

# PAYROLL OF CIVILIZATION MET BY FARMER

WANTS NO "DEAD HEADS" ON LIST OF EMPLOYEES.

A CALL UPON THE LAW MAKERS TO PREVENT USELESS TAX UPON AGRICULTURE.

By Peter Radford  
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

The farmer is the paymaster of industry and as such he must meet the nation's payroll. When industry pays its bill it must make a slight draft upon agriculture for the amount, which the farmer is compelled to honor without protest. This check drawn upon agriculture may travel to and fro over the highways of commerce; may build cities; girdle the globe with bands of steel; may search hidden treasures in the earth or traverse the skies, but in the end it will rest upon the soil. No dollar will remain suspended in mid-air; it is as certain to seek the earth's surface as an apple that falls from a tree.

When a farmer buys a plow he pays the man who mined the metal, the woodman who felled the tree, the manufacturer who assembled the raw material and shaped it into an article of usefulness, the railroad that transported it and the dealer who sold him the goods. He pays the wages of labor and capital employed in the transaction as well as pays for the tools, machinery, buildings, etc., used in the construction of the commodity and the same applies to all articles of use and diet of himself and those engaged in the subsidiary lines of industry.

There is no payroll in civilization that does not rest upon the back of the farmer. He must pay the bills—all of them.

The total value of the nation's annual agricultural products is around \$12,000,000,000, and it is safe to estimate that 95 cents on every dollar goes to meeting the expenses of subsidiary industries. The farmer does not work more than thirty minutes per day for himself; the remaining thirteen hours of the day's toil he devotes to meeting the payroll of the hired hands of agriculture, such as the manufacturer, railroad, commercial and other servants.

The Farmer's Payroll and How He Meets It.

The annual payroll of agriculture approximates \$12,000,000,000. A portion of the amount is shifted to foreign countries in exports, but the total payroll of industries working for the farmer divides substantially as follows: Railroads, \$1,252,000,000; manufacturers, \$4,365,000,000; mining, \$855,000,000; banks, \$290,000,000; mercantile \$2,500,000,000, and a heavy miscellaneous payroll constitutes the remainder.

It takes the corn crop, the most valuable in agriculture, which sold last year for \$1,625,000,000, to pay off the employees of the railroads; the money derived from our annual sales of livestock of approximately \$2,000,000,000, the yearly cotton crop, valued at \$920,000,000; the wheat crop, which is worth \$610,000,000, and the oat crop, that is worth \$440,000,000, are required to meet the annual payroll of the manufacturers. The money derived from the remaining staple crops is used in meeting the payroll of the bankers, merchants, etc. After these obligations are paid, the farmer has only a few bunches of vegetables, some fruit and poultry which he can sell and call the proceeds his own.

When the farmer pays off his help he has very little left and to meet these tremendous payrolls he has been forced to mortgage homes, work women in the field and increase the hours of his labor. We are, therefore, compelled to call upon all industries dependent upon the farmers for subsistence to retrench in their expenditures and to cut off all unnecessary expenses. This course is absolutely necessary in order to avoid a reduction in wages, and we want, if possible, to retain the present wage scale paid railroad and all other industrial employees.

We will devote this article to a discussion of unnecessary expenses and whether required by law or permitted by the management of the concern, is wholly immaterial. We want all waste labor and extravagance, of whatever character, cut out. We will mention the full crew bill as

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Illustrating the character of unnecessary expenses to which we refer.

Union Opposes "Full Crew" Bill.

The Texas Farmers' Union registered its opposition to this character of legislation at the last annual meeting held in Fort Worth, Tex., August 4, 1914, by resolution, which we quote, as follows:

"The matter of prime importance to the farmers of this state is an adequate and efficient marketing system; and we recognize that such a system is impossible without adequate railroad facilities, embracing the greatest amount of service at the least possible cost. We further recognize that the farmers and producers in the end pay approximately 95 per cent of the expenses of operating the railroads, and it is therefore to the interest of the producers that the expenses of the common carriers be as small as is possible, consistent with good service and safety. We, therefore, call upon our law-makers, courts and juries to bear the foregoing facts in mind when dealing with the common carriers of this state, and we do especially reaffirm the declarations of the last annual convention of our State Union, opposing the passage of the so-called 'full-crew' bill before the thirty-third legislature of Texas."

The farmers of Missouri in the last election, by an overwhelming majority, swept this law off the statute book of that state, and it should come off of all statute books where it appears and no legislature of this nation should pass such a law or similar legislation which requires unnecessary expenditures.

The same rule applies to all regulatory measures which increase the expenses of industry without giving corresponding benefits to the public. There is oftentimes a body of men assembled at legislatures—and they have a right to be there—who, in their zeal for rendering their fellow-associates a service, sometimes favor an increase in the expenses of industry without due regard for the men who bow their backs to the summer's sun to meet the payroll, but these committees, while making a record for themselves, rub the skin off the shoulders of the farmer by urging the legislature to lay another burden upon his heavy load and under the lash of "be it enacted" goad him on to pull and surge at the traces of civilization, no matter how he may sweat, foam and gall at the task. When legislatures "cut a melon" for labor they hand the farmer a lemon.

The farmers of the United States are not financially able to carry "dead heads" on their payrolls. Our own hired hands are not paid unless we have something for them to do and we are not willing to carry the hired help of dependent industries unless there is work for them. We must therefore insist upon the most rigid economy.

Legislative House-Cleaning Needed.

While the war is on and there is a full in business, we want all legislative bodies to take an inventory of the statute books and wipe off all extravagant and useless laws. A good house-cleaning is needed and economies can be instituted here and there that will patch the clothes of indigent children, rest tired mothers and lift mortgages from despondent homes. Unnecessary workmen taken off and useless expenses chopped down all along the line will add to the prosperity of the farmer and encourage him in his mighty effort to feed and clothe the world.

If any of these industries have surplus employes we can use them on the farm. We have no regular schedule of wages, but we pay good farm hands on an average of \$1.50 per day of thirteen hours when they board themselves; work usually runs about nine months of the year and the three months dead time, they can do the chores for their board. If they prefer to farm on their own account, there are more than 14,000,000,000 acres of idle land on the earth's surface awaiting the magic touch of the plow. The compensation is easily obtainable from Federal Agricultural Department statistics. The total average annual sales of a farm in the continental United States amounts to \$516.00; the cost of operation is \$240.00; leaving the farmer \$176 per annum to live on and educate his family.

There is no occasion for the legislatures making a position for surplus employes of industry. Let them come "back to the soil" and share with us the prosperity of the farm.

When honesty is merely a good policy it is a poor virtue.

Lazy farmers are just as useless as dead ones and take up more room.

When the soul communes with the spirit of nature the back to the farm movement prevails.

There are two kinds of farmers. One tries to take all the advice he hears and the other won't take any at all.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they may do is often fatal. It is a good idea to get a bottle of the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is sold in bottles and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

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St. Johns, Oregon

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Third week—Half dozen oyster forks.

Fourth week—Gravy ladle.

Fifth week—Sugar spoon and butter knife.

Sixth week—Half dozen bouillon spoons.

Seventh week—Half dozen dessert spoons.

Eighth week—Large berry spoon.

Ninth week—Cold meat fork.

Tenth week—Jelly spoon.

Following six weeks—Half dozen teaspoons each week.

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Rule 1.—The Lauthers Mercantile Company shall issue votes as per following schedule, excepting as hereafter may be mentioned:

100 votes for \$1.00 on cash sales.

200 for \$1.00 in merchandise paid with due bills.

300 for \$1.00 on payments of old accounts.

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We should encourage those social, civic and business affairs that will keep us interested in our immediate community.

The success of Church, of School, of Business and of City Government depends upon our loyalty to the place in which we live.

If there is a lecture at the School for the public, let's all turn out. If there is something worthy at our moving picture houses, let us go and see it.

If there is a musical to which we are invited, let's go.

All these things are calling us; the Churches are calling us; let's surprise the Preacher by filling the pews.

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