

FARMER'S INCOME IS SMALLEST AVERAGE IN INDUSTRIAL FIELD

Machine Developments Have Given Others Direction of Markets
--Agricultural Producers Must Regain Control.

In 1910 the total value of farm property in the United States was \$4,931,991,090. The total capital invested in manufacturing, the next highest industry, was \$18,428,270,000. The total value of farm crops marketed in 1909 was \$5,487,000,000. The total value of the manufactured products was \$20,672,052,000.

With less than half the capital the manufacturers received nearly four times the gross returns the farmers received.

The census of 1900 shows that 31 per cent of the farmers of the United States have an income of less than \$50 a year. Only about 3 per cent have an income of \$2,500 and over, the remaining 66 per cent have an income from \$250 to \$2,500 with 52 per cent of these incomes less than \$1,000.

cent of the population." If the farmer can now produce 25 times what he could produce formerly, why is he not 25 times better off? Farmers Lose Control to Middlemen.

The answer is revealed when we examine the above statistics and note the changes that have taken place in agriculture. Formerly 96.6 farmers fed 100 families, or approximately one family per farmer; now 33 farmers in the United States feed 100 American families and a great many families outside the United States. He feeds these families not his own much better than he feeds his own family.

Through the development of machinery the farmer has been separated from those agencies and facilities by which farm products are finished for the market and marketed. Other classes now owning and operating these facilities have acquired the power to take the bulk of the farmer's product from him.

When 96.6 per cent of the population was agricultural, the farm family produced mainly for its own use and consumption. The little marketing outside each family group was done on a basis of exchange of products. The farm family was almost a complete unit of industry, producing, preparing, preserving and consuming its own food supply and raising the raw materials and manufacturing in the main its own clothing, furniture and tools. When machinery was developed the ox team became the railroad, the granary became the railroad elevator, the millstones became the roller mill, the churn the modern creamery, the pork barrel the packing plant, the cellar the cold storage warehouse, the sorghum mill the sugar factory, the last and awl the shoe factory, the preserving of fruits the canning factory, the loom and the spindle the textile industry.

To Organize Is The Only Defense.

When the former household utilities became separated industries and moved away from the farm, the farmer lost control of them. They became the property of the rising capitalist class and the new class of middlemen. When the farmer lost control of them he lost the ultimate control of his products and became dependent on the markets in practically all his buying and selling. He came to specialize on single products such as wheat, sugar beets or cattle or cotton. Instead of producing for use he produced for sale.

It is significant that this increasing dependence of the farmer practically offset all the gains he otherwise would have realized from the development of farm machinery. In other words, every increase in the productivity of the farmer was absorbed by these new owners of the facilities for finishing and marketing farm products.

The farmer is not receiving his just reward for his valuable services to the world because other classes of people have secured control of the finishing and marketing of farm products. The remedy is plain and simple. The farmers must in some way re-establish control over these things.

The farmer must either organize and promote legislation favorable to the public control of the railroads, flour mills, elevators, packing plants, cold storage warehouses, creameries, canning factories, sugar factories and all other facilities of a like nature, or he must form co-operatives to control them. There is no other way.

CAUGHT WITH THE GOODS.



Our Washington Letter

By Our Special Correspondent

Washington, D. C., June 6.—That lawyers predominate in congress as they do in all the state legislatures is shown by recent statistics gathered from their own declarations in the congressional record. The United States entrusts its lawmaking to 458 attorneys and 169 men in other professions, nine of whom are farmers. There are four men from the labor group, making a total of 13 men who speak as actual producers in the halls of congress. The senate has 76 lawyers and 20 other persons; the house 382 lawyers and 149 men in other professions.

Farmers and wage-workers comprise two-thirds of the voters of the United States; lawyers something like 1 per cent, so the farmers and wage-workers stand to the lawyers in a ratio of about 67 to 1.

FOUR LAWYERS ABOUT RIGHT

A congress based on proportional, occupational representation would contain in the lower house 145 farmers and 145 laborers, with 41 men from the medical, teaching and other groups, and just four lawyers.

Of course the lawyers in congress claim to represent all of the people, but the special favors given to that profession and the fact that no serious proposals for simplifying and cheapening legal proceedings are made, shows that each group will look out for itself before looking out for the other fellow.

Years ago there was an idea abroad that lawyers could best look after the framing of laws because of their legal training. That idea has been exploded. Congress, some years ago, recognizing the need of technical help for all lawmakers, established a bureau for law drafting in connection with the Library of Congress.

Experts in the drawing up of bills and laws and resolutions are in charge of this bureau. All that a lawmaker needs now is to have ideas. The experts do the work for him. The member presents to the bureau the matter that he wants incorporated in a bill and the clerks look up the material for him in the library, find out what bills have been passed by other legislative bodies on the same subject and draw up one for him that will be technically correct.

MORE FARMERS ARE NEEDED

It is evident to anyone who has watched the course of legislation in the past few years that the farmers need more actual members from their own ranks to take the place of a multitude of their "friends", and the laboring men should be represented in the same manner. This fact was brought out in the fight for the Farm Loan law, the shipping act and the seamen's act—three of the constructive pieces of legislation that marked the past four years. Instead of sending delegates to beg and plead and lobby for these measures, the farmers and the laborers might as well have sent members of their own professions to congress and obtained those and other progressive measures without any more effort.

Lynn Haines, editor of the "Searchlight on Congress", has compiled a set of figures on the occupations of the members of the house and senate. He has come to the conclusion that there is some connection between the fact that a large majority of members of congress are of no use to their constituents, and the fact that the farmers and workingmen have turned over to lawyers the whole business of lawmaking.

HOW LAWYERS PREDOMINATE

Alabama has in the house a solid block of ten lawyers; in the senate she has a lawyer and a planter. Arizona has a business man in the house and two lawyers in the senate. Arkansas has a solid delegation of lawyers in the house and senate. California is more nearly reasonable; with one of the most active labor movements in the country she sends six lawyers, one labor man, two newspaper proprietors, one clerical worker and one business man to the house, and two lawyers to the senate.

Colorado sends two lawyers to the senate, and two lawyers, one business man and one newspaper man to the house.

Idaho sends two lawyers each to the senate and house.

Illinois has two lawyers in the senate and 18 in the house, along with seven business men, one newspaper man and one doctor.

Indiana has a lawyer and a newspaper publisher in the senate; in the house she has 11 lawyers, one business man, and one educator.

Iowa has two lawyers—both of them liberal—in the senate, and seven lawyers, three newspaper men and one farmer in the house.

Kansas has two lawyers in the senate, while her house delegation includes six lawyers and two newspaper men. Not a farmer in the lot.

Minnesota sends two lawyers to the senate, and in the house has eight lawyers, one labor man and one newspaper man. No farmers there.

Missouri sends two lawyers to the senate, and in the house has 14 lawyers and one business man. Again, no farmers.

Montana is represented in the senate by two lawyers, and in the house by one lawyer, and one social worker. The social worker is Miss Rankin.

Nebraska, with one lawyer and one newspaper publisher in the senate, has three lawyers, two business men and one salesman in the house.

North Dakota has a lawyer and a farmer-banker in the senate, and two lawyers and a newspaper man in the house.

Oklahoma has two lawyers in the senate, with six lawyers, one business man and one salesman in the house.

South Dakota has one lawyer-educator and one business man in the senate, with two lawyers and one business man in the house.

Texas sends two lawyers to the senate; to the house she contributes 16 lawyers, one business man and one newspaper man.

Washington has two lawyers in the senate, and three lawyers, one newspaper man and one farmer in the house.

Wisconsin has two lawyers in the senate, and in the house, ten lawyers and one labor union member.

Wyoming has one business man and one cattleman in the senate, and one business man in the house.

HOW ABOUT A GRAND JURY FOR SHERIDAN COUNTY?

FARMERS AUDITING ASSOCIATION DOING BUSINESS

The directors of the Northeastern Montana Farmers Auditing association met recently and decided to obtain prices on a dozen or more copies of the Bureau of Markets System Accounting for Elevators and to appoint a committee from the members of the board of directors to employ a "Certified Bonded Public Accountant."

The committee met and considered the long list of applications and finally decided to employ an accountant who will begin work on May 22nd, by making the Annual Audit and Out-Off for a "Member Elevator" in the county.

Mr. B. E. Corporon from the Bureau of Markets at Washington, D. C., representing the government with the Bureau of Market System of Accounting for Elevators, is here and will cooperate with the Auditing association and the several elevator managers and directors introducing and installing the system and seeing that they get started out right and offer any assistance he can to make the work as easy as possible.

Requests are being sent to the County Agent's office, at Plentywood. Mr. Corporon will remain in the county until about June 1st, or as long as he can be of any real assistance.

County Agent Anderson and Mr. Corporon, the government representatives, are to hold a series of meetings with the managers and directors of all elevators in this part of the state and are emphasizing the need of better methods of book-keeping and accounting.

F. M. Robinson,
Secretary and Treasurer,
Scobey, Montana.

HOW ABOUT A GRAND JURY FOR SHERIDAN COUNTY?

"Why are the farmers of North Dakota obliged to pay \$2 per bushel for potatoes, while the farmers in Minnesota are selling them for 49 cents a bushel?" asks the farmers' Co-operative Herald of Fargo, N. D. It goes on to state one of the farmers' co-operative organizations there was able to pay 15 cents more per bushel for potatoes to the farmers in Minnesota than they were getting from local buyers, and shipped them out there and sold them for 80 cents per bushel to the farmers. There is food for thought in this for the farmer who is compelled to give his potatoes away or let them rot in the cellar.—Millie Lacs (Minn.) Times.

HOW ABOUT A GRAND JURY FOR SHERIDAN COUNTY?

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F. A. DEMMING, - PROPRIETOR

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