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The Pullman Herald

WM. GOODYEAR, Lessee and Editor KARL P. ALLEN, News Editor

Published every Friday at Pullman, Washington, and entered at the Pullman post office as second class matter

\$1.50 per year, payable in advance; 75 cents for six months

PULLMAN, WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1919.

THE FEDERATION OF FARM ORGANIZATIONS

The farm organizations of Washington and Idaho have started what should develop into a great national movement by perfecting and adopting a definite plan for federating. There are hundreds of different organizations of producers engaged in various branches of agriculture in all parts of the country, but they have been able to accomplish little, because each one has represented but a limited number of producers and they were often working at cross purposes. But if all could be joined in one great national federation, fighting for one definite program, they would secure prompt and far-reaching results.

While the members of the various farm organizations are engaged in many diverse branches of agriculture, they all have a number of interests in common. All have a mutual interest in securing the cost of production and a reasonable profit for what they have to sell; all have a mutual interest in reducing the cost of distributing their products, and simplifying the system of distribution; all have a mutual interest in protecting themselves against exploitation by trusts and monopolies; all have a mutual interest in holding down freight rates to reasonable figures; all have a mutual interest in securing the right to market their products collectively and to fix a price on those products, without being prosecuted as violators of the anti-trust law; all have a mutual interest in maintaining headquarters and representatives at the national capital to present their views on legislative matters with authority and in a way which will secure recognition. It matters not whether a farmer is engaged in producing grain, live stock, fruit, potatoes, poultry or honey, he has a common interest with every other farmer in the matters above enumerated and in many others.

Common sense and observation must lead the farmers to recognize that organization and the federation of the organizations of men engaged in any one line of industry is what secures influence and results. The experience of the railroad employes clearly demonstrates this fact. As long as they worked in separate brotherhoods they gained small benefits, but when the several brotherhoods federated and worked as one

organization its demands were given respectful attention and prompt recognition.

The fact that the farmers have had so little voice in framing national and state legislation is not due to any lack of numbers for the statistics of the 1910 census showed that as an industrial group the agricultural occupations contained 32.5 per cent of all persons reported as having occupations, and the women of the white farmer's family were not usually included. The group embracing wholesale, retail, and other trade occupations contained 11.4 per cent of the grand total of more than 38,000,000 persons in the occupation list; next below, domestic and personal service, 9.5 per cent, laundries not included; the composite group of building and hand trades, 8.9 per cent.

The transportation group is composed of all persons employed in water transportation, by steam railroads, by urban, suburban, and interurban railways, by telegraph and telephone companies, and in various other services, yet the total of all is but 8.4 per cent of the entire occupational total. The professional service group had 4.5 per cent of all persons with occupations.

The iron and steel industries, notwithstanding their place of high importance, employed only 4 per cent; mining of all kinds, 2.4 per cent; the textile industries, great in fame, 2.3 per cent; the lumber and furniture group, as little as 2.1 per cent.

As far as numbers are concerned the agricultural group, containing nearly one-third of the 38,000,000 persons with occupations, was large enough to balance all of the building and hand trades; the important transportation group of steam and electric railways, water transportation, telegraphs and telephones, and other groups; the professional classes; the iron and steel industries; all kinds of mining; cotton, wool, and other textile industries; and the lumber and furniture industries. Agriculture balances all of these many and important industries and services.

For every person employed in trade, there were three persons employed in agriculture in 1910; for each one in transportation, four in agriculture; for each employee in the iron and steel industry, with its many branches and elaborate varieties of work, eight persons in agriculture; in all of the textile industries, one

persons to 14 in agriculture.

Agricultural production employed more than twice as many persons as were employed in the manufacturing of the products of the farm and in their distribution to consumers. This is the rough indication. As individuals the persons employed in manufacturing and distributing agricultural products counted for less than one-half as much as the persons who produced them on the farm.

Farmers have been impotent to secure recognition of their views and demands, not through lack of numbers, but through lack of concerted action. They have struggled as a mob against well organized counter forces and have naturally lost out. Not until they all join some organization and federate those organizations can they expect to attain the results which are justified by their numerical strength.

WM. GOODYEAR.

CLEAR CUT RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions adopted by the representatives of many farm organizations, who gathered at Yakima last week and perfected a state federation of the organized farmers are worthy of commendation. They are strong but not radical and do not demand anything more than a square deal for the agricultural industry. They are free from open or veiled threats, but clearly set forth the attitude and ideas of the farmers on a number of the more important issues now before the country for solution. They embody a part of the farmers' reconstruction program which should appeal to all patriotic and conservative citizens as worthy of careful consideration and support.

The resolutions are as follows:

1. Believing that it is absolutely necessary for the farmers of the nation to unite in adopting and presenting a concrete reconstruction program and to maintain headquarters and representatives at the national capital to present and interpret their demands and speak with authority for them, we invite and urge the various farm organizations of this state and of the nation to federate, in order that their demands may be adequately presented to the government and to the people through one great organization rather than through scattered individuals or many small organized groups in widely separated sections of the country.

In union there is strength and only through a close union and co-operation of the farmers of the nation can they hope to secure recognition of their just demands and protection of their vital interests without which the spirit of unrest and radicalism now rampant in the country is sure to increase and spread until it infects the producers of food, in which case the very foundations of our government will be threatened.

2. Resolved, that we heartily endorse the Kenyon bill regulating the packing industry and urge our senators and congressmen to support it.

3. Resolved, that we are opposed to the policy of turning over the control and operation of our national merchant marine to private corporations and favor the continued enlargement and operation of our merchant marine by the national government.

4. We emphatically protest against any private or monopolistic control or ownership of any of the natural resources of our country such as coal, timber, water power, oil, fisheries, etc.

5. We endorse and heartily favor the Mondell bill now before congress and request our senators and congressmen to support it.

6. We are opposed to the control and regulation of the railroads either by the private owners, the employes or the politicians, but favor control and regulation by the national government in the interests of all the people.

7. We ask that the United States Grain corporation immediately make public an interpretation of what is "a reasonable handling margin for wheat," and show how it has been or will be determined.

8. We suggest and urge as a simple and effectual method of solving the high cost of living, abating the prevailing unrest and establishing a better understanding between the producers and consumers, that the government investigate and authoritatively determine the cost of production, transportation and distribution of the necessities of life, including clothing, food, fuel, building material, etc., and publish the results to the world, thereby informing the public as to whether profiteering is going on and, if so, who are the guilty parties.

9. We condemn and demand the abolition of the abuse of the frank-

ing privilege by members of the senate and house of representatives and favor the publication by the government of an official bulletin to be issued weekly containing a summary of the more important bills introduced and a short digest of the arguments for and against them, said bulletin to be sent free of charge to every voter applying for it.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

At last the hope and dream of thousands of progressive farmers has been realized and a definite and concrete plan for the federation of all the farm organizations of this state and of Idaho has been worked out and presented.

The plan should be ratified and adopted by the farm organizations of every state in the Union. It may be imperfect, it may need amendments, but it is a long step in the right direction and, as Senator Owen of Oklahoma said the other day in the debate on the League of Nations covenant: "A contract between rogues, no matter how perfectly drawn, is worthless; but a contract between honest men, no matter how imperfectly drawn, is good."

The farmers are under deep obligations to E. C. Johnson, director of the state experiment station and dean of the college of agriculture at the State College of Washington, and to E. E. Faville, editor of the Western Farmer, for their sound advice and hard work in helping to frame the constitution and by-laws of the federation. Their broad vision, wide experience and trained minds enabled them to offer many valuable suggestions, which greatly strengthened the plan of federation.

It is now up to the farm organizations of this state and of the nation to decide whether to work together or to be worked separately.

WM. GOODYEAR.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The Christian Science society holds services every Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock in the new, Masonic hall. Subject of the lesson-sermon for next Sunday, "Soul."

Testimonial meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the Masonic hall. A free reading room is open to the public Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 o'clock in room 226 First National Bank building. All authorized Christian Science literature may there be read or borrowed.

BAPTIST CHURCH

John A. Shaw, pastor
Sermon at 11 a. m.; bible school at 9:45 a. m. No services in the evening because of the union meetings. Place of worship Paradise street near Main. The public cordially invited.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For Sunday, August 17: Sermon subject at 11:00 a. m., "Windows in the Ark of Life." L. N. Williams, pastor.

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Water rentals, due June 5th. Penalty \$3.50 if water is turned off.
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FOR RENT—Two suites of house-keeping rooms. Inquire of Mrs. Oscar Hill, Pullman, Wash. ag15sep5

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