

RURAL ACTIVITIES AND NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FARMER

PRODUCERS TO DISCUSS SALES AGENCY AUG. 4

St. Paul Conference to Map Out Course
In Case U. S. Grain Growers
Is Unable to Act

The farmers' elevators of Minnesota have been asked to send representatives to a co-operative marketing conference in the Old Capitol, St. Paul, at 9:30 a. m. Friday, Aug. 4, to discuss plans for handling the present grain crop co-operatively, in case the U. S. Grain Growers, Inc., is unable to function.

The call for the conference was sent out by J. F. Reed, president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. In 700 letters to officers of co-operative elevators, he urged that representatives of the elevators, and all "farmer friends of co-operative grain marketing" attend the conference, "to determine whether arrangements cannot be made to market the present crop co-operatively even if the U. S. Grain Growers is not able to establish a sales agency in time to handle it."

There is no intention of conflicting with the work of the U. S. Grain Growers in any way, the call says.

At the last meeting of the executive board of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, a committee of three was appointed to investigate the possibilities of co-operative handling of the present crop, in the event that the U. S. Grain Growers, Inc., does not furnish this service. This committee consists of Mr. Reed, Thomas E. Cashman of Owatonna and J. D. Pyle of Madison.

LABOR DEMAND NEAR NORMAL

Farm Bureau Survey Shows Farmers
Are Paying From \$2.40 to
\$2.75 a Day

Farm labor demand in Minnesota is normal, according to F. L. French, secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation, who has just completed an exhaustive survey. In seventy-five per cent of the counties, Mr. French says, farmers are having no more trouble than usual in getting hands. In 25 per cent, mostly in the Red River Valley, there appears to be a shortage, due to the fact that harvest is under way.

The survey shows the following average wage for various kinds of work: General, by the day ----- \$ 2.40
Haying, by the day ----- 2.60
Shocking, by the day ----- 2.70
Threshing, by the day ----- 2.75
General, by the month ----- 46.50
General, 8 months basis ----- 38.50
These wage scales, according to Mr. French, as a rule, include board, room and washing.

Farmers now are paying approximately 8 per cent more for all kinds of labor than they were a year ago.

WHY DON'T FARMERS STRIKE

(Editorial by Tergiverous Tim in the
Northfield News.)

When the farmer comes in from his daily toil and sits himself down in his old arm chair and lights his corn cob pipe that is full of "Old Tom" or "Pride of the Cabbage Patch" and picks up his daily paper and reads, "Miners out on strike," "Printers on strike," "Railway Workers Voting to Walk Out," he wonders what is ailing the fellows who are working eight hours a day for twice as much pay as he is receiving for fourteen hours. But he puts his paper away and goes to bed and gets up the next morning at five just as usual and while the eight hour fellow is still slumbering, he wends his way out to the field to put in another long day.

Has he ever had it in his head to strike?—no, never; he plods on and on while others are speculating on what his crops will be and how much they will make out of the efforts of his toil. He works and works that he who lives in the city may have enough for the winter's supply. Prices may be low, yes, so low that he does not even receive one half the compensation of the artisan in town but does he stop and throw up the sponge? No, never.

But why shouldn't he strike? Why should he be satisfied with a half loaf while others are getting a full one? Just what would happen should he and his fellow farmers get up on their hind legs some morning until we say: "We'll stop producing until we get a living wage, or better yet, a saving wage." Would not the wheels of industry stop turning on their axles and would not the people of all cities begin to suffer untold misery and want? Why don't some of the fellows who are clamoring for eight hours and more pay, consider the hours of the farmer and the part he is playing to right things up that have gone wrong and take their medicine from the same spoon that he is drinking from?

What would the price of bread be if the farmer went on an eight hour shift tomorrow? What would the price of milk and butter be if the farmer went on an eight hour shift and had to keep two crews to care for his cattle at regular hours?

And yet some folks would have us believe that a Farmer-Labor proposition is the one that farmers should be so. Wouldn't that make a beautiful spectacle for a double team? Mr. Farmer all harnessed up with Mr. Laborer. When noontime came the driver snapped the whip. Mr. Farmer would still be on the team and beside him would be a fresh horse in the shape of an eight hour man to trot the next half day. How long would Mr. farmer stand hitched like this?

We have several good secondhand binders. One Minnesota has only cut 289 acres. Come in and look them over.—Lundgren, Wittensten & Co.

\$57,000 PROFIT IN SIX MONTHS

Farmers' Co-operative Sales Agency
Sets Aside Big Surplus For
Livestock Shippers

By Farm Bureau News Service
Profits amounting to more than \$57,000 have been set aside by the Central Co-operative Commission association in the first six months of 1922, to be returned to patrons in the form of patronage dividends.

In the first five months of its operations, ending Dec. 31, 1921, the farmers' terminal marketing agency accumulated profits amounting to more than \$22,000. This surplus was returned to the livestock producers early this year. The total savings realized by farmers through dividends and surplus laid aside by the Central amount to \$79,000, although the organization has been in operation less than a year.

Lower commission rates charged by the Central for handling livestock, it is estimated, saved farmers \$19,000 in the last five months of 1921. In the first half of 1922, these savings have been increased by another \$16,000.

Profits and savings in reduced commission charges do not represent all the direct cash benefits of co-operative action on the terminal livestock market, according to J. S. Montgomery, general manager. Livestock valued at several hundred thousand dollars has been handled through the association's stocker and feeder service at actual cost, saving the producer thousands of dollars in commissions and other expenses, he said.

RATES ON FUEL WOOD LOWERED

Temporary Order by State Commission
Issued to Supply Farmers
With Better Market

By Farm Bureau News Service.
Orders lowering the freight rate on fuel wood approximately 20 per cent were issued last week by the Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse commission. The order is temporary, effective August 1 to April 1. Its immediate purpose is to give farmers a better market for cord wood and to serve the larger cities in the event the fuel shortage becomes more desperate.

The Interstate Commerce Commission several weeks ago issued a general order reducing cord wood rates 10 per cent. This gave farmers of western Wisconsin an advantage in putting wood on the Twin Cities market, due to the fact that sections of that state where wood is cut are closer to the market than those in Minnesota. The Minnesota reduction serves to equalize this situation.

On shipments moving 250 miles, the rate has been reduced from 11 to 9 cents; on 200-mile shipments, 9½ to 8 cents; on 50-mile shipments, 5½ to 4½ cents.

The railroads, of course, have an opportunity to contest the order, but in view of coal shortage, such action is not expected, especially as the order is temporary.

BUTTER TESTS SHOW UNNECESSARY LOSSES

Every one per cent of butterfat above the legal standard of 80 per cent put into Minnesota creamery butter means an annual loss of nearly \$500,000 to cream producers of the state, says Prof. J. R. Keithley, of the division of dairy husbandry at University Farm. Professor Keithley has undertaken a cooperative butter analysis project with the state dairy and food commission for determining the composition of butter from 800 Minnesota creameries.

Some preliminary work with 26 creameries of the state indicates this loss runs from \$200 to \$7,000 a year per creamery. Tests taken on 350 samples to date indicate a fat composition varying from 71.2 to 85.25 per cent.

By special arrangement with the dairy and food commission, the dairy division during this study, expects to obtain more than 2,000 three-ounce samples of butter from 800 creameries which send exhibits of their product to the educational butter contest conducted by the state commission. Each sample is tested for moisture, fat, curd, salt and color.

"INDUSTRIAL TRAINING" NEW COURSE AT "U"

Gradual replacement of the present system of manual training in Minnesota high schools with a broader, more inclusive "industrial" training better suited to the needs of everyday life is predicted by A. M. Field, assistant professor of agricultural education, who with Dr. A. V. Storm, chief of the division of agricultural education, Prof. William Boss, chief of the division of agricultural engineering, and Paul Calrow, state supervisor of agricultural education, has started a new course in farm shop work given for the first time this summer to prospective teachers enrolled in the summer session at University Farm. An unusually large registration indicated the popularity of the new course. So great is the demand throughout the state for this new type of instruction, says Professor Field, that less than 5 per cent of the requests for men trained in this work can be filled. Rope work, soldering, sheet metal work, harness repairing, electric wiring, tool sharpening and general repairing are subjects especially emphasized in the new course.

RURAL CREDITS DRIVE STARTED

Farm Organization's Committee to
Urge Adoption of Amendment
to State Constitution

First steps in an intensified campaign to obtain favorable action on the rural credits amendment to the constitution that is to be submitted to Minnesota voters this fall were taken last week. Representatives of all co-operative organizations in the state, meeting at the headquarters of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, named a committee of three to take full charge.

J. F. Reed, president of the Farm Bureau federation, Harry Edmunds, general manager of the Farmers' Terminal Packing company and C. P. Crandall, president of the Central Co-operative Commission Association, constitute the committee. It is empowered to raise needed funds and to have direct charge of all educational work that will be required.

A tremendous task faces the committee, as the law under which the amendment is to be submitted requires that a majority of all votes cast be favorable. Thus, failure to vote will be the same as voting against it.

The amendment is merely an enabling act which will empower the legislature to pass a law stipulating the exact manner in which the state's credit shall be used to supply farmers with long time loans, to be repaid on an amortization plan.

A REAL BARGAIN!

We have a few manure spreaders that is set up and used for demonstration at the County Fair. Call in and pick out one of them on your own terms.—Lundgren, Wittensten & Co.

"Why I Put Up With Rats for Years,"
Writes N. Windsor, Farmer.

"Years ago I bought some rat poison, which nearly killed our fine watch dog. It so scared us that we suffered a long time with rats until my neighbor told me about RAT-SNAP. That's the sure rat killer and a safe one." Three sizes, 35c, 65c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by Warren Pharmacy and Peoples Trading Co.

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FARMERS PLAN RALLY AT FAIR

Thursday, Sept. 7, Official Farm Bureau Day—Coverdale and Peck
Speakers

Thursday, September 7, has been officially designated as Farm Bureau day at the Minnesota State Fair. A special Farm Bureau program will be held in the Livestock Pavilion from 11 A. M. until 2 P. M. Arrangements have been made to avoid conflict with any important events in which producers will be interested.

J. W. Coverdale, secretary of the American Farm Bureau federation and F. W. Peck, chief of the Extension division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, will speak.

After the program in the pavilion, directors from all counties represented will meet in a business session. This is the third annual rally the Farm Bureau has held as a part of the State Fair program.

FARM SCHOOL INVITES YOU

Now is the time to visit the school and to see the many agricultural projects and experiments carried on there. A personal invitation is extended to visit the Northwest experiment station and school of agriculture at Crookston this summer during the growing season. A number of farm clubs have accepted the invitation and have found the trip well worth while.

The month of July is best suited for such a visit and any date will be acceptable to the station staff, according to an announcement by Supt. C. G. Selvig. Those intending to come should select a date and notify him as early as possible.

There are so many projects and experiments being carried on there that there is almost no limit to the time each club could spend at the station. This will have to be decided by each organization and plans be made for as much time as possible. The club should bring picnic lunch for either dinner or supper or both. The clubs that have come so far have reached the station about two o'clock.

One club brought a baseball team with them and a team was organized to play against them. If the club members wish to spend a brief period for recreation after the tour of the station, the station staff will be pleased to assist in getting up a sports program.

The experiments being carried on

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are showing up very well. They present valuable truth. The best way to study the results is actually to see them and make the comparisons as the crops are growing. The grounds are beautiful and are ideal for a picnic. A trip such as is suggested will be very interesting to any club, township or farm bureau unit. All that is needed is to set a date and accept the invitation for this visit.

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Cause of Appendicitis.

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