

Cash for the Farmer

an's teachings was due the passage of much of the regulatory legislation which the great combines, even down to this time, are unwilling to obey. Bryan was years in advance of his own party, years in advance of the opposition party, in his advocacy of political and economic reforms. It is a matter of common knowledge that much of what is called the progressive legislation placed on the statute books of the nation since 1896 has been based partly or wholly upon his ideas. As he recommended and advocated it, of course, it was pronounced "radical" and "dangerous"; as Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft proposed and even urged it, it was "advanced" and "necessary." Mr. Bryan has seen the credit go to others and he has simply smiled. The "Bryan theories" at which many sneered in the past have been "borrowed" and "adopted" by others who have not been denounced as "dreamers" or "cranks." William Allen White, who can not be numbered among Mr. Bryan's "infatuated and deluded followers," touching upon the defeat of the ex-secretary of state in the recent Nebraska primaries, has this to say:

"He went down partly because he was right; he defended prohibition. * * * He got ahead of the main body of the troops and he was sniped. * * * But the main body of troops will catch up with him on the prohibition issue within a decade."

The main body of troops has caught up with him on other questions and on other issues. If he had not been so far ahead of the grand army in the march of progress he might have been president long ago. We hold no brief for Mr. Bryan, nor will we be committed to indorsement of all his theories or doctrines or issues, but we can not refrain from recalling that it was he who stood against the combined money and Tammany influence at Baltimore four years ago and succeeded in having nominated for the presidency a man whom neither of them could control or claim as its own. What we ask for Mr. Bryan is common justice.

Former Congressman Bartholdt of St. Louis announces that he will make a campaign of Missouri to show that "President Wilson was responsible for the North Sea blockade; that the North Sea blockade justified the German submarine war and the policy of the administration was the cause of much of the disaster in Europe." If Mr. Bartholdt pursues his investigations further there he will also be able to fasten the responsibility for the killing of the Austrian archduke and the failure of the campaign against Verdun upon the President. There is no limit to the ability of a political campaigner to prove whatever he wants to believe.

The influence of the great financial institutions which have made millions out of their practical control of the farm loan business of the United States prevented the republican party from proving itself to be the friend of the farmer it has always pretended to be. Farmers will not forget the fact that it was the Wilson administration which enacted the rural credits law which provides a system of banks which will do for the men who operate the farms what the national and state banks have been doing for years for the men who operate the stores and the factories.

The republican orators are all being groomed to tell the people that if it had not been for the war, this country would not now be luxuriating in the depths of a prosperity greater than it has ever before known. The only danger that is apparent from this line of reasoning is that in order to become convincing it will be necessary to charge the democratic party with starting the war in order to hide their supposed deficiencies as administrators.

A circular recently issued by the First National bank of Boston, which helps in financing the woolen industry of the country through the predominance of Boston as a wool market, states that "wool producers are realizing some very handsome returns, in some cases almost double what they received two years ago." And we were solemnly told that free wool would kill the industry in this country.

Merely to prove how much it thinks of the progressives, the republican national committee has named as a member of its advisory committee Victor Rosewater of Nebraska, the man who, as acting chairman of the national committee in 1912, led the crew that wrecked the hopes of the progressives to control the national convention that year.

[By Henry F. Hollis, United States Senator from New Hampshire, and author of Rural Credits law.]

John Brown lives on a farm in the middle west. The soil is heavy and black, but it has been exhausted by a process of cropping which is more like mining than farming. Everything has been taken from it. Nothing has been restored. That is why the owner, grown rich from soil exhaustion, has sold out and moved to town.

The bare purchase of the farm has taken nearly all of Brown's savings. The buildings leak; fences are down; machinery is lacking; some of the land needs draining; the rest needs fertilizer.

Brown's neighbor is prosperous. He has treated his land like a farm, not like a mine. He has used good seed, bought good stock, laid drain pipes, and purchased commercial fertilizer by the ton. At the end of the year his barns are full and his crops are safe from the weather, while Brown's crops are meager, and further reduced by frequent wettings.

It is plain that Brown needs cash capital, but he has been brought up to save, not to borrow. He looks upon a mortgage as a disgrace. The only time he borrowed, he was unable to pay at maturity. He was charged a commission and an extortionate rate of interest for a renewal. That loan was a burden for years, and always a nightmare.

Then Brown's Cousin Joe comes to visit. Joe is a storekeeper in an eastern city, doing business largely on borrowed capital. He tells John that every prosperous merchant and manufacturer borrows money. He asks John what he supposes banks are for if it is a disgrace to borrow.

Brown is half convinced. He gathers courage one day to go into the nearest bank. He feels shabby and out of place in the midst of so much marble and brass and mahogany. His courage oozes, his voice shakes, he is clearly over-awed, and the bank official decides that he is a cheap fellow.

Brown is glad to escape with his hat. He scarcely recalls why his loan is refused, but there was talk of dear money, and the risk of tying demand deposits up in long term loans. The real reason is that the banker doesn't know Brown or his farm.

And then Brown's friend Robinson turns up one day, fresh from attendance on a hearing by the Federal Farm Loan board, recently appointed by President Wilson under the Rural Credits bill. The board is touring the country to ascertain the farm loan needs of the various districts. Brown's interest is aroused. Here is help to which he is entitled as a farmer and an American. He writes to the Federal Farm Loan Board at Washington, and this is what he learns:

The United States will shortly be divided into twelve land bank districts, each containing a federal land bank. One of these will be established in a city not far from Brown, for the sole object of loaning money to farmers for productive purposes on the security of their farms. The farmer will borrow, not as a favor, but as a right.

Every borrower will take 5% of his loan in stock, and thereby become a partner in the enterprise. He will get his money at cost. Any profit will be returned to him in dividends. The interest rate can not exceed 6%. The law fixes that. But the rate may be as much lower as cheap money and good management will warrant.

Brown learns that the land bank will not deal directly with him, but through a national farm loan association composed of ten farmers who wish to borrow. So he puts in a few evenings visiting his neighbors. He finds nine of them who need cash capital. He invites them to a meeting in his kitchen.

Brown and his friends organize a farm loan association. From the Farm Loan board they receive circulars and blanks. The benefits are so great and the plan so simple that they would be suspicious if the papers had come from Wall Street rather than from the government.

They elect officers, fill out the blanks, sign their names, giving the amount of money required by each, and send their application to the land bank of their district. The land bank sends an agent to investigate. He makes a favorable report and they receive a charter covering their county. Brown is made the secretary-treasurer. Brown receives with the charter blanks for

mortgages and appraisals. The loan committee of his association fills out an appraisal for each loan. Brown forwards these to the land bank. The land bank appraiser examines each farm and recommends the loan. The mortgage papers are then executed and forwarded to the land bank.

The money is sent back to Brown for distribution among the borrowers. Thereafter he collects and forwards to the land bank instalment payments on each loan as they become due. For this service he receives a small fee.

Brown's loan may run for any period from 5 to 40 years. With each payment of interest a certain fixed percentage of the principal is paid. If the interest rate is 5%, and he pays in 1% yearly on the principal, the whole debt will be paid out in 36 years, and this clearing of the mortgage will result from a total payment each year of 6% of the original loan, covering interest, expenses and instalments on principal.

Five per cent of Brown's loan comes to him in stock of his association. If the enterprise makes earnings, Brown will get his share in dividends on his stock. When his loan is paid in full, he receives 100% on his stock in cash. It is a co-operative system.

We have projected Brown's experience a few months into the future, but the plan is accurately outlined. Brown looks forward to January 1st with confidence and entire self-respect. He will receive on his mortgage 50% of the value of his land plus 20% of the value of his buildings. He will make repairs, lay drains, and buy live stock, machinery and fertilizer.

He will pay 1% a year on the principal. He may pay as much faster as he pleases after five years and thereby reduce his interest payments in proportion.

Banks will see Brown no more, hat in hand, lips, acquirer, courage oozing. Brown and his associates have a charter which makes available for them and their neighbors long term money on easy payments and at the lowest rates. This money is theirs to borrow as a right, and they and other borrowing farmers control the whole system. It is co-operative. They own the shares. They receive the profits.

And all this has been made available to the American farmer through the Federal Farm Loan act, signed by President Wilson July 17th last, known as the Rural Credits bill.

"The old time republican majorities," which was the succinct way in which the G. O. P. managers first reported their prophecies of the results in the different states, will not be in evidence when the votes are counted in November. The lack of an issue that interests the people in the republican cause is fatal to any hope of success.

MY WIFE

She is my wife, and all the livelong day
I think of her,
And in the deep oblivion of the night
I dream of her.
When she is near a sweet and tender calm
Falls softly on my heart with soothing balm,
Like the murmured sound of an angel's psalm
Pleading for man.
She is my life, if love is life's author,
Guardian and friend,
Guiding my feet from the pitfalls of woe
Even to the end.
When she is far my heart is sore oppressed,
And sadly beats against my weary breast,
Like prisoned bird that seeks its distant nest
With restless wing.
She is my soul, if from the soul there leaps
That holy fire
That scorches at its birth the poisoned glance
Of base desire.
She lights me, as of old, o'er desert sand
And luring vales of sense was lit that band
That followed Moses to the promised land
Of rest and peace.
Ah, wife of mine, my life, my soul, my all,
Be ever near.
May chilling shadow of thy loss ne'er fall
Upon me here;
But down the opening aisles of future years
Be by my side to quell the rising tears
That flow from hidden springs of doubts and
fears
Within my breast.

—William J. Dawson.