

THE FARMERS EQUITY NEWS

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FARMERS SOCIETY OF EQUITY

No. 10

LET'S DO THINGS

Time for the Equity to Get Down to Practical Ways and Means

Editor Courier:—

As the time has just about arrived when the county organization of the Farmers Society of Equity will meet again to formulate plans for active work towards making the society effective for the purpose it is intended for.

Many radical members carry the idea that this society when fully organized will be in a position to control the prices of their product and force the consumer to pay any price that they may dictate. Do they realize that many of the producers are just as much under the necessity of selling their products when marketable, at whatever prices they can obtain in order to purchase the necessities for themselves as the consumers is to buy; whereas the products in other localities which transportation has made possible that there is not a time at any season of the year but can be put on the market in competition with any product of this northwest and the supply and demand cannot be ignored as factors in regulating prices.

It cannot be admitted that co-operation in the disposing of farm products can be made profitable to the producers with less trouble. Fruit growers obtain much better prices for their fruit through a co-operative society which collects and grades the fruit suitable for the market demands and markets in the best markets.

There is no co-operative bond of union like a common material interest—there is nothing which binds people so closely together and abidingly and which so effectually nerves them to persevere in a common effort, all of which are necessities to co-operation.

While our county organization has been in existence for three months yet up to the present time no practical form of systematic marketing has been formulated. While Clackamas county stands at the head in number of organizations yet up to the present time among all members not one has as yet come forward with any practical solution of giving a detailed business plan of operation of how to conduct our buying and selling proposition.

We are all at sea as yet like a ship without an anchor with no port of landing in view; like a great army without a general and each division working independently and failing to accomplish what the united effort of one body could do. Is there not one among the thousand members who has business conception sufficient to inform its members through the Courier whose space is granted free for that purpose, how to operate this machine?

One prevailing and apparently mistaken idea among a large number of F. S. E. members is to operate entirely through one business manager for the county. Have they ever studied out the details of operation that would have to be systematically adopted? Have they ever considered where one man, no matter how centrally located, could be in so immediate touch with the different localities as to supply the immediate needs of every community?

With such a variety of products and such a variety of conditions as exist in Clackamas county the only feasible plan appears to be for each locality with all the unions tributary to one local shipping point, to unite among themselves in both the marketing of their produce and of purchasing their supplies. This plan is highly recommended by the officials at head quarters at Indianapolis and even recommended to incorporate locally for that purpose while such an operation can be carried on indefinitely, and these local organizations cooperate with the Portland and Ware houses to dispose of the surplus and act as a wholesaler in purchasing supplies.

How is it possible for Indianapolis headquarters to advise satisfactorily any detailed plan of operation out here in this Northwest? They have outlined a systematic method by which to operate and which each locality can take as a guide to operate, by modifying it to suit local conditions.

As Portland is the natural outlet for the produce for the four northwestern states and also the distributing point for a large percentage of supplies needed for that territory it is certainly a necessity to have our selling and buying centrally located there and each locality, which may operate its local organization, can thru it, transact the selling as well as the buying operation.

An adjourned meeting of the state organization has been held by the board of directors and officers to complete the necessary work of the first meeting, and I was informed a committee was appointed to draft a code of by-laws for the Ware-house Corporation and a copy was sent to each local for consideration; but as yet no one as I know of has any knowledge of such a thing being done.

Many of the F. S. E. members only think of the selling side of this co-operative movement, but in order to dispose of the produce a market must be formed and in order to get the best results the produce must be of a standard quality with a guarantee sufficiently responsible to be reliable and that can be depended upon.

In order to be in a position to supply the demands of any market communities will have to unite and specialize. Then aim in producing a certain product. Learn what your locality is best adapted to produce and to produce the best which must be graded to a standard, and put on the mar-

ket only that of good quality. When you have the quantity a market can always be found for anything that can be produced.

This co-operative movement is not confined to the producers, only the consumers are realizing that they can unite in buying their supplies co-operatively more direct from the producers and eliminate in many instances the different channels thru which the produce passes before reaching the consumer.

Co-operation in buying of supplies is a tried, successful operation as the people of Portland are beginning to realize.

The first Mutualist Association of Portland are now operating a line for stores where a dividend is paid to its members on the amount of goods purchased by each member which is done every three months, which is practically a rebate after deducting operating expenses and a ten per cent of the profit put into a reserve fund, and are meeting with great success in every particular.

They have adopted the same system as the Rochdale system in England, Scotland and Wales, which has been in operation for 60 years and now represent an invested capital of over 1,500,000,000 dollars, produced entirely from their savings.

They manufacture every line of goods. Wholesale and own ships for transporting their imports, besides operating plantations and they are now engaged in producing farm products co-operatively.

The Mutualist of Portland with their stores at Albina, Wichita, Sellwood, Montavilla, Arleta and Mt. Scott. For the purpose of creating greater interest the Mt. Scott Mutualist held an entertainment on the evening of the 27th of March at Myrtle Park with band music, speaking and refreshments were served. A similar meeting was held at Woodburn. Rose City Park has incorporated as mutualists. Mrs. Clara Pugman addressed the members of the Woodstock W. C. T. U. at the home of Mrs. Bates on the advantages of co-operative stores in reducing the cost of living on the 26th of March.

The success of these stores has surpassed their fondest dreams, and are declaring dividends of 8 per cent and others more quarterly. They are carrying on an extensively campaign spreading their movement, holding meetings, explaining in detail their methods of operating and now formulating plans for collective buying by which a great saving will be made, when a whole line of stores buy their goods through one agency.

The advantages these co-operative stores have are: First, that every member has an equal interest as only one share of ten dollars can be held by any member. Then each member receives a dividend on the amount he purchases these shares cannot be transferred except by the consent of the board of directors and there is no voting by proxy. These are protective articles so as to make every member equally interested.

In contrast with other stores the co-operative store will always have these advantages on its side. Above all things there is an assured market and he can largely dispense with the expense of attracting customers and advertising, but also all risks, which is an item adding greatly to the price and "as no credit is given" he is not carrying a doubtful asset.

Other stores are obliged to make speculative purchases because of demands he cannot foresee, by which there may be loss. All these causing higher prices, falling on the honest purchaser, who is made to pay for the default. As the Cooperative store is managed by the purchasers themselves the manager knows to a "U" what goods are likely to be wanted, also in kind and quality, and can regulate its purchases accordingly.

Having outlined the advantages of co-operation there is a great opportunity for the members of the different unions of the F. S. E. to cooperate with the consumers of Oregon City, as the market here is not to be despised. Let, for instance, one hundred members of F. S. E. become members of a mutual association; get another hundred members of consumers in Oregon City the F. S. E. will have an assured market to that extent for their produce, in supplying the wants of the city members, then they will be entitled to their share of dividends on their purchases; then again by being associated with the mutualist we can make a percentage of profit on the "purchasing of our goods for this store as the Portland people have extended their good will in that line.

Furthermore the Mutualist Stores will require a warehouse to distribute their goods to the different stores; they have also extended their willingness in co-operating with the F. S. E. Warehouse of Portland, which can be made a distributing center to supply these stores.

Then there is the restaurant association being formed with Harry Day as president, which will require a distributing center to get its supplies. Does it not stand in hand to connect ourselves with these associations; co-operate with them; formulate a plan to supply them with their needed farm produce as direct as possible, and thereby getting better prices and also supplying the consumers at a less cost?

If our county organization does not formulate plans towards co-operating with these organizations there is no reason why each locality cannot do so for itself.

so for itself.

A STATE MARKET

One of the Benefits that Can Come With Organization

Governor McGovern, of Wisconsin, sent a message to the Legislature of that state, the 17th, and urged the creation of a state market to aid the farmers. He also sent a bill that he drafted himself, providing the details of its management.

This state market is to be governed by five commissioners, three dairy and two other commissioners.

This commission is to have power to prevent monopoly and combinations in food stuffs detrimental to the people. To benefit the producer and consumer alike and to promote economical distribution of all commodities.

Also to aid in the organization of co-operative enterprises and to issue bulletins of instructions for the same.

Also to give advice and information in regard to markets and to establish a market news.

Now this shows that Governor McGovern has some interest in the people and we are all sorry to say that but few governors pay any attention to what would benefit the farmer or the people working for wages, who are the consumers. It may be that the nation and the state can be of much help to the farmer and consumer to defend them against the trusts and high cost of living but we think the farmer, while he should favor any move in this direction at the same time he must organize and stay organized and stick together so as to be able to work with the State and National governments.

It is only the organized farmer that the governor and railroads can deal with.

We have so many so-called laws supposed to be in favor of the farmer that turn out to be aids to the trusts that the farmer must organize and stay organized and use his own market machine and also the State's in his favor instead of the trusts.

Wet in the U. S. but dry in the White House.

The Equity and the Courier are growing.

Can we unite the co-operative proposition into one for Clackamas Co?

If you have a good proposition don't hide it but let us all know about it.

There is not a better county in the U. S. to reap benefits from organization than Clackamas County, Oregon.

Our weather is bright sunshine compared to Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The Oregon farmer is willing to give liberally to the sufferers in our flooded districts in the east, but don't ask him for money.

If the Oregon ten-acre home would produce in dollars what it will in other good things it would be very cheap at double the price now asked.

Our national organ says "all the farmers ask for is fairness and 'equity' and we pity the leaders who refuse to give that."

We hear a good deal about our great prosperity and we farmers of this U. S. pay not less than five hundred million dollars every year in interest to banks. It is not hard to tell who is enjoying all the prosperity.

Our O. A. C. is going to wake up and tell us something about the business end of farming and that is the only way where they can demonstrate their ability as business men and value to the Oregon farmers.

Dr. C. G. Hopkins, chief in agronomy of the Illinois State College of Agriculture, says on page eight of our national organ that 550 manufacturers of commercial fertilizers formed a trust and employ some of the so-called professors of our agricultural colleges to help them sell their stuff to the farmers. The Indiana experiment station has proven that it does not pay to use it. The unorganized farmer cannot defend himself against such gangs.

Our Equity page is becoming more and more interesting and it is open to both sides of all questions and has created a good deal of outside interest in our Equity and calls are constantly coming in for organizers and Clackamas county is the strongest Equity county in the state.

A county organization without an official organ can exist but it accomplishes but little and that little slow because you must depend on letters in mails to reach your members, and the same for your answer.

The farmers are exploited by all organizations of business men and these organizations are asking a larger and still a larger slice of the farmers income every year and now the farmer is organizing to protect himself and we demand the full product of his labor. All men and all commissions who live from our taxes should work for us.

The Live Wires and Commercial Club should draft a few schemes to put money in the farmers' pockets, but will they do it? Could they? Should the farmer depend on anyone else?

MEREDITH ANSWERED

D. S. Young Defends the O. A. C. and Asks Meredith Some Questions.

Editor Courier:— Our O. A. C. entertains in fine style our manufacturers' Association. And who pays for it? The farmers pay for part of it.

The O. A. C. entertains the state Grange, which the editor of the Couriers Equity News knows, is a farmers organization and which has many times the members the Mann Association has. Who pays for it? The farmer pays for part of it.

Twenty-two O. A. C. students are "ducked" by a committee of upper classmen. We farmers might stop a good deal of lobbying and save the state several hundreds of dollars by going in the game. I suggest that the Equity editor make the trip at once, if he wishes we will go along and help him. The sooner he takes the "plunge" the sooner will some of his muddy colored ideas be washed away.

Our state appropriates large sums to our O. A. C. to pave the streets of Corvallis. The Equity editor might also absorb a little information along this line after he has had his bath. In fact he could find many things the girls and also the boys, have done to help things along.

"Our O. A. C. want all our money to entertain the manufacturers' association and then make fun of us for not having automobiles." Just above these lines the editor styles himself the hayseed editor. The name surely fits for who else would have such a wonderfully brilliant idea? The "ducking" might also brighten this point a bit.

The editor has the right idea about the hater and the berries and the numbers of spuds it takes to educate a boy at O. A. C. I have seen it tried and it works fine. The editor can do no better for himself, this boy or humanity, than to count out the spuds at once and start out his boy to college now before he absorbs too much from his father.

If the Courier is too fine a paper to carry the College's advertisement, why does it stoop so low as to throw mud at the same? "Space in the Courier is too valuable for that."

I suppose "just nonsense," belongs to the editor also. Surely he spent a great deal of time to think of that. His only mistake was in not placing it at the head of those two columns. His views and comments would be highly classified then.

Why limit the hours to four or six a day Mr. Editor? Wouldn't it be better to make it twelve or fourteen as the farmer does who knows more than the dressed up teachers? Why set the days at five? Your man in overalls and jumper puts in seven as a rule. Why not try out your plan on your own boy and girl, if you are so blessed, so the world may judge the wonderful results? "If you don't agree to a proportion of this kind it is proof"—that you are standing in the way of the working man's progress.

Brother Harris used a fine brand of lineament for four years and has never given it up since, and has never seen the Equity Editor's case may be rather doubtful. I know it can be highly recommended.

"It is time for the Equity Society of Clackamas county to blow away this nonsense." WELL SAID.

"Now is the time to do business; cut out the criticism, get together and quit tearing down and to build up." GREAT.

"Let's have an Equity paper that will advance the national plan rather than to gratify the grouchies."

THIS IS A SPLENDID IDEAL. If the Courier's Equity Editor wishes to visit the institution at Corvallis, I will be glad to furnish half of the car fare and go with him on his tour of inspection.

Yours truly, D. S. YOUNG.

The Gresham Outlook repeats several paragraphs of ours on our O. A. C. for which we expect several subscribers from that neck of the woods.

The writer of that article said we were an anarchist and we would be much offended if he knew what an anarchist was but he don't even know that the Farmers Society of Equity is composed of more than one person.

It costs a farmer two dollars to join the Equity and he gets our National paper twice a month for a year and by the time our state is organized there is no money to pay salaries. Any man who has the ability to work and make good for the farmers ought to be paid and paid well because he is up against the hardest proposition of all. If he can make money for you by buying and selling for you, pay him a good commission.

Rheumatism, as a result of kidney trouble, stiff and aching joints, backache and sore kidneys will all yield to the use of Foley's Kidney Pills. They are tonic in action, quick in results, curative always. W. S. Skelton, Stanley, Ind., says: "I would not take \$100.00 for the relief from kidney trouble I received from one single box of Foley's Kidney Pills."

Huntley Bros. Co.

Cough Medicine for Children. Too much care cannot be used in selecting a cough medicine for children. It should be pleasant to take, contain no harmful substance and be most effective. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy meets these requirements and is a favorite with the mothers of young children everywhere. For sale by Huntley Bros. Co.

Report of Clackamas Local.

The Sunnyside Local Union No. 68-40 of the S. F. E. met in regular session at the Sunnyside Schoolhouse March 29. All the officers and 10 members out of a total of 25 members belonging to the union were present.

Received application for membership for W. M. Sumner. Mr. Sumner was admitted in the union.

The following members were elected delegates to attend the county union meeting: J. H. Reed, J. N. Bessell, R. P. Grady, and E. Oeschlaeger.

Communications were read by the secretary.

J. P. Davis has one black mare 12 years old, weighing 900 lbs, and 30 acres Clackamas bottom land to sell; George Johnson has 1 milk cow 5 years old to sell.

Farm crops were discussed. The fall sown oats were damaged by the frost and the early sown clover seed was killed.

It was moved and carried to adjourn until April 14th.

E. E. OEHLISCHLAGER, Sec. and Treas.

THE LOCAL UNIONS.

With Officers and Postoffice Addresses in Clackamas County.

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

Beaver Creek Local—Pres. Fred Kemerath; 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.

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

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

Macksburg Local—Pres. C. D. Keeling; 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. E. G. Buchanan, Oregon City.

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

Shubel Local—Pres. Chas. A. Menke; Sec. Elmer Swope, 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. Oeschlaeger, Clackamas, Rt. 1.

IN EXPLANATION

Molalla, March 31.

Courier Editor:— I see in your paper where your Witnoit correspondent has made a great mistake and I am writing to rectify it.

(A dirty deal) as he calls it was a burst of shame that came on the Ridge school representative. The teacher and himself got ashamed of himself because he couldn't spell raise and (had two trials at that) tried to raise trouble and got shut up.

The Ridge country was well represented however, both with spellers and audience. Vincent Sowa taking the honors of the spelling match, and I am sure he did not receive a dirty deal. He was awarded the prize for being the best speller and promptly gave it for the good of the school.

Thanks extended to him for it.

As for the cake, there was none sold except in baskets.

EDWIN HOODWORTH, Teacher of Mt. School.

Arrangements are being made to hold a School Industrial Fair at Aurora next September, at which time all of the surrounding districts may compete for the prizes. Many prizes are to be offered as premiums to the exhibitors, and among these will be riding bridle, riding whip, shoes, books, sweaters, framed pictures, hats, dishes, garden tools, jewelry, furniture and many other articles.

The committee in charge of the affair is composed of G. L. Gribble, Mrs. W. W. Irvin and N. C. Westcott.

Look to Your Plumbing.

You know what happens in a house in which the plumbing is in poor condition—everybody in the house is liable to contract typhoid or some other fever. The digestive organs perform the same functions in the human body as the plumbing does for the house, and they should be kept in first class condition all the time. If you have any trouble with your digestion take Chamberlain's Tablets and you are certain to get quick relief. For sale by Huntley Bros. Co.

PAUL C. FISCHER, Lawyer.

Deutscher Advokat

Administration and probate matters a Specialty.

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Main St. Oregon City

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Oregon City, Oregon

L. Adam's Dept. Store

THE BUSY CORNER

Ladies' New Spring

SUITS

and COATS are here.

You can depend on the

right thing at the right

price if you come

to Adams busy store.

We show two excel-

lent lots, suits or coats,

now at

\$12.50 & \$15

The PALMER

GARMENT

Suits and Coats. The

best made, and sold here only at Adams busy

store. Strictly all wool material, man tailor-

ed garments in two handsome values, now at

\$20 and \$25

L. ADAMS DEPARTMENT STORE

Oregon City

Oregon



OREGON CITY MARKETS.

Prices for Produce as Quoted by Local Dealers.

For the past week California vegetables have arrived in the market, including: asparagus, which is selling at 9 cents per pound. There are plenty of Oregon vegetables in the market, among them being spinach, for which there is a good demand; lettuce is selling at \$1.00 per box. Rhubarb has made its appearance during the week and is bringing a price of 7 cents per pound. Within a few weeks there will be a larger supply in the markets.

During the month of March the hop market was dull, the trade being on a smaller scale than usual at this time of the year, and values both present and future, have gone off slightly. It is stated by most of the hop buyers that most of the best hops have been bought up, but there are remaining of a different grade about 5,000 lbs. These are being held for prices averaging about 10 and 16 cents.

HIDES—(buying); Green hides 6c to 7c; salars 7c dry hides 12c to 14c; sheep pelts 30c to 35c ea'h. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 15c.

FEED—(Selling.) Shorts 28c; bran 22 1/2c; process barley 28c per ton.

FLOUR—\$4.40 to \$5.20.

HAY—(buying.) Clover at \$9 and \$10; oat hay, best, \$10 mixed \$10 and \$12; alfalfa, \$12.

OATS—\$2 1/2 at \$4; wheat \$1.00 bushel, oil meal selling about \$4; 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.

Veal—Fancy, 13 1/2 to 14c; medium 12 1/2 and 13 cents.

Pork—10c and 10 1/2c.

Poultry—(buying.) Hens 15 1/2 springs 17 1/2c and 19c; roosters 8c, ducks 15 1/2c; geese 12 1/2c and 13c; turkeys 18c.

MOHAIR—33c to 35c

Sheep pelts—40 to 90c.

Hides—10 and 9c.

Fruits

Apples—60c to 90c.

DRIED FRUITS—(buying) Oregon prunes on basis 6c to 8c.

Dried pears 9c.

Butter

Butter—(buying) Ordinary country butter 30c and 40c; fancy dairy 80c per roll.

Graduate (with honors) of Ontario Veterinary