

RURAL ACTIVITIES AND NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FARMER

PRICE READJUSTMENT AT STANDSTILL, FARM FEDERATION ASSERTS

Average Commodity Cost Higher Than
In June, With Agricultural Pro-
ducts Still Falling

Price readjustment is at a standstill, with the products of the farm left at a disastrous disadvantage in relative purchasing power, the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation said today in a statement analyzing the trend of prices.

The statement was based on the wholesale price index prepared by the federal bureau of labor statistics, and data gathered by the research department of the national farm bureau organization.

"Reconstruction is failing to reconstruct the purchasing power of the farmer's products," the state farm bureau declared. "The record of commodity prices since April indicates that the decline in prices has almost spent itself, although a comparison of levels in September and October shows that the farm product and food groups including many commodities just as they come from the farm, are still falling.

"The prices of the necessities of life appear to be marking time, with the great agricultural population still under a handicap so serious that its buying power is not recovering. It must recover before the real revival of industry and business can take place."

The farm bureau statement quoted figures of the bureau of labor statistics to show that since June, 1921, the average price-level of all commodities has risen, instead of declining.

"Taking the 1913 price level as 100, the level in June, 1921, stood at 148, having declined from 177 since January. But in October, the level had risen again to 150. This development might be taken as an indication that the price level can be expected to remain considerably above the 1913 level.

"From the standpoint of the farmer, the fact remains that no definite improvement has been made during the last several months toward accomplishing a more equitable exchange relation between his products and those which he must purchase.

"The farm products group, as listed by the federal bureau of labor statistics, was three points lower in October than it was in September, and the food group had declined four points. In the same period, clothing had advanced three points, fuel and lighting had gone up four points, metals had advanced one point and chemicals had remained at their September price level.

"To offset the continued deflation of farm products, there was only a one percent decline in building materials, which stand next to the highest in the list of commodity prices after many months of deflation, and a decline of five percent in house furnishings, whose price level is so high that this small drop is insignificant."

"Farm products, food and metals were the only commodity groups whose price level was lower than the general price average for all commodities in October, the statement continued, pointing out that farm products stood at the foot of the list, 31 points below the average price of all commodities.

"There can be but one conclusion from such data," the federation concluded. "No substantial improvement can be effected in industrial conditions until the prices of the commodities which the farmer must purchase have been sufficiently deflated."

GRAIN GROWERS GET 5,200 ACRE PLEDGE

Minnesota Furnishes Biggest Contract
Obtained By National Mar-
keting Agency

St. Paul, Dec. 14.—The largest contract so far obtained by the U. S. Grain Growers, Inc., in any state, has been signed in Minnesota.

The contract calls for the marketing of grain produced on the Tilney farms, comprising 12 tracts and 5,200 acres of land in Watonwan county, through the farmers' national co-operative marketing agency. The contract was signed only after the attorney for Tilney farms had examined the terms and the marketing plan of the Grain Growers, and given a favorable opinion, according to the northwest office of the co-operative corporation.

Minnesota now has 376 of the 28,000 members of the U. S. Grain Growers, Inc., and 16 Minnesota elevators also have signed contracts with the farmers' agency, it was announced this week.

RECORD PRICE IS PAID FOR "U" FARM BARROW

The highest price ever paid for a hog at the International Livestock show in Chicago was received by the University of Minnesota for its grand champion barrow at the 1921 exhibition. Selling for 33½ cents a pound, the pig, which weighed 500 pounds, brought \$167.50. The champion barrow was only one of many wins scored by the university at the big show in time and cattle classes.

In the hay and grain show the sweet clover exhibited by Charles Franks, Warren, in the famous Red River Valley, won first. Sweepstakes in the 10-year yellow corn class in zone 1, which includes the northern part of the state, went to John Henderson of Dakota. In durum wheat W. O. Williamson, Haskock, was fifth.

FARMERS' DARKEST HOUR CALLED TIME FOR UNITED LABOR

"It's Time For Good Americans To
Get Up," Says Howard, in Chal-
lenge To Cities

Officers of the county farm bureau have just received the following public message prepared by James R. Howard, president of the American Farm Bureau federation. It was written last month, when Mr. Howard, invited to address a gathering of business men, wanted to impress upon city folks the absolute necessity of understanding the farmer's problems and working with him toward more prosperous times.

"Through my long years of experience on the farm I have come to consider this season the most charming of the year. It's the time of the shortening day and the lengthening night. I know full well what it is to be awakened in the Iowa night by the flapping of the blind, the caw of the rooster, or the sighing of the wind in the trees outside the window, and to note that it is darker than it was an hour or two before, or when I went to bed. I cannot see my hand before me. It is the darkest hour of the night. Instantly I know that that darkest hour is the time when I should rise and go to work.

"It is the night's darkest hour when the farmer gets up. He takes his lantern and goes to the barn. He feeds his stock. He milks his cows. He carries and harnesses his team. He goes to the house and eats breakfast, all before there is yet the first rosy tint of dawn in the east.

"Breakfast over, the farmer hitches the team to his wagon and rattles off down hill, across the bridge and up the road into the cornfield. He pauses for it to get a little lighter; he cannot yet see his row. And while he is putting his sideboard over and getting his coat off he listens: From every direction there comes the sound of other corn wagons going to other corn fields. Soon there reaches him the rhythmic beat of the cars against the sideboards—the cadence of the corn—that corn which is converted into the gold and silver of commerce and manufacturing and industry. Where in all the world is there another song to equal it? Before noon the farmer brings in his load, and another at night.

"We are in the dark just now. But it is time for us to get up and get our lanterns, whether we be farmers or manufacturers or businessmen. We want to get those chores done and our breakfast over, for morning is close at hand. Let's put on an extra sideboard and grease up the old wagon this morning, for we have got the biggest job we ever had ahead of us in America. It is going to take the energy and the faith of the American farmer combined with the energy and faith of the American businessman to put it over. But we have just one common interest—service to the whole people."

Creameries which have joined the state association in Polk, Norman, Clearwater, Clay, Mahanomen, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Kittson and Roseau counties will meet this month to organize District No. 14.

SLUMP PREDICTED FOR POOR BUTTER

State Association Would Abolish Man-
ufacture of Inferior Product
To Prevent Losses

By Farm Bureau News Service
St. Paul, Dec. 14.—The bottom threatens to drop out of the market for butter of inferior quality, the Minnesota Co-operative Creameries association, Inc., said today in a message to its 250 member creameries.

"The bottom dropped out of the price of poor butter last winter," the warning says. "At one time there was a difference of 15 cents a pound between good and poor butter. It looks as though the same thing would happen again this winter, creating an even worse condition. The market is being flooded with poor butter. Any co-operative creamery that makes a poor product has to compete with this flood of inferior butter."

Asserting that no other work on the farm pays as well as the work of getting cream to the creamery while pure and sweet, to guarantee good butter, the new state dairy service agency issued a set of rules to be posted on the door of every co-operative creamery in its membership.

These rules, drawn up to help prevent losses through the shipment of low-grade butter, suggests, 1. Frequent delivery of cream by co-operation in hauling; 2. Care in milk to prevent dirt from dropping into the milk and leaving a flavor in the butter; 3. Thorough washing and scalding of pails, cans, strainers and separators; 4. Cooling cream in cold water immediately after separating, and never mixing warm and cold cream, or leaving cream where air is impure; 5. Talking with the butter-maker and becoming an expert judge of cream.

THE HORSE IS THE STAND-BY.
It is highly probable that Roseau County will abandon the use of machinery driven by gasoline and go back to horse power driven by oats in its road work the coming year. Horse power and oats have gotten cheaper, while gasoline is still higher than before the war. And besides that it is desirable to keep the money spent on road improvements within the county—Warroad Pioneer.

Special prices on Christmas Candy at Pearson's Bazaar.

Strong Program For Farmers' Homemakers

The eighth annual Farmers' and Homemakers' week at University Farm, St. Paul, Jan. 2 to 7, 1922, will have the strongest program in the history of the short course, according to Dr. A. V. Storm, director.

The leading speakers include Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois and a breeder of pure bred cattle; Duncan Marshall, minister of agriculture for Alberta, Canada; Dr. Caroline Hedger, nutrition specialist with the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund, Chicago; J. R. Howard, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation; Senator L. E. Potter, president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation; L. D. Coffman, president of the University of Minnesota; Governor J. A. O. Preus; W. C. Coffey, dean of the University department of agriculture; Sidney Anderson, Minnesota Congressman from the first district; and Mrs. Ellsworth Richardson, a farmer's wife from Iowa.

In addition to conventions of a score of organizations, 7 different programs for men and 6 for women are continued throughout the week. The 1922 program will contain something new even for those who have been attendants at previous "weeks" at University Farm, Dr. Storm says.

Harding Tells Congress Co-operative Marketing Is Entitled To Support

The persistent demand of organized farmers for recognition of their right to market their products on a basis of absolute equality with other productive industries, and for reduction of transportation charges, appears to be getting results in Washington. That the executive branch of the federal government recognizes the farmers' demands as just and imperative was demonstrated in President Harding's message to congress, delivered in person on Dec. 6.

The farm bureau federation has fought hard for the passage of a federal law that will guarantee, beyond any question, the legal right of the farmers to consolidate their interests in co-operative marketing on a nationwide scale. Such a measure is now before congress, where opponents of the farmers' interests have stubbornly opposed it. Following is an extract from the president's message, referring to the agricultural situation:

"Something more than tariff protection is required by American agriculture; to the farm has come the earlier and the heavier burdens of readjustment. There is actual depression in agricultural industry, while agricultural prosperity is absolutely essential to the general prosperity of the country.

"Congress has sought very earnestly to provide relief. It has promptly given such temporary relief as has been possible, but the call is insistent for the permanent solution. It is inevitable that large crops lower the prices and short crops advance them.

"No legislation can cure that fundamental law. But there must be some economic solution for the excessive variation in returns for agricultural production. It is rather shocking to be told, and to have the statement strongly supported, that 9,000,000 bales of cotton, raised on American plantations in a given year, actually will be worth more to the producers than 13,000,000 bushels of wheat raised by American farmers would bring them more money than a billion bushels. Yet these are not exaggerated statements. In a world where there are tens of millions who need food and clothing which they cannot get, such a condition is sure to indict the social system which makes it possible.

"In the main the remedy lies in distribution and marketing. Every proper encouragement should be given to the co-operative marketing programs. These have proven very helpful to the co-operative communities in Europe. In Russia the co-operative community has become a recognized bulwark of law and order and saved individualism from engulfment in social paralysis. Ultimately they will be accredited with the salvation of the Russian state.

"There is the appeal for this experiment. Why not try it? No one challenges the right of the farmer to a large share of the consumers' pay for his product, no one can dispute that we cannot live without the farmer. He is justified in rebelling against the transportation cost. Given a fair return for his labor he will have less occasion to appeal for financial aid and given assurance that his labor

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**Greetings of the
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The Holiday Season affords us the welcome opportunity of extending to you our warmest regards and cordial wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a New Year that shall unfold Happiness and Prosperity in abundant measure.

At this time we wish to thank all our customers for the liberal patronage accorded us during the past year.

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