

RURAL ENTERPRISE
An Independent—Not neutral—news-
paper, published every Wednesday,
by Wm. H. WHEELER

\$1.50 a year
Advertising, 20c an inch; no discount
for time or space; no charge for con-
dition or changes.
In "Paid-for Paragraphs," 5c a line.
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IN UNION, STRENGTH

On this page is an article from the Dearborn Independent showing how farmers are forced to contribute to the excess profits of producers of nitrates, potash and sisal. These three are prominent but by no means the only instances of combinations fattening off the uncombined farmers.

One of these staples, nitrogen, the farmer can supply for himself without paying tribute. By so calculating his crop rotation as to include such legumes as do well under conditions on his farm he can build up nitrogen in the soil while securing valuable forage crops.

Where alfalfa will flourish it is probably the most profitable of these crops, but red clover may be profitable where the permanent water table is too near the surface for alfalfa, or a like where it is too wet for the others. Peas, beans and vetch have their place. There are few farms that cannot produce profitable yields of legumes with a remaining store of nitrogen all clear profit.

When, if ever, the farmers cooperate as do followers of many other callings, they will be able to bring to bear pressure that will modify the burdens imposed by most of the monopolies which now prosper while snapping their fingers at anti-trust laws.

One thing the farmers must do before they reach the full sunshine is to vote with more consistent understanding.

CONSUMED IN THE CITY

In 1790 a Massachusetts farmer spent \$7 a year to maintain his family and operate his farm, all other essentials being made at home.

Is it any wonder that a good percentage of the farmers have gone to towns and cities to supply farmers' wants that did not exist then?

Clothes, shoes, furniture, tools, nails and a thousand things then made at home by hand are now made in factories by people who have left the farms to follow sundry occupations.

And this flow of population to the cities will continue, Henry Ford to the contrary notwithstanding.

There are three million more persons in the cities of the United States than in the country. But there are two million more children under ten years of age in the country than in the cities. Grain and vegetables and men and women grow in the country and are consumed in the city.

That both county and state fairs this year have been the most successful in the history of Oregon reflect an improvement in the farming situation. What would those fairs be if farmers were as prosperous as followers of some other branches of industry?

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HALSEY

The governor has work for all at the state prison. Any young man who thinks he is smarter than other criminals can probably get a steady job there by trying to rob a bank or a store or something.

The Sherman anti-trust law has been repealed, not by congress, but by courts and the administration.

Palmer and Coolidge proved less than a majority.

Left Over

The county fair report crowded the following items out of the paper last week:

Cross-word puzzles are out of date. A good new shingle roof keeps the water out of the church of Christ.

Mrs. Ringo and Mrs. Wheeler visited Cottage Grove Monday.

Oren Stratton got some grip on his eye with such painful and threatening results that he went to a Eugene oculist for relief.

Mrs. Sarah Patton of Humboldt county, Cal., and Mrs. Martha Chester of Colusa county left for their homes Friday, after a most enjoyable visit of four weeks with their sister, Mrs. Matilda Whiting, at Brownsville, during which they were taken by auto to visit various points of interest in this part of the state. A reunion of these three with two other sisters and a brother, George Kauble, the first in many years, was one of the features of their stay.

Mrs. Wheeler got ribbons for coat hangers and bead work at the county fair.

Thirteen chic Chicago couples defied superstition by being married on Friday, the 13th, at the 13th minute of the 13th hour, in cell 13 of the convict ship Success, each bride carrying a black cat (wow!) and the party breaking 13 mirrors after the ceremony. There; can you tell a bigger one?

Car Crash in Halsey

A Ford car belonging to S. E. Quigley of Harrisburg was passing north through Halsey about 11:30 Thursday night, driven by Mr. Quigley's son, who was accompanied by a lady, when the radius rod dropped, leaving the machine unmanageable.

It ran into the ditch in front of Mrs. Hannah Cummings' place, ran through the crosswalk there, breaking every plank in it and every spoke in one front wheel, and stopped.

Nobody was seriously hurt. Paul Papman put the Henry in running condition.

Halsey has a new crosswalk.

The Shuttts, father and son, who expect soon to be publishing the Harrisburg Bulletin, visited this office Monday.

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Monopolists Mulct American Farmers

At Home and Abroad the Former Gather the Shekels.

(Otto Wilson in Dearborn Independent.)

The farmer has a little group of necessities which he must bring from abroad, and each of which he can buy only from one small section of the globe. In each of these industries the output is more or less closely controlled by its small group of producers, and in each this monopoly feature has made the farmer pay higher prices than he would have paid had there been free competition.

Two of these are indispensable constituents of fertilizer, nitrates and potash. Both are to be found everywhere, but by some freak of nature each has been piled up in great deposits in one general section, the nitrates in Chile and the potash in territory which before the war was all in German hands but which is now divided between Germany and France. In these deposits nitrates and potash can be mined so cheaply that no other natural deposits can compete with them.

The working of the monopoly and the tribute it has exacted from the American farmer were clearly shown by a pre-war incident. Certain potash interests in Germany contracted with American buyers to supply them potash at lower rates than the potash syndicate was charging. But the syndicate, backed by the German government, forbade the sales, and the contracts had to be canceled. Since the division of the deposits by the war the old air-tight control by a single syndicate no longer prevails. But evidently the monopoly feature is still to hold fast. For the French and German interests, as reported by the newspapers, have formed a trade agreement, and to the farmer who loads the bags of fertilizer in his truck or wagon in the spring it will probably make no difference that the monopoly is handled by two sets of interests instead of one.

In the nitrate trade, while there is not such close control over prices as in some others, conditions are such that nitrates cost much more than they would if there were stiff competition. Presently we may build up such competition through our air-nitrate plants.

The third of the trio of farmer monopolies is perhaps the tightest and most dangerous of them all—that which controls the sisal, or properly the henequen, fibre which goes into binder twine. This fibre supplies three-fourths of the raw material for the twine that binds our yearly crops of grain. It comes entirely from Yucatan.

There is always the possibility that other American necessities of life will be added to the foreign monopoly list. For example, sugar. "I do not say," said President Coolidge recently, "that such foreign combinations in restraint of trade exist in sugar at the present time, but the whole tendency of the development of foreign sugar production is in the direction of larger holdings. In the long run there lies in this, therefore, certain dangers to the consumer which can only be safeguarded by an assurance of competitive domestic supplies."

Wherever it can be applied, this solution of the difficulty, namely the fostering of a domestic supply to compete with the foreign monopoly, is probably the only one that holds promise of relief to American consumers.

(To the above the editor of the Independent adds.)—It should be remembered that a way to nitrate independence was offered by Muscle Shoals, but this way has been closed

apparently by the devious influences of the fertilizer trust in conjunction with the power trust operating upon congress.)

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.30; hard white, and soft white, \$1.28; western white, \$1.27; hard winter, \$1.24; northern spring, \$1.21; western red, \$1.20.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$18@19 ton; valley timothy, \$18@20; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@22.

Butterfat—52c shippers' track. Eggs—Ranch, 35@39c.

Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook; Triplets, 30c; loaf, 31c per lb.

Cattle—Steers, medium, \$6.75@8.00. Hogs—Medium to choice, \$12.25@13.25.

Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$12.00@13.00.

Seattle.
Wheat—Soft white, and western white, \$1.25; western red and northern spring, \$1.20; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.30.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$23; D. C., \$28; timothy, \$26; mixed hay, \$24.

Butter—Creamery, 49@55c. Eggs—Select ranch, 48@50c.

Hogs—Prime, \$13.25@13.50. Cattle—Prime steers, \$8.25@8.50.

Cheese—Oregon fancy, 30c; Oregon standards 26c; Washington triplets 28c.

Spokane.
Hogs—Prime, mixed, \$12.75@12.85. Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.50@8.00.

state Fair Receipts Break Record.
Salem, Or.—Receipts of the Oregon state fair aggregated \$109,699.24 as against approximately \$102,000 in 1923, which was the banner state fair held in Oregon.

The bankers of Linn county, showing more enthusiasm in behalf of a corn exhibit similar to that at the county fair last year, all but one subscribed to the prize offer that brought out the best exhibit this year ever seen in the county and one that establishes Oregon as a state where the great American grain can be grown with profit.

In a middle west state two market baskets were displayed, each containing food costing \$2. One held cooked ham, corn flakes, tinned goods, cake, white bread, etc.—8032 calories. The other had round steak, oatmeal, beans, brown bread, lettuce, milk, apples, raisins, etc.—17,923 calories.

A thousand cases of Lane county canned pears have just been shipped to London, England, by the Eugene Fruit Growers' association.

Oregon produces more hops than any other state.

The Great Outdoors

Where Bread, Meat, Clothing, Health and Vigorous Humanity are Produced

The Banker-Educator Plan to Promote Better Agriculture

By D. H. OTIS,
Agricultural Director, American Bankers Association

Whenever bankers desire to promote actively agricultural improvement in their communities, the state agricultural colleges stand ready to show them the way and to give expert assistance. The purpose of this article is to illustrate the way in which the colleges are getting in contact with the banks, and the kind of assistance they render.



D. H. Otis

As soon as the college has a list of the banks in the state desiring to adopt plans to aid agriculture as indicated by project blanks sent out to all the banks in the state, by the State Bankers Association Agricultural Committee, it gives practical suggestions to each banker on the list as to what he can do to stimulate, organize, and conduct the

work in the particular project he has selected. Then either a department specialist from the college or the county agent gets in personal touch with the banker to assist him in an advisory capacity.

Samples of the project outlines are given below to illustrate the details of the procedure the college takes in accomplishing its plan.

College Provides Expert Advisers
In counties with no county agent a list of the banks desiring to carry on a project is sent to a specialist at the state college, according to the project listed. For instance, the banks desiring to carry on the farm accounts project are assigned to the farm management specialist, those desiring to carry on the legume project to the agronomy specialist, those interested in boys' and girls' club work to the junior extension specialist, and so forth.

In counties that do have a county agent a list of the banks and the projects in which each is interested is sent to him with a request that he get in touch with the bankers and help them in regard to the various projects.

The next step by the college is to write to each banker on the list sending him project outlines and informing him that the county agent or a specialist from the college will get in touch with him. If there is no agent in the county this letter reads as follows:

Union State Bank, Bankville.
Gentlemen—You will find enclosed a brief outline of the farm accounts project in which you have indicated your interest to your State Agricultural Committee and to the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers Association. I am sure that the specialist from the agricultural college will be pleased to assist you in carrying out the suggestions indicated. We have asked him to get in touch with you.
Director, Agricultural Extension.

The letter to bankers in counties that do have a county agent informs them that he will get in touch with them.

Suggests Things the Banker Can Do
The project outlines sent to each banker give specific suggestions as to the things he can do to organize the work in his project, and the part he can take in carrying out the work. The more simple and concrete these

All indications point to a big world surplus of wheat in 1926 with a corresponding reduction in prices.

suggestions are the more valuable they are to the banker. Following are samples of such project outlines:

- Farm Accounts Project**
1. Banker can select group of farmers who can and should undertake the work of farm accounts.
 2. Arrange with county agent or specialist from agricultural college for first meeting of the group and select an account book.
 3. Assist individuals at their request with information relative to entering accounts and other data properly.
 4. Act as or select leader for the group.
 5. Assist in checking inventories as a means of securing individual financial statement at close of the year.

- Boys' and Girls' Club Work**
1. The banker can arrange with the county agent or the specialist of the agricultural college for organizing a club.
 2. Plan to present various types of club work at the next meeting and perfect the organization of a local club.
 3. Banker may act as local leader of the club.
 4. Cooperate with county agent or specialist in annual "Achievement Day."
 5. Banker may offer prizes for club work or otherwise assist in financing same.

- Legume Project**
1. The banker can get information from county agent or specialist from the agricultural college on the value of alfalfa, soy bean, or sweet clover crops to farmers of the community.
 2. Arrange for meeting of interested farmers with county agent or specialist.
 3. At this meeting county agents, specialists, or others will discuss:
 - (a) Value of crop.
 - (b) Seed supply and varieties.
 - (c) Methods of handling the crop.
 - (d) Use and disposition of crop.
 4. Plan with county agent or specialist meetings and demonstrations on plots or fields.
 5. Secure exhibits for community or county fair.

- Cow Testing Associations**
1. The banker can arrange with county agent or specialist from agricultural college for meeting of interested group of farmers in the community for the purpose of organizing a cow testing association.
 2. Banker may act as leader, and with county agent or specialist plan to visit prospective farmers who may join the association.
 3. Organize for work and assist in securing testing equipment and other materials whenever necessary.
 4. Call meetings periodically to discuss association business and hold picnics or tours.
 5. Banker with county agent or specialist may arrange for C. T. A. booth at community or county fair giving testing demonstrations and explaining work of association.
- This constitutes the preliminary work by the college which paves the way for constructive work by the bankers in banker-farmer projects.

Broody Hens Often Not Profitable to Breeder

Figures collected by poultry specialists show that it costs 18 to 20 cents a month to feed a hen. A hen that averages 18 eggs a month more than pays her way, even when eggs are cheap. Those that go broody often are not profitable.

Visit the hen house each night and put all hens found on nests in the broody coop; leg banding them at the same time. Here they are confined for 72 hours and fed laying mash, green feed, and plenty of water. If the broody coop is roomy and in a cool place they will soon "come out of it."
—New York State College of Agriculture.

Bran and Middlings

Bran and middlings have quite a similar chemical analysis, the bran usually being a little higher in fiber than the middlings and consequently a little lower in digestible carbohydrates. The bran is just about as valuable for animals that can handle considerable fiber as are the middlings. For hogs, however, the middlings have an advantage over the bran because of the smaller amount of fiber they contain.

A price of \$11 per ton for alfalfa hay in the stack has been fairly well established in several localities in Umatilla county by purchases made by livestock men.

Last winter we had a hen that was eating eggs. We put her in the baby chick pen. It wasn't very long before she had taken eight or ten chickens from their mothers. Then when their mothers deserted them she took the rest of two hatchings and stayed with them a month. She has been laying all summer and has never offered to eat another egg.—Cor. Oregon Farmer.

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