BUSINESS IS CONTINUALLY GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF EVOLUTION

The changes are gradual for the most part and yet it is easy to discern that the present phase of business is entirely different from that which prevailed during the time of our fathers and forefathers.

Banking facilities of their day were crude and inadequate but the Denton National Bank for forty years has endeavored to keep step with the progress of the town and today holds an enviable position on an exclusive roll of honor with "Honor Roll Banks of Maryland."

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All Join Hands

By JOHN W. COVERDALE

Secretary American Farm Bureau Federation.

"The farmer has relinquished his imaginary independence and reached out his hand to his neighbor. "Together We Win" is our watchword today.

"The object of the Farm Bureau, in formal language, is to create a county-wide organization to advance and improve the agriculture of the county, to co-operate with the State Colleges of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture in the employment of a county agent or agents; to develop a definite program of work that will bring to the county a better economic, social and educational condition so as to make farming more profitable and country life more attractive!

"The mission of the Farm Bureau is to give service. It is not an uprising of outraged farmers nor was it organized to accumulate strength enough to fight the other fellow. The Farm Bureau grew from a desire on the part of the farmers for better production. It had its beginning in the south where demonstration agents were hired to try to teach the cotton farmers how to fight boll-weevil. This was in 1903, and when the first County Farm Bureau was organized in the north ten years ago there were three hundred county farm demonstration agents working in the south. It is because the Farm Bureau is builded from the ground up, with the county organization as the basic unit, that it has been storm-proof.

The Biggest Job.

"Transcending all the other work of the Farm Bureau is the establishment of strong local units of the organization in every community of the land. Without strong local units composed of men and women doing the every-day work of the farm, selling the products of their farm labor, and buying things to make better homes and better farms and better rural life, the Farm Bureau is without that which justifies its existence. Where we are losing members, where people are dissatisfied, where folks do not think that they are getting value received for their due, there you will find a local unit that is not functioning properly. Something is wrong, and it is up to the members themselves to analyze the situation and find out what it is. You will remember how the Lord commanded Gideon, saying:

" 'Now, therefore, go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return, and depart early from Mount Gilead.'

"It seems to me that we may very well say to the Farm Bureau host today:

" 'Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead.'

For Strong Hearts.

"For we have a great work yet to do, and it is no work for the sick at heart, the weak and the fearful. What, then, is our work and our future?

"If I had my way, I would make an ideal county farm bureau. I would expand it on a state-wide basis and call that the state farm bureau. Then I would expand that on a nation-wide basis and call that the American Farm Bureau Federation. But the movement is too young for that yet. It will take more than ten years of education and organization to reach this ideal. The Farm Bureau believes that the safeguarding and promotion of agricultural interests are vital to the public welfare, and that these interests can best be protected by the united action of all, regardless of factional or political differences. It depends for its strength upon the kind of support given it by the local communities, county and state organizations and the co-operation which it receives from the various agencies interested in the welfare of agriculture.

Our First Effort.

"The Farm Bureau is a mutual self-help organization for the farmer. Our first task is one of organization and co-operation. Our first effort to be of real service to the farmer is to secure for him a measure of economic justice.

"For instance, every man who moves onto the farm to take up that work as a life occupation decides upon that calling with the idea of making a living for himself and his family, to provide the necessary means of a comfortable living as well as educational features for his children. Hence, anything that can be done to increase the net income of that farm will start the owner on the road to purchasing the necessities of life. It is an everlasting cycle—when the farmer quits buying, everybody has to quit.

"Our whole co-operative marketing program is based on a sound, thorough analysis of business conditions. Our legislative program is builded from the thoughts of the sane, safe, agricultural interests of the country. Our organization is builded with the same thought in mind, and if these conditions can be righted it will mean not only more products on the farm, but better equipment, better homes, better schools and better churches, and above all, a better class of citizenship when the farmers of our forty-eight states once learn that 'Together We Win' is the watchword to follow."

"TIMED TO A SONG"

Oh, his horse went dead and his mule went lame,
And he lost his crop in the feedin' game;
Then a hurricane came along one day
And blew the house where he lived away!
Hole in the ground, te, he, he!
Was he discouraged? No Sir - - ee!
He joined the Farm Bureau and the spell went down,
And now he's mascot of the townships around.

Do they sing in the farm bureau movement?

Well, you should hear them, say local county farm bureau organizers! The farm bureau not only sings but writes songs—profusely. The movement has an official song book with twenty-four of 'em included.

The above ditty, sung to the tune of "Turkey In The Straw," has enlivened more than one community meeting of Farm Bureau members.

The president of the National Farm Bureau, J. R. Howard, an Iowa farmer, says: "I like to think that the forward march of the Farm Bureau army is timed to song."

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