

THE FARMERS' GAME

Comments on the Way the Farmer Gets the Short End

(P. W. Meredith)

It is the SELLING of crops that brings the profit, not the raising of them.

Farmers are uniting to sell their crops at a profit and also to buy cheaper.

The organized farmer can solve the problem of living by getting closer to the consumer.

A bill has been introduced in our economy (?) legislature to do away with our "hog pond" militia. They are a useless appendix on our territory. We are badly enough afflicted with military appendicitis without it. Our new militia chief says he does not believe in using the militia in labor troubles but for invasion. We ought to be proof against invasion with the real estate men of Portland always prepared with the hot air.

Our statesmen find the question of feeding the Belgians easy of solution, but when it comes to the question of feeding the unemployed Americans the solution seems to be a greater problem than their ivory domes can solve. Let them want to bring the Belgians here to add to the unsolved problem.

If the commercial club of Oregon City wishes to attract first class entertainment in character, enriched by individuality that will be both instructive and entertaining, just invite Rev. John E. Stark to address them some evening, and they will be informed in which way they can be of service to the community.

Brother R. Schuebel has a plan for purchasing supplies that he has worked out that seems to possess merit. The writer would like to see Brother Schuebel get some encouragement, and we believe it would lead to success or a fight to the finish with some of our graft systems and one merit of it is that it requires but little cash.

Clackamas county rather strained her finances last year to build many miles of good roads and this year in we pay the cost we will have to economize in road building and in that case we could well afford to dispense with a high salaried road engineer for this year, and until we are prosperous enough to stand a good levy for roads again.

Express companies pay the railroad half of what they receive for doing the hauling. Our postmaster general is said to be paying an average of 10 cents a ton mile to the railroads, and the express companies pay 5 cents. If "dressed pouch" mail matter was shipped by express 10 cents could be saved to the people while the railroads would receive but half as much or the same as express matter. We pay the railroads about twice as much for hauling parcels post as the express companies pay for express matter. Both rates are made legal by our "distinguished" Interstate Commerce Commission.

This is the way we market our wheat now, but under the new warehouse law we organized farmers hope for better conditions, both for the producer and consumer. The farmer usually sells his grain to a local buyer who is an agent of some commission company, who has a vote on the board of trade, or he can consign his shipment to the firm himself, and attempt to save the agents' profit. This wheat is inspected by the state or if intended for export, is reinspected by the national government. A sample of such grade is exhibited at the commission companies' office. Usually the commission company owns an elevator and hires a buyer under another company name.

This buyer makes his appearance and buys the grain without opposition or competition. Of course the farmer has to pay a commission to this company for selling his wheat to themselves. These several grades of wheat are unloaded at the elevator and mixed together so as to raise the grade and also the price about 2 to 10 cents per bushel, and tied out to some miller and charges the miller an extra commission for buying this wheat from themselves.

When the farmer sells his wheat he is competing with gamblers and when the Chamber of Commerce sells it they compete only with themselves and have ruined many men in their "pit" caused suicides and other crimes.

We then send these so called criminals to the "pen" for doing that thing that is upheld by the law, church and our schools of higher learning.

Many preachers and university professors produce arguments for our exchanges and boards of trade. Farmers are demanding better laws and markets.

The high cost of living has not been lowered. We have a new banking law, a new tariff law, and railroad rates have been raised five percent, but we still have the high cost of living. Taxes have been getting higher and higher for twenty years or more, for politicians to spend to lower the costs of living. The tariff has been taken from food products and the farmer is forced to compete with all foreign labor. Oregon City boycotts the American farmer and buys vegetables of John Wier, the chinaman, but the cost of living goes up.

Do you suppose the Belgians could produce cabbage cheaper than John Wier?

With the farmer getting no legislation and the consumer getting it all the cost of living soars higher. Yet prosperity is showering the best blessings on a few who wallow in the golden pools of unearned millions wrung from the backs of ignorant industry. Will the man with the hoe ever learn to drop his crude weapon and look up? Prosperity comes from leisure, not drudgery.

The people who make guns and ammunition, armor plate, etc., are clamoring for a large army and navy, knowing that would mean war sooner or later. Now comes Mr. Daniels, appointed Secretary of the Navy, and tries to dictate to Oregon what our laws and appropriations shall be and he is only an appointee. President Wilson should look after his official family a little closer. There is an element in Oregon that wants a lot of money appropriated to our militia. Did you ever stop to think

that if we spent all our money on war that means mortgages?

If a foreign invasion did take the city of Portland they would only save a few mortgage holders, who may be foreigners, the trouble of doing the same thing, and what difference would it make to the people of Portland? Surely Christianity with its millions for foreign missions has relieved us of all danger of invasion? Why should we invade a Christian or any other nation? Why armies and navies?

The question of the unemployed has always existed. We have two classes of the unemployed. One class has all the money and the other class has none. It is only the moneyless class that requires charity. The other class is loaded down with charity already. Here are two classes that must be made to work as long as work is necessary to feed, clothe and shelter society.

We have a minimum wage law but no maximum law. That is one trouble. The reason so many women and girls draw so much less than they earn is because a few men draw so much more than they earn. There is not enough money in all the world to do justice with that plan.

Farmers are drifting into serfdom while the moneyed unemployed class are drifting into the billionaire class on the farmers' crops.

People must realize that banks, boards of trade, chambers of commerce are taking toll that robs the producer and consumer and produces the two classes of the unemployed.

Modern charity is that act of returning to individuals of society part of the loot we have stolen from them.

This is a very radical way of expressing it but the only way to be honest if it is true. To prove it we will say that all wealth is produced by labor and the laborer is receiving charity from those who labor not.

It is useless to look to the church for charity because the church is itself an object of charity, and is sustained by begging. It does not produce wealth like a farm or factory. Our schools are sustained by the same charity and now those who produce the wealth are forced by law to give it up to a non working class for rent, interest, taxes and profit until they cannot sustain our churches and schools, and these institutions are forced to look to the crowd that robs labor for their existence and they contribute and thereby dominate the policy of those institutions.

The farmer whose lot is drudgery, has not seen the mysterious hand reach out and steal the very heart of his institutions, but he begins to see now, and before he surrenders his church and his school, there will be red stripes running crossways of old glory.

If there was no robbery there would be no need of farmers organizing. If there was no robbery there would be no need of lobbies at our legislature. If there was no robbery there would be no necessity for charity. If there was no robbery there would be no war.

No war is holy or right, but a war to stop this universal robbery would come nearer right. There is but one way to avert that war and that is to organize and educate the oppressed. All the causes for charity must end with Justice, Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men.

Will Stay With the Equity

The Maple Lane Local of the Farmers' Society of Equity met in regular session Jan. 20th. Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: August Splinter, president; George A. Brown, vice-president; G. F. Mighells, secretary. The proposition of the F. S. E. Locals joining the Farmers' Union was brought up and discussed, and it was decided by all members present that at present we can do as much thru the Equity as any other organization.

Our next meeting will be on February 3rd. We would like to have all farmers in this locality present, whether they are members or not.

G. F. Mighells, Secretary.

A New Branch of Healing

"The healing of all frivolity, dullness and prostrated must be accomplished by love." This is from the Christian Science Journal. Blessed be the name of the Christian Scientists. May their glory never grow dim. If they are going to heal such maladies as these they will do a wonderful work.

The editorial writers on capitalist papers are with few exceptions, afflicted with dullness and prostrated. Many preachers suffer from the same trouble and their congregations suffer with them. Here is new hope for them. Let them hasten to the healing springs.

I would like to take some treatment for frivolity but I shudder to think that if I got cured of that I might fall to the plane of dullness and prostrated and my last state would be worse than the first.

J. L. Jones.

Would Change Entire School System

Entire change of the public school system, changing from a district to a county unit plan, is proposed in a bill introduced in the senate by Senator Ragsdale, by request. The bill provides for the election of three members of a county board of education, who are given entire supervision of all the schools in the county. They are to appoint the county school superintendent, and with him will employ all the teachers approve all the bills and perform all the services now performed by the school boards in their various districts. All districts are to be affected except those of the first class. To adopt this plan is left optional to the various counties to be determined by a vote of the electors in the county.

WANT TO RENT—A farm, on shares, take charge of a furnished ranch on shares. Wife can cook for other help. Small family. Write to Courier office for name and address.

FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Backache? Feel tired? Not so spry as you used to be? Getting old? Many persons mistake kidney trouble for advancing age. Kidneys out of order make you feel old before your time. Foley Kidney Pills tone up and invigorate the kidneys, banish backache, rid your blood of acids and poisons. Sold by Jones Drug Co.

CRITICIZES COURT ACTION

L. N. Leach of Dist. 46, Protests at Road Supervisor Appointment

Editor Courier:—

I would like to ask the Honorable County Judge of Clackamas county if he has recently had a change of heart or has it gradually come upon him since he obtained that office? If my memory does not play me a trick, he, before the recall of Judge Beattie, advocated that the voice of the people should be listened to, but now, in the case of road district No. 46, he casts aside the voice of the people, wherein they petitioned the county board to appoint a certain man road supervisor for that district, and turned it over to a small clique by appointing the former incumbent of that office.

The only excuse made by the judge for appointing the former supervisor, as far as we have learned, is that he is a good man. That is true. I am personally acquainted with him and I can heartily say that he is a good man. But a good man does not always make good roads.

For instance, said supervisor has held the job for two years and there are several miles of gravelled road in the district. He has made no effort whatever to keep water off of said gravelled roads. In consequence many places where water stood in the road are quagmires while other places where water ran in the road it has washed the gravel until it is nearly as bad as before the gravel was put on, thus doing away with the greater part of the life of the road.

I believe in justice, with malice toward none, but when a servant of the people gets so bigoted that he thinks his voice should be heard above the peoples' voice, I think it is high

governed that way. So are all business enterprises. Undesirable or unfit persons are not governed. They are dropped out. That is all the punishment that is necessary.

We could not dispose of the subject of Socialism in an hour and a half. It is the study of a life time. It is not a theory; it is a system of culture. It is a radical reversal of the present system in everything. It includes law, religion, education and hygiene. All things must be made new. But if Mr. Barzee can keep his challenge in cold storage 'till I get out of cold storage there may be something doing.

J. L. Jones.

MULINO

The passenger depot for the W. V. S. Railway is nearing completion. Numerous inquiries about the freight depot from intending shippers are made here almost daily. We hope work on that structure will soon commence.

Mr. Johnston and sons have completed a temporary residence on their lot and expect to build a nice home next summer.

The excavation has commenced for the first business block on the town site. It will be 48 feet front on Broad street, and 80 feet on the cross street. The lower floor will contain a hardware store, a bowling alley and barber shop. The upper floor will contain a public hall and a pool room. This building will be operated by a stock corporation composed principally of Mulino's citizens.

The East Side Fuel Co. of Portland has purchased timber from C. T. Howard, and men are already at work cutting it into cord wood. The tract is estimated to make 1,000 cords.

The commercial club met Friday

put in the school and taught in all of its branches. A block of land has been purchased for school gardens. A four years' sewing course has been added. Three hundred and twenty dollars have been spent on the laboratory equipment. One hundred, and thirty-two dollars and ninety cents has been spent on the library. A play shed has been built which will cost about twelve hundred dollars.

Estacada High School is a member of the Intercollegiate Debating League, and also takes part in all interscholastic athletic events.

Estacada High School today is one of the most up-to-date and best schools in Clackamas county.

CLARKES

The Bachelor Club gave an open meeting last Wednesday night, to all of its friends. The evening was spent in playing five hundred and other card games. The evening was topped off by a splendid chicken supper. An open meeting will be held every three weeks from now on, and anyone that wishes may attend, so long as he is a bachelor.

Rev. A. J. Ware gave his farewell speech last Friday night. He will be with us again this week however, and everybody come to these meetings.

Rev. H. B. Mann preached at the English M. E. church Sunday evening. A large crowd attended the services. Bill Bottemiller will be leaving this country soon, the way he is shaking hands with everyone.

C. N. Larking and Frank Nickols were in Oregon City Wednesday on a business trip.

Charlie Marshall was in Oregon City on business Saturday.

Mr. Wertz passed through this place Monday.

A large crowd went to the dance at Beacon Heights Saturday night.

LOGAN

J. D. Brown and Wm. Gristen-thwaite were in Logan recently in the interests of the Farmers' Union, and report the same as a strong organization, that is doing much in a business way for the farmers of many states, including Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

W. A. Myers and family are moving to Gresham this week, where they will reside for a while. They are good citizens and we are sorry to lose them.

Samuel Gerber and sons are clearing considerable land this winter.

Here's hoping the freeze does not kill the winter wheat as re-seeding would be expensive.

There has been considerable sickness in evidence lately, and Henry Babler and family have been quarantined as the county health officer diagnosed the case as smallpox in a mild form. R. M. Tracy's family were sick with what was pronounced as chickenpox.

There was talk of closing the Upper Logan school, but no action has been taken we believe.

E. M. Gerber has been ill since the first of last week and E. C. Gerber has taken his place in Portland.

Others reported on the sick list are F. J. Moser, Rudolph Benson and Mrs. J. C. Young.

Cold weather helps the demand for hay, which pleases those who have it to sell.

Gladstone W. C. T. U.

The Union gathered for its regular session at the home of Mrs. Tate on Friday, Jan. 23, P. M., with the president in the chair.

Devotional exercises were opened by the reading of the 142 psalm by the president, followed by prayer by Mrs. Case. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The resignation of Mrs. Porter was announced. She was compelled to resign the office of treasurer on account of ill health, and Mrs. Case was elected to fill the vacancy.

The illness of Mrs. Burns was also reported, and we are sorry to learn she was in a Portland hospital. Both ladies have the sympathy of the Union, with hopes for a speedy recovery.

The subject of Mothers' Meeting was brought before the meeting, followed by an animated discussion, resulting in the appointment of Mrs. Mary Holden as superintendent of that department. An article from the Oregonian entitled "Time to Clean House in Mind" was read by the secretary, which perhaps is not very suggestive to those not present, but which was permeated from beginning to end with the responsibility of women as homemakers, and such as present must have taken to herself some lesson or suggestion for better living in the home, and a broader outlook on life in general.

Arrangements were made for a reception, to be held on Feb. 5, for our state superintendent, Mrs. Kemp, and the teachers of Gladstone school.

Plans were completed for placing the public wall pockets for Mrs. U'Ren, sup. of literature. After reading from our leaflets entitled "Quiz on National Prohibition," the meeting adjourned with the W. C. T. U. benediction, to meet at the Christian church at Gladstone on Friday, Feb. 5, at 2:30 P. M. Members are urged to be present, and visitors will be welcomed. A program will be presented and light refreshments served.

E. A. Seoley,
Press Supt.
Mrs. C. Moran,
President.

REDLAND

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Brock have adopted a night operator at their house, whose calls have to be answered at all hours of the night. Both doing well.

Hughes & Hughes sold three of their grade Guernseys last week, and have other prospective buyers in view.

The road from Fischer's mill to Schwartz's store is in a deplorable condition, made so by cord wood haulers, non taxpayers at that.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Schwartz, who have been visiting friends and relatives in the East, will return soon. Wonder what the O. A. C. extension will boost next? First it was dairying, which is now hardly a paying proposition. Then hogs, which are now a glut on the market. Next we suppose it will be horses. In the meantime the farmer is wondering where his is coming off at.

Quite a lot of improvements are going forward this fine cold, dry weather, such as fencing, clearing land, etc. Two new barns have been put up also.

Hay is getting a scarce article here as there is quite a call for the same. Quite a few people lost their potatoes during the recent cold spell.

Art Frink is home from O. A. C. until the next semester, owing to the chickenpox and la grippe.

The Redland Literary Society gave an entertainment last week. The Redland Brass Band will give a play and concert in the near future.

Molalla

Cold snap number a weather is on with bright, thawing sunshine thru the day, while it averages up several degrees warmer than the Dec. freeze. It will be harder on winter wheat and oats on account of the daily thawing.

Work on the W. V. S. depot building is well along, and by the time these words appear in ink Molalla will have electric car service to Portland and a good start for Salem. Uncle Ol Robbins went to Mt. Angel Saturday and says the electric goes all O. K.

Molalla is to be poled and wired for electrical juice as soon as the franchise can be given over to the P. R. L. & P. Co.

John Trullinger moves into the dwelling purchased from Mr. James, today. Mr. James and family start for Nebraska, where he has a large farming interests.

Molalla Fire Dept. tested one of the hose carts recently, and from all appearance a blaze could be wet down some if the boys got there soon enough.

We've heard of mail carriers carrying bottled "juice" inwardly and outwardly, and the latest is that Uncle Sam has gone to passing it along in "mince pies."

Locality jealousy is often pushed entirely too far. If the people of the North or South fork of Molalla river see fit to straighten out their road and build a much needed bridge, it appears it would be very much out

of good neighborly enterprise for some Rock Creekers to object to the South Forkers getting out on a water grade and try to block the will of the people to tickle a few kickers.

FOR SALE—Registered. Poland China boars. Ready for service. From prize winning stock. Inquire of Hettman & Fosburg, Oregon City, R. F. D. No. 3.

FOR SALE—At a bargain—team, wagon and harness, suitable for creamery outfit—Clackamas Tavern and Health Resort, Aug. Erickson.

WOMAN IN BAD CONDITION

Restored To Health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Montpelier, Vt.—"We have great faith in your remedies. I was very tired and sleepy all the time, would have cold chills, and my hands and feet would blot. My stomach bothered me, I had pain in my side and a bad headache most of the time. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done me lots of good and I now feel fine. I am regular, my stomach is better and my pains have all left me. You can use my name if you like. I am proud of what your remedies have done for me."



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If you have the slightest doubt that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will help you, write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman, and held in strict confidence.

POTATOES!

If you have any to sell get my price before you sell

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time to call him down.

Yours respectfully,
L. N. Leach.

"NOTHING DOING"

Not yet, I regret very much my inability to accept Mr. Barzee's friendly offer to debate on Socialism. I am tied down here with a short rope. I could not go to Portland unless the sheriff came after me. I could not hire a hall if I had to on the bargain counter marked down to 10 cents. That is what it means to be numbered among the unworthy poor. Oh my friends—but there I am against it again. I have not any friends and not even an enemy. I am in the discard along with defeated candidates, only I did not have to run to get there.

Anyhow, I would not agree to an arrangement which would place me in the position of taking the affirmative on a negative side. I want to take the affirmative on a positive position. I intend to give out by instalments to the new dispensation new doctrines. They are almost the opposite of the Socialist party teachings. Political Socialism is governmentalism. It means extension of the powers of government.

Government, as we have it now, is compulsion, coercion, brute force. The New Dispensation government is attractive, not compulsory. Whoever may come, but if he is not willing he need not come. Even if he wants to come he may be sent back for something he forgot.

The New Dispensation idea is to substitute organization for government. Political Socialism is governmentalism. It means extension of the powers of government. Government, as we have it now, is compulsion, coercion, brute force. The New Dispensation government is attractive, not compulsory. Whoever may come, but if he is not willing he need not come. Even if he wants to come he may be sent back for something he forgot.

night and completed their organization. The membership roll was signed and committee appointed to visit the county court for help for the road leading to the bridge across the Molalla river and to Colton.

Mr. Capler announced that he and his brother intended to start a bakery in Mulino in the near future. It was decided to postpone the celebration of the railroad until the completion of the public hall which will be by Feb. 22nd.

We are also to have a new barber shop as soon as a suitable building is ready.

ESTACADA HIGH SCHOOL

(By Mary Woodie, a Junior)