

To All Tenants:

"'For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.' That saying is as true to-day as when our Master uttered it almost two thousand years ago. We as farmers of America have been sowing automobiles, tractors, trucks, gasoline engines, electric light plants, lightning rods, fine buildings, elegant furniture, loud wearing apparel, and riotous and dissipated life. We have neglected our farms, refused to labour, and have spent money like drunken sailors, and now we are harvesting what we have sown in the years gone by, and it's a harvest most of us will not soon forget—one of sorrow and regrets, and great financial losses. The immediate future is not bright, but the clouds if we are worthy will some day pass away. *It is back to the farm—and back to the horse—back to hard work—back to economy—back to an honest industrious life before God and man*, and for those who accept this program there is a brighter day coming. We are no worse off than farmers all over America, all have gone down together, for the same causes have brought about the same results, but located as we are in the greatest spring wheat country in all the world, we should recover from our present financial condition sooner than others, and will if we have faith in ourselves and in our great country."

By the Chairman:

Q. Was that accompanied by a declaration reducing the rent?—A. I might say that Mr. Williams does not run his farms on a certain cash basis, it is on a crop basis.

Q. Was he suggesting a division of the crop which would give the tenant a larger return?—A. I do not know as to that. I might say that this is a pen picture not only of what has happened to the farmers of America, but it is a pen picture of what has happened to a very large percentage of the urban population of North America. We are all in the same boat, suffering from this same spree, and I think the time has come, when as you are doing here, a careful investigation, a careful review of the situation is in order, to see what the future has in store. If it is impossible to remedy these difficulties, then the future is very dark, but I am here as an optimist to-day.

By Mr. Sales:

Q. Is it not true that all the rest of the people have been "sowing" automobiles and so on, with this difference, that they include the cost of "sowing" automobiles in their overhead expenses and pass it on to the farmers who do not pass it on to anybody else?—A. There may be a certain amount of that. In that connection, also, I do not want to get too far away from my statement that the western farmer is suffering to-day on account of the abnormal prices which he is paying for commodities. I think an investigation would show that a very large percentage of that abnormal price which he pays is due to the abnormal cost of distribution in this country for commodities.

Q. The point I would like to make before you go further is that while we have all been on a spree, the farmer is the man who has to pay for the spree.—A. He is paying to a greater extent than the urban population. They, I am afraid, are going to get their headache a little later on.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if I may be allowed to proceed, as far as the western farming situation is concerned, I just referred to some of the things that led to this condition. There is another phase of the western farming situation that has aggravated the situation of so many farmers to-day. In 1919 and 1920 a great many farmers acquired additional land for which they paid a great deal higher price than the land was actually worth, and a great many of them have

[Mr. Charles M. Bowman.]