

**The Way Out.**  
It is remarkable that none of our writers should point out in detail that permanently organized financial co-operation is a natural sequence of the farmers' movement. Educational and political work seems to have largely monopolized the attention of the movement thus far. Crude attempts at financial co-operation are being made by the Farmers' Alliance Exchanges, but they show little advance over a confidential-contract system of the Grange fifteen years ago. The aim of co-operative distribution in America seems to be wholly in securing the largest immediate discount from list prices, without regard to perpetuating such arrangements. The enormous saving effected through Grange purchases was only temporary. Yet the Alliance is again operating in the same way.

The idea of making co-operative distribution a permanent business has as yet made but little headway. Farmers are averse to investing even a part of their savings in the agency which effected the economy, while to put fresh capital into such an enterprise would be to make the benefit of folly. Yet, if farmers had capitalized only ten per cent of their savings through Grange buying, it would have created a fund sufficient to have established corporations in every State, through which farmers could forever buy together and sell together. Such permanent agencies or exchanges, backed by ample capital, would naturally grow in extent and usefulness, paying fair returns on the invested capital besides handsome dividends to patrons as well as to the managers. The remarkable success of the co-operative emergency system in the Eastern States (co-operative production) is an inkling of the permanency that would be given to co-operative distribution under similar organization.

England's superb example illustrates our point most forcibly. It was in 1844 that some thirty poor men of Rochdale contributed five dollars apiece toward a capital with which to buy their family supplies in common. One of them, agent bought goods of standard quality, for which each member paid the retail price, receiving with each purchase a ticket stating the amount of the discount to which he was entitled. At the end of the first quarter, instead of drawing out the amount of their discounts, each man had his own share of the capital stock. Thus the members' savings were turned into capital, and "the more they ate the more they saved," while they were constantly improving their financial condition and must be their expenses. To-day this society, the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers, has over 11,000 members and \$1,885,000 capital, while its net profits per year exceed \$185,000. From this beginning have developed the 1500 similar societies in Great Britain, with over one million members and the entire million dollars of capital, holding real property worth about thirty millions, and selling over two hundred million dollars of goods annually, at a profit in 1898 of nineteen millions of dollars. The co-operative trade is increasing at the rate of \$10,000,000 annually. In the last twenty-six years for which official statistics of these co-operative societies have been collected, the total sales have been \$2,557,000,000; the total net profits have been \$202,254,305.

The system is applicable to city and country in the United States. How vastly superior to the haphazard and temporary expedient of trade discounts! With the grander scale on which matters are usually conducted in America, and with the higher prices and larger profits that are possible, the possibilities are open to co-operate effort among our farmers! Before a centralized self-help monopoly could practice extortion, and thrift would be practically insured.

How favorably this system compares with the proposed plan for improvement based on government mortgages of not only our farmers' freehold property, but even the very produce of their land. Let unjust laws be repealed, special privileges be abolished, and equality insured for all. Here is the work for government. Then, in the detail of our own business, let us help ourselves. Co-operation furnishes a means for the sturdy American farmer to secure his best advantage through self-help.—*American Agriculturist.*

**THE TARIFF A TAX.**  
It was strenuously claimed by the advocates of the McKinley bill that the tariff is not a tax on the American people. One of the campaign documents issued by the Republican party and sent broadcast over the nation made the preposterous claim that the McKinley bill did not tax the American people. The explanation given by this document is that the duty is paid by the foreign producer and not by the American consumer.

To say that such a proposition should come from intelligent men and be sent out for the purpose of influencing intelligent persons almost passes belief.

We may just as reasonably argue that the consumers of goods shipped over the railroads do not pay the freight, and that therefore they have no business to grumble at excessive freight charges.

According to this principle, the people of the Northwest and of the South have been great fools all these years, for they have been earnestly contending for lower rates over the lines of transportation, foolishly supposing that they, the people, were paying those excessive charges, both on their products as they were shipped over the roads and on the goods they consumed, which had been shipped over the same lines.

The great McKinley and those who advocate his principle could have told them that it was the middle man who paid this freight, and not the farmers at all.

Why, any one ought to know that when he goes to the store to buy groceries and pays his money for them, he does not have to go to the freight agent and settle with him for the freight, for the merchant has already done that.

So if a farmer sells rice or cotton, corn or potatoes, to the merchant in Lake Charles, he does not go to the depot to settle the freight bill. Not he; the merchant must do that.

Then why all this cry among the farmers about high freight rates? Why should the farmer complain when it is only the merchant who pays the freight? Can we not induce McKinley, Sherman, et al., to come and instruct our farmers and show them that they are not paying these rates, and therefore have no right to complain?

**Speech of Mr. Henry McCaill.**  
THE ADVANTAGES OF THE SUGAR CANE CROP FOR A FARM TENANTRY  
On large plantations have been so conclusively proven by the results obtained on several of our largest estates that the subject no longer needs demonstration. Now, however, that the sugar industry of our State is about to enter a new era of free trade with a bounty based on the quantity of sugar produced, it will probably become more necessary to separate the agricultural from the industrial part of the business.

Small plantations (even large ones run on the gang system), provided with independent sugar houses, whose mill extract from 30 to 80 per cent of the cane juice where the bagasse is not utilized as fuel and enormous quantities of wood and coal are burned to evaporate in kettles or open pans, where the skimmings are washed into the ditches, and finally, where ones are weeded out, establish a new system that will make our lands bloom like the rose. Then will the dark clouds that have overhung our industry for so many years disappear and give place to a bright era of future prosperity and happiness for us all.

There can be but one solution to the difficulties, and that, in my judgment, will save the sugar industry, viz: the establishment of central factories and the cultivation of cane on the tenant system, or by small farmers of any kind.

There were more than 700 sugar houses in operation this past season to make the largest crop produced since the war, say 200,000 tons, or less than 300 average to each house. Ten of the largest establishments made up about 20,000 tons, one-tenth of the whole crop; consequently one hundred houses could easily have taken off the whole crop, and even such plants are too small to do the best work in the most economical manner.

The establishment of centrally separate and independent plants, such as the Cofferly, with unlimited capital behind it, will be of very slow growth. The planters of a neighborhood must come together, abandon their ancient bellum, not to say antediluvian, sugar houses, unite on a central location, and either erect a factory on the joint stock plan or increase the plant of some existing house.

The change just spoken of has been going on in the past twenty years and more, especially in the last decade. Before the war 1200 sugar houses were in operation, and the year 1891 will see but half that number in operation with nearly as much sugar to be made, and that of far better quality.

I have digressed somewhat from the subject, but the central factory must be established to make the tenant system or small cane farms a practical success. A certain well known plantation can be cited as an example to show the progress made in this direction since 1881. The phenomenal crop of 1888 sold at big prices compared to those of this day, and retrieved our somewhat languishing industry. In this year large tracts of land were given out to tenants to be worked in cane, and the system has been in successful and growing operation to the present time.

Sixty hundred acres of cane were ground on this plantation in 1882, as against over 1300 in 1890, an increase of 100 per cent in production in five years. Going back to twenty years ago, the increase has been over three fold. These figures are given to show that the small farming system and a large well equipped sugar house have been able to accomplish in a few years.

Twenty-six separate white tenant establishments brought into the Evan Hall sugar house this past season about 24,000 tons of cane varying in amounts from 79 tons to 2523 tons.

Of the 39,000 tons of cane ground on this place, nearly two-thirds were furnished by tenants, and the balance by a plantation gang. Numerous instances of tenants can be found who undertook the cultivation of cane on this system from five to ten years ago with little or no capital, and who to-day are worth several thousand dollars of hard cash, and yet our beloved State is said to be poor and in need of aid from the lottery company.

On a well established place, and fairly good soil, properly drained, any industrious working man can take hold of our sugar lands and average from twenty to twenty-five tons of cane to the acre, or in a year like the past, from twenty eight to thirty tons per acre.

The cost of planting, cultivating and harvesting should not, with fairly good lands and under proper management, cost more than \$2 per acre, and the balance by a plantation gang. Numerous instances of tenants can be found who undertook the cultivation of cane on this system from five to ten years ago with little or no capital, and who to-day are worth several thousand dollars of hard cash, and yet our beloved State is said to be poor and in need of aid from the lottery company.

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Our experience of the tenant system goes to show that the conditions are favorable, that is, if they are not hampered for want of means or impeded by defective drainage, produce better results at smaller cost than can be obtained on a larger scale under the gang system. A tenant cultivating from twenty-five to one hundred acres of land divided in the usual way between plant cane, ratoons, corn and peas, needs from eight to ten A No. 1 mules, two carts and all the other agricultural implements necessary to the business. Some implements, such as fertilizer distributors, may be owned in partnership with one or two other tenants and thus save expense.

the welfare and prosperity of the State. In all our parishes there is a considerable white population that becomes under this system a class of thrifty yeomanry.

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, head aches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

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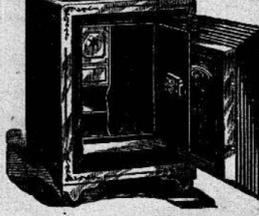
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