

# THE FARMERS EQUITY NEWS

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Vol. 1

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FARMERS SOCIETY OF EQUITY

No. 4

## Things to Think of.

California apple growers have threatened the San Francisco middlemen, that they will sell direct to the consumer.

The Spanish American War Veterans at Tacoma went on record as being opposed to the use of the militia in labor strikes. Why? Not have a brother kill brother when he quits working for the masters? These veterans must have lost their thirst for blood.

In Germany you can send a 11 lb. package anywhere in that country for 12 cents. In America it is 35 cents for the first zone. In Austria you can send 110 pound packages by Parcel Post; in Belgium 132 pounds but 11 pounds is all our Uncle Sam can carry without competing with the express companies.

President elect Wilson has been urged by the Farmers' Union numbering about three million members, and is strong in the South, to appoint their Pres. C. S. Barrett, of Georgia, as Secretary of Agriculture. J. A. Ewert, Pres. of the Equity, also has been mentioned, but these men are doing the times more good for farmers where they are.

When we can get a Congress in sympathy with the workers of our nation the Sec. of Agriculture will not have to hang on to the tail of the mule and take dictation from the big middlemen.

A butcher of Oregon City sold creamery butter for less than the groceries were charging and for some reason that our readers can guess the creamery refused to sell said butter any more butter.

I want to say that the farmers had nothing to do with this and are in no way to blame and it is not our fight, but you have a remedy for such proceedings in co-operation.

Three such stores in Portland are doing good business and one making as high as 32 per cent on the stock. The day is not far when the road to prosperity for the grocer will be in another direction.

New locals are being organized in Clackamas county and the organized machinery so far is working satisfactorily. We are waiting and listening for a call for a state union soon and then the real work will begin in earnest. The Courier will keep you posted. Every farmer that wants to better his condition should take hold now and help, not depend on others to pull you out of the old rut.

If you have read the Courier and you like it, send in your subscription through the Sec. of any local union and get the union rate.

There is no other paper in the state like the Courier. It is on your side fighting your battles and depends on you for support. The subscription list is growing. The Courier is very much alive and its columns are not under lock and key but open to the opinions of all good people. Join the army of subscribers and help push a good thing to the front.

Brown's editorials or the farmers' letters are worth more than the subscription price. There is going to be something doing that interests you in the near future and without the Courier you will simply be behind the procession. You just can't do without it.

Brother Farmer, if you receive a copy of the Courier without subscribing, it has been sent by the Farmers' Equity Society. We want you and nine or more other farmers to arrange for a meeting at your school house or hall and we will send our organizer to welcome you into our union. In union there is strength. We have no secrets, no grips, signs, or pass words. We do not tell all our business to the world as that is not the way with the business world today.

The Equity has a complete plan to control the produce of the farm and is organizing to benefit the farmer in selling his crops at a profit, also in buying to the best advantage. You need us and we need you. Write to any of the county officers for information.

P. W. MEREDITH.

## EDITORIALS.

The work of the officers and standing committees is bearing fruit.

The Farmers' Union, similar to the Equity, operates in 21 states and has three million members. It will probably merge with the Equity soon.

The money of the world is made in the market; the wealth is produced in the field and shop. Farmers, join the Equity and learn the ways of the market.

Farmers will command the respect of all when they attend to their own business in an "Up to Date" manner and the results will jingle in the right hand pocket.

The Equity is not sending lobbyists up to Salem to tell our senators what to do or not to do. We have one at home that can do the job if those at Salem fail.

A large canning factory in Portland would not be as valuable as numerous smaller plants established near the orchards. Fruit picked fresh from the vine or tree can be worked into a first class article but haul and ship it and you have a poor article for any cannery. And why pay freight and pay the other fellow in the city for doing what the people

at home can do better? Portland seems to have too much of everything but honest dollars. Keep the cameras, let Portland have the product as near the consumer as you can get it.

A special train of Portland people went to Salem to tell our legislature how much to appropriate to the San Francisco show. This may be the same bunch that wants the people to spend the small sum of \$35,000 to teach the farmers how to glut some more markets and not a single hay seed in the whole bunch.

There will be news of importance in the Equity columns of the Courier every week. Things are going to happen within 60 days that will cause the business world to take notice. The workers of the Equity are working, putting in long hours without pay, and going down in their pockets for the necessary legal tender to put the organization on its feet. In times like this every member should do his best.

Mr. Shewman, of the Live Wires of Oregon City, gave us about the best suggestion for the farmers viz., Raise more stock and less truck. Meat is still produced at a profit on account of the scarcity and there is more profit in well bred stock than scrubs and as long as the trust controls the market price, to the consumer, is not going to be any lower than conditions will permit. Oregon City needs more Shewmans.

The farmers of Missouri met at Columbia and the situation was gone over pretty thoroughly and about all the conclusion arrived at was co-operation in buying and selling.

The Equity plan would be in demand in the "show me" state just now. The average Missouri farmer is far behind his Kansas or Nebraska neighbor in co-operation and it is to be hoped he will wake up.

The farmers of the Grange, Farmers' Union and other organizations appeared before the House committee on currency reform in Washington City on the 28 and advocated direct loans by the National Government to the farmers on long time with low interest rates.

Farmers know that we have a law by which a bank of five million capital can borrow from Uncle Sam at one per cent and give for security bonds on watered stock. And if the farmer gets any of this money he must get it through the local bank at their rate. This is the Elastic Currency Law. Rubber!

Farmers have made many mistakes in the past and suffer the consequences. Now think of the many mistakes of the surveyor, doctor, lawyer and other professional men that the farmers and others have to suffer for and it seems that the big fee must be paid and these men are in no way responsible for their mistakes. And our laws and courts fail to untangle these mistakes or give justice to the people.

The Equity can save the farmers many dollars and friends by using the local to adjust differences of the members. Courts are costly. There is in every neighborhood some slight differences that can be adjusted and each member of the Equity should do what he can to bury dead differences and stand together for the good of all.

MEREDITH.

## OREGON CITY AGENCY.

Equity Society Taking Up This Important Matter.

Carus local No. 6882 met Saturday night Feb. 1st., with a large attendance. Delegates to the County Union were elected. This was done for the purpose of being in readiness in case of a call for a special meeting.

The matter of establishing an agency at Oregon City was taken up and discussed. Sentiment was about evenly divided. Delegates were instructed to ask the County Union to appoint a commission from that body to investigate the advisability of the same.

By-laws of the Union Sales Company were read and discussed. With the exception of two minor recommendations the by-laws were favorably received as they are written. Some ten or twelve members subscribed to the stock of this company.

Two new membership were admitted to membership. It was voted that Carus Local meet alternately at the Carus and Eldorado schoolhouses. The next meeting will be held at Eldorado March 1st, 7:30 P. M.

The Secretary was asked to ascertain at what price per ton a car load of corn from Nebraska can be laid down at Oregon City. The proposition of co-operating in buying sugar was also talked over.

S. L. CASTO, Secretary.

When the doctor orders you to stop work it staggers you. I can't say you know you are weak, run down and failing in health day by day, but you must work as long as you can stand. What you need is Electric Bitters to give tone, strength and vigor to your system, to prevent break down and build you up. Don't be weak, sickly or ailing when Electric Bitters will benefit you from the first dose. Thousands bless them for their glorious health and strength. Try them. Every bottle is guaranteed to satisfy. Only 50c. at Huntley Bros.

**VIOLIN TEACHER—Leon Des Larzes,** 410 High St., Phone Main 3171. Orchestra for pupils. Tutes. Huntley Bros. Co.

## A Poem to Farmers.

Farmers Must Learn To Buy, Above All Sell.

The dearest place on earth to me, Is right out here in the country; There's where life is pure and sweet, There's where you get the best to eat.

There's where health can be regained, There's where eyes are never inflamed, There's where you go to bed at night And rise in the morning feeling right, There's where people don't pass you by, And wisely say "Good morning Sy," There's where you get the respect that's due, There's where they don't ridicule and make sport of you.

There's where people are on the square, For as a rule the farmer tries to be fair; But how can he? When he has to contend With what the middleman says, on the buying and selling end.

When he comes to town you'll hear him say How much you paying for eggs today? And the merchant answers with a silent laugh, Oh, about twenty-three and a half.

Of course he isn't obliged to sell, He can go to others, but they'll all say well— That's the very best I can do, Why, it's enough to make the strongest feel blue.

The farmer must take just what they'll give, And he works and produces so that we all might live; And when he gets ready to go back home He'll say to the merchant, what'll you take for that broom?

Farmers, I'll tell you its a clear case of gall He wants it all, and all and all; Why brothers, you're slaves in this battle of strife And you produce the bread of life.

You create or produce this vast amount of wealth, But its taken from you by low, mean stealth. You produce and create— But its the man welding the mighty pen, Who accumulates it and stores it away in his spacious bin.

Of course, individually, the farmer is not to blame, And he hasn't entirely worked in vain; He's had a very weedy row to hoe, For this is true, we all well know, He hasn't had time to even say, I'm tired of getting beat this way.

But it's going to be different from now on with him, And he'll be enlarging his old empty bin; He realizes now, like all laboring men do, That his only salvation is to organize too.

And it won't be long you will hear the consumer tell That the farmer knows how to buy and sell, For the consumer will profit, the farmer too; I really believe the middleman will, don't you?

Oh, you dear, noble farmer, sit up; take notice today, If you don't, it won't be long they'll be taking your farms away. But I tell you there is relief at hand, And it's going to spread throughout our U. S. grand

Receiving recognition on every hand, in every land, and we're going to sit in life's grand stand.

But pardon me, I haven't told you what your salvation will be, Now listen, become a charter member of the Farmers' Society of Equity.

Let Equity enter right into your heart, And from it don't you ever dare to depart.

But depend on equity every meal, And train your nerves to become as strong as steel. And then I know you'll always be, Happy and prosperous through the Farmers' Society of Equity.

ED. E. BRENNER.

## Anything to Exchange?

The National Union of the Equity is going to institute a system of commodity exchange everywhere and from now on the sales of the Equity system will be one continual multiplication increase.

If you want to buy or sell anything brother farmer, join the Equity and attend the meetings, get your wants on the list. The more meetings you miss the less you will know about the workings of the farmers' system.

Each local union in Clackamas county should make out a list of what you have to sell and what you want to buy and send it in to F. G. Buchanan, Oregon City.

If you, no matter who you are or where you are, want to buy any farm crop or produce of any kind in any amount and want to buy direct from the producer see or write F. G. Buchanan, Oregon City.

The County Union may issue a call soon. Each local should choose its delegates at next meeting and be in readiness.

MEREDITH.

## Money to Loan.

Oregon City Abstract Co., 617 Main street.

## THE MIDDLEMAN MUST GO.

He is the Man Who is Boosting the Cost of Things.

The middleman seems to be "in for it" these days. Commissions in Massachusetts and New York, which have been investigating the high cost of living, have reached the conclusion to which so many others who have inquired into the subject, have come. They agree that the remedy, to quote the Massachusetts commission, is "to devise ways and means for the producer to reach the consumer with the minimum cost of handling his product."

But the Massachusetts investigators find no room for hope that the day of cheap food will return. Among the causes of higher prices they enumerate the increased supply of gold, social and individual waste and the drift of population from the farms to the cities. They do not regard the tariff and trusts as the "direct and active cause."

The New York commission reaches the conclusion that from 40 to 70 per cent of the consumer's dollar is absorbed by unnecessary handling. It suggests a state and city department of markets, with a view of reducing the swarm of retailers. The Massachusetts commission advocates a state market commission.

The weight of the conclusions to which these two official commissions have come rests on the main point of a better system of distribution. On almost every other aspect of the question opinions differ widely. If, for instance, American waste and carelessness are presented as a cause, this is met by the argument that in countries where personal economy is the rule the cost of living is also on the rise. One fact, at least, being increasingly clear—the large relative addition to cost in the stage between the producer and the consumer—it is well to concentrate remedial efforts there, without losing sight of the other difficulties that may seem to enter into the complex problem.

## From the National Organizer.

The progress made by the Farmers Society of Equity in Clackamas County is indeed gratifying. It is also pleasing to note that other counties are also lining up in good shape.

Mr. Seth Hall, recently from Cleone in Multnomah county, moved to Clatskanie, in Columbia county on a beautiful farm about a mile and a half from the post office. A member of the Farmers Society of Equity, he got busy with his new neighbors and invited them to come together on the 27th and to talk this matter over in council. An invitation was also extended to your humble servant, to be present and mix up in the festivities. Columbia County with 55 charter members, was formed. Invitations were received from other nearby points to organize there also so we can look to Columbia county to be a very live one with us.

H. F. CUTTING.

## Report of Clarks Equity Meeting.

The Clarks Local held its first regular meeting Saturday evening, Feb. 1st, with eleven members present.

Mr. Clark, one of the delegates to the meeting of the county union gave an interesting report of the proceedings of that meeting.

Mr. P. Marshall stated that he has seed potatoes and oats for sale. The potatoes, which are of the Scotch Rural and Sir Walter Raleigh varieties are smooth, free from blight, scab or rot.

The matter of the clearing house at Portland was discussed at length. Four members subscribed for one share each of the stock. We will take this up again and also the matter of an agent in Oregon City, at our next meeting to be held Saturday evening February 15th.

## THE OLEO QUESTION.

National Grange Demands Laws Prohibiting Sale of Fake Butter.

The following resolution was adopted at the recent meeting of the national grange:

Whereas, The oleomargarine manufacturers of the country have long sought to counterfeit genuine butter that they might dispose of their products fraudulently to those who desire to consume butter; and

Whereas, There has been a bill introduced in congress, known as the Lever bill, which if enacted into law will remove all restrictions to the coloring of oleomargarine in imitation of butter and leave the millions of our people who eat at hotels, restaurants and boarding houses without protection against counterfeiters of the butter that they ask for and pay for; therefore,

Resolved, That we are strongly opposed to the Lever bill and that we demand the enactment of a law that shall, as far as possible, prevent the fraudulent sale of butter substitutes by prohibiting their manufacture and sale when containing a higher shade of yellow than that produced by the admixture of 55 per cent of pure white.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss. I, FRANK J. CHENEY, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution of the National Grange of the United States of America, adopted at its annual convention held at Columbus, Ohio, on the 10th day of December, A. D. 1916.

FRANK J. CHENEY, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free.

"Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil is the best remedy for that often fatal disease—croup. It has been used with success in our family for eight years."—Mrs. L. Whitacre, Buffalo, N. Y.

## What Union Can Do.

A Little Talk About this New Union We are Taking Notice Of.

The people of Oregon City and of the county generally are beginning to realize that a new union is being organized in Oregon, and they are beginning to come awake and ask what it is and what is it going to do? The business man is asking, the workman wants to know, and that Farmers' Society of Equity is coming in for a lot of question marks.

Some ask just for idle curiosity; some because they are anxious to know if this union of farmers is going into the boosting business and some of the business men want to know if it is aimed to cut their corners.

It isn't organized for any of these purposes, and it isn't going to do any of these things.

It's a long story to tell ALL that this Equity Society proposes to do, and this space isn't long enough to explain, but we will state that one of its principal purposes is to take that fifty per cent profit the middleman is getting, give half of it to the farmer and half of it to the consumer—and if the Society never accomplished anything more it would have done a great work.

One of the greatest leeches on the right to live is the middleman who doubles the price of a product between the man who raises it and the man who eats it—and doubles it in a distance of a dozen or two miles.

This is the parasite the farmers' unions are going to force off the job. They are going to split his commissions between themselves and the eaters and do their own selling.

Many people laugh at this Equity Society and say "it will fall down as the Populist schemes did, for the farmers can't hang together."

They have much to base these predictions on, for the farmers have made a mess of about everything they have tried along the lines of union and co-operation in the past, but there comes a time when the farmer realizes that he must play the game the right way. He must play it, he must play it this way or go down for the count, for today the farmers present a shining opportunity for the trusts. Unorganized, and playing an individual game, big money is looking to the land for its next combination move, and unless some move like this Equity Society tightens up the farmers, scientific farming, in the hands of the big interests, will put the individual farmer down and out and put him and his land at the mercy of the interests.

But this Equity plan, if the farmers only play it together (and they now realize they simply must) will put the farmer in a position where he will make the price to the consumers, and not the commission men. The society is not a new or crazy scheme. It has been organized and working for years in the eastern states, but growing slowly, until as the farmers have begun to realize they must do something to protect themselves and their vocation, then it began to take on strength, and it is spreading like a prairie fire over the country.

Its plan is the most comprehensive one that brains could outline. It is tight if the squeeze is needed in self defense, and it is fair to any man or business that will play fair.

The railroads are taking notice of this farmers' union; the trusts and the big financial interests are making inquiries; the wholesale houses of Portland are announcing in the daily papers that hereafter they will mail to every farmer the name of the buyer of his produce and the price that was paid. These fellows are beginning to see a light; they begin to realize WHAT the farmers COULD accomplish if they would hold together, that controlling the supply as they would, they would have a combination that would beat the Standard Oil Co., if the squeeze should be put on.

The farmer isn't figuring on any squeeze play. Give him just about half an even break and he is satisfied. But he knows he can have that half a chance if he only will force it, and believe me, he is going to.

The success of the whole organization hinges on just three words—"WILL THEY STICK?"

The farmers say they WILL, and it certainly looks that way now in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

BROWN.

## IT'S A MISTAKE

Made by Many Oregon City Residents. Many people in a misguided effort to get rid of kidney backache, rely on plasters, liniments and other makeshifts. The right treatment is kidney treatment and a remarkably recommended kidney medicine is Doan's Kidney Pills. Oregon City is no exception.

The proof is at your very door. The following is an experience typical of the work of Doan's Kidney Pills in Oregon City:

James Wilkinson, 261 Fourteenth St., Oregon City, Ore., says: "I had a backache and pains in my loins and could not sleep well. There was stiffness in my limbs and other symptoms of kidney trouble were present. Being advised to try Doan's Kidney Pills I did and was gratified by their promptness in relieving me. Although I am in my seventeenth year, I am hale and hearty and I give Doan's Kidney Pills the credit."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-McBurg Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

**CASTORIA**  
For Infants and Children.  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the Signature of  
J. C. Ayer & Co. Lowell, Mass. U.S.A.  
In Use For Over Thirty Years  
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## Officers of Local Unions.

- Alberta—Pres. Jesse Mayfield, Sec. Ferris Mayfield.
- Beaver Creek—Pres. Fred Kamerath, Sec. W. W. Harris.
- Canby—Pres. Geo. Koehler, Sec. H. C. Brodie.
- Carus—Pres. A. J. Keinhof, Sec. S. L. Casto.
- Clackamas—Pres. J. A. Sieben, Sec. Frank Haberlach.
- Clarks—Pres. Albert Gasser, Sec. John L. Gard.
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- Sunnyside—Pres. R. P. Grady, Sec. E. Oehlschlaeger.
- Stone—Pres. T. E. Brown, Sec. M. J. Byers.

## THE MARKET REPORTS

Oregon City Prices for the Various Products of the Farm.

During the past week there has been an advance in flour and this is due to the advance price of wheat. Flour that has been selling for \$4.60 per barrel is now selling at \$4.80, and that of \$5.50, \$5.70.

There has been a decrease in the price of sugar.

The hop market is steadily gaining in strength. Additional orders received from the East indicate the entry of new firms in the market. Grocers are almost a unit in refusing to consider the prices bid. There are a large number of Eastern brewers in need of early shipped hops. Many of the growers will hold their crops until the prices advance to what they want.

The markets are well supplied with vegetables, although the gardeners in and near the city, have suffered from the recent snow, but much of the vegetable truck was unharmed.

HIDES—(buying); Green hides 60 to 70; salted 70; dry hides 120 to 140; sheep pelts 300 to 350 ea. b.

EGGS—Oregon ranch, 28c.

FEED—(selling). Shorts \$27; drans \$25; process barley \$38 per ton.

FLOUR—\$4.80 to \$5.70.

HAY—(buying). Clover at \$9 and \$10; oat hay, best, \$11 and \$12; mixed \$10 and \$12; alfalfa, \$15 to \$16.50; Idaho timothy \$20; whole corn \$40.

OATS—\$27 at \$28; wheat \$1.00 bush, oil meal selling about \$55; Shay Brook Dairy feed \$1.30 per hundred pounds.

**Live Stock—Meats**

Beef—(live wt.) Steers 6 and 6 1/2; cows 5 and 5 1/2; bulls 4 1/2.

MUTTON—Sheep three to five cents.

CHICKENS—12c.

VEAL—Calves 12c to 13c; dressed, according to grade.

POULTRY—(buying). Hens 11c springs 12c; rosters 8c, ducks 14, geese 12c; turkeys 16c.

MOHAIR—33c to 35c.

**Fruits**

Apples—70c to \$1.00.

## BE A FRIEND OF HOME.

When you want to buy an article of merchandise buy it of a reputable home dealer that the profit may remain to enrich the community. Send your money abroad only for what you cannot purchase at home. Home talent, home labor, home industry, home capital and home pleasures are things to be fostered, encouraged and patronized.

Greatest Since 76.

Last year, with 453 new granges, was looked upon as a banner year in grange growth. In fact, the Order made a greater growth in the year ending Oct. 1, 1911, than it had made in any year since the "boom" days of 1876. The year just ended, with 472 new granges to its credit, surpasses even some of the "boom" years. This remarkable growth shows that after having seen nearly half a century of the grange's work the people have greater confidence in it than ever before. Not only has it increased in numbers, but its influence has grown even faster. Great as has been the work of the grange in the past, it has a greater field of usefulness for the future, and each succeeding year finds it better fitted for its work.

The East Greenwich grange of Renaissance county, N. Y., realized over \$1,200 in results at its orange fair. It will erect a new grange hall.

## The Forty Year Test.

An article must have exceptional merit to survive for a period of forty years. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy was first offered to the public in 1872. From a small beginning it has grown in favor and popularity until it has attained a world wide reputation. You will find nothing better for a cough or cold. Try it and you will understand why it is a favorite after a period of more than forty years. It not only gives relief—it cures. For sale by Huntley Bros.

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