

FEW FARMERS INTERESTED IN RELIEF MOVES

Most Tillers of Soil Ask Only
Fair Return and
Security.

Editor's Note—This is the first of a series of six articles reviewing briefly the relations of the Government to the American farmer, business relations with debt as they have been observed by the writer. These relations have finally terminated in a widening program on the part of Government, both Federal and state, to bring about a relief of debt to a group of the population. Whether this is wise or not is left with the reader.

BY COLIN F. WILLIAMS
Times Special Writer

Has there ever been a period in the history of the farmers of these United States when the cyclic changes of prosperity and want did not bring to them exactly the same experiences that were brought to the far larger majority of citizens?

There are approximately 9,000,000 men in the United States classified as farmers. They support dependents numbering about 25,000,000 souls. They constitute about 26 per cent of the total population of 130,000,000 persons. They are the most universally distributed class in the country. Some sections predominate in miners, other sections in industrial workers, but throughout the fabric of the population, whatever the latitude or longitude their residence may be, we find the omnipresent farmer.

Farming is a mode of living rather than a science even today with out universal dissemination of agricultural knowledge. In times of depression it almost ceases to become a mode of living and approaches a form of philanthropy in about the same degree of relativity as that demanded from all of us upon whom the emergency falls.

Remains an Enigma

Having rubbed elbows with American farmers for many years, I have come to marvel at the lack of system that has held the fraternity together. I have witnessed his ups and downs from the days of the Swedish Rebellion in Nebraska right down to the present moment of 1935 and the longer I stay to witness the more I marvel.

Volumes have been written about him. The libraries are stored with material about him. He has been analyzed, criticized, dogmatized and publicized until he should be the best known quantity in the universe but I venture that to the most of us, including the writer, he is still the great enigma.

He is the pet promotional prospect of every budding politician. They yearn toward him always but mostly when they want something. He is the stronghold of the promoter, it makes no difference of what.

The bosom thumping clams line him up in groups and avalanche through the rest of the American population with demands on the theory loudly proclaimed that this is the farmers' program. Stuff! I know that the principal desire of the farmer is to be left to the security of his lands, that he be permitted to live out his life as he has chosen. He became a part of the landed aristocracy of the new world. He had not yet lived in it so long as to become bedridden with customs. He acknowledged no restraint. In the pride of ownership of his new possessions he became the despot of his domain.

Only Earth Holds Wealth

There are only two sources of wealth, both lie in the ground. New wealth is produced only from the products of the mine and the products of the farm. All things that hold up merely transform this wealth into different forms.

The man who raised the grass to feed the sheep that produced the wool to make the coat that was valued at so many dollars was the agent in a process. The wool was the first raw product handled. There was no new wealth created until the wool was clipped and thereafter, regardless of the amount of labor spent on that wool, whether it went into a coat for a peasant or a king, not a dime of new money developed from its processing.

The new wealth that was constantly being created was sufficient to buy the land and leave a surplus. The surplus strangely enough is the corpus delicti of this story. On the spread of this surplus out of control of its originator sprang up all of his financial troubles.

Few Made Protests

Under the stress of the financial reverse that overtook the farmer in very recent years, the total number who mustered in to voice their protests did not exceed 6 per cent of the farming population of this country or a total of less than one-half per cent of the entire American population.

This statement needs some analysis. It can best be understood by taking the reader through the past twenty-year period of American history.

Omitting every detail of a numerical nature so far as possible and avoiding statistics that can be arranged to prove almost anything, permit me to carry out this story of the last twenty years in a narrative form and if we can discover anything in it that stimulates our pulses to sympathy for the man with the plow, let us not hesitate to bring it out.

On the contrary, if there be any-

DOWN COME SHACKS AS CITY PREPARES FOR MODEL APARTMENTS



thing in the story to denote the causes of the so-called farmer revolt, we should be able to fit the blame and help to eradicate it in the future.

We approach the period of 1914 on the American farm. The previous decade to this date saw the ending of a hundred-year trek to new lands.

The waves of internal emigration toward the setting sun had by 1914 leveled off to the ripples of readjustment.

Just as the waters of a rising Fundy tide torrent through the narrows of the bay to fill the voids left, so had the pioneers of the nineteenth century swirled through the Ohio Valley to the vacant lands of the West and as the waters calm and slack when the pools are filled and the balance is struck, just so, we find levels of the new population striking a balance at the beginning of the present century.

Reached High State

The major movement is complete, the minor eddies of readjustment, the returns, the side movements only remain. If ever the American farmer was content, it was then. He had vested his desire in the land of his choice. He became a part of the landed aristocracy of the new world.

He had not yet lived in it so long as to become bedridden with customs. He acknowledged no restraint. In the pride of ownership of his new possessions he became the despot of his domain.

He became the Nation's best spender. About him in the rural communities sprang up the families of the thinking members of his fraternity. They were the men who plowed with their minds the dollars turned out of the soil by the plodding feet of their brothers.

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It seems that, without protection, the Martinsville goldfish are facing competition from those shipped here from Japan. These Japanese goldfish are not the highly Hoosier type, but are weakly sold at "dime stores," it is contended.

The goldfish tariff has occupied the time of many Indiana statesmen. The former G. O. P. leader, Senator James Eli Watson, used to take the Senate floor on their behalf.

Judge McNutt wants the Democrats to do likewise, but it appears that the tariff issue will not be reopened this session.

This advocacy of higher tariff on goldfish recalled the remark of one of the American greats: "The tariff is a local issue."

STAMP CLUBS ORGANIZE

Junior Collectors' Meeting in Charge of Chicago Man.

Southern Firm Seeks Reorganization Under Bankruptcy Act.

Final hearing on the reorganization of the Southern Indiana Telephone and Telegraph Co., first case under the new Section 77-B of the Federal bankruptcy act to reach a climax in the Indianapolis Federal Court, was being held before Judge Robert C. Baltzell today.

On the contrary, if there be any-

Fishing for High Tariff

Gov. McNutt's Father Urges Hoosiers at Capitol to Protect Martinsville's Finny Gold.

By Times Special

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—John McNutt, father of Indiana's Governor, Paul V. McNutt, is a life-long Democrat and has served on the Indiana Appellate Court under that political appellation.

But he left here today after nearly a week spent in button-holing Hoosier Representatives and Senators and urging them to fight for a higher tariff on goldfish.

Judge McNutt, however, didn't advocate a high tariff on everything. He only wanted help to get a high tariff on goldfish. He lives at Martinsville, where the raising of goldfish is one of the principal industries.

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It is expected that the combined attendance of the various presidential birthday balls sanctioned for this city will exceed 15,000.

DISCIPLES TO OBSERVE MISSION WORK JUBILEE

Series of Conferences to Be Held During Spring.

A nation-wide series of state and regional conferences of the United Christian Missionary Society will be held during the spring to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the organized religious education work of the Disciples of Christ.

Roy G. Ross, secretary, and Virgil A. Sly, associate secretary, of Irvington office of the United Society, are making preliminary arrangements for the conferences in association with Wilbur C. Parry, national director of adult work and field administration, and Tilford T. Swearingen, national director of leadership training, of the society's St. Louis office.

Art Clay Engineer to Speak

J. Marek, American Art Clay Co., ceramic engineer, will talk on ceramics and pottery before members of the Scientech Club, at noon Monday.

New Electric Cell Used

Enough electric energy to operate an electric motor can be obtained from sunlight by use of a new photoelectric cell that is unusually sensitive.

Another club will be organized by advanced collectors, membership in which will be limited to those having collections of 2000 or more stamps.

Col. Luther R. Hayes to Visit City

Regular army instructors of the Indiana National Guard, the staff of the 38th Division, and commanding officers of units located in Indianapolis, will meet with Col. Luther R. James, Fifth Corps area officer, Ft. Hayes, O., Monday night in the Armory.

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