

**FARMERS ARE ENTITLED TO PROFITS**  
(Manufacturers' Record)

It is understood that a chief purpose of the new Secretary of Agriculture is to popularize the department. He wants the nation to know what it is doing and why it is valuable. That is a laudable purpose, and we wish it success.

But agriculture in the United States must be popularized, not merely the department which the government has instituted to keep a watch over it. It is unfortunately true that for more than half a century there has been no such thing as a national agricultural policy. Before the Civil war there was a political group which was agricultural in thought and purpose. It protected agriculture in congress and saw to it that there was such an adjustment of interests that neither manufacturing nor farming was the recipient of undue favors from the government. But it was a group that was sectional, and the war wiped it out. This left the field clear for what are termed the industrial interests, and it is not an exaggeration to say that for half a century the manufacturing industry has dominated the policies of the nation.

The same course was followed in England, where agriculture was all but wiped out; but in France a contrary policy was followed. The world may be grateful for it, since it was the French peasant, owner of the land he loved, that breast the Hun tide and held it back until the rest of the world could make ready.

For years this nation insisted that the cotton crop should be sold at ridiculously low prices. It was cotton that was maintaining the balance of trade, it was cotton that was paying the interest on our debts abroad, and yet the strange fallacy persisted that it was not of interest to the nation as a whole to see to it that the cotton producer received a fair price for his product. How many billions of the national wealth were simply tossed away by this policy it would be hard to estimate, but the total must have been enormous.

For years the western mortgage was a joke in the comic papers, but it was no joke to the mortgagors. They toiled and sweated in the sun, but the fruits of their labor went into other pockets than theirs. It came to be accepted in the cities that it was the natural lot of the farmer to be a beast of burden, that poverty was his destiny, and that he ought to be content and thank Providence that he was permitted to live. And even unto this day that fallacy has persisted, so much so that fat city dwellers can be found in numbers now who denounce the wheat-producers as profiteers and vent their spleen in bitter denunciation of the cotton growers. So long does it take for the worm to turn!

The trouble throughout has been the refusal on the part of the government to protect its farm assets. It has protected industry and by wise policies has enabled our manufacturers to build enduringly. But the cry of the farming element, unfortunately, too often was turned by scheming politicians into a pursuit of economic fallacies. Instead of uniting to develop a powerful voice in Washington that could speak out in favor of sound fundamental principles, the farmers tied themselves to a series of isms, none of which embraced any fundamental or had in it the nucleus of a lasting and beneficent program.

Moreover, it is a black eye for the agricultural interests that today there are a number of so-called agricultural bureaus in Washington, some of them manned by professional farmers, which spend their time trying to form alliances with union labor politicians and exert themselves otherwise in misrepresenting the element for which they

are supposed to speak. One of the first essentials in putting agriculture back where it belongs in this country is an educational campaign to show that the farmer is just as much entitled to profit as anybody else. It is time to disabuse the public mind of its delusion that every farmer is a hayseed and that every hayseed ought to be an economic slave.

The next thing is to bring Washington to an understanding of the fact that the nation's farms are still far and away the greatest asset the nation has, and that it is just as essential to be concerned about the farmer getting a good price for his crops as it is to see that the union workman gets so many dollars for eight hours' work, together with compensation insurance and a multitude of other benefits. The business world rejoices when American steel is sold for a good price in Argentina or anywhere else, and the business world should rejoice equally when American cotton or American wheat brings a price in foreign markets that enables the producer in this country to earn a reasonable profit.

Down in Texas some of the oil makers are quite jubilant because they have discovered that they can bring in peanuts and soya beans from the Orient at a lower price than that reigning in the American market. They say they are going to import great quantities of these oil-bearing materials. The American farmer is just as much entitled to protection against the cheap farm labor of the Orient as the American manufacturer is against the pauper labor of Europe. If Chinese peanuts can beat American peanuts down to the point where the American can no longer compete and earn a decent profit, there ought to be a tariff on Chinese peanuts, and it ought to be a stiff one.

The case is merely typical. A year ago, for instance, Washington permitted the British to unload great quantities of Egyptian cotton on the American market, with the result that American high-grade cottons were depressed in price until they sold below cost of production. Yet all the time the government was withholding from the market great quantities of its own war materials in order not to break prices. That is the kind of treatment the farmers have been getting from Washington right along for more than half a century. That is why they need group-representation at the capital. They have been neglected because they permitted themselves to be neglected.

The boll weevil has cost the nation hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars, but whenever it is proposed in congress to appropriate a few millions with which to combat the pest, there is an immediate protest from senators who have been taught from infancy to believe that no farmer is entitled to any consideration.

There would be plenty of money available for fighting the boll weevil and the corn borer and other destructive agents if there were groups in the house and senate definitely committed to the protection of the agricultural interests of the United States.

Today the factories are robbing the farms. There is no equality of attraction in wage or hours. Men who labor long and sweat much in the open fields can make far more money by laboring little and sweating less in the manufacturing establishments. So they go to the factories. The drain is a steady one, so steady that already it threatens the nation with an absolute food shortage. As a people, we are getting perilously near the rocks, and we are going to run afoul of them unless we turn honest and give the toiler in the fields a fair show.

We suggest to Secretary Meredith that he do not content himself merely with popularizing his department. We have noticed, too, on the part of

his subordinates what seems to be a tendency to assume an apologetic attitude when stating the case of agriculture, as if the farmers were asking some favor of the nation. They have no need to ask for favors; it is their duty to demand their rights. We should like to see Secretary Meredith trumpet from one end of the country to the other the simple truth that the farmers are not profiteering; that they are not even getting as yet a fair return for their toil; that it is their government as much as it is the government of any other set of laboring people, and that they expect to get a fair deal from now on or know the reason why.

Under his wise direction the Department of Agriculture is sure to become popular, but what Secretary Meredith has to do also is to bring agriculture back to a parity with other industries; to make it as attractive as are other fields of endeavor.

We hesitate to say so, by the fact is that not a single one of the presidential aspirants seems to have the slightest apprehension of what the agricultural problem in this country is. Most of them have something to say, but it is the merest slush. They talk about "nothing must be permitted to interfere with ample production," and concern themselves mightily for fear the cities may not have enough to eat, but none, so far as we have been able to discover, has made even one intelligent statement which has the farmers' necessities in mind. It would be no less a relief than a surprise to see some one of these major statesmen boldly announce what is only the truth, namely, that the wheat-producers have not been getting too much for their wheat and that cotton at 40 cents or more is a national blessing, not a national calamity.

We hope no man will be elected president of the United States whose heart and mind are not devoted to the improvement of the farmer's condition and the protection of him by definite national policies, deliberately formulated and adopted. It is in the hands of the farmers, whatever their political convictions, to insist that the great industry of which they are a part, be given that consideration by the government which it deserves, and which it must have if the prosperity and well-being of the nation are to be preserved and magnified.

The way to change the urban influx into a rural exodus is to let the farmer also make a little profit.

**TO AILING WOMEN**

**A Little Sound Advice Will Help Many a Sufferer in Pullman**

No woman should consider herself healthy and well if the kidneys are weak. Poisons that pass off in the urine when the kidneys are well are retained in the body when the kidneys are disordered. This is the true cause of many bearing-down pains, lameness, backache, etc. Uric poisoning also causes headache, dizzy spells, languor, nervousness and rheumatic pain.

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**NOTICE OF SALE OF STATE LANDS**

Notice is hereby given, that on Tuesday, the 6th day of July, 1920, between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, commencing at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, in front of the main entrance door to the County Court House in the city of Colfax, county of Whitman, state of Washington, either by the County Auditor of said county or by a member of the Board of State Land Commissioners of the State of Washington, the following described state lands, together with the improvements situated thereon, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder therefor, to-wit:

Application No. 10866  
NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 and S 1/2 of SE 1/4 of section 36, township 15 north range 42 east W. M., containing 120 acres, more or less, according to the government survey thereof, appraised at \$8,348.00. Improvements appraised at \$2,650.00.

The above described land will be sold subject to the right of the owner of the crop to remove same.  
Application No. 11083  
NW 1/4 of section 16, township 14 north, range 45 east W. M., containing 160 acres, more or less, according to the government survey thereof, excepting and reserving the right of way for railroad purposes heretofore granted to the Northern Pacific Railway Company by act of Congress, appraised at \$11,556.99; subject to an easement for right of way for railroad purposes heretofore

granted to the Northern Pacific Railway Company over the N 1/4 of NW 1/4 and SE 1/4 of NW 1/4. Improvements appraised at \$9,230.00

The above described land will be sold subject to the right of the owner of the crop to remove same.

Said lands will be sold for not less than the appraised value above stated and upon the terms and conditions following:

Terms and conditions of sale.—Not less than one-tenth of the purchase price must be paid at the time of sale to the officer making the sale. The purchaser, if he be not the owner of the improvements, must forthwith pay to the officer making the sale the full amount of the appraised value of the improvements, as above stated. One-tenth of the purchase price must be paid annually thereafter with interest on all deferred payments at the rate of six per centum per annum, together with accrued interest on any balance at the same rate: Provided, That any purchaser may make full payment of principal, interest and statutory fees at any time and obtain deed or state patent. The purchaser of land containing timber or other valuable materials is prohibited by law from cutting or removing any such timber or materials without first obtaining consent of the Commissioner of Public Lands or the board, until the full amount of the purchase price has been paid and deed issued.

All sales of state lands are made subject to the reservations of oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals and fossils of every name, kind and description, and to the additional terms and conditions prescribed in the act of the legislature approved March 20, 1907, being section 3 of chapter 256 of the Laws of 1907.

Said land will be sold subject to the terms, conditions and reservations of chapter 109 of the Session Laws of 1911, relating to easements for rights-of-way and the carrying of timber, stone, minerals and other products over the same.

The above described lands are offered for sale in pursuance of an order of the Board of State Land Commissioners, and an order of sale duly issued and certified by the Commissioner of Public Lands of the State of Washington row on file in the office of the county auditor of said county.

CLARK V. SAVIDGE,  
Commissioner of Public Lands.  
may28july2

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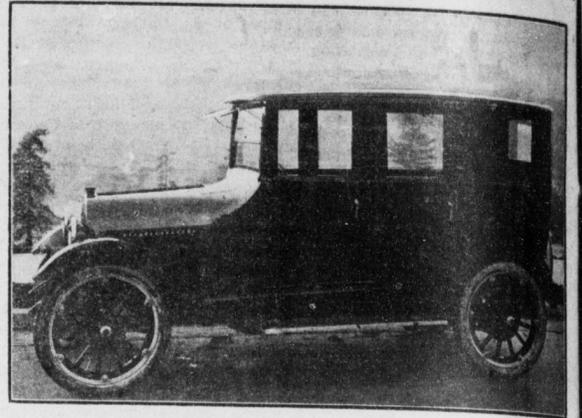
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