

THE FARMER IS NOT NEGLECTED

Scientific Aid Invoked by the Government in His Interest.

Important Results Accomplished During the McKinley-Roosevelt Administration.

A brief review of the work of the McKinley-Roosevelt administration in behalf of the farming interests of the country is all that is necessary to completely controvert the Democratic charge that the government is neglecting the farmer.

During the last eleven years Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt have aimed to bring the Department of Agriculture to the help of our farmers in all sections of the country and have instructed the Secretary of Agriculture to use all endeavors to help the tiller of the soil toward greater efficiency and more economic production; to make the American acre more potent in growing crops. The Congress during the last eleven years has quadrupled the amount of money invested in agricultural research and demonstration, to give the American farmer help in their operations on the farm, to feed our people well and cheaply, and enable them to compete with the outside world. It has provided for over two thousand scientists, specialists in their respective lines, who are in touch with our farmers in all sections of the country, gathering information and preparing it for issue in departmental publications, of which nearly seventeen million pieces were given out in 1907 to go into our country homes, dealing directly with what is uppermost in the minds of our growers of plants and animals at the time of publication.

Science Applied to Development of Agriculture.

The education of specialists in applied science to meet the demand for research under the Federal Government and under State institutions has become a prominent feature of departmental work. Graduates of our agricultural and other colleges are drafted into the Department of Agriculture and prepared for scientific research along the lines demanded by the producers of our country under all our varied conditions. Within the last eleven years nearly sixteen hundred young men have had post-graduate instruction in the sciences of agriculture. The Department of Agriculture and the State experiment stations are actively co-operating with regard to unsolved problems that affect the farmer throughout our States and Territories and in the Islands of the sea that have lately come into our possession.

New markets for our surplus production are being sought in foreign countries, and scientific inquiry is being made into the preparation of our exports for foreign markets. Uncertainty with regard to the magnitude of our crops at home is being removed by careful statistical inquiry, to the end that more accurate knowledge with regard to production may mitigate the evils of speculation. Inquiry is also being made into the productions of competing countries, in order that the American farmer may know what he has to meet in foreign markets.

New Products for American Farms.

Strenuous efforts are being made to encourage the home production of articles we have been importing from foreign countries. During the last eleven years there has been an increase in the production of sugar from beets which makes the product of 1907, amounting to 500,000 tons, over thirteen times that of 1896 and its value fifteen times. Eleven years ago we produced only one-fourth of the rice consumed in the United States. The fostering work of the Federal Government has enabled the rice growers to produce more than the equivalent of our home consumption and foreign markets are being sought for the surplus. There was an increase in the production of rice from 97,000,000 pounds in 1896 to an average of 715,000,000 pounds during the last four years.

Scientific research by the Bureau of Soils demonstrates the fact that we can produce at home the fine tobacco for which we have been paying over twenty million dollars a year to foreign countries. Our explorers have searched foreign lands for grains, legumes, fiber plants, teas, etc., for introduction into sections of the United States suitable to their production. The producing area for grains has been extended westward into the dry regions of our country through the introduction of plants that are at home where the rainfall is light. Nearly fifty millions of bushels of wheat are being grown in regions that have heretofore been unproductive.

Eradication of Diseases of Farm Animals and Products.

The Federal Government is studying the diseases of domestic animals with a view to their complete eradication. Our animals and their products go to foreign countries with bills of healthfulness. The American meats are the most wholesome in the world, as the world now knows. An imported disease of domestic animals was promptly stamped out within a year at an expenditure of \$300,000, to prevent its spreading throughout the country

BRYAN VISITS THE STATE FAIR.



Donkeys! Well, there may be a few here some place, but we don't raise many of them in this state. —From the Des Moines Register and Leader.

among our herds and flocks. Rigid inspection against foreign countries having animal diseases is maintained at our ports of entry, in order to protect the health of our domestic animals.

Within the last eleven years the government has become thoroughly equipped to deal with plant diseases. The loss of half a million dollars annually was stopped by pathological examination of our sea-island cottons. New varieties of fruits, cereals, cottons, etc., are being created by hybridizing to meet the demands of producers of these crops in the North and in the South.

Our forests have been mostly destroyed and our mountains, the natural reservoirs for water, have been rendered incapable of retaining moisture. Efforts are being made to reforest the country, to prevent fires, to regulate grazing in our forests, and to study lumbering and forest products.

The Federal Government is making inquiry into road material and a beginning has been made in the education of young men toward road building. A laboratory has been established in the Department of Agriculture for the study of materials with which to construct roads; and rocks, gravels, clays, tiling, cement, concrete pavements, stone, brick, wood, and asphaltum are being studied.

The Central American boll weevil, now the greatest menace to the cotton crop of the United States, is being actively studied as it increases its range, and means of control have been devised which make the growth of cotton nearly as profitable as ever. The insect enemies of other great staple crops are being investigated throughout the country, and the gypsy and brown-tail moths, which are threatening the forest areas of New England, are being checked and brought into measurable control by the agency of the Federal Government in co-operation with state authorities. The losses occasioned by insect pests in general amount to millions annually, and much of this loss may gradually be prevented by the kind of work done by the Department of Agriculture.

The Meat Inspection and Pure Food Laws.

On June 30, 1906, by the approval of President Roosevelt, the Meat Inspection Amendment became a law. Under the provisions of this amendment the Federal Government guarantees to the people of the United States that the meat shipped in interstate commerce is derived from animals which are free from disease at the time of slaughter, and that meat products from these animals are prepared in clean packing houses, under sanitary conditions, and without the addition of any injurious or deleterious drugs, chemicals, or preservatives. The United States now has the most stringent and the best enforced meat inspection law of any country in the world, and it is a great pro-

tection to the health and lives of the people. Over 2,500 employees are directly engaged each working day in the year in the enforcement of the law.

On the same day, June 30, 1906, President Roosevelt approved the Pure Food Law. This law covers all foods, with the exception of meats, including beverages, and also drugs which enter interstate or foreign commerce. By its terms, articles of food or drink must not contain any injurious or deleterious drug, chemical, or preservative, and the label upon each package of food, drugs, or drink must state the exact fact, and must not be false or misleading in any particular. While this law does not cover foods, beverages and drugs which are produced and consumed entirely within the limits of one state, yet its enactment has incited the legislatures of the different states to enact laws covering domestic products of a like nature. These laws very generally follow the national act as to form and detail, the only difference being that one affects interstate and foreign commerce, while the other affects the internal commerce of the state. Inspectors are continually traveling throughout the United States to discover whether the terms of the law are being observed, and they have found, upon the part of manufacturers and dealers, a very general compliance with the law. When violations of the law are observed, they are at once prosecuted by the Department of Justice, and the guilty parties are punished.

The Farmer and Balance of Trade.

During the eighteen years, 1890-1907, the average annual excess of domestic exports over imports amounted to \$337,000,000, and during the same time the annual average in favor of farm products was \$362,000,000, from which it is apparent that there was an average annual adverse balance of trade in products other than those of the farm, amounting to \$25,000,000, which the farmers offset and had left \$337,000,000 to the credit of themselves and the country.

Taking the business of 1907, the comparison is much more favorable to the farmers than during the eighteen-year period, since the value of domestic exports of farm products over imports was \$444,000,000.

During the last eighteen years there was a balance of trade in favor of farm products, without exception any year, that amounted to \$6,512,000,000. Against this was an adverse balance of trade in products other than those of the farm of \$456,000,000, and the farmers not only canceled this immense obligation, but had enough left to place \$6,056,000,000 to the credit of the nation when the books of international exchange were balanced.

These figures tersely express the immense national reserve sustaining power of the farmers of the country under present quantities of production.

The health of our people is being safeguarded by inquiry into importations of food from foreign countries that contain substances deleterious to health. The United States is no longer the dumping ground for food stuffs that are forbidden sale in the countries where they originate.

An aim of the Department is to make the American independent with regard to everything that can be produced in our latitudes. Corps of scientists have been placed in each of the new island

groups that have lately come under our jurisdiction for the purpose of helping them to produce what can not be grown in the continental United States.

The Department of Agriculture is furnishing information regarding the requirements and possibilities of irrigation, both in the arid regions of the United States and as an aid to agriculture in the humid East. This inquiry determines the amount of water needed to give the best results, the time when it should be applied, and the methods of application best suited to different localities, and the different crops. The evils of too much water, resulting in the ruin of large areas which were highly productive a few years ago, are being investigated, with a view to preventing not only the ruining of crops which get too much water, but of those on equally fertile soil which are deprived of the necessary water supply. The economic use of water and the introduction of plants from foreign countries where the rainfall is light are extending crop growing over large areas that have been unproductive.

Other Fields of Activity.

The bureau has undertaken the direction of farms, particularly where baffling problems discourage the farmers. Thirty-two of these farms are under the supervision of the bureau in Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Florida. Co-operative work in tea raising in South Carolina has resulted in a crop of 8,000 to 10,000 pounds in a season on the experimental farm, the tea being many times more valuable than the imported grades.

During a single year the department printed 12,500,000 copies of its various publications; 6,500,000 farmers' bulletins alone were issued. During the year the department issued 972 distinct publications, 329 being new. They contained 22,000 pages of reading matter, a library in itself.

There are over 4,500 people directly employed in the department and nearly 250,000 people acting as special correspondents throughout the world without compensation, a notable tribute to the importance of farming in the United States.

In two years' time the farmers of this country have produced wealth exceeding the output of all the gold mines of the world since the discovery of America by Columbus. In a single month of their busy season the hens of the country lay enough eggs to pay the year's interest on the national debt. In a year they produce one and two-thirds billions of eggs, 245 eggs a year for every American.

From the corn crop of a single year the farmers can pay the interest on the national debt for a year, the entire debt itself, and a large amount of the actual expenses of the government to boot. In 1905 the corn crop reached 2,700,000,000 bushels.

The agricultural products of the United States for two years are over six times as large as the capital stock of all the banks in America, not to mention the capital invested in the farms. The farmer is destined to be a man no longer but master of his own future and fate.

LABOR'S REAL ISSUE IS DEAL WITH GOMPERS

His Effort to "Throw" the Trade-Union Vote to Bryan Doing Infinite Harm.

THAT "BUSINESS" CONFERENCE.

The Labor Press and Leaders of Country Unmask President of the Federation as a Democrat and a Free Trader Fighting to Defeat the Best Friends of the Workingman.

It will be exceedingly interesting to wage workers and the public in general to know how strongly the political course of President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, is being opposed by the labor press and trade union leaders of the country. Since the fact has become known that President Gompers has had a real "business" conference with Mr. Mack, manager of the Bryan campaign, the opposition of organized labor to President Gompers' effort to "throw" the trade union vote over to Bryan is still all the stronger. There no longer remains any doubt that President Gompers has arranged with the Democratic party to try to force the labor vote to Bryan, and that despite the fact that he, Gompers, is at the head of a trade union organization of a non-political nature, he is, as an official of that trade union, using his time, paid for by the union, and the union machinery in furthering the success of a partisan political party. In doing this he is going contrary to all precedent, either in this country or in England. He is a Democrat and a free trader and as such has put himself on record as fighting to defeat the best friends American labor ever had in the history of the Nation.

While many of the labor papers remain non-committal on the question, most of the important ones oppose the policy of President Gompers. Of course the out and out Democratic papers will lean toward Bryan.

The Toledo Union Leader has strongly opposed the Gompers slogan to "reward your friends and punish your enemies." It declares that the policy is ineffective and is likely to do more damage to the unions than good. The Leader has consistently stood for direct action through a labor party or the Socialist party and is at present delivering hammer blows for the legislative ticket of the Socialist party, which was endorsed by referendum vote of the local unions.

The Akron People rips the anti-union pretenses of the Democratic party into tatters, and points out to Gompers the utter absurdity of placing any reliance in a party that declares in favor of restricting injunctions in one plank and follows it up with a declaration that "It is the function of the courts to interpret the laws which the people create."

The Zanesville Labor Journal concludes that labor is confronted by far greater questions than injunctions, and that "the labor vote has never been delivered or deliverable by any man or set of men."

The Brewers' Journal, of Cincinnati, ridicules the growing tameness of Bryan, declaring that he is no more feared, and calls upon the working people to stand by workingmen in the coming election, something Gompers will not do.

The Switchmen's Journal, printed at Buffalo, opposes Gompers.

The Bakers' Journal, published in Chicago, in behalf of its readers "emphatically protests against having our international organization classed with those 'who work and vote for the success of the Democratic ticket.'"

The Store Mounters' Journal, of Detroit, dismisses the subject with the conclusion: "These are the times the workingmen find themselves close to the hearts of the Republican and Democratic parties. After election their usual position will be assumed again."

The Pueblo (Colo.) Union Label Bulletin remarks that "Bro. Gompers expresses himself as highly pleased with the Democratic labor program, but from this distance we fail to see anything to get particularly enthusiastic about. We are presented with the same old alternative of choosing the lesser of two evils, with mighty little choice in the matter."

The Piano and Organ Workers' Official Journal, printed in Chicago, edited by Secretary Dold, formerly President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, says in part, speaking of Gompers' action urging union people to support Bryan and the Democratic party:

"As an excuse for his unusual, unconstitutional and heretofore unheard of procedure he offers the labor plank recently adopted by the Democrats at their Denver convention.

"We deem it to be our duty to enter a most emphatic protest against this, a most wanton disregard for well-established trade union law and ethics.

Democratic parties have in times past not hesitated to crush the hopes and aspirations of the wage workers with an iron heel whenever and wherever it suited their purpose to do so. * * *

"And this in lieu of a 'promise,' a chimerical or at best questionable anti-injunction plank.

"Anti-election promises have ever been looked upon with scorn by labor leaders—until now.

"We believe in political action of the wage workers; we believe it to be their only salvation.

"We do not believe in the kind of politics that will boost a party or parties to which we are indebted for all of labor's ills, no matter what 'promises' may be made.

"The fifty, hundred or more years of experience had by organized labor should preclude the possibility of turning the workers' economic movement into an adjunct of political party corruptionists.

"We believe in the ballot; we long for the day when labor will become a political unit.

"We long for a party of, for and by the wage worker.

"Let it be said that President Gompers meant well—but he erred."

Regarding Bryan and his speech of acceptance the views of the following prominent trade union leaders will be interesting:

J. E. Pritchard, general secretary of the International Pavers and Rammers' Union, said:

"I consider Bryan's letter the weakest document of its kind ever written. It is nonsense to assert that the Republican party is responsible for the business depression. Under the Republican administration the people had seven years of prosperity. The depression was due to natural causes, and politics had nothing to do with it. If Bryan is elected there will be a worse depression.

"The Knights of Labor went to pieces when they went into politics, and a like fate will befall the American Federation of Labor unless it refuses to support the Democratic party. A labor union is an industrial institution and should steer clear of politics."

Edward Hourigan, of District No. 15, of the International Association of Machinists, said:

"Bryan's letter is not radical enough. It is so weak it will destroy much confidence on the part of the working people in the Democratic party. Bryan has no longer a ghost of a show of being elected."

John A. Dyche, of the International Women's Garment Makers' Union, said:

"Bryan with his weak letter may gain the support of many conservatives but will alienate the labor vote."

President John Young, of the Lithographers' International Protective and Beneficial Association of the United States, said:

"Bryan has no show at all of being elected. His letter of acceptance will not cut much ice with the working people. I do not believe in his methods. The Republican and Democratic parties are both lukewarm when it comes to aiding laboring classes."

The truth is there are scores of trade union leaders who are absolutely opposed to Bryan and to the methods put into operation by President Gompers to try to force trade unionists to vote for Bryan, but these leaders just at present prefer, for obvious reasons, to remain more or less silent. They can easily see the infinite harm the policy of Samuel Gompers will do the trade union cause.

Taft and Labor.

When on the bench Judge Taft said:

"That employes have a right to form labor unions.

"That such unions are a benefit to labor and to the public.

"That they have the right to join with other unions.

"That the accumulation of a fund to aid in a strike is right.

"That employes have a right to strike whenever any of the terms of their employment are unsatisfactory.

Mr. Gompers says Judge Taft is opposed to organized labor. Mr. Gompers has done a lot of talking in his time and has been a very prolific writer, but in all he has said or in all he has written he has never given organized labor a more unqualified indorsement than Judge Taft gave when on the bench.

The Natural Heir.

(By Josh Wink.)

Bryan says he is the heir
To Roosevelt's policies;
So natural successor is
To all the power he sees.
But natural heirs are off out
When they, perforce, go ill,
And he will find though strong his claim,
Taft will contest the will.

The mantle that our Roosevelt drops
Doth Bryan think he'll wear,
And in his right to wear the same
Will anybody dare.

He says he only owner is
To all that Roosevelt leaves
In policy, but sooth to say,
He nobody deceives.

The mantle far too big for him
In truth, he'll never wear it;
The policies too broad for him
He'll never just inherit.
He may adopt himself as heir,
But Roosevelt makes the will.
And when the time comes to probate
'Tis Taft will fill the bill.

—Baltimore American.