## Farmers Lost \$100,000,000, Thorpe Says

Editor of Nation's Business Blames Loss on Paying Heed to Political Hue and Cry.

The farmers of the middle west lost \$100,000,000 hast fall because they followed the advice given them by political opportunists rather than that of the business interests of the country, which was based on economic

That was the message brought to Omaha and Nebraska Friday by Merle Thorpe of Washington, editor and publisher of the Nation's Business, official organ of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The farmers who rushed their wheat to the market at the behest of Senator Shipstead of Minnesota and the La Follette managers of the 1924 presidential campaign now realize their error. The price of wheat was held down by this abnormal flooding of the market, and other grains were sympathetic. Mr. Thorpe, in an inter- lars, from nickels, dimes and quarview with a reporter for The Omaha Bee, estimated the total loss to the today, when J. E. and J. O. Hostet- Columbus, Kearney, Norfolk, Hastfarmers at approximately \$250,000,000 tler consummated the sale of their ings and Fairbury in Nebraska. in'all forms of their products.

Warned of Trick.

On September 11, 1924, the La Fol-lette-Wheeler headquarters in Washington gave out a statement by Senator Shipstead in which the farmerlabor senator charged that "a small group of financiers in control of the prices during the past two months in an attempt to fool the farmer into However, the farmer can't be fooled. The farmer is solidly for La Follette and Wheeler because he knows they alone are willing to break up the ring which controls the price of this out- ed at Omaha. At that time the two put. The sugar-coated trick now young theater managers owned the being worked by the market grabbers Royal theater at Sloux City, Ia., two won't work with the farmer this

The value of wheat on the Chicago market on the day of the senator's public bull was \$1.27. The Chamber motive.

politics but of economics. There was a shortage in the world's wheat crop. General failures in the Argentine, the fact, here is the nigger in the wood short crop in Canada, were bound to pile: make American wheat rise to \$2.00 or "The political operating policy in more. But contrary to this advice of Ontario is to give domestic consum big business,' many farmers, fright- ers lower-than-cost rates because their ened by the bugaboo presented to votes are needed to make possible a them in the various La Follette-Wheeler pronunciamentos, rushed to the market. Up to election day ap-proximately 310,000,000 bushels had been sold, against 190,000,000 bushels a year before.

the year wheat was sold at \$1.75 a bushel. The crash predicted by Senator Shipstead did not come to pass, has not yet come to pass. Wheat topped \$2.00 within a month and, despite the momentary decline due to the heavy sale of wheat at that figure, it is generally expected to go still neuvers of politicians or the machinamatter.

Mr. Thorpe continued: raised in the senate by government va. Bladen and Clay Center. ownership senators during the Muscle Shoals debate. Dramatically waving an electric light bill, Senator Norris in Canada does receive and pay an a rest from active business.

American neighbor's. "But, and a mighty big but-Ontarlo pays its loss out of the province treasury. In other words, shifts the burden to the taxpayers and lets them pay for below-cost electric serv ice. It might be argued that this is only taking money from one pocket and putting it in another, but unfor tunately the two pockets might not always be in the same pair of pants.

"The rural lines are subsidized to ie extent of \$1,194,000-The taxpay ers pay this.

Tax Exemption Helps.

"Manufacturers pay higher than in the United States and as a result of it are at a disadvantage in competi-Furthermore the consumer pays around the corner to the manu facturer for the saving he gets on his electric light bill.

"Tax exemption on governmen property helps to make lower rates possible but again this saving is only fiction. Any saving in this way b reflected not only in the taxing o property owners but in the rents and other living costs of those who don' pay direct taxes. As a matter of

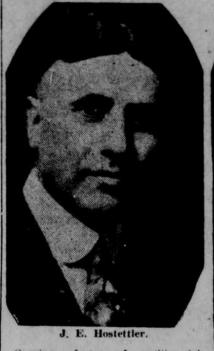
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winter-and in 24 hours. They end headache and fever, open the bowels, tone the whole system. Use nothing less reliable. Colds and Grippe call for prompt, efficient help. Be sure



## Million-Dollar Movie Show Chain, Nebraska Project, to Change Hands



Carving a fortune of a million dolters, reached its point of realization Lincoln chain of theaters and made arrangements for the sale of some 40 more of the "Hostettler circuit." Shire of Lincoln and Famous Players tions," said John Hostettler. Lasky corporation.

John and Jim, the two Hostettler arm products market have inflated and spent the early years of their Following two short years at Wayne. believing that prosperity is at hand, they laid the foundation of their chain of amusement houses with a theater at Waterloo Ia.

Five years ago the Hostettler Amusement company was incorporatyoung theater managers owned the theaters in Lincoln, two at Hastings the one at Waterloo and several other lowa towns.

72 in Chain.

Within three years this little group competitors. of Commerce of the United States, Mr. of houses had grown to 72 in num Thorpe declared, warned the farmers ber, the largest chain of houses it that any talk of a trick to boost the middle west. They had entered our theaters were rated as one of the wheat prices just before election to St. Joseph, Mo.; Atchison, Kan., and big combinations of houses in this make the agrarians think the country had a strong hold in the principal part of the country, and that it was was prospering under Coolidge was cities of Nebraska. Today there are born and brought up right here at just conversation with an ulterior still more than 40 theaters in the home, without the aid of heavy capi chain. It includes practically all tal from elsewhere," said John. the houses in St. Joseph, Mo. "We told the farmers," Mr. Thorpe Marshalltown, Oskaloosa, Atlantic, said, "that it was not a matter of Charles City and Missouri Valley, in Iowa, and Frement, Grand Island,

What happened then? Mr. Thorpe only needed to quote the statistics of the grain market. On the last day of compete on a fair basis with private

Pawnee Fair Dates Set. Table Rock, Feb. 6.-Dates set for the Pawnee County fair this fall are higher within the next few weeks. October 6 to 9. This is about a week The law of supply and demand, and later than usual, but is four weeks not that laid down either by the ma. later than the state fair, and does not conflict with the other racing dates in tions of Wall street, controls this the Short Ship circuit, of which the Pawnee County Fair asseciation is member. Other towns on the circui-"A great hullaballoo has been are Hastings, Nelson, Deshler, Gene

Wymore Hotel Sold.

Wymore, Feb. 6 .- Wm. H. Huston exclaimed that in Ontario where gov who has conducted the City hotel in ernment ownership was the rule, the Wymore for the past 40 years, sold domestic consumer of electric light the business to Edward Skanes, Wy pays less than ball what the consum-er in the United States pays under is one of the old landmarks, but has private operation. What Senator Nor- not served meals for the past two ris says is true. The domestic user years. Mr. and Mrs. Huston will take



J. O. Hostettler.

"We have practically completed the were offered so much money that we didn't feel that we could refuse it, boys, were raised at Superior, Neb., and we will leave Omaha for Florida shortly, where we intend to go into business career at Bloomfield, Neb. business. Possibly if we don't like Florida, we may go to California. One Started as Barber.

The Hostettlers were not always in the amusement business. John was in time Jim was proprietor of a barber shop. They are reputed to have foretheaters start paying dividends. Their greatest success has been in combin ing two or more rival houses, and instead of having them bitter "throatcutters." operate them as friendly

"Our only regret at selling out is that we were proud of the fact that

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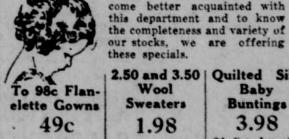
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