



"Just what is this Agricultural Bloc down at Washington?" is the question often asked these days. Folks depending upon agricultural pursuits realize that they are at last getting more helpful legislation through Congress than ever before and they rightly sense that the Bloc has been the means to the end. The Bloc came into existence early last year when a number of Republican and Democratic senators and congressmen dependent upon rural votes, had it pointed out to them that by banding together on measures aimed to help agriculture they could swing the balance of power. It was firmly established and agreed that the action of the Bloc was to transcend all party lines. Therein has proved its strength because to date every Bloc member has stood solidly behind agricultural measures and put them through regardless of party whips. The Bloc will vote with either the Republicans or Democrats so long as it gets what it wants. All members of the Senate Bloc, as shown here, are from the Western and Southern States. Most of the Western senators are Republican and those from the South Democrats.

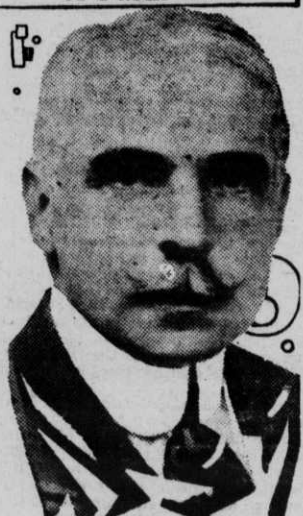
KAHN GIVES HIS VIEWS OF THE FARMER PROBLEM

Sympathetic with their movement to get remedial legislation but points out that all American prosperity is riding in the same boat.

PLEADS FOR JOINT INQUIRY INTO FACTS.

Insists that grievances of the farmer must be redressed and that way can be found without injury to others.

Gives Business View of Farm Bloc



OTTO H. KAHN

By Edward Percy Howard
Editor-in-chief, Autocaster Service

The spectacular activities of the National Agricultural Conference coupled with the persistent work of the farm bureaus and the general movements for co-operative selling have brought sharply to the front and impressed upon the public mind the fact that the welfare of the farmer can no longer be ignored with national safety. Also the fact is sensed in the world of finance that the attitude of business generally towards the problems of the farmer must be one of sympathetic co-operation rather than a further pursuing of the belief that the interests of manufacturing and finance and the interest of agriculture are distinct units to which economic laws prohibit mutual prosperity.

What Financier Thinks of the Farmer.

One of the first men of note to sound a warning against any growing feeling calculated to estrange the farmer from the business man is Otto H. Kahn, one of the wealthiest and most astute financiers in the country.

Mr. Kahn has set down in concrete form his thought in connection with the farmer-business problem and relationship. He has been moved to do so largely because a number of the city newspapers in the west recently attacked him as being opposed to the Agricultural Bloc.

"One of these newspapers printed an article headed 'Kahn Summons Business to Organize Bloc,'" said Mr. Kahn. "Nothing is further from the fact. I am opposed to Bloc activities of all kinds, believing them to be pernicious and not compatible with our system of government. As a fact I particularly advised Business not to attempt to organize a bloc. The most essential thing for all our people to recognize is that in the last analysis we are all in the same boat and sink or swim together.

"The farmer is discontented and under a sense of grievance with the existing order of things. A contented farming population is of immense social value to the state. Farming is a calling of vital necessity, tollsome, none too well requited at best and involving inevitable hardships. The just grievances of the farmer call for immediate and intelligent consideration and for effective redress even though that may mean the adoption of methods which are new and somewhat unpalatable to the established ways of business.

"If there is one calling which has a higher claim than another upon the helpful consideration of the state then

that calling is that of the farmer.

"There is no adequate economic reason, notwithstanding the huge waste and destruction wrought by the late war, why the world and particularly this favored country, should not now resume the road of prosperity; but in order to do so we must all take a hard pull together, we must give full and free scope to the forces of energy and enterprise instead of cramping, shackling and hampering them and we must let ourselves be guided by the tested lessons of economic truths instead of giving ear to plausible fallacies or permitting ourselves to be led into precipitate actions under influence of temporary conditions.

"Every right minded business man must be desirous to have the legitimate grievances of the farmer—and he has and long has had such—redressed and remedied. Justice demands that this should be done. The larger interests of the nation demands it, for it is harmful and menacing to the commonwealth that so numerous and so valuable a portion of the population should feel discontented and resentful and be without prosperity. The enlightened selfishness of Business requires it, for not only does the material well being, or the reverse of the farmer largely react upon business, but experience has shown that when the farming industry is in the throes of depression the farmer is very apt to blame business and to hit out at business and to get himself in a frame of mind which the well meaning self deceived purveyor of political and economic nostrums are only too ready to take advantage of."

"It has been said, Mr. Kahn, you

are opposed to the Agricultural Bloc, yet it is pretty generally admitted that the farmer has been the football of political gymnastics for years, that his cries have been ignored. Is it any wonder he bails with joy the advent of a political coalition that promises relief for him and recognizes his function as the basis of American prosperity?"

This put the issue flat. And what has the financier to say

"It is manifest that the representatives of the farming communities and state must know better than most business men, and particularly business men of the East, what ails the farmer. These men are not only not to be criticized; on the contrary they are to be commended for using their votes and their influence to get remedial measures enacted into law and to obtain for the farmer a square deal. To the extent that we business men are in disaccord with the agricultural leaders in and out of Congress, it is not because of their efforts to promote the welfare of the farmer, BUT BECAUSE NOT A FEW OF THEM SEEM TO BE ACTING UNDER THE IMPRESSION, IN CERTAIN RESPECTS AT LEAST, THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO AID SOME SECTIONS AND CALLING OF OUR COMMON COUNTRY BY HURTING OTHERS.

"I am far from questioning the ability of the worthy purpose and well meaning intent of these men, but I do venture to question whether in their righteous zeal to aid agriculture out of its present depression they have given sufficient study and reflection to economic laws and economic history.

Statistics over many years have demonstrated strikingly that agricultural prosperity and business prosperity, and agricultural depression and business depression run on parallel lines and are largely independent. Unfortunately that truth has not been sufficiently recognized as yet by either party. On the contrary they have usually been at loggerheads and pulling in divergent directions when, as a matter of fact they are natural allies and both have much to gain from sympathetic understanding and co-operation.

LAMONA BREED MAKES FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE.

The Lamona, the new white-egg-laying general-purpose fowl originated and being developed by the United States Department of Agriculture, made its first public appearance at the Madison Square Garden Poultry Show held in New York from January 25 to 30, where 16 of the birds were shown in the open classes. In addition to the Lamonas, and other Government bred fowls of standard breeds, the department put on an extensive exhibit consisting of models of poultry houses, a display of feathers of the standard breeds, appliances such as feed hoppers brood coops, and a fattening battery. A series of panels, made up of photographs, charts, and placards, showed the more important standard breeds, the feeding of hens for egg production, the advantages of early hatching, the improvement resulting from the use of a high quality sire, capons and caponizing, culling the farm flock, and the pedigree breeding of poultry.

A number of department representatives took part in the program of the show and gave information to the visitors concerning the educational exhibit. They reported an extraordinary interest on the part of the public and various poultry breeders in the Lamona breed, many persons desiring to obtain breeding birds. The department believes it necessary to perfect them still more as regards certain characteristics, and it is not likely that any will be for sale during the coming year.

1921 ROAD PROJECTS ENOUGH TO GIRDLE EARTH.

Eleven thousand nine hundred and thirty miles of Federal-aid roads were constructed under the joint supervision of the Federal Government and the States during 1921, according to reports of the Bureau of Public Roads of the United States Department of Agriculture. Federal money amounting

to \$94,067,089 was allotted to these roads, the total cost of which was \$231,963,682. In this mileage there is included 8,596 miles in projects wholly completed and the equivalent of 3,236 miles of work done on projects which are not wholly completed. Every State shared in the benefits of this work.

The projects under way during the year amounted to 81,228 miles, which was about one-half of all the road work carried on in the United States during the year. A fair idea of the magnitude of the road work done under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture last year may be gained when it is understood that the total mileage is considerably more than enough to encircle the earth, that it is equal to more than 10 per cent of all the improved roads previously existing in the United States and that it is equal to nearly 8 per cent of the entire road system of France. At this rate we would be able to build the equivalent of France's entire road system in 12 years.

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