Inland Empire Wheat Growers are Organizing Big Market Association

WHEAT GROWERS GET TOGETHER FOR BETTER MARKETING

Nucleus of Northwest Cooperative Organization for Handling Food Products Formed.

By J. F. Langner

At a meeting in Spokane this week which will go down to posterity as one of the forward steps in economic distribution of food products, a group of some two dozen earnest men organized the first unit of what is destined to become the nation's greatest cooperative organization of farmers for scientific marketing—the Washington Wheat Growers' association, the Oregon Wheat Growers' association and the Idaho Wheat Growers' association.

To one privileged to be present at the deliberations of the Northwest's largest wheat growers the first impression was of the gravity of the great occasion. Here were no hasty judgments, no attempts to beg a question or to pass over one single phase of a situation, which in the opinion of those present had become intolerable to the wheat growers. The quiet earnestness of the members called to the convention did not fail to impress the many visitors who went to Spokane to listen to the deliberations. For four days every detail was threshed out and exposed to pitiless criticism and analysis until a well-nigh perfect plan for the cooperative marketing of the 150,000,000 bushels of wheat annually produced by the growers of the Inland Empire was completed.

MARKETING NOT COMPLICATED

Cooperative marketing of wheat involves no economic problems which can not be overcome—nor does it promulgate a political revolution. Wheat growers for the last 40 years have been organizing so-called cooperative elevators and cooperative grain warehouses but they have failed of their purpose because they were not truly cooperative. They have for just the same number of years been dissolving or bankrupting cooperative elevators and grain warehouses. These alleged cooperative warehouses and elevators are usually not cooperative at all, but nothing more nor less than corporations, organized with capital stock but owned by farmers who put their own wheat in the elevators and buy the wheat of their nonmember neighbors for as low a price as they can and sell it to the dealers and millers for as high a price as they can, declaring dividends among themselves as stockholders. They are no more cooperative than the U. S. Steel corporation. Between the grower stockholder and the grower non-stockholder there is more or less of conflict, each trying to do the best for himself, each working for his own personal interest entirely.

The grower stockholder has but one object in view in buying his neighbor's wheat, viz., the making of a cash dividend on his stock in the elevator corporation at the expense of his neighbor. The grower non-stockholder is usually a farmer less fortunate than his neighbor, either in wealth or vision, to foresee what is actually happening.

ACTUAL MEMBERS' WHEAT HANDLED

In a purely non-profit cooperative association of wheat growers such as has now been organized the growers will handle the wheat only of actual members. They will own their own warehouses and elevators and will be soundly financed through avenues opened by the Federal Reserve bank. There are no adverse influences in an organization which is truly cooperative. Contracts made between the growers and the association are merely contracts between a number of growers of themselves voluntarily to do certain things for the common good of the community and the individual.

The key to the whole plan is in the method of financing. At present, if a grower wants to borrow money on his wheat, he is able to do so on one day call notes. These notes are callable at any time. Now the bankers who lend this money are loaning trust funds. As long as there is a rising market in wheat they feel they are secured, but when the market for wheat goes down, then they, as trustees of the funds of their depositors, naturally get nervous and demand either that more security be put up to take care of the one day note, or that the wheat be sold. The net result is that on a falling market the wheat grower who has one day call notes outstanding is forced to sell his wheat. Because of this dumping there is a still further reaction in prices, and Mr. Speculator, who has the credit of the great money centers behind him, picks up all the wheat and holds it until he can resell it at a large margin of profit. Local wheat has recently gone to a premium of 50 cents or more. But the farmers of the Inland Empire have not had the benefit of these prices. Rather it is the grain speculator who has made untold millions of dollars out of Northwestern wheat this year.

GROWERS ABLE TO BORROW

The new wheat growers' organization will, through the collective credit of the growers, be able to borrow at least 75 per cent on their wheat for a period of six months at a time, and their notes are re-discountable at the federal reserve bank—agricultural paper secured by non-perishable farm products. Nor is the credit of the individual grower involved; rather it is enhanced, because every banker will understand that he has a much better chance of getting his money from a cooperating wheat grower than a non-cooperator. Space does not permit of an enlargement of the plan in this issue. The most complete details of the organization and its progress in organization will be published in The Journal each week.

Every detail of the plan so carefully considered in Spokane has already been actually demonstrated in practice for years in some form of organization or another. Every paragraph of the contacts which the growers will sign has been tested in law. The chairman of organization for the Pacific Northwest is A. A. Elmore, president of the Washington and Northern Idaho Farmers' union. On the committee and signers of the original document are such men as B. T. Manchester, president of the Tri-State Terminal company; Walter J. Robinson, Pomeroy; Almer McCurtain, Davenport; H. J. Herman, Genesee, Idaho; Mark F. Mendenhall, Walla Walla; H. Jurgensen, Wilbur; H. E. Goldsworthy, Rosalia; R. V. Peringer, Belmont; N. B. Atkinson, Waitsburg, and C. N. Campbell, Bridgeport.

FARM EDITOR ON LEAVE

In furtherance of its well defined policy to aid in every possible way the great cooperative movement of Pacific Northwest producers, The Journal has granted a temporary leave of absence to J. F. Langner, editor of the Oregon Country Life, in response to the request of the Oregon, Washington and Idaho Wheat Growers' association. Because of his intimate knowledge of the fundamentals of cooperative marketing, Langner has been selected as director of publicity for the association and assistant to Chairman A. A. Elmore, president of the Washington and Idaho Farmers' union, and in that capacity will have an important share in perfecting the cooperative marketing organization of wheatgrowers of the Inland Empire.

The honor paid the editor of The Journal's farm pages comes as a merited recognition of unusual ability in cooperative marketing organization. He has been an influential factor in the organization of the Oregon Fruit Growers' association and in other phases of the cooperative movement is conceded to be the leading authority in the Northwest.

POULTRY NOTES

The Rhode Island breeders for the western division of the United States, at the recent poultry show held in Portland, organized a branch association of the Rhode Island Club of America, and now have a good active organization. Coe McKenna was made president; A. J. C. Schroeder, vice president, and A. J. Raney, secretary and treasurer. The organization has already a membership from all over the state. Anyone wishing to join should write to A. J. Raney, 525 Corbett building, Portland. Those joining get the official journal on Rhode Island Reds for one year, together with all local notices that may be sent out from time to time by the president of the club.

33,300,000 Bushels Receipts of Durum

Receipts of durum wheat at seven primary markets were about 33,300,000 bushels in the year ending June 30, 1919. During the last five years they were as high as 43,900,000 bushels in 1916 and as low as 16,100,000 bushels in 1918. Exports of this wheat ranged from about 24,800,000 bushels in 1916 to 6,600,000 bushels in 1918, and the exports of the fiscal year 1919 were about 18,300,000 bushels. This is a hard wheat with high gluten content when grown on dry-land farms, and is suitable for macaroni and other paste products. Before the war its chief competitor in the markets of Southern France and Italy, the principal destinations of the exports, was similar wheat from Southern Russia.

Wasco County Agent Poisoning Squirrels

The Dalles, Jan. 17.—The county is undertaking a systematic squirrel poisoning campaign under the auspices of the agricultural agent here. It was decided to start operations against the squirrels early this year in order to head off the offspring which multiply later. A special government poison will be distributed from a central mixing plant.

RABBITS

The war has created a great demand for rabbit meat in Europe. The business of raising rabbits for meat has existed on the continent for many years. When the war came on and the supply both from the continent and Australia to Great Britain was cut off the English people began raising their own rabbits and now many are engaged in the industry. The business of rabbit raising is on the increase everywhere. It is small wonder, when the low cost of keeping the animals and their great food value as a meat are taken into consideration.

Rabbits are remarkably free from disease, the more common ailments generally resulting from insanitary surroundings, lack of care in feeding and improper ventilation.

A rabbit eats only about one third as much as a hen.

The following recipe has been contributed by a subscriber:

Baked rabbit en casserole: Lay alternate layers of rabbit and thin slices of bacon in the dish; season with thyme, sage and thin slices of onion. Fill the dish with water, bake in slow oven for an hour and a half, or until tender. If one does not possess a casserole, a deep covered baking pan can be used instead.

WHAT FARM IMPLEMENT DEALERS ARE DOING.

George F. Vick of the firm of Vick Brothers, Fordson distributors for Oregon, left Monday for Detroit with the express purpose of endeavoring to get the firm's tractor allotment doubled. There are so many unfilled orders from the state and the prospect of such enormous future demand that Mr. Vick is going to put forth every effort to have the original allotment of 1500 tractors increased to the utmost.

Spokane Forming Exhibit

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 16.—A power farming machinery exhibit will be held here from January 21 to 24.

REIMER BRINGS BLIGHT RESISTING PEAR TREES FROM CHINA FOR TEST

Thorough Experiments Are to Be Made on the South Oregon Station at Ashland.

Ashland, Jan. 17.—Professor F. C. Reimer, superintendent of Southern Oregon experiment station, is home from China, where he went in search of blight resisting pear trees. Professor Reimer brought back between 40 and 50 varieties of pears which he will try out at the experiment station. Pear blight is the most serious fruit disease and cannot be controlled by spray and Professor Reimer states it is an American disease and before pears were brought from Europe this blight lived on native plants. On a previous trip abroad, Professor Reimer brought back varieties of pears from Europe, Asia and Africa. Of over 500 varieties gathered from different localities he states that only one species seemed blight proof.

Professor Reimer is recognized as a world authority on pear blight and his experiments will be watched with interest. He reached the United States Christmas day and stopped to give some of his trip experiences at the Farmers' week, held at Corvallis, reaching home January 4.

Kelso Grange Company Elects

The Grange Warehouse company of Kelso elected permanent officers at a meeting of the stockholders. They are: President, Plinny Shepardson, Kelso; vice president, Alfred Wohl, Mount Solo; secretary - treasurer, Charles Marsh, Kelso; directors, William Lyon, Ostrander; C. S. Hill, Oak Point, and Messrs. Shepardson, Marsh and Wohl. W. C. Patterson of Kelso is manager of the store. The Grange company recently purchased the A. T. Laurie company store, and have been doing a good business.

Farm Loan Payments Are Met by Members

During the three years operation of the Deschutes National Farm Loan association not one of the 36 members has defaulted in his payment of interest or taxes it was shown yesterday at the annual meeting in Bend. More than $60,000 has been placed in loans in this county. Several more loans are awaiting approval.

Big Hatchery Built

One of the largest poultry hatcheries in the state, which will be capable of handling 4000 hatchings a day, has been built at The Dalles. The heating and lights are electric. Trap nests are used.

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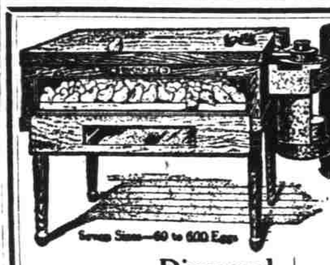

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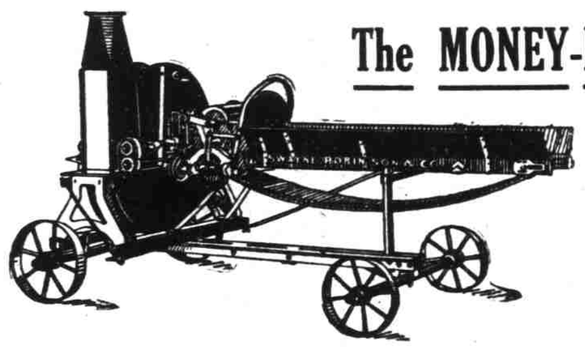

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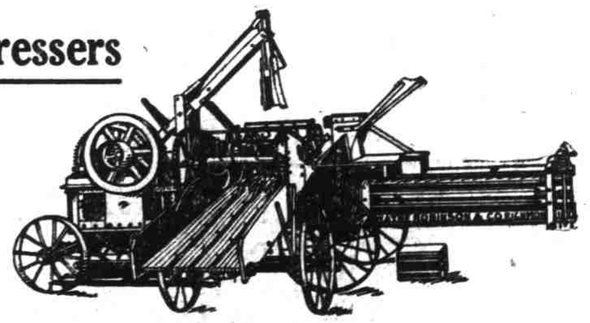

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