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FARMER'S DOLLAR SHRINKS WHILE WHOLESALER'S GAINS

What the farmer has to sell steadily goes down in price, what he must buy tends upward. What the farmer sells for \$1 the ultimate consumer pays \$3 for. These are conditions that present a problem to the economists and one in which are all deeply interested.

State Market Agent C. E. Spence in a recent report makes the following statements:

There are five staple products of the land that have so declined in price that producers get only cost of production for them, and on some less than cost: These figures are from the Department of Agriculture for last year, showing the deflation from 1919: Hogs have declined 44 per cent, beef cattle 35, hay 31, eggs 29, wheat 21, and yet for the same period wholesale prices of all commodities advanced 38 per cent.

The result of this condition is two standard of values, two price levels. Under it the farmer's dollar is deflated to 53 cents, as everything he has to purchase has advanced 38 per cent while the product he has to sell to obtain the dollar has been set back on an average of 32 per cent.

There can't be permanent prosperous conditions under this double system. It is not based on permanency. High wholesale commodity values are largely forced by land by the defenseless condition of agriculture. Demand and supply have little to do with either the high or low prices.

So long as the present system of fixing prices prevails, the farmer simply must get in the game and pull his industry up to the level of other business—he must make his dollar worth as much as the other dollar—for the

other industries are not going to voluntarily lower their standards to the present agricultural level.

Group action, compact organization, is the means. Farmers must run their industry just as the manufacturing concerns operate theirs. They must pool their products, do their own selling and distributing, control their production, fix their own selling prices. The cotton growers have pulled their industry out of the mud into a profitable and prosperous basis by joint action; the fruit industry of California has changed disaster to prosperous conditions by producers standing shoulder to shoulder.

Gov. Pierce, in his recent speech in Portland, stated that of farm products which the consumer paid \$3.00, the grower received but \$1.00, and that there could not be generally prosperous conditions under such an unjust and unbalanced system.

Co-operation by producers, retailers and consumers can reduce this excessive middle-profit and middle expense. It must be done if agricultural states are to prosper. A more direct system of distribution and less middle interests must be established. Products must be brought to the working class consumers at prices they will pay, in order that there may be normal demand, yet the grower must receive a living profit for his work and investment to have normal production.

There is room enough in the "spread" between the dollar the grower gets and the three dollars the family pays, to bring about both of these conditions, but it will take efficient organization. It is hard to understand that both consumers and producers will permit middle interests to add twice the first cost of products to the ultimate consumer.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS WILL HOLD CONVENTION

The fall session of the Pleasant Home District Sunday school convention will be held at the Pleasant Home Methodist church on Sunday, October 28, and will be participated in by the schools of that church, the Pleasant Home Baptist and the Cottrell community church. These schools will hold their usual sessions on Sunday at 10 o'clock and will then meet together for the morning address, the noon hour luncheon and the afternoon session. Prof. W. H. Hertzog, who teaches "Religious Education" in both Willamette University and Kimball School of Theology, will be the speaker of the morning. His subject will be "Making Religion Real to Our Children." The service will begin about 11:20.

The speaker at the afternoon session will be Prof. A. F. Bittner, institutional director for Westminster Presbyterian church, Portland. He will speak on "Our Young People." Special musical numbers will be given and a demonstration of impromptu Bible dramatization.

FAIRVIEW

Mrs. J. H. Peterson entertained the Ladies' Aid of the Methodist church on Wednesday afternoon, when the following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Laura Burlingame, president; Mrs. C. Buckner, vice president; Mrs. J. W. Moller, secretary and treasurer. A chicken pie supper and miscellaneous sale will be given by the Aid in the city hall November 24. There will be a candy booth in charge of the Misses Edna and Beulah Buckner.

Plans are maturing for the entertainment to be given on the evening of October 26 for the benefit of the Women's Society of the Presbyterian church by Mrs. Dave M. Donough, who will give an interpretation of Gerhart Hauptman's symbolic drama, "The Sunken Bell." The entertainment will be given at the city hall.

CORBETT

Mrs. P. D. Settlemeier, nee Esther Kincaid, has been very ill the past week.

Miss Laura Crockett of Portland was the week-end guest of her sister, Miss Joy Crockett.

Miss Pauline Rickli visited her parents at Salem Saturday night and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bell left Tuesday for California to spend the winter. Clifford Reed came down from Corvallis to spend the week end with home folks.

The members of Columbia grange are planning a social party for the evening of October 29 for members only.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED AT GRESHAM LIBRARY

The following up-to-date books for the farmer have just been received at the Gresham library:

"The Nursery Manual, 1922," by Liberty Hyde Bailey.
"Principles of Marketing, 1923," by F. E. Clark.
"Farm Fertility, 1923," by S. B. Haskell.
"Year Book, 1922," U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Recent Fiction.
"The Alaskan," by James Oliver Curwood.
"Under a Thousand Eyes," by Florence B. Livingston.
"Ironheart," by William MacLeod Raine.

POWELL VALLEY

Sometime during Monday night sneak thieves entered the building where Andy Carrell keeps his new Ford and carefully removed an \$18 battery. This makes the second case of auto pilfering in this vicinity recently.

J. J. Robertson, who has had a severe siege of the grip, is convalescing.

J. A. Liedfors is having a new floor laid in his store this week, Charles Johnson having charge of the work.

The Dorcas girls of the Mission Sunday school met at the home of Anna Lind Wednesday evening and spent the time in the construction of a quilt which later will be devoted to some worthy purpose. The Dorcas class is comprised of the following: Misses Anna Lind, Agnes Lundquist, Myrtle Soderquist, Pearl Gustafson, Helen Larson, Audrey Johnson and Grace Welch.

BORING

Oliver Gill of Gresham will preach at Boring at 8 in the evening and there will also be special singing. Sunday school will be held in the morning at 10.

PLEASANT HOME

At Pleasant Home Methodist church the Sunday school will convene at 10 a. m., followed by preaching at 11. The pastor, Rev. E. G. Ranton, will preach a children's short sermon. The subject for his morning sermon will be "An Inventory of the Christian's Resources."

TROUTDALE

At the Methodist church, the pastor, Rev. E. G. Ranton, will preach Sunday evening at 7:30. There will be special violin music.

Auction Sale

On Ulrich Gartenbein Place, 1/2 mile east of Park Rose, and 1/2 mile south of Columbia Highway and Clarnie road.

Monday, October 29, beginning 10 a. m.

51 GOOD MILK COWS, mostly Holsteins. 1 Durham Bull. Team of Horses.

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H. L. St. Clair	E. H. Willard
S. B. Hall	Bert Kronenberg
Dr. Geo. Inglis	Jas. Ledbury
C. M. Zimmerman	Ed Wilkes
Mrs. Maggie Ulm	D. M. Donough
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