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THE STATE FARM BUREAU'S PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

TAXATION—Relief for sorely burdened farm property by enactment of: (a) Two cent gasoline tax for highway funds.

COMMODITY POLICY OF STATE FARM BUREAU DOESN'T PUT CART BEFORE THE HORSE

The Michigan State Farm Bureau has never made it its policy to attempt to speak for the growers or producers of any particular commodity on matters pertaining only to the commodity in question.

Likewise, the Michigan State Farm Bureau as a whole has never attempted to determine the policies to be followed by the bean growers, and in their present situation, the Farm Bureau is not attempting to tell the bean growers whether they should or should not pool or advertise beans, as these are manifestly questions for the new organization to decide.

Owing to lack of organization of the bean growers in the past, it has been extremely difficult for the State Farm Bureau to know what the bean growers as a whole desired in the way of assistance. The action taken at last week's meeting of the bean growers to form a permanent growers' organization, consequently was very welcome to the Farm Bureau administration, and all assistance possible will be given the committee toward the developing of a co-operative bean growers' organization based on democratic control and any constructive policies they may later see fit to follow.

Even with the more general policies and problems, the Farm Bureau has always made it a practice, except in cases of extreme emergency, to secure an expression from the farmers themselves before committing the organization to a program of action.

The Unseen Factor in Farming Is Important

Earl P. Robinson Explains What It Is And How It Operates

By EARL P. ROBINSON County Agent Leader, New Hampshire Agr'l Extension Service

The average man considering the purchase of a farm, centers his attention on the farm itself. Are the fields fertile, well drained, reasonably free from weeds and fairly level? Is the soil adapted to a variety of crops?

Like all situations, fortunately this one has another side to it. There are communities where the resources of soil, climate, human energy, accumulated capital are supplemented by a fine spirit of co-operation and helpfulness.

Yes, there is a choice of communities as well as of farms. In some you find a spirit of pessimism—"It can't be done" attitude. Every proposal for improvement is greeted with such remarks as, "They may do these things elsewhere, but you can't do them here."

Then after dinner the party was divided into six groups and taken by their hosts over six routes to visit a total of over one hundred purebred herds. Here and there along the way the writer witnessed the practical results of this spirit of co-operation.

What of the erection of commodity buying and selling organizations? What has been accomplished save what shows on the surface? How much has the livestock shipping associations and the terminal commission houses caused local dealers to raise prices at shipping points and old line commission houses to parade down commissions at market centers?

It makes little difference what a man looks like but a great deal what he looks at and what he looks forward to.

To New Readers

You are receiving the Michigan Farm Bureau News for a limited time this summer through the action of the County and State Farm Bureaus, which have paid your subscription for that period.

The Michigan Farm Bureau News

Our Invisible Farm Bureau Assets

(Continued from page 1) Not a change of heart, but a better understanding of the farmer and his problems, brought about through the publicity and education by farmers' organizations.

Bean Growers Decide To Organize Selves

(Continued from page 1) "We are arranging no program in the way of an outside speaker, but are planning to make this meeting one in which the grower will have ample opportunity to express himself."

GROWERS PRESENT

The counties were represented at this meeting as follows: Genesee County Michael McHugh, Linden; Robert Bradley, Linden; N. A. Seeley, Goodrich.

What We Got Then, and Now

The farmer asked for tax reduction and got tax free securities for the other fellow. He wanted something to restrain the trusts with which he had to transact business and got the Anti-Trust Bill that jailed him when he ventured to say his product had a certain price.

Getting Service and Protection

Again the last Congress passed a tariff bill that recognized the interests of agriculture as has never been done before; eight cents import duty on every pound of butter, two cents duty on every pound of cattle and sheep, thirty-one cents on clear wool, and so on.

Figure It Out for Yourself

What has the big combined Ohio-Michigan-Indiana Wool Pool given to every wool producer in these states in getting him market values for his product and protecting his industry from foreign competition?

What, in short, would be the position of the farmer to-day were all these marketing

- Association.....Wiley Kirk 3. Further Extension of the Co-operative Elevator Movement, R. Ducaon 4. What the Bean Jobbers Can Do.....J. Edw. Maloney 4. How Can We Get More Money for our Beans.....W. Mainhoed, L. C. Kamrowski 5. Open Discussion At the request of Mr. A. B. Cook, Mr. McFarland, vice-president of the Elevator Owners Ass'n, affiliated with Chatterton & Son, was also gladly given a place on the program in order that the proposed bean pool could be thoroughly explained.

While the meeting was called as a strictly growers' meeting, in the open discussion the floor was freely given to anyone who cared to speak whether he be jobber, elevator man, machinery manufacturer, or farmer. Mr. J. N. McBride of Shiawassee county, in strongly urging acceptance of the bean pool as offered at the Saginaw meeting, warned the growers of the heavy responsibility resting upon them and the serious consequences that might ensue should they fail to accept the Saginaw pool program. He emphasized the necessity of growers and jobbers combining in order to make an effective bean pool.

DECIDE TO ORGANIZE

The important outcome of the meeting was the step taken by the bean growers to form a permanent bean growers' association as embodied in the following resolution which was adopted: "Resolved, That a committee consisting of one strictly bean grower from each bean growing county be chosen by the representatives of each bean growing county present to formulate plans for a permanent bean growers organization with the cooperation of the Michigan State College and Farm Bureau, and that a recess of ten minutes be declared by the chair to permit each county to caucus."

After a short recess the meeting was again called to order and each of the following counties reported the selection of the man to represent their bean growers, as follows: Genesee—Michael McKugh Tuscola—W. F. Dowling Eaton—H. D. Burroughs Shiawassee—J. N. McBride Sanilac—Phillip O'Connell Bay—C. R. Oviatt Missaukee—John Spitsbergen Clinton—Samuel Langdon Saginaw—Richard Price Huron—E. C. McCarty Ingham—Chas. F. Hart Leelanau—C. A. Cheney Isabella—Geo. R. Wheeler Gratiot—Lee Townsend Midland—F. A. Lundy All counties interested in bean growing not included in the above list were also requested to name a representative bean grower for this organizational committee.

At the close of the session the committee was called to order and Earl C. McCarty of Huron county was elected temporary chairman. It was also agreed to hold the first meeting of the committee on Monday, July 20, at Michigan State Farm Bureau headquarters at Lansing, 1 p. m. Eastern time, at which time the matter of building a representative bean growers' organization, based on strong local control, was to be taken up.

The meeting showed a radical difference of opinion in regard to the desirability of the proposed bean pool. In regard to advertising, however, while no action was taken it was very noticeable that the growers and jobbers alike were strongly in favor of all practical means being exercised to increase the consumption of Michigan beans.

FARMERS PLACED ON IMPORTANT NATIONAL BOARDS

One of the key planks of the American Farm Bureau Federation program has been that the American farmers should have representation on our important government boards, just as we have a representative in the President's cabinet. Both President Harding and President Coolidge looked with favor on the idea, and the following appointments have been made during the past two years: C. W. Hunt, former president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, to the Federal Trade Commission, which has the power to investigate and stop unfair trade practices. Recently it banished the Pittsburg Plus system of making steel prices, a system that added imaginary freight from Pittsburg to every pound of steel, no matter where made. Farmer buyers of steel goods paid that extra freight but don't any more.

E. H. Cunningham, another Iowa Farm Bureau leader, was asked to become a member of the Federal Reserve Bank Board at Washington. Farmers are affected by the banking recommendations of this board, and it is a good thing to have the farmer situation kept before the national board. W. S. Hill, of South Dakota, is the farmer representative on the U. S. Shipping Board. This past season he performed a great service by having U. S. Shipping board vessels on the job to carry our surplus grain overseas that kept our ports clear and ready to keep taking grain for export at a time when foreign demand was heavy.

Future agriculture depends upon orderly supervised and controlled production.



