

The Farmers' Club a Forerunner of Cooperative Business

By A. D. Wilson

A POTATO-BUYER in a community may buy potatoes from 200 farmers. What is 100 per cent of the farmer's business in potatoes represents one-half of one per cent of the potato-buyer's business. Consequently, a deal that means 100 per cent to the farmer means one-half of one per cent to the potato-buyer, and because the deal means very little to the buyer and very much to the farmer, the farmer is at a disadvantage.

Exactly the same condition prevails in purchasing supplies. The farmer is handicapped because of the small amount of business he is doing. A farmer who can use two dozen self-binders can purchase them more cheaply than the man who uses but one. The farmer who can sell many carloads of farm products of one class can get a better price for his products than can the one who has only a wagonload or less to market.

Cooperation or Peasantry
There seems to be but two solutions to the problem of putting the farmer on an equal business basis with those with whom he has business outside of the farm. One is to increase the size of the average farm; the other is to unite the interests of several farmers owning farms of ordinary size for purposes of outside contact, in both buying and selling. The latter plan is decidedly preferable, because it does not involve the landlord and tenant or landlord and hired-help system, and makes possible the maintenance of the family-sized farm, which is probably one of our most important institutions. Cooperation will help to make possible the maintenance of the family-sized farm, operated by its owner, longer than it can be maintained in any other way.

Economy in Cooperation
Cooperation in marketing and in buying is, we believe, essential to the economical distribution of products. Large quantities of uniformly good products can be sold much more advantageously than can smaller quantities of products, each sample of which may be good in itself but which when brought together are not uniform. When every farm was manufacturing its own butter, and each of the hundred or more farmers in the community was trying to sell butter of a different quality, the price of butter was comparatively low. Where butter is manufactured in one plant, the manager of the creamery has at his disposal large quantities of a uniform product and can sell at the best possible price.

If the products of a community, such as grain, potatoes, and live stock, can be made uniform by cooperation among the members of the community in production, and then these larger quantities of uniform products can be sold by one man, the same advantages that come to the large farmer, or have come to the dairy industry can be secured in other enterprises of the farm.

Club Promotes Cooperation
A farmers' club is the logical forerunner of cooperation. In the first place, it gets the people of a community acquainted and increases the confidence of each in the other. This is absolutely essential to successful cooperation. In the second place, it provides a logical means for studying carefully any enterprise that is proposed to undertake cooperatively, so that impractical undertakings are likely to be avoided. We believe the farmers' club is a vital factor in pro-

ducing cooperation for efficiency, because it is not organized to defeat any particular class of people but to study intelligently any problem that may come up, and to take the action necessary to put any plan decided upon into effective operation.

How to Organize a Club

The organization of a club is not complicated or difficult. A good way to start the movement is for someone in a community who is interested to meet at his home or some other suitable place. If an interesting programme, including singing and speaking by the young people can be

organized the matter beforehand, in private conversation. No one need have any fear of joining the club, because there is no stock sold and no possibility of loss. It is simply a mutual understanding that the people in the community will take up collectively questions of interest to the community, instead of struggling with them individually.

A Word to Mr. Whiteside

EDITOR, Farm and Dairy.—I notice in Farm and Dairy of April 5th give us a little chin-whack on how to economize in making maple syrup. He thinks Mr. Payne has gone to a great deal too much expense in building a house in which to boil maple syrup. He says they used to tap the trees with a gouge and long cedar spiles and catch the sap in pine corks. So

in use, and the one building does for storing everything in as well as for boiling.

I wonder if I paid Mr. Whiteside a visit, would I find him with a yoke of oxen and an old wooden bean plow poking among the stones and stumps, or would I find him with a more modern equipment? If Mr. Whiteside will come and pay me a visit next spring-making season I will give him some as nice maple syrup as he ever tasted and also show him that I have not gone to the extreme in building. Here in the county of Victoria, they do things as they used to do 40 or 50 years ago, I would ask Mr. Whiteside to move to the county of Peterboro, where where—Nathan Payne, Peterboro Co., Ont.

British Columbia Salmon

Norman Chapman, New Westminster

SALMON, and then more salmon, is one of the many treats to be found in B. C.; and of B. C. no other fish is so famed like the Red Sockeye salmon to be found in the mighty Fraser River. The run is now on, and it is no uncommon sight to see the natives with their huge baskets full of this fresh water's production. Indeed at one time, before the large canneries were dotted along the mouth of the Fraser, the Indians would scoop the salmon up on to the banks with pails—using the many of them, and leaving the rest to decay. It was not long before the B. C. Government put a stop to this awful waste.

Here the Indians live almost entirely on salmon, and have a privilege which no white man has; that is, of fishing salmon with a net. Of course the white man can use a line, but that is very slow and wearisome.

In certain places along the shore of the Fraser the remains of countless fish can be seen, having been caught in some sort of trap caused by the logs jamming, and thus meet their death, only to be covered with sediment by the river and at last forming an abode for mud. How wonderful a formation of land!

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Is It Any Wonder He Is "Down and Out" with Discouragement.

No one agency has done more to attract attention to the rural road problem than the wide adoption of the automobile as a means of transportation. All now realize as a condition that must be remedied. The only question now is—If roads that will wear under auto traffic will cost twice as much as good roads for farm traffic, should the general public be asked to pay the difference? Or should the beneficiaries foot the bill? This picture might be duplicated now in several counties of the East.

Arranged, so much the better. A dinner or supper should be provided, as eating together does more than any other thing to break down reserve, formality and distrust. It is much easier to carry out a movement of this kind after a good meal has been served.

The proposition should be talked over, and it is well if a considerable proportion of those present have dis-

posed I, and many a time I have turned the troughs up against the trees in the fall to have them ready for the spring, but times have changed since then, and we are using more modern methods, not only for the making of a much better syrup, but for the sake of making the work much more pleasant as well as profitable. We have a thousand sap buckets, stores and gathering tanks to be cared for when not

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