The American Union

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1922

WHAT OF OUR CHILDREN

This is an age when the chief aim of everyone seems to be improvement and advancement through proper care. For instance, poultry and cattle must be fed and housed and propagated just so; plant life must receive special care to prevent attacks from this bug or that worm and to produce the biggest and best crop of wheat or carrots or peaches ever was. The government steps in with special bureaus, commissions, college extension service; the state sings the second verse and everybody gets into the chorus.

Then somebody says,—yes, but if cows and Poland Chinas and Plymouth Rocks and corn and apple trees are so important, what of our children? Who is to work for their care, their advancement, their training? It is about time this question was emphasized about as much as the others, isn't it?

We call the attention of our readers to a series of articles on Child Welfare, written by Elizabeth A. Perkins, superintendent of that work for the W. C. T. U. These articles are well worth your time and serious thought, and we earnestly urge you to take particular interest in what is one of America's,—yes, the world's,—biggest problems today.

NITRATES MUST BE PRESERVED

Before the issue is decided there may be a hot fight in Congress over the Muscle Shoals plan, but indications are that Henry Ford will win, and that the fertilizer trust will not be able to offset the interest of the farmer. Congress is apt to view the situation in the light of past performances, rather than in the ligt of promises for the future—the past performances of Henry Ford and the past performances of the fertilizer ring. Belief is that if the Ford plan is accepted the farmers will get cheap fertilizer and if the Ford plan is rejected the farmers will get costly fertilizer. If this conviction prevails public opinion will do the rest.

The Secretary of War, Mr. Weeks, has been careful to point out that Ford is offering $5,000,000 for two nitrate plants that as scrap are said to be worth $8,812,000, and that if the Ford plan is accepted Congress must appropriate approximately $50,000,000 of which Ford will have the benefit for 100 years at 4 per cent. All of which sounds terrifying now that Hog Island and other figures are pushed gently in the background. It would be interesting to know how many hundreds of thousands of dollars if not millions it would cost the government to sell these nitrate plants as scrap. Uncle Sam conducts an expensive selling establishment as a rule. Some one said it used to cost about $100 to buy a bottle of ink for the Shipping Board before the order found its way through all the departments. The important consideration is not the cash difference between the offered price and the price to be obtained for the plants as scrap. Scrapping of the plants would be criminal when they can be developed into almost a national blessing.

For centuries nitrates have been wasted in the air. We can't afford now to bury them in the scrap heap. The people are clamoring for cheaper fertilizer and the people are crying for cheaper food.

WHAT ABOUT THE FARM BLOC ?

Who and what is the farm bloc? What does it mean, if it means anything, to the rest of us who are not primarily engaged in either farming or legislating?

The farm bloc is of comparatively recent origin. In May, 1921, Senator Kenyon called a meeting of certain senators, and these meetings have been continued at short intervals ever since.

The group put no name on itself. It now includes some twenty-two senators, mostly from the Middle West, Northwest, and far Western States, or about 23 per cent. of the total membership of the Senate. Following suit, a similar group in the House has been holding regular meetings. This group comprises some twenty-five men.

For the name "bloc", which has been applied to this group of legislators, the press is no doubt obliged to the French expression for a solid small group of men who hang together for legislative advantage.

According to another senator, Moses of New Hampshire, the Senate farm bloc "is made up of twenty lawyers, one newspaper editor, and a well digger."

Whether or not this group adequately represents the farmer's interests, or is merely the entrance of a strong, close-knit, special-class interest into Congress, it is regarded by most people as a concrete expression of what the farmer wants to do and has organized himself to do. Probably, before passing judgment one way or another, all the rest of us will have to study more closely than ever before the present situation of American agriculture.

We can begin by admitting that farming has changed. Any middle-aged man who now tells you that he spent his first twenty years on a farm—that he milked the cows, followed the plow, fed the chickens and all the rest of it—is not a present-day authority on the subject. His information is cold. He had better revise it. American farming in 1922 is not like American farming in 1912 or 1892.

The ordinary American farm used to support one family; the owner, his wife, and his children. They did the work, got all the profits, if there were any, and in any event got a home and a livelihood. Tenant farming was not common.

Now, too many American farms have to support, not one family, but three. The owner, probably, has gone to town long ago, renting his farm to a tenant. And a third group of families has grown up, supported by handling and finishing the produce of the farm that already supports an owner and a tenant.

All our talk today about intensive agriculture is a sign that the old days of cheap soil and a big crop surplus for Europe are coming to an end. In those days there was no cost accounting on farms. Why should there have been? In those days, too, there was no attempt by farmers to keep city men's hours; and only spasmodically did the farmer make any attempt to have his voice heard in government, in banking, or in business.

The fact is that we are now going through the transition period, from a great exporting nation to a nation needing all its agricultural products for its own consumption. The ques[illegible] in a nutshell, is: Are we going to reorganize agriculture [illegible] that will enable us to continue to be a self-sustaining [illegible] we going to weaken ourselves by becoming de[illegible] other food-producing nations? We had better no[illegible]

[illegible] is our basic industry. We would be wise to make [illegible] satisfied, permanent, soil-conserving business. It is [illegible] that gives us our three meals a day; if we could get along without anything else, we should still be yowling for those three meals. It is not wise, it is folly, to close our eyes to the soil and the farmer—or to rely upon antiquated information about them.

You may ask how the farmers suddenly acquired the get-up and intelligence to organize nationally and to make themselves heard. They didn't. It was forced upon them. The rest of us might profitably learn about the growth of the county agent system which resulted in local farm bureaus and State federations, with the American Farm Bureau Federation as a final, national development.

There it is, a big, powerful national organization, with its roots extending down into the corn row of the individual farmer. There is your reminder of it in Congress—the farm bloc.

More than a little chesty over the national stir it has been making, the farm bloc is already finding it hard to stand prosperity. It is playing politics. It wants to rush through too quickly too many big reforms in the marketing machinery of the country. It wants, very probably, altogether too much class legislation. It should concentrate on a sound economic program, and sell this program to its constituents and to the country on a long-pull basis.

The finest marketing machinery, the best banking facilities, the most perfect systems of long and short haul transportation will never free any farmer from the necessity of being a good farmer on his own farm.

We can find legislation that will restrict farm tenancy of the nomadic, soil-wasting, seventeen-year-locust kind. That kind of a farm tenant is a plague, and cutting his claws will help all of us.

We can find legislation that will repress the speculative middleman and help the farmer to get a better price and the rest of us to pay a lower price. That will be profitable. There is no profit in resenting the fact that the farmer, in jubilation at finding his voice, is talking pretty loudly just for the sheer joy of it.

What it will pay us to do is to remember that we all live directly off the products of American farms. If the farm bloc, as now constituted, can help us to live better, then we can hold up its hands. If it becomes merely a nuisance—a disturbing agency for stupid, reckless class legislation in government—then the common sense of the American people, farmers included, will put it out of business.

The smart and sane thing for every one of us to do now is to turn an understanding ear toward the problems of our own big bread basket, the American farm. Leave pity and special privileges for the farmer, who doesn't need them, entirely out of it. It's a breakfast, dinner, and supper problem for all one hundred and five million of us.—Collier's.

Sheriff's Sale
OF VALUABLE
REAL ESTATE

Located in the Town of Preston, Maryland

Under and by virtue of two writs of fieri facias issued out of the Circuit Court for Dorchester County on the 3d day of November, 1921, and to me directed, at the suit of Lloyd Webster, against the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of J. Springle Kelley and others, I have seized, levied upon, and taken in execution all the right, title, interest, claim and estate of the said J. Springle Kelley, of, in and to the following described real estate, to wit:

In and to all that piece or parcel of land situate on the northeast side of Main street in the town of Preston, Maryland, adjoining the lands of Albert W. Sisk, James N. Todd and others, containing one and one-half acres of land, more or less; it being the same land mentioned and described in a deed from Charles B. Harrison, trustee, to Dollie Kelley dated the 20th, day of January, 1919, and of record in Liber L. B. T. No. 81, Folio 316, one of the Land Record Books for Caroline County, (It being also the same land held by the late Dollie E. Kelley at the time of her death.)

The improvements consist of a

DWELLING HOUSE

and other outbuildings.

Therefore notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of the above writs and authority, I will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, for cash, in front of the Court House Door in the town of Denton, Maryland, on

TUESDAY, MARCH 7th, 1922

between the hours of 1 and 4 o'clock P. M., of that day, the above property so seized, levied upon and taken in execution to pay and satisfy the above writs, debts, interests, and costs now due or to become due thereon.

OWEN N. DULIN,
Late Sheriff for Caroline County

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Bar for Judges' Increase

Easton, Feb. 7—At a meeting of the Talbot County Bar Association yesterday, the subject of increasing the salaries of the judges of the various courts of the State as provided for in a bill now before the legislature was discussed. The association voted in favor of the bill on the ground that the salary now received is so small it was difficult to get a good lawyer to go on the bench. One lawyer objected to the bill, favoring a decrease at this time instead of an increase. He said the taxpayers were now burdened as much as they could stand.

HARMONY

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Thomas entertained the Ladies Aid on February 1. Twenty-four members and several visitors were present. After the business was transacted ice cream and cake were served. The next meeting will be held March 1 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Thomas.

Mrs. Harry Aringdale is on the sick list.

Mr. and Mrs. Austen Murphy of near Andersontown visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Todd, on Sunday.

Mrs. Mildred Collins spent the week end with Miss Irene Carroll of Bethlehem.

Mrs. Calvin Todd is on the sick list.

Miss Hazel Shultz was the guest of Miss Reba Hurst over Sunday.

Mrs. Roland Thomas spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of Denton.

200 WAR VETERANS TO PLEAD FOR BONUS

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 8.—A state-wide delegation will appear at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon before the Senate Finance Committee on the Soldier Bonus Bill, providing adjusted compensation for former service men at the rate of $10 a month, with 25 per cent. additional for overseas service. Two hundred men will be in the delegation, according to Herbert L. Grymes, chairman of the legislative committee of the American Legion, who will conduct the hearing. A band will probably accompany the veterans, he said.

CENTRAL

The country for miles around has been almost completely blocked by the heavy snowfall. The highway is now open but with the thaw and additional seven inches of snow which fell on Tuesday, the roads are in terrible condition.

Mrs. Louis Morton having sold her personal property on Saturday last, left Wednesday to visit relatives near New York.

Mrs. Robert Butler gave a dinner on Sunday, January 29, celebrating the 84th birthday of her mother, Mrs. F. C. Ramsdell. Mrs. Ramsdell is the widow of the late F. C. Ramsdell, and still lives at the old home, Glendale, with Mrs. Kate Spence.

Engraved stationery and calling cards at The American Union.

Do you want more eggs?

Do you want more milk?

Do you want more for your Dollar?

Then the logical place for you to buy your supplies and make your dollar go the farthest is with us.

A business grows because it is needed.

It is usually successful in proportion to its effort to serve.

Thi business has one fundamental purpose—to extend and broaden its usefulness to those whom we serve, namely,—the Farmer, Poultryman, Dairyman and every one interested in Agriculture.

Your success depends upon the proper use of the proper feeds, seeds, fertilizer or any other supplies you may need in the pursuit of your business.

We have only seeds of high germination test at the lowest obtainable price and now have them in stock.

The same high grade feeds at the right price if you want season to be your most successful with the baby chicks you will soon turn out, you will find here just the old reliable kinds of feed you will need—the famous Full-O-Pep and Quality brands.

We will take your eggs in cash or trade at the best possible price.

Yours to serve,

THE FARMERS SUPPLY CO. Inc.

E. H. ZEIGLER, Manager.

DENTON, MD.

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