

**MAIL ORDER TRUST**

By Congressman Clyde H. Tavenner

Washington, June 25.—So silently and insidiously that the great public is as yet almost unaware of its presence, a new trust is extending its tentacles out over the country. It is the mail order trust. Already its strangling grip is tightening about the million small town and country merchants who are the backbone of national prosperity.

The mail order trust has capitalized women and child labor. It has capitalized vice. It has turned all these things into dollars—dollars which should have found their way into the tills of the country merchant, instead of flowing into the trust's Wall Street hoard.

One mail order house recently increased its capital stock from \$500,000 to \$10,000,000. A new \$10,000,000 merger of mail order houses has been formed. Wall Street financiers, including the Morgan banking firm, has had charge of both these financial operations. Still another mail order house, with 63 acres of floor space, made a net profit of \$17,000,000 last year.

It is evident that the greedy eyes of the great mail order financiers are turned upon the entire retail business of the United States outside of the great cities. It is also plain that a gigantic trust is rapidly forming. The small retail merchant is facing ruin. That the grip of the octopus is already being felt is shown by the population statistics. Nearly 7,000 small towns lost population in the census of 1910. It is declared that something must be done by immediate legislation, or the parcel post will not be the complete blessing it ought to be. It is asserted the solution of the problem will be in the form of a heavy tax on mail order business. This tax would, it is contended, tend to stop the expansion of the mail business, and to reduce its present formidable size. The money thus collected would be spent for road building or other local improvements in the districts which contributed to the mail order houses.

The small retail merchant is the prop of distributed prosperity, and the growth of the mail order trust serves no common good. Here is a principle which works out: "If you spend your money where you get it, you will be able to get it where you spend it."

Through a systematic advertising campaign, the mail order capitalists have sought to poison the public mind against the small merchant. The people have been told that there are too many merchants, and that their retail methods are wasteful and costly. But I would point out the other side of the question.

The Chicago vice investigation showed that 50,000 women employees of mail order houses are existing on starvation wages, many of them being driven by poverty to lives of shame. The mail order houses are the great distributors of prison-made goods. They are the exploiters of misfortune, buying much of their goods at bankrupts' sales.

But who takes an interest in local affairs and has a hand in the upbuilding of communities? Whose goods are assessed for the taxes to pay for local improvement? Who, when the crops have failed or the strike is on, and there is no cash to send away, extends the credit which enables the community to live? The local merchant and not the Wall Street owned mail order house.

We want cheapness, a lower cost of living; that is what we are all working for. But we do not want it at the expense of the women wage slaves of Chicago and of the million little merchants of this country.

**STOCK BREEDERS' HANDBOOK**

The Nebraska Improved Live Stock Breeders' Association has recently published a directory of the breeders of fancy live stock in the state of Nebraska who belong to this Association. It contains, besides the breeder's name and the kind of stock which he handles, the approximate number which he generally has on hand and also the number which are for sale. Practically every breed of live stock is represented in this little book. The Experiment Station at Lincoln is constantly receiving inquiries as to who has stock for sale of "such and such a breed". Doubtless the Agricultural Press of the state also receives many inquiries. This little directory should be a very helpful guide to any prospective purchaser or others interested in live stock. Any one desirous of securing a copy should write to Mr. Val Keyser, Secretary of the Live Stock Improvers' Association, Fairbury, Nebraska.

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ESTABLISHED — 1888 —

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UNTIRING WORKERS | TRIED AND TRUE

## NATIONAL LIVE STOCK COMMISSION CO

A PROGRESSIVE COMPANY FOR PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE

THE ONE CAR SHIPPER GETS AS SQUARE A DEAL AS THE MAN WHO SHIPS ONE HUNDRED

OMAHA  
CHICAGO  
KANSAS CITY

ST. JOSEPH  
ST. LOUIS  
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**THE NUT CLUB**

If You Join Us We Will Stand for Lots of Art.

By F. R. MORGAN

Panel 1: "HOW DOES MY PICTURE LOOK?"

Panel 2: "AH, MONSIEUR. ET ISS ZE BEAUTIFUL PORTRAIT NAVAIRE BEFORE HAF I PAINT A MODEL WIZ SUCH DIGNITY SUCH CHARACTER AND SO GRAND A COUNTEINANCE."

Panel 3: "WELL - U - HEM - ITS NICE OF YOU TO SAY THAT. IM GLAD YOU'RE SO OBSERVING - BUT LET'S HAVE A LOOK!"

Panel 4: "ON MY HONOR, MONSIEUR, THERE ISS ONLY ZE ONE LETTLE WORD TO DESCRIBE ZE EFFECT - MAGNIFICENT! MONSIEUR, MAGNIFICENT!"

Panel 5: "LOOK! IS IT NOT?"

Panel 6: "SIGN! QUICK, THERE'S A VACANCY IN THE NUT CLUBS ART DEPARTMENT!"

F. R. MORGAN