# REPORT TELLS OF NEEDS OF FARMER

## SITUATION AS SEEN BY COMMISSION ON COUNTRY LIFE.

## DEFICIENCIES POINTED OUT

**Agriculture at Present Not Commercially as Profitable as It Is Entitled to Be—Highly Organized Rural Society Recommended as Desirable Step—Possible for Congress to Remove Many of the Handicaps.**

Washington.—The report of the commission on country life, made to the president, was read in both houses of congress. Substantially the report was as follows:

To the President: The commission on country life herewith presents its report. The commission finds that agriculture in the United States, taken together, is prosperous commercially, when measured by the conditions that have obtained in previous years, although there are some regions in which this is only partially true. The country people are producing vast quantities of supplies for food, shelter, clothing, and for use in the arts. The country homes are improving in comfort, attractiveness and healthfulness. Not only in the material wealth that they produce, but in the supply of independent and strong citizenship, the agricultural people constitute the very foundation of our national efficiency. As agriculture is the immediate basis of country life, so it follows that the general affairs of the open country, speaking broadly, are in a condition of improvement.

### Most Prominent Deficiencies.

Yet it is true, notwithstanding all this progress as measured by historical standards, that agriculture is not commercially as profitable as it is entitled to be for the labor and energy that the farmer expends and the risks that he assumes, and that the social conditions in the open country are far short of their possibilities. We must measure our agricultural efficiency by the possibilities rather than by comparison with previous conditions. The farmer is almost necessarily handicapped in the development of his business, because his capital is small and the volume of his transactions limited; and he usually stands practically alone against organized interests. In the general readjustment of modern life due to the great changes in manufactures and commerce, inequalities and discriminations have arisen, and naturally the separate man suffers most. The unattached man has problems that government should understand.

The reasons for the lack of a highly organized rural society are very many, as the full report explains. The leading specific causes are:

A lack of knowledge on the part of farmers of the exact agricultural conditions and possibilities of their regions;

Lack of good training for country life in the schools;

Lack of good highway facilities;

The widespread continuing depletion of soils, with the injurious effect on rural life;

A general need of new and active leadership.

Other causes contributing to the general result are: Lack of any adequate system of agricultural credit, whereby the farmer may readily secure loans on fair terms; the shortage of labor, a condition that is often complicated by intemperance among workmen; lack of institutions and incentives that tie the laboring man to the soil; the burdens and the narrow life of farm women; lack of adequate supervision of public health.

### Nature of the Remedies.

Some of the remedies lie with the national government, some of them with the states and communities in their corporate capacities, some with voluntary organizations, and some with individuals acting alone. From the great number of suggestions that have been made, covering every phase of country life, the commission now enumerates those that seem to be most fundamental or most needed at the present time.

Congress can remove some of the handicaps of the farmer, and it can also set some kinds of work in motion such as:

The encouragement of a system of thorough-going surveys of all agricultural regions in order to take stock and to develop a scientifically and economically sound country life;

The establishing of a nationalized system of extension work in rural communities through all the land-grant colleges with the people at their homes and on their farms;

A thorough-going investigation by experts of the middleman system of handling farm products, coupled with a general inquiry into the farmer's disadvantages in respect to taxation, transportation rates, co-operation organizations and credit, and the general business system;

An inquiry into the control and use of the streams of the United States with the object of protecting the people in their ownership and of saving to agricultural uses such benefits as should be reserved for these purposes;

The establishing of a highway engineering service, or equivalent organization, to be at the call of the states in working out effective and economical highway systems;

The establishing of a system of parcels post and postal savings banks;

And providing some means or agency for the guidance of public opinion toward the development of a real rural society that shall rest directly on the land.

Other remedies recommended for consideration by congress are:

The enlargement of the United States bureau of education, to enable it to stimulate and co-ordinate the educational work of the nation;

Careful attention to the farmers' interests in legislation on the tariff, on regulation of railroads, control or regulation of corporations and of speculation, legislation in respect of rivers, forests, and the utilization of swamp lands;

Increasing the powers of the federal government in respect to the supervision and control of the public health;

Providing such regulations as will enable the states that do not permit the sale of liquors to protect themselves from traffic from adjoining states.

In setting all these forces in motion, the co-operation of the states will be necessary; and in many cases definite state laws may greatly aid the work.

Remedies of a more general nature are: A broad campaign of publicity, that must be undertaken until all the people are informed on the whole subject of rural life, and until there is an awakened appreciation of the necessity of giving this phase of our national development as much attention as has been given to other phases or interests; a quickened sense of responsibility in all the country people, to the community and the state in the conserving of soil fertility, and in the necessity for diversifying farming in order to conserve this fertility and to develop a better rural society, and also in the better safe-guarding of the strength and happiness of the farm women; a more widespread conviction of the necessity of organization, not only for economic but for social purposes, this organization to be more or less co-operative, so that all the people may share equally in the benefits and have voice in the essential affairs of the community; a realization on the part of the farmer that he has a distinct natural responsibility toward the laborer in providing him with good living facilities, and in helping him in every way to be a man among men; and a realization on the part of all the people of the obligation to protect and develop the natural scenery and attractiveness of the open country.

### Underlying Problem of Country Life.

The commission has pointed out a number of remedies that are extremely important; but running through all of these remedies are several great forces or principles, which must be utilized in the endeavor to solve the problems of country life. All the people should recognize what these fundamental forces and agencies are.

Knowledge.—To improve any situation, the underlying facts must be understood. The farmer must have exact knowledge of his business and of the peculiar conditions under which he works. The United States department of agriculture and the experiment stations and colleges are rapidly acquiring and distributing this knowledge; but the farmer may not be able to apply it to the best advantage because of lack of knowledge of his own soils, climate, animal and plant diseases, markets, and other local facts. The farmer is entitled to know what are the advantages and disadvantages of his conditions and environment. A thorough-going system of surveys in detail of the exact conditions underlying farming in every locality is now an indispensable need to complete and apply the work of the great agricultural institutions. As an occupation, agriculture is a means of developing our internal resources; we cannot develop these resources until we know exactly what they are.

Education.—There must be not only a fuller scheme of public education, but a new kind of education adapted to the real needs of the farming people. The country schools are to be so redirected that they shall educate their pupils in terms of the daily life. Opportunities for training toward the agricultural colleges are to be multiplied and made broadly effective. Every person on the land, old or young, in school or out of school, educated or illiterate, must have a chance to receive the information necessary for a successful business, and for a healthful, comfortable, resourceful life, both in home and neighborhood. This means redoubled efforts for better country schools, and a vastly increased interest in the welfare of country boys and girls on the part of those who pay the school taxes. Education by means of agriculture is to be a part of our regular public school work. Special agricultural schools are to be organized. There is to be a well-developed plan of extension teaching conducted by the agricultural colleges, by means of the printed page, face-to-face talks, and demonstration or object lesson, designed to reach every farmer and his family at or near their homes, with knowledge and stimulus in every department of country life.

Organization.—There must be a vast enlargement of voluntary organized effort among farmers themselves. It is indispensable that farmers shall work together for their common interests and for the national welfare. If they do not do this, no governmental activity, no legislation, not even better schools, will greatly avail. The farmers are nevertheless relatively unorganized. We have only begun to develop business co-operation in America. Farmers do not influence legislation as they should. They need a more fully organized social and recreative life.

Spiritual Forces.—The forces and institutions that make for morality and spiritual ideals among rural people must be energized. We miss the heart of the problem if we neglect to foster personal character and neighborhood righteousness. The best way to preserve ideals for private conduct and public life is to build up the institutions of religion. The church has great power of leadership. The whole people should understand that it is vitally important to stand behind the rural church and to help it to become a great power in developing concrete country life ideals. It is especially important that the country church recognize that it has a social responsibility to the entire community as well as a religious responsibility to its own group of people.

### Recommendations of the Commission.

The commission recommends all the correctives that have been mentioned under the head of "The nature of the remedies." It does not wish to discriminate between important measures of relief for existing conditions. It has purposely avoided indorsing any particular bill now before congress, no matter what its value or object.

There are, however, in the opinion of the commission, two or three great movements of the utmost consequence that should be set under way at the earliest possible time, because they are fundamental to the whole problem of ultimate permanent reconstruction, these call for special explanation.

Taking Stock of Country Life.—There should be organized, as explained in the main report, under governmental leadership, a comprehensive plan for an exhaustive study or survey of all the conditions that surround the business of farming and the people who live in the country, in order to take stock of our resources and to supply the farmer with local knowledge. Federal and state governments, agricultural colleges and other educational agencies, organizations of various types and individual students of the problem, should be brought into co-operation for this great work of investigating with minute care all agricultural and country life conditions.

Nationalized Extension Work.—Each state college of agriculture should be empowered to organize as soon as practicable a complete department of college extension, so managed as to reach every person on the land in its state, with both information and inspiration. The work should include such forms of extension teaching as lectures, bulletins, reading courses, correspondence courses, demonstration, and other means of reaching the people at home and on their farms. It should be designed to forward not only the business of agriculture, but sanitation, education, home making, and all interests of country life.

## THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Miss Celia Milligan, a young woman of Centralia, Ill., died after taking an overdose of headache tablets with the intent of obtaining relief from excessive pain.

Mrs. Julius Goldzier wants the city council of Bayonne, N. J., to appoint five women as policemen for the parks next summer. Mayor Garven of Bayonne favors the plan.

W. A. Edwards, a prominent manufacturer of Clinton, Ia., whose wife and children perished in the Iroquois theater fire, dropped dead in his office. He was 58 years old.

The harvester combine has agreed not to fight the case against it at Topeka for violation of the anti-trust laws and will pay the state $60,000 for which it was sued.

Mrs. I. N. Stevens, aged 52 years, wife of I. N. Stevens, owner and editor of the Pueblo Chieftain, died in Denver. Mrs. Stevens had been ill since July 7 from stomach trouble.

A bare possibility exists that the senate may pass the bill to establish postal savings banks before adjournment, according to advices from Washington. It is not likely that the house will pass the measure.

Mrs. George V. Parks, a society woman of Pueblo, Col., and wife of the assistant president of the Pueblo Traction Company, committed suicide in Pueblo, Col. Mrs. Parks has been in ill health for some time.

John B. Moran, district attorney of Boston, died in the St. Luke's home in Phoenix, Ariz., of tuberculosis of the throat. Mr. Moran went to Phoenix two weeks ago, after spending some time in the Adirondacks and at Denver.

John D. Rockefeller in a speech to Georgia farmers said: "But after we get through with whatever our task in life may be, we will be asked the pertinent question, what was the fruit of our work—what was the real fruitage?"

Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, retired, in an interview in Chicago, was quoted as saying that Russia will fight Japan again, and will have Germany, France and Austria as allies, while England will support the Mikado's country.

It is announced at the headquarters of the National League of the Civic Education of Women, in New York, that Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish has joined the organization, which means that Mrs. Fish is opposed to women's suffrage.

Eulogies of the late William B. Allison of Iowa occupied the session of the senate last Saturday. Tributes were paid alike by Republican and Democratic senators. The exercises were opened with prayer by the chaplain. Senators Dolliver and Cummins paid high tribute to the deceased.

## NEW MICHIGAN BANK LAW.

**Measure Said to Have Approval of Officials and Financiers.**

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 6.—The outline of a proposed new banking law for the state of Michigan was made public last night by Hal H. Smith, attorney for the Michigan Bankers' association. It is issued in the form of a report of a special committee of the association as amended and adopted by the association's executive council. It has also been approved by State Banking Commissioner H. M. Zimmerman.

The bill makes it a felony punishable by a fine not exceeding $1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five years to make or use false statements to obtain credit. The making or circulating of false rumors derogatory to a bank is also made a felony. The salary of the commissioners of banking is raised from $2,500 per year to $5,000 and the deputy commissioner is given $3,000 per year. Examiners are required to pass an examination as to their competency and are to receive $1,500 the first year and an increase of $250 per year up to a maximum of $2,500. When the stock of a solvent bank is impaired the banking commissioner is authorized to assess the stockholders proportionately to their holdings.

## THE MARKETS.

| | New York, Feb. 8. | |
|---|---|---|
| LIVE STOCK—Steers | $5 50 | @ 6 25 |
| Hogs | 7 10 | @ 7 25 |
| Sheep | 4 25 | @ 6 10 |
| FLOUR—Winter Straights | 4 30 | @ 4 50 |
| WHEAT—May | 1 12½ | @ 1 12¾ |
| July | 1 08 | @ 1 08¼ |
| CORN—May | 67 | @ 68 |
| RYE—No. 2 Western | 81 | @ 82½ |
| BUTTER—Creamery | 28 | @ 30½ |
| EGGS | 29 | @ 31 |
| CHEESE | 16½ | @ 16¾ |
| **CHICAGO.** | | |
| CATTLE—Fancy Steers | $6 50 | @ 7 15 |
| Medium to Good Steers | 5 25 | @ 6 50 |
| Cows, Plain to Fancy | 2 40 | @ 5 25 |
| Choice Feeders | 3 75 | @ 4 60 |
| Calves | 3 00 | @ 8 25 |
| HOGS—Heavy Packers | 6 25 | @ 6 40 |
| Heavy Butchers | 6 25 | @ 6 55 |
| Pigs | 4 25 | @ 6 00 |
| BUTTER—Creamery | 22 | @ 31 |
| Dairy | 20 | @ 25 |
| LIVE POULTRY | 13 | @ 16 |
| EGGS | 26 | @ 28 |
| POTATOES (per bu.) | 75 | @ 80 |
| FLOUR—Spring Wheat, Sp'l | 5 30 | @ 6 00 |
| WHEAT—May | 1 07½ | @ 1 08¼ |
| July | 98½ | @ 99 |
| Corn, May | 62½ | @ 62¾ |
| Oats, May | 51½ | @ 52 |
| Rye, May | 78 | @ 78½ |
| **MILWAUKEE.** | | |
| GRAIN—Wheat, No. 1 Nor'n | $1 14 | @ 1 15 |
| May | 1 06½ | @ 1 07 |
| Corn, May | 62½ | @ 62¾ |
| Oats, Standard | 51½ | @ 52 |
| Rye | 78½ | @ 79 |
| **KANSAS CITY.** | | |
| GRAIN—Wheat, May | $1 00½ | @ 1 01½ |
| July | 90½ | @ 90 |
| Corn, May | 58½ | @ 59 |
| Oats, No. 2 White | 50 | @ 52 |
| **ST. LOUIS.** | | |
| CATTLE—Beef Steers | $5 50 | @ 7 10 |
| Texas Steers | 3 00 | @ 5 10 |
| HOGS—Packers | 6 60 | @ 6 80 |
| Butchers | 6 65 | @ 6 80 |
| SHEEP—Natives | 3 75 | @ 5 00 |
| **OMAHA.** | | |
| CATTLE—Native Steers | $4 00 | @ 6 25 |
| Stockers and Feeders | 3 60 | @ 5 00 |
| Cows and Heifers | 3 00 | @ 5 00 |
| HOGS—Heavy | 6 15 | @ 6 40 |
| SHEEP—Wethers | 4 12 | @ 5 25 |

# SEEKS PAY FOR LAND

## EX-QUEEN LIL OF HAWAII ASKS MONEY OF CONGRESS.

**Is Child of Royal Line and Traces Ancestry Back to Princess Who First Introduced Christianity Among Her Subjects.**

Washington.—Queen Liliuokalani, former ruler of the Hawaiian islands, who is still endeavoring to collect from the United States for the so-called crown land which became public property when this country took possession of the islands nearly 15 years ago, appeared before the house committee on laws the other day to urge her claim.

The queen has no legal claim of any kind, and she and her relatives have at last been forced to concede this. They are now appealing to the generosity of the American people on the ground that the former head of an independent nation which was absorbed by this great country should have a fitting income entirely aside from the contributions of friends and former subjects.

The former queen has aged a great deal in the last few years and broad white streaks have appeared in her coal black hair. There are wrinkles in the brown face of the woman who, when she first appeared in Washington was unanimously voted to be a decidedly beautiful if dusky matron.

When the queen was dispossessed, what was then known as the crown lands amounted to about 1,000,000 acres. According to local residents these lands were in no sense the property of the monarch, but belonged to the state, and properly were turned

Ex-Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii.

over first to the republic, then to the United States, and then reverted back to the territory as ordinary public lands. The queen and her followers always have contended that these lands were private property belonging to the reigning family. When she was driven from the throne her income from this source amounted to about $65,000 annually in addition to a public fund of $20,000 a year for maintaining the royal household.

Since that time the deposed queen and her friends and associates have pressed vainly their claim for recompense before one congress after another. The present value of these lands is something over $10,000,000, but the queen has now scaled down her claim to the point where she is willing to compromise for about $250,000 in hard cash. There is a growing feeling in favor of generous action toward the former queen, whose years are now fast declining and many statesmen say a bonus direct to her would be worth a good deal more than the money involved, because of the good impression it would create among the Hawaiian part of the population of the islands.

Liliuokalani is a direct descendant of one of the most picturesque characters in the history of Hawaii, whose story has been told in a thousand missionary meetings and sent broadcast in a million Sunday school volumes. She is, in fact, a great-grand-niece of Kapiolani, the island princess or female chief, who did more than any other person to bring the natives to Christianity.

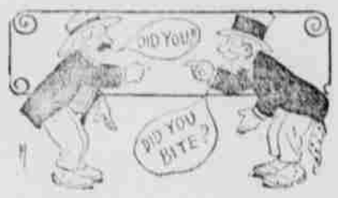
It was Kapiolani who dared to pluck the sacred berries which grow at the brink of the crater of Kilauea. The natives had been taught that a person who picked those berries would surely die a most horrible death because of the supposed sacrilege directed against the goddess Pele. Kapiolani not only gathered the sacred berries, risking her life in securing them, but she led a picturesque procession of her retainers, some 200 in number, down to the lake of fire below the rim of the crater. With opened hymn book, singing praises to the God of the new Christian cult, she defied Pele and threw the sacred berries into the burning lake. Of course nothing happened, and the supposed sacrilege was not punished in any way.

Pele as an awe inspiring deity was compelled to go out of business and the simple natives flocked to the Christian standard fully convinced that a new God had arisen who would surely punish unless he were followed with praise and thanksgiving. This was the beginning of the extraordinary conversion of the simple islanders, the like of which probably never has been seen or heard before or since in the history of missionary effort.

# Washington Whisperings

**Interesting Bits of News Gathered at the National Capital.**

## Congressmen Initiated Into Novel Club




WASHINGTON.—The most exclusive congressional organization in Washington is the "Did You Bite, Too?" club. It was formed here the other day in the cloak rooms used at the capitol. The incomplete membership list, which is withheld, contains a dozen names. Like the Ananias club, the wishes of a prospective member are not consulted. If he is considered eligible he joins because there is nothing else for him to do.

The process of initiation is something like this. A member, either of the senate or the house, receives a letter bearing the return card of a prominent down-town hotel. He opens the letter and reads it. If his face grows red and his eyes flash, it is a good indication that he is material for membership. If, after a moment of thought, a smile begins to overspread his countenance and he reaches in his desk for his check book, it is a mere indication no longer. It is a certainty. He is then approached by a member.

"Did you bite, too?" smilingly asks the member of the member-elect.

"I did," the member-elect answers, in effect.

"Haw! haw! haw!" roars the member.

The "Haw! haw! haw!" signifies that the initiation is complete, and the new member blushingly receives the congratulations of the older members immediately. If he is a good fellow he sets out to find a recruit upon whom he himself may administer the "work."

The organization of the "Did You Bite, Too?" club is the result of a visit to Washington of two women from New York in the interest of a very captivating publicity scheme. This scheme is now one of the secrets of the "Did You Bite, Too?" club.

A few days ago the young women went back to New York. The day after their departure a large bunch of letters came to the capitol, all written on the business stationery of the hotel. Each letter contained a statement of the account of the person to whom it was addressed. One was for five automobile rides, another was for dinners and suppers, another for numerous bottles of wine, others were for miscellaneous items, and one, which was received by a young congressman, who has plenty of the wherewithal and doesn't care how he spends it, was for board and lodging for two persons for one week.

Those who paid homage to these young women and wondered at the lavish entertainment are wondering no longer. The members of the "Did You Bite, Too?" club know exactly how they managed it. Now that it is all over, if you can get one of them to talk club matters he will tell you it was one of the finest pieces of high financing that ever came to his notice.

## New Aero Club at the National Capital

WASHINGTON has an aero club. It was organized the other day in the office of Brig. Gen. James Allen, chief signal officer of the army at the war department. Truman H. Newberry, secretary of the navy, was elected president; Robert Shaw Oliver, assistant secretary of war, first vice-president; Thomas Nelson Page, second vice-president, and Representative Butler Ames of Massachusetts, third vice-president.

Among the charter members of the new club are Representative Parsons of New York, O. H. Tittman of the geodetic survey, Lieut. Richard B. Creery, U. S. M. C.; C. L. Mariatt, chief of the bureau of entomology; Lieut. George C. Sweet, U. S. N., of the bureau of equipment; Col. Charles H. Bromwell, U. S. A., superintendent public buildings and grounds, District of Columbia; Lieut. F. P. Lahm, George O. Totten, Jr., and R. M. McLennan.

A committee of the Aero Club of America, with which the Washington club will be affiliated, has been appointed to receive contributions for a memorial shaft to Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge, U. S. A., who was killed in the accident to the Wright aeroplane at Fort Myer last September. On the committee are Glen H. Curtiss, Prof. Alexander Bell and Lieut. F. P. Lahm, U. S. A. The shaft will be erected either in Arlington National cemetery, where Lieut. Selfridge is buried, or on the spot where the Wright aeroplane fell on the parade ground at Fort Myer. The latter spot is favored by the majority of these interests.

Officers of the signal corps have not given up hope that something may be done by this session of congress to appropriate money for the promotion of aeronautics in the United States army. They express hope that individual members of congress may ask for money for aerial protection of the districts they represent. They believe if this should go through in one case it would be followed by other requests of a similar nature.

## Victims Open War on "Mushroom" Hat

YOUNGER officers of the navy who are regularly invited to the debutantes' teas in Washington say they are going to form an anti-mushroom "Merry Widow" hat league, or wear baseball masks in the future.

It appears that the so-called "pink teas" are sometimes positively dangerous if either Miss Newberry, daughter of the secretary of the navy; Miss Olga Converse, the Misses Fremont, the Misses Goodwin or any of the other navy girls turn around too abruptly when naval officers or others of their admirers get among them and come within range of their hats.

These large hats of the mushroom "Merry Widow" species are sometimes as sharp on the edges as if they had been specially stropped, and, in addition, generally have stanch, sharp pointed feathers which protrude and could inflict untold damage if properly aimed. No one accuses the navy girls of attempting to do damage with these weapons, but the fact remains that there are several of the younger officers who have received painful glancing blows from the hats but have been too gallant to complain.

"The way the damage is done," one of the navy girls' admirers said the other day, "is generally in this fashion: You go to a tea and, after shaking hands in the drawing room, spy several of the fair young navy damsels all in a group and talking vivaciously. You approach cautiously and begin the recital of some carefully prepared speech about the weather to Miss Converse. At the sound of your voice Miss Newberry or Miss Fremont or some other navy girl turns her head quickly your way and delivers you somewhere about the face a stinging blow with the edge of her hat and the sharp pointed feathers. Of course you suffer in silence, like a man, but you silently pray for the day when softer or smaller hats will be in style."

## Senate Elevator "Boys" Given a Raise

AFTER protecting President-elect Taft in the $100,000 salary voted to him recently, senatorial hearts opened up to the conductors of the senate elevators the other day and scattered a little loose change in their direction. So that now, if the house agrees, the president, vice-president, speaker, the United States judges and the elevator boys will get a raise.

The president will have $50,000 more, the judges from $7,000 to $8,000, the vice-president and speaker, $8,000, and the elevator men $200 additional a year.

Senator Borah, who insurged all along against the salary increases, first took up the cudgels for the elevator conductors. If the president's pay was to be doubled, he asserted, why not remember the hard working men who ride the senators up and down every day?

But the senate warmed up slowly.

Senator Warren coldly argued that, if the elevator men were to be benefited, a general adjustment of employes' salaries would be necessary. As proposed by Borah, the amendment was beaten.

Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota, however, sprang the same amendment after changing the verbiage slightly. He spoke of "our poor elevator boys" who work the day long all the year round for a scanty hundred a month. Not one of the "boys" is under 60, but that did not seem to make any difference. La Follette put in an almost tearsome plea.

When the test came the second time even Warren had wilted and not a viote was recorded against increasing the "boys'" salary from $1,200 to $1,400 a year.