

CO-OP. IDEA GROWS STEADILY

START FROM BOTTOM

Many Small Organizations
Develop Permanent
Results.

A cooperative community with 10 distinct cooperative institutions contributing to the welfare of several thousand farmers in what may be found at Hermiston.

And these institutions were built up during the last 15 years by farmers. They have had no government help. They have had no promoters, or political theorists to arouse activities; but have slowly developed their program on practical and business like lines.

The cooperatives have conformed to the needs of the farmers and farm production and marketing, and have conformed to cooperative provisions. The result has been during the years of depression, not only a reasonable prosperity as to a livelihood, but also a steady growth and development on the farms, and increased confidence and contentment, and credit among the farmers.

How this enveloping cooperative idea has been developed throughout the irrigated and adjoining districts around Hermiston is the subject of this story. The main thought running through this true narrative cannot escape the reader; that is, that these farmers, through their

HOME AND PREMISES OF MR. AND MRS. J. H. REID



On the right is the new home. On the left is the large barn and two silos. In the center are five, two unit poultry houses divided into ten sections. The farm contains 95 acres under irrigation and 185 acres above the canal in future unit. Mr. Reid has a dairy herd of 30 cows and 3000 White Leghorn hens in his modern poultry houses. His land is used for pasture, alfalfa, ensilage and corn. He was a banker in Hermiston from 1907 to 1912, and has been active in building up his farming interests since. He has served as a member of the finance and legislative committees of the Umatilla Project Farm Bureau and is active in cooperative organizations.

own abilities to manage, and through their own local credit, and through their own devotion to the principle of mutual self help, have added greatly to their own welfare.

In 1920, a half dozen farmers, after a Farmer's Union meeting, lingered to talk over marketing some strawberries. Among them was a poultryman, who was troubled by both the retail price of feed and the difficulty of reaching a satisfactory market.

Into the discussion also came the price of fuel and a few other necessities which could not be handled by local merchants in sufficient volume in the then new country, to

provide convenience and prices that the farmers believed they needed for their ultimate success. These farmers were starting life on largely unimproved farms in a new irrigation district, and their needs were many.

The farmers had not been able to establish crops in volume because of varying soils and untried conditions. Fruit had been tried and abandoned. Alfalfa was showing strength as a crop, but difficult to market. Dairying was in its infancy, and pastures had not been developed. The few hens showed remarkable adaptability to the region.

Something had to be done. These farmers organized. It was a small organization that set out to do very little.

An appeal was made to the U. S. Experiment Farm, conducted jointly through state and federal aid, and sent to the state agricultural college. Among other things an economic convention was held and elaborate statistics gathered and papers on cost of production, yields and methods of marketing were read and discussed.

Except for a knowledge of some very definite facts, pro and con, the farmers were still on their own resourcefulness. Finally, out of the situation grew a splendid cooperative spirit.

Farmers' Exchange.

The Farmers' Exchange, organized in 1909, was the first cooperative association. The officers were H. M. Sommerer, P. P. Sullivan, Br. Braun, C. B. Percy and Geo. Cressy. Its purpose was to sell strawberries and potatoes. Stock was sold at \$10 a share to members and \$2800 was raised. The group also handled coal, mill feed and corn.

The management of its affairs was given to Tony Drolshagen, but for lack of volume of business and various reasons, he was not very successful. F. A. Chezik, then took over the assets and in connection with private business, tried to carry the purposes through. Too much credit was given and finally the cash assets were dissipated.

Columbia Farm Bureau.

The effort led up to the formation of the Columbia Farm Bureau. The price of feed at retail prices was high and considered too great for a farmer to use and make a dollar. A few members decided to ship by car lots. Sidney Barnard agreed to do all the handling for \$1 per ton. The first car reduced the price from \$38 per ton, to \$24 per ton, sold from the car. This saving of \$14, on a cash basis, led to greater activities. The First National Bank honored the draft so that the feed could be delivered and as soon as it was unloaded the money was returned to the bank.

Every few weeks a car was shipped in and sold. Finally the group bought a small building and began to handle oil meal and similar products. A small building was secured and always strictly cash methods were used. The old customary credit system was entirely eliminated.

The business developed and the Farm Bureau Co-operative of Hermiston was incorporated in October, 1924. The incorporators were H. J. Ott, Frank Waugaman, F. P. Phipps, F. W. Lenz, George Leibe, H. M. Sommerer and Sidney Barnard. A loan was secured from the First National Bank for \$1900, and a building was erected for storing carloads of merchandise. Mr. Barnard was made manager.

The two per cent method of financing was adopted after much discussion. C. J. Hurd, extension marketing specialist of OSC, was called in and the two percent system incorporated. This was not a state law. This percentage was collected from all supplies sold for the purpose of creating a fund for operating the business. It has been used in the erection of buildings and for the financing of the increased volume of business.

It was intended to return the fund to people who were using the institution at the time the fund was collected, but in practice it is need-

ed in the growth of the enterprise. Under the by-laws of the association, however, the cooperative is not required to return the fund to its members. The two percent fund is now an investment.

Through the methods adopted 14 years ago, the Farm Bureau has grown to its present proportions, and the splendid system of cooperatives located in Hermiston may be accredited to the wisdom and foresight of the builders. Of equal importance is the rigid custom of exacting cash for all goods. And behind it all is the loyalty of the farmers of the community to the general welfare of members of the various cooperative institutions.

The present board of the Farm Bureau Co-operative is H. J. Bean, president; P. J. Quinn, J. H. Reid, H. J. Ott, R. G. Saylor, vice president, R. V. Jones and E. M. Souders. The first board was F. P. Phipps, H. J. Ott, S. H. Barnard, J. W. McMullen, C. M. Jackson and H. M. Sommerer. George Strohm, A. D. Smith and L. H. Pearson served terms after 1927. F. L. Jewett and P. P. Sullivan were elected in 1928. J. H. Reid and J. M. Richards in 1930; A. E. McFarland and J. C. Hawkins in 1931; and A. E. McFarland and R. G. Saylor in 1932. S. H. Barnard served as manager eight years, and H. M. Sommerer, the present manager has served over four years. H. J. Ott has been president seven years and Mrs. Georgia Henderson has been with the institution as bookkeeper since 1926.

Parent Institution.

The Columbia Farm Bureau is the parent institution. It was organized in 1922. Frank Waugaman was the first president; Sidney Barnard, the first secretary, and Henry Sommerer the first treasurer.

A board of executives was formed with Henry Ott in charge of rodent control; Frank Jewett, legislation; A. W. Agnew, dairying; and Pat Sullivan, disease control. Its present projects are dairying, poultry, legislation, disease control, marketing, bees, fairs, experimental research, and inter-organization.

Henry Ott is president; A. E. Bensel, vice president; C. M. Jackson, secretary-treasurer; J. W. McMullen, marketing; Curtis Dyer, dairying; Dr. Theo. Beletski, disease control; John Jendrzewski, rodent control; Mrs. Geo. Genn, poultry. A life membership of one dollar in this organization gives privileges in all the cooperative institutions.

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**WARM
CABINS
TO
RENT**
by
WEEK OR MONTH,
NOVEMBER 1st
Reasonable

Hermiston - - - Oregon

Hermiston Cemetery.

The Hermiston Cemetery association was formed 25 years ago. The organizers were Thos. Campbell, F. B. Swayze, C. S. McNaught, W. H. Skinner and J. T. Hinkle. Forty acres were secured from the government and platted. The previous few years very few persons died. Three were buried on high ground near the power dam, south of town and most bodies were shipped back to former homes. The association is in good standing financially and the grounds have been improved. A. W. Prann is president of the association and W. L. Hamm, secretary.

Lawyers Have Been Few.

The six towns in this region have had few lawyers. L. A. Esteb was at Echo a few years. Francis Bartlett made an effort at law practice in Hermiston 27 years ago. J. T. Hinkle practiced law in Hermiston a brief time. W. J. Warner came here in 1911, and has practiced continuously for 25 years. He has served as attorney for most of the towns and irrigation districts. Mr. Warner is a graduate of Cornell University. For several years he followed football coaching and is a brother of the famous "Pop" Warner. Sylvanus Smith Jr., is a young attorney at Stanfield.

Service and Progress



—rendered the public in this section for thirty years. Jarvis Dufey is now proprietor of this hotel which was constructed in the winter of 1907.

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A workable old age pension law.
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The finest heavy suede cloth made—

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Full length . . . makes a good overcoat—

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WOMEN'S FINE QUALITY FELT HATS

Assorted colors and styles

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GIRLS' BARREL SWEATERS

All wool . . . assorted colors

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WOOL COATS

Heavy . . . sport wear plaids

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Large line Men's Hats,
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