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TIME IS AN IMPORTANT THING WITH US MORTALS. IS YOUR WATCH KEEPING TIME? IF NOT, SEND IT TO WM. H. OGDEN Jeweler to the Hermiston, West End, Oregon

Some Aspects of the Farmers' Problems

By BERNARD M. BARUCH

(Reprinted from Atlantic Monthly)

IV Now, what is the farmer asking? Without trying to catalogue the remedial measures that have been suggested in his behalf, the principal proposals that bear directly on the improvement of his distributing and marketing relations may be summarized as follows:—

First: storage warehouses for cotton, wool, and tobacco, and elevators for grain, of sufficient capacity to meet the maximum demand on them at the peak of the marketing period. The farmer thinks that either private capital must furnish these facilities, or the state must erect and own the elevators and warehouses.

Second: weighing and grading of agricultural products, and certification thereof, to be done by impartial and disinterested public inspectors (this is already accomplished to some extent by the federal licensing of weighers and graders), to eliminate underpaying, overcharging, and unfair grading, and to facilitate the utilization of the stored products as the basis of credit.

Third: a certainty of credit sufficient to enable the marketing of products in an orderly manner.

Fourth: the Department of Agriculture should collect, tabulate, summarize, and regularly and frequently publish and distribute to the farmers, full information from all the markets of the world, so that they shall be as well informed of their selling position as buyers now are of their buying position.

Fifth: freedom to integrate the business of agriculture by means of consolidated selling agencies, co-ordinating and co-operating in such way as to put the farmer on an equal footing with the large buyers of his products, and with commercial relations in other industries.

When a business requires specialized talent, it has to buy it. So will the farmers; and perhaps the best way for them to get it would be to utilize some of the present machinery of the largest established agencies dealing in farm products. Of course, if he wishes, the farmer may go further and engage in flour-milling and other manufactures of food products. In my opinion, however, he would be wise to stop short of that. Public interest may be opposed to all great integrations; but, in justice, should they be forbidden to the farmer and permitted to others? The corporate form of association cannot now be wholly adapted to his objects and conditions. The looser cooperative form seems more generally suitable. Therefore, he wishes to be free, if he finds it desirable and feasible, to resort to co-operation with his fellows and neighbors, without running afoul of the law. To urge that the farmers should have the same liberty to consolidate and co-ordinate their peculiar economic functions, which other industries in their fields enjoy, is not, however, to concede that any business integration should have legislative sanction to exercise monopolistic power. The American people are as firmly opposed to industrial as to political autocracy, whether attempted by rural or by urban industry.

For lack of united effort the farmers as a whole are still marketing their crops by antiquated methods, or by no methods at all, but they are surrounded by a business world that has been modernized to the last minute and is tirelessly striving for efficiency. This efficiency is due in large measure to big business, to united business, to integrated business. The farmers now seek the benefits of such largeness, union and integration.

The American farmer is a modern of his moderns in the use of labor saving machinery, and he has made vast strides in recent years in scientific tillage and efficient farm management. But as a business in contact with other businesses agriculture is a "one horse shay" in competition with high power automobiles. The American farmer is the greatest and most intractable of individualists. While industrial production and all phases of the huge commercial mechanism and its myriad accessories have articulated and co-ordinated themselves all the way from natural raw materials to retail sales, the business of agriculture has gone on in much the one man fashion of the backwoods of the first part of the nineteenth century, when the farmer was self sufficient and did not depend upon, or care very much, what the great world was doing. The result is that the agricultural group is almost as much at a disadvantage in dealing with other economic groups as the jay farmer of the funny pages in the hands of sleek urban confidence men, who sell him acreage in Central Park or the Chicago city hall. The leaders of the farmers thoroughly understand this, and they are intelligently striving to integrate their industry so that it will be on an equal footing with other businesses.

As an example of integration, take the steel industry, in which the model is the United States Steel Corporation, with its iron mines, its coal mines, its lake and rail transportation, its ocean vessels, its by-product coke ovens, its blast furnaces, its open hearth and Bessemer furnaces, its rolling mills, its tube mills and other manufacturing processes that are carried to the highest degree of finished production compatible with the large trade it has

built up. All this is generally conceded to be to the advantage of the consumer. Nor does the steel corporation inconsiderately dump its products on the market. On the contrary, it so acts that it is frequently a stabilizing influence, as is often the case with other large organizations. It is master of its distribution as well as of its production. If prices are not satisfactory the products are held back or production is reduced or suspended. It is not compelled to send a year's work to the market at one time and take whatever it can get under such circumstances. It has one selling policy and its own export department. Neither are the grades and qualities of steel determined at the caprice of the buyer, nor does the latter hold the scales. In this single integration of the steel corporation is represented about 40 per cent of the steel production of America. The rest is mostly in the hands of a few large companies. In ordinary times the steel corporation, by example, stabilizes all steel prices. If this is permissible (it is even desirable, because stable and fair prices are essential to solid and continued prosperity) why would it be wrong for the farmers to utilize central agencies that would have similar effects on agricultural products? Something like that is what they are aiming at.

Some farmers favored by regional compactness and contiguity, such as the citrus-fruit-raisers of California, already have found a way legally to merge and sell their products integrally and in accordance with seasonal and local demand, thus improving their position and rendering the consumer a reliable service of ensured quality, certain supply, and reasonable and relatively steady prices. They have not found it necessary to resort to any special privilege, or to claim any exemption under the anti-trust legislation of the state or nation. Without removing local control, they have built up a very efficient marketing agency. The grain, cotton, and tobacco farmers, and the producers of hides and wool, because of their numbers and the vastness of their regions, and for other reasons, have found integration a more difficult task; though there are now some thousands of farmer's co-operative elevators, warehouses, creameries, and other enterprises of one sort and another, with a turn-over of a billion dollars a year. They are giving the farmers business experience and training, and, so far as they go, they meet the need of honest weighing and fair grading; but they do not meet the requirements of rationally adjusted marketing in any large and fundamental way.

The next step, which will be a pattern for other groups, is now being prepared by the grain-raisers through the establishment of sales media which shall handle grain separately or collectively, as the individual farmer may elect. It is this step—the plan of the Committee of Seventeen—which has created so much opposition and is thought by some to be in conflict with the anti-trust laws. Though there is now before congress a measure designed to clear up doubt on this point the grain-producers are not relying on any immunity from anti-trust legislation. They desire, and they are entitled, to co-ordinate their efforts as effectively as the large business interests of the country have done. In connection with the selling organizations the United States Grain Growers-Incorporated is drafting a scheme of financing instrumentalities and auxiliary agencies which are indispensable to the successful utilization of modern business methods.

It is essential that the farmers should proceed gradually with these plans, and aim to avoid the error of scrapping the existing marketing machinery, which has been so laboriously built up by long experience, before they have a tried and proved substitute or supplementary mechanism. They must be careful not to become enmeshed in their own reforms and lose the perspective of their place in the national system. They must guard against fanatical devotion to new doctrines, and should seek articulation with the general economic system rather than its reckless destruction as it relates to them.

(Continued Next Week)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U. S. LAND OFFICE AT THE DALLES, OREGON, JAN. 7, 1922.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that James Richard Johnson, of Boardman, Oregon, who, on May 5, 1917, made Reclamation Homestead Entry No. 018525, for SE 1/4 NE 1/4, being Unit "D", Section 18, Township 4-North, Range 25-East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three-year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before C. G. Blayden, United States Commissioner, at Boardman, Oregon, on the 7th day of March, 1922.

Claimant names as witnesses: O. H. Warner, Ira Berger, Rudolph Wasmer, Ingvard Jensen Skoubo, all of Boardman, Oregon. J. W. DONNELLY, Register.

BOARDMAN COOKING CLUB STANDARD ORGANIZATION

Ore. Agriculture College, Corvallis, Ore., Feb. 8.—(Special)—Morrow county had two of the 376 boys' and girls' clubs which finished the work of the year 1920-21, meeting all the requirements of a standard club, according to H. C. Seymour, state club leader.

The requirements for a standard club are to have five or more members working on the same project, officers elected from among the members, an adult local club leader, definite program of work for the club year, reports of the work prepared and filed in the office of the state club leader, at least six regular club meetings, a local club exhibit, a demonstration in the community, a judging team chosen by competition among the members, at least 70 per cent of the members completing their work and filing reports, an achievement day program held at the close of the club year, and a membership in the farm bureau held by the club or its officers.

The 6487 club members in Oregon were organized into 724 clubs. Of this number 376 met the requirements of the standard clubs, while 254 of these reported 100 per cent of their members completing their work. The total value of all products produced this year by club members is \$127,359.68. This was at a total cost of \$60,581.13, making a profit of \$66,778.55—a profit surpassing that of the preceding year in spite of the fact that the value of the products dropped decidedly within the year.

The Boardman cooking club under the leadership of Miss Frances Beebe and the Boardman poultry club led by M. B. Signs were the two Morrow counties which finished the year as standard organizations.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION TO BE IN SALEM

The Christian Endeavors of Oregon are making great plans for their 32nd annual convention which is to be held in Salem on February 16, 17, 18, 19. In the past years two conventions have been held but it was decided to hold one all-state gathering this year and the result has been that an unusual program has been prepared.

The sessions open Thursday evening, the 16th and a welcome will be extended to all the endeavorers by Governor Olcott and Mayor Holverson of Salem. Dr. Lapsey A. McAfee of Berkeley, will give the keynote address.

Friday will open with Bible Study led by Dr. McAfee, followed by conferences on all lines of the Four Square Campaign. Dr. Harold L. Bowman of Portland, will address a general meeting in the afternoon. He will also speak in the evening and this will be a great intermediate meeting.

Saturday morning after the Bible Study hour general conference will be held. A business session comes after the lunch hour followed by eight seeing trips to all the points of interest about the city. Numerous banquets will be held in the evening. A booster session urging Portland to work for the 1925 International convention with an address by Mayor Geo. L. Baker of Portland, will take up the evening.

The convention closes Sunday with a full day. Separate Senior and Intermediate meetings will be held in the afternoon with a general meeting addressed by Rev. Stivers of Eugene and the Decision service in charge of Paul Brown.

Dr. McAfee will give the closing address at the evening service. The music will be an inspiring part of the convention and will be led by Mrs. W. E. Wright of Portland. Paul Brown, the Pacific Coast director, and LeRoy Robinson, state president, will preside at most sessions.

Big Coal Strike Possible.

Washington, D. C.—Warning of an impending general strike in the country's coal industry was given by Secretary Hoover, who declared that the public should know what to expect when the national agreements covering the wages and working conditions of miners expire April 1.

\$2 For Wheat is Urged.

Fargo, N. D.—Resolutions asking congress to fix the price of wheat at \$2 a bushel and advocating co-ordination of existing farm movements and co-operation between farmers' organizations were adopted at the closing session of the Tri-State Grain Growers' convention here.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U. S. LAND OFFICE AT THE DALLES, OREGON, JAN. 9, 1922.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Charles J. Shier, of Boardman, Oregon, who, on January 6, 1917, made

Homestead Entry No. 017047, for W 1/4 SE 1/4 NE 1/4, W 1/2 NE 1/4 SE 1/4 (being unit "B"), Section 24, Township 4-North, Range 24-East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three-year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before C. G. Blayden, U. S. Commissioner, at Boardman, Oregon, on the 24th day of February, 1922.

Claimant names as witnesses: Ira Berger, John J. Jenkins, H. H. Weston, Charles Dillabaugh, all of Boardman, Oregon. J. W. DONNELLY, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U. S. LAND OFFICE at The Dalles, Oregon, January 25, 1922.

NOTICE is hereby given that Martin Behm, of Ione, Oregon, who, on December 9, 1918, made Additional Homestead Entry, No. 020211, for E 1/2 SW 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4 and SW 1/4 NE 1/4, Section 20, Township 2-North, Range 25-East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three-year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before J. A. Waters, United States Commissioner, at Heppner, Oregon, on the

21st day of March, 1922. Claimant names as witnesses: Ed Rietmann, Phil Doherty, Bert Johnson, J. H. Inus, all of Ione, Oregon. J. W. DONNELLY, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U. S. LAND OFFICE at The Dalles, Oregon, January 26, 1922.

NOTICE is hereby given that Homer J. Cason, of Boardman, Oregon, who, on April 28, 1917, made Homestead Entry, No. 018530, for NE 1/4 NE 1/4 (being Unit "F"), Section 24, Township 4-North, Range 24-East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three-year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before C. G. Blayden, United States Commissioner, at Boardman, Oregon, on the 13th day of March, 1922.

Claimant names as witnesses: Claud White, Chas. Barnes, Chas. J. Nizer, O. H. Warner, all of Boardman, Oregon. J. W. DONNELLY, Register.

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