

**SOME FACTS ABOUT THE FARM BUREAU**

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Review of Reviews.

Four hundred farmers, meeting in the city of Chicago in March, took what is generally regarded as one of the most decisive steps in the history of American Agriculture. At that time came into being the American Farm Bureau Federation, which has already more than half a million members and this year will have funds amounting to about \$200,000. There have been farm organizations in the past but none of them so well grounded and with such strong foundations. Many organizations have claimed to represent the farmer, but many of them did not. This association goes back to the "county-agent" plan, which was introduced into the agricultural system of this country a few years ago, and which, sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, resulted in the establishment of an agricultural advisor in a large number of the counties of the country. Each of these agents is backed by what is known as a farm bureau, consisting of the farmers themselves. Now, in the course of only a little over a year, these farmers have banded together into State organizations and these State federations have gone together into a big national organization. So it can be said that the American Farm Bureau Federation is a representative farmers' body.

One can glimpse what the movement really means by the fact that Iowa has over 100,000 farmers in this organization, and Illinois and New York have over 50,000 each. 28 States sending representatives to this Chicago meeting in March ratified a constitution which had been outlined a few months before when a temporary organization was formed, and brought the big society into being. It is freely predicted that by the end of the year there will be a million members of this federation in America and the available funds for use in national work, leaving out the projects of the State federations, will be around half a million dollars per year. It is probably true that this is the most forceful farmers' organization in America to-day.

**What the Farm Bureau Federation Sets Out to Do.**

Here we find the definite program of work outlined for the coming year:

The creation of a bureau of transportation which, besides securing proper rail rates, will "give to the farmer of the United States ocean rates which will enable him to compete on a fair basis with the farmers of other nations of the world."

A bureau of trade relations to investigate dealings with foreign countries.

A bureau of distribution to study the distribution of farm products.

A bureau of statistics to study world conditions which influence the supply and demand as well as prices.

A legislative bureau "which shall have to do with matters of national legislation which affect farming and farmers."

It is not to be thought that the federation means that the Government shall establish these bureaus and divisions which have just been enumerated. The federation will establish them itself. Perhaps it is important to note that this body of farmers is beginning work with a broader scope than has any similar body in the past. It will not confine itself to just the minor things of the moment, but will endeavor to be big enough to investigate the underlying factors in world agriculture.

This federation means that the farmers of America have established one of the biggest business organizations in the world. To a large degree it represents the united sentiment of the farmers of the country. For instance, at any time when the officers of the federation desire to know what the farmers think of a certain measure it will only be a few days' work to get a questionnaire into the hands of every member.

From all sides comes the query: "Will the farm bureau ignore politics?" Not exactly. To ignore politics, and by that act refuse to accept a share of responsibility, would be distinctly un-American. For politics is a part of the machinery of American government.

The federation will concern itself with men and measures rather than with parties. It will have absolutely nothing to do with the political stew from a partisan standpoint. But

when questions develop that have a bearing upon the agricultural interests of the country, or questions that deal with the life and stability of American institutions, depend on it the Farm Bureau federation will be found very much in evidence.

Farmers will still be Republicans and Democrats, but probably from now on they will not be averse to letting their Republican and Democratic friends in Congress know just what they want. It is quite certain that if someone down in Washington with a petition representing the wishes of a million voters, he is going to have some attention.

**His First Pay in 15 Years.**

A man who spoke with a pronounced Swedish accent appeared at the income tax office at St. Louis and exhibited two new leather cases which contained \$9,000 in travelers' checks. He said that he had just had his only pay day in fifteen years and had heard that an income tax was due. It appears that during the fifteen years he was employed on a ranch in Washington under an agreement with his employer for wages, plus board and clothes. During the fifteen years he "went to town" only twice a year and drew no money, he said, because his employer had bought everything for him.

When last month he decided to go to South America to become a rancher in his own name, his employer accompanied him to town and bought the checks for him. He was told that no tax was due from him.

**China Looks to France.**

France as a field of study of a great people in a period of reconstruction and restoration is being commended to the progressive students of China by such an authority as Wang Tsing-wel, founder of the Societe Franco-Chinoise. He advises his fellow countrymen that the present is opportune for study by Chinese in France to learn from personal observation how strenuous measures are in the changing of national conditions. China, he says, with its vast population and area must, to bring about anything worthy of the name of reconstruction, rely upon the efforts of many Chinese to introduce the new civilization and to bring China up to date. He says if China can send abroad 100,000 students, then its motto should be "Let us have more."

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