

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## PAYROLL OF CIVILIZATION MET BY FARMER

WANTS NO "DEADHEADS" ON LIST OF EMPLOYEES.

A CALL UPON THE LAW MAKERS TO PREVENT USELESS TAX UPON AGRICULTURE.

By Peter Radford

Lecturer National Farmers' Union

The farmer is the paymaster of industry and as such he must meet the nation's payroll. When industry pays its bill it must pay a slight draft upon agriculture for the amount, which the farmer is compelled to honor, without protest. This check drawn upon agriculture may travel and fro over the highways of commerce; may build cities; grope the globe with bands of steel; may search hidden treasures in the earth or traverse the skies, but in the end it will rest upon the soil. No dollar will remain suspended in midair; as certain to seek the earth's surface as an apple that falls from a tree.

When a farmer buys a plow he pays the man who mined the metal, the woodman who felled the tree, the manufacturer who assembled the raw material and shaped it into an article of usefulness, the railroad that transported it and the dealer who sold him the goods. He pays the wages of labor and capital employed in the transaction as well as pay for the tools, machinery, buildings, etc., used in the construction of the commodity and the same applies to all articles of use and diet of himself and those engaged in the subsidiary lines of industry.

There is no payroll in civilization that does not rest upon the back of the farmer. He must pay the bills—all of them.

The total value of the nation's annual agricultural products is around \$12,000,000,000, and it is safe to estimate that 95 cents on every dollar goes to meeting the expenses of subsidiary industries. The farmer does not work more than thirty minutes per day for himself; the remaining thirteen hours of the day's toll he devotes to meeting the payroll of the hired hands of agriculture, such as the manufacturer, railroad, commercial and other servants.

The Farmer's Payroll and How He Meets It

The annual payroll of agriculture approximates \$12,000,000,000. A portion of the amount is shifted to foreign countries in exports, but the total payroll of industries working for the farmer divides substantially as follows: Railroads, \$1,252,000,000; manufacturers, \$4,365,000,000; mining, \$655,000,000; banks, \$200,000,000; mercantile, \$3,500,000,000; and a heavy miscellaneous payroll constitutes the remainder.

It takes the corn crop, the most valuable in agriculture, which sold last year for \$1,592,000,000, to pay off the employees of the railroads; the money derived from our annual sales of livestock of approximately \$2,000,000,000, the yearly cotton crop, valued at \$920,000,000, and the wheat crop, which is worth \$610,000,000, and the oat crop, that is worth \$440,000,000, are required to meet the annual payroll of the manufacturers. The money derived from the remaining staple crops is used in meeting the payroll of the bankers, merchants, etc. After these obligations are paid, the farmer has only a few bunches of vegetables, some fruit and poultry which he can sell and call the proceeds his own.

When the farmer pays off his help he has very little left and to meet these tremendous payrolls he has been forced to mortgage homes, work women in the field and increase the hours of his labor. We are, therefore, compelled to call upon all industries dependent upon the farmers for subsistence to retrench in their expenditures and to cut off all unnecessary expenses. This course is absolutely necessary in order to avoid a reduction in wages, and we want, if possible, to retain the present wage scale—paid railroad and all other industrial employees.

We will devote this article to a discussion of unnecessary expenses and whether required by law or permitted by the managements of the concerns, is wholly immaterial. We want at all waste labor and extravagance, of whatever character, cut out. We will mention the full crew bill as

illustrating the character of unnecessary expenses to which we refer.

Union Opposes "Full Crew" Bill.

The Texas Farmers' Union registered its opposition to this character of legislation at the last annual meeting held in Fort Worth, Tex., August 4, 1914, by resolution, which we quote, as follows:

"The matter of prime importance to the farmers of this state is adequate and efficient marketing system; and we recognize that such a system is impossible without adequate rail-road facilities, embracing the greatest amount of service at the least possible cost. We further recognize that the farmers and producers in the end pay approximately 35 per cent of the expenses of operating the railroad and it is therefore to the interest of the producers that the expenses of the common carriers be as small as is possible, consistent with good service and safety. We, therefore, call upon our lawmakers to take steps to bear the foregoing facts in mind when dealing with the common carriers of this state, and we do especially reaffirm the declarations of the last annual convention of our State Union, opposing the passage of the so-called 'full-crew' bill before the thirty-third legislature of Texas."

The farmers of Missouri in the last election, by an overwhelming majority, swept this law of the statute book of that state, and it should come out of all statute books where it appears and no legislature of this nation should pass such a law or similar legislation which requires unnecessary expenditures.

The same rule applies to all regulatory measures which increase the expenses of industry without giving corresponding benefits to the public.

There is nothing a body of men assembled at legislatures—and they have a right to be there—who, in their zeal for rendering their fellow-associates a service, sometimes favor an increase in the expenses of industry without regard for the man who bows their backs to the summer's sun to meet the payroll, but these committees, while making a record for themselves, rub the skin off the shoulders of the farmer by urging the legislature to lay another burden upon his heavy load and under the lash of "be it enacted" goad him on to pull and surge at the traces of civilization, no matter how he may foam and gasp at the task. When legislatures "cut a melon" for labor they hand the farmer a lemon.

The farmers of the United States are not financially able to carry "dead heads" on the payroll. Our own hired hands are not paid unless we have something for them to do and we are not willing to carry the hired help of dependent industries unless there is work for them. We must therefore insist upon the most rigid economy.

Legislative House-Cleaning Needed.

While the war is on and there is a lull in business, we want all legislative bodies to take an inventory of the statute books and wipe off all extravagant and useless laws. A good house-cleaning is needed and economies can be instituted here and there that will put the clothes of indigent children, rest tired mothers and lift farmers from despondent homes. Unnecessary workmen taken off and useless expenses chopped down all along the line will add to the farmer and encourage him in his mighty effort to feed and clothe the world.

If any of these industries have surplus employees we can use them on the farm. We have no regular schedule of wages, but we pay good farm hands on an average of \$1.50 per day of thirteen hours when they board themselves; work usually runs about nine months of the year and the three months dead time, they can do the chores for their board. If they prefer to farm on their own account, there are more than 14,000,000,000 acres of fine land to each the pressure awaiting the magic touch of the plow. The compensation is easily obtainable from Federal Agricultural Department statistics. The total average annual sales of a farm in the continental United States amounts to \$516,000; the cost of operation is \$340,000; leaving the farmer \$176 per annum to live on and educate his family.

There is no occasion for the legislators making a position for surplus employees of industry. Let them come "back to the soil" and share with us the prosperity of the farm.

When honesty is merely a good job, it is a poor virtue.

Many farmers are just as useless as dead-ends and take up more room.

When the soul communes with the spirit of nature, it goes back to the farm movement generally.

There are two kinds of farmers. One tries to take all the advice he hears and the other won't take any at all.

### Races Draw Good Crowd

Last Saturday afternoon three driving races were pulled off on Grand River avenue in the village that attracted no little excitement and furnished amusement to quite a large crowd.

A paper passed among the business men secured money sufficient to purchase prizes for the winners, and satisfaction exists all around.

The first race went four heats and was between a horse owned by Geo. Van Fleet and one by Mark Sealey. The former horse driven by Mat Green was declared winner. The second race entries were Tyrus, driven by Chas. Spaller, and Northville Boy, driven by Markus. The former horse made a game showing, but the big Northville horse was too much for him, and won three straight heats.

The third and final race was easily the best of the three and was marked by two heats, where the finish was neck and neck. Peeler, owned and driven by Jack Spaller, proved his superiority over another horse owned by Geo. Van Fleet, and won three straights. Quite a little money is said to have changed hands on the last event.

### Council Proceedings

Feb. 2nd, 1915

Regular meeting of village council, Geo. Francis, village president, presiding.

Roll call showed the following trustees present: Ely, Nichols, Pauline, Walters and Meyers. Minutes of meeting held January 4th read and approved.

The president appointed the following committees:

Board of Registration to act with village clerk, Walters and Ely.

Auditing committee, Pauline, Nichols and Ely.

Election commissioners, Nichols and Ely.

Inspectors of election, Pauline, Meyers and Nichols.

Caucus night was set to be held Thursday evening, Feb. 25, 1915.

The Hon. Fred M. Warner was present and offered a resolution as follows: That Fred M. Warner is hereby granted the use of the north half of platted alley running along the south side of land owned by him and which is used for Cheese Factory and milk station purposes, said alley having never been used by the public to date, and on motion same was carried.

Mr. Warner also asked for a change in our present water rates as he showed that we were charging more than some other towns, especially to users of a large amount of water, and on motion made and carried the following rates were to take effect April 1, 1915:

The min. to be 50c per month or \$1.50 per quarter; the first 10,000 gallons at 15c per 1,000 gallons; the next 10,000 gallons at 10c per 1,000 gallons, and over this amount 5c per 1,000 gallons, readings of meter quarterly.

The following bills were read and ordered paid:

Henry Pauline.....	\$27 25
Joe Voght.....	5 00
Sam Turner.....	3 60
A. B. Peterson.....	2 80
J. A. Price.....	23 03

Meeting adjourned.  
B. F. PIERSON,  
Clerk.

### Notice—Village Caucus

There will be a village caucus at Town Hall, Farmington, Mich., Thursday, Feb. 25, 1915, for the purpose of nominating officers to be elected at the annual village election on March 8, 1915.

B. F. PIERSON,  
Village Clerk.

### Entertain Play Cast

What proved a very pleasant social event occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. McGee on last Tuesday evening, when those who had taken part in the entertainment and play recently given under the auspices of Farmington Guild, were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. McGee.

Seventeen members of the cast were in attendance, and enjoyed an evening of games and amusement. T. H. also proved his musical ability by the rendition of several beautiful selections on the Victrola.

During the course of the evening, delightful refreshments were served by the hostess.

A most enjoyable evening was spent by all, and it was a genuine regret to all when the party broke up at a late hour.

### Basket Ball

Last Friday night the F. H. S. basket ball team won its twelfth straight game by defeating the Fowlerville High School. The score was very one-sided, ending in Farmington's favor by a score of 67 to 13.

All Fowlerville lacks is experience. This was shown in the first ten minutes of play, when they were playing just as good a game as F. H. S. The Farmington team showed a lot of "pep", and even though they were at all times in the lead, they seemed to play like demons, as the score indicates. Edgar Pierce refereed a very satisfactory game.

A preliminary game was played between the Reserves and Northville and the score was almost as large as the second game, ending by a score, Reserves 62, Northville 9.

This game was fast and also very interesting, much more so than the score indicates. Referee, Price.

A return game will be played with Fowlerville March 5, and a number from here are planning on accompanying the team.

Monday evening the Reserves went to Northville and added another game to their list by taking the boys into camp by a 28-14 score. The game was one of the poorest played this year. The game appeared slow at all times, which was due mostly to the condition of the floor, it being so slippery that the boys could hardly stand. A number of Farmington people accompanied the team and also witnessed the game between the Northville Maroons and Boston College girls, which was a very one-sided affair. The score was Maroons 67, and Boston girls 17, these 12 points being nearly all secured from fouls.

### Dies at Age of 87

The sad news of the death of Mrs. Angeline Coleman was received in the village Tuesday, death having occurred at her home just East of Stevens corners. Deceased had reached the ripe old age of 87 years, but had been in poor health of late years.

Besides numerous grandchildren she leaves behind four children, two sons and two daughters, and the memory of a fifth child, a daughter, whose death occurred prior to that of her mother. The funeral services were conducted from the family home, Friday afternoon at one o'clock.

### New Road This Summer

A "good road" is to be built along the Seven Mile road from Woodward to Grand River avenue this summer. This will shorten the distance on good roads—from Farmington to the state fair grounds, by six miles.

My Dear Sir:--

Keep your Cash Account with the

### Farmington Exchange Bank

(A STATE BANK)

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Which makes the best kind of a receipt, and avoid the worry and danger attending the carrying of large sums of money.

Respectfully,

C. W. WILBER, Cashier.

Fred M. Warner, Pres.  
Sam'l D. Holcomb, Vice Pres.

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