

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## RATE INCREASE NECESSARY

### FARMERS' UNION OFFICIALS THINK RAILROADS ARE ENTITLED TO MORE REVENUE

Products of Plow and Farmer Who Lives at Home Should Be Exempt From Increase.

By Peter Radford, Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The recent action of the Interstate Commerce Commission in granting an increase in freight rates in the eastern classification of territory; the application of the roads to state and interstate commissions for an increase in rates, and the utterances of President Wilson on the subject bring the farmers of this nation face to face with the problem of an increase in freight rates. It is the policy of the Farmers' Union to meet the issues affecting the welfare of the farmers squarely and we will do so in this instance.

The transportation facilities of the United States are inadequate to effectively meet the demands of commerce and particularly in the South and West additional railway mileage is needed to accommodate the movement of farm products. It is the wish of our Railroad Commissions an increase in freight rates is necessary to bring about an improvement in our transportation service and an extension of our mileage, then an increase in rates should be granted, and the farmer is willing to share such proportion of the increase as justice belongs to him, but we have some suggestions to make as to the manner in which this increase shall be levied.

### Rates Follow Lines of Least Resistance.

The freight rates of the nation have been built up along lines of least resistance. The merchant, the manufacturer, the miner, the miller, the lumberman and the cattlemen have had their traffic bureaus thoroughly organized and in many instances they have pursued the railroad without mercy and with the power of organized tonnage they have hammered the life out of the rates and with unrestrained greed they have eaten the vitals out of our transportation system and since we have had railroad rate commissions, these interests, with skill and cunning, are represented at every hearing in which their business is involved.

The farmer is seldom represented at rate hearings, as his organizations have never had the finances to employ counsel to develop his side of the case and, as a result, the products of the plow bear an unequal burden of the freight expense. A glance at the freight tariffs abundantly proves this assertion. Cotton, the leading agricultural product of the South, already bears the highest freight rate of any necessary commodity in commerce, and the rate on agricultural products as a whole is out of proportion with that of the products of the factory and the mine.

We offer no schedule of rates, but hope the commission will be able to give the railroad such an increase in rates as is necessary without levying a further toll upon the products of the plow. The instance seems to present an opportunity to the Railroad Commissions to equalize the rates as between agricultural and other classes of freight without disturbing the rates on staple farm products.

### What is a Fair Rate?

We do not know what constitutes a basis for rate making and have never heard of anyone who did claim to know much about it, but if the property of the farm is a factor to be considered and the railroad commission concludes that an increase in rates is necessary, we would prefer that it come to us through articles of consumption on their journey from the factory to the farm. We would, for example, prefer that the rate on pigs remain as at present and the rate on meat bear the increase, for any farmer can then avoid the burden of raising his own meat, and a farmer who will not try to raise his own meat ought to be penalized. We think the rate on coal and brick can much better bear an increase than the rate on cotton and flour. We would prefer that the rate on plows remain the same, and machinery, planes and such articles as the poorer farmer cannot hope to possess bear the burden of increase.

The increase in rates should be so arranged that the farmer who lives at home will bear no part of the burden, but let the farmer who boards in other states and countries and who feeds his stock in foreign lands, pay the price of his folly.

## Chicken Thieves in Action.

Henry Pauline and Wm. Goers, deputy sheriffs, crawled aboard a Detroit bound car last Sunday morning, and when they disembarked they brought with them four men answering to the names of Archibald Johnson, George Tyler, John Edwards and Baruum Ganua, also two suit cases filled with 35 dead chickens, 12 quarts of caudal fruit, and a revolver of sufficient calibre to bore large holes in the anatomy of chicken or man.

Of course that is said jokingly, but in a serious vein, 35 chickens were purloined from the Clark Harger place last Sunday morning, and 12 jars of canned fruit from the now unoccupied home of his brother. The chickens were killed and packed in suit cases, and if it had not been for the fact that some of the feathers were protruding from the suit cases, the chickens would long ere this writing have gladdened the hearts and inner-men of several Detroit homes.

The men were lodged in the county jail, and returned to Farmington for preliminary before Justice Thayer Monday morning. The proceeding resulted in the trial being set for next Monday morning, the prisoners being willing to plead guilty to petit larceny, so it is reported, but not to grand larceny.

The chickens were claimed in Pontiac by Mr. Harger and disposed of there to poultry dealers.

## Sold Mortgaged Goods

A charge of selling chattel mortgage goods is made against Harvey S. Groover, who is being sought by the sheriff's officers. Groover formerly lived at Farmington, but went to Detroit last week. He had owned 22 head of cattle while at Farmington and on these it is alleged he placed two chattel mortgages, one for \$1,400, held by Nicholas Eames of Macomb county, and another for \$400, held by D. L. Davis of this city. It is said by Mr. Davis that he did not know of the existence of the earlier obligation.

According to the officers, Groover sold the cattle in small lots about Detroit and has not settled the mortgages. He moved his family to 110 Lycaete avenue, Detroit, where they are now living. Groover himself cannot be found.—Pontiac Press Gazette.

Detroit Tribune offer closes soon. Hurry your subscription in.

Carl Ely and Clarence Hicking made a short business visit at Flint Thursday.

## Dennis-Bell

Announcement of the marriage of Miss Claiys Dennis to Mr. Clarence Bell, at the home of the brides sister, at Birch Run on last Thursday afternoon at two o'clock, came as a surprise to the many friends of both bride and groom.

Both of the contracting parties are well known up and about Farmington, the bride being a young lady of pleasing personality, and has made her home in Farmington for over a year past, being in charge of the dining room at the Owen House here. The groom is a trustworthy employe of the D. U. R., and of the line car crew. He has been engaged for some time past however, in taking an inventory of the cable system of his company, and though a young man, is working into a responsible relationship and position with his company.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Bell will join with the Enterprise in wishing them a happy and prosperous matrimonial voyage. They will, for the present make their home in Farmington.

## THE CHURCH AS A SOCIAL CENTER

### A Broader Sphere for Religion—New Field for the Rural Church.

By Peter Radford, Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The social duty of the rural church is as much a part of its obligations as its spiritual side. In expressing its social interest, the modern rural church does not hesitate to claim that it is expressing a true religious instinct and the old-time idea that the social instincts should be starved while the spiritual nature was overfed with solid theological food, its fast giving may in the near future interpretation of the functions of true religion. We take our place in the succession of those who have sought to make the world a fit habitation for the children of man when we seek to study and understand the social duty of the rural church. The true Christian religion is essentially social—its tenets of faith being love and brotherhood and fellowship. While following after righteousness, the church must challenge and seek to reform that social order in which moral life is expressed. While cherishing ideals of service, the rural church which attains the fullest measure of success is that which enters as many lives as it can touch, and in no way can the church come in as close contact with its members as through the avenue of social functions.

The country town and the rural community need a social center. The church need offer no apology for its ambition to fill this need in the community, if an understanding of its mission brings this purpose into clear consciousness. The structure of a church cannot be a social center; it contains many social groups, each of which has its own center, but there are many localities which have a church cannot command the interest of all the people. It is relieved from the embarrassment of religiously divided communities.

### Social Needs Imperative.

The average country boy and girl have very little opportunity for real enjoyment and recreation, as a rule, at large congregations of the meaning of pleasure and recreation. It is to fill this void in the lives of country youth that the rural church has risen to the necessity of providing entertainment as well as instruction, to its membership among the young. The children and young people of the church should meet when religion is not even mentioned. It has been found safest for them to meet frequently under the direction and care of the church. To send them into the world with no social training exposes them to grave perils and to try to keep them out of the world with no social privileges is sheer folly. There is a social nature to both old and young, but the social requirements of the young are imperative. The church must provide directly or indirectly a safe place for the bank, the singing schools of the old days. In one way or another the social instincts of our young people must have opportunity for expression, which may take the form of clubs, parties, picnics or other forms of amusement. One thing is certain; and that is that the church cannot take away the dance, the card party and the theatre unless it can offer in its place a satisfying substitute in the form of more pleasing recreation.

### Universal Instinct for Play.

In providing for enjoyment the church uses one of the greatest methods by which human society has developed. Association is never secure unless it is pleasurable; in play the instinctive aversion of one person for another is overcome and the social mood is fostered. Play is the chief educational agency in rural communities and in the playing of human childhood social sympathy and social habits are evolved. As individuals come together in social gatherings, their viewpoint is broadened, their attitudes are lifted, and finally they come to a cultural and refined society. It is plain, therefore, that the church which aims at a perfected society must use in a refined and exalted way the essential factors in social evolution and must avail itself of the universal instinct for play. If the church surrounds itself with social functions which appeal to the young among its membership, it will fill a large part of the lamentable gap in rural pleasures and will reap the richest reward by promoting a higher and better type of manhood and womanhood.

## Coming Dance Events

Several dances and dancing parties are being arranged between now and the close of next month, which will be of interest to those who enjoy dancing. Those so far announced are:

- January 29, Mask-Ball at the Grace House.
- February 5, Dancing Party, Harmony Club.
- February 22, Dancing Party at the Grace House.
- February 25, Third Annual I. O. O. F. Ball.

## Compliment to Road Commissioners.

The County Board of Supervisors paid a compliment to the present Board of Road Commissioners when they passed the resolution produced below.

The three members are certainly deserving of re-election, and should receive the enthusiastic support of citizens generally, not only at the general election, but at the primaries.

The resolutions of the supervisors follow:

Whereas Thomas Lytle of Farmington, Will Anderson, of Bloomfield, and John A. Adams, of Addison, were appointed members of the County road commission and have served nearly two years, with the exception of Mr. Adams who has served one year, the tenureship of their office expiring in May, 1916, and

Whereas, it was the purpose of the board of supervisors to select a non-political board of men well qualified to perform the duties relating to said commission, and that said commission was constituted, and is, a non-partisan one, consisting of two republican members and one democratic member, and

Whereas, the members of the commission heretofore are to be elected by the voters of the county at the coming spring election as an official, experienced and non-partisan commission to succeed themselves in office.

## Farmers Institute

There will be a one day's Farmers Institute at Ortonville Feb. 15, Troy, Feb. 16, at Clarkston Feb. 17, at White Lake Feb. 18, at Highland Feb. 19, and at Wixom Feb. 20.

F. L. Dean of Sheridan, Mich., is to be the state speaker, said to be one of the best on the list.

The detailed program is being made out by the local Vice President, in co-operation with Frank King of Pontiac, and Prof. L. R. Tat of Lansing.

## Methodist Church

Services next Sunday are as follows:

- 10:30 A. M., morning worship. Fathers and mothers are urged to be present, for the subject is of special interest to them.
- 11:30 A. M.—Sunday School meets. Epworth League meeting at 6:15 P. M. 7:00 P. M.—Evening worship. The pastor preaches the second sermon of the series on "The Devil." Next Sunday evening's subject is "The Devil's Bid for a Young Man."
- The young men are invited to be present.

## Small Chance for Recovery

Word from the home of Albert Sulkowski, where John White the young man who was so badly frozen, is staying, is that there is little or no change in his condition. Blood poisoning is said to have set in, and at times there has seemed small hope of his recovery. Physicians are in daily attendance and relatives and close friends are holding out hopes of his ultimate recovery, although admitting that his condition is precarious.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

I wish to announce to the people of Farmington and vicinity, that we are in a position to fill all orders in the line of Cut Flowers, Funeral Designs, or anything in the florist line.  
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