

No Roses Thrown At Meetings of State Farmers

Blame for Many of Their Difficulties Laid at Their Own Doors by Nebraska Agriculturists.

(Continued From Page One.)
good. He praised the plan of the committee of 17 for a co-operative terminal selling agency, and pointed out that now the price of wheat was frequently broken by the existence of a surplus of as little as 5 per cent. Any manufacturing industry would sell the surplus somewhere at a loss and stabilize the price of the remainder at a higher level, he declared.

Farm life must be made more pleasant for the women, Dr. Waters urged, saying that all modern conveniences could be installed for the cost of a tractor. He criticized the city men, who considered that they must make enough from their work to support a family in idleness while the farmer worked his own wife and children in order to make both ends meet, and suggested that if city people could not afford to pay the farmer a living wage for his toil they should take their children out of the picture shows and put them to work.

Oppose Bankers' Suit.
"A popular chord was struck by Mr. Corey in his reference to the tying up of the federal land bank by a suit of the Mortgage Bankers' association. His declaration that he was not satisfied that the federal reserve system could not extend credit more generously to agriculture, also was applauded. "Suppose the war was still going on," he said, "would not the reserve system find it possible to extend aid to the farmers in order to enable them to produce efficiently?"

"The day has come for the farmer to take more interest in financial questions," he asserted. "The average corn-belt farm is worth more than the average country bank, or the average country store. The farmer with an investment of \$50,000 must take his place at the table and consider financial problems with the city business men. He must arrange a system of borrowing, allowing him to make payments over a period of time and not all at one time. The farmer must consider using warehouse receipts on his goods just as the manufacturer or merchant does in order to finance himself."

Nearly Loses Teeth.
Tom Snodgrass of Brock, an old-time farmer and former member of the grange and farmers' alliance, caused merriment when he became so enthused over farmers' co-operation that his false teeth almost slipped from his mouth. He compared this week's farmer meetings to a sanitarium, and said he hoped the sick farmers would find a cure. "Perhaps," he said, "we farmers will have to be ground down still more before we wake up and get together for our own good. I hope not, but if there are any who still are not ready to take charge of their own marketing and business, I hope they get soaked even worse, and then they will stop letting the speculators and middlemen milk them."

No More Blue Sky.
More than 300 farmers attending the crop growers' meeting today swore off on blue sky for a year, during the speech of C. H. Gustafson, president of the Nebraska Farmers' union.
"Farmers in this state bought \$90,000,000 worth of blue sky in the last few years," Mr. Gustafson said. "Some farmers are so greedy to get something for nothing that they lose their heads, and city folks bought \$10,000,000 themselves. You can't blame the trusts and combines for this. Suppose we farmers had this \$90,000,000 to tide us over the present situation. Wouldn't we be all right? You farmers rush to the legislature and ask for medicine when all the time you are eating more germs. I want every man here to promise not to buy \$1 worth of stock from a salesman for one year. Then we will have some money to help ourselves."

A farmer in the audience shouted out for everyone who would save his money to stand and yell except a few who said they had already lost all their money in stock promotion schemes and didn't have any more to lose, arose.

Don't Use Brains.
Mr. Gustafson, who is a member of the committee of 17, which is planning a farmer-owned and controlled grain marketing system, was unsparing in his references to the inability of the farmer to unite on any one plan.

"Farmers have lots of brains, but they don't use them," he said. "Before improving the marketing system, they have to organize. I believe that farm products can best be handled through farmer-owned and controlled marketing machinery but I am not appealing to the prejudice of the farmer, or knocking anyone. We know we are not satisfied with the present methods, but we spend too much time telling how bad the other fellow is instead of setting about actual reforms."
"The farmer is standing in his own light, and blocking progress. There are too many ideas, and we cannot put any plan over unless a majority center their effort on it. We farmers are sick and we know it. The only questions now are about the doctor and the medicine. I know of nothing better than co-operation. We can't change the present system over night, and the farmer must work out his own salvation by something more than talk."

Farmers Cheer Criticism.
Although Mr. Gustafson was frank in his criticisms of the farmers, his speech was cheered loudly by the farmers themselves. His statements that farmers as a class are about as greedy as any other, but have not had a chance, was greeted with laughter, as was his declaration that he didn't believe that there was a man or woman in the audience who would not have been a John D. Rockefeller if he had had the opportunity.

That there are too many co-opera-

Touted for Harding's Secretary of Treasury



Charles G. Dawes, president of the Central Trust company of Chicago, one of the largest financial institutions in the west, will be the secretary of the treasury in President Harding's cabinet, according to Washington reports.

Mr. Dawes is a leading authority on banking. He was comptroller of the currency under President McKinley from 1897 to 1902 and since that time has been head of the Central Trust company.

Financial organizations in Nebraska today were given as his opinion. "There are too many not properly financed," he explained. "When you start a co-operative business, you farmers must finance it just as business men would. This is the way the committee of 17 is planning a national system of marketing grain which will be controlled by the farmers and on which the new committee of 15 will plan the handling of live stock."

Better Marketing Plans.
H. D. Lute, secretary of the Nebraska farm bureau, in discussing plans for better marketing of farm products, said he believed crop contracts would be found necessary. Mr. Lute reported he had found that of all the wreckage of co-operative marketing concerns in California, not a one had failed which included the crop contract feature. The pooling of crops also, he continued, he believed would be found necessary. Co-operation in marketing of crops in Nebraska as practiced at present is really not co-operation, he said, as growers outside the stockholders of a co-operative elevator, for instance, are raising money to be loaned to the farmer-owned concern.

"Many co-operative elevators are in difficulty now," Mr. Lute said. "In many cases it will be found that growers who did not belong to the co-operative association got to market first with their grain and sold it at the high price prevailing at the opening of the season. Then came the car shortage and the drop in price. The co-operative elevator was forced to take a big loss on grain sold to it by a man outside the organization. He was the one who got the benefit."

Must Have Storage.
A system of farm storage to do away with sending products long distances to market with oftentimes the necessity of shipping them back for local consumption was pointed out by the speaker. Some such storage on the farm will be necessary, he said, if products are to be marketed in an orderly way and avoid glutting the market at certain seasons. Methods of financing the products thus held must be worked out, he added. "Farmers now are like a lot of barrel staves without any hoops," asserted Mr. Lute. "Co-operation, the hoops, are needed now."

He briefly outlined the main points of the farm bureau organization, mentioning the necessity of enforceable crop contracts, pooling of crops by grades for marketing to best advantage, crop storage on the farm and regulation of the flow of farm products to market, avoiding glutting the market in order to avoid glutting the market at times. Co-operative local elevators, and through them co-operative terminal elevators, co-operative warehouse companies, and the keeping of farm crops under contract of the producer, he declared, to be the chief way of eliminating the speculative middleman. Expert marketing and advertising agencies also will be necessary, he said.

Oppose Emergency Act.
Without a word of debate, the crop growers by a large majority, voted to table a motion to endorse the proposal of Representative Foster of Omaha for emergency act for farmer relief. It developed afterward that the farmers are tired of paying interest on bonds, so they quickly voted not to endorse a bill authorizing counties to issue bonds for raising money to be loaned to farmers from one to five years at reasonable interest, through banks.

President Gustafson of the Farmers' union gave his definition of co-operation during a discussion that closed the session. He said co-operation is two or more persons doing the same thing in the same way at the same time for the same purpose.

Theories of the benefits of crop rotation were brought into question by L. Zook of North Platte, who discussed results on the experimental farm in western Nebraska. He found that corn and winter wheat were the best joint crops for that part of the state, because conditions that kill one will allow the other to survive. Oats were found not to be reliable and barley preferable to spring wheat.

Favors Continuous Crop.
Although the highest yields followed summer fallow, he claimed

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the best profits from continuous cropping. Corn grown for 10 years on the same ground was found to out-yield corn rotated with oats or with wheat. Wheat, on the other hand, showed a better yield when rotated with corn than when grown continuously. Mr. Zook explained that small grains exhausted the moisture more than corn, and concluded that although there might be a small margin in favor of rotation, it was not as great as is popularly imagined, especially in regions having a light rainfall. He also stated that use of fertilizer had not produced any appreciable benefit in the west. This opinion agreed with that of Prof. W. W. Burr, head of the agronomy department of the State agricultural college, in an address entitled "Shall We Use Commercial Fertilizers in Nebraska?" For five years the department, under the direction of Professor Burr, has been conducting experiments with commercial fertilizers at the station farm and in several different counties.

Fails to Pay Cost.
In the use of the commercial product, a gain of 11 1/2 bushels was made on oats. To make the experiments pay the oats should have produced 33 bushels to the acre. In the case of wheat a half bushel more was produced under the stimulus of the fertilizer. In the case of corn no increase was shown, though it have paid for the artificial article the production of corn should have indicated an increase of 28 bushels to the acre.

Professor Burr related what had been done in other counties. In Hall county on sandy soil an increase of 10 bushels of potatoes to the acre was produced, but on corn of first and second bottom land in that county no results were obtained.

Professor Burr did not want the impression to be gained that Nebraska soil, as rich as much of it is, does not need considerable attention to do to retain its fertility. He strongly advocated rotation of crops as one of the very essential means of preserving soil fertility and of retaining its richness. The liberal use of stable manure and the turning under of green forage crops like sweet clover were considered most satisfactory.

Little Fertilizer Sold.
The speaker said that some commercial fertilizers had been sold in Nebraska, but that most of it was purchased by market gardeners and for experiments. He had learned that only a few hundred tons had been sold during a year.

"Nebraska farmers will not begin to use commercial fertilizer until production falls below a certain level," said Professor Burr. "It is more a question of seasonal rain than one of soil at the present time. If there is rain at the right time Nebraska seems to keep on producing at a maximum rate."
Potatoes have dropped less in price than any other field crop, according to the view expressed at the meeting of the Potato Growers' association, of which J. Pedrett of Kimball is president. "This year's crop is the second largest known in the state," Prof. H. O. Werner secretary of the organization, discussed proposals to revise the grading laws

to allow a fancy grade, and a lower grade than No. 2.

Speakers at the meeting of the Nebraska Horse Breeders' association Wednesday morning painted an optimistic picture of future conditions for horse breeders.

Although conditions in the horse business at present were described as slow, the buyers believe that by spring the horse business will be back to normal.
Several of the speakers expressed the belief that the farmers are turning from the motor-driven machinery back to horse power. Frank Howard of Pawnee City told of exchanging large numbers of horses to replace trucks for short hauling.

"The horse has been without a defender while the tractor and truck demonstrators have been of the silver-tongued variety urging the farmer to forsake the horse and use motor-driven machinery," declared Mr. Howard.

"The state of Nebraska is situated in the center of a great horse-raising country and its location is ideal for marketing the animals," he continued.

Back to the Farm.
The back-to-the-farm movement has started, according to the speaker. "The auto manufacturers have coaxed our sons away from the farm with dollar-an-hour jobs. With the closing down of industrial concerns they are returning to find the farm was not a bad place after all," according to Mr. Howard.

The necessity of better and more careful breeding of horses was emphasized at the meeting. Horse buyers told of the loss to the farmers who did not exercise care in selecting and handling their stock. It was pointed out that United States farmers are compelled to import breeding stock because of the action of many farmers in not paying careful attention to their animals.

The 36th annual meeting of the Nebraska Dairymen's association was scheduled to begin at 10 o'clock, but was postponed in order that the members might attend the meeting of the crop growers' association. The dairymen will hold morning and afternoon sessions tomorrow, closing in the evening with a banquet.

Fruit Growers Meet.
The Wednesday morning session of the Nebraska Horticultural society opened with a technical discussion of diseases of Nebraska fruits. Dr. George L. Peltier, plant pathologist, gave an illustrated lecture on this topic, which was followed by a general discussion.

Prof. E. H. Hoppert of the University of Nebraska told of the methods of preventing fruit diseases. R. S. Hezrick, secretary of the Iowa State Horticultural society, was introduced to the members and told of the scheme of co-operative buying in Iowa. The following were nominated for officers of the association at the morning meeting: President, E. H. Hoppert, experiment station, Lincoln; first vice president, Everett Smith, Salem; second vice president, A. M. Shubert, Shubert; secretary, Val Keyser, Nebraska City; treasurer, Peter Youngers, Geneva; directors, Everett Smith, Salem; C. J. Marshall, Arlington; W. B. Banning, Union.

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