

GROWERS RESOLVED TO FORCE WHEAT UP

Producers of Middle West
Are Holding Firmly.

FAIR PRICE IS DEMANDED

Belief Expressed That Farmers
Organization Will Control
Market Next Year.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 25.—The Wheat Growers Association of America, which has been conducting a campaign to induce growers to withhold their wheat from the market until prices are higher, plans to have mid-western states so well organized within the next six months that the growers will be able to control the price paid for the 1921 wheat crop, according to W. H. McGreevy, secretary and treasurer.

The association now has a membership of approximately 100,000 in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska, according to Mr. McGreevy, who has his headquarters here. The organization will be extended, he said, to Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"The purpose of the National Wheat Growers' association is to control the distribution and marketing of wheat through financial and selling agencies of its own selection, at a price based upon cost, plus a fair and reasonable profit," said Secretary McGreevy.

"Not only the wheat growers of our association, but the wheat growers in general are refusing to sell any wheat at present prices except in cases where financial conditions force the sale. For more than 30 days we have withheld our wheat from the market until now a large number of flour mills are idle and the local and terminal elevators are nearly empty.

The wheat grower feels that he has practically accomplished what seemed at first impossible, and is now encouraged to continue withholding his wheat from the market in order that a price which is fair and just shall be paid him for his labor and money invested."

Action Held No Strike.
Mr. McGreevy objects to the use of the term "wheat strike" in referring to the action of the wheat growers.

"Our growers are not striking as is commonly meant by the term," he said. "We are still sowing and attending to the many arduous duties of the farm. We are only holding our wheat to be marketed at any time the producer can get what he thinks is a fair price."

The organization was formed about a year and a half ago in southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma. A. Eliaughter of Manchester, Okla., was the originator and early promoter. According to its promoters, its growth in the first six months was slow, but in the last few months it has been rapid until the membership has spread to every wheat growing county in the four states organized.

The four states now organized—

Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas—in which membership of 100,000 is claimed, have 250,000 wheat growers, according to Kansas board of agriculture statistics.

Forty-five per cent of the growers are reported to be members of the association. Mr. McGreevy's statement is that about 40 per cent of the growers in the wheat sections of the states now organized are members.

Four States Big Factor.
The four states produced this year 232,655,000 bushels out of the total for the United States of 750,648,000 bushels.

The addition of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota would bring the production up to 358,003,000 bushels, or slightly less than one-half that of the entire United States.

The Kansas state board of agriculture recently issued a report on the wheat in farmers' hands in Kansas. It says:

"This year's Kansas wheat crop amounted approximately to 146,000,000 bushels, according to a preliminary report. Growers now estimate that of the total production, 53.4 per cent, or 77,469,727 bushels, is still in the farmers' hands. At about the same date last year 35.5 per cent, or 50,000,000 bushels, was in possession of producers, while in 1915, 11 per cent, or 10,000,000 bushels, was reported as held by growers.

"Chief among the reasons given for the unusually large amount of wheat in farmers' hands are the drastic drop in price and the war shortage. Reports indicate that probably 47 per cent of the wheat unsold would have been marketed early had cars been available, but that wheat now is being held mainly in hopes of such an upturn in price as will return a profit—an exercise of business judgment which should be as free from criticism as the action of a haberdasher who declines to sell hats costing \$10 for which his customer offers \$5."

LABOR FIGHTS ALCOHOL

CHILEAN FEDERATION ASKS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION.

Co-operation to Transform Wine
Industry Into Factor of Public
Welfare Is Urged.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 25.—The newspapers today publish a petition to President Alessandri from the Chilean Federation of Labor urging the government to co-operate with the commission on control of alcohol in order that the commission may realize its programme based on education and ultimate transformation of the wine industry, breweries and distilleries into great factors of public welfare.

The federation represents 300,000 workers, it was said.

The petition vigorously assails alcoholism and declares that the executive labor board recently was instructed to initiate a campaign against it through the republic. It proposes anti-alcoholic teaching in the schools and colleges as a solution of the problem.

The wine growers are said to be organizing in defense of their interests.

Premier Will Not Resign.

PARIS, Dec. 25.—The Greek premier, George Rallis, has decided not to resign his office, according to a dispatch from Athens to the Havas agency, received here today.

STATE ACTIVITIES TOLD

NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE WORKS AGAINST PRIVATE INTERESTS.

Programme Includes Insurance
Operation of Banks, Mills and
Elevators and Homebuilding.

FARGO, N. D., Dec. 25.—The state of North Dakota is engaged in four lines of activity usually followed only by private interests. These are:

1. Insurance (for public buildings and for crops).
2. Operation of mills and elevators.
3. Operation of a bank.
4. Operation of a home-building association.

These activities are part of the nonpartisan league, backed by the state, named after the control of the industrial commission of the state. Possibly the most ambitious of the four programmes is that for a chain of state-owned mills and elevators. A state-owned flour mill with a capacity of 125 barrels a day is in operation at Drake. A 3000-barrel a day mill and a 1,500,000 bushel elevator are being built by the state under one roof at Grand Forks. These will be ready in time to handle wheat of the 1921 crop, it is expected.

The mill and elevator system is to be only a beginning, says H. E. Moore, state secretary of the nonpartisan league, the plan being to supply, eventually, machinery to handle livestock and other farm products. The final aim, according to Mr. Moore, is to handle, store, manufacture and distribute finished farm products from within the state thus avoiding transportation to distant factory points and costs involved by passage through the hands of middle men.

The programme of the state bank, according to Mr. Moore, is to extend credit to the farmers and to mobilize money in the state at points where it is most needed, by redepositing it in local banks at these points. The western end of the state, impoverished by five years of crop failures has had until recently, \$1,000,000 more in deposits than was originally drawn from that section, he says.

Before the November election a law provided that all public funds in the state be deposited in the state bank, but an initial law passed at that time now makes the depository of county, township, municipal and school moneys optional with the treasurers of these respective funds.

The capital stock of the bank is \$2,000,000.

The home-building association, which is in its infancy, has built about 100 homes throughout the state, Mr. Moore says. The plan is to build homes costing \$5,000 or less and sell them for a cash payment of one-fifth the value and the rest in 10 or 20-year payments. The monthly payment on a \$5,000 house after the \$1,000 has been paid, would be \$28.64, including interest, under the 20-year plan.

All public buildings in the state are insured against fire and wind storm. There is a demand, according to league officials, that this insurance be made available for private buildings. The administration of this tax is more economical than in old line companies and as soon as a sinking fund has been accumulated, the cost which now is about equal to that charged by the old line companies, will be lowered, Mr. Moore says.

A 3 per cent per acre tax is levied on all tillable land for the state hall tax. Last year this tax cost the

farmers who insured their crops, 25 cents per acre. This compares, according to Mr. Moore, with 77 cents per acre charged by private companies for hail protection. Both forms of state insurance he adds are making money.

CHAMORRO IS PRESIDENT

New Executives of Nicaragua to
Take Office January 1.

PANAMA, Dec. 25.—The Nicaraguan legation at Panama Friday gave out a message from the Managua foreign office stating that the national congress has declared Diego Manuel Chamorro and Bartolo Martinez constitutionally elected president and vice-president, respectively, of Nicaragua. The new executives are to take office January 1.

Announcement was made in Managua recently that supporters of Jose Andres Urtecho, former minister of foreign affairs, who was defeated in the presidential election by General Chamorro, had appealed to the state department in Washington to take some action regarding the election, asserting that flagrant frauds were committed. They were said to be supported by many influential members of the conservative party.

CHURCH PLANS CAMPAIGN

Stewardship Programme of Metho-
dists in U. S. Announced.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—A unit stewardship campaign in all Methodist Episcopal churches in the United States from January 17 to February 20, inclusive, was announced here today by Rev. Luther E. Lovejoy, of Chicago, secretary of the stewardship work of the committee on conservation and advance of the Methodist Episcopal church.

"The penny is still the basic standard of giving to both the church and Sunday school," Rev. Mr. Lovejoy's statement said.

"Despite the fact that the aggregate wealth of the United States has increased ten times as much per capita, the average Methodist is contributing only one cent more per week as compared to 40 years ago."

WOMEN'S APPEAL DENIED

Portugal Will Not Accept Hostages
for Political Prisoners.

LISBON, Dec. 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—The government today informed a deputation of Portuguese women that it could not legally consent to grant the women's appeal to pass Christmas day in the jails as hostages for political prisoners.

The reason given was that such action would be illegal and that parliament was closed and unable to discuss the question. The reply expressed admiration for the women's spirit of self-sacrifice.

SEVEN FIREMEN RESCUED

Fire Fighters Overcome by Fumes
From Burning Chemicals.

TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 25.—Overcome by fumes from burning chemicals, seven firemen were rescued after they had been trapped on a collapsed staircase during a fire in the building of the E. B. Shuttleworth Chemical company here last night.

The blaze entailed a loss of \$250,000.

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An amazing tale of a beautiful woman who lived two lives. Under the spell of a Malay enchantress, she sold herself in a passion for precious stones and flung away happiness, honor, love.

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JOHN R. BRITZ

Director of Music

leads the new Peoples Orchestra in a splendid accompaniment and in daily intermission concert selections from FLORA BELLA, introducing "Give Me All of You," "You Are the Girl," "Creep, Creep," "Flora Bella."

Comedy Scenic Weekly

Last winter thousands of Portland music lovers enjoyed John Britz as musical director for the

ALCAZAR PLAYERS

By request of a number of patrons he will present each week a special arrangement of the song hits from one of the popular Alcazar plays. They will be offered daily during each intermission commencing this week with Flora Bella.

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Beautiful Star of 'Scratch My Back,' etc.

A mighty drama that critics have called the greatest sea picture ever made. Ruth Lytton, a castaway on a tramp schooner in the southern seas, is surrounded by the wildest, hardest crowd that ever sailed. She is the only woman on board, and they crave her with the lust of animals. Father and son fight for her, and there is only one decent man against them all to save her.

From the Saturday Evening Post Story, "Black Paul."

Ben Ames Williams' Masterpiece

Directed by Reginald Barker, whose recent success with "The Branding Iron," "Girl From the Outside," etc., classes him among the best.

Cecil Teague

at the Wurlitzer and in Special Christmas Concert today at 1:30 P. M.

Programme

Standard Bearers...Farbach

Annabelle Lee...Meyer

Sari...Kalmann

Christmas Carols...Flotow

Martha Overture...Flotow

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