

THE FARMERS EQUITY NEWS

L. Casto, President, Oregon City, Route 3

F. G. Buchanan, Secretary, Oregon City.

E. E. Brenner, Organizer, Oregon City, Route 3

Vol. 1

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FARMERS SOCIETY OF EQUITY

No. 10

AN EQUITY TALK

The next meeting of the county union at Carus should be a red letter day. It would seem the most important one for this year. One of the perplexing questions up for solution will be regarding a selling agency. A method must be devised to carry out the marketing idea, which is the key note of Equity.

"Starting a store," has always been the most alluring idea in all co-operative societies. It looks easy. Many other farmer movements have taken a chance at it, for the most part to be doomed to failure. Not that there is anything wrong with the co-operation but because the support was lacking.

To my mind it were best for us not to go out to meet disaster, but to follow the idea worked out by the national organization. It seems, if followed out, to insure success without incurring the outlay of capital and consequent risk of failure that would be part of the venture of starting a store. There are an abundant number of stores in Oregon City in fact far too many already for the population and business to be done. Suppose that we just establish a selling agency thru our own store and instead of our own store canvass the local merchants as to the best terms obtainable for such merchandise as we may use.

I have never discussed this phase of the problem with any merchant but I believe we can secure better rates than we are now getting if we do all our trading at one or at most two stores, instead of trading at all of them as we do now. Then the same merchant could also act as our selling agent for farm produce.

I admit it would be better to have an equity store all our own as is advocated by some enthusiasts, however this organization is young and we have not as yet the habit to co-operate in commercial enterprise.

Farmers living principally by themselves and working alone do not so readily take up co-operative enterprises as wage workers who work in groups.

The keynote of all equity literature is to look out for the selling problem; see that we locate the demand to come to us, of which requires a pretty thorough organization, which takes time to put into operation.

Take for example our experience with the Courier. Had we attempted to establish a paper it would have required a large outlay of capital, a long time to get the plant in operation and a subscription list is not a simple matter by any means, no matter how desirable a publication is gotten out. As matters stand we get the use of the best established paper in the county with its large circulation and most important of all—we have the use of that paper absolutely FREE.

The same principle applies in some respects at least, toward the store proposition, only there seems to be a peculiar charm in regard to a store, perhaps because of the uncertainty of the venture.

Before me lies a small pamphlet from Equity headquarters entitled "The High Cost of Living, How to Cure It," wherein is a plan to reduce the living expenses to the consumer, thru organizing that end of the farm problems and having organized a city district and a branch of the league will be established there. This will be brought about by the officers asking the present grocers to bid on supplying league families. The lowest and best bid to get the contract. You will note that no attempt is being made to establish another store in the already overcrowded store business.

I say, Equity Farmers, at the Carus meeting, better not rush at a probable failure now at the very beginning for you will discourage all attempts at co-operation for a long time. Stick to the Equity Selling Agency plan!
JOHN STARK

Damascus Local News

Clackamas, April 3.
Damascus Local Union met in regular session at Melien's hall and all officers were present except the vice-president. Nine members out of a total of 29 members belonging to the local. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The sales sheet was read and was as follows:

No. 2 Empire Cream Separator; 4 hay slings; 100 white leghorn hens; thoroughbred 3 year-old colt—draft; berry plants as follows: black berries, red or black, logans, Magoon, Gold Dollar, and Clarke Seedling Strawberries; one 20 horse power International Harvester Co. traction engine in first class condition; 1 Southwick H. P. Hay Press, 1 No. 40 Oliver Chilled plow, new, 1-2 horse cultivator in good condition, two tons clover hay; 7 first class Jersey Dairy cows giving milk, at \$75 each.

Several communications were read of interest to members including favorable report from car of spuds shipped to San Francisco. In matter of buying a car of feed, quotations were read from several firms and nomination the secretary was instructed to solicit members and place an order as soon as possible.

The following members were elected delegates to attend the county union meeting April 12th: A. H. Ritzan, W. Brodie, Walter Hall and W. W. Cooke and H. E. Sylvester.

We adjourned to meet again April 17th.
H. T. BURR,
Secretary and Treasurer.

EDITORIALS

The farmers are investigating.

Now watch the politicians hunt cover.

If the farmers just keep it up they are able to get their own salaries raised.

Between two grafts a regular politician is likely to try for both and without investigation he will get away with it.

The unorganized farmer can be robbed in open daylight with everybody looking on but he cannot defend himself.

"The love of money is the root of all evil," but Supt. Gary will take a little more of the root please.

Did Judge Beatie ever stand pat on a bob-tailed flush or drop his wad on three ducks? This is a cold deck for the committee to report on, on the side.

There seems to be a difference in the price of steel, depending on whether it is to be bolted together or riveted. The hayseeds seem to think they do both here in Clackamas county.

Why can we buy raisins and salt in Canby cheaper than in Oregon City? If it is because they pay less rent then can we go to Portland and save money on a roll of fence wire?

Brother Schuebel has hit upon the right thing at the right time. Let us organize ourselves into a separate body from the Equity or Grange for the purpose of taking up these political matters and then we will feel free to say and do what we feel some hesitancy in our Equity. And besides the Equity will have all it can do to attend to the market question.

The County Union meets this Saturday, the 12th, and will be allowed five or six delegates to the state meeting in Portland the 18th.

It depends on these meetings just how the State ship of Equity will be launched. We may make some mistakes, but the less the better, and we will all learn by experience as we move along. Delegates should attend.

The Equity has grown to sufficient size to be a big factor commercially and politically and as it grows it will become more and more so and we are now at the point where the real work of our Union must be done by directors, managers and committees and your editor thinks we should have a legislative committee of three to work with the Grange committee and others and unite us all on the same demands.

There is a lot of work ahead of the Equity and a great deal of this work requires above all else, good judgment. Good judgment is business ability and we find it is as common among farmers as it is among other classes.

If the producer is organized and has produce to sell that the consumer, who is organized, wants to buy, just imagine the bushels of self-conceit it requires for a so-called business man to make the deal and take his big commission or salary. The mental strain on this man must be something awful. Of course this would be utterly impossible of any man who had ever warmed his bare feet where the old cow slept.

The Equity page of the Courier has been open and you have read the other fellow's opinion and it has hurt no one and we would not like to see any Russian censorship attempted here. Any one who cannot defend his honest opinions by honest argument with his pen had better not try any underhanded schemes to throttle our press. Of course there are a few articles coming to the editor's desk that should not go into cold type, but on the whole they are very few and far between.

We farmer readers prefer a free press and will sort these articles as we would our apples or potatoes. We have been made poor by a continual stream of misinformation dished at us by a subsidized press owned and edited by the trusts.

Next week your editor will be relieved of the responsibility of the Equity page and this responsibility must be shouldered by others. We have in our Equity writers of ability who could make our page more and more interesting to our members and the general public. It is my opinion that the success of the Courier is due in a great measure letting the subscribers edit part of the pages.

Now instead of one editor let's have as many as possible for our Equity page. On May 2 we would like to see many articles from Farmer's wives and daughters as the Equity page can hold. There are surely in the Grange and Equity a sufficient number to give us a splendid page.

Your hayseed editor had his hide taken off last week by a literary trust formed out in the foothills of Clackamas county. You might find his epidemics on Brother Harris' or Young's smoke house. It is sad indeed to have your journalistic career suddenly cut short by a merciless home grown trust. And over the graves of

our blasted hopes we think Nature will produce in the shadowy stillness of our foothills; in the mirrored beauty of our mighty Cascades, an eternal crop of for-get-me-nots and save the O. A. C. and this literary trust the expense of an epitaph.

Brother Young has been horn-swaggled by the O. A. C. until he can pay only half fare. Now the Courier office is in receipt of a very much better proposition direct from our O. A. C. and as we are very much opposed to keeping up so many agents and middlemen, we are compelled to ignore any of Brother Young's half-fare propositions.

MEREDITH.

WANTS A CELEBRATION

Mr. Wallace Thinks F. S. E. Should Observe the Fourth

Some of our brothers seem to think we have so many things to work against, the F. S. E. Not in my mind. All we have, is our brother farmer, who we have not reached yet, but never mind, we will have a chat with them and try and explain things the way we see them, and we will be glad to have you with us. I do not think a dozen organizers would be in the way of each other in this county. If some good man does not take it up, I think I will try and see if I can do some good in the way of the F. S. E.

I see we are only twenty years behind the times now. It hurts me to think that mankind thinks that the farmers are made of trashy stuff; second and third growth timber, and have not the brains to do their own business. I cannot see it that way.

It is a fact that most of our best men come from the farm and we have plenty of them yet.

How nice it will be when we can thank the middleman for what he has done for us in the way of taking our produce off our hands. We know he is an expense and worry.

When we are as one we can buy from the producer and factories and sell our produce direct to the consumer. When we are willing to work for our own good. It has more than paid its own way for me. It is all one-sided in favor of F. S. E. Who is it that will not lend a helping hand?

As this move is aimed to bring the farmers together, I, for one would like to see a good Fourth of July celebration; like the farmers can have; good speaking, dinner and a general good time.

JOHN J. WALLACE.

Report of Carus Local

Met at Eldorado school house with 15 members present. S. L. Casto elected delegate to attend State Convention in Portland, April 18. A. J. Keinhoffer, Geo. Brenner, C. W. Casto, R. Chuebel and D. Driscoll elected as delegates to attend County Union.

We have inaugurated a collective buying and selling plan. Thursday's have been chosen as market days at which time all members who wish will bring produce to central location, same to be shipped to a Portland firm. On the same day those who wish will order collectively what supplies they need from some good house in Portland.

Committees were appointed to arrange for the meeting of the County Union April 12.

S. L. CASTO, Sec.

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 Kamerath; 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. Keinhoffer; Sec. S. L. Casto, Oregon City, R.T. 3.

Clackamas Local—Pres. J. A. Sieben; Sec. Frank Haberlach, Clackamas, Clarka Local—Pres. Albert Gasser; Sec. John S. Gard, Oregon City, Rt. 4.

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

West Butteville—Pres. James Parrott, Sec. J. R. Woolworth.

Wilsonville—Pres. M. C. Young, Sec. R. B. Seely.

Needy—Pres. J. D. Ridder, Sec. E. R. Werner.

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. Kirchem, Oregon City, Rt. 2.

GIVE O. A. C. SQUARE DEAL

Mr. Harris Defends College and Asks Meredith Some Questions
Oregon City, Ore.
April 17, 1913.

Mr. Meredith is evidently out of mud for the present so I would like to ask him to substantiate some of the statements that he has made.

In the Courier of the 28th appears a letter written by some walking pillar of wisdom. He says there is no use teaching us things that we already know. This is quite true, but I don't know of anyone that denies it. However some of us are not as fortunate as this man. We are at times confess that we have more to learn even about farming.

Again he states that the boys and girls would learn more about farming by going out into the fields and doing a few hours work each day. I am from Missouri and I would like to have some of the subjects named that could be learned to better advantage in the fields.

It is strange to say the least that a thinking man would even intimate that the present spud situation is due to O. A. C. In my opinion it is due to the disposition of people to run a good thing into the ground coupled together with the fact that the last season was favorable to the development of a large potato crop.

By the way, this same disposition to run a good thing into the ground would get away with the Farmers Society of Equity if all of its members were the same as Mr. Meredith.

He states that the demonstration farm idea is fundamentally wrong. I would like to know just how and why it is wrong—if it is.

He states that the farmers have demonstrated their ability to grow crops enough to glut all the markets in the U. S. I will quote a circular sent from headquarters of the F. S. E. "Every year some crops are over-produced or this is claimed. But rarely is true."

He states that our land is running down under the teaching of the agricultural college. I will challenge him to show me one man who is following the methods advocated by the agricultural college and who's farm is at the same time running down.

He admits that we can double or treble the yield per acre. If so, why not spasmatically every two years. In order to have a short ballot in the election of county and state officers two or three of these officers might be elected at each of these quarterly elections. In this way the people would carefully examine the qualifications of the candidates for these offices with the result that they would make wiser selections.

Should such a system be adopted it would be necessary to reduce the percentage of the legal voters required to initiate a bill or amendment, 1,000 to 2,000 signatures should be enough to put a measure up before these elections. Under such a system there would be no referendum and no veto and the majority of those voting would decide the fate of every bill. The people would make and unmake all the laws. They would accept the result of their own work and be satisfied.

The voters' pamphlet as now provided, would be of great value under such a system. A peoples' gazetteer, such as furnished by the Peoples' Power League two years ago would be very valuable.

These ideas came to my mind only last week, so that at best they are crude. I have not worked out the details of the plan. I am offering them now to arouse discussion and thought along these lines.

If a workable plan that will produce better results than the legislature can be worked out whether along these lines I suggest or along some other, I am willing that the legislature be abolished. I am not willing to abolish it until a workable substitute is found for it. I am not loyal to the idea of a legislature as a legislature. I have seen a good deal in my terms as a law maker.

I am unqualifiedly in favor of abolishing the state senate. It is as useless as a fifth wheel to a wagon. It impeached itself by its work in the last session.

MR. GILL'S LETTER

(Continued from Page 1)

the house made a record not to its credit in my way of looking at it, of passing favorably and unfavorably 120 bills.

The people, last November, after 80 days of study, passed on 38 measures in the span of a day. Delegated government has its undeniable faults.

What of the commission form of government proposed by Gov. Hodge, of Kansas, or Bigelow of Portland?

That is still delegated government. It will reduce the evils of the system by centralizing the authority in a few men but will add in additional disadvantage by increasing the difficulty of a recall, and putting the commissioners farther from the pulse of the people. It may improve but it will not accomplish what its advocates expect of it.

If you abolish the legislature which is the delegated government you may just as well go the whole hog, bristles, squeal and all. No one has yet offered any substitute for delegated government. To handle the needed legislation of a rapidly growing state is a large task. The last assembly considered 970 bills, 392 of which reached the governor's office.

I believe I have thought out a workable substitute for the legislative assembly. My ideas come originally from the New England town meeting.

First I think the state should be districted into precincts not to exceed 100 voters in each. Each precinct shall have an organization with a presiding officer, recording secretary, election officers, etc., who shall serve without pay, as a public and patriotic duty.

Meetings shall be held quarterly in the evening, and all measures submitted to the people shall come before these meetings for explanation and discussion. At the close of the discussion the people in the meeting vote upon the bills. I have thought that desks could be provided so that each person might vote as secretly as now, but all voters would be furnished ballots at the same time. The balloting would occupy but a short time. There would be very little expense to such an election.

The peoples' interest in government affairs would be kept up all the time, not spasmodically every two years. In order to have a short ballot in the election of county and state officers two or three of these officers might be elected at each of these quarterly elections. In this way the people would carefully examine the qualifications of the candidates for these offices with the result that they would make wiser selections.

Should such a system be adopted it would be necessary to reduce the percentage of the legal voters required to initiate a bill or amendment, 1,000 to 2,000 signatures should be enough to put a measure up before these elections. Under such a system there would be no referendum and no veto and the majority of those voting would decide the fate of every bill. The people would make and unmake all the laws. They would accept the result of their own work and be satisfied.

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F. M. GILL.

Maple Lane Local

The Farmers Society of Equity met in the Maple Lane Schoolhouse Wednesday evening April 2 at 8 P. M. Roll call of officers and members of which fourteen were present.

A list of articles for sale was made up as follows:

1 Sharples Cream Separator, 1 four H. P. gasoline engine, 1 2 year-old mule, one 200 egg Sure Hatch incubator, 75 Golden West seed corn, one 3 year old colt, 3 colts.

Motion was made that chair appoint delegates to county convention April 12th, and delegates nominated were O. A. Kruse, F. E. Parker, D. Thorn, L. H. Derrick and S. H. Barney.

A list of the amount of berry acreage in this local was made and it was found to be about thirty acres of miscellaneous berries.

G. F. MIGHELLS

State Meeting April 18.

An official call has been issued by State President Schulmerich for a meeting of the Equity Society in Portland Friday of next week, April 18, when the state organization will be further perfected, state by-laws adopted and other business matters taken up. A meeting of the stockholders of the warehouse company has also been called for the same date.

E. P. DUNLAP.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

L. Adam's Dept. Store

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Ladies' New Spring

SUITS

and COATS are here.

You can depend on the

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price if you come

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We show two excel-

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garments in two handsome values, now at

\$20 and \$25

L. ADAMS DEPARTMENT STORE

Oregon City



OREGON CITY MARKETS.

Prices for Produce as Quoted by Local Dealers.

The first strawberries of the season to arrive in the market were from Louisiana on Saturday, retailing at 20 and 35 per box. The berries were of good flavor and in excellent condition upon their arrival here. The local merchants who had them for sale were able to dispose of them at the price asked.

Eggs have been from 15 cents to 20 cents. There is a good demand for fresh ranch eggs.

Rhubarb is coming into the market in good lots and retailing at 6 cents per pound.

Fresh vegetables are plentiful in the market. Many of the farmers of the county are complaining because of the weather and of the late spring. The ground is too wet to do any plowing and in nearly all sections of the county the crops have not been sown. Everything in that line will be late this year.

The price of butter remains the same as of last week.

There are plenty of apples on the market, ranging from 65c to \$1.25 per box.

HIDES—(buying); Green hides 6c to 7c; salted 7c; dry hides 12c to 14c; sheep pelts 30c to 85c ea. h.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 15c.
FEED—(Selling). Shorts \$26; bran \$23½; process barley \$28 per ton.

FLOUR—\$4.40 to \$5.20.
HAY—(buying). Clover at \$9 and \$10; oat hay, best \$13 mixed \$10 and \$12; alfalfa, \$12½ to \$14; wheat \$1.00 bushel, oil meal selling about \$45; Shay Brook Dairy feed \$1.30 per hundred pounds.

Live Stock—Meats
Beef—(live wt.) Steers 6 and 6½; cows 5 and 5½; bulls 4 to 5.
MUTTON—Sheep three to five cents.

Veal—Fancy, 13½ to 14c; medium 12½ and 13 cents.
Pork—10c and 10½c.
Poultry—(buying). Hens 15½ springs 17½c and 19c; roosters 9c, ducks 15½c; geese 12½c and 13c; turkeys 18c.

MOHAIR—33c to 35c
Sheep pelts—40 to 90c.
Hides—10 and 9c.

Fruits
Apples—60c to .90.
DRIED FRUITS—(buying) Oregon prunes on basis 6c to 8c.
Dried pears .07c.

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

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