Practically all failed to have any clear conception as to the difference between interest and the returns on investment.
10. Not one could be found who had any idea as to the relationship between cost and the production per worker, although not one interviewed failed to appreciate that there was a close relationship between cost and yield per acre.
11. Practically all thought in terms of land values and high prices for commodities and only a very few thought in terms of earnings.

12. The bankers knew no more regarding these things than the farmers.

What does it profit a man if he receives a high price for his crop if his cost is also high? Price is a big factor, but cost is also a factor and the income depends on quantity as well as price and cost. High quantity per worker and high yield per acre will tend to lower the cost and raise the net income and profit proportionately.

THE HORSE'S POSITION TODAY

The annual Department of Agriculture forecast for 1927 gives two pages to the horse and mule. Briefly, there are still about 21,000,000 head of horses and mules in the United States, but their "farm value" was marked down \$102,000,000 between January 1, 1926, and January 1, 1927. In number the drop was only 561,000, the biggest aggregate value fall coming in the mark-down per head of \$1.65 for horses and \$8.41 per mule. The government's report on live stock receipts at 64 markets shows a drop of 76,577 head of horses and mules from the previous year's marketing. This curtailment in receipts amounts to 16.4 per cent, and compared with the 5-year average of 1921 to 1925 is a loss of 13 per cent.

"Present numbers of work animals are apparently ample to meet farming needs the coming season," says the U. S. Department of Agriculture report; "but the number of young stock is only large enough to maintain half the number of work stock now on farms."

"The situation in the Southern states is such that the demand for mules in 1927 will probably now be as great as it was in 1926. The decreased purchasing power of cotton farmers and the necessity for economical production will probably result in the decreased movement of mules into the cotton belt."

"The demand for horses for farm and city work has fallen rapidly since 1918. The automobile, truck and tractor have replaced some of the work stock on a great many farms. On January 1, 1925, there were approximately 500,000 tractors on farms. Since then nearly 300,000 tractors have been manufactured in the United States, most of which are used by farmers. The general introduction of the combine harvester in the Wheat Belt has permanently reduced the need for horses there. With the improvements that are being made in motor power, it is difficult to foresee the extent to which horses will be supplanted on American farms."

"The total number of horses and mules on farms have decreased about 17 per cent since 1920, while the ratio of all colts per 1,000 horses and mules has decreased from 132 in 1920 to 73 in 1925, and at the present time is probably about 65."

RECENT LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

This is a brief summary of some of the more important legislation enacted during the second session of the Sixty-Ninth Congress, in so far as the measures which have become laws relate to subjects more or less directly concerned with agricultural co-operative associations.

One of the bills receiving approval by the president during the closing days of congress was S. 2965. This measure is designed to prevent boards of trade and similar organizations, whose members deal in or handle agricultural products in interstate commerce, from excluding from membership representatives of farmers co-operative associations or of an organization acting for a group of such associations if the association or organization has adequate financial responsibility and complies or agrees to comply with lawful terms and conditions imposed upon other board members.

It expressly forbids the application of the rule against rebating to the practice of co-operative associations of returning to their members money collected in excess of the cost of conducting the business. It gives the association the right to sue in the federal court for a mandatory injunction to compel admission and for damages sustained. This act includes all boards of trade doing an interstate commerce business in agricultural products, except those operating under the Grain Futures Act of 1922, which act provides for the admission of co-operatives to such boards of trade.

Section 203 (a) of the Agricultural Credits Act of 1923 provides that each national agricultural credit corporation shall have power to make advances upon, to discount, redempt or purchase and sell or negotiate notes, drafts, or bills of exchange, and to accept drafts or bills of exchange which are secured by warehouse receipts or other like documents conveying or securing title to non-perishable and already marketable agricultural products, or by chattel mortgages, or other like instruments conferring a first and paramount lien upon livestock which is being fattened for market or on agricultural crops being grown for market.

The underscored words were added

If these things are true and have been done in Canada they can be done in Kansas and every other American wheat state. Our own pooling movement has proved its value as a marketing method but lacks control of sufficient acreage to make it a price factor. We cannot afford to have farmers no wiser or smarter than ourselves taking advantage of self help agencies that are open to us.

There should be a large attendance from Kansas when the International Wheat Conference meets in Kansas City. This state makes more and better wheat than any other equal area on the face of the globe. So far most of the profits from Kansas wheat have settled in the pockets and bank balances of the grain trade and our farmers lose money each year regardless of the volume of the crop. We can learn something at Kansas City on May 5. Be there.

NO BOOT STRAP JOB

The Kansas Farmers Union is engaged in co-operative business that means much to themselves and to all producers of agricultural commodities. If we continue to grow and to succeed our growth and success will mean much not only to ourselves but to all western agriculture.

We make some progress from year to year but in many ways we are still sticking to the idea that we can get over the fence by tugging at our own boot straps. It cannot be done in that way. Nor can we hope for much help from financial and commercial interests which to put it mildly can only get indirect benefits from co-operation.

Our produce association is only a year and a half old but it is already a giant among our co-operative enterprises. It made a net profit of about \$50,000 during the first year of operation and is going now at a gain that indicates double that return at the end of the second year. The only thing in the way of our amazing success is the lack of adequate operating capital. It takes a huge amount of money to handle a carload of eggs every day and two or three carloads of butter a week.

Our sales cannot be made in Kansas City without heavy financial sacrifice. Even though sold for cash on the eastern markets it takes time for the machinery of the commercial banking system to get that cash back to Kansas City. Every bill of lading has its dead season of from three to ten days. This does not mean very much on weekly shipments of a carload or two but with our present and growing volume of business it ties up an enormous amount of capital.

There are several ways to cure the trouble. If all members would consent to weekly or twice a month payments the trouble would be over right now, the way would be opened for indefinite expansion and growth of our business, and we would save interest that now runs to more than \$300 a month and very considerably increases the costs of operation. If the members would waive their right to pay for stock out of dividends and come across with cash for their subscriptions that would help a lot.

Finally, if the members of the Union over the state would increase their deposits in the Farmers Union State Bank at Kansas City and in our local banks over the state our financial agencies would be able to take care of the "credit situation" and while we would still pay \$3300 or more each month as interest that would become merely the easy process of taking money out of one pocket and putting it into the other.

We are on the edge of the biggest thing ever accomplished co-operatively in Kansas but we must accept our responsibilities, rely on ourselves and not go begging for help from the very interests that want us to fail.

The way to co-operate is to co-operate.

CLIPPINGS AND COMMENT ON NEWS OF THE WEEK

Sinclair Had a Very Long

Run of mighty good luck. He began life as poor as any one. His early occupations were neither profitable nor distinguished. Then he tumbled into the oil game and soon was all greasy with the wealth that flows as black gold from midnight depths of earth's darkest places. Such wealth came to him that he finally surpassed all but a few dozen of his fellow men in the matter of riches.

The appetite for gold grows as it feeds. The more a rich man has the more he wants. Sinclair had more than most and was unwilling to stop because he wanted more than any other man had ever had. So he made bargains with men in high places. He wanted what had been set apart for the public use and he found weak and poor men in high places who were willing to play traitor to the public interest if they might thereby mend their own fortunes. He secured his contracts and his leases and was in a fair way to win wealth that he no longer needed except to excel his fellow operators in the use of power.

Then came the exposure. All the little thieves turned states evidence on the big thief. Sinclair refused to answer the questions put to him by senators and now he must go to jail while other and more guilty exploiters of the public and traitors to the public interest go free.

Sapiro collected a million from the farmers in return they at least learned a way to control the movement of their own crops from the fields to the converters and the exporters. If they use the knowledge for which they paid a million they may yet get many millions in profits.

Reclaiming Waste and Arid Places

To make them flower with produce for making human beings more happy and safer is a work that should never be discouraged. But it should be understood. There are already far too many acres in wheat. There is no profit in fact much loss, in planting more wheat. There are already far too many acres in cotton, in corn, in other crops for which the supply has far outrun the demand.

The wise business man always looks for something to sell that is needed by many who cannot produce it but have the price for its purchase. In the matter of reclaiming waste lands—the semi-arid deserts of the west, the overflow valleys of the south, the bogs and marshes of the north, the unsightly cut overs of all sections our Uncle Sam should be wise and business like, hard boiled and sure of his purposes.

The arid west should for the time be left alone to produce its sagebrush and its other desert woods. The country needs it no more nor any of the things that it might yield. But the cut overs, the swamps and the river plains should all be set to work producing something for which there is an ever growing market. Trees are crops that can be raised on land of idle acres and trees are needed now and for all future generations in numbers that can never be supplied.

If our country ever makes up its mind that the debts due from European countries cannot be paid, and that confusion must some day be reached, there should be no more forgiveness of obligations. If we cannot get the dollars that are due us from Europe we can at least make terms that will prevent our dollars from being used for ships and soldiers to threaten our peace and property.

Athletics in Our Colleges

Take time, money and thought. The training for and participation in sport between institutions of learning is a waste of time and money. It takes too much time and cost too much money. The educational results are far more beneficial than can be perceived by the plain every taxpayer who foots the bills that are incurred by our state colleges and universities.

It is urged that success in athletics is good advertising for a state university. This may be true if the taxpayers want to support an institution devoted to the training of the muscles rather than the mind. It is pretty hard for the average man to understand the necessity for advertising an institution devoted to education.

This law may be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$3,000 or by imprisonment for a period of not exceeding one year, or both, at the discretion of the court. No funds were appropriated for carrying out the provisions of this act.

S. 4746, which authorizes the secretary of agriculture to collect and publish statistics of the grade and staple length of cotton, was enacted into law. It provides for a report on the grades and staples of the cotton on hand in the warehouses and cotton storage places on August 1 of each year, which is sometimes referred to as the "carry over" and also a report at intervals on the grades and staples of cotton ginned during the year. Heretofore the department of agriculture has issued semi-monthly reports, beginning with July and ending with December of each year, and giving the department's estimate of the number of bales of cotton to be produced during the "current" crop year. During this period of time 11 of such estimates were published. Under the terms of the new law these estimates are reduced to five, these to be issued as of August 1, September 1, October 1, November 1, and December 1, and made public simultaneously with the ginning reports. Because of the failure of the second deficiency bill, no special appropriation was made for carrying out the provisions of this act. However, the regular appropriation act of the department of agriculture appropriated

education and even more difficult for him to see how knowledge is advertised or in any way served by football or other athletic victories.

It must not be overlooked, however, that worse evils than athletics flourish at every college and university in this country. Football may not give much culture to the mind but it does no harm to the morals of those who participate. A rough and ready, tough and strong ball player is apt to make a very good citizen willing to accept responsibility and do his best. This much cannot be said of the refined and over accomplished tea hounds who have become such familiar and charming figures on the campuses if so many of our big schools.

Perhaps the best that be said of college athletics is that it saves its devotees from the dangers of tea drinking.

Gold is as hard to find as it is to keep. All the mines seem to be in remote and dangerous places. The two most recent bonanzas are on the frozen shores of Hudson's bay and amid the treeless sands of a Nevada desert. A good Kansas wheat country will produce more wealth each year than any one of the great gold mines. The most inexhaustible sources of wealth are near at hand.

Automobiles May Be Much Cheaper

During the next year or two, this may or may not be a good thing. It is undoubtedly true that many folks now own and use cars at an expense too great for the returns in usefulness, convenience or pleasure. Even the cheapest machine may be an over costly indulgence if owned by one whose income is small but even so the returns are large.

The automobile has liberated millions once tied to the earth. Places that were distant, unaccessible but desirable and beautiful are now within easy reach of any who can afford even the cheapest cars. All western Kansas is now in the neighborhood of Pike's Peak and the other grandeur of the Colorado Rockies. All the eastern part of our state is within easy reach of the beauties of the Ozark region, still the least known of all the scenic splendors of our country.

For a long time cars have been getting better and cheaper. They are now so perfect that they cannot be much improved mechanically but improvements in production methods, in engineering processes and in marketing can still make them much cheaper.

History is news that survives the ages. China may be doing things today that will be important for generations yet to come but do not overlook Mexico. That school teacher, Calles, now in charge of the government of our nearest independent neighbor daily takes on more and more the form and pendency of a man of destiny. Watch Mexico.

Durant Is Returning to Activity

In the automobile world, he was a great figure in the development of General Motors. He has been a successful operator in Wall Street. He has many millions of his own and the owners of other millions have confidence in his genius, his integrity and his enterprise. It is reported that he is starting a new movement to control the manufacture and marketing of cheaper cars.

The re-entry of Durant into the field of automotive design is a direct challenge to the supremacy of Ford. The Chevrolet is the one small car that has made headway against the "Big Six" of the "Big Six" line. It is to be permanently up. In Canada it fills the bill for low priced machine. In this country it swarms the roads and streets that were once crowded with Fords. If Durant, with his genius for cost reduction can help the General Motors build a better and still cheaper Chevrolet the Fords must surrender their market.

It is reported that the Fords have a new, more perfect quantity producer car already for quite a while. It is already being installed. Always beties is good advertising for a state university. This may be true if the taxpayers want to support an institution devoted to the training of the muscles rather than the mind. It is pretty hard for the average man to understand the necessity for advertising an institution devoted to education.

\$50,000 for an experimental study with respect to estimating the grade and staple of cotton ginned. The department has made plans to conduct such a study this season in selected cotton-producing regions.

THE GOSSIPS

Hear the gossips with their prattling, Many an evil tale relating, Many an innocent foe berating, With their tongues, wagging tongues.

All day long you hear them chatter, Raising such rumpus and clatter, Oh no, there's nothing the matter, With their tongues, sharp tongues.

They criticize the pastor's preaching, Find fault with Miss Jeny's teaching, "The world is wild," they are shrieking, With their tongues, bitter tongues.

Oh, doubtless the world is full of woe, But 'twould be lots better, know, If the gossips' red pack up and go, With their tongues, acid tongues.

Bremen, Kan. Eunice Watters.

EDUCATION AS THE FARMER SEES IT

Do not strive to keep the farm children on the farm, but make available to them educational opportunities equal to those provided for city children, that rural as well as urban children may receive the foundations of

Two murderers in Joliet prison are so greatly displeased with conditions there that they have gone on a hunger strike. They should be encouraged to starve themselves to death. Their ability to serve mankind is limited to the one act of taking themselves out of the world as soon as possible. No one should interfere with their "strike."

Browning Gets his Divorce

And "peaches" and her mother get nothing out of the law suit that was started for the very evident purpose of separating an old fool from his money. Few have any sympathy for the middle aged moron who permitted a silly girl with a shrewing mouth to capture him for his money. It is the unanimous verdict of all sensible folks that Browning lacks the sense to use and enjoy wealth. There are few, however, who believe that women like peaches and her mother should be allowed to get away with the sort of game that they played on the elderly fool who at this worst was as good as either of the harpies that planned to victimize him.

Law is powerless to deal with the weakness and the wickedness of the Brownings and their "Peaches." Neither legislators nor courts can protect fools from themselves. The best that we can hope through law is to safeguard the general run of sensible folks from the folly of those who live and frequently flourish without a vestige of brains.

Society, that is the organized mass of humanity, cannot be made safe by restrictive and prohibition laws. Of course we must continue to forbid crime and vice and to punish the vicious and criminal but that does not mean much progress. We must mean much progress. We must generate mankind and fill it with vigor and vim—then only by engendering and strengthening inner forces. Education not compulsion must finally lead mankind to security and safety.

Water power used for the generation of electricity may yet liberate humanity from slavery to coal. It is this possibility that gives importance to the conspiracy to monopolize water power sites for private gain.

Road Laws had Hard Sledding

In the legislature during the session recently ended, the perennial attempt to amend the constitution to permit state construction failed as usual and as it always will until the voters and their representatives get more confidence in the ability and purposes of the state government. Some slight changes were made in the method of handling road funds and road construction. Essentially, however, Kansas still has the county unit system of road building and maintenance.

Without question this state is some what behind some of its neighbors in highway building. Missouri is a head of Kansas but Missouri now has highway bonds outstanding in the amount of \$60,000,000 with a very reasonable prospect of an additional \$200,000,000 issue in the near future. Such a debt is a heavy mortgage on the producers of the state and is one that will pass the burden along for several generations. Before it is paid the interest will exceed the principal and the cost of construction will be more than doubled.

Kansas wisely prefers the "pay as we build" system. We must lose some time and we may not get a state system of the sort desired by those who will pay but little under any system that are not charging the cost of our highways to a generation that will have its own heavy financial obligations to meet. Kansas is building roads and will have more and more good highways as the money comes in and when our construction is finished our sources of road income will be available for upkeep instead of being pledged for interest payments.

Habitual criminals are less dangerous in jail than anywhere else and in the long run will cost the state less. The legislature redeemed many of its short comings, when it passed the law that means long prison terms for felons convicted of second or third offenses. The man who has served two terms in the penitentiary deserves little consideration when he runs afoul of the law for the third time. The best place for him is confinement behind the bars.

A liberal education and thus be prepared to follow the activity in life for which they are best adapted. This is one of the conclusions expressed informally at a meeting of a large group of Iowa farm people recently and reported by the secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation in the November issue of "Midland Schools," the Iowa State Teachers' Association publication.

Other opinions concurred in by the group mentioned were: The burden of school support should be equalized throughout the state; schools should care for those for whom regular enrollment in a public school is impossible; agriculture should receive more attention in the state's school system; qualification of teachers should be raised, especially in one-room and consolidated schools; moral conditions in the schools should be improved.

The work of rural schools, as pointed out by this group of farmers, is training for citizenship in a nation where adult activity is complicated and varied. Rural children are entitled to that broad training which will help them to develop in the best possible manner and offer them opportunities to "find themselves" for their life work. In order that rural schools meet their obligations to teachers and the best principles in school administration, finance, supervision, and organization must be employed.

Linseed oil will cover scratches on varnished furniture.

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

GUY WEBSTER

"LEONARDVILLE, FRONT AND CENTER"

We met the Bright New Can out at Leonardville last Monday evening. Leonardville is one station that paid a local station rebate last year, and Mr. Blauer says it isn't the first time that it has been done at that station. Mr. Nanninga (we don't know his first name but it should be Tjart or Hjalmar) is the station operator there. The Bright New Can tells us that Nanninga has a motto which

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. RADIO LESSONS.

DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT

Intelligent selection of dairy animals is the first step in building up a high-producing herd. It includes the selection of the sire as well as the cows. As time passes it also includes the culling of all animals that prove unprofitable; but in this brief talk we shall confine ourselves to the discussion of the foundation herd. Whether or not a dairy herd will be profitable from the very first depends largely on the selection of the foundation stock.

Most dairymen begin the business with very little capital. Because of this many of them think they can not afford to buy high-producing cows. Some even go to the extreme of buying low-producing scrubs because such cows are low in price per head.

It is true that the beginner who is short of funds must guard his cash with care. He could not buy champions of production even if he wished, because his entire financial resources would perhaps be large enough to pay for only a small fraction of the cost of a cow of that type. He must be content to buy within the limits of his pocketbook, but that is no reason why he should go to the other extreme and purchase low-producing scrubs. A cow that does not produce enough to pay for her feed and care is not a cheap cow to own. Actually such a cow is dear at any price.

Begin With a Few High Producers

It is always better to begin dairying with a small herd of comparatively high-producing dairy cows than with a larger herd of low producers. The high producers are really not much more expensive than the scrubs.

What do we mean by comparatively high-producing dairy cows? The expression "high producing" does not mean the same to every dairyman. To the owner of a scrub herd it may mean a butterfat production per cow of 150 pounds a year. To the owner of a good purebred herd it may mean three or four times that much. The man of limited resources who is about to go into the dairy business should set a minimum standard of production for a mature cow at not less than 6,000 pounds of milk containing at least 240 pounds of butterfat.

But how does anyone know what a dairy cow produces before he buys her? A few years ago there was no practicable way of knowing this, but now, thanks to the work of more than 800 cow-testing associations, about 350,000 dairy cows are on yearly test in this country. This test shows for each cow the yearly production of milk and butterfat, cost of roughage, cost of grain, gross income, and average income over cost of feed. These records are kept by an impartial tester and serve as a guide in selecting the foundation stock for the new herd.

Even the sire may be selected through the cow-testing association by means of the records of his daughters. It is a very practical way, however, to select many bulls on this basis, because not many have been proved through these records or through those of the advanced registry. At the present time most dairy sires must be selected on appearance, pedigree, and the records of the dam.

If dairy cows for the foundation herd are bought on their cow-testing association records, the purchaser may acquire a herd of known producing capacity, but that is not enough. The age of each cow and her physical condition may be of even greater importance than her ability to produce milk. If a cow is very old, if she is a nonbreeder, or if she has tuberculosis or infectious abortion, she is not to be considered in selecting animals for the foundation herd.

Minimum Requirements for Foundation Stock

Young, healthy, well-bred dairy cows that produce over 6,000 pounds of milk a year containing more than 240 pounds of butter fat should prove satisfactory in every way as foundation stock on which to build your future herd. Of course, if production records can not be obtained it will be necessary to choose cows on their appearance, or, in the case of purebreds, on their appearance and their pedigree.

One of the cheapest ways so far as the immediate outlay is concerned is to buy a few bred heifers, or heifers about to freshen. In this case the

breeding of the sire and the production record of the dam are very important. Beginning with young unbred heifers or with heifer calves will require too much time for one who is interested in immediate returns. By starting with cows in milk the owner may have an income from the dairy herd in the form of dairy products the very day he buys his first cow.

Some will ask, "What breed should I choose?" In reply we would say, "Other things being equal select the one you like best." There is no best breed of dairy cows. Good cows and poor cows may be found in any breed. It is not especially important which breed you select, but it is all important that you select good individuals of the breed.

In deciding on the breed, however, it is usually best to choose one that is common in the neighborhood. If buyers desire to purchase animals of a particular breed, they are almost certain to go to a district where many animals of that breed are to be found. One farmer started with a breed not previously found in his community. He expected to have a monopoly of surplus stock of that breed in that district. He did have a monopoly, but the trouble was that by the time that breed of cattle did not go into that neighborhood at all because there were not enough animals of that breed there.

Better Generally to Begin with Grades

Regarding purebreds and grades, records show that the purebred cows of this country produce more milk and butterfat per cow than are produced by grades; yet, as a rule, the beginners had better start with grades. In beginning with purebreds the initial cost will be higher, the care and management will require more knowledge and skill, and, on account of greater value, the risk of heavy loss will be greater. After making a success with grade cows, the dairymen may desire to change to purebreds. This he may do gradually at little expense for foundation stock by buying two or three good registered females.

Immediate success in dairy farming depends upon a wise selection of the foundation stock. Cows of low natural ability to produce milk are seldom profitable under any conditions. A farmer starting a dairy herd can not afford to use such animals even if there is a prospect of improvement of the offspring through intelligent breeding and selection.

If the start is made with low producers, profits can not amount to much until a better herd has been built up through the use of good sires and the weeding out of low producers through culling. The building of a high-producing herd from a herd of scrubs, through breeding, requires much time. The typical American farmer does not want to see profits too long deferred.

Regardless of how large the herd may be, how carefully it is fed and handled, there is little chance for success in a dairy with cows that lack the inherent ability to produce reasonably large quantities of milk or butter fat. Therefore the dairymen should be careful to choose good animals as the foundation stock for his dairy herd.

BETTER MILK PRODUCTION

In the production of clean milk there are many things to be considered—so many that sometimes confusion exists as to just what is essential. On the one hand there are those who place undue emphasis on certain things which have little bearing on the quality of the milk, while on the other hand, some disregard everything except a few factors which have the great bearing on the actual number of bacteria in milk. Neither extreme is advisable or just. Measures must be taken in milk production which will fully protect the farmer from losses and the consumer from impure milk. It is advisable to go even beyond this and to add certain touches which perhaps will not yield returns in lowered bacteria counts.

Why Produce Clean Milk

This is desirable for two reasons: (1) Clean surroundings and orderly methods stimulate cleanliness and care in those who work about the dairy. It has been said that a clean man could produce clean milk amid dirty surroundings if he used careful methods. This is undoubtedly true, but a clean man is apt to lapse into carelessness himself if he works long in a dirty place. As a matter of fact, clean milk is very generally produced in clean dairies, and while

doubled and new members are still being added.

An Apology and a Promise

Folks, if you want our sermon this week you'll have to look at the Produce Ass'n advertisement to get it. The "Old Cream Can" is out in the country going day and night on other business for the Farmers Union. A poor apology but the best we can do. However, we do promise to make it up to you later.

there may be exceptions, they "prove the rule."

(2) The consumption of milk has increased rapidly, and there is no doubt but that this increase has been due in a large part to the confidence the consumer has placed in the quality of our modern milk supply. It is only because dairymen to retain this confidence by keeping their houses in order, so to speak.

Major Factors in Producing Clean Milk

Factors in the production of clean milk may be divided into two general classes—the major and the minor. Among the major factors are clean, healthy cows; small-top milking pails; sterilized utensils; and proper cooling and storage of milk.

The first essential in producing clean milk is healthy cows. Animals affected with tuberculosis, garget, butte dangerous bacteria to milk or cause abnormal physical conditions are not fit to produce milk for the market or home consumption. The cow's body, especially the udders, teats, and flanks, should be clean. If necessary, wash and wipe them off with them with a clean, damp cloth before milking.

Small-top milking pails are inexpensive and prevent much dirt from dropping into the milk during the process of milking.

Sterilized utensils and proper cooling and storage of milk are equally important aids in keeping bacteria counts low that they will be treated separately in later broadcasts in this series.

Minor Factors in Producing Clean Milk

The so-called minor factors in clean-milk production have to do largely with the surroundings where milk is produced and handled on the farm.

Barn construction may be simple and inexpensive and at the same time well suited for producing high-quality milk. Smooth, tight walls, ceilings, and floors are easily built and greatly aid in keeping the cow stable and clean. The floor should be tight and of non-absorbent material, so that liquid manure will not leak through.

Sunlight and fresh air are two important items in keeping health in cattle and so that the cattle may have a constant supply of fresh air and light being subjected to drafts. Write for Farmers' Bulletin No. 1342, Dairy Barn Construction, and No. 1393, Principles of Dairy-Barn Ventilation.

Of course such a barn should be kept clean—Manure removed applied whenever necessary to the walls and ceilings. The barnyard is worthy of attention. It should be graded and drained kept free from accumulations of manure. This will lessen the work of cleaning the cows before milking.

Milk House Needed

After milking each cow it is very desirable to remove the milk to a separate milk house. This building need not be far from the barn. In fact, convenience suggests that it be close to the barn, with a separate outside entrance. Suggestions regarding barn construction also apply here.

Simple, smooth construction is all that is needed. Light and ventilation are necessary. Floors should be pitched to well-trapped drains which carry the drainage away from the building. Of course the ever-present fly may be kept out by screens and screen doors. No proper milk house is complete without facilities for washing and sterilizing utensils and cooling and storing milk.

Having such a nice "milk house," wouldn't it be a shame to spoil it by cluttering it up with old clothing, shovels, and odds and ends? Farmers' Bulletin No. 1214, Farm Dairy Houses, contains plans to suit most conditions.

Pure Water Must Be Supplied

A pure water supply is a boon on any farm, but what a necessity on a dairy farm! Cattle are entitled to drink their fill of clean, fresh water instead of being forced to drink from mud holes or stagnant ponds. Dairy utensils should be washed in as clean water as the household plates, far as they are not also food containers.

Milking machines are used on many farms, and they must be carefully cleaned if they are expected to give satisfactory results from a sanitary standpoint.

One final word about the care of milk between the farm and the receiving station, railroad, or city plant. An easy way to keep milk freezing and below 50 degrees F should be maintained for best results. Frozen milk is not satisfactory to the buyer because its physical characteristics are not the same when it is thawed out.

We all know that milk which becomes warm allows bacteria to grow and often results in spoilage. Protect cans from extremes of temperature while hauling—blankets in winter and a cover from the sun in summer. This summer protection may be either a canvas or blanket which snugly over the cans.

STOCK MARKET

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

Likes Our Buying
Seneca, Kans., Mar. 28, 1927.
Farmers Union Live Stock Commission,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sirs:—
I received the steers just fine, and I am sure pleased with them. You sure did a good job picking them out, and I want to thank you folks very much for filling my order. Hope you find the returns all O. K. I remain,
Very truly yours,
Carl F. Kroemer, Jr., Rt. 2.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Mar. 31—
STEERS—We are glad to report a higher cattle market, new top on 1784 lb. steers 13.00. Bulk heavy cattle 11 to 12 cents. Steers weighing over 1200 lbs. in good demand. Bulk light weights 9.50@10.50; shorted plain steers 8.50@9.00. Best yearlings 10.50 @11.50, fair to good 9 to 10 cents, medium 8 to 9 cents.

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS—Best feeders brought 10 cents, a new 1000 lb. steer 8.00@8.50, plain 8.00@8.50. Best stockers 9.00@9.50, bulk good kinds 8 to 9 cents, plain 7 to 8 cents. Dogies 5.75@6.50, not many coming.

COWS, HEIFERS AND MIXED YEARLINGS—Mixed yearlings 10 to 11 cents, heavy cows 10.50@10.50, bulk coming 8.75@9.50, shorted 8.00@8.50. Prime fed heifers 9.50@10.25, bulk 8.50@9.25, good shorted 8.00@8.50, medium around 7.50. Cow market little slow, but not steady. Real good beef cows 6.50@7.00, prime around 7.50, fancy 8.00@8.50, medium 5.75@6.25, plain killers 5.00@5.50. Camers and cutters 4 to 5 cents. Good stock cows and springers 5.75@6.50, choices higher; medium grades 5.00 to 5.50. Choice light fleshy feeding heifers 8.00@8.50, good stock heifers 7.50@8.00, medium kinds 6.50@7.00, plain less.

CALVES AND BULLS—Veals closing steady with Monday, top 10.00, fair to good 7 to 8 cents, lightweight thin calves 5.00@5.50. Stock calves steady. Best whiteface steer calves 9.00 to 9.25, reds 8.00@8.25. Bologna bulls 5.50@6.00, corn fed 6.00@6.50.

HOGS—Market lower every day up until today. With 5500 on sale market ruled 25 higher today, top 11.75, light hogs, 130s to 160s 11.40 to 11.75, 170s to 230s 10.85 to 11.25, 240s up 10.25@10.75. Packing sows 9.00@9.75. Stock pigs little higher, 11.75@12.75. Stags 8 to 9 cents.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Fat lambs higher Monday, top 11.75, lower Wednesday and today. Top on fed Colorado today 15.00, clipped lambs 14.00. Native spring lambs 17.00 to 17.50; cull native springers 11.50@12.00. Fat ewes 9.00@9.50. Feeding and shearling lambs 14.50@15.00. Culls and ewes and bucks 3 to 6 cents.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

South St. Joseph, Mo., April 1st, 1927—

Cattle receipts the first of the week were heavy, but have decreased considerably during the last two days.

While we have had a slow, draggy, and lower market all week, the close today was 10c to 25c higher. With the closing of Lent near at hand, and lighter receipts than usual, we are hoping to see a good spring market. The local cattle for the month show a decrease of 5,159 as compared with March 1926.

Hogs With liberal receipts, the hog market broke 50c to 60c during the first of the week, but was quiet with light supplies Thursday, and a good shipper demand, the market reached 10c to 25c. The market today was light, supplied, prices generally steady to 10c higher.

The supply of hogs for March shows but 3,003 head short of March 1926.

Sheep With a fairly good supply of sheep, the market was active and higher early in the week, but closed quiet. Receipts for the month were 18,358 short of March 1926.

Kindly advise with us concerning any unpaid refund or any matter in which we can be of service to you.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

P. S. Beg to advise that the Farmers Union Live Stock Commission at this place is now broadcasting—putting on a program each week, on Thursdays and Saturdays at 12:30 to 1 o'clock p. m. from Station KGBX, the Foster-Hall Tire Company station at St. Joseph, Missouri. You may be in a position to tune in on one of these programs, and if so, we would appreciate your advising us what you think of it, and what kind of a reception you get.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Mar. 31, 1927.
Receipts of cattle this week have been around 5,000 more for the first four days of this week than the same time last week, but our market is holding up remarkably well on the better finished good quality cattle. Prices on this class of cattle look higher than the close of last week. There was a new top here this week of \$13.65 for some prime heavy cattle. Yearlings this week sold up to \$12.50. There has been sold up to the better finished good quality cattle, weighing from 900 to 1200 pounds

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 here to date were 100% local 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. 218****
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. Ray Wilson, Sec.
DIAMOND LOCAL NO. 2081****
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. Mrs. R. C. Farish, Sec.
ALLEN CENTER LOCAL NO. 2155
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Mrs. Jno. Page, Sec'y.
FAIRVIEW LOCAL NO. 2154****
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Mrs. Chas. L. Stewarts, Sec'y.

CHESTER COUNTY
NEUTRAL LOCAL NO. 2108****
Meets the first Tuesday of each month. C. A. Aldrich, Secretary.
ELLSWORTH COUNTY
LIBERTY LOCAL NO. 335****
Meets every first and third Monday of each month. Ed. Mog. Sec'y.
TRIVOLI LOCAL NO. 1001****
Meets the first Monday evening in each month. W. Fleming, Sec'y.

ELLSWORTH COUNTY
ADVANCE LOCAL NO. 1885****
Meets on the first Monday of each month. F. F. Svoboda, Sec'y.

but they look at least steady with the close of last week. From all indications the market is going to continue good the balance of this spring.

The butcher market is in exceptionally good condition. The right kind of cows would sell right up to \$9.25 or better. The bulk of the beef cows at the present time are moving in a range of prices from \$6.50 to \$8.00. Well conditioned heifers on the yearling type are selling up to \$11.00 with the bulk of heifers from \$8.00 to \$10.00.

The following are a few of our cattle sales this week: Clarence Naslund, Holstein, Iowa, one load 1255 lb. steers, \$12.00. Fred Kautner, Schleswig, Iowa, two loads, 1104 lb. Yearlings, \$11.85. F. E. Lumberg, Vermillion, S. D., two loads steers, fed only 90 days, averaging 1210 lb. \$11.00.

Our cattle business is increasing every day and we are very anxious to put this in the top of the list in the Chicago market. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter very much.

We will be glad to hear from you either by letter or by wire and if there is any special information you wish at any time we will be more than glad to furnish it to you. Do not hesitate to ask us for any information that you may want.

Hoping to hear from you and also have the pleasure of handling some stock for you, we remain,
Very truly yours,
FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

Not so difficult, is it? Perhaps you're already doing these things. If you are, tell your neighbor what a satisfaction it is. If you're not, try it once and see for yourself. Farmers' Bulletin No. 602, "The Production of Clean Milk," tells the story in greater detail. Send for it.

LIVESTOCK BREEDING

Lesson 2. Selecting Breeds and Types of Livestock

D. S. Burch.
In the business of raising livestock the breed selected corresponds in a general way with the purchase of commercial products such as automobiles, radio sets, and countless other things.

One can spend hours in discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each, but in the end the selection comes down to the question of personal preference, which in turn depends largely on the use to be made of the article.

One man prefers a light car and another with different requirements prefers a heavier one. Similarly with livestock, one owner may need a team of heavy-sized, general purpose horses, whereas another farmer would find little use for such animals but has use for heavy-draft teams.

Continuing the comparison further there is a gradual change in evolution in animal types in much the same way that models of commercial articles are changed to meet public preference. Livestock today are considerably different in type from the animals of a quarter of a century ago, and very much different from those of a century ago.

So it is not surprising when a person is about to select a breed of livestock that he applies to his country agent, to the state agricultural college, or to the United States Department of Agriculture, asking what is the best breed. Such questions are so frequent that the government has issued a series of Farmers' Bulletins on this subject. The bulletins describe the points of the various breeds and enable the reader to make comparisons and form conclusions accordingly.

A Large Number of Breeds

There is a large field of selection as you will see from the following figures, which are for breeds in the United States (foreign countries have some of the same breeds and still others). There are 10 principal breeds of beef cattle and 6 of cattle kept for dairy purposes. There are 9 important breeds of light horses and 6 of draft horses. Breeds of hogs number 14. Breeds of sheep number 11, and there are 7 principal breeds of goats. Chickens are even more numerous, there being 42 principal breeds with still more varieties. There are 9 recognized varieties of turkeys alone.

In spite of the figures given, representing breeds which in some cases have taken centuries to perfect, some livestock owners are not fully satisfied and sometimes plan to originate a new breed or variety to meet some special preference. This course is seldom advisable, and amateurs are more likely to attempt it than experienced breeders, who realize the heavy expense and the doubtful results.

Points to Keep in Mind

In selecting breeds and types of livestock, or in making a gradual change from common, mixed stock to

ELLIS COUNTY
HAYS LOCAL NO. 384****
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. Pfeiffer, Sec'y.
PLEASANT VALLEY LOCAL NO. 1504
Meets the first and third Monday of each month. Frank Reitmeyer, Sec'y.

GREENWOOD COUNTY
NEAL LOCAL NO. 1318****
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. J. C. Graves, Sec.

GOVE COUNTY
PARK LOCAL NO. 905****
Meets the last Saturday of each month. Jas. Hein, Sec'y.

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

JOHNSON COUNTY
SHARON LOCAL NO. 1744****
Meets the last Friday evening of each month. Mrs. Gusie K. DeVault, Sec'y.

a standard, recognized breed, there are several practical points to keep in mind. Though animals of the same breed have the same general characteristics of color, form, and other points of similarity, no two are alike. In this respect the comparison to manufactured articles—which are made according to the same pattern or from the same mold—does not apply. Variations within the breed permit the livestock owner to show his skill by selecting his breeding stock. Such selection enables him in time to approach more closely the goal and ideal which he has in mind.

Another point to consider in selecting a breed is that of standardization. Community effort in raising the same breed or variety of stock offers many advantages. Sometimes these efforts are more important than mere personal preference. They include a wider selection of sires and other breeding stock, beneficial contact with breeders having similar interests, and advertising value to the community. Besides, there are numerous market advantages when large numbers of animals are raised in the same breed.

Much has been said in the farm papers and by speakers at livestock meetings about purebred livestock. Success in that field depends largely on one's ability as a judge of stock, knowledge of breeding principles, and of the pedigrees of breeding stock available for use. Standards and pure breeding are exacting, and the undertaking requires a high degree of business ability in advertising and selling surplus stock. Inexperienced breeders are advised to make a small beginning and build on it gradually, instead of making a large initial investment.

Stick to One Breed

Another important point to keep in mind is the advantage of one breed of any kind of stock instead of trying to raise several. A person will make much better progress with a single breed than by scattering his efforts.

This point applies also to the grading up of livestock by the use of pure breeding. In selecting a sire, get one of the breed you prefer and which offers the greatest opportunities for success in your locality. Remember that the sire you select determines the breed characteristics of the entire herd or flock a few years hence, assuming, of course, that you follow a straight course and stick to the kind of sire that you begin with.

One of the most unwise things to do in animal breeding is to keep changing from one breed to another, for such a course will result in a mixed menagerie of farm livestock.

Remember that breeds and types of livestock are the result of breeding for a special purpose. Good equipment makes it possible to choose from, so when you get all the facts you should have no trouble in picking the one that best suits your needs and personal preference.

The Department of Agriculture considers that all standard breeds of livestock are meritorious and is impartial in its attitude toward them. It is ready to send interested persons bulletins containing the descriptions and origin of the principal breeds of all kinds of animals.

LIVESTOCK FEEDING

William Jackson

Growing stock make the best use of feed. Keep young stock growing. Turn feed into bone and muscle. Feed plenty. Skimpy feeding makes skimpy animals and skimpy profits. Balanced rations and enough feed is the secret. But all balanced rations do not give equal profits. Feed the rations that give the best results—at the lowest costs.

Two things more to remember: Good equipment prevents waste of feed and labor. But whether your herd or flock is large or small, it will be most profitable for you to keep the feed clean and feed it to the stock in clean mangers, boxes, buckets, or whatever you use.

Give stock good shelter and do not overcrowd. Protect the stock from parasites. Lice, worms, and other pests sap the stock and your profits, too. Feed bills run less if you keep your stock free from parasites.

Feed Young Animals Liberally

Every animal has a natural growing period and if it does not make its gains during that period it will not do afterwards, regardless of the quantity of feed given. The importance of feeding young animals properly is therefore plain.

Animals, like persons, thrive best on a combination of feed. Never feed a ration containing corn alone, for instance, to any class of stock.

Even the best animals can not produce without adequate and suitable feed. Therefore feed animals well and give them a chance.

Don't let animals go thirsty. Water is necessary if animals are to thrive and be profitable. Provide a good water supply and see that animals have regular access to it.

OTTAWA COUNTY

SAND CREEK LOCAL NO. 462****
Meets the second and last Friday of the month. Walter Lott, Sec.

RUSH COUNTY
SAND CREEK LOCAL NO. 304****
D Meets the first and third Friday of each month. A. R. Wilson, Sec.

SMITH COUNTY
OAK CREEK NO. 1185****
Meets at Stuart on the second Monday of each month. H. J. Schwartz, Sec'y.

STAFFORD COUNTY
UNION LOCAL NO. 2017****
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. J. W. Batchman, Sec.

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

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

Be careful not to change an animal's ration abruptly. Make changes of feeding gradually so that their digestive system will become adjusted to change. It is very important not to graze cattle or sheep on luxuriant clover, especially when wet, for when animals are hungry the result of such a practice is likely to be bloating.

Stafford County Local met March 25 with its regular business meeting. Roll call showed 40 members present. An order was taken for 100 lbs. of cheese. Delegates for the next county meeting was appointed. A good program was given, one of the features being a play entitled "The Dear-est Thing in Boots." Mr. Cole also favored us with some comic business. Refreshments were served in the basement by the young ladies. Gladys Bird, Local Corr.