

THE FARMERS EQUITY NEWS

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Vol. 1

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FARMERS SOCIETY OF EQUITY

No. 9

A KENTUCKY STORY.

Written to Make You Farmers Play the Game Together.

Here's a little story to put sand in to you Equity members—a true little story with a powerful big ending, that happened "way back east" a few years ago—and it was the first Farmers Society of Equity.

I will tell it as I heard it—but you can be sure that it is a dead true narrative.

In western Kentucky is a region of five counties that is famous for its tobacco raising. It is the black tobacco land. The Courier editor has been in this locality, and knows what he is writing of.

In 1893 the growers there were in about the same condition the producers of Oregon are in today. They could raise the finest tobacco on earth but when they had raised it and sold it they were no better off than when they commenced, for the tobacco trust would only pay them three cents per pound for the leaf, and they had to take what was offered—just the same as you berry growers have to take what the dealers give you every spring.

Ben Watson was a tobacco grower. He was just an ordinary plug of a farmer, and had he received anywhere near what his crop was worth, he would have progressed along and this little story would never have been written. But the tobacco trust got to squeezing too hard, and when he couldn't make a living off the best tobacco land in the world, then his American blood boiled, and he wanted to know why.

And he found out. The tobacco trust would not pay any more—that was the why.

Then Ben got busy. He got a few of the neighboring growers to stand with him and they called a meeting to organize against the tobacco trust.

Ten or twelve farmers and as many lawyers attended the meeting—the farmers to protect themselves and the lawyers to laugh.

Farmers going to organize! It was funny! They would cut a melon, they would take the tobacco trust for mercy and tobacco. Yes, it WAS funny.

But Ben Watson organized just the same. The farmers let the loungers laugh and they settled down to business, and they started the branch of the Farmers Society of Equity.

Next year Ben Watson had pounded it into the farmers' heads to pool together and pool their tobacco, and they put the whole crop in Watson's hands to manage. And then he advertised in the newspapers and sent notices to the tobacco buyers that he would be in Louisville on a certain date, and would consider bids on the bunch—the output of five counties.

He stated that he would sell the entire crop, or any part of it to the man who bid the highest, PROVIDING that the highest bid was what Watson thought was a fair price for the crop.

The day came and the bidders came and Ben lined them up along a wall in a Louisville hotel, made them stand up and hold their places, and then he read them the law—the Equity law as he had made it. He made every man furnish a sealed and secret bid, and when they were all in he told the bidders they could have a vacation until he had considered the bids. The highest bid was a quarter of a cent below what he thought was fair for the work of growing the crop, and he fired all the bidders, told them their bids were rejected and that they could not bid again, and then he went to the highest bidder and told him to raise his a quarter of a cent or the crop would be held over for another year. The bidder wanted the tobacco. He wired the company. "Split the difference," came back the reply.

"Split nothing," said Ben. "You take it at this price or you don't take it at all. We will burn it before we will throw off the one-eighth cent."

And he got it. It took sand and determination, and it took a lot of hard and wild work later on to hold the organization together—and the most of you remember the tobacco war in that state and how it terminated.

Later on when one of the trust buyers met Ben Watson he said to him: "I want to take off my hat to you. You have cost us thousands and thousands of dollars. It would have been much cheaper for us to have bought you and stopped the organization."

Last year the tobacco from this section, sold under a pool, brought seven and one-half cents a pound—a raise of from three cents—and the price to the consumer is the same.

What do you farmers dig out of this story? See anything in it that applies to Oregon?

If an organization like this could compel fair prices in five counties in Kentucky, don't you believe the same scheme, the same general plan, could be made to apply to the Willamette Valley?

It's a matter of finding a Ben Watson and sticking with him.

Brown.

Want to be a Mail Carrier?

The U. S. Civil Service Commission announces a clerk-carrier examination to be held at Oregon City April 12, 1913, to secure an eligible register from which selection may be made to fill vacancies that may occur from time to time in the Oregon City post office. Both men and women are eligible to take this examination.

Applicants should apply at once to the Local Secretary, Board of Civil Service Examiners, at the Oregon City post office, or the Secretary, El-venth, Civil Service District, Seattle Wash., for application blank and full information.

THE EVERETT IDEA.

Mr. Meredith Tells How the Farmers Must Play the Game Now.

The Equity's position on the money question seems to be smoky or at least not quite clear. One thing sure the Equity wants is a profit on all crops and if the banker charges 20 per cent the Equity proposes to add that to the price of grain or produce.

If the railroad pays three times the cost of rails, cars and engines, they add it to the freight and passenger rates and the Equity, according to President Everett, says add it to the price of food stuffs and pass it along to the consumer. The Equity is organized for business purposes as they are paying all taxes as producers and consumers too. We expect to put all the burden on the unorganized consumer. President Everett says it is not a question of right but a question of might, of power.

There are no laws for the benefit of the farmer but the laws are made to benefit our powerful corporations and that is why our wage earners have had to organize to protect their wages and the farmer independent of any or all laws must beat the trust and the government at their own game and pass the tax to the consumer.

It may not be right for the farmer to set the price on his own labor or produce but it is certainly wrong to let the trusts do it. If the railroads should charge fifty cents per bu. for hauling grain it would make no difference to the farmer as the 50c would be added to the farm price and the added cost passed along to the consumer, so if we farmers ask for anything from our politicians it is for the benefit of the consumers and can in no way, change our position.

There is so much of this that is unjust and so much that is just from a farmer's standpoint that should the Equity become the power to set the prices on all food stuffs and it will inside of two or more years, as it already sets the price on tobacco and is a powerful factor on all grains and on all markets NOW that our government would be driven to a position where a just policy for all would be imperative.

If it were a question of right we would simply demand our rights for cheaper money, cheaper freight rates and have all things as cheap as our prices, but as we have as much power to hold our price up to meet the increased charges as to lower the charges Mr. Everett claims we must raise the price to cover all expenses and charge it up to the consumer.

This policy makes us, as Equity members independent of all money questions. But as individuals and parts of the United States of America it forces us into a position where everyone must and ought to be, and that is we must as parts of the whole people, devise a system of producing and distributing all wealth where those who produce it get it and those who are idlers can be starved into usefulness. And we may do away with money entirely, so we would be independent of the money question in this way also.

But we are living in the present, in the now, and we are not setting the price, and we are not forcing a just system from our government because we are not strong enough in numbers or united in policy. Then push the organization and help ourselves as much as we can and at the same time help the consumer where it does not injure us, and we can prepare the way for a just policy.

MEREDITH.

Clackamas Local.

Damascus local union No. 6395 F. S. E. met in regular session March 6-13 with an attendance of 9 members and minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Vice-president and Secretary were absent.

A regular routine of business was transacted and various subjects were discussed. One more share was taken for Equity Warehouse Co. stock, making a total of 15 shares for this local. Sales sheet was read showing the following articles for sale:

- 1-4 year old \$1,200 horse, 1 No. 2 B. Empire Cream Separator, 4 hay-slings, 100 thoroughbred white Leghorns, 1-3 year old cold, draft, berry plants of all kinds, 1-20 H. P. International Harvester Co. Engine in first class condition, 1 Southwick H. P. Hay baler, Stowell's Evergreen corn, Noah Island wheat for seed, 1 No. 40 Oliver Chilled plow, nearly new, clover hay. Meeting adjourned to meet March 21-13.

H. T. BURR, Secretary and Treasurer.

Shubel Local.

A list of produce on hand has already been prepared and forwarded to the county secretary. Among the "For Sale items" at present is a fine, young team of bays, 4 and 5 years old, about 1,900 lbs. each, owned by John Blumh. Anyone requiring such a team would do well to call on him.

Some damage to growing grain, due to frost was reported.

A Message to Railroad Men.

E. S. Bacon, 11 Bast St., Bath, Me., sends out this warning to railroaders everywhere. "My work as conductor caused a chronic inflammation of the kidneys and I was miserable and all played out. From the day I began taking Foley's Kidney Pills I began to regain my strength and I am better now than I have been for twenty years." Try them. For sale by Huntley Bros. Co.

EDITORIAL.

You can almost hear the Equity grow.

If we were making money we would not be talking about putting in co-operation stores.

If we farmers were getting good prices for our produce we would pay our grocery bills.

If the farmers were making a low interest on their investment and ordinary wages for their work there never would be an organization of the Equity.

The Equity is going to make the farm pay anyway the wheel turns, if the cost of marketing is lowered we win and if the cost is increased we add it to our price and the consumer will have it to pay and we win.

Our State Union is not yet complete. We have no by-laws or even a committee for same. We have no state organizer or organ but all of these things will come in time. The world was not made in a day.

Congress at last has discovered that there is a money trust. They know no way to remedy the situation by competition so have adopted Tom Lawson's scheme to bar them the use of the mails.

Our post office department seems to be the strongest branch of our government. It puts the Louisiana lottery out of business and if it busts the board of trade and the money trust Congress, the president and the Supreme Court can go way back and sit down.

The farmers and other taxpayers of Clackamas county would like to know and would be willing to pay from our company fund to find out if our records were well balanced and our company's business honestly and economically administered.

We frequently read in the Oregonian and other papers about the millions of people Oregon could feed and clothe in peace and plenty and we Equity people believe they told the truth but what we want them to tell us now is why are we, who are digging out this wealth in such a wonderful climate and soil, perpetually treading the feathery edge of poverty?

Clarks Local Union.

Clarks Local Union No. 6956 met in the school house Saturday evening with all the officers and ten members present.

Report of secretary in regard to sugar and clover seed read and accepted.

List of farm products for sale made out to send to the county secretary. List of spraying material needed by this local made out and secretary instructed to write for prices.

A committee of three on resolutions appointed by the president. Adjourned to meet Saturday night March 15th at 8 o'clock. JOHN L. GARD.

Report of Maple Lane Local.

The Maple Lane of the 1's S. E. met at the Maple Lane School March 5th at 8:15 P. M. Nearly all the farmers of the locality were present.

The report of the State Convention in Portland, March 1st, was read and a motion was carried that we give a vote of thanks to the delegate for the excellent report given us.

There has been listed with this local:—1 cream separator—Sharples; 1 4 H. P. gasoline engine; 1 4 year-old mule; one 200 egg sun hatch incubator; 75 lbs. Golden West seed of sweet corn.

A committee composed of F. E. Parker, A. Erickson, and Ang. Splinter was appointed to see if it is practical to start a co-operative store in Oregon City.

G. F. MIGHELLS Sec.

REDLAND.

F. Bargfield, of Idaho, was out Sunday and looking over the ground with the intention of having a barn built. Mr. Thorp will do the work.

Mr. Andrews, foreman of the N. W. Association, is getting ground ready for about 5,000 apple trees.

George Lawrence is cutting timber for Swartz's mill, which has a contract for 10,000 ties.

Mrs. Courtwright has purchased a horse from Geo. Gill. Abe and Chas. Cutting are visiting at J. H. Hughes, before leaving for California.

The band boys are practicing for a musical and entertainment to be given at Logan in the near future. Mr. Thorp is building a boat for Mr. Powers.

Most of our people are getting away with their spuds in good shape by feeding same.

J. Finkle is making good use of his manure spreader and it is a pippin.

Foley Kidney Pills will reach your individual case if you have any form of kidney or bladder trouble, any backache, rheumatism, uric acid poisoning or irregular and painful kidney action. They are strengthening, tonic and curative, and contain no habit forming drugs. For sale by Huntley Bros. Co.

A. J. LEWIS'S ADVICE.

A Common Sense Appeal to Common Sense Farmers of the Equity.

To the Members of the Farmers Society of Equity: Greetings brothers.

I think there is a good deal of misunderstanding in our Society about the intended workings of the Union Sales Co., or the Equity Warehouse Co., that is being talked of in Portland. It seems to me as if such an organization is indispensable to us there has been some objection to such a movement because it does not belong to the Society of Equity.

The plan, as I understand it, is something like this: That we, as members of the Society, incorporate a stock company to dispose of our products and purchase our supplies. In order to do this it becomes necessary to have some working capital to secure which, shares of stock will be sold to members of the society, only the said shares to be \$5.00 each as no one member can buy more than 20 shares of stock.

The business shall be managed by a board of directors and an advising board of trustees. The directors shall be elected from the stockholders and the advisory board shall consist of one member from each local.

All the details of the business shall be decided upon by the stockholders themselves upon the permanent organization of the company. Every member of every local may and should become a stockholder and may do so by subscribing for at least one share of stock at the par value of \$5.00.

It seems to me that such a company is comprehensive enough to satisfy the most critical, as it includes every member of the Farmers Society of Equity in the Northwest.

We must have some business center and Portland certainly is that center in this locality. The only way we can do anything for ourselves is to meet organization by organization and we must have a good, strong live one at that. One that can compel its membership to be loyal and live up to its requirements. We can't go it alone. We have been trying that all these years and our present condition is the result. Remember this movement can only be financed and controlled by the Society and they can do it just as they see fit. No outside clique, or inside elite for that matter, can have a word to say about the management as they are absolutely controlled by a majority of the stockholding members.

I don't care what you name it. You can call it a commission house if you will, but let it be OURS controlled by the Society that is to supply its business.

No honest farmer objects to a reasonable commission for getting his products to the consumer. What we do object to is confiscation added to a reasonable commission.

When I think what that bunch of crooks on Front St., Portland have been doing to us for the last 10 or 12 years it makes me feel like trying to cut them out at least. How about it? Don't you feel that way yourself?

And the only way we can do it is by organization. Organization. I want to repeat that so it may soak in. I don't manage such a business but I do know that we should get a man who understands all the tricks of the trade. One who is big and brainy enough to do business the way business is done at this time. I don't mean dishonest business but in a business way. In other words get the BEST man in Portland if we can.

How many of you, who have been doing business with Portland commission men knew what they were doing in the way of restraint of trade for the last 10 years, till just recently? And you don't know now and never will know the whole story. Do you suppose they will be honest now just because they have been whitewashed by paying a small fine, not one hundredth part of their ill gotten gains, from their manipulation of YOUR business, because they did not mean to be bad? O bah! It makes me sick.

New Brothers, let's stop knocking and all pull together. That's the only way that leads to success and prosperity. We all know what lies the other way. Yours for good strong, united action, A. J. LEWIS.

EAGLE CREEK.

The funeral of Mrs. DeMoss, Mrs. J. P. Strahl's and Mrs. Robert Bark's mother, was held at the Eagle Creek Church Saturday at 2 P. M. and interment was made in the Forest cemetery. Mrs. DeMoss died last Thursday afternoon after a short illness. Some weeks ago she sustained a fall, never regaining her usual health as she was quite old, being about 78 years old. Her husband had daughters survive her.

A. J. Chapman, accompanied by his daughter Mrs. R. B. Gibson, went to Portland last Friday afternoon. While in Portland Mrs. Gibson was the guests and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Woodie were the guests of their son Guy and family Sunday.

Walter Douglass made a trip to Escatawa Monday.

A. G. Dix was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Sunday.

Mrs. H. G. Huntington went to Portland Saturday to visit with relatives.

THE LOCAL UNIONS.

With Officers and Postoffice Addresses in Clackamas County.

Alberta Local—Pres. Jess Mayfield; Sec. Ferris Mayfield, Springfield Rt. 1.

Beaver Creek Local—Pres. Fred Kameron; Sec. W. W. Harris, Oregon City Rt. 3.

Canby Local—Pres. Geo. Koehler; Sec. R. C. Brodie, Canby Rt. 2.

Carus Local—Pres. A. J. Kelnhofer; Sec. S. L. Casto, Oregon City Rt. 3.

Clackamas Local—Pres. J. A. Sieben; Sec. Frank Haberlach, Clackamas.

Clarks Local—Pres. Albert Gasser; Sec. John S. Gard, Oregon City Rt. 4.

Colton Local—Pres. J. E. Sandall; Sec. W. S. Gorbett, Colton.

EAGLE CREEK LOCAL. Pres. W. G. Glover, Sec. C. C. Longwell, Barton, Oregon.

Damascus Local—Pres. J. E. Royer; Sec. H. T. Burr, Clackamas Rt. 1.

Logan Local—Pres. W. E. Cromer; Sec. P. M. Kirehm, Oregon City Rt. 2.

Mackburg Local—Pres. C. D. Keesling; Sec. J. W. Smith, Aurora, Rt. 1.

Maple Lane Local—Pres. H. M. Robbins; Sec. G. F. Mighells, Oregon City Rt. 3.

Mt. Pleasant Local—Pres. P. W. Meredith, Sec. F. G. Buchanan, Oregon City.

New Era Local—Pres. Aug. Staehely; Sec. C. R. Beverman, Oregon City Rt. 1.

Shubel Local—Pres. Chas. A. Menke; Sec. Elmer Swowe, Oregon City Rt. 4.

Stone Local—Pres. T. E. Brown; Sec. M. J. Byers, Clackamas, Rt. 1.

Sunnyside Local—Pres. R. P. Grady; Sec. E. Ochslaeger, Clackamas, Rt. 1.

LIBERAL.

The Portland Eugene and Eastern are making lively times around Liberal. A large force of men are at work grading and clearing the right of way in several places, where the heavy oak groves are thick.

Mr. Striker has his donkey engine on the Richard Wright's place ready to go to pulling out the oak groves so they can plough the right of way.

Farmers are busy seeding, grass is starting and buds are swelling, so the dear old Spring is approaching.

Mary Heiple S. Wright left Tuesday morning for Salem to visit Calvin Jones, her brother, who is very ill at present.

Land is moving at good prices, with a general tendency of improving. Max Hens has a fine lot of potatoes and is selling them at 25 cents per hundred pounds.

George Donnelly has his house all repaired and it is in grand shape again after the fire doing its work last winter.

W. J. E. Vick is busy making his front yard loom up in the right shape for his lawn.

Ben Faust is busy on the irrigation ditch through his place, for next summer use if he needs it.

WILHOIT.

The farmers of our vicinity are very busy plowing and sowing grain. George Crites was down in town last week.

James Nicholson returned home from Oregon City last Friday.

We have been informed that our saw mill over at Beaver Creek has changed hands.

The dance given Saturday night was well attended.

Land buyers are seen on our streets very frequently.

Sunday School was well attended last Sunday.

Oscar Vorgehis is back in town for a few days.

Earl Groshong was out from Scots, where he is attending school, and spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents.

The election of a new mayor Saturday evening created some excitement. Mrs. E. Wyland and her daughter Myrtle, visited the family of her son Raymond, Sunday.

The work on the new road has been suspended for a few days until the farmers get through with their rush sowing grain.

Mr. Ole Olsen was down in town Saturday evening, coming to attend the dance.

Tom Slaughter was seen on our streets Sunday.

L. Adam's Dept. Store

The Range With A Reputation. Some of the Reasons Why... The Great MAJESTIC Charcoal and Malleable Iron RANGE. It Should Be In Your Kitchen.

OREGON CITY MARKETS. Prices for Produce as Quoted by Local Dealers. Continued weakness in the Chicago wheat market is not having much effect on prices here.

Oregon Fire Relief Association of McMinnville. GEO. W. H. MILLER, AGENT. 214, Seventh St. Also Health, Accident, Income and Automobile Insurance.

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CATALOG for Free Copy. LILLY'S SEEDS. The CHAS. H. LILLY CO. Seattle.

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BROWNELL & STONE ATTORNEYS AT LAW Oregon City, Oregon

Best Known Cough Remedy. For forty-three years Dr. King's New Discovery has been known throughout the world as the most reliable cough remedy.

Notice of Final Settlement. Notice is hereby given that the executors of the estate of Elmer E. Charman, deceased, have filed in the County Court of Clackamas County, Oregon, their final account and report.