

THE PRODUCERS NEWS

COUNTY
EDITION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED FARMERS LEAGUE

PLENTYWOOD, SHERIDAN COUNTY, MONTANA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1932

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USE TERROR AGAINST STRIKING CALIFORNIA TREE PRUNERS: SIX TAKEN FROM JAIL AND BEATEN

15 MEN KIDNAP ARRESTED WORKERS, TELL
THEM TO LEAVE COUNTRY

Donald Bingham, Arrested Leader, Held on
Exorbitant Bail

RANKS REMAIN SOLID AND NO SCABS ARE
ON THE JOB

Vacaville, Calif., Dec. 6.—Striking tree pruners who are fighting a cut in day rates from \$1.50 to \$1.25 are keeping their ranks solid in spite of vicious terror instigated against them by the business ranch owners and American Legion.

KIDNAP WORKERS

Yesterday, six arrested strikers were taken from jail by a band of 15 unidentified men and driven to the country. They were badly beaten and painted red and warned to leave the country. The chief of police said he didn't know anything about the kidnapping nor how the armed band obtained the key to the jail. Workers strongly suspect that he aided and abetted the kidnappers. He was conveniently absent at the time the raiding occurred.

No scabs outside of a few foremen are working on the ranches. The picket patrols of the Agricultural Workers Industrial Union which is leading the strike are on the job and make the rounds of the ranches every day on trucks.

COMMITTEE VISITS TOWN

Saturday representatives of the Committee for the Protection of Political Prisoners visited the prisoners. Donald Bingham, young strike leader, is still in jail held on the exorbitant bail of \$5,000 cash or \$10,000 property bond. Although workers raised property bond to the value of \$100,000 based on tax assessments, the judge has refused to accept it, saying that the value of the property was only \$6,800. There is grave concern that Bingham is being held for lynching.

The committee also visited several townspeople who have been attempting to terrorize the strikers.

One, W. N. Goodman, a Democratic boss, said "I am not in favor of lynching except in extreme necessity" and added that it was necessary in Vacaville.

MINISTER FOR LYNCHING

The Rev. A. F. Fruhling, local minister, was most vicious toward the striking farm workers who are waging their struggle to get the meager subsistence level of wages. Shouting in Anita Whitney's face, a member of the visiting committee, he said, "It would be a good thing if a half dozen of them were lynched."

The committee was greeted enthusiastically by the workers who were heartened by the solidarity of workers from other parts of the state. Truckloads of relief which have arrived have also helped the strikers to keep on the picket lines and determined to fight to the end.

VETERANS FLOCK TO WASHINGTON, DEMANDING BONUS

Many Come on Freights;
Held Public Hearing and
Present Petition

Washington, D. C., Dec. 10.—More ex-soldiers, demanding immediate payment of the bonus and no cuts in disability allowance, are continually joining the 1,000 already at the capital.

TRY TO BAR VETERANS

Police are using every effort to keep the war veterans out of the city. Many were hustled out of the city when the Hunger Marchers left on their trip home. They remained at Baltimore and planned to return to Washington. A contingent of Newark bonus marchers were stopped at Hyattsville, Md., by 50 armed police. The California delegation stated that at least 1,000 more veterans are on their way to Washington aboard freight trains.

On Monday, a public hearing will be held at which ex-servicemen and disabled veterans will give concrete testimony to prove that they are starving and must have immediate payment of the bonus.

DEMAND IMMEDIATE PAYMENT

On Tuesday, a committee of ex-soldiers will present a petition to Congress demanding payment of the bonus and no cuts in disability allowances. President Hoover has already shown his attitude toward the veterans by his speech to Congress in which he urged slashing more than \$127,000,000 from the compensation to disabled ex-servicemen.

On Wednesday, a mass memorial will be held in Arlington Cemetery in honor of the two veterans, Hushka and Carlson, who were murdered in Washington last July. The spirit of the veterans is

POOR FARMERS TO BE EXEMPT FROM TAXES IN RUSSIA

In a decree the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union have set a special single tax on the individual farms. The tax is directed chiefly against the rich farmers. The collective farms and farms employing red army men, red guerrilla men and wounded ex-soldiers are exempt from the tax. The district committees are empowered to exempt further all farms which have fulfilled all their obligations towards the state either from the whole tax or a part. For farms of rich farmers the tax is double the usual agricultural tax, for the individual peasant farms in question it totals from \$7 to \$12. The farms of the poor peasants are exempt. Twenty five per cent falls to the district and the rest to the state. The tax must be paid in full by the end of the year.

STOP ALL BIDS AT TAX SALE ON IOWA FARMERS

Holiday Farmers Warn All
Bidders Not to Raise
Voices

1500 CROWD OFFICE

Farmers Also Endorse Petition
Against All
Evictions

Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 5.—Over 1500 farmers and workers succeeded in halting tax sales for 30 days here.

Members of the Farmers Holiday Association began to crowd into the county treasurer's office where a sale for taxes was scheduled last Monday an hour before the sale was to start. They were determined that no farmers or workers homes should be sold for taxes and had warned all bidders not to put up a bid.

NO BIDS

When the treasurer began to read off the list of property against which there is \$450,000 in delinquent taxes, not a single voice was raised. The treasurer, Norman H. Nelson then announced that no further sales at auction would take place until January 3. The treasurer was forced to grant a 30-day delay on tax sales because of a petition presented by the Farmers Holiday Assn., thru a committee of four township chairmen of the association—William Frost, A. F. Burmeister, C. M. Kissinger, and W. C. Coon.

ASK 60-DAY STAY

The petition read: "We, the farmers of Woodbury county, impoverished by 3 years of poor crops and low prices, to the extent that we cannot pay the necessities of life, let alone pay the burden of taxes:

"We therefore, petition you, the honorable officials, to adjourn the tax sale for 60 days. We further more petition you to stop the evictions from farms, because of debts incurred."

"We heartily endorse the unity of the impoverished farmer, the workman and the unemployed. We also endorse the hunger march and demand that the honorable county officials wire Washington to give our delegates hearing."

"We, the committee of the Holiday association, respectfully ask immediate action on the above requests."

While the farmers did not win the 60-day stay of tax sales, they did win some concession from the county officials. It is expected that they will again move to stop sales of farmers' homes on Jan. 3 when the auction is scheduled again.

WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE NORTH

Workers throughout the North

NEBRASKA FARMERS ARE FOUND MILITANT

Idaho Delegate on Way to Washington Participates in Struggle

(BY A. H. EUSTIS)

Omaha, Neb., Nov. 28.—I took a few notes on our way from Idaho to the Farmers National Relief Conference in Washington, D. C., and here they are:

Now and then I would fall asleep as we rolled through the cornfields of Nebraska, wake up only to see more corn—a sort of endless sea of corn, something like senile oldness would come over me and I would again fall asleep, only to wake and see more corn—corn from hell to breakfast—then fields of waving grass you'd read about.

FRIENDLY TREATMENT

When we arrived at Newman Grove a reception committee met us. One of the delegates knew of a farmers coop garage and fortunately we ran into it the first thing. There was a large group of people sitting around the fire talking about us when we drove up. Jones and I had the good fortune of getting a house in town. The people of this commun-

FARMERS REPORT ON INTOLERABLE PLIGHT

Conference Delegates Tell of Wide Suffering

(BY M. B.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 8.—Coming from 26 states, 250 delegates joined in the demand for a moratorium on mortgages, taxes and interest payments, no evictions and foreclosures at the National Farm Relief Conference which opened here yesterday. Additional farmer-delegates are expected to arrive today.

STOPPED 100 EVICTIONS

The first speaker was Lux of Nebraska, big stocky, ex-soldier in the army of occupation in Germany after the war. He revealed the role of the mortgage sharks and bankers and insurance companies. He showed the farmers how under the Madison County Plan in his state the farmers fight evictions. They stopped one hundred evictions with their militant action. He called for a united front of American farmers on American soil. The Nebraska delegation at his suggestion sang two songs the chief of which had as its chorus the cry of "Solidarity, solidarity."

NEGRO DELEGATE SPEAKS

Stephen Stafford, of Florida, a Negro delegate spoke of conditions in the flower garden state. He described how difficult it was for the Negro group to get to the Conference. He told how Negro farmers were starving. Seven months of summer every year and that didn't help the farmers making a living. Farm hands make fifty cents a day. They are not paid all that in cash. Only one-third of it is paid. Rest in groceries and when the crop is sold by the landlord. If frost hits the crop and makes it worthless the farmhand gets what is left after the frost and landlord are through—which is nothing. A dairy farmer of Pennsylvania showed that in spite of the fact that the farmers he was representing live near one of the greatest markets in the world they are struck by the crisis as much as the Dakota farmers who live thirty miles away from a one-horse town.

Farmers from Wyoming, New Jersey, Connecticut, Montana and Washington spoke. Nathaniel Kerachsky of Connecticut said, "We've been told by politicians that Connecticut is the only solvent state in the Union. We didn't know it until they told us about it." Andy Oja of Montana described how his group of farmers passed through Clinton, Iowa, on their way to the Conference and there they saw on the soup-lines children six years old, eating soup that tasted as if an onion had been soaked in a barrel of rain water. And when Oja remembered in a flash that out west there were thousands of beef, sheep, acres of undug potatoes which could be used to fill the cheeks and bellies of these starving children, he was more than ever determined that something must be done.

WOMAN SPEAKS

The women are also represented at the Conference. Mrs. Chase of New Hampshire spoke. She is a hard working woman who for the last twenty years has been able to buy only two hats for herself, each one no more than thirty-five cents. She was here at the Conference because she believes that good things of life belong to the consumer. Also little Mary Oliso from Pennsylvania spoke. She gave a heart-rending picture of the suffering of farmers' children.

MOTHER BLOOR GIVEN OVATION

Mother Bloor, veteran fighter, well known especially among the farmers out West, came as a representative of the United Farmers' League. She was given a rousing reception by the farmers present. She gave a vivid picture of the two Iowa strikes.

Marshall of Ohio and Bauman of Minnesota delivered fiery speeches about conditions in their respective states. They called for united action with unemployed workers in the cities.

This is a revolutionary movement of farmers. Noticeable here and there are confusion, right wing tendencies as in the case of one farmer who felt there was too much criticism of the government going on. The farmers have a lot to learn from the experience of the farmers in Soviet Russia. The first day's meeting was full of eloquence, fire, winged phrases, and brandishing of fists. The eyes of the workers and farmers of the United States are on this Conference in Washington.

WILLIS WRIGHT RESTRAIN BIDS KILLED BY AUTO IN CO. TAX SALE

Veteran Communist Party
Leader Dies Instantly
In Accident

Willis Wright, well-known working class leader and organizer of the Communist party, was instantly killed when he was hit by an automobile on the highway near Laramie, Wyo., Dec. 6.

Comrade Wright had gone to Laramie to recover an automobile which hunger marchers on their way to Washington had been forced to abandon because of motor trouble. He was walking along the road towards dusk when the auto driven by a local man, hit him.

Comrade Wright was a militant fighter for the cause of the working class all his life. Just before his death he was organizing the Communist party in Idaho.

WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE NORTH

Workers throughout the North

INSIST ON KEEPING COUNTY AGENT THO FARMERS OBJECT

Hancock, Mich., Dec. 6.—The Board of Supervisors insists on maintaining the office of county agent here, although through petitions and mass demonstrations under the leadership of the United Farmers' League, the farmers have definitely shown they do not and cannot bear the useless expense of supporting a county agent.

DON'T NEED COUNTY AGENT

At a recent meeting, the farmers pointed out that they did not need a county agent from the government to show them how to increase their crops, when they can't sell the crops they have already raised. The Board of Supervisors, however, with the aid of the rich farmers, voted to retain this burden on the backs of the farmers.

SHERIFF FIRES ON FARMER IN EVICTION CASE

20 Deputies Besiege Farm,
Firing 300 Rounds of
Shot

FARMER JAILED

Puts up Heroic Struggle
In Defense of His
Home

Elkhorn, Wis., Dec. 6.—With rifle fire puncturing his house from all sides, Max Cichon, farmer held off for over an hour 20 deputy sheriffs who wanted to foreclose his home.

FIRE 300 ROUNDS

Danger to his wife and two children, Virginia, 10 and Max 5, finally led to his surrender. Sheriff John Mason and his men fired 300 rounds of ammunition at the house, blasting several windows, and coming perilously near injuring the family. A piece of plaster fell on the boy's head and Cichon was slightly grazed by glass. Cichon and his wife had no defense but an old shotgun.

HEROIC DEFENSE

Both Cichon and his wife put up a heroic defense to keep themselves and their children from being evicted from their home, but they were finally defeated by the sheriff and his gunmen. Since last April the sheriff has been trying to force Cichon off the land. The Bank of Elkhorn held a mortgage on the Cichon farm and when Cichon was unable to pay it off because of ruinous farm prices the bankers foreclosed.

REAL BATTLEFIELD

Several times the sheriff at the behest of the bank has attempted to evict the Cichon family from the farm, but Cichon drove him away every time. This tool of the banks and enemy of the farmers the last time set up a regular battlefield outside Cichon's home.

Deputies surrounded the house in the night and prepared to besiege the house from behind trees and automobiles. The sheriff set up a field telephone line and for a time directed his men from a clump of trees on the hillside. After telephoning three times to ask Cichon to surrender, the latter finally did in order to save his family from death at the hands of the sheriff.

Both Cichon and his wife were put in jail and held under \$2,500 bail which, of course, they were unable to raise. The United Farmers' League and the International Labor Defense are sending a lawyer to defend them.

FOR MORTGAGE MORATORIUM

After the sale farmers held a mass meeting at which resolutions for repeal of mandatory laws and a moratorium on farm mortgages were unanimously passed.

WEST AND PARTICULARLY IN MONTANA

where Comrade Wright spent so many active years are shocked at the sudden loss of their veteran leader.

FARMERS RELIEF CONFERENCE PRESENTS DEMANDS TO HOOVER AND BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS

PROGRAM ADOPTED IN 4-DAY SESSION
READ ON FLOOR OF CONGRESS

250 Delegates Represent 26 States; Negro and White
Delegates from South

DEMAND MORATORIUM AND STOPPING OF
EVICTIONS FROM HOMES

LEAGUE PLANS TO ACT AGAINST SALE OF WIDOW'S FARM

Brantwood, Wis., Dec. 10.—The United Farmers' League, at its meeting Sunday, decided to take action against a foreclosure sale scheduled for the Phillips Court House December 21.

The sale is on a farm located about five miles south of Brantwood, owned by a widow, Mrs. Nyström and her children. She has been unable to pay the mortgage on her home and is now faced with foreclosure.

PROTEST FORECLOSURE

A letter of protest was sent to Charles Nyström of Minnesota, the owner of the mortgage, demanding that he cancel the foreclosure sale. The farmers also decided to mobilize the farmers of the vicinity to stop this forced sale and to demonstrate at the court house again forced sale. Delegates were sent to other farmers' organizations to ask them to participate.

Discussion was also held on the program of the United Farmers' League, and a local comrade explained it and pointed out that it was the only program that would help the farmers.

BURN CORN AND WOOD FOR FUEL

S. D. Farmer Uses Russian
Thistles to Keep
Warm

Canton, S. D., Dec. 10.—With the best grades of corn commanding a bottom price and poorer grades ranging still were, many farmers have found that the sales of their corn will not buy enough coal to keep them over the winter. They, therefore, have been forced to use the results of their summer's labor as fuel.

One independent school district in the state has advertised for bids on 485 bushels of corn to be used to heat the school house.

CHEAPEST FUEL

While the heat value of corn is only about half that of coal, yet it is the cheapest fuel that farmers can use. R. L. Patty, professor of agricultural engineering at the South Dakota State College, has found a series of tests that it takes 57½ bushels of corn to equal in heating power one ton of good grade soft coal.

Corn as it comes from the field will give off 6,367 B. T. U.'s to the pound, while soft coal produces 12,767. Figured on a cost basis, corn worth 10 cents a bushel or \$2.56 a ton, will produce as fuel 4,452,600 B. T. U.'s for each dollar of cost. Coal will bring only 2,837,170 B. T. U.'s for each dollar of cost.

USES THISTLES IN STOVE

Fred Gilbert, a farmer living near DeSmet, has been forced to gather Russian and Canadian thistles to use as fuel. He has devised a blower with which he compresses them into three pound bricks. A brick lasts half an hour and produces a hot fire. However, an enormous amount of time and energy is consumed in getting this half hour of heat.

CHOP TREES

Many workers, unable to buy coal, have had to chop down trees for fuel. Many acres of woodlots along streams and hills have been stripped by workers in order to keep themselves and their families from freezing to death this winter.

MINERS STARVING

At the same time the United States has rich coal deposits and thousands of miners are out of a job and starving for lack of the coal that is being burned.

COUNTY HOLIDAY MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS TAXES

(BY EMIL FALK)

Glencoe, Minn., Dec. 9.—A county wide Farm Holiday meeting is scheduled for next Monday. It is expected that a thousand bankrupt farmers from all parts of the county will be in attendance.

Harold Peterson of Kandiyohi county and Reino Tantila from St. Louis county will be speakers. Most of the discussion will center around the question of taxes, as many farmers are delinquent and unable to pay them.

I will send you a complete report next week.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Amid a thunder of applause, 250 farmers from 26 states concluded the first National Relief Conference at Washington.

A permanent organization was set up to launch a nationwide struggle for the demands which the four day conference drew up and placed before Congress. Officers of the organization are Tony Rosenberg of Nebraska, chairman; Louis Bentley, Pa.; Strong, Neb., and Stephen Stafford, Fla., the latter three being vice presidents.

ALL SECTIONS REPRESENTED

All the farmers present were "dirty farmers." Many came from the great wheat plains and a large contingent represented eastern dairy farmers. The region which saw the militant farm struggle last summer—Iowa and Nebraska—was also well represented. Every farmer present was elected at a meeting of 25 fellow farmers. Many, especially in the strike region, were elected at meetings attended by two and three hundred farmers. A special ovation was given the southern delegation which consisted of Negro and white share croppers who had a specially difficult time in getting to Washington.

The Typographical Union hall with a report of the secretary, Leon Harris. Harris pointed out that farm prices have fallen so low that farmers' incomes have been more than halved while city workers have to pay as much for farm products as they ever did. He suggested that the Conference formulate a program around which farm masses everywhere could be rallied. This program (a complete statement of which will be found on page 3) was drawn up and presented to both houses of Congress.

UNABLE TO PAY DEBTS

Farmer after farmer got up and told about the terrible conditions in his locality. Many told on the floor how impossible it was for farmers to pay their debts and demanded a moratorium on debts and taxes.

"Whether or not the farmers have a legal right to refuse to permit eviction sales of farms," said Bentley of Pa., "they certainly have no moral right to put their own wives and children on the bare road with no place to go." There was manifest approval of (Continued on Page Two)

MARCHERS RETURN HOME AFTER HUGE PARADE IN CAPITAL

Attacked in Three States
on Homeward Journey

After their triumphant march through Washington, the 3,000 Hunger Marchers left the capital on December 6 to return home to report to the tens of thousands of delegates who elected them in the cities all over the country.

1,000 EX-SOLDIERS IN MARCH

The Hunger Marchers were joined in their parade by 1,000 ex-servicemen and some farmers who were already at the capital for the Farmers National Relief Conference held December 7-10. Thousands of Washington workers joined the sidewalks applauding the marchers as they went by.

The marchers paraded to Pennsylvania avenue where they halted while their elected committees presented their demands for \$50 winter relief and federal unemployment insurance to vice president Curtis and Speaker Garner of the House of Representatives. The presiding officers of Congress gave very evasive answers to the committees of the unemployed and it is clear that only renewed struggles on the part of the unemployed will win relief.

ATTACK RETURNING MARCHERS

Marchers are making the return trip in orderly columns. However, police of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia attempted to disperse the Western delegation, attacked them brutally and attempted to force them, in some cases, out of their trucks to journey over the mountains on foot.

They were at first barred from Pittsburgh, but mass protest of workers inside the city won them the right to enter and get lodging the right to enter and get lodging continue westward through Cleveland. Large mass meetings are planned for them wherever they make their stops.

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ERIK BERT, Editor
HANS RASMUSSEN, Business Manager

Friday, December 16, 1932

ROOSEVELT AND THE FARMER

What the Domestic Allotment Plan Offers Small and Middle Farmers; an Opening for Mortgage Sharks; the Farmers Way Out

(BY FARM RESEARCH BUREAU)

Since the bankers and middlemen are preaching optimistically to the farmers of the day when the Democrats shall occupy the governmental seats, let us examine the prospects a little more carefully. What does the future under Roosevelt promise for the farmers?

VAGUE TO FARMERS

Mr. Roosevelt has been evasive in his speeches addressed to the farmers. But if he was vague to the farmers, he was not so vague in his talks with the bankers. Just prior to Mr. Roosevelt's visit to Topeka, Kans., where he delivered his now celebrated speech on farm relief, he had a conference, not with farmers, but with Mr. Owen D. Young, international banker. According to the New York Times (Sept. 10) he "discussed farm legislation." And Mr. Young put his stamp of big business approval on Mr. Roosevelt and his program. Farmers may wonder what Mr. Roosevelt expects to do about the farmers. But Mr. Young and his fellow bankers do not wonder—they know! And that they approve of Mr. Roosevelt's program has already been indicated by the support which they gave him in the election campaign.

To the farmers, Mr. Roosevelt has indicated in rather general terms support of the voluntary domestic allotment plan. His commitment has been so guarded and so indefinite that farmers have no assurance that he will actually push this bill during his four year term.

Suppose, however, that under the universal pressure of farmers for relief, Mr. Roosevelt actually does push this measure enacted. What would be the result to the farmers?

DOUBTFUL ASSUMPTION

This question involves first the ability to increase prices through an additional tax on consumers in this country; and second, the possibility of disposing of "surpluses" over the high tariff walls of other nations. While success in the first case is not what the farmers desire (since it is aimed at dividing them from a powerful ally, the industrial wage worker) and is impossible in the second case (unless special international agreements are made) let us assume, for the sake of argument, that the voluntary domestic allotment plan may achieve in some measure the purposes sought by those who support it.

MUST CUT ACREAGE

Let us suppose that you are a farmer in Montana, raising wheat and marketing it under the voluntary domestic allotment plan. Since, for the past five years, you have been raising 100 acres of wheat, your quota is set at 100 acres. The Secretary of Agriculture (who may be Prof. M. L. Wilson, Henry Morgenthau, or Henry Wallace) estimates that the domestic consumption of wheat will be 60 per cent of the total production. You will then be allowed to sell 60 per cent of your wheat or the prevailing world price plus the tariff. At present prices this means about 75 cents a bushel for 60 per cent of your crop. Since the remainder of your crop must be sold at world prices, this means 4 cents a bushel for the remaining 40 per cent.

If you are an average farmer with about 160 acres of land, this wheat cost you from \$1 to \$1.25 a bushel to produce. You are selling from 30 to 40 cents a bushel in every bushel you sell. If you happen to look across the fields at a thousand-acre farm of one of the large farm corporations, you will recall that the corporation arm with its machinery and large scale methods, is producing wheat at about 50 cents a bushel and is, therefore, making a tidy profit. Perhaps it will occur to you that this is in the interest of just such corporation farms of finance capital that this domestic allotment plan is designed to help.

SMALL FARMERS WILL SUFFER

Let us suppose that in some way or other, you have been able to weather this loss and are still farming during the following year. What is the situation now? Many small farmers and middle farmers have been ruined by low prices, some have been evicted and others have been denied any production credit whatsoever. There is then every indication at the production of wheat is to

be considerably reduced, and on the basis of reports, the secretary estimates that the domestic consumption will be as much as 80 per cent of the declining crop. It is barely conceivable that the price will have risen, and for your 80 per cent you will receive a price which amounts to even a small profit.

Is it hard to imagine what will follow?

If you are not unlike the majority of your fellow farmers, you have a mortgage hanging over your head. It is probable that this mortgage is held by an insurance company. (Insurance companies hold 20 per cent of the farm mortgages.) Not at last the insurance company sees a chance to capitalize on its land holdings and smack! you are foreclosed.

REDUCED TO LOWER STANDARDS

This does not mean, under the domestic allotment plan, that you will necessarily be evicted. It is becoming increasingly clear that the federal government and the big bankers are a little afraid of wholesale evictions. But under the domestic allotment plan, it is not necessary to drive you off the land in order to profit by your labor. Under this plan you have a franchise to produce wheat at a higher price than world price. The insurance company will foreclose your franchise and transfer this right to raise and sell high to lands adjoining those it already holds. It may even transfer it to more fertile ground. At any rate, the insurance company has the right to profits and you have nothing but the dismal prospects of peasant life.

NO CASH FOR GROCERIES

Nothing will prevent you from raising wheat if you desire, (and have production funds) but for your wheat you will receive the world price, far below your cost of production. Your only alternative, outside of resistance, is to accept the "live at home" program of the Department of Agriculture and produce only for your own use. And this means no cash for coffee, sugar and clothes except what the Red Cross or some other charity allows you.

If you ask why this should happen to you, you will be told that you are one of the "inefficient farmers" and that the Voluntary Domestic Allotment plan is designed to help the "efficient" farmer. It will occur to you that by "inefficient" the government means all of the average farmers, the small and middle farmers. By "efficient" farmers, it means the large land owners, the corporation farms, the chain farms, the big business side of agriculture.

The domestic allotment plan would hasten a program already sponsored by big business. E. G. Nourse, agricultural economist, speaking before the Forty-second Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association in 1930, extolled the significance of mechanized, large scale farming, which would result in cutting out three-quarters of our farmers who show themselves to be the poorest business managers. In the circles of "experts" one frequently hears the phrase of "retiring farmers from production." This purpose, the bankers hope, the domestic allotment plan will achieve.

POOR FARMERS GO BACK TO THE HORSE

George Soule, an economist and one of the editors of the New Republic, discusses the question in the current Harper's Monthly Magazine. "But what are unwanted farmers to do? he asks. They cannot find jobs in the factories. Farmers by the thousands have been forced out of crop selling. Not all of them are landless; the consequence is that you can find them in marginal regions all over the country—and sometimes even on good soil—doing their best to feed and clothe their families with hand labor and domestic arts. Horses and buggies are coming back. Farmers are going out of the market for automobiles, gasoline, machinery—Farmers are being forced back to primitive agriculture in order to eat."

The farmer does not like inefficient methods. Why, he asks, must his tractor rust from disuse, and his machinery lie idle, while he returns to muscle power and horse power? And why, he questions, must he cut his production, while millions of unemployed walk the streets in hunger? Regardless of whether he can answer these

FARMERS LIVE ON PRAIRIE DOG

Beet Workers Have to Eat Cactus; Fruit Rots in Field

(BY E. GORDON)

Pueblo, Colo., Dec. 9.—The farm problem in southern Colorado has been a very hard one this year as far as the farmer is concerned. In the very fertile section of the Arkansas Valley it has been terrible to see, farm after farm of good crops and no markets for them. Even where there was a market the farmer was forced to take a great loss when bringing his crops to town. Fields of spinach were advertised that any who wanted them could come and get them.

ONIONS ROT IN FIELD

Lettuce, rhubarb and beans could be had for the asking, but workers in the city had no means of transporting these to town to use them. At this writing, onions of a very good variety are lying rotting in the fields. There was a wonderful crop of onions here this year.

But in the Ordway and Sugar City district the crops to a large percentage never came up, due to a drought.

The farmer who raised sugar beets will not fare so well either. This is due to the low prices that the Sugar company has put thru. We know that the beet workers are still compelled to eat cactus and prairie dogs in some sections in order to live.

On the western slope peaches lay on the ground and spoiled in many cases. Also the farmers on the slope got so little for their potatoes that many left them undug in the fields.

UNREST EVERYWHERE

Everywhere one may go here he hears the unrest among the working class. They are forced to live in tin shacks, tents and in some cases dugout. Yet in this city there are thousands of homes standing empty, so that even the most uneducated worker can see that there is something wrong with the system.

So fellow workers and farmers if you are satisfied with your conditions, if you are in favor of hunger, cold and misery, if you wish to be a slave to this capitalist system, that uses you and then throws you on the scrap heap, that is up to you.

But if you are the type of man who does not give up so easily and is willing to fight for the right that you and your family deserve, for the right to live and live like a human person deserves to live, then your place is in the United Farmers League.

CORN FOR FUEL

It has been found that 574 bushels of corn will burn and give off as much heat as a ton of the best coal. With prices still comparatively high and corn prices exceptionally low this grain is being used to fire furnaces in some parts of the country. Particularly is this so in Nebraska where corn cobs are heaped high with bumpy commissions and being corn on the cob at \$3 a ton to heat the court house because coal is \$12 a ton.—Pathfinder.

NO PRODUCTION CREDIT FOR THE "INEFFICIENT"

And remember this, the voluntary domestic allotment plan is not the only method by which big business will reduce you to this level. For the interests of big business, everything hangs on the ability of the federal government and the bankers to "retire from production" farmers who have been contributing to what is called the agricultural surplus. Credit machinery, controlled by big business is fundamental to this major offensive against the farmer.

For this reason, they will see to it that no production credit is available for the "inefficient" farmer, although there will be plenty available for the corporation farms and the large land owners. On many farms in the south, there is no furnishing this year for the tenant and the share cropper. And unless the farmers demand it by their organizations, might there will be no seed and feed loans, no intermediate credit, no credit which will allow small and middle farmers to escape the narrow starvation limitations of the live at home program.

This is Mr. Roosevelt's program, and although he may hide it behind a feigned sympathy for the plight of the farmer, although he may even be induced to "relax credit restrictions" he and his fellow politicians will make every effort to shove it through.

THE FARMERS ONLY WAY OUT

There is only one power which can prevent big business and Mr. Roosevelt from putting this program through, and that power is the combined strength of farmers themselves. The Farmers National Relief Conference at which farmers spoke for the millions of farmers back home is one positive step in this direction. The organization which they represent and which they constitute another step. If the farmers are able to spread their organizations thruout the country and at the same time unite with the unemployed and employed workers of the city, they can then, and only then, dictate their own terms.



How police handled the leader of the Children's Delegation which went to the White House on Thanksgiving Day, to demand relief for suffering children.

Billions for the Rich Pennies for the Poor

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is Launched to Help the Bankers

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation made loans of \$1,397,596,033 from the beginning of February to the end of October. Of this \$253,537,052 has been repaid.

The total loans made by the Corporation during this period were distributed as follows:

Banks and trust companies	\$753,346,747
Receivers and liquidators of closed banks	33,991,290
Building and loan associations	85,391,939
Livestock credit corporations	11,210,272
Insurance companies	61,058,762
Agricultural credit corporations	3,055,726
Railroads	252,983,389
Mortgage loan companies	83,705,580
Joint stock land banks	14,300,000
Federal land banks	14,300,000
Credit unions	373,352

While the great capitalist corporations have over one billion dollars as yet from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, taking into account the amount they have repaid, only \$30,978,393 has been disbursed to various states as relief for the unemployed. This means about \$2 each for the 15,000,000 unemployed thruout the country without taking into account all the millions of impoverished farmers.

ONE BILLION FOR THE RICH—LESS THAN THREE TENTHS OF ONE PER CENT OF THAT FOR RELIEF. This is the program of the capitalist class.

Section 2 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation was supposed to grant relief to the impoverished farmers. Up to Oct. 31, \$64,204,503 had been disbursed to 507,632 farmers. The vast majority of the farmers in the country have received absolutely no relief from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Those who did receive relief got not even enough to put in their crops and harvest them and are now in the same position as those who got no loans except that they have mortgages on their crops and stock for this relief, in addition to all of their other burdens.

SMALL FARMERS PASSED BY

Under the Emergency Relief and Construction Act, passed by the last Congress, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is required to place \$3,000,000 in capital at the disposal of each of 12 Regional Agricultural Credit corporations. These outfits were organized to grant the impoverished farmers further "relief." Up to Oct. 31, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation had placed \$24,000,000 in capital at the disposal of eight of these regional offices. Up to that time, however, only \$1,165,214 had been disbursed by these offices to the grand total of 339 farmers and stockmen. These loans are placed on "good security." The 339 farmers and stockmen who got the loans, had this good security. They were not impoverished farmers but rich farmers, for the majority of small and middle farmers in the country have no more "good security." They have been mortgaged to the ears and are now being foreclosed on and sold out by the robbers who made the loans to them.

Only thru mass pressure can the farmers or the workers get immediate relief. The Farmers National Conference will organize this mass demand.

FARMERS RELIEF CONFERENCE PRESENTS DEMANDS TO HOOVER

(Continued from Front Page)

these sentiments from the whole conference.

DEMAND MORATORIUM

Among the demands which the farmers presented to Congress were: Federal cash relief for destitute farmers of \$500,000,000; food products used for city unemployed should be bought directly from farmers, eliminating the dealer; relief administered locally by committees of farmers; government price regulation to reduce prices to consumers and raise it to farmers, eliminating profits of middlemen; no evictions, and a moratorium on debts.

The resolution embodying these demands was drawn up by Fred B. Chase, N. H.; Louis Bentley, Pa.; James Flower, Minn.; Jess Green, Neb.; Andrew Oja, Montana and Paul Dale, Oregon.

A representative from the South, Oliver of Florida, a Negro farmer, was later elected to the resolutions committee when the delayed southern delegates arrived. The Alabama delegation had been stalled in Rome, Va., through lack of gas for trucks. The Conference wired them funds and they arrived the second morning of the Conference.

The delegates were grouped in seven main sections, representing the farmers of that section. Each section nominated a member of the resolutions committee and the whole convention elected them.

READ IN CONGRESS

After the resolution was drawn up embodying the demands endorsed by the convention, it was presented on December 9 to Congress and to President Hoover. In the Senate the statement (printed in full on page 3) was

read to the senators by the clerks, while in the House of Representatives it was read by Representative Howard of Nebraska.

Delegations visited congressmen and senators from each of the states represented by farmers at the conference and also went to see Vice President Curtis and Speaker Garner of the House. Both promised to bring the demands before their respective bodies but their answers were very evasive and there is little or no likelihood the demands will be met. Several senators would like to curtail favor at home by giving ear to the demands. Not one came out in favor of these basic demands of the farmers. The farmers were refused the floor, and to present their demands themselves.

Hoover received a delegation headed by Philip Smith of New Hope, Pa. He tried to hide behind the statement that he would need time to consider the demands as they were all new to him, although farmers all over the country have been raising the demand for a moratorium and no evictions for many months.

PROTEST EVICTION

While in session the farmers wired a protest to Governor LaFollette of Wisconsin at the brutal eviction last week of Max Cichon and his family from their farm by 20 deputized sheriffs with guns. LaFollette replied that he refused to release Cichon (who had been jailed) or punish the sheriff who fired on Cichon.

Many farmers started their journey homeward Sunday after the adjournment of this first historic conference of farmers, ground down by capitalism. Others remained overnight to make an early morning start. The conference marks only the beginning of a fight to bring some measure of

THOUSANDS OUT CHEER FARMERS

Large Throngs of Chicago Workers Greet Farm Delegation

(BY WILLIAM FERGUSON)

With the Washington State Delegation, Chicago, Ill., Dec. 5.—We were so busy being entertained in Chicago by the Unemployed Councils that I just didn't have time to write. I understand there are 65 branches and the smallest and youngest has a membership of 300 and they are a fine, militant bunch.

SEE SIGHTS

The Lithuanian Branch cooked us up a swell supper and breakfast and all the Polish and other Nationalists took us to their homes and saw to it that we had a good bed and sleep. They gave us rides all over Chicago and pointed out the factories and steel mills, all idle. We had a fine meeting here.

CHEERED BY WORKERS

We were cheered all along the streets by large throngs of workers. About 15,000 Negroes belong to the Unemployed Councils. There was a splendid orchestra of about 20 stringed instruments played by the Young Communist League and the Young Pioneers. They were perfect in music and true and ably conducted by a fine master.

The papers stated that there was 50,000 actually in the marching lines and 100,000 on the sidewalks. All traffic was tied up and the police didn't interfere. On our return they promise us a meeting in the largest hall in Chicago and a bigger demonstration than has ever been seen in that city.

The unemployed in Chicago are well organized for struggle and if Seattle was half as well organized according to size we would have a right to be proud.

WASHINGTON BEHIND

The United Farmers League in the state of Washington is so far behind South Dakota, Montana, Iowa and Nebraska that it would seem as if we were standing still. So far, no funds have come in to the Washington delegation, and it begins to look as if we can get home any way we see fit. We had a breakdown today and it cost \$12 for a cylinder head, which just about finishes our treasury, so it means we must save even more on our eats because we must have gas and oil.

It is cold in Ohio. In fact we notice here cold more than we have anywhere else so far. We have heard reports at times of the brutality of the police to the hunger marchers, but they have not been so friendly. They have not been so friendly, but, generally speaking, they show they do not want too much trouble with us.

DELEGATES VISIT CHICAGO JOBLESS

See Unemployed Living in Empty Grocery Boxes

(BY WALTER WITTE)

Syracuse, Ind., Dec. 4.—When the North Dakota delegates stopped in Chicago on their way to the Farmers National Relief Conference we paid a visit to Hooverville, where families and single men lived in huts built of tin. Some lived in big grocery boxes with scraps of tin for a roof. We asked them "Where do you get your food?" They pointed to the garbage dumped in the dump grounds.

VISIT STOCK YARDS

We also visited the stock yards and Swift's packing plant where thousands of tons of meat are prepared while thousands in the city are starving because they have no money to buy. We left this morning for Indiana and the workers escorted us out of town about 30 miles. They told us to stop on our return from Washington.

We were welcomed by the Indiana farmers and had a good supper, and a meeting was arranged and well attended in the school house at which Andrew Oja, of Montana, Ole Sundby of North Dakota, Charles Mosley, a Montana Indian, and Charles Taylor talked.

WORKERS OBJECT TO RELIEF DELAY

125 Go to Protest But Supervisors Refused to Wait for Them

(By a Farmer Correspondent) Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 8.—The farmers and unemployed workers from the Unemployed Council were scheduled to meet with the County Supervisors and City Council at the mayor's office yesterday to take up the question of relief.

Workers complain that the delay between the time they put in their request for food and the time they get it is so great that they could starve before they get relief. About 125 workers went to the city hall for the meeting which had been pre-arranged, but when they got there the elevator man sent them to another building and when they found out they had been misled they were too late to meet with the Board of Supervisors.

BOARD WONT WAIT

Although the workers were only relief and security to the tolling farm masses of this country.

Doings of the Advance Guard

You people out on the firing line probably don't know all the trouble we have back here. We are walking around in 25 below zero weather without overshoes. At night we lay awake nursing our chilblains while we try to figure out how we are going to get our next ton of paper. Our credit is all shot, we must pay cash for everything we buy, and print a paper without something to print it on can't be done.

One of our troubles is that we send out a lot of paper which we never get paid for. There is where you can help us a lot by paying promptly and sending money with the order. We don't mind at all sending money copies to prospective subscribers nor giving some samples to those who go out and get subscribers, that is not what we are kicking about.

What we are losing out is on the big bundles. Often we get an order like this: "Send us 100 copies each week." We don't send out bills but once a month or so, by that time we find the papers have been given away and no funds have been collected, so in that case we are out several hundred papers, and we have many cases like that.

We would like to send the paper out free by the millions, but, we happen to be broke and can't do it. We must insist on your sending the cash with your order.

DOINGS OF LAST WEEK

H. L. Flagman, Dow City, Iowa, writes: "I have found one of your copies on the road. I am interested in it from what I read as a farmer. Please send me and my friend each the paper for three months. Enclosed find \$1."

J. W. Eustis, Buhl, Idaho, renews his subscription and orders a receipt book. His boy is along on the trip to Washington and writes interesting letters home. Howard Smith, Decatur, Ill., renews for one year.

LARS AND HERBERT RUN EVEN

Lars Bolland, Langford, S. Dak., sends us another dollar bill for two subs. "There is no money among the farmers, but I managed to squeeze this dollar out. I was on the ticket as elector for that state and got 13 votes in our township, which was as many as President H-H-Hunger got." Good for you, Lars.

Floyd Sharp, Bristol, S. Dak., sends one sub.

H. M. Larson, Frederick, S. D., sends us four subs.

Frank Denk, Deerbrook, Wis., sends us four subs.

Wm. E. Cambell, Sedro-Wooley, Wash., sends one sub.

Elder Pyatt, Trout Creek, Mont., subscribes for six months and he wants information about the U. F. L.

FARMERS SHOULD READ IT

Geman Olson, Mantiou, N. Dak., subscribes. "I like the Producers News and I think that every farmer should read it," he says.

Frank Watters, Sioux City, Ia., sends us another sub.

SPREAD IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Jacob Polo, Carlton, Oregon, writes: "We think the Producers News is a wonderful paper and should be spread as much as possible."

Perry Morris, Twin Falls, Idaho, sends us two subs.

WILL GET A BIG ORGANIZATION

Roy Miller, of Frederick, S. D., is on the march, he sends six subs gathered on his way. "The trip is getting better right along and I am sure we will get a big organization of farmers from the result of the conference" Roy writes.

Abe Ozeransky, Portland, Ore., pays for bundles.

Martin Tveit, Frederick, S. Dak., sends us one sub.

Julius Walstad of Hankinson, N. D., subscribes for six months and orders back copies. "I am with you boys 100 per cent, Julius says."

ROY HEARD FROM AGAIN

Roy Miller, Frederick, S. Dak., is the go getter. He sends three more subs from Washington, D. C., and says "We will get a lot more on our return."

Mrs. O. M. Duffy, Owyhee, Nevada, subscribes for six months. John W. Marshall, Leetonia, Ohio, sent us a \$2 sub.

JUST HAPPENED TO SEE IT

Dan Hoff, Shaw Island, Wash., writes: "I happened to see the Producers News last time I was in Seattle. I sure like it now, and I think folks around here will get interested too in your valuable paper." He subscribed for half a year.

Otto Wallin, Superior, Wis., pays for bundles received.

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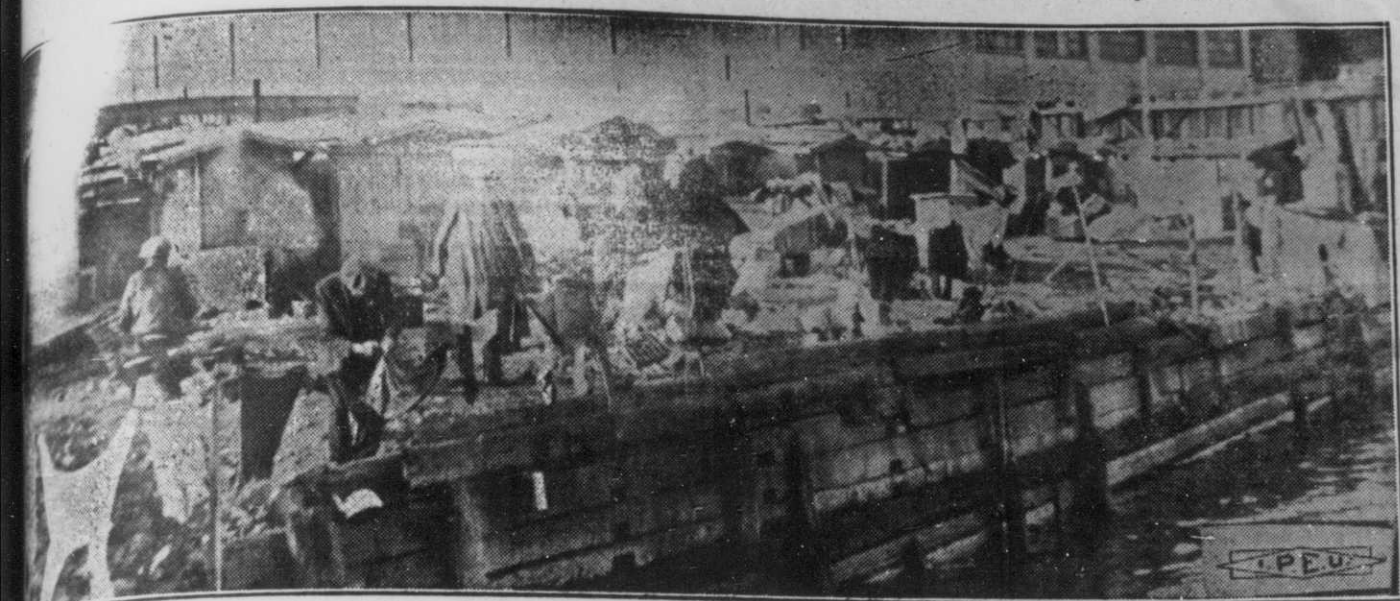
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Unemployed New York workers have to make their homes in any hovel they can find

Unemployed and striking coal miners have to cut wood for fuel.



Farmers Isolation Broken Through United Mass Action

With the Electricity Turned off and the Telephone Wires Dead the Farmer Girds Himself for Action; Farm Holiday Strike First Mass Struggle of Farmers in Defense of their Homes and for Higher Prices; Leads to Calling of National Relief Conference

The old isolation of the farm is broken. In the middle west, the electric light is turned off because the bills can not be paid. The telephone lamp is hauled down from the attic. Even the telephone wires are dead. Often the farmer has not enough cash to buy the lack of the modern conveniences. He has cut through his isolation and found the solidarity of his fellow farmer.

UNITED THEIR STRENGTH

Out near Sioux City, Iowa, when 100 farmers were roused up within 15 minutes to resist the attempt to tow a hog through the streets. He realizes that he is only the united strength of the farmer and the farmer to the worker and the worker to the farmer. He has listened to his neighbors, his bankers, his politicians, his ministers, his grange men, his state agricultural college men for years.

Now his land has gone up at auction sale, his pigs and corn are not worth a third what he had put into them. A blight of taxes too high to be met by the sale of the hog, fell upon him. The medicine men were paralyzed and when the farmer went from one to another, they could only lift their hands. Burn your wheat, blow up your fields, sell your machinery and pay off your deficiencies. Sew sacking to cover anything it wears out, use newspapers for warmth. Put on the wooden shoes.

ONLY ONE DIRECTION

The farmer heard and saw for the first time. Suddenly, as the wind rose when the cataract is held off by the surgeon the farmer saw the impotence of his advisers and betrayers. His back to the wall, there was but one direction he could go. Forward. With his own united strength. Stand still and be sold out to the insurance companies, or organize and write their strength against the common enemy.

HOUSES NEED PAINT AND REPAIRS; CORN STANDS IN FIELDS

Hammond, Ind., Dec. 5.—Some of the comrades were out in the country recently here in Indiana. In some of the formerly most prosperous farming sections. In the days of prosperity, the farmers all had fine buildings, nice homes, and well kept barns, etc. Today in this same district, the houses could hardly be recognized. In places where corn was raised, the corn has disappeared. The barns are falling apart and ruin is evident everywhere. Corn is still standing in the fields. Farmers cannot afford to hire it picked. These farmers will have a hard time even planting anything next spring.

RELEASE NEGRO AFTER PROTEST

Try to Intimidate Negro Leader of Share Croppers

Camp Hill, Ala. Dec. 7.—Release of Luther Hugley, Negro leader of the sharecroppers of Camp Hill, was won by mass pressure and legal defense mobilized by the International Labor Defense. Negro tenant-farmers and sharecroppers crowded the court room to support Attorney F. B. Irwin, of the International Labor Defense. Previous to the trial, the sheriff admitted to Irwin that the real charge against Hugley was distributing leaflets of the United Farmers League. The sheriff and prosecutor tried to make Hugley stand guilty with threats of heavy sentence if he did not, although they admitted they had no case against him. The judge had agreed with them to give a very heavy sentence if he did not plead guilty and agree to leave town. The I. L. D. and U. F. L. distributed leaflets calling on farmers, tenants, and share croppers to crowd the court room and many organizations sent protests to the judge and high sheriff.

FARM TAXES TWICE AS HIGH AS IN 1913

Reduced Prices Causes Inability to Pay

Studies of farm taxes made public by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that while taxes on farm real estate in 26 states are 7 or 8 per cent lower than they were in 1930, yet the general level is more than twice as high as it was in 1913.

For 1930 taxes per acre averaged 66 cents, compared with 67 cents in 1929 and 27 cents in 1913.

Taxes Really Higher
While taxes per acre have been declining, this does not mean that the tax burden has been lightened, it is admitted in the report. Heavy reductions in prices have actually made the burden more than three times as heavy during the period of falling taxes.

The number of small and middle farmers who are able to meet their tax burdens is so small as to be practically non-existent. Even if taxes were far lower, these farmers would be unable to pay them. Their only relief is in exemption of taxes, advocated by the United Farmers League.

INCREASE IN HOG RAISING IN SOVIET COLLECTIVE FARMS

In the past year there has been a considerable growth in the network of Russian collective farms devoted to raising hogs for the market. Whereas on August 1, 1931 there were 9,648 such farms with a total of 750,000 hogs, at the beginning of the current year the number of farms had doubled and the number of hogs almost trebled. The respective figures being 18,905 farms and 2,115,500 hogs. By the first of August of this year there was a still further growth to 26,105 farms with 2,559,400 head of swine.

DAIRY FARMERS TO FIGHT FOR \$1.25 PER CWT. ON MILK

Cleveland, Ohio.—Dairy farmers in two downstate sections have diverted their milk supply from Cleveland as a protest against the prices being paid to them by the Cleveland creameries. The farmers have threatened to strike unless the creameries agree to pay \$1.25 a hundredweight, instead of the 90 cents which they are paying at present.

Relief Conference Rallies Around Seven-Point Program

Full Statement Presented to Congress and Read in Both Houses; Farmers Not Responsible for Breakdown, Must be Given Relief; Demand Cash Relief of \$500,000,000, Regulation of Prices by Government, Cancellation of Mortgages for Share-Croppers, Moratorium for Others

We, farmers, 250 strong, represent the struggling majority of the farm population in 26 states. For the first time in history, we come ourselves, face to face with Congress without high salaried farm leaders or lobbyists standing between to bedevil and divert our purpose. And our purpose is to demand immediate action. We are determined to stop a ruthless pressure from creditors who threaten to sweep us from our land and homes.

FARMERS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BREAK DOWN

For the last three years, a world economic crisis has sharpened the effect of ten years of post war farm depression. Our last reserves have been taken from us. We are not responsible for the universal breakdown that forced 70 millions of Americans into economic distress, uncertainty and want in the richest country in the world.

We know that the relief funds are largely squeezed from the worried balance of the population who are themselves slipping toward the brink of joblessness. We know that fantastic costs of local, state and federal governments are also squeezed from them by sales taxes while the big incomes and corporations escape. We know that actual starvation is more and more frequently admitted in spite of bulging banks and storehouses of food. We have seen food destroyed and everywhere our crops rot on the ground in a marketless country because hungry millions have lost their purchasing power.

In the face of this social calamity "farm leaders" and politicians dare to talk of "surplus"; dare to base legislation on a theory of reduction of acreage that will fit the present starvation markets. Finally his bankrupt leadership dares to advocate the abandonment of our scientific and technical advances in farming and recommend that we return to a primitive, self-sufficing form of peasant farming.

PERMANENT CRISIS
We declare that this country is in the throes of a permanent farm crisis which threatens us with degradation and poverty unless we enforce abrupt changes in our economic setups. We declare that such an emergency can be met only by putting into effect the following demands which must be considered as a whole. We ask Congress to suspend its rules and to permit the delegation from the Farmers' National Relief Conference to read these demands on the floor of Congress and that Congress shall immediately proceed to the enactment of emergency legislation on the basis of these demands.

SEVEN DEMANDS

We demand:
I. Federal Cash Relief—(a). To raise all rural families to a minimum health and decency standard of living, a minimum fund of \$500,000,000 must be appropriated immediately for the relief of that section of the distressed farm population in need of immediate relief, regardless of race, color or creed.
II. Federal Relief in Kind—(a). Food products and supplies needed for relief of city unemployed should be purchased by the Federal government directly from the farmers at a price which will insure the cost of production plus a decent standard of living.
(b) The processing and transportation of these food products and other relief supplies shall be regulated by the federal government so as to prevent profits to the food trusts and transportation companies during the period of the economic crisis.
III. Administration of Relief for Farmers—(a). Federal cash relief and relief in kind to be administered by local committees of farmers in each township precinct or other local units, selected by a

mass meeting of all farmers needing relief.
IV. Government price Fixing—(a). A price regulating mechanism, controlled by actual consumers and producers, must be immediately set up whose function shall be to reduce prices to consumers and raise prices for all farm products sold. This adjustment to be made by deduction from the swollen profits of the middlemen.
V. Credit—(a). The enactment of legislation which will provide production credit for all farm families so as to insure a basis for national consumption at normal levels.
(b) The defeat of all proposals and the repeal of all legislation in force which provides credit only for well to do farmers and corporations with collateral.

VI. Debt Holiday—(a). A moratorium on mortgages, interest, and rents for all farmers whose volume of production has until recently sustained the farm family at a decent standard of living.
(b). Cancellation of mortgages, interest, feed and seed loans and debts for supplies and furnishing for farmers whose volume of production and economic unit has always been too small to carry the debt load and support the family at a minimum health standard—(Marginal farmers, share croppers and others).
(c). Cancellation of back farm taxes and moratorium on future taxes during the crisis.

VII. No Evictions—During this national crisis Congress must declare all foreclosures, seizures of property and evictions illegal. We farmers have no collateral, but we represent the majority of the farm population. We have at last been forced to organize and present to this Congress our final demands. If our duly elected national representatives and senators fail as did the local, county and state authorities, then we pledge ourselves to protect our fellow farmers from suffering and their families from social disintegration by our united action.
Accepted by the Farmers National Relief Conference, in Session Washington, D. C., Dec. 8, 1932. Certified as correct copy LEM HARRIS, Ex. Sec. Chairman of Conference.

Small Farmer In a Big Poultry Cooperative

(BY J. M.)
Poultry Producers of Central California—A Million Dollar Co-operative; Controlled by Rich Farmers; Small and Middle Farmers Unable to Hold on to Their Stock; Egg Grading Unfair; Rich Farmers Profit at Expense of Small Farmers

The Poultry Producers of Central California (PPCC) is a producers co-operative. It has two main departments, the egg and the feed department, each with its own working capital. The association markets the eggs for its members, and sells feed and supplies to those of its members who can pay within thirty days from date of sale, in special cases the time of payment is extended. At the end of the year the association usually pays a certain dividend, or "deferred payment" to its members. This dividend on the eggs comes from the difference in the price of eggs at time of delivery and the price received for them by the association, less expenses of operation, salaries, taxes, rents, shipping charges, etc.

The feed department pays a dividend which is derived from a comparatively large capital concentrated, able to buy in large quantities at low rates, and part of this profit so obtained is passed on to its members in the form of a dividend. The deferred payment has usually amounted to about 45 cents per case on eggs, and about 4 per cent on wheat, and to about 10 per cent on all mixed feeds, based on total purchases for the year. A similar discount or dividend is allowed on poultry supplies purchased.

MEMBERS HAVE MONEY TIED UP

The working capital of the egg department is known as the "Advance Fund" and of the feed department, "Feed Finance Fund," each amounting to \$1,000,000. The advance fund is gathered by charging the member one cent per dozen on eggs delivered. The feed finance fund is gathered by the following method. At the end of the year instead of paying the member a cash dividend, he is given a certificate representing the amount of his dividend; the cash remaining in the fund of the department. The certificates of each department draw interest at the rate of six per cent per year. A certain amount of these certificates are retired periodically from the older end, by decision of the board of directors. The length of time between the issuing and re-

irement of the advance fund certificates is about three years, and the feed department longer. Thus each member has a certain amount of money tied up in the association. The poorer members are forced by economic necessity to dispose of their certificates before they are due, at a discount of 6, 8, or 10 per cent. These are bought by the banks and richer members. The association has a branch for buying these certificates and reselling them.

MOSTLY SMALL FARMERS

The association was established about sixteen years ago and has now about 5200 members, the overwhelming majority of whom belong to the poor and middle strata of producers. The association is also connected through certain agreements with the poultry producers organizations of Oregon, Washington and of southern California. The association controls about 65 to 70 per cent of the production of eggs in Southern California, which is the largest egg-producing center in the state. It does a total business of about \$20,000,000 a year.

At the head of the association is a board of directors of eleven members. One of the members of this board is suggested by the department of agriculture of the state (this member can be a non-producer, all other members should be producers), thus it is directly connected with the state machinery of the ruling class of California. It cooperates with the other state and national bodies to "relieve" the farmer, for example, with the Regional Credit Corporation (Federal) which is offering loans to poultry producers at a handsome rate of interest of seven per cent, against reasonable security. The board consists of such reactionary elements as Nielsen who is a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Petaluma and the American Legion; Davis, a slick politician, an ex-member of the San Francisco Harbor Commission, and other similar bodies; Bergstedt, the president, is an ex-preacher. They receive \$10 each

for each regular meeting. They appoint the general manager who receives \$10,000 a year from the association and more from other organizations. The board of directors have almost unlimited power. They have the power of final decision in the conduct of the business of the association.

WONT LET WORKERS ORGANIZE

To get a job in the association is difficult unless one is a member of the American Legion, KKK or some similar outfit. Organization among the workers is not tolerated. A woman worker at the Petaluma plant of the association, was discharged for talking union to the workers. Many of the members of the association were angered over this act of the officials. They asked "Why do we not allow our workers to organize when we ourselves organize?"

When a member joins the association he is required to pay a \$10 membership fee, and must sign a "Product Sale Agreement" etc., which makes it especially clear that he has no control whatever on how the eggs are disposed of after delivery to the association. The member has only the right to deliver the eggs to the association. While a member, he has not the right to sell eggs to anyone except the association, with the exception of eggs for hatching. At time of joining he is also required to subscribe to the association's publication "Poultry News" and he also receives a "Weekly News Letter."

In addition to the one cent per dozen charge for the advance fund the producer is charged with the expenses of drayage, packing, shipping, etc., of the eggs, also the costs of administration, rents, etc. A member has two weeks during the year in which he can put in written application for withdrawal from the association. Membership meetings of the locals are held usually once a month but there are exceptions, like the Petaluma local which meets quarterly. At these meetings different questions of the local are discussed and can and voted upon one way or the other. Questions on the

association as a whole can be discussed and voted upon, but the final decision rests with the board of directors.

HOW DOES IT WORK OUT

The question we are especially interested in in this connection is: How does this cooperation between the large and rich producers on the one hand, and the poor and middle producers on the other work out in practice.

As we have already noted, both the egg and feed departments of the association issue certificates which draw interest at the rate of six per cent per year. The rich member buys up large amounts of these certificates (offer at a discount) in addition to those he gets from his egg deliveries and feed purchases. Since the interest on the certificates (like all other expenses) is charged to the producers, the interest, plus the profit from the discount, comes from the backs of the middle and poor producers. In this connection we must note the attempts of certain members of the association at the meeting of the Petaluma local last September, to put through a motion to raise the capital stock of both the feed and egg departments by \$250,000 each, though the secretary was obliged to admit this increase was not necessary for the operation of the business of the association. Obviously the purpose was to raise the amount of the stock so that those who have money could invest it in the association certificates to draw the six per cent interest, which of course would add to the expenses charged from the membership, the losers being the poor and middle producer members. Banks are paying less than six per cent interest on deposits.

The method of voting on questions of the association, as for the board of directors, is so arranged that it gives control to the large producers. There is one vote per member with an additional vote for each 1,000 dozen eggs delivered to the association. This is in line with the entire policy of the association; dominance and control of the association by the large

and rich producers at the expense of the poor and middle producers.

BUYING OF FEED AND WAREHOUSING IT

The association requires payment within 30 days on purchases from it; only in special instances is this time extended. The poorer members are thus unable to take advantage of the refund made by the association on feed purchases at the end of each year. Also when there is a lot offered at a favorable price, as when price of feed is to rise, the poorer members can buy little if any of it. A member buying feed from the association and wishing the association to hold it in the warehouse, must pay for the feed within the regular time limit. The rich member can thus buy large amounts of feed when prices are low where the member can not.

Grading of eggs is one of the sorest spots in the association. It is a problem which interests each and every one of the poorer members. Hardly a meeting goes by in which the question does not come up. At the plants of the association the eggs are sorted out into eight different grades. While the difference in quality, etc., between the different grades is small, yet the difference in price is very considerable. Especially is this difference great now between the three grades of large specials, and the three grades of mediums, about nine cents per dozen. In this respect also the poorer members suffer the brunt of the price difference. Many of the richer members do not grow their own pullets. The poorer members, with hardly an exception do. These richer members buy the chickens while the poorer members have not the means for this. The latter therefore get a large percentage of pullet (small) eggs where the richer members get very few. And the difference in the price between the first three grades of large eggs, and the next three, the mediums, is the greatest now when the prices of eggs are the highest, while at other seasons of the year this price difference is comparatively slight.

UNFAIR EGG GRADING

In addition there are instances where the grades given in the association to the producer, dropped very greatly in the course of only a few days. While nobody wishes to argue that the quality, size, etc. of eggs does not vary some from day to day even from the same flock of hens under as nearly the same circumstances and conditions as it is possible to make them, however, a reasonably careful producer will note the changes especially when great. So when, as in one case that we know of within the space of four or five days the specials dropped from around ten dozen specials per case to about two and three, then there is reason for investigation. The producer in question then took two cases of the usual run of eggs to the association plant and had them graded in his presence, and the result was that the two cases yielded thirty and one half (30½) dozens of special and have since continued around ten to twelve dozens to the case. It is certain that this is not the only instance of its kind, though it may be one of the most outstanding ones.

CLEAN EGGS BY HAND

Most of the poor and middle producers clean the eggs, that is, they sandpaper the dirt spots off the shells. This is a tedious job requiring a very considerable amount of time. The poorer members are forced to clean the eggs in order to get a few more cents per dozen which they would not get would they not clean them. They clean them by hand despite the fact that the association has egg cleaning machines at the plants, but to use them the producer loses more than if he cleans the eggs by hand. All expenses of marketing, packing, shipping, administration, tax, interest, etc., are charged from the producers. Therefore, so long as the supply of eggs on the market remains such that the average price for the year does not fall below the cost of production for the large masses of average producers and these do not become bankrupt, the association can remain in a sound financial position. The leaders of the association boast that it is the strongest co-operative in the U. S. It is clear that under the present arrangement it can continue to be so as

JOBLESS TO FARM OLD LANDS WHICH FARMERS VACATED

Atlanta, Ga.—According to Mayor Key's plans, more than 1,000 starving families will be sent to farms this month. More than 400 such families have already left. There are 50,000 empty farms in this state from which starving farmers were either evicted or had to leave in search of work.

Y. C. L. SCHOOL TRAINS YOUTH

School With 34 Students Trains Fighters In Class Struggle

(BY A STUDENT)

Red Lodge, Mont., Dec. 12.—A Young Communist League Training School started here November 21 and will last for four weeks. Young workers and farmers have come to learn the theory and organizational forms in mass work. There are 34 students at the school, principally from Butte, Great Falls, Billings, Columbus, and Roberts.

STUDENTS FARE WELL

The workers and farmers of this state are donating money and food for the school. We have plenty to eat—chicken and turkey dinners two or three times a week. We wish to thank those who have made donations in order to make this school a success.

As long as the masses of the poor and middle producers are able to pay the bills.

What is the future for small and middle farmers in this Poultry Producers Cooperative? Read the conclusion of this interesting article in next week's Producers News.

