CITIZENS OF GREGORY, S. DAKOTA, BELIEVE 'IT'S TIME TO CHANGE'

Farmers Remember Triple A Benefits but Feel Too Much Centralized Control Is Unhealthy.

By BARROW LYONS

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is one of a series of articles written for this paper by Barrow Lyons, staff correspondent of Western Newspaper Union. He has just completed an extended trip through the nation and in these reports gives his first-hand impressions of what rural America is thinking as we enter the third year of war and the first weeks of a presidential election year. Any opinions expressed are the writer's and not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

GREGORY, S. D.—This is a young town—even as western towns go. It was planted by the government in the heart of the prairie—the country of the Rosebud Sioux Indians—39 years ago when the land was opened to homesteaders. With the exception of the lean years of grasshoppers and drouth, when dust storms obscured the sun, Gregory has thrived. It has a population of 1,400, and is the chief trading center of Gregory county.

Usually, the Republicans have carried the county by a slight majority. In 1924, year of the Coolidge landslide, the GOP got 54 per cent of the votes. Again last year the Republican percentage was the same. But in the first New Deal election Roosevelt left the Republicans only 26 per cent of the vote, and in 1936 42 per cent. But in 1940 the voters veered to the other side, and 53 per cent of the votes were tallied under the Republican emblem.

Even though the people of Gregory dislike many things about the New Deal, they do not forget the years when the Triple A saved them through seed loans, helped them to hold their produce for better prices and brought new ways of farming that made the prairie soil more profitable.

Most of them think today that the time has come for a change. This is true even of some of the most staunch defenders of the New Deal, who feel that the administration is becoming too entrenched in power, too set in its ways, too far away from the people.

Gregory is on the edge of the cattle country, but there is extensive growing of wheat, corn, barley and forage along with cattle, hog and sheep raising.

Here is to be found the conflict of social and political trends that underlie the whole fabric of American politics today — the clash between the conservatives and the liberals—the traditional and the new—those seeking safety and those set for adventure.

Dramatically illustrating this conflict are the views of two men living on farms that are close together, both of whom took up homesteads 39 years ago when the land was opened, both of whom have had their ups and downs, but are today more prosperous than ever before.

One is E. C. Biggins, wheat farmer, who came here from the cattle country along the Missouri Breaks. He knew the Indians, ranched and

E. C. Biggins Wm. Sinkular
Two farmers—two views.

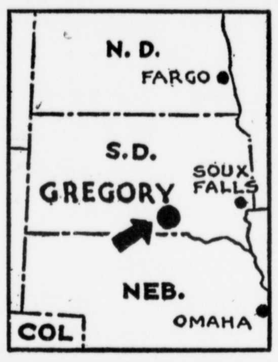
ran cattle, broke wild horses and played poker. Of him a friend remarked: "He's the kind of man who's always been independent and doesn't want to be told." He doesn't like the New Deal. He is 67 years old, and farms 400 acres.

The other is William Sinkular, who raises cattle, sheep and hogs, and most of the grain which he feeds them. In the last few years he has netted between $12,000 and $15,000 a year from his 1,920 acres. He was the first around Gregory to join the Non-Partisan league, one of the first to speak up for the Roosevelt administration.

"I saw this land come up from nothing. People thought they were making money. A man took a homestead, borrowed money on it and made improvements. They drove the price of land up to where one could mortgage a farm for $10,000 to $12,000.

Rural Credit Took Land by Foreclosure

"Then the deflation came. Steers we thought were worth $50 to $60 dropped to $12 to $14. Rural Credit took land in foreclosure—resold rich farms for $1,500—not a little but a lot of it. When the boom was on we were offered $200 an acre for our land. We saw its value go down



to where we couldn't get $10 an acre for it.

"Today we are again in a boom period, but a man who has reason knows he's not really making money. There's nothing that promises you security. The administration has promised good prices for two years, but they can't keep such promises.

"Now I like a Democrat, but I can't stand a New Dealer. They're trying to do all the things that were never thought of before. They're trying to shove this farming back to the birth of Christ. When they begin telling you how much wheat to raise and what to do—wasn't that what they did in Egyptian times?

"I growed up right beside the Sioux Indians. They'd come in on butchering day and pick up scraps, but they'd never work. The New Dealers, most of them around here, are just like that. The administration tried to rehabilitate them, but they won't rehabilitate, most of them."

Educational Program Helped Country

Now let "Bill" Sinkular state his case:

"The New Deal—not the whole setup—gave the farmer an educational program that's been a life saver for this country. In 1934 this country was a desert. It had been ruined by dust storms and drouth. In 1934 I received $1,800 for seed, and it saved my farm.

"But I don't think all the subsidies they are paying out now are necessary. All that money that's being paid out now to farmers who are prospering must be paid in by somebody. I don't think the subsidies are an attempt to buy votes; but the farmers themselves should know that inflation won't do them any good.

"Many farmers would take anything they could get hold of, and yet these same men are the greatest enemies of the New Deal—the men who have profited most from it."

H. E. McKee, vice president and director of the Northwest Security National bank, and manager of the Gregory Branch, strongly supports this anti-inflation point of view. He has seen the deposits in his branch mount from $751,000 at the end of 1941 to $1,830,000 today, and in the same period has seen loans decline from $694,000 to $430,000. Farmer-speculators are buying up the land today at prices that are too high, he declares.

"In the last year," he said, "the Regional Agricultural Credit corporation has been lending money to anyone who would take care of more livestock to increase the meat supply. In 1940 there were 1,632,000 head of cattle in the county. Today there are more than three million head. It is the same with sheep and hogs; and it is about the same in other Western states.

"What we are doing is laying up an enormous surplus on the farms. If they let this go on for another two or three years it will wreck farming. We'll have the same condition that occurred after the last war."

As Gregory, South Dakota, Views It . . .

Listen to farmer E. C. Biggins:

"Today many farmers around here are spreading themselves too far—buying too many steers, sheep, hogs at prices that are too high. One friend of mine during the last boom kept gathering land at $135 an acre. He was counting his chips before he cashed in.

"Now when they started the Non-Partisan league, this friend was one of the first to fall into that; and he swallowed all their radical ideas. He boomed up that outfit, and stuck with them for several years. Well, when he saw all the things that weren't right with those boys the tears ran down his cheeks. It was dissatisfaction with the Non-Partisan league that made the people around here fall into the Democratic basket.

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KENT COUNTY LEVY FOR 1944

	LEVIED 1943	SPENT 1943	LEVIED 1944
Alms House	6,000.00	8,263.43	6,000.00
ASSESSMENTS:			
Supervisor's Salary	1,150.00	1,475.37	1,700.00
New Assements	200.00	169.75	2,000.00
Bonds	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Bonds, Coupons	5,700.00	5,700.00	4,650.00
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:			
Office Expenses	500.00	550.47	500.00
Commissioners' Salaries	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Clerk's Salary	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Attorney's Salary	300.00	300.00	300.00
Printing	1,000.00	999.99	1,000.00
Education	95,273.75	94,262.75	100,000.00
Elections, Salaries & Expenses	1,000.00	1,482.20	8,000.00
Extension Service	3,511.00	3,675.19	4,375.00
HEALTH:			
County Office	100.00	124.15	175.00
State Office	5,332.00	5,296.00	5,296.00
County Hospitals	750.00	750.00	750.00
State Hospitals	9,000.00	9,206.79	9,000.00
Vital Statistics	150.00	160.00	150.00
LAW AND ORDER:			
Court House, Maintenance Etc.	3,000.00	5,609.04	3,000.00
Court House Janitor's Sal.	640.00	540.00	540.00
Circuit Court, Sal., Exp.	2,200.00	1,847.31	2,200.00
Circuit Court, Jurors, Wit.	1,300.00	1,393.46	1,300.00
Clerk's Office, Supplies	600.00	340.80	300.00
State's Att., Office Exp.	25.00	37.25	25.00
State's Att., Salary	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Orphans Court, Sal., Exp.	2,000.00	1,540.12	1,500.00
Jail, Maintenance	150.00	225.95	150.00
Jail Physician	150.00	150.00	150.00
Jail Cook	0.00	0.00	520.00
Jail Supplies	1,500.00	1,180.24	1,200.00
Sheriff's Salary	0.00	1,458.31	2,500.00
Deputy Sheriff's Salary	0.00	875.00	1,500.00
Sheriff's Transportation	0.00	0.00	1,900.00
Sheriff's Office, Exp.	0.00	0.00	600.00
Sheriff's Board of Prisoners	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
Trial Mag. Office Exp.	125.00	147.45	200.00
Trial Magistrate's Sal.	1,200.00	1,375.00	1,500.00
Trial Mag. Substitute's Sal.	0.00	0.00	500.00
Trial Mag. Clerk's Sal.	780.00	780.00	780.00
Trial Mag. Justice of Peace	500.00	666.62	290.00
License Com. Salaries	0.00	600.00	900.00
License Com. Clerk's Sal.	0.00	175.00	300.00
License Com. Office Exp.	0.00	0.00	50.00
Inquisitions	300.00	465.00	300.00
Reformation & State Schools	2,000.00	1,696.51	2,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Auditors' Salaries	500.00	452.00	500.00
Audit, Publishing	150.00	150.00	150.00
Civilian Defense	500.00	324.98	100.00
Fire Companies	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Incorporated Towns	3,900.00	3,900.00	3,900.00
Inc. Towns, Bank Shares	600.00	719.71	700.00
Live Stock Sanitary Ser.	1,500.00	250.00	0.00
Loans	11,000.00	31,000.00	0.00
Loans, Interest	1,500.00	374.25	375.00
Miscellaneous	4,000.00	3,942.04	4,000.00
Roads & Bridges	4,309.75	4,869.85	500.00
TREASURER:			
Office Expenses	1,500.00	2,200.07	1,500.00
Treasurer's Salary	2,400.00	2,407.40	2,400.00
Deputies' Salaries	1,600.00	1,616.65	1,600.00
WELFARE:			
Old Age Assistance	5,079.50	4,478.02	4,478.02
Dependent Children	1,797.62	1,797.60	1,812.17
Needy Blind	935.60	886.68	886.68
General Public Assistance	2,958.27	2,636.96	2,636.96
Pensions	50.00	50.00	50.00
Md. Childrens' Aid Society	1,250.00	879.86	800.00
Wharves, Maintenance	200.00	233.36	200.00
Certificates Issued, 1942	14,497.80	14,468.86	28.94
Certificates Issued, 1943			6,376.65
Contingent Fund	963.47	0.00	1,647.76
	242,728.76	266,362.44	240,943.18

STATE OF MARYLAND,
KENT COUNTY, SCT:
I hereby certify that the within statement of expenses for Kent County is correct as per the books of The County Commissioners Office for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1943.
In testimony whereof I hereby subscribe my name and affix the Corporate Seal of The County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, this 18th day of January, A. D. 1944.

FRISBY N. WILLSON
SEAL Clerk to The County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN 1943
PAYABLE OCTOBER 1, 1944

Sheriff's Fees	813.31
Board of Prisoners	3,251.55
Tran. of Prisoners	253.79
Mag. & Constables	1,341.58
Inquistions	64.18
Sheriff's Transpor.	651.74
	6,376.65

RESOURCES 1944

Real and Personal	16,107,145.00 at 1.01	162,682.16
Motor Vehicles (Estimated)	400,000.00 at 1.01	4,040.00
Corp., Domestic (Est.)	262,850.00 at 1.01	2,654.79
Corp., Foreign (Est.)	229,595.00 at 1.01	2,318.91
Corp., Share (Estimated)	217,245.00 at 1.01	2,194.17
Pub. Utilities, Operating Pro. (Est.)	772,215.00 at 1.01	7,799.37
Railroad Rolling Stock (Est.)	132,650.00 at 1.01	1,339.77
	18,121,700.00	
Bank Shares & Trust Com. (Est.)	215,615.00 at 1.00	2,156.15
Uncollected Taxes, Collectable (Est.)		6,500.00
Co. Share of State Income Tax (Est)		2,000.00
Cash on Hand		47,257.86
		240,943.18

STATE OF MARYLAND, KENT COUNTY, SCT:
We have this 18th day of January, 1944, examined the aforegoing statement and find it correct and declare the County Tax Rate for the year 1944 is $1.01 (One Dollar and One Cent) on each $100.00 of assessable property, and have ordered same to be published in THE KENT NEWS, THE CHESTERTOWN TRANSCRIPT AND THE ENTERPRISE.
ATTEST: In witness thereof we sign our names as County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, and affix the Corporate Seal of The County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, thereto

JULIAN W. HURTT, President
SEAL WILLIAM C. FRANCIS
W. SUTTON TARBUTTON

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And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par
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You may suffer nagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.
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AMERICAN FENCE
We received another car of Fence January 29th. Poultry Fence 48 inches. Hog Fence 26 inches. Field Fence 47 inches. As stock is limited please get what you need at once.
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Shipment Coal Burning Brooders just came in. Don't put off buying if you need one. There is only a limited quantity to be had this season.
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When you think of fence controllers, think of "PRIME." Backed by many years of manufacturing experience. Our Government is allowing a limited number to be made. If you want one for this year either Electric or Battery, don't put off buying. Get it now so you will be sure to have it when you are ready to use it.
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