

Kansas Sta
Topeka, Kan

KANSAS UNION FARMER

Organization

Education

Co-operation

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NUMBER 1

Kansas Farmers Union Expansion Fund Socials Begin Feb. 7, End Feb. 19

The Resolution from the 1943
State Convention:

"We urge that every local regardless of ability to make a direct contribution from its treasury, hold such a social event both to assure the largest possible financial contribution and to create and re-create interest in the (Farmers Union) movement."

Dates were set last week by the state office for the holding of expansion fund socials to fall within the two-week period beginning February 7 and ending February 19. Notices were mailed to local secretaries and educational directors informing them of the date and advising immediate steps to be taken in preparation for what must be one of the most successful fund raising campaigns ever conducted by the Kansas Farmers Union.

In the past one evening has been named as Box Supper or funds raising night but this year two weeks have been set aside in which locals may choose a night for an Expansion Fund program. Suggested in the notice were numerous ideas for some form of entertainment — box supper, pie supper, dance, card party or whatever will be most successful in any given community. Secretaries and educational directors were reminded of the good publicity and educational value the socials have in the community in addition to their being a pleasant way to raise funds.

Further emphasis is this year placed on the need for locals and co-operatives who have not in past years held fund-raising socials to get in the swing and work to strengthen the Farmers Union. With Congress considering making co-ops file income tax reports and with pressure groups being formed outside of legislative halls to bring co-ops to their knees before Big Business, the articulate voice of the Farmers Union needs support, not alone with funds to carry on its legislative and educational activities but to increase the organization toward the end that more working farmers may enjoy the security of union membership.

President E. K. Dean pointed out that the delegates to the state convention outlined a more ambitious program than has ever before challenged the state office and membership. To meet the challenge, he said, not only must all those locals who have regularly held socials do the same this year but other locals must be encouraged to participate in the drive as well as co-operatives who more than ever need the representation given them through the Kansas and National Farmers Union.

First individual contribution to be received by the state office came in this week from Ben Stong, editor of the National Union Farmer. Stong attended the Kansas convention last October in Clay Center and promised at the time to contribute \$10 to the state union's expansion fund. He has done so. The goal of the expansion fund drive is \$10,000 in excess of last year's income or just 1,000 times more than the initial contribution. Carry on from here members and co-operators!

Members Vote Dues Increase Effective Jan. 1

Dues in the Kansas Farmers Union for 1944 will be \$3.50 as the result of the vote on the referendum ballot which amended the state organization's constitution and by-laws to raise and allocate dues.

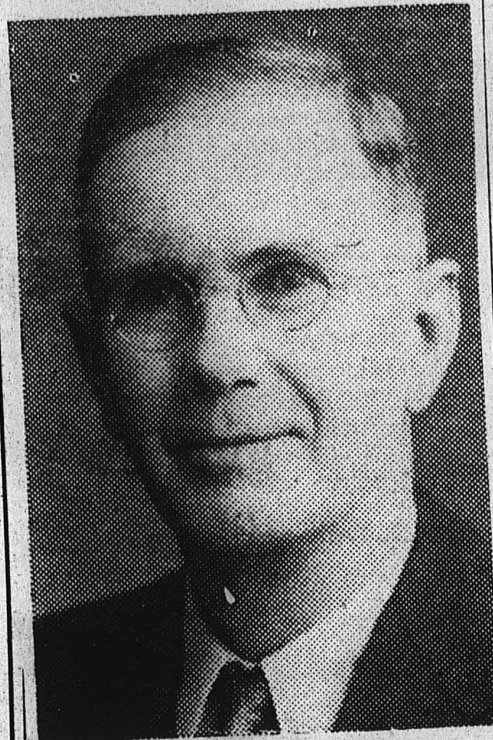
While formerly the state dues were \$1.60 and the national dues were 40 cents with local and county dues determined at the local and county level, the delegates to the 1943 state convention unanimously approved amendments which specified total dues and disposition of them. Effective as of January 1,

\$2.75 of the total \$3.50 will go to the state secretary who retains only \$1.75 for state dues, sends fifty cents to the county secretary and another fifty cents to the national office. Seventy-five cents remaining with the local.

Those local secretaries who have already forwarded the state and national dues at the old rate to the state secretary will be instructed to collect the additional dues as specified in the amendment.

Since the greatest increase in dues is at the local and county levels, KFU President E. K. Dean has suggested to county officers that they begin preparation to expand their educational or organizational programs for which purpose the increase was made.

Written Up . . .



H. E. WITHAM
General Manager FUJA

Two Magazines Honor Witham

The Farmers Elevator Guide, a magazine published in Minneapolis, Minn., in its November issue paid high tribute to H. E. Witham, general manager and secretary of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, by printing his picture on the cover of the magazine under the caption, "Friend of Farm Co-operatives" as well as carrying a biographical sketch of Mr. Witham.

The article stated that Witham has been an "active, enthusiastic member of the Kansas Farmers Union since 1909, when he first became interested in the work."

Continuing, the magazine told that after his "coming with his family to Mitchell County, Kansas early in life, Harry Witham grew up knowing the difficulties and pleasures of farming on the prairies. With the exception of a very few years soon after his marriage, he has spent his entire life working on his Mitchell county farm or for Kansas Farmers Co-operatives.

"Much of his belief in the practicability of Co-operatives as a means to add to what farmers may gain through their farm organizations came to him from his friend and teacher, John Tromble. Mr. Tromble was a great and beloved Farmer Union leader, and one of the first, if not the first, in Kansas to advise farmers to use the principles of the Rochdale Pioneers in the organization and operation of their co-operatives.

"Early in 1911, Mr. Witham became the manager of a local co-operative elevator at Cawker City, Kan. The many years of actual farming experience enabled him to be a helpful and understanding friend to farmer patrons—wise in their needs and desires. The early hardships he had endured, and the careful management necessary to maintain a family of eight (five sons and one daughter) on a farm during good years and bad, proved good training and for keeping the budget of a co-operative, in balance.

"A few years later, Mr. Witham was asked to take over the management of the Mitchell County Farmers Union Co-operative Association, of which the Cawker City co-operative was a unit. This co-operative had several hundred members and operated local elevators and stores at various stations throughout the county. It has continued to grow throughout the years and is today a fine example of the possibilities of a county-wide co-operative marketing and purchasing association.

"Always believing that local (Continued on Page 2)

Natoma Association In Revising By-laws Keeps and Re-activates Check-off Clause

FIGHT

Infantile
Paralysis
January 14-31

Despite a widespread popular impression that infantile paralysis is largely a disease that hits the cities and congested areas, this mysterious enemy of the home front strikes in its unexplained manner on the farms all over the nation. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, New York, points out in making its annual appeal for funds January 14 to 31 through the March of Dimes.

The 1943 epidemic of this disease—the worst in twelve years—included many people from the farms among its nearly 12,000 victims. The pattern was strange. It was without rhyme or reason. Polomyelitis is always like that. Far from areas where other victims had been hit, a farmer, a farmer's wife or his children were stricken.

In northern Colorado, polio struck swiftly last October in one family. Three times within a week it hit the same family—a little five-year-old girl, her seventeen-month-old sister, and their four-year-old cousin. In Kansas, Mrs. Norabelle Hammond, a 46-year-old farm housewife, died in the polio myelitis isolation ward at Grace hospital, Hutchinson, a week after she was brought there from her farm home. She had not been away from her farm for several weeks according to her friends. When she arrived at the hospital she was in serious condition and was immediately placed in an iron lung.

But the dimes and dollars which are given by people from the cities, towns and the countryside all join together in helping these victims regardless of age, race, creed or color and regardless also of whether they live in the cities where help is available swiftly or in some lonely farmhouse.

State Agriculture Board to Topeka January 12, 13, 14

The seventy-third annual convention of the State Board of Agriculture to be held in the Municipal auditorium at Topeka January 12, 13 and 14 is expected to draw more than 300 delegates from over the state.

Milton Eisenhower, president of Kansas State College, will speak to the delegates at the morning session the third day of the convention. Other speakers, Governor Schoepfle, Judge W. R. Lileston, Wichita and M. H. Coe, state 4-H leader from Manhattan, will be heard at the dinner at the Hotel Jayhawk the evening of January 12, according to J. C. Mohler, secretary of the board.

News Bits . . .

A Navy man said it, "My efficiency as a fighting man is lowered much less by worrying about subsidy-induced increases in the government debt than by reports from my wife that increased living costs are making my allotment checks buy less and less and thus increasing the distress of my family."

The Kansas Farmers Union 1944 membership drive enjoyed a vigorous boost as an initial impetus when on December 14 the stockholders of the Natoma Farmers Union Mercantile and Shipping Association at their annual meeting unanimously voted to retain in their organization's by-laws the check-off clause which allows patronage dividends to be paid only to Farmers Union members.

Since the Osborne County organization had declared dividends at the close of 1943, the re-activation of the check-off clause resulted in more than 130 members in the Natoma area joining or rejoining the Farmers Union. Independent of the stockholders action, seven members of the Pleasant Vale local had sent to the state office through their secretary, Clarence Hartman, a check which paid dues not only for 1944 but also paid up back dues for the past three years for each of the seven members.

The stockholders meeting held in the City Hall of Natoma was well attended in spite of the fact that winter's coldest snap had that day sent the thermometer down to cuddle up with the zero mark. E. C. Broman, secretary-manager of the Farmers Union Co-operative Auditing Association drove out from Salina to present and interpret the auditor's report for the closing year, which revealed such good business that patronage dividends could be paid for the first time in several years.

The stockholders generously shared their successful year by voting a gift of \$100 to the manager of the Natoma Farmers Union hardware store, Herm Schloh who is also the secretary of the board of directors. After renaming the directors whose tenures terminated at the close of the year, the stockholders directed the board to investigate the conditions under which Series E War Bonds may be purchased and to consider the advisability of a co-operative's making such investments.

Present board members are Chris Madson, J. B. Meyers, E. G. Craig, A. L. Dougherty and K. L. Chesney.

Chris Madson president of the board, presided but turned the meeting over to Broman during the consideration point by point of the revision and adoption of the by-laws. Unanimously the stockholders voted to adopt a clause which permits the board to allocate up to five per cent of the organization's profits for educational purposes.

Following adjournment of the stockholders meeting, the board of directors instructed Secretary Schloh to send resolutions to Senators Arthur Capper and Clyde M. Reed urging them to protest the clause in the proposed tax bill which would require co-operatives to file income tax returns. Opinions expressed by individual members of the board indicated that they were pleased with activities of the National Farmers Union in behalf of working farmers, especially those of NFU legislative secretary Russell Smith whose arguments, against the tax bill, as presented to the Senate Finance Committee were read to them.

Several of the organization's charter members are still active in the present co-operative. The original charter granted in 1913 carried the following names: James Davis, secretary, J. B. Meyers, W. H. Hartman, (Continued on Page 4)

Day by Day with FUJA

by JOHN VESECKY

Many Increased Services Planned by FUJA in 1944

Soy Bean Processing Plants, Truck Dump at Topeka Terminal, Fertilizer Mixer at Parsons Are on the Way

It is customary to make New Year's resolutions on January 1 and then break them during the rest of the year.

The Farmers Union Jobbing Associations' board of directors in their last meeting in 1943, held at the Kansas City office December 20, did not make any resolutions but they did lay out a comprehensive plan for increased and improved services to the patron co-operatives and their farmer members for 1944.

Among the proposed new services says Manager H. E. Witham, are the following:

One or more soy bean processing plants strategically placed so that the FUJA will be able to buy all the soy beans our member farmers raise, process them into soy bean meal and pellets and sell this needed and valuable protein feed back to our co-operatives so as to enable them to supply their members' needs.

Plans are being matured to put in the necessary machinery in our Parsons plant to mix fertilizers so as to supply the growing demand for commercial fertilizers in eastern Kansas with properly compounded fertilizers at reasonable prices.

Ground has already been purchased, and cleared of old buildings, adjacent to the FUJA feed mill in Topeka on which to build an addition to the mill and warehouse which when completed will triple the capacity of the feed mill and warehouse. Arrangements are also being completed to install a large truck scale and truck dump in connection with the FUJA terminal elevator in Topeka so that farmers tributary to Topeka or co-operative elevators without rail connections can deliver grain and soy beans to the Topeka terminal by truck.

There are several other projected services and plants on the agenda for 1944 which will be completed and put into operation as soon as possible. The FUJA under the management of

Harry Witham has made a steady growth in volume of business and in the value of services furnished our farmers.

The year just closed has been one of the most successful in the history of your company. Thanks to the associates who own and patronized the FUJA in 1943. It will be possible for your regional co-operative to greatly increase its services in 1944 and with the continued support of the member co-operatives to build up a Regional Service Co-operatives that will be able to render full and efficient services to them in all lines handled by the member co-operatives.

Harry E. Witham, general manager, Ted C. Beldon, manager mercantile department, Roy Crawford, manager grain department and all the FUJA personnel take this opportunity to thank all member co-operative associations and all the loyal co-operators in the Farmers Union for their support during 1943 and before and to assure you that they will all do their best to give you the best service possible, under these war conditions, in 1944.

The whole FUJA gang wishes you all a Happy Prosperous New Year, and hopes to meet hundreds of you at the annual meeting of the FUJA in February.

VesECKY Finds Pheasant Pleasant

On December 15 Manager Wykoff of the Osborne County Farmers Union Co-operative Ass'n. entertained the managers of his local units and their personnel, representatives of the Vickers Petroleum Co. and the Quaker Oil Co., and T. C. Belden, J. A. Newberry and John VesECKY of the FUJA at a pheasant dinner.

The dinner with all the trim-

mings was served by the ladies of the Congregational Church of Osborne in the basement of the church. This was the first time your reporter has ever eaten pheasant and he hereby gives heartfelt thanks for the good marksmanship of brother Wykoff and his kindness of heart that enabled him to kill the pheasants during the open season and then enabled him to share them with us. May he have such a fine idea next year.

After all the good things to eat were taken care of, the representatives of the petroleum and oil companies each gave us a good instructive talk on the manufacture and supply of the products the FUJA buys from their company. The meeting closed with a short talk from the host, manager Fred Wykoff, and every one present telling him how much they enjoyed the evening.

Witham Honored

(Continued from Page 1)

co-operative marketing associations were but the first step to be taken by farmers to control their products all the way to market, Mr. Witham was glad to have the opportunity to take over the management of The Farmers Union Jobbing Association back in 1927. This is a regional co-operative serving as a grain marketing and farm supply purchasing association for local co-operatives throughout the state of Kansas. It operates a terminal elevator in Topeka, Kan., has three feed mills and three warehouses, and has grain offices and memberships on the Kansas City and Salina grain markets.

"During these years Mr. Witham has made and kept many hundreds of friends from among the leaders and members of the Farmers Union. The National Federation of Grain Co-operatives, the Department of Agriculture, and others interested in the welfare of agriculture. But always in the inner circle of friends come the managers and farmer members of the local farmers co-operatives."

Additional recognition of Mr. Witham's able management appeared in the December 25 issue of the GTA Digest which pointed out that during the sixteen years he has been manager, the FUJA "has developed from an organization with a \$33,000 deficit to a co-operative institution with assets of \$1,023,662."

GTA Manager M. W. Thatcher Proposes Post-War Program

Agriculture's Need of Charter Similar to National Labor Relations Act Cited

As the war news progressively gets better and better, the talk is more and more of the peace and plans for a post-war world. From the cracker barrel to the floor of Congress, men speak their hopes and fears and guesses about the kind of a world there will be after peace comes. And these hopes and fears and guesses are picked up in the newspapers and broadcast over the air.

Unfortunately, most people tend to favor their hopes and put a lot of stock in them. And they grab at whatever sounds like an easy answer to a tough problem. That is why there has been a lot of loose talk about peace and a lot of loose and wishful thinking.

Now, any flight from reality is dangerous. It plays into the hands of reaction. Any cutting of paper dolls when there is work to be done is dangerous. Any bill that puts people to sleep with their wishes when there really is thinking to be done, is dangerous.

Tomorrow's Better World

The American farmer is up against this danger as much as any other part of the American public. When we talk about that better world of tomorrow, we must think of it in relation to our problems of today. We will not have much to fight for tomorrow unless we preserve what we have won today. Let us put it plainly. If agriculture is to be taken up a side road now, for an economic buggy ride, there is not much hope that it will be in any condition to sit down and bargain for its rights when this war is over. I do not believe anyone will dispute that.

If anybody—the Congress or the administration or farm leaders—invoke a program that can only lead to chaos and confusion for agriculture, they must be branded as traitors, because agriculture will have been betrayed. Instead of being strong, unified and independent, it will be weakened and broken, and forced to again come begging, up in band, for hand-outs. That is why the farmer must be sure that no demagogue upsets the apple-cart of a stabilized wartime economy.

Let us first discuss what the farmer is up against now. This immediate problem must be solved before we can plan and plant for tomorrow. Look at the 1944 food production quotas. If they are to be filled, the farmer must have the manpower, the machinery and a fair price—a parity of income. You will remember that was what the President told Congress. The very sobriety of his message emphasized the importance of the problem. The President emphasized the importance of subsidies. He presented the facts at length, perhaps in order not to lay himself open to the inevitable charge that he was seeking to make political capital out of the grave issue of food and prices.

Big Business Subsidies

Now, the so-called farm lobby insists that farmers do not want any subsidies or any other hand-outs. That is true—of course it is. In normal times no one would deny that. Even if big business did thrive on subsidies for years and still gets big hand-outs from the government, the fact remains that no American farmer or any other self-reliant American wants a subsidy or a handout.

But remember this too. If the subsidy—or whatever else you want to call it—is a necessary technique to get the things that all Americans want and must have to help win the war, you farmers are not going to be frightened by the shadow of a word.

Now, what are the things we want to achieve? There are three immediate things. First,

we want to produce food—the food we can. We need for our soldiers and civilians. We need it for Lend-Lease and for our allies. We will need it for people in liberated areas. We will need to produce it to the fullest extent of our ability and the ability of our allies.

Needs of War Economy

This brings us to the second thing we want to achieve. Farmers cannot produce unless both as farmers and consumers, they have a decent living standard. A decent living standard must be achieved and maintained. Under ordinary circumstances, you farmers would get this in better farm prices. It is the sound way to get it in a normal, peacetime economy. But we do not have a normal economy today. We have a war economy. The scarcity of civilian goods and the surplus of purchasing power stick out like two sore thumbs.

So that brings us to the third point. How can the farmer maintain a decent standard of living? How can he do it and keep the price structure steady and hold inflation of prices down? The British experiment, for example, has shown that these three purposes can best be met by paying subsidies to producers of food and other commodities. The American experience, where it has been given an honest chance, confirms the British opinion.

We are not talking about politics here, but are trying to lay down some basic facts. Perhaps the politicians would have you believe that this is an issue which can be settled by political parties. That is nonsense. On important issues, conservative and reactionary Republicans and Democrats drop their party labels. You find you find both Republicans and Democrats of the same reactionary stripe lined up when it comes to attacking progressive legislation, whether it is for the farmer or for labor.

The Many Against the Few

In a final analysis, it is not a battle between political parties, but an economic struggle—a fight—not between Republicans and Democrats, but between those who champion the few and their wealth and those who champion equality and social and economic rights for all of the people. Thus you have that same alignment in Congress on subsidies.

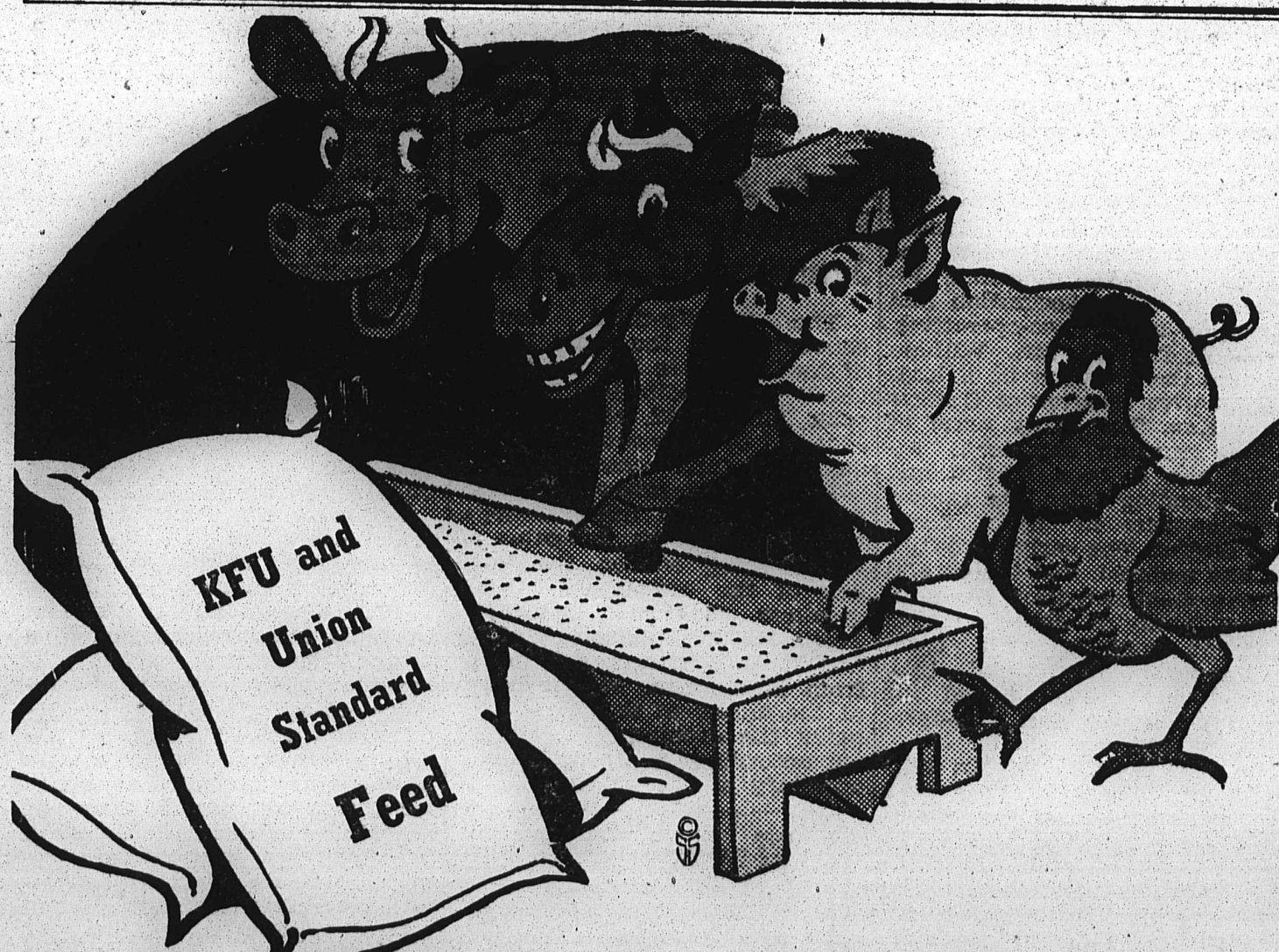
Now, in wartime, what does a subsidy do? It raises the farmer's standard of living. It does not get him rich or put him on easy street. It just helps him make both ends meet. And it does it without directly raising the price of his product to the consumer. It eliminates the danger of inflation, because once you get a price increase, it skyrockets all along the price line until it reaches the final consumer. That is why President Roosevelt could honestly say that a few billions of dollars in subsidies have already saved the consumer many billions of dollars.

You must remember that since subsidies do come out of the general taxes, they fall equally on all groups. But price increases come out of the housewives' pocketbooks. And that includes the farmers' wives. So they fall most heavily on the low-income groups.

Price Structure Indivisible

Now is when all Americans must learn—farmers, workers and business men—they all must learn that the price structure is indivisible. No part of it is separate from all the other parts. It would be fortunate if congressmen could learn that along with other Americans, because if they are playing politics with the price structure, they are playing politics with not only

(Continued on Page 6)



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Manufactured at your own cooperative feed mill.

THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

ESTHER EKBLAD, DIRECTOR, Salina, Kansas

Juniors 16-21

Junior Reserves 8-15

"He Loves His Country Best Who Strives to Make It Best"—Junior Motto.

WAR

What is war to me?
I have never seen anyone die.
I cannot realize the terrible tortures of starvation.
I have never seen forgotten pools of blood in a field.
My mind cannot bring the vividness of war to me.
The horror is only words.
People tell me about war's agony.
As they sit beside comfortable firesides.
They try to imagine slow starvation.
While they gorge themselves with food.
On peaceful rides in the country.
They talk about the barren hillsides of France.
But they don't really know.
How can I hate and fear war.
That of which I know nothing?
—Shirley Hildenon (17)
Scholastic.

Junior Aims

(Restated for 1944)

- TO BUILD . . .
1. A better world, by building better citizens—ourselves.
 2. Tolerance and understanding in ourselves to insure liberty and justice to all.
 3. An understanding of the problems of agriculture which we must face as we grow older.
 4. A strong militant organization which will help us to solve these problems.
 5. Cooperatives, that the wealth of the farms may not be centralized in the hands of a few.
 6. Economic democracy, that we may safeguard political democracy.
 7. Love of our fellowman, whatever his race, creed or color.
 8. A warless world.
- From the Junior Manual.

Letter Wins Prize

Beverly Stapaules, Liberty local, Hollenberg, had her letter to the National Union Farmer's Round Table department published in the December 1 issue. Although the editors

of the NUF awarded the first prize, a War Bond, to a Colorado Junior, they had this to say of Beverly, "She wrote such an excellent letter on the same subject that it was difficult for us to make a choice and for that reason we are presenting Beverly with \$10 in War Stamps."

Her letter, answering the question "Why my father should belong to the Farmers Union," follows:

BECAUSE HE IS A FARMER

By Beverly Stapaules

"I feel that there are many reasons why my father should belong to the Farmers Union. First and most important is the fact that he is a farmer. He, himself, farms the soil that provides us with food. He does the many home-ly tasks that a farmer is called upon to do, such as milking cows, playing doctor and nurse to sick or injured livestock, planting, weeding and harvesting his crops."

"There are many organizations of farmers, but the Farmers Union is the only one that truly represents and meets the needs of the farmers who, like my father, are the working farmers. There are other organizations (which I will not mention by name) masquerading as farm organizations, which expertly represent the interests of business and use uninformed farmers as a false front for their enterprises of exploitation."

My father should belong to the Farmers Union for its educational values, that he might learn the truth in matters which affect him and his family as farmers. He learns of legislation which will influence agriculture and ultimately mark its destiny. It places him in a position to understand and influence legislation which is to the interest of all working people, who are all friends of the farmer and should work together, for in unity there is strength and happiness."

"He should belong to the Farmers Union, thereby signifying his desire and interest in helping all honest working people to gain for each other better working conditions and on the whole a better world in which to live."

"My father should belong to the Farmers Union to show that he believes in the farmer, in farming, in all honest labor, in better government, in better living and in his fellow men."

"Can you tell me one reason why he should not belong to the Farmers Union? There is none, and I am happy to say HE DOES BELONG TO THE FARMERS UNION."

Book Review

STUART CHASE—GOALS FOR AMERICA: A Budget of Our Needs and Resources

By Cpl. William J. Bode
Army Air Base
Lincoln, Nebraska

GOALS FOR AMERICA: A BUDGET OF OUR NEEDS AND RESOURCES, (Harcourt-Brace & Co.) is a result of the Twentieth Century Fund. This far-sighted organization retained the eminent author, Stuart Chase, to write a series of books for the American public, dealing with some of the problems that the United States must face WHEN THE WAR ENDS, (the title of the series). The Series was begun before we were at war and now that we are engaged in the conflict the books hold added significance.

After the first reading, Mr. Chase's plan for the post-war readjustment is so ostentatiously simple that it seems far flung and ridiculous. The economical aspect is all that the author treats; after all, if the nation is economically sound, the political problem is usually well in hand.

The one hundred thirty-four page book leaves many topics open for criticism but as Evans Clark, the executive director of the Twentieth Century Fund explained, the sole incentive of the series is to provoke thought and to stimulate discussion among the American public. Although the author had the advantage of advice and criticisms from noted authorities, he expressed his own ideas, some with decided prejudice, with neither affirmation nor disapproval committed by the Trustees and Fund Staff of Twentieth Century Fund.

The book which deals primarily with the five fundamentals: food, shelter, clothing, health and education for the survival of democracy (economically speaking, of course) is a challenge to the common sense and reasoning of the American public. As citizens of a democracy, it is our duty to become acquainted with these problems. For the benefit of those of us who think we no longer enjoy a democracy, we would like them to know that a book like this one would never be legitimately published in Germany.

Mr. Chase used an entire chapter to point out the pronounced effect. Public Works can have upon our problems, notably those of unemployment and of society.

GOALS FOR AMERICA recognizes the farmer as the foundation of the entire American economy and that this book is sanctioned by the Farmers Union for universal reading is obvious. In each of Mr. Chase's goals lies the sense of the Farmers Union Program.

By now, you must have the idea that this book was not meant for entertainment. It is not fictional, but the bitter truth. We must now think of the time when bombers will be grounded, the bugles will sound and the war will end. If we fail to see our mission now, it will be too late. The whole readjustment to peace-time economy will be useless, for the only successful plan will be that which is the expression of every faction that constitutes America. The underlying principle upon which Stuart Chase bases his hope for a true democracy is that the 131,699,275 Americans (1940 official census) will be adequately fed, sheltered, clothed, medically cared for and educated. A democracy in which the individual will have his place and will not be a detriment to society.

Statistics prove (the book illustrates numerous examples) that

if each of the 131,699,275 Americans was clothed, fed, medically cared for and educated, the problems of unemployment, overproduction, and surpluses would vanish overnight.

Why not read the book and determine the part that you will take in accomplishing the GOALS FOR AMERICA?

Stuart Chase was born in 1888. Reared in Boston he belongs to the tenth generation of a New England family. He was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and in 1910 received his BS with cum laude honors from Harvard.

Chase wanted to be an architect but worked in his father's accounting firm. In 1916, he was made a certified Public Accountant of Massachusetts. This career was soon interrupted as during the first World War he was the Regulator of Food Administration.

As an outgrowth of his affiliations with Labor Bureau, Incorporated he became interested in labor and "co-ops". A founder of the Consumer's Research, a co-op providing consumers with expert and unbiased information concerning common commodities, he wrote his first important book, "The Tragedy of Waste" in 1925. Of this book a reviewer in The Saturday Review of Literature said, "Congress should pass a law compelling every American citizen to read the book at least once."

As an ardent New Dealer, Stuart Chase has been a consulting expert on many New Deal Agencies. His book, "A New Deal" provided the Democratic Party and Franklin D. Roosevelt with a triumphant political slogan. In addition to the duties previously mentioned and his many books, Chase is now engaged by the Twentieth Century Fund and has had numerous articles published in Fortune, Harpers, Atlantic and New Republic magazines.

Through his interests in co-ops and labor over a period of years, we find that Stuart Chase is well qualified to write "Goals for America: A Budget of Our Needs and Resources."

The author has been described as friendly, intelligent, alert, unpretentious, eager and looking 10 years younger than his age. Irkful of city life, he lives among the Puritan traditions of ancestors at Georgetown, Conn. Swimming, tennis, and walking with tremendous energy provide him with relaxation and inspiration. Believing in detailed research, he makes all of his notes on 5 x 8 cards and laboriously writes in longhand. Among Mr. Chase's favorite books are Somerset Maugham's "of Human Bondage" and Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn."

Unless we have a more definite knowledge on what needs to be done and what can be done, how can we be able to cope with post war problems at the end of the war? Mr. Chase concisely states this knowledge in the book that has been reviewed.—Submitted in writers' project.

REFERENCES:

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Who's Who Among N. A. Authors—Alberta Lawrence, (editions of 1940-41-42.)

Miss Ekblad's Speech Printed

In the November 15 issue of the Co-operative Farmer, a farm paper published by farmers for farmers in Richmond, Missouri, a front page story is made up of extracts from the address Esther Ekblad delivered before the delegates to the annual convention of the Missouri Farmers' Union held in St. Joseph on October 20.

Honor Roll 1943

The following Juniors, Junior Reserves, and Juveniles completed their 1943 Study Units and Projects, and received the yearly Service Awards given by the Farmers Union Department of Education.

Juniors

1st Year Junior Pin—

Ethlyn Parry, Marjorie Tennant, and Max Soupen, Manhattan; Irene and Lucille Soelter, Wamego; Kent Pearl, Anna Mae Rodenbough, and Lucille Rodenbough, St. Marys; Jean Koons, Don and Dean Arnold, Lindsborg; Hubertine Mog, Ellsworth.

2nd Year One-Star Bar Pin—

Mary Pat Immenschuh and Regina Lenherr, St. Marys; Ralph Sjoström and Vance Arnold, Lindsborg.

3rd Year Two-Star Bar Pin—

Ida Mae Olson, McPherson.

Junior Reserves

1st Year "Liveoak Tree" Notebook

Frederick Mog, Ellsworth; Regina Erbacher, and Margie Rodenbough, St. Marys; Joan Reed and Raymond Wharton, Mankato; Mary Ann Peterson, Billy Peterson, and Bernice Peterson, McPherson.

2nd Year "Cooperative"

Postcards—

Geneva and Bernadine Schaffer, McPherson.

3rd Year Rainbow Pin

Mary C. Lenherr and Tom Immenschuh, St. Marys.

JUENILES

1st Year Juvenile Pin—

Darrell Reed, Paul Dahl, John Dahl, Mary E. Dahl, Ila Selva, Naomi Rothchild, Junior Dahl, and Melvin Graham, Mankato (Rose Hill Local); Thomas Foote, Franklin Steiner, Gladys Toman, Billy Toman, and Dorothy Foote, Ellsworth (Black Wolf Local); Terry Rex Knoche,

LeRoy Meyer, Evelyn Meyer, Eunice Hayen, Marian Hearn, Melvin Hearn, Joan Meyer, Merle Knoche, and Verle Knoche, Stafford (Corn Valley Local); Arnold Paulson, Lloyd Ray Hanson, and Donald Pricke, Lindsborg (Smoky Hill Local); Ruby Stewart, Myron Parry, Bonnie Hoffman, and Kay Hoffman, Manhattan (Elbow Local).

2nd Year Juvenile Pencil and Clip

John Richard Paulson and Lloyd Norberg, Lindsborg (Smoky Hill Local).

LEADERS

Leaders who have served for one-year receive the lithographed poem "The Harvest"; two years "Where Lives Democracy"; three years "Creed for the Courageous"; four years "The Vision"; five years "Pioneers";

Second year Leaders, who with the current year have Juniors and Reserves receiving awards, get the Leaders Pin.

Clay County—

Mrs. Castle Ctromire*, Local Leader, and Mrs. Roy Bumsted*, Assistant Leader, Fourmile Local.

Mrs. Ruah Schoneweis*, Local Leader, Pleasant View Local.

Ellsworth County—

Miss Hubertine Mog** (Leaders Pin), County Leader and Juvenile Teacher; Mrs. Fred Mog** (Leaders Pin), Local Leader; and Mrs. Joseph Shanales** (Leaders Pin), Junior Teacher, Black Wolf Local.

Miss Frances Hokr*, Local Leader, Ellsworth Local.

Jewell County—

Mrs. Rollo Henningsen** (Leaders Pin), County Leader, and Local Leader, Mankato Local.

Mrs. Doris Graham*, Local Leader, Rose Hill Local.

Mrs. Everett Reed*, Local Leader, Burr Oak Local.

McPherson County—

Mrs. Charles Olson****, County Leader.

Mrs. W. R. Peterson** (Leaders Pin), Local Leader, John-

stown Local.

Mrs. W. L. Arnold** (Leaders Pin), Local Leader; Mrs. Leroy Norberg** (Leaders Pin); Juvenile Teacher and Ralph Sjoström** (Leaders Pin), Junior Teacher, Smoky Hill Local.

Mitchell County—

Mrs. Floyd Rominger*, Local Leader, Bunker Hill Local.

Nemaha County—

Mrs. F. B. Roots****, Local Leader, Seneca.

Pottawatomie County—

Mrs. Bernard Immenschuh****, County Leader and Local Leader; Mrs. Paul Lenherr** (Leaders Pin), Junior-Reserve Teacher; Mrs. Wm Wild** (Leaders Pin), Juvenile Teacher, Sandy Hook Local.

Mrs. Joy Hammett*, Local Leader, Elbow Local.

Shawnee County—

Mrs. Elwyn Engler**, Local Leader; Mrs. Albert Swan**, Juvenile Teacher; and Mrs. Wm. Corbett*, Reserve Teacher, Elevation Local.

Stafford County

Mrs. John Heyen** (Leaders Pin), Local Leader, Corn Valley Local.

Mrs. Mean McMillan* (Local Leader, Mrs. Florence DeSelms* Assistant, North Star Local.

Wabaunsee County—

Mrs. Frank Seele*, Local Leader; Mrs. George Seele**, Junior Teacher, and Mrs. Henry Holtz*, Juvenile Teacher, Kaw Valley Local.

Mrs. M. T. Childs*, Local Leader, Turkey Creek Local.

Study Winter Birds

The Reserves of the Fourmile Local Clay county, elected Warren Ames as president, and Bruce Bumsted as secretary at their December meeting. Mrs. Stromire, Local Leader, reports that the Reserves are keeping a list of the birds they see each month, and how they see them—alone, in flocks or pairs. They are learning about winter birds, and birds that stay here all year.

Patton's Speech Before County Agents Asks-- Whose Extension Service?

SOME PROPOSALS FOR RURAL DEMOCRACY AND FREE EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman, Officers, and Delegates, I salute you for what I sincerely believe a great majority of you are honestly trying to be and do. You are, you must be, the educators, the bringers of light and knowledge, and its practical application, to the people who till the land and raise the food and fiber of this nation.

I do not need to tell you, of all people, that we are in a total global war that has no front, no back, no middle, that is all in one piece, a fierce and bitter fight everywhere—on the battlelines, on the high seas, in the air, within nations, and yes, within agriculture itself. We are in a war between the idea of freedom, of human dignity and opportunity on the one hand, and, on the other, dark and sinister coalitions against humanity, against freedom and healthy development of the individual human being.

Within agriculture, as elsewhere, the demands, stresses, and strains of war have not resulted in suspension of the struggle, the race between economic democracy and economic special privilege trending toward monopoly. Rather, war demands for food and fiber have been, and will be, used to step up the intensity of that conflict within agriculture.

Democracy at Stake

In my view, the Federal Extension Service, some State Extension Services, some Land Grant Colleges, and many who are county agents are being used as pawns in a struggle which will ultimately determine the form and direction of American agriculture. Either American agriculture will protect and promote rural political and economic democracy, or as it succumbs to the domination of big-scale corporate agriculture operating in coalition with big banking, insurance, processing, handling, and farm machinery interests, rural America will lose democracy in the economic, and then in the political fields and become a base from which Fascism can operate, and, as opportunities offer, spread all over the nation.

Many of you, out of your own experience, recognize this struggle and its meaning for all of agriculture, for individual farm people, and for you who have dedicated yourselves to the high calling of education. I recognize that some of you find yourselves in situations where, unless you are to expose your families to insecurity, you feel that you must, for the time being, go along with and even assist in promoting domination by powerful minority groups.

Misuse of Power

In too many instances, a private organization has decisive power through its local boards, or is presumed to have decisive power over the Extension Agent through its influence in Congress, with respect to appropriations and legislation, and consequently, directs the work of county agents. Farmers and all citizens should be disturbed by the existence of such power so applied. The exercise of power by a special, private organization, directing the hand of government, is not distinguishable in any essential respect from Fascism itself.

This trend is not yet victorious. It need never be. The fact that I am here today, as a spokesman for those farmers and those farm organizations who oppose this trend, who are fighting for the preservation of family-type farms as the basic pattern of American agriculture, for genuine rural democracy in the economic and political fields, and for co-operation and friendship among farmers, labor, legitimate business, states, and nations, is eloquent proof that Fascism has not yet been accepted in this country, within agriculture, or by your organization or its members. I recognize the fact that some of you may disagree sincerely and profoundly with nearly everything I say.

My appreciation, therefore, is the greater for this chance to lay before you in some detail an analysis of the present situation in agriculture, with particular reference to the roles of education and the Extension Service, and to make certain proposals for the future of American agriculture, rural education, and the Extension Service, an Extension Service liberated and re-established for the successful performance of the vital and fundamental educational functions for which it was originally created. I believe you will agree with me that this is the time for searching examination, planning, and action for the immediate and the far future for which this war is being fought.

In 1932, a judge in Sioux County, Iowa, hearing a foreclosure proceeding against one of America's small farmers who had been caught in the depression, was annoyed by whispering among farmers in the court. He rapped—gave for order.

"I will not permit disorder in my courtroom," the judge announced.

A farmer sprang to his feet.

"Whose court room?" he demanded to know.

The sequel to this incident is agricultural history.

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The Need for Education

No matter what has happened in recent months and years, I believe that education is the very bone and fiber of Extension Service. Yours is a great tradition. Today, when democracy, the most difficult and finest form of government yet devised by man, is fighting against a lapse into mechanized savagery, I am sure we will agree that the need for education is greater than ever. Democracy is as strong as—and no stronger than—the knowledge, understanding, and common purpose of the people who comprise it.

Survival of democracy—in this war against Fascism, which started long before Sept. 3, 1939, and will continue after the guns cease firing in this present military conflict—depends in the last analysis, on more than the number of planes and tanks and the size of the bread baskets of the contending powers. Finally, it depends upon the ability of the people to understand the issues at stake and to make the right decisions. When the people of a democracy decide that more planes and tanks and food are necessary to win this war and to organize a lasting peace based on political and economic justice, they will produce them. But if the people lose interest in democracy on the home front, if they do not understand that its survival depends upon actions here at home, if they allow themselves to be divided by jealousy and fear and hate into laborers, farmers, bureaucrats, Southerners, Northerners, city people, farm people, then all the planes and tanks and guns will not save democracy.

We are interested today in the way working farmers fit into this democratic country. We want them to have the facts and sound judgment, we want them to have an adequate

standard of living; we want them to have all possible assistance in meeting the tremendous and growing requirements for food for ourselves, our allies, and the starving people of liberated countries. They must have a share in defending, and building a secure and free world for their children; they must do it themselves, if it is to be genuine and lasting. We know that education is essential to the accomplishment of these objectives. The members of the National Farmers Union and many other working farm families recognize these facts and their urgency.

The County Agents' Role

You, the county agents, are the most important link in a great chain of adult education. Your great tradition extends even back of the 1914 Smith-Lever Act which gave you your charter to "aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics," and to encourage their application.

To you has been given the opportunity and the responsibility for carrying to the farmer himself all the accumulated and tested information and knowledge of the department of agriculture and of the State College of Agriculture. The usefulness of these educational institutions and your own usefulness, are measured by what they can do for the farmer on his own farm and in his own community.

In the months ahead this knowledge and the adult educational system of which you are a vital link will be put to its greatest test to increase food production beyond all previous records. I believe, as I have stated before, that the production of war foods can be increased at least 20 per cent next year and will be, if the working farmers understand that it is necessary, and are given the proper kind of assistance. As I see it, this is the immediate challenge of the Extension Service. You, in your foreword to the May 1942 County Agent, have stated this challenge. You have said:

"That challenge means we will have to inspire farmers to do their share in this great-

est of all emergencies. That challenge means that we will have to furnish the farmer the best information and the most practical information that we have ever furnished in any year of Extension Service's history... your challenge then is to... take to the farmer the latest and best information on efficiency and economy... in production... As an educational agent, we have one of the most important tasks of the department of agriculture... As long as we meet this challenge in the best way that we know how and render the best service that we know how to render, we need not worry about the future of Extension work."

This is a sound statement of war objectives. They are in line with your tradition, and if carried through, they will win the Extension Service an unimpeachable war record and a firm place among agricultural agencies.

(Continued Next Issue)

Natoma Rejoins—

(Continued from Page 1)

A. J. Beck, L. E. Miller, A. L. Daugherty and H. C. Boedeker.

Although the locals have been dormant in recent years, plans both at the local and state levels are for increased activity along educational, organizational and legislative lines.

At present the Natoma Farmers Union runs an elevator besides the implement and hardware store.

While any farmer has been through the other place, the Natoma organization has literally come through high water. The flood in 1935 filled the basement of the hardware store while its present manager was almost caught in rising waters down at the produce store which has since been discontinued.

State President E. K. Dean in hearing the news that the Natoma organization would be actively affiliated with the state union, enthusiastically welcomed the members and had high praise for the part Brown played in aiding the group to reaffiliate. Dean pointed out that with members of other Farmer Union services taking a similar interest in building the Farmers Union that the vigorous expansion program will be realized.

Farm Bureau Abuses Abated After FU Protests

In Sullivan county, New York a group of Farmers Union members took the matter of Farm Bureau-Extension Service abuses into their own hands and got some results. First, the union members inserted ads in some of the weekly papers calling attention to the fact that the Extension is not the same thing as the Farm Bureau and that County Agricultural Agents are not supposed to conduct themselves as employees of the Farm Bureau.

The ads also stated that Extension Service should be made available to all farm people and that the Farm Bureau should be left to stand on its own feet.

Following the appearance of these ads, the FU men appeared before the County Board of Supervisors. There they found out hand five Farm Bureau men among them the County Agent, who claimed credit for everything done by the AAA, Extension Service, Conservation Service, the Ration Board and the Farm Labor Program.

Fortified with several issues of the official publication of Farmers Union of the New York Milk Shed, Farmers Defender, and the special issue of the National Union Farmer on the Farm Bureau-Extension Service question, Raymond Knack, leader of the FU group, pointed out that all of the mentioned services except the Extension service were separate from the Farm Bureau and run directly from Washington.

The supervisors, who in the past have always appropriated money in the name of the Farm Bureau, Home Bureau and 4-H, this year added the words, Extension Service. A further victory lay in the fact that the name of the County Agent has been removed as editor of the Farm Bureau News.

Knack, in reporting these developments to the Farmers Defender stated, "This is not so complete a victory as I would have liked, but... the supervisors know more about the Farm Bureau than they did once... we will be back next year."

Capper and Reed, too...



What the Locals Are Doing

"I Will Attend My Local Meetings"

Dividends Spur Expansion

The Bunkerhill Farmers Union Local held its regular meeting Tuesday evening, Dec. 21. A large crowd was present and an interesting evening was enjoyed. The meeting was opened by the group singing "America."

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows: Will Carpenter, president; Ed Neifert, vice president; Ed Weidenhaft, secretary-treasurer; Grace Weidenhaft, conductor; and Elsie Porter, doorkeeper.

A petition was drawn up and signed by the members urging Congress to oppose the bill compelling co-operatives organizations to file income tax returns. Copies were sent to the senators and congressmen.

The Juniors presented an instructive program which led to worthwhile discussion. Several members had received their dividend checks from the store, and were surprised to find them so large. Some told of remarks made by non-members and their determination to build up a membership in the near future. The members agreed that there are many hidden dividends which help the members, but money talks.

While the grown-ups sang "Jingle Bells," the Juniors marched to the Christmas tree for the sack of treats which their leader, Mrs. Thelma Rominger, had provided for each one.

The refreshment committee served a delicious lunch of sandwiches, doughnuts, and coffee, and the friendly visit while we ate brought the evening to a happy close.

The local meets on the third Tuesday of each month, which will make the next meeting on January 18. Keep the date in mind, and come and pay your dues. You are sure to enjoy the evening and we'll be glad to welcome you there.

Edna Weidenhaft, reported.

Sandy Hook Local Wires Sen. Capper

Sandy Hook Local members elected officers for 1944 at their regular monthly meeting December 10. John Pearl was re-elected as president; Mrs. Paul Lenherr, vice president; Mrs. Jim Conley, secretary-treasurer; Regina Lenherr, conductor; Leo Ronsse, doorkeeper. Julius Immenschuh was made Business Agent. Paul Lenherr, A. A. Ronsse, and Julius Immenschuh were elected as the executive committee.

The members also voted on the referendum ballots, besides sending a night letter to Senator Arthur Capper protesting the proposed tax bill.

After singing several Christmas carols, the meeting adjourned and lunch was served. Regina Lenherr, reporter.

County and Local Elect Officers

The Olsburg Farmers Union local entertained the fourth quarterly county meeting on Friday evening Dec. 10 at Olsburg. Due to bad weather and roads the Pleasant View and Sandy Hook locals were not able to attend.

Mr. Paul Lenherr was elected president for the ensuing year. Clara Grieshaber was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

And by unanimous vote all the other officers and committees of 1943 were held over to act in 1944. Clara Grieshaber, county secretary.

On December 17, a large crowd of Farmers Union folk gathered at the Pleasant View school house near St. Marys for a covered dish supper, the regular business meeting and a Christmas party. We all enjoyed

the lovely supper.

At the business session, Albert Grieshaber was re-elected president by a unanimous vote, as also was the secretary, Clara Grieshaber. All other officers and committees were unanimously voted to hold over for the ensuing year. Mr. Stanley Fields was appointed as hybrid seed corn salesman for our local.

Reports and discussion followed.

After it was voted to adjourn, we sang Christmas carols and treats were passed to everyone. Clara Grieshaber, Sec'y.

Exchange Gifts At Mankato

The Mankato Local 1848 met at Rebecca Hall on December 15. Meeting was called to order by President Pair. Several songs were sung by the group.

Mrs. Wharton read two letters one from Mr. Carlson and the other from Senator Capper on double taxation. We discussed sending in the record of votes on higher dues for next year. We had voted 14 against and 12 for.

The officers attending the meeting were installed by Rolto Henningsen and Mrs. Pair. After a discussion on seed corn, the president adjourned the business meeting and an exchange of Christmas gifts was next. Sixteen members answered roll call. Mrs. MacKenzie was the only one there to get the lunch ready and serve, which was sandwiches and cookies.

Mr. and Mrs. Pair had a surprise for all of us. Next meeting will be January 5. The eat committee includes Mrs. Heiman, Mrs. Henningsen and Mrs. Howell.

Chilli soup will be served. Please bring your own bowls. Mrs. George Wharton, reporter.

Burr Oak Local

Burr Oak Farmers Union met December 15 at the school house east of Burr Oak. Business meeting opened by discussion of seed corn. Our business agent, W. G. Decker is taking orders. See him or telephone your order soon.

Jesse Platt gave a report on the oil business done the past year. We have sold \$520.42 of oil and grease and we have \$115.05 worth of products on the floor now. This is good quality oil and you can save money if you send your order to Jesse not later than January 20. Also they have a holiday special it would be wise to inquire about if you will be needing oil or grease this spring.

Officers re-elected for the coming year were as follows: President, Jesse F. Platt; Vice President, W. G. Decker; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Glenn Paul.

The president appointed: J. H. McDonnell, co-operative secretary.

Paul Johnson, legislative secretary.

Mrs. Derald Decker, educational director.

Mr. Decker explained the insurance program of the Farmers Union. We voted to have him as our agent. Meeting was adjourned to meet the second Tuesday in January at the Glenn Paul home. Lunch was served which included hot sandwiches, pie and coffee.

Mrs. Glenn Paul, Secretary.

Educational Program Planned

Plans for an aggressive Clay county educational program were started at the first meeting of the new County Education Committee, December 20. There was much discussion of regular county Junior meetings, monthly Farmer Union adult discussions, and more organization work in the Locals. On action of the committee a conference of all Farmers Union local and county officers, Farm-

ers Union Managers, and members of Boards of Directors in the county will be held at Clay Center, Friday evening, January 7. The purpose of the meeting will be discussion and mapping out of plans for 1944 Union activities.

Committee members present December 20th were Mrs. Fred Schoneweis, George Young and Fritz Meenen. County President Harold Swanberg, Secretary Erwin Oleschlager, and State Education Director Esther Ekblad were also present.

LETTER —

BRIEF OUTLINE OF HUMAN WELFARE PROGRAM

To promote International Security.

Invitation:—Come friends, let us build social structures so that wars shall cease to be, and the energy now devoted to human slaughter be employed to provide abundance and security to all. To this end we invite all fair-minded persons to join us in putting into effective operation, the Seven Point Program briefly outlined below.

1.—FINANCE — MAJOR INDUSTRY: To be handled by national-international co-operatives. Ownership of these based upon citizenship alone.

2.—AGRICULTURE — SMALL INDUSTRY: All such of individual type and self-supporting remain undisturbed. Others to be acquired by the co-ops.

3.—COURTS OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP: To be set up by the people to handle cases of unwillingness or inability to meet fair, simple needs of all.

4.—INCOME: Minimum living income guaranteed all adults; all required to perform self-selected duties suitable to them, special consideration given to mothers, the aged, and the infirm.

5.—EDUCATION — RE

Fisherman ??



The man is Clarence Yocum, manager of the Farmers Union elevator at St. Marys. The picture was taken last summer when the Yocum family was vacationing with the E. K. Deans over at the Lake of the Ozarks. The unphotogenic fish (encircled) is, according to Ernie Dean, "the one that should have gotten away."

SEARCH—HEALTH: Shall be co-operatively promoted under national supervision, all costs to be borne by the nation.

6.—NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: Democratically elected by membership of all co-ops.

7.—HOUSING: Individually owned and occupied homes, if meeting reasonable sanitary and esthetic requirements, to remain undisturbed. For those now poorly housed, new, modernly equipped homes shall be provided on a cost-of-maintenance basis. Private of individual purchase maintained.

SAMUEL R. STEWART, Four-mile local, Clay Center, Kan.

Hear National Issues Discussed

The ladies of the Farmers Union Auxiliary, Pleasant View Local, Clay County, had a Christmas dinner with Mrs. Ethel Lindsay, Miltonvale, December 21. In the afternoon the annual business meeting was held with Mrs. Fred Schoneweis elected as President, succeeding Mrs. Thelma Coupel. Mrs. George Blackwood was elected Vice-President, Mrs. E. E. Tiers, Secretary; Mrs. Marjorie McMahon, Treasurer; Mrs. Hazel McNeal, Chaplain, and Mrs. Thelma Coupel, Lecturer. It was decided to hold meetings once a month during 1944. The invitation for January was given by Mrs. P. H. Lahmeyer.

Esther Ekblad, State Education Director, was a guest at the meeting. She spoke briefly of Farmers Union educational plans being made for the county, and mentioned several national issues, sold for vote, Poll Tax, Social Security, and others in which women should be interested and concerned.

A Christmas gift exchange followed the business meeting.

REA Allotment to Ark Valley Co-op

Rural Electrification Administrator Harry Slattery has announced loan allotments totaling \$1,476,000 to 15 co-operatives in eight states, bringing REA allotments to \$473,019,973 of which more than six million dollars represent operations during the current fiscal year.

Single allotment made in Kansas goes to the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association in Hutchinson. The co-op will receive \$20,000 for purchase of headquarters building for the co-operative.

Slattery pointed out that no construction would be undertaken which does not have WPE approval.

Loss of manhours per worker, due to industrial disputes, is only one day lost in four years.



IT'S A FACT—if we sat up nights and turned out the best ad ever written, we couldn't get the results that occur when a person bites into a piece of bread, made with "Russell's Best" All-Purpose Flour.

For this is the most convincing proof in the world of the superiority of "Russell's Best" Flour.

ASK FOR "RUSSELL'S BEST" FLOUR AT YOUR FARMERS UNION CO-OP ELEVATORS AND STORES

Handled by the Farmers Union Jobbing Association Feed Warehouse in Topeka

RUSSELL MILLING COMPANY
RUSSELL, KANSAS

Farm Charter

(Continued from Page 2)

American agriculture but with American life.

That is the stake you have in a stabilized economy today. And here's something you should not forget, congressmen in the long run are just what you make them. And you farmers have a tremendous stake in a stabilized economy if you are to be in a position to plan for the future.

Labor knows how to fight. It asks for no loans. It seeks no parity payments. Instead, it has won the right from the federal government to bargain collectively for wages and hours and working conditions. The laws and the courts back labor up in its fight for a parity of income.

Limitations of Co-ops

What about cooperatives? Of course they are important. They have made a great contribution. Look at what your Farmers Union co-operatives have done. Look at what your Farmers Union GTA has done, not only in the marketplaces but on the legislative front as well. But co-operatives, by themselves, have their limitations.

Farmers owe it to the nation to market their produce co-operatively and to buy co-operatively. They are the means of cutting down distribution costs between farmer and consumer. But that alone is not enough. If the farmers bought and sold everything co-operatively, and stopped there, they could still have, under our present system of distribution, huge surpluses and 30-cent wheat and \$2-hogs when the war is over.

Subsidies are not the peace-time solution either. Time has proven Congress will not keep faith with laws of its own creation. Already Congress has refused to appropriate funds for wartime parity and other promised payments. Thus farmers dare not depend on yearly federal appropriations as a part of their price and farm income.

Thatcher's Proposal

M. W. Thatcher, general manager of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal association, and president of the National Federation of Grain Co-operatives, believes he has the answer. "Agriculture," he says, "must demand what this nation has already given to labor, to transportation, to the banks and public utilities. It must demand a charter of privilege. This charter of privilege must be a charter of freedom for agriculture. It must be patterned after labor's charter—the National Labor Relations Act."

He suggests calling such a charter the National Agricultural Relations Act. This act, according to Thatcher's plan, would make it possible for farmers to bargain for prices. Each year, or whenever necessary, their delegated representatives—whether they are their co-ops or commodity groups or farm organizations—would sit down with representatives of processors and distributors.

"At these meetings," Thatcher proposes, "farmers would contract for the sale of their annual supply of grain and livestock and other farm supplies. They would bargain on a basis of parity price, with a sched-

ule of premiums and discounts for grade and quality. Such an Agricultural Relations Act would really preserve the family type of farm. Marketing allotments or quotas would distribute the domestic market—that is the home market—requirements to protect the family-type farm. And it would progressively limit the allotment of the large factory-type farm."

This is his plan in its broadest outline. Within the framework are provisions to take care of the home market and to feed the needy of the nation, as well as provisions to take care of surpluses for distribution at home and abroad.

Think It Over

Not a hasty suggestion but apparently a well-thought-out program, Thatcher's plan merits the consideration of Kansas farmers. How does it sound to you? Is it essentially the correct approach needing revision only in details or is the basis erroneous? Think and talk it over. —Material from a radio address by Gordon Roth, director of public relations of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal association.

Continue Vital Discussion Among St. Mary's Locals

The second in the series of discussion outlines being followed by the locals in the St. Marys area is listed below:

I. ORGANIZATION: Since the forces working against the interests of the family farmer are effectively organized, your forces too must be effectively organized—this does not mean that the Farmers' Union should be a complicated bureaucracy, but that it should be kept one in spirit and strong in action by enough good organization.

A. Is there need for a STATE ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTOR? Is your local growing? falling off in membership? doing anything to forward the Farmers' Union ideal, the state program?

Have any new locals been organized recently in this district? Have any failed?

Could any one of you, in addition to your regular work, bring enough time, ability, and knowledge to bear on this problem to build up the locals in this community without the aid of a state director? What qualities would you have to have to do the job?

Could almost anyone of you do a great deal to build Farmers' Union in your community, provided you had the help and guidance of a full time State Director? Is it worth the few dollars it would add to your dues to hire a full time State Director?

B. Has your local elected its organization secretary to co-operate with a state director?

What qualities should this secretary have? Do you think enough of him to nominate him and back him at the next local meeting?

II. EDUCATION: Since the Farmers' Union is not a political pressure group, its real strength must come from a membership that understands and practices its ideals.

A. The importance of education:

What happens to your organization if it is made up of members who don't know the principles of cooperation? Do you know of some cases in the history of your own co-op or local?

Do you feel that your co-op will stand the competition of big business without members who understand and follow the co-op principles?

B. Do you understand the principles of cooperation? Do your children understand them? Can a co-op long continue without educating the children of its members and neighbors? Why?

C. Would a magazine, rack and a book shelf in the office help?

D. Would it pay your co-op to supplement the salary of one of the local school teachers or of some other person who has the time and talent to conduct a really active Farmers' Union educational program? Discuss this thoroughly—Is there a likely candidate in your commun-

ity? Do you believe that a married woman with family responsibilities can handle this job effectively?

E. Does your local have a co-operative secretary? a legislative secretary?

What duties do they have? Do they perform them adequately? (Look them up in your rule book or minutes.)

(To Be Continued)

Dean's Speech Pleases Labor

Wichita Conference Learns of Farmers Union Position

As the headline speaker at the informational meeting of the Kansas Federation of Labor in Wichita early last month, Kansas Farmers Union President, E. K. Dean, told the audience of more than 200 labor union dele-

gates, officers and business representatives that both working farmers and the organized worker must be careful not to be influenced by propaganda designed to convince them that their aims and objectives are divergent.

Dean's speech was enthusiastically received and studded with spontaneous applause. Some of the labor newspapers of the state carried the entire text of the talk in which Dean pointed out that "the vociferous and potent Farm Bloc in Congress often does not express the true viewpoint of the great mass of working farmers."

A. V. Lundgren, former state labor commissioner and president of the state federation, who spoke before the delegates of the Farmers Union annual convention this year, presided at the meeting. Lundgren, in thanking Dean for addressing the conference, wrote:

"I want you to know that we

certainly appreciate your participation. I have received many favorable comments concerning your talk and the members are insisting that our organization become more closely allied with the Farmers Union."

Almost a keynote of the open forum discussions and reports at the meet was talk of the necessity for political action by labor groups in coalition with other progressive organizations. Reports of the beginning of such action were made by delegates from various sections of the state.

Hybrids Are Best

Hybrids outyielded open-pollinated corn by from 5 to 1 bushels an acre in the first corn variety test ever conducted in Russell county. The tests were made on the C. A. Heine farm. The Kansas Farmer, November 20.

FOR 1944--GROW MORE WITH F. U. HYBRID SEED CORN

REMEMBER—there is no need to pay more than the Farmers Union price. We can prove by official records the superiority of Farmers Union Hybrids.

Our single cross grower, besides winning the Grand Champion Trophy over large and small companies alike, has won first in three of four sections of the official state tests in Iowa.

Our Seed Corn is GROWN in Kansas, by and for Kansas PRODUCERS.

OUR PRICE

\$7.75 bushel, flat kernels
\$6.25 bushel, round kernels

These Prices Include Re-Plant Agreement.

HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR ORGANIZATION—buy your hybrid seed corn this year from a Farmers Union Seed Corn dealer. The following co-operative stations have handled our seed corn last year or will handle our product this year. The list is not complete because we have not been able to contact all of our Farmers Union stations, due to lack of time—the names of other stations at which this seed corn is available, will be added later.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN THIS CORN through your Local Co-op, then order direct from: The Farmers Union Service Company, Box 296, Salina, Kansas.

Co-Op Seed Corn Dealers

Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Manhattan, Ks.
The Riley County Farmers Union Co-op—Leonardville, Ks.
The Farmers Co-op Elevator—Waterville, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Grain Company—Blue Rapids, Ks.
The Winifred Farmers Co-op Elevator—Winifred, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Vliets, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Centralia, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Randolph, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Store—Olsburg, Ks.
Farmers Union Produce Station—Clay Center, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Solomon, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lindsborg, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Marquette, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Udall, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Kellogg, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Winfield, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Arkansas City, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Burns, Ks.
Marion Co-op Elevator—Marion, Ks.

Farmers Co-op Elevator—Lehigh, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Produce Station—McPherson, Kansas.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lincolnville, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Tampa, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Ramona, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Bennington, Ks.
Farmers Elevator Company—Minneapolis, Kansas.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Randall, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lebanon, Ks.
Clyde Co-op Elevator—Clyde, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Clifton, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Morganville, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Ellsworth, Ks.
Farmers Co-operative Elevator—Hanover, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Bellaire, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Aurora, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Agenda, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Courtland, Ks.

Farmers Co-operative Elevator—Barnes, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Greenleaf, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Lancaster, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Denton, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Leona, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Robinson, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Morrill, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Sabetha, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Parsons, Kansas
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Girard, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Walnut, Kansas
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—South Mound, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Pauline, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Overbrook, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Collyer, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Wakeeney, Ks.
Farmers Union Co-op Elevator—Tescott, Ks.
Farmers Co-op Elevator—Delphos, Ks.
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Salina, Kansas

We Manufacture—

Farmers Union Standard Accounting Forms

Approved by Farmers Union Auditing Association

Grain Checks, Scale Tickets, Stationery,

Office Equipment Printing

—the  CONSOLIDATED
printing and stationery co.
SALINA • KANSAS

LIVESTOCK MARKET NEWS

by the FARMERS UNION LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE, KANSAS CITY
and
FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION, SOUTH ST. JOSEPH, MO.

RECENT REPRESENTATIVE Live Stock Sales Of Farmers Union Livestock Co-operative KANSAS CITY

CATTLE		
Gold Thowe, Wabaunsee Co., Kans., 23 steers	1105	\$14.75
Gold Thowe, Wabaunsee Co., Kans., 10 steers	1073	14.00
F. Wamser, Lyon Co., Kans., 34 steers	985	13.60
I. Barnett, Lyon Co., Kans., 15 heifers	856	13.40
Lawrence Davis, Osage Co., Kans., 36 heifers	826	13.15
es & Sedgwick, Lyon Co., Kans., 13 steers	1085	13.00
oble Jones, Lyon Co., Kans., 29 heifers	835	13.00
arl Jones, Lyon Co., Kans., 29 heifers	856	13.00
L. Reed, Osage Co., Kans., 54 steers	805	12.85
alter N. Johns, Lyon Co., Kans., 26 steers	1075	12.75
lfred Munson, McPherson Co., Kans., 18 steers	1133	12.50
H. Wamser, Lyon Co., Kans., 21 heifers	836	12.50
gh Bishop, Osage Co., Kans., 11 heifers	885	12.50
ance Russell, Wilson Co., Kans., 34 steers	825	12.40
arry Paulsen, Wilson Co., Kans., 88 steers	1107	12.25
eo. Lundstedt, McPherson Co., Kans., 22 steers	1112	12.15
ert Wamser, Lyon Co., Kans., 18 heifers	790	12.10
o. Lewis & Son, Osage Co., Kans., 22 heifers	776	12.00
ank Sanders, Lafayette Co., Mo., 21 heifers	707	11.75
J. Kamm, Clay Co., Mo., 96 heifers	701	10.50
E. Durr, Jackson Co., Mo., 37 cows	1107	10.00
J. Wrenn, Wyandott Co., Kans., 61 cows	1009	9.90
A. Lindstrom, Henry Co., Mo., 32 steers	665	8.25
A. Lindstrom, Henry Co., Mo., 32 steers	681	8.00
J. Kamm, Clay Co., Mo., 39 cows	817	8.00
E. Ford, Wyandotte Co., Kans., 26 cows	807	7.50
has. Burton, Johnson Co., Kans., 51 cows	617	6.75
HOGS		
eland Hutchinson, Saline Co., Mo., 44	232	\$13.55
scar Lehman, Lafayette Co., Mo., 34	308	13.55
Henry D. Kettler, Miami Co., Kans., 31	308	13.55
eo. Kent, Sullivan, Mo., 39	243	13.55
W. Brandt, Pettis Co., Mo., 26	277	13.55
ohn Knehans, Lafayette Co., Mo., 26	222	13.55
tockman's Co-op, Sidney, Mont., 23	207	13.55
tockman's Co-op, Sidney, Mont., 17	210	13.55
eland Dyer, Douglas Co., Kans., 25	225	13.55
L. Jenkins, Saline Co., Mo., 37	215	13.55
L. Oveson, Osage Co., Kans., 32	274	13.50
V. H. Wehmeyer, Cass Co., Mo., 34	251	13.50
I. G. Montgomery, Macon Co., Mo., 35	220	13.50
G. G. Dradid, Nuckolls, Nebr., 25	206	13.50
Arthur Johnson, Thayer Co., Nebr., 74	248	13.50
tockman's Co-op, Sidney, Mont., 24	212	13.40
SHEEP		
C. Gwin, Livingston Co., Mo., 60	82	\$13.85
rank Zimmerman, Mitchell Co., Kans., 15	100	13.75
L. Herbert, Grundy Co., Mo., 13	74	13.50
E. Wilson, Washington Co., Kans., 18	87	13.50
J. Love, Lafayette Co., Mo., 12	70	13.50
D. Johnson, Jackson Co., Mo., 60	85	13.50
C. Bagby, Jackson Co., Mo., 44	63	13.25
E. Warren, Bourbon Co., Kans., 10	105	13.25
Hoover Bros., Clinton Co., Mo., 12	82	13.25
P. S. Frederick, Leavenworth Co., Kans., 16	76	13.00
Everett Reed, Daverss Co., Mo., 22	61	12.75

Kansas City Livestock Markets

FARMERS UNION LIVE
STOCK CO-OP.

Cattle receipts were 21,000. We had a liberal run of killing steers on today's market and our prices are closing 25c to 35c lower on killing steers. Stockers and feeders are hard to move at steady prices. The cow heifer market suffered considerably today. The lowering of the subsidies effected cattle selling under 12c per pound to a very large degree whereas the better kinds were effected much less. Canner cows are fully 50c under last week while cutters and low grade beef cows show a loss of 75c to \$1 under a week ago today. Better kinds of beef cows are fully 50c lower on all classes of killing heifers selling under 12c per pound. Stock cows and heifers 25c to 40c lower. Bull market 25c to 35c under the close of last week. Fed heifers and mixed yearlings good enough to bring 13c or better about steady. Killing calves

steadily to stronger. Veal top \$14. Good to choice veals \$12 to \$13.50. Heavies showing the most strength selling from \$10 to \$12 with medium weights selling from \$11 to \$12.50. Junk selling from \$8.50 down. With light receipts and not many stock calves here they did not show any strength. Carload lots good quality selling from \$13 down. Stock calves are fully steady with last week.

Hog receipts were 13,000. Market on government support weights 200-300 pounds weak to 5c lower. Most of these kind selling at \$13.50. Extreme heavies and lighter weights unevenly lower mostly 15c to 25c lower than last week's close. A few choice \$10 to \$12.50 and \$13.10 to \$13.25. 170 to 190 pounds—\$12.50 to \$13.25. 140 to 160, \$11.00 to \$12.25. These weights in just stocker flesh fully \$1 lower. Sows around 25c lower at \$11.75 to \$12. Choice stock pigs \$8 to \$9.

Sheep receipts were 9,000. Killing classes fairly active and fully steady. Four loads good and choice Colorado fed lambs \$14.90. Others \$14.75.

Hog Market 'Gluts' Send Business to K. C.

Hogs have been going to market in greatly increased numbers the last two months and in many instances this has created oversupplies or "Gluts" at many normal outlets. This is not the case at the Kansas City Market. In addition to handling a greatly increased volume from territory tributary to this market, Kansas City has been chosen as an outlet for hogs from points entirely foreign to its usual trade territory. Consignments have been received from many midwestern hog producing states including South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma and also from shippers in many parts of Kansas and Missouri who in times past have found markets for their hogs elsewhere.

Noticeable among shipments to "The Farmers Union Livestock Co-op," "Your Own Firm" have been consignments from Montana, Nebraska and Iowa.

In spite of a sharp increase in receipts at the Kansas City market there has at no time been any congestion and all hogs offered for sale have found ready outlet on the day of arrival. In fact, many more hogs could be handled, slaughter and yard facilities are ample to efficiently handle a much larger volume. This is borne out by the fact the Kansas City hog market has been active, while at some other centers weights outside of government support classification, that is, those weighing under 200 lbs., and over 300 lbs., have been slow to move and sold at sharply discounted prices but at Kansas City all weights of killing grade hogs continue to sell within a very narrow price range. However, weights under 200 lbs., showing lack of finish have been punished in price

Market Letter

Farmers Union Livestock Commission
South St. Joseph, Mo.

Strictly good and choice slaughter steers are closing the week steady, 10@15c higher; some good to choice steers selling \$14@15.50, \$15.50 being the top; medium to good \$12@13.75, some common to mediums \$10@11.50.

Mixed yearlings and heifers are 25@50c higher, best mixed yearlings \$14.75, heifers \$14.25, bulk of the fed kinds \$11.50@13.75, some common kinds \$9@11.25. Cows are 25@50c higher with the full advance on canners and cutters, which showed a greater gain earlier in the week. Order buyers and small packers were out of the market today and they were lower, a few good cows \$11@12, bulk of beef cows \$8.50@10.50, canners and cutters mostly \$6.25@8, a few shells \$6 and below. Bulls are stronger to 25c higher, bulk of bolognas \$9.50@11, beef bulls quotable \$11.25, lightweight bulls down to \$3.

There was a light supply of stockers and feeders here this week, the market steady to 25c higher.

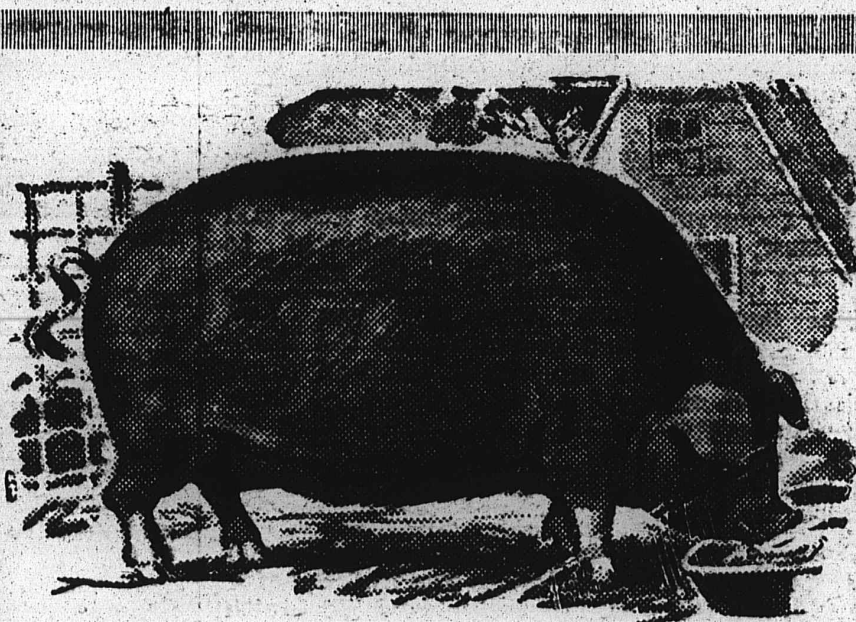
Veal calf market is steady, top \$13.50, bulk \$11@13, good and mediums \$9@11, culls \$6@9. Choice heavy calves are steady for the week, a few choice heavies around \$12, good to choice \$9@11, medium and common calves 50c@1 lower, bringing \$7@9, culls \$6@7.

The hog market today was generally steady. Yard traders paid up to \$13.60 and the packers bought a few hogs up to \$13.55, early, the market settling down to a \$13.50 top. Packing sows are steady, bulk \$11@12.0, choice lightweights up to \$12.25, extreme heavies down to \$11.60.

The sheep market is higher on all classes, choice native lambs \$14.25, best woolled fed westerns \$14.75, top on clips \$14.25; ewes up to \$6.75.

Healthy Farmers ?

The popular misconception that the farm is a particularly healthy place to live and that farmers are an especially strong and robust group of people has been exploded by statistics gathered at induction posts. A larger percentage of rejections occurred among farmers than among any other occupational group.



EVERY
MINUTE
COUNTS

Beating the Axis is no small job, and even the lowly hog must perform at peak efficiency if victory for the United Nations is to come quickly. Armies need pork products, so why waste a single minute getting your hogs ready for market. Get the most from your own grain by feeding it along with . . .

KFU
Hog Protein

ASK FOR IT AT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS
UNION DEALER
Manufactured and distributed by
FARMERS UNION JOBBING
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KANSAS FARMERS UNION COOPERATIVE
AUDITING ASSOCIATION

Write for Rates

WE WRITE ALL KINDS OF BONDS

SALINA, KANSAS

PHONE 570

BUYING CATTLE?

Prices are high and markets fast moving. It is to your benefit to have an experienced man help you make your selections.

Our order buyers know cattle and markets—and will work for your best interest at all times.—Come in or send us your order.

FARMERS UNION
LIVESTOCK
CO-OPERATIVE
Stock Yards

Kansas City, Wichita,
Parsons

The Kansas Union Farmer

E. K. Dean, Salina, Kansas Editor

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218 Journal Building.

An Open Letter To Senator Capper

Dear Senator Capper:

In your weekly radio talk on December 26 to the people of Kansas, you stated that the issue of the Soldier vote bill lay in whether "the voting, AND THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING, (emphasis ours) shall be kept in the hands of the states, or turned over to Washington to handle.

The original Green-Lucas bill would have permitted our soldiers and sailors on the battle fronts and in camps to vote on a ballot prepared by the federal government and administered by a BI-PARTISAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION. This bill was even amended to prohibit political propaganda among the armed forces by officers and employees of the government unless equal space or broadcasting time were made available to both sides in the campaign.

But because an aroused bloc of poll-tax senators objected to the abandonment of the poll tax requirement, poll tax Senator Eastland of Mississippi introduced his amendment to throw the whole question back to the states.

The "qualifications" then that you and Senator Reed defended in voting for the Eastland amendment are essentially the poll taxes which deprive millions of southerners of their basic democratic privilege and duty, that of voting. By your votes, you and Senator Reed have lent support to the poll tax laws of the southern states.

Among the thirteen (out of total of sixteen) poll tax senators, who voted as you and Senator Reed did, are Bilbo of Mississippi and Ed Smith of South Carolina who believes in white superiority and lynching, American Firsters Nye of North Dakota and "pass the bisquits Pappy" O'Daniel of Texas.

NO POLL TAX SENATOR VOTED AGAINST THE EASTLAND AMENDMENT. In the House of representatives the fight against federal handling of soldier votes is led by a man of similar ilk, Rankin of Miss., who promotes Nazi theories of discrimination against Negro and Jewish citizens.

Do you believe that you have acted in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kansas by lending support to such anti-democratic forces or that we are satisfied with your inadequate justification of your action on the grounds that it is part of the process whereby Congress recaptures some of the powers it delegated to the administration?

Why, we want to know, should the men and women in the armed forces be the goat of Congress' rebellion against the administration? Not only are America's defenders from the poll tax states so spiteful but the vast majority in our armed services under present voting restrictions of the states lose their franchise through the Eastland amendment.

If you and Senator Reed are familiar with the absentee voting requirements of the state of Kansas and yet willfully supported the Eastland amendment, then you have committed a serious affront to our service men in denying them their vote in this most important election.

If you have not informed yourselves of the complexity of Kansas' absentee voting laws, then you are doing your jobs inexcusably shoddy.

An editorial in a recent issue of The Kansas Industrialist relates the difficulties facing a Kansas serviceman desiring to cast a ballot.

It points out how a boy from Topeka would go about voting from a camp in Georgia.

"First he writes to his county clerk for two forms. These require him to give under oath information about himself, including his election precinct and evidence that he is registered. Between thirty and ten days before the election he must mail these to the county clerk. Several days before the election the Topeka boy will get in the mail two ballots, one county and one state. He can fill these in, have them notarized, and put them back in the mail. He has voted.

"But what if he isn't registered? Then he cannot vote. If he comes from a first—or second class city and has reached voting age since leaving home he automatically loses his franchise, since KANSAS HAS NO PROVISION FOR REGISTERING BY MAIL (emphasis again ours.)

"And what if he is not in Georgia but in England or the Aleutians, or Italy, or Africa or Australia, or on Tarawa, or in mid-ocean or anywhere on some fifty other fronts? Then he probably cannot vote. The Kansas law provides for a hearing on the qualifications of would-be absentee voters seven days before the election. After that the county clerk decides whether the voter is qualified or not. If he decides that he is, he sends one of the affidavits to the secretary of state. The secretary of state then mails out the state ballot. This would be only a few days before the election at best. The ballot would reach one stationed abroad. The law requires that the ballot be marked on election day, and it must be back not later than ten days after election day. Obviously the service man stationed abroad has little chance here, even if he could furnish proof of registration and had the time and inclination to write the necessary letters and obtain the necessary notarizations.

"The legislature could of course change and simplify the law to permit greater participation in the elections. It did that for the election of 1864, by providing elections among the Kansas regiments. This time our men are scattered through many regiments and many services, of course, and the problem is more complicated. It would seem that the easy place to cut red tape would be on the federal level, but since this seems unlikely Kansas will doubtless provide what relief it can."

Regardless of what is done on the state level to facilitate the voting of Kansas soldiers and sailors, your and Senator Reed's record of refusing to aid all servicemen by enacting federally a bill assuring our ten or twelve million fighting men and women their vote remains in the craw of Kansas voters.

We wonder why you have correctly sought and do seek voting rights for the citizens of the district of Columbia and yet deny the franchise to servicemen, we wonder why you are on record as opposing the poll tax and yet defend the right of states to define "qualifications of voters," which is just what the poll tax is, a "qualification."

Because of the complexity of restrictions and qualifications of the various states, only 27,000 out of the 7,500,00 in the armed forces in 1942 voted, or one in every 250. An even larger percentage is allowed to vote in poll tax states.

To Summarize:

1. It is generally regarded and the facts support the contention that soldier voting can most fairly and easily be handled on the federal level.
2. Only a fraction of Kansas servicemen will be allowed to vote under present state restrictions.
3. Opposition to the Green-Lucas bill which would have established non-partisan administration of the voting procedure is led by poll taxers who don't believe in Democracy anyway and Republicans who are afraid that soldiers in fighting Fascism have learned too much of Democracy, and may not vote for the old reactionaries.

4. Those who seek to deny the right to vote to those who they fear will not vote for their beliefs are courting Fascism.

We believe the people of Kansas will not agree with you in holding that dubious state rights are more important than soldier rights. We further believe that voters are displeased with the behavior of certain members of Congress in fighting almost without discrimination anything that happens to have administration support for the single purpose of embarrassing and badgering the Roosevelt administration without regard to the merits of the issues or the wishes of voters or justice or decency. We believe the people are sorely tired of such petty politicking from meagre motivations that contrast so damnably with the magnificent spirit not only of our fighting forces on the many battle fronts of the world but also of the workers in the fields and factories.

With compassion we suggest you get your weather eye open and hump along to see what can be done about getting votes for our fighting men.

Sincerely
THE KANSAS UNION FARMER

Former KFU President Writes Subsidy Article

Editor's Note: John Frost, of Abilene who was one-time president of the Kansas Farmers Union, has sent us an article on subsidies he wrote for his local newspaper. We print it below as one of the clearest and most simple statements of the issue that we have seen.)

Subsidies or Ruinous Inflation
The war as a cause of inflation is shown by the following approximate figures for 1913 and continuing into 1944. Note that all figures are in billion dollars.

Total increased 1943 income of U. S.—high wages and income equals 150 billion.

1943 income spent for taxes—federal, state and local was 30 billion.

1943 income spent for bonds, life insurance and savings was 20 billion.

Balance left to spend in consumers market for civilian goods is 100 billion.

Over half of the workers are in war or war production work which means less civilian goods.

Estimated 1943 production of civilian goods at ceiling prices is 80 billion.

Excess purchasing power constituting the inflation threat is 20 billions, resulting in 100 billion dollars of purchasing power keenly bidding for an under supply of 80 billion dollars of goods is bound to raise prices approximately 20 billion dollars.

Deciding that the way to stop inflation was to stop it, Congress, a year ago, enacted the Stabilization Law, setting prices of Sept. 15, 1942 as a fixed ceiling. But a serious bottleneck soon developed. Cost of production cannot be stabilized at one set price. Owing to shortages of labor, machinery, feeds, materials, metals, rubber, gas, also to droughts and floods, also to breakdowns of land transportation, and to submarine sinkings of shipping—production costs had in many cases increased so greatly, that farmers, industrial and other producers were unable to produce at the prices of Sept. 15, 1942. Two remedies are proposed.

Remedy I: Increase consumers prices, so that consumers can pay more to producers for their increased costs, and thus scrap the Stabilization Act. That is, the way to stop inflation is to increase it. In past wars short sighted politicians said, just as they are saying in this war, "Now while wages and income are high, the people can easily pay higher prices for the goods they buy." Because of their increased costs of production of food and fibre, farmers get a raise, which raises the costs of labor and labor gets a raise, which increases farmers costs again and farmers get another raise, which increases the costs of labor again and labor gets another raise, and so on. The spiral of inflation sweeps prices up. Then when the 35,000,000 workers now engaged in war and war production work, come home for civilian jobs—when production goes up, and demand for goods (and the income with which to pay) goes down—deflation's devastating disaster will teach again the inescapable truth, that the higher that prices rise above normal, the more terrible will be the shocking ruin that deflation brings. In World War I the total of war contracts reached 35 billion dollars. But now we have war contracts of around 350 billion dollars or 10 times that sum. If inflation is not controlled, the dreadful possibilities of national disaster are beyond estimation.

Remedy II—Subsidies by the Government to producers to compensate them for their increased costs of production—given here and there, only where needed and while needed. Absolutely "hold the line" against any raise in prices of consumers goods above the stabilized prices set by Congress. The Farmers Union, of which I have long been a member, is strongly backing this remedy. Following are reasons for the

subsidy plan.

1. Total subsidies to compensate for increased costs of production of milk, soy bean, meat, copper, zinc, aluminum, etc., 1943 amounted to less than 1 billion dollars. Statistics of normal years show, that on the average that for every \$1 that the farmer receives for his products, the final consumer pays \$2. Hence a subsidy of \$1 paid directly to the farmer will compensate him equally with a \$2 increase in price to the consumer, and only half as much. But in times the spiraling of prices would increase consumer price as much as 10 to 25 times the cost of subsidies.

2. But the full cost of rising prices is measured only in the catastrophe of deflation, as the which followed World War I in which millions of farm and city homes were lost by foreclosure, Bankruptcy engulfed thousands of banks and small businesses, and total depreciation of all property reached around 100 billion dollars, compared to which the cost of subsidies are infinitesimal.

3. All economists are agreed that increased production will hold prices down, and is the real remedy for inflation. Subsidies increase production.

4. Subsidies are not inflationary, because they are paid for with taxes, and taxes have been very largely increased to siphon off excess purchasing power from our people. It is vital economy to pay as much as possible of our vast war debt now, when wages and income are high rather than wait 1, 2 or 3 years after the war, when wages and incomes are bound to be lower. Yet Congress reduced the 10 billions of new tax money to 2 billion dollars, and seems bent on repealing the renegotiation contract law, and let the greedy contractors steal billions of the tax payers money.

5. Our Government buys vast quantities of food, clothing, shoes, autos, trucks, tires, gas, oil, tools, etc., and it will cost the government far less to pay subsidies on the first cost of production, than to pay the increased prices after middlemen have added their expenses and profits.

6. Among subsidies used and very generally approved during the 154 years under the constitution, to meet emergencies, shipping subsidies, canal and highway subsidies, vast land grants to railroads, the cheap 2nd class newspaper and magazine postal rate, pensions and bonuses to soldiers, the home-stead subsidy, and the recent vast subsidy to build new war plants for Big Business. All these subsidies met with popular favor, else the foxy politicians would never have granted them.

7. Canada, England and other countries are using subsidies successfully to hold down inflation prices.

8. During the four years of World War II (3 years of which were before the Stabilization Act), the Government held prices to an average rise of 25%, compared to a 47% rise in a similar four-year period in World War I. Under terrific pressure for wage increases, against overwhelming criticism, and regardless of a pending election, the Administration has shown unbending courage in maintaining the Stabilization Act, even in the face of Congressional action to increase railroad wages and crude oil prices. Public sentiment must demand that the Stabilization Act be kept inviolate, or no government can stay the ominous threat of inflation.

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