

Dr. Hector MacPhearson Analyzes the State Market Commission Bill

COURT OF APPEAL AS AFFORDED BY MARKET MEASURE

By Hector MacPhearson
(Director of O. A. C. Bureau of Organization and Markets)

The most important purposes of the Oregon State Market Commission act may be summarized as follows:

(1) To provide a court of appeal to which producers, distributors and consumers may come in case of disputes and state their case and to secure a fair analysis of the situation which should result in the settlement of the dispute to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

(2) To collect and disseminate market information, much of which is not now available and cannot be obtained under present conditions.

(3) To provide expert leadership for producers and consumers in the establishment of cooperative associations.

(4) To provide a certain amount of supervision and guidance for such cooperative associations after they have been established.

TO PROMOTE GRADING

(5) To encourage and promote the grading and standardization of farm products.

The questions which every voter should attempt to settle for himself before passing upon this measure on November 2 are these: First, are these five fundamental purposes, which are striving for, and second, do the provisions of this act appear adapted to bring about the achievement of these purposes? Let us take them up in turn.

The first of the essential purposes of the bill is that the market commissioner will become a mediator or arbitrator in cases of disputes between producers, distributors and consumers. There is probably no greater source of discontent in business than the suspicions which arise between farmers and purchasers of farm products. Farmers from all over the state of Oregon are sending their products directly to Portland dealers who either purchase them outright or handle them on commission. There are many cases in which the farmers believe they have not been treated fairly by the Portland dealers. In most instances, to be sure, the suspicions of the producers are entirely unfounded. In some cases it is known that injustice has been done.

SQUARE DEAL WANTED

There is no greater cause of unrest among our agricultural classes than the feeling that it is impossible for them to get a square deal and that there is no one to whom they can appeal when they have a suspicion that they have been wronged. This type of complaint, I predict, will in the beginning make a deal of trouble for the market commissioner's office, but nevertheless such duties will be worth while. I also believe that it will not be long until the farmers will settle down into a contented class, knowing that they have a friend at court to whom they can appeal whenever they feel that they have been the victims of injustice. The complaining workman will soon become a thing of the past.

Moreover, disputes and misunderstandings often arise between the consumers and the producers whom they are dependent. They, too, will feel that they have someone to whom they can appeal whose principal business will be to see that economic justice is done. **PUBLIC IS BENEFICIAL.**

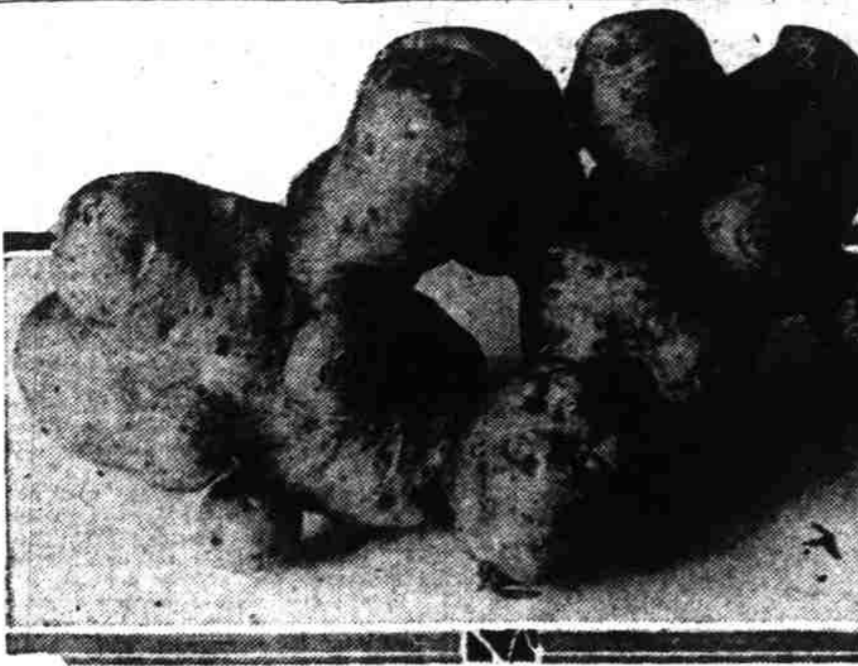
My prediction is that the honest and enterprising business man will also be better off and stand better with the public as a result of the establishing of the market commissioner's office. The very fact that his actions are subject to examination by an impartial authority will give him the confidence of the community in a way he may not have at present. As an example of the influence of such an authority we have the effective service performed by the food administration in quieting the suspicion and moderating the uncertainty which would have arisen had business conditions been allowed to work uncontrolled under the unsettled conditions resultant from the war. While there is little comparison between the powers and duties of the market commissioner and those of the food administration, this can be no doubt as to the desirability of an official possessing the powers of mediation and arbitration provided for in this act.

The second of the fundamental reasons for the establishment of a state market commission is to collect market information affecting the welfare of all classes of people in the state not available at present and which cannot be obtained under present conditions. For example, some years ago President Kerr asked this office to collect information upon products imported into the state which could just as well be produced in Oregon and which came into competition with Oregon products. The matter was taken up with the Portland Chamber of Commerce, with the transportation companies, and with the leading wholesale houses and commission men of the state. **FIRMS SUSPICIOUS**

A brief investigation showed that without special legal authority it was absolutely impossible to secure accurate data upon the questions involved in this investigation. It was found that the Chamber of Commerce had attempted a year or two earlier to obtain this information on certain commodities, but that the firms from whose records alone this information could be obtained were suspicious that it might get out and be used in such a way as to disclose their legitimate business secrets. The chamber had offered to send around a typewriter supplied with uniform paper and have each firm typewrite its data on this uniform paper and drop it into a sort of ballot box so that there would be no means of identifying the firm who supplied the information when the ballot box should be finally opened. Even this was refused.

Nevertheless, this is typical of a wide range of information which is of great importance to the welfare of the state of Oregon. There ought to be some way of obtaining it while at the same time safeguarding every legitimate trade

CITY GARDENS PROFITABLE



A well kept garden not only furnishes plenty of vegetables for summer use, but is much more sightly than a vacant lot covered with weeds. A poorly kept garden is as bad as none at all.

secret relationship of our business men. I believe that the market commission act provides a means of getting this information in usable form while doing no injustice to anyone. The market commissioner will have ample power and authority to get this information and at the same time he and his employees come under the severe penalties of the act in case any secret is disclosed by them to the injury of any business firm.

COOPERATION FOSTERED

The third of the essential purposes is to provide expert leadership for producers and consumers in the establishment of cooperative associations. I am absolutely convinced of this: Our business men must either submit to the encouragement of a legitimate development of cooperative enterprises or they will find themselves subjected to all the bitterness and uncertainty which accompanies political upheaval in favor of state socialism as a means of regulating our fundamental commerce and industries. There is no doubt of the necessity that something be done. The question is: What shall it be? Personally, I am anxious to see the cooperative movement tried out to the limit before state socialism is forced upon us. The college bureau of organization and markets in cooperation with the federal bureau of markets has been dabbling in the work of assisting farmers' organizations for several years. I say "dabbling" advisedly, for we have had neither the funds nor the men to carry on the work effectively. Our experience, however, has demonstrated very clearly that this type of service meets a real need.

In the first place, it is necessary to have expert leadership in order to determine whether or not a cooperative association of a given type is a given place is feasible. Preyious to the establishment of this office, the principal leadership was of a selfishly interested character. The most prominent type of self-appointed leadership consisted of the agents of machinery manufacturers interested in unloading expensive equipment on the farmers. Their object was to sell machinery regardless of whether there were cows to milk or fruit to can. This is the main reason why the state of Oregon is covered with the wrecks of defunct canneries, creameries and cheese factories. One of the first functions of this office was to put an end to this old and profitable trade in the cooperative agent as the promoter of farmers' organizations.

RELIABLE AS GUIDE

Then, too, many unsuccessful cooperative associations have been promoted by people who were interested in creating a market for themselves. Nothing was more natural than that the parties who had been mainly instrumental in working up enthusiasm for the establishment of an association should be asked to become the first business manager. In many cases they had no business experience and were utterly unqualified for the position. In the meantime, the state market commissioner's office will become known as the one reliable guide in the organization of cooperative organizations. It will dispense entirely these forms of incapable, selfish leadership.

Entirely apart from these considerations, the state needs expert leadership at the initiation of cooperative enterprises. The market commissioner's office is formed that have no possibility of success. Movements for the establishment of certain cooperative enterprises come upon us like a flood, and everybody wants them. At one time it was canneries; then again it was creameries; then later came the craze for cooperatives in the forest. At such times it takes wise leadership to discriminate between the community which really needs an organization and the community which is merely interested in the LEADERSHIP NEEDED

In the six years in which we have been attempting to supply leadership for those interested in cooperative organizations, it is safe to say that we have discouraged and prevented the establishment of more associations than we have organized. In one year, for example, this office prevented the establishment of something like 20 cooperative stores in different communities throughout the state. Some, however, were established in spite of us and without our knowledge; most of them under conditions which meant speedy failure. Every failure of this sort is an economic loss to the state. In such cases an ounce of prevention is a long way better than a pound of cure. The wise market commissioner will earn the expenses of his office several times over every year in the prevention of the establishment of unound business enterprises.

Muskrat Hides Decreasing

Muskkrat hides, once worth about 35 cents, sold for \$7.50 at the St. Louis fur auction last spring. The United States department of agriculture reports in a recent circular. Fur buyers say the supply of muskrat skins in the market is decreasing at the rate of 50 per cent a year.

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FARMER QUITTING; PUBLIC IS FINALLY GETTING ALARMED

By R. C. Stewart
For the past few months every one has been accusing everyone else of being a profiteer and all have universally pointed a finger at the farmer claiming that he was the cause of all the high cost of living.

It is but recently that the general public has awakened to the fact that many of the farmers are going out of business because they cannot make a living. It is less a proper return for the money they have invested. Naturally the banks are among the first to come to a realization of the situation, due, no doubt, to the fact that they are in a position to know better than anyone else just how the farmers' finances stand and what profits they are making. The awakening has come rather late for a good many farmers who have already been irreparably injured, and before any corrective measures can be taken a great many more will be forced to sell their produce at a loss.

Farmers' organizations were the first to realize the danger confronting the farming industry and to start, along with the banks, a country wide movement to make some provision to allow the farmer to produce at a profit. The movement has been done in a lot of shouting with no real constructive action. Everyone admits that something should be done, but most of the time the reason for the present time would lessen the profits of some other class, and they naturally object to any proposition that will stop the economic use of water before the Oregon Growers' Cooperative association, with Ray Yocum of the Corvallis Orchard company in charge.

NOTES FROM O. A. C.

Horticulture, O. A. C.—Commercial apple-packing for the season around Corvallis is being conducted by the Oregon Growers' Cooperative association, with Ray Yocum of the Corvallis Orchard company in charge.

Sols, O. A. C.—W. L. Powers, head of the soils department, will speak on the economic use of water before the Oregon Irrigation and Drainage congress at Salt Lake. He will also give a series of lectures at the Utah Agricultural college.

Entomology, O. A. C.—The department of entomology has published three new bulletins and a handbook this fall. These bulletins are valuable to the gardener, the timberman and the orchardist and will be sent to anyone who sends for them to the Oregon Agricultural college experiment station at Corvallis.

PRODUCTION FACTS LACKING

Arriving at any concrete idea of just why the average farmer is not making money or cannot make money with the prices at their present level is a very difficult task. The reason that very few facts regarding cost of production are available. Farming operations vary so widely in different parts of the country, and the cost of production is so different in each line of agriculture that without accurate data it is impossible to arrive at any definite average for the industry as a whole.

FARM ACCOUNTS UNAVAILABLE

This method of keeping accounts has proven a great aid in making income tax returns. Many farmers have paid income taxes where their income has not warranted it, and the simple reason that they knew how much their gross income amounted to, but had to guess at their expenses, and as they had not kept accurate records of their expenses but, of course, gave in all their income.

Exciting All Right, But Poor Diversion

Forest lookouts lead lonesome lives, but not devoid of excitement. At Mount Eddy, in the Shasta region of California, recently, the United States department of agriculture forest service is advised, lightning struck the lookout station, tore four-foot holes in the wall and stunned the lookout, J. S. McClummen. He recovered just in time to save the house and his own life. Thirty-five lightning fires were caused in that vicinity the same day.

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PUTTING THE "KICK" IN HOPS



Martin Bonfig, who owns a hop yard near Sherwood, Or., and reports a fine crop the present season. In the center, Miss Erna Stark, who was the champion picker of the yard, picking 475 pounds in one day. Head Dryer Strickler is shown on the right.

POULTRY NOTES

The 1920 Western Winter Show will be free to the public. This means that exhibitors will be able to place their stock before more people than have ever before attended a western poultry show. As a medium for the advertising and sale of poultry stock, this exhibition offers opportunities that no breeder of high class stock can afford to miss.

When one has only a few chickens it is less trouble to purchase the prepared chick feeds, but where a considerable number are reared it is sometimes cheaper to buy the finely cracked grains and mix them together. Many chick feeds contain a large quantity of grit and may contain grains of poor quality, so that they should be carefully examined and the quality guaranteed before they are purchased.

A large proportion of poultry keepers feed their fowls dry mash, placed in hoppers to which they have continual access. There has been a marked effect on the part of some, to make special effort to increase the amount of water drunk by the fowls. After prolonged experimenting it has been found that fowls fed on dry mash will regularly drink more water when the vessel containing it is kept close to the mash hopper. The location of the drinking vessel does have a very marked effect upon consumption, because birds will drink more often if the water vessels are conveniently located, and are reasonably near to the mash hoppers.

Flax Shoe Thread

American hemp is now used extensively with flax in shoe thread, the United States department of agriculture finds. Flax is not available in sufficient quantities to supply the demand.

Washington Berry Growers Organize To Market Product



Successful organization meetings of the berry growers of the county were held in Montesano Monday night and Elma, Tuesday night. A committee headed by County Agent W. S. Murdock will draw up a constitution to be submitted to a mass meeting of growers here Monday. A minimum of 1000 acres of loganberries, blackberries, strawberries, currants and gooseberries was pledged by the growers at the two meetings.

A representative of an Oregon fruit juice company declared his firm ready to provide a market for every loganberry grown in the county. The Montesano Packing company is doing much to advance the organization work and has offered to turn over its contracts for berry stock to the growers' association.

Speculators Reap Profits in Food

Washington, Oct. 23.—(U. P.)—Speculators and middlemen stand to win profits of \$2,840,000,000 on food, it was shown here on the basis of statements put out by Secretary of Agriculture Meredith and the labor department.

Consumers on this basis will pay \$25 each into the pockets of speculators during the crop year 1920-21. This is in addition to the money the farmers will receive for raising the food.

Flax Shoe Thread
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Prune Men ATTENTION

By all working together, we can stabilize the prune market, and save thousands of dollars to Oregon prune growers.

The unaffiliated prune grower now has a real opportunity to aid the industry by joining the Oregon Growers' Cooperative Association.

In order to help the prune men needing assistance, and at the same time greatly aid the industry, WE ARE REOPENING OUR POOLS UNTIL NOVEMBER 1ST.

WE HAVE MADE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE ADVANCES TO ALL OUR MEMBERS ON PRUNES AT DELIVERY.

HELP US STABILIZE AND ADVERTISE THE OREGON PRUNE.

Our field men may not have an opportunity to interview you. Communicate with our home office, Salem, Oregon. REMEMBER, November 1st is the closing date.

OREGON GROWERS' COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

SLAGE IS FED TO FATEN STEERS

Draft Driers Are Inspected and New Data Are Prepared

The silage fed fattening steers in the Eastern Oregon branch experiment station tests, was fed in bunks the same as grain. The animals were given about 10 pounds a day the first day, which was increased within two or three days to 20 or 30 pounds a day, as desired.

"There is very little danger of the cattle going off their feed on silage," says the report of the tests. A ration of 15 pounds may be fed at one time, but if more per day is fed it should be given in two feeds, evening and morning.

The hay is best fed three times daily, as increased consumption is encouraged by frequent offerings of fresh hay. The



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WHENCE COME THE ILLS Of Men and Nations?

By Dr. JAMES E. TALMAGE, Of the Council of the Twelve, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Note: For free copies of other articles of this series, send request to the author.

It is a common Christian belief that the Divine purposes with respect to mankind are beneficent. The firm foundation for this conception is expressed in the Lord's most excellent word to Moses: "For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Pearl of Great Price)

Nevertheless, evil abounds in the world; and suffering, in its varied phases, appears to be the unescapable experience of mortals—suffering that is no less real as it is unmerited.

His entered into the world, and death by sin (see Romans 5:12); hence there was a period of human history when sin was unknown and death impossible. A broad generalization, therefore, classes all the ills to which we may flesh is heir as the results of broken law, in fact, the effects of sin.

That pain, illness, adversity, bereavement and every other afflicting experience may be sanctified to eventual good, by developing the otherwise weak or dormant capabilities of the soul, nowise accidental, but the result of transgression. But in many afflictions, the culpability of the sufferer is not plainly apparent; and the relation of sin to suffering in such cases appears to be that of a general cause producing an individual effect.

Our Lord, the Christ, suffered as hath no other man. For he endured the pains of Satan as well as the sufferings of men. He has since declared, "I ceased myself, even a God, to suffer both body and spirit." (Doctrine & Covenants 18:11 and 18:18). The Lord's agony of soul was the direct result of sin; but not His sin.

That the relation of physical cause to effect exists in every instance of disease or other affliction is undeniable; but that man's finite mind is competent to fix the blame, and to justly aver that this particular ill is the punitive result of that specific offense, is in many cases obviously impossible. The Book of Job is an inspired refutation of any such false assumption, and stands as a warning against one man's pronouncement of another's alleged guilt on the evidence of the latter's affliction.

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