

WELFARE OF FARMER

Certain Proposed Legislation by the Present Congress.

SERIOUS DANGER THREATENS

The Bills Are so Framed That if Enacted It Will be Impossible to Conduct the Business of Marketing the Crops of This Country.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9.—The commercial interests of the country, and particularly of the central west, are beginning to recognize the serious danger that threatens the welfare of the farming community, by reason of certain proposed legislation by the present Congress as embodied in several bills that have been introduced, regarding the sale of grain for future delivery. The bills are so framed that if enacted it will be impossible to conduct the business of marketing the crops of this country upon the present system, which is the result of years of experience and which is thought to be the most economical, satisfactory and scientific method of disposing of the crops at a minimum cost to the producer.

This situation is so well recognized by the business interests if the central west that such large commercial bodies as the Minneapolis Bankers' Clearing House Association, the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, the Chicago Association of Commerce, the Chicago Board of Trade, all of the national banks and trust companies of Chicago, and the stock exchanges of Kansas City, Omaha, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York and Boston, are protesting against the passage of these bills. A committee, consisting of Hiram N. Sager, president of the Chicago board of trade, William S. Warren, of Hubbard and Warren, a former president of that body, B. A. Eckhart, the largest flour miller in Illinois, and B. B. Bryan, of Logan and Bryan, commission merchants, is in Washington to confer with some of the members of Congress with a view of determining whether these bills are likely to pass, and to point out to their representatives the very great injury that will inevitably result from such legislation.

In an interview, Mr. Sager, who by reason of his position at the head of the Chicago Board of Trade is perhaps best qualified to speak, expressed himself as follows:

"Under the present system of selling grain, the grain merchants of the large exchanges offer daily, by telegraph to buyers in the eastern states, or by cable to Europe, different parcels of grain of different grades and qualities, basing their offers upon the current market. If the offers are accepted these merchants immediately have the grain to fill their sale, either from the country grain dealers or from sellers on the large exchanges. By the pending legislation makes it a crime to offer grain for sale unless it has been previously bought and is, at the time it is offered for sale, actually in the possession of the party offering to sell it.

"It is evident therefore that if the seller, before offering the grain to the eastern states or Europe for sale, must go into the market and purchase the grain, he will immediately become a speculator on his purchases, and, to cover possible loss in case he fails to sell it promptly, will of necessity have to buy the grain from the farmers at a much wider margin of profit than is now exacted.

"This feature of the proposed legislation is beginning to command the serious attention of the producer, and it is to be hoped that Congress, in its efforts to eliminate the bucket-shop evil, will not overlook the very grave and serious injury that would befall the legitimate commerce of this country in case the bills in their present form are permitted to pass."

SMALL PROFIT IN CEMENT.

It is commonly believed that the profits in the Portland cement industry are very large, and this belief is energetically fostered by many so-called "cement engineers" and "cement experts," as well as by irresponsible

ble promoters is the statement made by Prof. Kummel, States Geologist of New Jersey, in his annual report for 1907, says Cement Age. For instance a prospectus recently issued to exploit Portland cement promises a clean profit of sixty cents on each barrel of cement manufactured, and asserts that this big margin profit should be just as sure in this company as a four per cent. in a bank or a trust company or a seven per cent. Pennsylvania railroad stock. The actual fact seems to be, on the contrary, that there is not now, and has not been for a number of years, a large margin of profit for most of the plants now engaged in Portland cement manufacture. According to some authorities, the cost of manufacture in the Lehigh district (which embraces also Warren County, N. J.), in a 2000-barrel-per-day plant, ranges from 77 3/4 cents to 68 cents per barrel, exclusive of the package, according to the size and number of kilns, while in the smaller plants the cost is somewhat higher. These published figures are somewhat lower than similar data obtained direct from cement manufacturers of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. These show costs between 80 and 90 cents per barrel when all fixed charges, such as interest on the plant, depreciation, etc., have been allowed for, but they do not include the cost of the package in which the cement is shipped. During the past three or four years, the selling price of cement has varied considerably. A careful distinction must be made between the price in bulk and the price including the package. The average cost of the package is 35 cents for a barrel, 40 cents (per barrel) for cloth bags, and 15 cents (per barrel for paper bags. This cost is charged to the purchaser with a rebate of about 75 per cent. for the return of the barrel or cloth bags in good condition. Since the cost of these packages is not included in the cost of manufacture as given above, it must therefore be deducted from the selling price in order to arrive at a true determination of the margin of profit. The present selling price at the mill is from 85 to 95 cents although some sales have been made at lower figures. A comparison of these figures with the average cost per barrel is evidence at once that the margin of profit is close. Whenever the net selling price of cement (exclusive of the package, freight, etc.), reaches 80 per barrel at the mill, some of the mills of the Lehigh district sell at an actual loss, and the average dividends paid by one of the most successful plants since its establishment are reported not to have exceeded six per cent. on the capital stock. During 1904 and 1905 the margin of profit of one of the large mills was only a few cents per barrel, with nothing allowed for depreciation of the plant. It can be accepted as certain, therefore, that all claims of net profit of "60 cents per barrel" for Portland cement are grossly exaggerated, if not wilfully fraudulent.

No Cause on Record.
There is no case on record of a cough or cold resulting in pneumonia or consumption after Foley's Honey and Tar has been taken, as it will stop your cough and break up your cold quickly. Refuse any but the genuine Foley's Honey and Tar in a yellow package. Contains no opiates and is safe and sure. T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

MILES AND MILES.
"Will we never drop miles for kilometers?" said a mathematician. "Miles are very confusing. A kilometer, the world over, is a kilometer, but a mile in America is 1760 yards, while in Sweden it is 11,703 yards, and in China it is 629 yards.

"The Bohemians go in for a long mile. So do the Danes, the Hungarians, the Poles, the Swiss. If you walk three miles a day among those people, you would have done pretty well; you have covered about fifteen of your own miles.

"There are, in fact, thirty-seven kinds of miles. It would take eighteen of the shortest to equal one of the longest. The rest vary in size between those two extremes. Doesn't the world, then, need one measure the kilo, that it may use without confusion? Consider. A train that goes 168 miles an hour in China would go only nine miles an hour in Sweden."

Willis Clark of Marion, O., offers to bet \$100 that his Maltese cat can catch a fox in a straightway run before he crosses a hundred acre field after the fox has a three minute start.

Harlan W. Kingsbury of Sterling, Mass., saw a fox carry off his tomcat one night recently. He says that the cat put up a good fight, but that the fox was too much for it.

No Goods Exchanged and None Delivered **ONLY** **Come Yourself; Don't Send Or Telephone**

Five More Days
It is getting more exciting as the end draws near.
It was impossible to wait on all the people yesterday and the crowd will be larger today.

AS AN INDUCEMENT
to our customers to do their trading early we will again put on sale our entire line of fine muslin underwear at about half price.

Also From 9 to 10 a. m.
We will sell children's good muslin gloves at 10c
Ladies' \$1.50 and \$2.00 fur boas at 29c
Big line of 50c dress goods now selling at 24c
All 25c, 35c and 50c veilings for per yard 10c

Fixtures For Sale at Very Low Prices
THE BOSTON STORE
Successors to the Morse Department Store

JUST A LITTLE FOR SALE AD.

But It Created Quite a Commotion In The Placid Life of Mr. Applegate.

Peace once more reigns supreme in the home of Abner Applegate and smiling prosperity sits down with the family at every meal. As the words "once more" would indicate, things have not always been in this happy condition. Abner has had his troubles, but they are all over now, and this is the way it came about:

One night after supper, as Mr. Applegate was smoking his pipe by the kitchen fire and looking over the news paper, his eye was attracted by a little advertisement which read like this:

"FOR SALE—Second-hand furniture almost as good as new at very low prices. Must sell at once. Call at No. 37 Orchard St."

Abner pondered over this advertisement for some time, and then, turning to his wife he said, "Martha, here's what looks like a chance to get that new dining-room table you have been pestering me about so long. Guess I'll go into town tomorrow and look this thing up."

So the next day Mr. Applegate drove into town and went to the house indicated in the advertisement. It was well he went early, for the nervous little man who was selling the furniture seemed in a hurry to get rid of it. He was taking almost any price offered, and, as a consequence, the contents of the entire house were going like hot cakes.

Abner bought the table he had in mind; he also bought a quaint, old-fashioned desk for himself—something he had been threatening to do for the last thirty years.

In examining the desk a few days afterwards, he found that one of the drawers opened with great difficulty, and on searching for the cause he discovered fastened to the back of it with a piece of sealing-wax a folded parchment. This proved to be a \$5,000 bond of the A. L. and W. Railway and the honest Abner at once harnessed his team and started to find the nervous little man of whom he had

bought the desk. The man had disappeared, however—nobody knew where—and Abner could find no trace of him.

After talking the matter over long and seriously with his good wife, Mr. Applegate concluded that the bond belonged to him, as he had bought the desk in good faith and, in the absence of any other owner, was entitled to its contents.

Having reached this conclusion, he went to the city to sell the bond, and the broker to whom he offered it promptly telephoned for a policeman and had Abner locked up in a cold damp cell, with a charge of forgery hanging over him.

It appears that some clever forger had lately pulled off a good job with some bogus bonds of the A. L. and W. railroad, and the police in several states had been on the lookout for both the bonds and the forger.

After languishing in jail for a day or two, Abner was brought before a magistrate and formally charged with the crime. Before the trial had proceeded far, however, an official of the railroad was placed on the stand, and this gentleman, when he came to examine the bond, pronounced it genuine and said that its number showed that it was the original bond which the forger had used as their model.

When the question arose as to the ownership of the bond, the court announced that that was no affair of his, and dismissed the case.

The railroad man, after talking the thing over with Abner for a time, finally said, "Well, Mr. Applegate, the bond does not belong to the railroad, as it was bought and paid for. The rascals who owned it have evidently fled the country, and, under the circumstances, I guess you had better keep it as a partial recompense for the and annoyances you have suffered."

"Partial recompense!" yelled Abner "Jumping June-bugs! I'd stay in jail for a year for \$5,000."

So this is why peace reigns in the home of Abner Applegate, and prosperity is likely to remain for a long time, as Abner is not a man to throw away his money even if it does come easy.

Truly, little advertisements are of

UP-TO-DATE PAINT
Always on the lookout for the most approved ways of doing things, we have secured the right to sell the well known paints, enamels, stains, varnishes, made and sold under the mark of

ACME QUALITY

A mark that enables any one, novice or expert, to get, without doubt, exactly the right finish for wood or metal, old or new, inside or out.

When you're buying, ask for a copy of the "Selection and Use of Paints and Varnishes," a guide that means color painting for everyone.

ALLEN WALL PAPER AND PAINT CO.
11th & Bond—Sole Agts.

Maraschino Cherries
DELICIOUS
Try'em 75c and \$1.00
a bottle at the
AMERICAN IMPORTING CO.
589 Commercial Street

ten responsible for great results. Do you want to buy, sell, let, rent or hire?
No matter what your want may be or what you may wish to dispose of, a little advertisement in the Morning Astorian will produce results, and the cost is small.

Will lady, who bought the cream cake at the St. Agnes' Guild sale two weeks ago please return the plate to Miss Crang's Art Store.

Richard Croker has nominated the three-year-old filly Rhodora, his entry for the classic races for three-year-olds in England, for the Ascot Gold cup, one of the great races of England for mature horses.

The very best board to be obtained in the city is at "The Occident Hotel." Rates very reasonable.