

A COOPERATIVE POTATO WAREHOUSE

The fact that no individual has volunteered to operate a potato warehouse at Minot compels us to resort to co-operative effort to get the much needed improvement. Co-operation when fully expanded can bring re-

markable results. For years farmers have believed that by co-operating they could overcome their commercial weaknesses. But after many years of attempts at co-operation in grain elevators at almost every railroad station in North Dakota, many creameries, banks and stores, and we have representatives of all these in Minot, almost invariably they are failures. There are few farmers elevators in North Dakota that are solvent. There is no ready market for the capital stock of any of them. The only bank in Minot approaching "co-operation" is closed. The failure of the co-operative Consumers United stores is well advertised. Some people make alarm over money apparently lost through Nonpartisan League promoters and League administration of State. The writer asserts that far more has been lost in the last ten years through the depreciation in the value of stocks in joint stock companies called co-operative. Wreckage of enterprises that failed is strewn thickly along the trails of "co-operative" organizers all over America. Yet professional economists, farmers of Ward county, business and professional men of Minot, editors, hoboes, and the writer of this article foresee the success of co-operation. And we can have a co-operative potato warehouse in Minot that will not be a failure; neither for those who invest their capital in it, or the growers who put their potatoes in it, or anybody, who gets potatoes out of it, and it will pay everybody by promoting good feelings among all.

How comes all this paradoxical confusion? We have been disciples of incompetent teachers and following incompetent leaders. The societies that are being called "co-operative" do not cooperate but only intensify strife. We now have red hot class strife where formerly we had warm strife between individuals. The practice falsely called co-operation is mostly founded along three lines, viz:

Among capitalists it is a united effort to get high interest on money; among producers it is a united effort to get a high price for their product; among nonproducers it is an attempt to get products at least cost. Each group seeks its own selfish ends with little or no consideration for the welfare of the other groups, and the result is that Capital is not safe. Big as well as little banks go broke. Producers have no assurance that their products are being entrusted in safe hands. Example, recent potato shipments. Nonproducers of any commodity are dissatisfied because the expenses and designing of the first two groups makes the cost to them irritatingly high, and fill them with fear that they cannot get what they need, at all. These conflicting activities must be eliminated before we can have anything worthy of the name Commercial Co-operation. Many well meaning persons think they are promoting co-operation when in fact they are only adding recruits to their own class forces and making ready to enact a more strenuous strife against some other class forces. All forces should work in concert toward supplying people with what are needs common to all. These imperative needs are food, heat, health and sociability. Absence or shortage in either of these brings suffering and extinction. We have had enough strife between organized classes.

Let us have a real co-operative potato warehouse at Minot. The way is clear. We can all get in it. Here is the way to do it. The city of Minot and all citizens and property within the corporation must co-operate with the rural districts by selling its municipal bonds and establishing a municipal market house suitable for potatoes and perhaps some other things. People within and outside of Minot who have capital to invest will buy these bonds and thus become co-operators. Growers of potatoes will become co-operators by assembling their products in the house and paying bin rent which will create a sinking fund to pay off the bonds. The buying and consuming public will co-operate by coming to the Minot Municipal Market to get the potatoes we have to spare. There will be no potato "pool" to provoke suspicion, hatred and animosity of buyers. Anything short of this is not co-operation.

Farmers in Ward county have been led to believe that by buying a share of stock in some locally popular joint stock company they thereby become co-operators. The term cooperation is a great convenience to the promoters of joint stock companies. Perhaps there will appear some neat looking promoters of a joint stock potato house making use of this convenient and attractive term. Dear reader, let me suggest that if such a promoter appears before you that you go to the old bureau drawer and get your certificate of stock in any so called co-operative joint stock company and ask the promoter what he will give you for it. If he offers you anything less than par give him the laugh, and he will take the hint that you have gotten wise enough to not invest any more hard earnings in stocks that are classed as of little or no value by conservative investment houses. Tell him you will buy Minot Market House Bonds, if issued in accordance with state law. If the city of Minot will not even give you a chance to get a real co-operative potato warehouse by buying her absolutely safe and sound Market House bonds instead of stocks of questionable value you may know the city is not a co-operator for the greater good. There is scarcely a city of any note in America or abroad but what has a municipal market house conducted on such lines as promotes the general welfare of their people. "Why not Minot?"

JOHN KASSENS, Anderson Block.

NORTH DAKOTA SOON TO HAVE 1,000,000 ACRES OF CORN

Fargo, N. D.—Growing improved corn seed to meet the increasing North Dakota demand for this grain will pay the farmer who becomes proficient in producing good seed, suggests L. R. Waldron, plant breeder at the North Dakota Experiment station. Mr. Waldron says: "Indian women, and they were the ones who did the farming, took extra good care of their seed corn in the days before the white men came. Saving seed corn was so woven into their life that it became a part of their religious festivals. Saving seed corn with the present day farmer is only a part of the day's occupation and is often much neglected. Not only did Indian women save seed corn but they certainly must have paid some attention to its breeding, even though in a very humble way.

"Corn is comparatively new to the farmers of North Dakota. Much progress can be made by most of us in picking and storing seed corn. So there is a field for improvement in testing out varieties and also testing out the different strains of the same variety. Most farmers could not be interested in taking up any work along this line but I am personally acquainted with men in North Dakota who are interested in growing improved seed corn.

"In a few years North Dakota will have a million acres devoted to corn each year. It will require 175,000 bushels of seed corn to plant this acreage. One who has become proficient in producing good seed corn will find a paying market for the product. He will also be helping the community generally for from the better seed better yields will be harvested. Any one who is sufficiently interested in improving seed corn to want to devote some time to the work is asked to write to the Experiment Station."

Texas Merchant Arrives for Visit Harry H. Sitner, who operates a ladies' ready-to-wear store at Clarendon, Tex., is visiting with his brother, Louis Sitner, one of Minot's haberdashers. This is the farthest north he has ever been. "I have always heard about the northern winters and arrived just in time to ascertain what 46 degrees below zero meant. I left Texas just in time to escape a cold spell. It sometimes gets as cold as six above zero in Clarendon." Mr. Sitner is enroute to Chicago to buy merchandise.

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Russians Don't Want Abuse Heaped on Them
The Independent, in its account of the activities of Joe Bartoshevich, Max farmer who was sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary for robbery, stated that Joe is a Russian. A reader from Max writes: "Joe Bartoshevich is a Polish and never a Russian. It would seem that someone is trying to heap all kinds of insult on Russians and it seems that the deprecations, no matter where committed were by Russians, which is not so in many cases where the blame is laid at their door."
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