

association, Dairy Cattle Breeders' association, State Live Stock Breeders' association, State Swine Breeders' association, Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' association, State Red Polled Breeders' association, State Shorthorn Breeders' association, State Hereford Breeders' association, State Bee Keepers' association, State Home Economics' association, Nebraska Pure Seed Breeders' association, State Grange, Agricultural Extension Annual Conference, Farmers' Union, State Grain and Live Stock Co-Operative Shipping association, Good Roads association and State Conservation Congress.

Clearing House for Legislative Action

For purposes of mutual federation these various organizations are represented by the Nebraska Farmers' Congress. This organization serves as a clearing house for legislative action on measures of individual or mutual interest which are of state concern. The purely fundamental work of investigation and economic study of agricultural conditions in the state is in charge of the Nebraska Rural Life commission, acting directly by authority of the legislature.

There is directly concerned in the purely business and educational promotion of agriculture, therefore, a total of over 600 local and state associations in Nebraska, all of which have demonstrated their efficiency in the special field which they are organized to serve. This makes the strongest and most effective group of forces

for this purpose now existent in any state in the union.

The Value of Organized Effort

An article of this nature would be incomplete without a brief survey of the relation sustained by the business interests of the state to agricultural development. The high rank held by Nebraska agriculture is due in no small measure to the active interest and co-operation of business interests, both state and local. The dominant position of agriculture in the business relations of the state makes its success a matter of individual concern to every citizen. This is fully appreciated by the business men of the state, who, both individually and collectively, spare neither money or individual effort to promote successful farming.

A striking instance of this form of practical co-operation was furnished during the last winter in the seed corn campaign which was conducted by the publicity bureau of the Omaha Commercial club. Through the assistance and active co-operation of the business interests of Omaha and the railways the department of agriculture extension was enabled to run six special educational trains, reaching 52,000 farmers in eight days. This result was accomplished in the worst weather known in years and will probably aid in saving several millions to the state in an increased corn crop this year. The entire campaign was conducted without a penny of expense to the state.

Local business men are invariably found to be the most enthusiastic boosters for a farmers' institute or short course, providing most of the money and a large amount of the necessary enthusiasm. During the last winter about 125,000 farmers and their families attended the institutes held over the state under the direction of the extension department.

The Rural Life commission directed a series of four district conferences during the last winter which reached a total attendance of some 20,000. These were made possible only by the financial contributions of local business men who assumed all local expenses incident to these important gatherings, the appropriation given to the commission being insufficient for this purpose.

Including the annual sessions of the various organizations enumerated and other opportunities for immediate contact, it is conservatively estimated that nearly one-half of the entire farming population of the state was in attendance at some form of meeting directly concerned with the promotion of agriculture and community development during the last year. The active participation of business men in all these gatherings insures closer contact and better understanding of the needs of the farmer. It is work of this character which has contributed materially to the remarkable development of Nebraska agriculture and which ensures still greater opportunity and prosperity in the future.

FRANK G. ODELL.



AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THRIFT AND NEBRASKA SOIL DOES FOR A MAN



AN EXAMPLE of Nebraska thrift when applied to the common citizen farmer who early pinned his faith in the ability of the soil to solve the proposition of acquiring wealth.

Henry Kuehl of Douglas county, Nebraska, native of Germany, came to America in 1873 and located in Omaha as a laborer, a bricklayer by trade.

In 1877 he decided to try farming and rented forty acres of land. In 1881 he bought eighty acres, paying \$12 per acre for it. This land was six miles west of Omaha—the Dodge street road. In 1888 he leased 160 acres west of the

land he owned and sold his eighty acres at \$62.50—\$5,000. In 1889 he bought his present home farm at \$50 per acre and moved on it the following year. In 1892 he sold his first purchase of land—eighty acres—and bought 120 acres near by, paying \$55 per acre for it. In 1899 he bought 160 acres south of his home place and now owns four farms—160 acres, 120 acres, 100 acres and 80 acres—all in the same neighborhood and practically adjoining, making 460 acres. He has no land for sale; it is all well improved and worth from \$50 to \$200 per acre, and all acquired by his start as a renter of forty acres.

Mr. Kuehl is a plain, hard-sense German

who knows what farming is and who knows how to get crop yields out of his land. He is one of the practical, old-time Nebraska farmers who studied economy as he pursued his labors. He was a grain raiser and stock feeder. He has been engaged for eighteen years in feeding steers and hogs. He has retired as a steer feeder, but still raises a large herd of hogs, which he handles in conjunction with his Holstein dairy herd. His full-blood and high-grade dairy cattle he believes makes him more money than feeding steers. He cannot supply the demand for his Holstein cattle. His milk is disposed of to the Douglas County Milk Producers' association.