

INTERESTING HAPPENINGS AT HOME AND ABROAD

TO AID THE FARMERS

Forty-six powers of the old and new world recently ended at Rome, Italy, the first session of the International Institute of Agriculture. In this mighty aggregation of scientists, the greatest of its kind ever held in history, there is a monument to the enthusiasm, the imagination and the persistence of one American citizen, David Lubin, of California, conceived the idea several years ago, and, in the face apparently of insuperable obstacles, at his own expense and with no possible hope of gain or even reimbursement, doggedly pursued the germ of thought across continents and oceans, through cities and the devious channels of international diplomacy, until he had interested Kings and Presidents, Congresses and Parliaments, and obtained for the child of his brain a permanent habitation in a marble palace by the historic Tiber.

The King of Italy built the palace for the institute, and endowed it with an income derived from the rents of one of his private estates, and within its walls from time to time in the future the nations of the world will gather to exchange thought, statistics and inventions for their mutual benefit. While the good aimed at is the good of all the people of all the countries, those who till the soil will be the earliest beneficiaries. To aid them in harvesting larger crops, to help them in wider markets, TO GUARD THEM FROM THE EVIL EFFECTS OF THE SPECULATIVE EXCHANGES WHERE PRICES ARE MANIPULATED WITHOUT REGARD TO THE MAN WHOSE SWEAT HAS BEEN SPENT ON THE SOIL, will be a few of the subjects sought by the institute. The fact that 46 governments have put their shoulders to the wheel of the project promises well for its success.

ITALIAN KING'S INTEREST.

The first the world knew of Lubin's work was when it was learned that King Victor Emmanuel had become an enthusiast on agriculture and had written a letter to his cousin, Giovanni Giolitti, president of the Council of Ministers at Rome, outlining the project of the institute. In consequence of the King's letter an invitation was sent out to the principal governments of the world asking them to send representatives to the preliminary meeting in Rome during May and June, 1905. The United States was represented by Ambassador Henry White, A. F. Woods, assistant chief of the bureau of plantations and of the Agricultural Department, William F. Hill, of Huntingdon, Pa., Master of the state Grange. Articles of organization were drawn up, and the next step in the proceedings was taken in the shape of a treaty signed by no less than 42 powers. Later four more countries signed and, in consequence, every important country and nearly every big colony in the world is bound by the provisions of the treaty. Such men as Ambassador Lloyd C. Griscom, of the United States; Count Faina, of Italy; the British under Secretary of agriculture, and the plenipotentiaries of the various powers represented at Rome, attended the preliminary meeting during the summer, and Count Faina was elected president of the permanent committee.

At the preliminary conference the scheme of the work was divided into three branches or bureaus. The first was to be that in control of the clerical and financial details; the second to have charge of the general statistics and agricultural information, and the third of information relating to economic and social institutions. Under the last named are included the subjects of wages of farm labor and information concerning the agencies of co-operation, insurance and agricultural credit. The second bureau, however, is by far the most important in its scope, as it has charge of the chief subjects for which the institute was organized—agricultural statistics, including everything connected with animal and vegetable production and distribution, prices and wages, and the diseases and pests of plants and their remedies.

The expenses of the institute, except its home, which is borne by the King of Italy, are borne by the various countries represented, the amount of assessment being pro rata according to the number of votes each country hold at the convention. Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, was Canada's representative at the Institute.

THE GRAIN EXCHANGE AND TRACK AND COMMISSION BUYERS

A rumor has reached The Guide to the effect that the wing of the Grain Exchange members, represented in the elevator interests, are much concerned over a question that has arisen as to the legality and constitutionality of the feature in the commission by-law of the Exchange restricting the operation of track buyers and commission men at country points.

The clause in question relates to any member giving any "consideration to any party or parties whatsoever to influence or procure shipments or consignments of grain to any member or members of this Exchange."

The elevator people naturally desire to have the power to enforce this restriction, since they have agents at every shipping point in the person of their elevator operators, and thus gain an advantage over commission men and track buyers, who are debarred by the rule from employing anyone to secure grain for them.

It is reported that the elevator interests have become so alarmed over the possible illegality of this point in the Exchange constitution that their legal representative has been sent to Ottawa to ascertain if legislation cannot be enacted to legalize this restriction beyond any question of doubt.

If this is true it looks like a practical admission that the restriction in question is illegal. It is scarcely probable that the Ottawa Government would entertain any proposed amendment of this nature, when it is taken into consideration that the local government saw fit to amend the old charter of the Grain Exchange on this particular point a year ago.

At a recent meeting of the Bowsman Grain Growers' Association, the following resolution was prepared:

"Whereas the cattle, hog and farm produce industry of this district is a necessary adjunct to farming, this Association asks the Central Association to use their influence towards remedying existing abuses by encouraging the formation of a company to handle all produce of the farm on lines somewhat similar to the Grain Growers' Grain Co.

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