

STATE AGENCY FOR FOODSTUFFS PLAN

Grant Kellogg Proposes Series of Warehouses for Direct Distribution to Public.

HIGH COST IS ANALYZED

Few Women at Meeting of Housewives' League, in Which Much of Alleged Excessive Prices Are Laid to Middlemen.

Before the Housewives' League at Library Hall yesterday Grant Kellogg outlined the tentative plan of a state agency that shall purchase commodities direct from the producer and sell to the consumer at minimum cost, thus defeating the high cost of living.

Mr. Kellogg went into the plan in detail and declared it is feasible and can be put into effect by the legislature as was shown yesterday, indicating that the housewives have despaired of getting practical relief from the activities of the league or also a lack of interest in further pursuit of the subject.

Mr. Kellogg opened the discussion with the statement that 85 cents out of every dollar that the consumer pays for food and provisions goes into the pockets of the middleman. He said this was disclosed by a study of the subject by the New York food and markets officials.

State-Wide Move Advocated. Mr. Kellogg said he had made a long study of co-operative marketing and that he believed it entirely practicable to bring it about. The three causes that have brought failures chiefly in the past he declared, are: the lack of interest in management, lack of harmony and small size of the unit. The city, he declared, he believed to be too small to form a unit that would be most successful in the operation of a co-operative agency, and for that reason he proposed that the state be urged to establish warehouses, cold storage plants, stores and all necessary facilities for buying direct from the farmer, the factory, the mine and the mill and retelling to the people at cost.

"There have been many seasons of agitation on this subject," said Mr. Kellogg, "and the time is now ripe for us to do something. We are going to propose that the state undertake the service now performed by the middleman and sell products at cost, plus only the cost of handling."

The speaker cited many instances that he said pointed to the existence of a food trust. He told of apples bought from the grower for 50 cents a box, but which were sold to the consumer for no less than \$1. He spoke of potatoes that were sold for 20 cents a sack and which brought \$1.25 when disposed of at retail. Instances were mentioned of California fruit growers who were compelled to sell their product for little or nothing.

Portland Unit First is Plan. Mr. Kellogg proposes that a co-operative buying agency be started in Portland as the first of the state-wide system and in advance of the general vote upon the subject by the people. He believes that when people know how it works they will be favorable to a state agency, with branches at every point where there is a store. He wants to use the services of this first agency to buy supplies at low cost for the campaign fund for the work of education that will have to be carried on throughout Oregon preliminary to the inauguration of the central agency by the state.

He said the first agency would be managed by an expert who understands the business. He will be put under bond, so there will be no chance of loss, and a committee composed of the following prominent women has been named to hold the fund: Mrs. A. C. Newell, Mrs. M. L. T. Hilden and Mrs. Spencer Vehr.

GOOD THINGS IN THE MARKET

IN THE streets and in the markets everything focuses toward Christmas. It seemed as if everything that do by thought of had already been procured for Portland festivities.

But a trip around reveals an entirely new scene—"possum," direct from Nashville, Tenn. The body of the creature resembling a small domestic pig in shape, averages from three to four pounds, and retails from \$1.80 to \$2 each.

This Southern dainty is certainly a surprise to those who have enjoyed "possum and taters" at first hand. And among other preparations is a housekeeper of renown offers a short list of "appetizers" for the Christmas dinner: Tuna fish, raw oysters,liced caviar, lobster and cream canape, pick-

apple cocktail, anchovy and pimento and sardine canape.

A consignment of fat geese, averaging 15 pounds each, at 25 cents a pound; ducks, sold each, \$1.25 and \$1.50 each, and choice turkeys, from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds, are receiving more than a passing glance.

Belgian hares, 20 cents a pound, and Jackrabbits, 25 cents each. Cheese, just lately come, includes Eastern sage, 40 cents a pound; Camembert, imported from France, in round blocks, 40 cents each.

Edam, direct from Holland, \$2.50 each; Gledost—goats' milk cheese—from Norway, 80 cents; cream brick, 25 cents a pound.

Best butter, 45 cents; fresh creamery, 40 to 38 cents, 75 cents a roll; dairy butter, 35 cents a pound.

Best fresh eggs, 50 to 45 cents a dozen. Storage eggs, 40 cents—good. Eggs at 35 cents, also storage, are guaranteed to fry, poach, or boil and have all been candied.

In the fish market steelhead salmon and halibut are each 20 cents a pound, or two pounds 35 cents.

Sand-dabs, silver smelt, perch and tomcod are 15 cents a pound. Herring, black cod, and California white fish, 12 1/2 cents a pound. Ling cod, herring and flounders, 10 cents a pound.

GRANGE WILL PROBE AT PUBLIC HEARING

Charge Made That Farmers Are Asking Prices Greater Than Do Retail Stores.

SECRET INQUIRY ORDERED

Session Goes on Record Condemning Shipbuilders' Strike and Further Urges Speedy Trial in Alleged Cement Combine Cases.

An investigation bearing closely on an important phase of the cost of living question will be conducted within a short time by a special committee representing the Multnomah district, Pomona Grange. Members of the Grange, meeting at Pleasant Home Wednesday, in adopting a set of resolutions on subjects of interest to farmers in Multnomah County, were confronted with the statement that many farmers are asking prices in the public market above those retail salesmen, and to the detriment of the market.

The resolution adopted by the Grange authorizes the appointment of a committee which will make an examination of market conditions. The duty of the committee shall be to report findings to City Commissioner Bigelow and Market Master Eastman. It was also decided, in view of the beneficial results which such a committee is expected to bring about, that the committee should be permanent. The members whom J. J. Johnson, master of the Grange, will appoint this week, are to hold office for two years. It is said that, in case the results are found satisfactory, the committee will be retained as an adjunct of the Grange.

Identity of Investigators Secret. The membership of the committee is not to be immediately announced, according to a statement made by Mr. Johnson yesterday. It is thought that the best results, would be obtained by private investigation, and for this reason the identity of the investigators is not to be known.

Other resolutions adopted by the Grange expressed sympathy with the heads of the shipbuilding industry in Portland, who are now being confronted with a strike. The attitude of the Grange is expressed in part of the resolution, which reads: "Be it Resolved, That we should feel a deep regret that any movement for a strike should be encouraged at this time when a new industry of so much value to a state is beginning in its struggle for existence, especially in view of the fact that the industries have been paying good wages and have made voluntary increase of wages paid."

The attitude of Grange members on the indictments of the alleged cement combine is also expressed in a resolution adopted by the meeting, in considering a rumor that the cases against these men would never come to trial. The Grange advocated a continuation of the investigation, with a view to bringing the cases to a speedy and thorough trial. A copy of the resolution adopted by the meeting, in addition to the President and to the Attorney-General of the United States.

Right to Use Forests Maintained. The question of allowing stock to graze in the Cascade National Forest is brought to an issue in a resolution protesting the recent abolition of grassers from this tract. The reason for this attitude is explained in the statement: "Whereas, We feel that every move to decrease the production of meat is a blow to the people of this country in general, and a loss of this range will be injurious in a marked degree to the citizens of this Northwest, therefore be it resolved, that the Grange, of Multnomah County, Oregon, at its regular session, after serious consideration, hereby registers its protest against any move which will change the character of the Cascade Forest Reserve in Oregon as it is constituted at the present time, whether such a change would be to a National park or to some other form, as any such change would be merely for the purpose of pleasure and would mean the complete abolition of the important grazing industry with a hardship resulting to all the residents of this Northwest, through the loss of its source of the production of an important item in the food supply."

Another resolution adopted by the Grange favors the abolition of the law requiring the publication of delinquent tax lists in the newspapers. In place of the system of notifying delinquent taxpayers through the mails, the legislative committee of the Oregon State Grange is asked to resume consideration of the matter, and take steps toward legislative enactment.

New Officers Elected. A new set of officers was elected at the session of the Grange, J. J. Johnson being re-elected master. Others placed in office are as follows: Overseer, John Welles; steward, Jacob Newell; treasurer, E. L. Thorp; chaplain, Mrs. Jennie Miller; lecturer, Mrs. Mary Palmer; assistant steward, Sawyer Smith; lady assistant steward, Mrs. Duke; Ceres, Miss Julia Mickleson; Pomona, Mrs. J. Frost; Flora, Miss Smith.

A number of important transactions were disposed of in the miscellaneous business of the meeting. Condolences occasioned by the death of L. H. Wells, recently East Oregon correspondent of The Oregonian, were read before the organization. All members having personal acquaintance with Mr. Wells regarded his death as a considerable loss.

BRYAN IS ASKED TO SPEAK

Nebraskan May Give Address at Annual Jackson Club Banquet.

William J. Bryan has been invited to deliver the principal address at the banquet of the Jackson Club, which is a Democratic political organization, in the Portland Hotel on Monday evening, January 8.

Democrats of National prominence, including President Wilson, have been invited to attend. The banquet this year will serve the double purpose of commemorating Andrew Jackson's birthday and celebrating the re-election of Woodrow Wilson.

Dr. Elmer T. Hedden, the newly-elected president of the club, and appointed a committee to arrange a suitable programme. Music as well as oratory and feasting will be an attraction. The committee in charge consists of W. T. Vaughn, Mrs. E. R. Roberts, A. H. Harris, Miss Leona Larrabee and Dr. Catherine Myers.

One Parole Is Granted.

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The State Parole Board, in session here today, granted one parole and indorsed a number of trustees for the prison recommended by Warden Murphy.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

SPATS—SPECIAL PRICES

Ladies' \$1 Spats in blacks, browns, tans, grays and white, all sizes, now 49c

LADIES' \$2.50 SLIPPERS

Ladies' high-cut fur or plush-trimmed felt slippers. These come in blacks, brown, white, gray and purple. All sizes. \$2.50 pair. Slippers now 98c

Ladies' \$2.00 Slippers Pair \$1.48

The finest Ladies' Felt Slippers made. Extra high cut. Extra long fur-trimmed. Blacks and all the prett' colors. Best \$2.00 grade. Slippers now \$1.48

Ladies' \$2.25 Slippers Pair \$1.48

The best soft sole made. They come extra high cut. Extra long fur-trimmed. Blacks and colors. Best \$2.25 grade, now \$1.48

Boys' High-Tops \$1.98. Boys' 8-inch Tan High Tops with Buckles—

Sizes 8 to 12 1/2 \$1.98
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Sizes 12 to 14 \$2.98

Boys' Black or Brown 12-inch High Tops—

Sizes 8 to 12 1/2 \$2.48
Sizes 12 to 14 \$2.98
Sizes 14 to 16 \$3.48

Great Annual Holiday Sale Shoes and Slippers

Over 35,000 Pairs of Standard Makes Now on Sale

This is an unusual opportunity for you to save money, as we are now facing the leather market ever known. Our fortunate foresight and cash buying gives us this great power of selling you GOOD SHOES now at LESS THAN FACTORY PRICES, which means a saving from a THIRD to a HALF. Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Refunded.

Now 98c Pair

Men's \$2.00 Grades now \$1.48

Men's \$2.25 Slippers \$1.48

Men's \$2.50 Slippers \$1.48

Men's \$3.00 Slippers \$1.98

Men's \$2.00 Slippers \$1.29

Men's \$2.50 FELT SLIPPERS

Now \$1.48

These come in browns, wine, grays, blacks and blues. All have padded soles. All sizes. Regular \$2.50 grades now \$1.48

BUDGET MEETING SET

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO MEET TAXPAYERS TOMORROW.

Executive Session Will Follow and Tax Levy Will Then Be Fixed. 4.9 Mills Seems Likely.

Adoption of the 1917 budget of general county and road expenditures will follow a taxpayer's meeting tomorrow morning at the Courthouse.

Arguments for and against items on the tentative budget will be given by taxpayers, at the meeting. The county commissioners will go into executive session and emerge with an announcement of the budget decided upon and the tax levy.

Indications point to a tax levy of 4.9 mills for general county and road purposes, instead of 4.4 mills, recommended by the advisory budget committee. This is because of an extra \$100,000 said to be necessary to prevent a repetition of a warrant basis for the county after the early part of 1917.

A levy of 4.9 mills would include \$100,000 for the erection of the first unit of a new county hospital and would still be about \$65,000 under the limit imposed by the new tax limitation amendment.

As the road department has been heavily curtailed in the recommendations of the advisory committee, heavy taxpayers have visited the Commissioners and urged that the limit levy be made this year, so not to embarrass road building operations under Roadmaster Yeon.

The final work rests with the Commissioners. The taxpayer's meeting is called for 10 o'clock tomorrow morning in room 201 of the Courthouse. Should the quarters not be large enough to accommodate the taxpayers appearing on the scene, there will be an adjournment to room 329 of the Courthouse.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OUT

Progressive Business Men's Club Hears of Work Done for Many.

The Christmas spirit in its true sense was discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Progressive Business Men's Club.

Mr. Ewart, of Hood River, recited a number of the humorous poems which have brought him fame.

A committee under Chairman F. T. Richards was appointed to investigate the threatened strike in the shipbuilding industry.

H. C. Jones told of the huge holly wreaths which the civic clubs of the city are placing on the trans-continental trains and which are carrying Portland's greetings to Eastern friends.

STUDENTS TO ENTERTAIN High School of Commerce Will Observe Christmas Season.

The student body of the High School of Commerce plans to initiate the Christmas vacation with an entertainment to be given in the school auditorium tonight at 8 o'clock. Those who attend are assured of a jolly time. The evening is to be divided between "stunts," of which there are six on the programme, and dancing. Refreshments will be served. Students of other high schools and

Felt Slippers 49c

Ladies' \$1.75 Soft Soles 98c

These are made of fine wool, ribbon-trimmed, thick padded soft soles. These come in all colors and black. All sizes. \$1.75 grade, grades now priced at 98c

Children's Slippers 79c

Misses and children's Red Felt High Cut Slippers. Sizes 5 to 8, pair 79c. Sizes 8 1/2 to 2, pair 79c

Men's \$1.50 Romeos 98c

MADE OF BLACK INDIA KID. LEATHER SOLES. ALL SIZES.

Men's \$1.50 Slippers 98c

Men's soft kid slippers, flexible soles. These come in blacks and browns. Sizes 8 to 11.

Men's \$3.00 Slippers \$1.98

Men's \$2.00 Slippers \$1.29

Made of very soft kid, hand-turned soles. Black, tans and browns. All sizes. Regular \$3.00 grades now \$1.98

Ladies' soft kid boudoirs in blacks, browns, tans, pink, red. These have low heels. All sizes. \$1.50 grade, now 98c

Made of extra soft kid, fancy trimmed, turned soles. These come in blacks, tans and browns.

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German carp, 5 cents a pound. Columbia River smelt, which have dropped to 35 cents a pound, are still scarce, but expected with a rush any day now.

Olympia oysters, in bottle, 60 cents a pint; sea-ship, 50 cents; Eastern oysters, 45 cents a pint. Eastern oysters in shell, 30 cents a dozen. Salmon roe, 15 cents a pound. Prawns, 25 cents; small, 15 cents; shrimp meat, 50 cents a pound. Mussels, two pounds 15 cents; hard-shell clams, 8 cents a pound; crabs, 15, 25 and 30 cents each. Spanish Malaga grapes, of heavy clusters, imported, 10 cents each. Emperor grapes, from California, 15 cents a pound. Navel oranges, bright and clean, 35 and 40 cents a dozen. Lemons, 15, 20, 30 and 40 cents a dozen; limes, 20 cents. Florida grapefruit, 10 cents each; California, 5 cents each and 30 cents a dozen. Sweet oranges, 20 cents a dozen; tangerines, two dozens 25 cents. Comice pears, 40 cents; Winter Nellis, 35 cents a dozen, extra large. Bananas, 15 to 30 cents a dozen. Pineapples, 10 cents a pound; casabas, 15 cents each. Japanese Chestnuts, 20 cents a pound; nuts, for Christmas, three pounds, 50 cents. Tigard has some good apples in market, Spitzenberg, \$1.19; Northern Spy, \$1. and Baldwin, 50 cents a box. Northern Spy of other stock are also offered at 85 cents a box. Apples for Christmas decorations, 40 cents a dozen. Boxes of Hood River Spitzenbergs, selected for gifts, are selling at 60 cents each. The newest vegetable to make its appearance is endive, 55 cents a pound. Mushrooms, 75 and 85 cents a pound. Green beans 20 cents and green peas 25 cents; other stock of peas, 15 cents a pound. New potatoes, from Texas, two pounds 15 cents; of local growth, 3 cents a pound, and four pounds 15 cents. Brussels sprouts, 15 cents a pound. Rhubarb, three pounds, 25 cents. Eggplant, 25 cents a pound; artichokes, 10 cents a quart. Burbank potatoes, \$1.50 to \$2 for 100 pounds. Sweet potatoes, two pounds 15 cents. Tomatoes, 20 cents a pound; cucumbers, 1