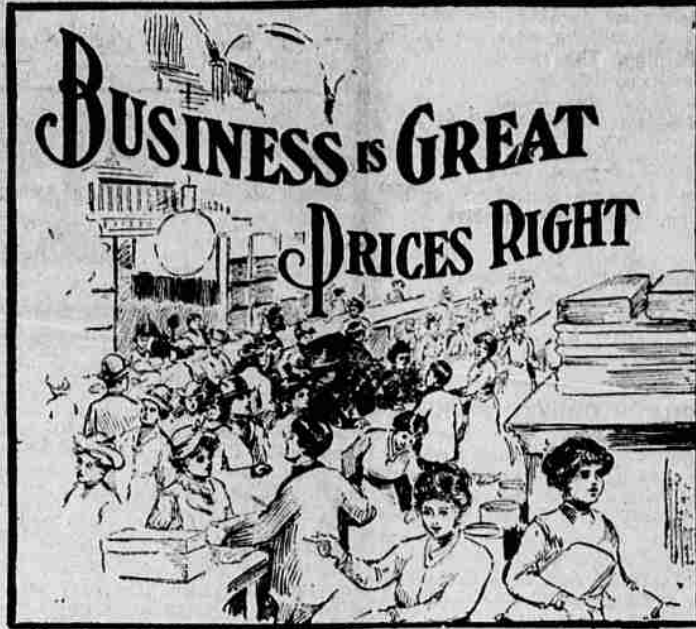


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THE KEY TO KANKAKEE

A County Agent Unlocked Millions of Latent Wealth.

(By HAL MAULEY, who acts in same capacity as does C. C. Cate in Union County.)

Kankakee County, Illinois, is listed in the first dozen agricultural counties of the United States for its production. There is a reason for its high place in the farming business, as it has climbed rapidly in rating during the past three years. Organization by its county agents, John S. Collier, is the key to the Kankakee rating.

Of course Kankakee county had to have the business men and live farmers who are willing to take a chance on a new venture to get out of the rut; otherwise, they would not have pledged 12,000 from the pocket of some half dozen men who were willing to forget selfish plans and ambitions and put up their money on a college farm in the face of ridicule and with little successful precedent. But Kankakee had the material to work on, and it wanted to make farming conditions better. Read on, and see if it has not succeeded.

There were 92 silos in the county in 1912 when Professor Collier was brought from the college of Agriculture of the University of Illinois to take charge of the work as county agent; 160 were built in 1913 and 288 last year. Alfalfa growing was still a mystery to most of the farmers in spite of years of bulletin, farmers' institute and farm papers preaching, and the acreage a wavering little plot of 50 acres scattered over the county in 1913 and six thousand in 1914.

Thirty per cent of the farmers in 1913 their seed corn the spring of 1913; last year 700 farmers selected their seed corn from the field to plant thirty thousand acres in Kankakee county, and four hundred farmers tested seed corn for germination for the planting of ninety thousand acres of the ninety-five thousand acres of this king cereal grown in the county. For two twenty-two hundred acres were months or more the Young Men's Country Club, organized by County agent Collier to help the boys and young men on the farms of Kankakee county, have worked through their 17 township clubs to get every farmer in county to test his seed corn and treat his oat seed for smut.

For a week during the month of February these club members redoubled their efforts to enlist every farmer in the county in the improvement work, calling them up over the telephone every day and jogging their memories, so that there could be no excuse. Those who said they did not know how to make a germination test or treat for smut were given personal aid. It looks as the every acre of corn and oats going into Kankakee soil this year will have the benefit of a germination test or smut treatment. Only 16 per cent of the farmers treated their wildoats for smut in 1913, while 600 of them tested last year, increasing their yields 8 bushels to the acre.

In 1912, 450 bushels of clover were bought on the co-operative plan; the following year the amount was twenty-six hundred and forty-five bushels. Seven hundred acres of soy beans were grown last year, 325 acres of sweet clover, and 90 acres of vetch.

In 1911, 140 tons of rock phosphate were used in the county, and the following year the amount rose to 220 tons, which in 1913 was increased to six thousand tons. Limestone bought and distributed on the co-operative plan, was used to the amount of 441 cars in 1913, and three thousand tons in 1914. In 1913, fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars of potash was bought and distributed co-operatively.

A cow testing association has been started, 380 cows being tested, so that as much milk was produced from many less cows from less feed. Seventeen anti-hog cholera clubs—one in each township have been formed, and twenty-one hundred and forty two hogs were vaccinated last year against cholera. Some other odd items that are putting Kankakee out in front are 150 farmers making better use of straw and manure last year; 60 farmers keeping farm accounts, partial or complete; 42 farm-exchange of the Kankakee County; 28 farms rented through the exchange, and 408 farms surveyed.

It is jealousy on the part of many politically inclined persons over the four thousand dollar salary of the county agent. Probably no other community is so politically cursed as in Illinois—consider the foot and mouth situation if you need any tangible proof—and there again is a handicap. State or Federal work is to put the men in to handle it who have done something for someone, rather than to fill offices with men who are equipped for the work. Hence, Collier is a misfit in the political scheme.

The was Kankakee attacked the problem from the outset got the organization lots of well-wishers and

proper support. A Chicago mail order house had given itself considerable free advertising by offering a million dollars to aid such county work, offering to give a thousand dollars to each county to help start the work. Kankakee county applied for a slice of this fund and got it. Later, it obtained help from the United States Department of Agriculture to the extent of twelve hundred dollars a year. An official from the Department of Agriculture made a trip to Kankakee to study the work before recommending the association for a share of the Government money. Here is a paragraph from his reports:

"I have inspected the organization the standing of the men who are back of it, the plan of the work that they are trying to do, and hereby recommend that I have just inspected, if you turn down all of the counties except one, please make that one that you are to help Kankakee county."

The Young Men's Country Club is one of the main branches of the work that is worthy of national attention. There are 14 of these active clubs in the township now, and there will soon be one in each township. Boy and young men from 14 to 25 are enrolled, and are given their own short courses at the Kankakee court house each winter. The township club that turns out the biggest attendance for the short course gets a big silver cup, and the 380 members work like beavers to get out a big attendance.

The club members pay regular dues and fee of \$1 to defray expenses of the short course. Some of the leading educators, bankers, lawyers and agricultural experts of the county are listed on the program. The boys are straining every energy to get every acre of corn tested and every acre of oats treated for smut this year in their township, even going so far as to do it for the backward farmers themselves, to make certain that there is not a "limae" acre in their townships.

A Pedigree Seed Breeders' Association was formed among the farmers of the county, as it was found that the demand was enormous in their home county, and that it was better business to grow it at home, so as to standardize and get seed at neighbors that are known and backed by the county organization, besides keeping the money at home.

"Not more, but better cows" is the slogan of the dairy breeders who have banded together into testing associations. Fewer cows that produce more milk and butter fat on less feed and in less stable room, and require less time for care and milking is the result. The better cow movement is progressing.

The girls of the county are organized in a sister movement to the young Men's Country Club. The Young Women's Country club has branches, or locals, in each of the

17 townships. This club has done wonders for the girls and young women of Kankakee county. Not only are they brought into more intimate and interesting contact with the better side of life, but they become acquainted with practically every country girl in the county, and are stimulated by the leaders in each community into doing better work and finding the brighter side of rural life.

They hired a nurse last year to make a tour of the country to visit the girls in their homes and at their meeting places, giving them talks on health in the farm home and personal hygienics. Another woman leader was hired to give talks on home decoration and other household topics of vital importance to the girls and young women of the county. There are now over 600 girls enrolled in the Young Women's Country Club, and a campaign is on to bring the number up to 700.

There are township picnics to rub up the neighborhood spirit and help the social side of farm life, some of the picnics drawing five thousand people. The plowing match has become a big drawing card, and has done much to stimulate interest in good plowing, whether the plowman walks or rides. There is a parade of teams and plows before the match, and the champion of the match holds the county championship till the next annual event, when his rivals attempt to do him and lift the honor. Basket dinners are a feature, while politicians never fail to over look such an opportunity to do some fence building.

Kankakee County expects to climb on up the ladder in the list of Uncle Sam's best counties, as it is getting better every year, and has been started on its climb only three years. The farmers are getting better organized every year, and every year finds the per cent of those who can afford to farm the old way and go it alone getting smaller. There is a little band of men in the Illinois county who deserves monuments some day when monuments are built to those who have had the citizenry trained in production, and when that day comes the man who is the key to Kankakee should receive attention, not forgetting his sponsors.

(Continued Tomorrow)

SUMMONS.
In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Union County.
W. M. Condit, plaintiff,

vs.
JAMES HENRY, and also all other persons or parties UNKNOWN, claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein, defendants.

To James Henry, and also all other persons or parties unknown, claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest

in the real estate described in the complaint herein:

In the Name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled cause within six full weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, to-wit: on or before June 22, 1915, and if you fail to so appear and answer, for want thereof the plaintiff will take decree against you for the relief prayed for in the complaint, to-wit: To correct the error in description of property in the deed made by the defendant James Henry to S. F. Richardson, on February 11, 1889, so that the same will describe the property therein conveyed as the S. E. 1-4 of the N. W. 1-4, and N. E. 1-4 of S. W. 1-4 of Section 14, T. 3 S. R. 36 E W. M, and that plaintiff be decreed to be the owner thereof in fee.

This summons is published by order of the Honorable J. F. Phy, County Judge of Union County, Oregon, made and entered on May 7, 1915, which order directs the summons to be published for six full weeks and that the first publication shall be on May 10, 1915.

TURNER OLIVER and
JOEL H. RICHARDSON,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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