

## RURAL ENTERPRISE

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## A REGRETTABLE FAILURE

The failure of the Chicago Grain Marketing association was a misfortune to the farmers of America. It had handled wheat at the rate of 400,000,000 million bushels a year, had held the market more steady than it had ever been, and made actual profits of a million and a half in eight months for its farmer stockholders, but the old gambling board of trade triumphed when the company was unable to sell enough stock quickly enough to meet its deferred initial obligations.

Immediately after its collapse a seat in the board sold for the highest price on record. Why? Because the old gambling could be resumed and the farmers forced to contribute fortunes. The story of the corporation is summarized elsewhere on this page.

It will probably be long before another effort on such a scale to throw off the yoke. Mr. Jardine and his successors will once in a while chide the robbers in a severe tone of voice. Government detectives will win laurels (and shekels, paid by the taxpayers) working up "perfectly good" cases against the oil and coal trusts of the country and the cement and tobacco trusts of this coast and the like, and, as heretofore, the public prosecutor (also paid by the taxpayers) will fail to convict. More than fifty years ago the present editor of the Enterprise was a printer in the office of an agricultural paper whose editorial page carried the slogan: "The time is coming, and not far distant when those who do the work of the world will rule in council and divide unto themselves the fruit of their toil." In some occupations that division is now in effect, but not in agriculture.

## THE WINTER STYLES

Fashions for the winter of 1925-26 are more interesting and attractive than ever, according to information from the style centers. If you would learn more about them in detail read Julia Bottomley's fashion department in every issue of the Rural Enterprise.

Those who have followed this department in the past have come to recognize in Mrs. Bottomley a style authority and writer on modes whose advice can be depended upon. Not only is she competent from her constant contacts with these style centers but she also possesses that knack of choosing in advance just those things which she instinctively knows will become popular.

Turn to her department in today's Enterprise. And remember, all the materials she describes can be purchased from Halsey merchants and advertisers in these columns.

The Oregon Voter believes that the common people of Oregon are satisfied with the wide-open nominating primary, but it would remove the restrictions on expenditures for publicity by candidates. The financial department of the Enterprise holds no prejudice against such expenditures, but the editorial department is of the opinion that in these days, when everybody reads the newspapers, enough publicity is given by them to every worth-while candidate, and is surely as fair and impartial as paid propaganda would be.

Colonel Mitchell's smug persecutors admit that no impairment of discipline has resulted from his speaking the truth, but they want him to stop it.

## SPLITTING HAIRS

"To whom does your child belong, to you or the state?" During the campaign for the late lamented Oregon school law the above question was often propounded by its opponents.

As far as we recollect it was generally admitted that the state has authority to decide upon a course of study of which every normal child is entitled to the benefit, but the court of last resort, when required to split this legal hair, decided that it is optional with the parent to choose between instructors provided by the state and those whom said parents or somebody else provides.

There is more hair-splitting to be done in relation to the subject raised by the question at the beginning of this article.

In Albany recently the questions were: "May the parent give the child tobacco which the state has forbidden it to have?" and "May the child be sent to carry tobacco to others despite a state ban?"

The parties paid fines in these instances and did not carry the cases to higher courts.

In California the other day a mother, claiming that her child belonged to her, killed it because "it had never been right." The state has put her in an insane asylum.

At Littleton, Col., a Dr. Blazer put his 23-year-old daughter to death and his attorney, while claiming that Blazer is insane, also with an apparently straight face upholds the doctor's claim that the girl had no soul and therefore the laws against murder did not apply.

It is probable that the courts will dodge the hair-splitting problem here raised, and instead of dividing "between soul and spirit and between the joints and marrow," send Blazer to an asylum and wash his hands of the question.

The insanity theory has saved many a red-handed murderer from the gallows. The commercialized "expert" business has studied up many names for various alleged forms of insanity and fine lines have been drawn between the different varieties of this convenient alleged affliction. If, now, the courts require the prosecutor to prove "beyond a probable doubt" that the murderer's victim had a soul we perceive a wide loophole through which our industrious slayers may escape the particular loop that ought to be placed about their necks.

Since the league of nations was proved that, without a single soldier, it is more powerful than any other organization, our isolationists are not using the term "Wilson league" as frequently as they did when they thought it possible to cloud the fame of its author by making the league a failure.

British rum runners lost \$15,000,000 and abandoned "rum row" off the New York and New England coast, in the last year. They began to get their money back in Florida, but now Uncle Sam has hit them hard there and they are losing more coin.

Because Al Smith and whisky won in New Jersey and New York they dream of repealing prohibition. Dream of it is as near to it as they will get.

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## Why the Big Grain Co-op. Collapsed

Its Marketing was Sound but It Blundered in Raising Capital

(Farm Journal)

Economically, the Grain Marketing company was sound. From a strictly business standpoint it was successful. During its eight months' operation it showed a net profit of something like \$1,500,000, which would have been turned back to the farmer-stockholders as dividends. The merging of four large going concerns effected important savings in handling. The combining of their facilities gave the merger the greatest string of export and terminal elevators in the world, with branch offices in every consuming country.

Physically, such a remarkable organization could not but succeed. It was equipped to handle a tremendous volume of business, and actually did handle more than half of the cash grain transactions at Chicago, doing a 200,000,000-bushel business during its brief life. It sold a vast export tonnage in competition with the entire grain trade of the country, which had a stabilizing influence on grain prices everywhere.

Admittedly, the farmers must market their grain in large volume if they are to exert any influence on world markets. They must get together. It is essential that they have the proper vehicle. The Grain Marketing company supplied the vehicle, but they were not ready to drive it. Agricultural politics threw sand into the bearings.

## Dangerous to Tell the Truth

The plan no sooner was announced than the board of trade drew its lines of battle and massed all its forces for a show-down fight.

May 4 George Marcy released a sensational statement covering the gyrations of wheat last winter and spring. He openly charged that the huge accumulations of speculators, and the misleading statements issued to the public, were responsible for the smash in wheat prices in March of this year and consequent loss of millions of dollars to American farmers and the public, to the benefit of speculators.

Mr. Marcy was called on the carpet by a special committee and severely questioned. In effect he was told that he had better not make another such statement if he valued his seat on the board of trade.

A few weeks later Emanuel Rosenbaum came out with a statement still more drastic, charging that now, under his very eyes, manipulators were endeavoring to corner the market on May rye and corn.

Where Marcy's statement had made a sensation, Rosenbaum's caused a veritable earthquake. Mr. Rosenbaum came very near to losing his seat over the episode. His trial was set for July 15, but was dropped when it became known that the Grain Marketing company was about to dissolve.

## Cause of the Collapse

American agriculture suffered a severe relapse when Gray Silver, president of the Grain Marketing company, announced on July 8 that the pretentious plan of grain marketing would forthwith be dissolved. The plan involved the outright sale of all the physical properties of the Rosenbaum Grain company, Rosenbaum Brothers, Armour Grain company and Davis-Noland-Merrill company of Kansas City to an organization of farmers.

The contract involved a price determined by appraisal, and W. Jett Lauck of Washington, one of the best-known economists in the country, set the value at \$17,382,083.

The vendors advanced \$4,000,000 on which to operate for the first year. The crowning error came early in June, when the bitter opposition of the Illinois Agricultural association precipitated an agreement that the Grain Marketing company would stop selling its stock in Illinois until hearings before the commerce commission were completed.

Stock was being sold at the rate of about 10,000 a day when the Illinois agreement was made. In

another month the sales would have amounted to \$40,000 or \$50,000 a day, and in another few weeks the preferred stock would have been all marketed [and funds provided in time to meet the big loan].

In Nebraska Nelson B. Updyke, a big grain dealer, had been hammering the co-operative movement through his paper, the Omaha Bee, the most influential republican newspaper in the state. Mr. Updyke bought grain through his own string of local elevators and sold in the terminal markets at a profit—in many instances a speculative profit—on the transaction. If the farmers sold through their own company these profits would be returned to them in the form of patronage dividends.

## THE MARKETS

## Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.56 hard white, \$1.54; soft white, \$1.48; western white, \$1.47; hard winter and northern spring, \$1.46; western red \$1.45.

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

Butterfat—55¢ shippers' track.

Eggs—Ranch, 41@50c.

Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook;

Triplets, 31c; loaf, 32c per lb.

Cattle—Steers, medium, \$6.75@8.15

Hogs—Medium to choice, \$11.50@

\$12.25.

Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice

\$12.00@13.00.

## Seattle.

Wheat—Soft white, \$1.49; western white, \$1.48; western red, \$1.45 northern spring, \$1.46; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.56.

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

Butter—Creamery, 50@54c.

Eggs—Select ranch, 56@58c.

Hogs—Prime, \$12.00@12.50.

Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.75@8.25.

Cheese—Oregon fancy, 28c; Oregon standards 25c; Washington triplet

28c.

## Spokane.

Hogs—Prime mixed, \$11.75@12.00.

Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.50@8.00.

## Farm Paragraphs

So successful was the state fair at Salem this year that there is a cash balance of \$24,989.

To date 1495 carloads of pears and 374 cars of apples have been shipped to eastern market by Medford packing houses.

Tests of sugar beets grown by 17 Marion county farmers have proved so satisfactory that the chambers of commerce at Salem and Portland are much interested in the possibility of establishing refineries in that section.

Roseburg expects to ship 2000

## The Great Outdoors

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

## Certified Potatoes Are Profitable

Grange Growth Greatest in Oregon...Weights and Measures

(State Market Agent Spence)

For the third consecutive year Oregon leads all states in the organization of granges—28 during the year. The total number of new granges in the United States was 147. Eight new Pomona granges were organized, 4 in Oregon. There are about 250 granges in the state.

Under the seed certification law Oregon is jumping to the front as a seed potato state and many farmers are raising inspected stock to be certified by O. A. C.

Nebraska has a law, practically the same as Oregon's, for certified seed potatoes, but in addition it has a union of seed growers under rigid regulations. In a recent demonstration one grower planted certified seed that yielded 257 bushels of U. S. No. 1 to the acre, while the same variety of uncertified seed, as sold in the local markets, produced 191 bushels. After the two field and one bin inspection have been made samples are sent to Louisiana to be grown in the warm climate, where disease, if any, will quickly develop. If it does develop the grower is notified not to longer use the seed, but to get new seed; otherwise he will be expelled from the association. This costs money, but it returns money.

With the potato crop of the country nearly harvested, the yield may now be judged quite closely, and the last estimate is 75 per cent of normal. Prices are steadily advancing.

Wheat shipments to Portland terminals are the lowest for many years. Farmers appear to be holding for better prices.

One of the most active and efficient departments of the state is the sealer of weights and measures, now under the state market agent. During the three months covered by the report just filed 3832 scales were inspected, sealed, adjusted or condemned; 7270 weights inspected and 7 condemned; 3032 liquid measures inspected and 26 condemned; 594 gasoline pumps inspected and 10 put out of business; and there were about 75 other inspections. If a wood dealer gives short measure a request to the department will bring a deputy to the place in quick time; if a poultry buyer uses faulty scales the department will be hot after him on request. Everything under weights and measures will be investigated free of charge.

Fancy Oregon pears bring \$5.20 a box at auction in New York.

## The Princeton Frame

in shape and colors made to blend, not to blemish

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C. P. STAFFORD, Agent