

position to prohibition disappears party lines should not divide the defenders of the home. We must have a dry congress so that no wet bill will be sent to a President for his signature; more than that, we should have a congress two-thirds dry in both branches so that any additional dry legislation needed can be passed over the veto of a wet President and also so that a wet president can be impeached and removed if, by a refusal to enforce the prohibition law, he violates his oath of office.

But why do the wets fail to announce the alcoholic per cent which they favor? Is it because they cannot agree? Or are they confused in purpose by the fact that they desire a larger per cent in the afternoon than in the morning? They talk about wine and beer, but it is not wine and beer that they are interested in—it is alcohol. They can have all the wine and beer they want now if they will be content with not more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol.

They not only conceal the facts about their own position but they misrepresent ours. They complain as if they were not permitted to have any alcohol at all while, as a matter of fact, the federal law does not attempt to put any limitation upon the amount of alcohol that they can buy or drink. It simply prescribes the percentage of water that must be taken with the alcohol, viz., one hundred and ninety pints of water with each pint of alcohol. But why not? That is only ninety-nine and a half quarts, about twenty-five gallons, not quite a barrel. We have the highest scientific authorities for the statement that a man cannot acquire the alcoholic habit if he will be careful to take nearly a barrel of water with each pint of alcohol—he will get the water habit.

It is the alcoholic habit that we are fighting against. In former times brewers, distillers and liquor dealers were allowed to make money—grow rich—fastening the alcoholic habit upon their fellow men. And every one knows the effect of that habit. A young man might be the best son in the state but, when he became the victim of the alcoholic habit he would curse the mother who brought him into the world; he might be the best husband in the state but when the alcoholic appetite became his master, he would break every vow he made at the marriage altar; he might be the best father in the state but when the taste for alcohol gripped him he would steal his children's clothes at night and pawn them for drink—he would let the little ones grow up in ignorance upon the street while he made a brute out of himself with the money to which they were entitled. But that day has passed never to return. The people have risen in their wrath and made the nation saloonless forevermore; with God's help, they will be restrained so that they cannot fasten that alcoholic appetite upon another American citizen while our flag floats—they shall never turn back the hands on the clock of time.

Instead of permitting the return of intoxicating liquors, we shall go forward to the aid of other nations. We have travelled so fast and gone so far that I expect to live to see the day when there will not be an open saloon under the banner of any civilized nation in the world. To the glory of leading the world away from war we shall add the glory of leading the world in driving intoxicating beverages from the globe.

And now let me appeal to you to search your hearts and answer, not to me but to your own conscience. What estimate do you place upon the education that you have received from the past and from the environment into which you were born? What estimate do you place upon the religion that dominates your life? What estimate do you place upon the form of government under which you live? Add together the value of these gifts and let the sum measure your acknowledged obligation to your fellows; then let the consciousness of this obligation inspire you to highly resolve to repay the debt as opportunity offers.

We live in a goodly land; no king can shape this country's destiny; not even a president can speak the final word as to what this nation is to be. Each citizen, however humble, can have a part. Let us do our part; joining together, let us solve the problems of each day, and, by so doing, bless our own country and all others. Let us join together and raise the light of our civilization so high that its rays, illumining every land, may lead the world to those better things for which all hearts are praying.

## A Den of Thieves in the Wheat Pit

(Arthur Capper, in Kansas Farmer and Mail and Breeze.)

No more infamous piracy has been attempted or perpetrated on this much victimized nation than the present bear raid in the Chicago grain pit. Its purpose is to rob the American farmer of every hard-earned cent of profit there may be in his 1920 wheat crop, even to the point of penalizing him with a heavy loss for growing it. And once the crop is out his hands, to run the price up and make the world's consumers pay these gamblers the highest price ever exacted for wheat since the Civil war.

The world needs every bushel of this wheat. There is no glut in the world supply. Dr. A. E. Taylor, leading authority on food conditions, says Europe will need 15 million tons of breadstuffs this year from the outside. There is no economic reason for a great slump in prices. It simply is a grain-gambler conspiracy to bilk the people and the grain growers out of several hundred millions of dollars, and its success depends solely on how long the gamblers can prolong the raid and manipulate the market.

In this particular the much deplored car shortage may yet prove a blessing in disguise. It prevents any great effort by the growers to save what they can from the possibility of wreck by a panic rush to ship all their wheat at once, thereby "breaking the market" and giving the grain gamblers their chance "to buy wheat for nothing." That virtually is what it amounts to. In the meantime the prospect of another general war in Europe, or the natural demand, may to some extent, wrench the market away from these conscienceless pirates. Only this can save the grain producers.

This wicked business is an immediate sequence of the restoration of option trading suspended during the war. The ban was taken off July 15 and in scarcely more than 2 weeks the price of wheat was depressed from 42 to 54 cents a bushel. Good, red wheat dropped 50 cents in a single week. Some of the "bears" predicted a break of \$1.50 a bushel.

Previous to the resumption of grain gambling, prices had been going along on a steady and satisfactory basis, with no material fluctuation from day to day. It remained for the grain gamblers in effect to take 259 million dollars from the country's growers of winter wheat in a single week and to rob the northwestern spring wheat raisers of a prospective 145 million, a total of 404 million dollars from wheat growers alone with bread 6 per cent higher than a year ago and flour prices rising!

Economic justification for this raid is lacking. We now know there can be no wheat for another year at least from Russia, the world's great exporter of wheat. Argentina, our rival in the world's grain markets, has oversold its output and is now buying wheat to supply its own needs.

A decrease of 30 million bushels since June 1 in this year's wheat prospect in the United States, is shown by the Government's July crop report, Kansas being the only state to report an improved condition. The country as a whole will this year fall short of the five-year average in wheat production by 12,646,000 bushels. These are the Government's estimates.

Our domestic needs, however, will be greater than ever. Foreign demand must continue strong. In fact, there is almost certain to be a demand for more wheat than can reach the market. That the railroads will be able to handle as much wheat as last year is doubtful as the great falling off in shipments compared with a year ago indicates a reduction of about 50 per cent.

A Kansas farmer, A. Ennlow of Macksville, Kan., who has spent 51 years on the farm and has made a reasonable success, not at farming but by investing in farm land, writes me:

"I am writing to ask you to stop future option trading on the Board of Trade. Why should a set of gamblers profit by depressing the farm products of our country? I believe even the people will insist on a just and honest market for our farm products."

The people will insist once they understand the situation. The remedy lies in more organized co-operation by farmers and in more governmental team work in Washington for wisely

fostering and protecting the nation's most vital industry.

The following appeal telegraphed to me by Congressman Timberlake of Colorado, indicates his serious view of the situation:

"The alarming condition that now threatens the wheat growers of the United States has become so acute as to demand in my judgment some action by the Government that will look to the protection of the producers. If obliged to sell their wheat at the prices now offered, as many of them will be, it will mean not only the loss of every cent of their profit but an actual and heavy loss over cost of production.

"Is there no agency of the Government to whom the urgency of this condition can be presented with any prospect of early action to relieve the situation? During the war these farmers heeded the cry of their Government for increased production. They were extremely patriotic in responding to all calls of their Government. Shall they now be made to suffer most?"

"I shall appreciate any suggestions you may offer and assure you of my desire to co-operate in every way in relieving the alarming situation existing.

"CHARLES B. TIMBERLAKE,  
"Sterling, Colo."

I doubt whether anything can be done now to stop this piracy in the wheat pit. When congress meets in December its first business should be to put an end to this ruinous form of gambling and to provide a system for advancing money to wheat farmers on elevator certificates after the manner that cotton farmers are financed in the south through loans on warehouse receipts.

When food speculators notoriously corner or exploit supplies for a rise, borrowing funds from banks to carry on this speculative business, producers are entitled to credit accommodation to hold their products a reasonable time to avoid congestion of markets and frustrate systematic food gambling.

The speculators both in wheat and in cotton know when farmers must sell and they take advantage of it to rob them annually of their just and hard-earned dues by running down prices before the market gets the crop; then running them up on the consumer. These two great world staples are made the footballs of the speculators and the whole country is victimized.

The war has proved to us we do not require an option market in order to handle cash grain. We also know that the hay crop, beef products and other lines of as great magnitude as the grain business, are handled without any trading in futures. I believe the time has come to enact legislation to eliminate option trading and put an end to this enormous and systematized robbery of producer and consumer. It has done almost as much damage to national prosperity as the saloon and it has done much more than the saloon to retard our agricultural progress and well-being. The steady exodus of men and women from farms should convince us that we cannot go on victimizing and penalizing the farmer and expect him to till high-priced land with high-priced labor and feed the nation. Farming is too hazardous a business as it is. We can no longer have it made the sport of the grain gambler.

In self protection American farmers are organizing to take over the marketing of their products co-operatively in order to free themselves as well as the consumer from the machinations of the horde of profiteering and speculative parasites that have fastened and fattened upon the country's necessities for years and almost made farming unprofitable. This movement has been given great impetus this year by the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Wheat Growers' association, the Farmers' National Grain Dealers association, the National Board of Farm Organizations, the Farmers' National Council, the Grange, the Farmers' Union, the Society of Equity, the Gleaners and kindred organizations, soon probably to be affiliated in a nation-wide marketing company of farmers. The best interests of National welfare will be served in speeding this movement. This is in fact, the purpose of the Capper-Hersman and the Volstead-Capper bills, one of which undoubtedly will pass the next congress.