

LOW RATES AND LIBERAL USE IS AIM ON THE ELECTRIC FARM

Minnesota Experimenters Suggest Consumption of 300 KWH Per Month, and Set Up Rate of Five Cents Per KWH After Fixed Charges.

To induce farmers who electrify their farms to use as much as 300 kilowatt hours of energy a month, by reason of attractive rate schedules, is one of the basic objects of the experimental farm transmission line now in operation outside the city of Red Wing, Minn. On most farms where electric energy is supplied by a power company, the farmer seldom uses over 20 or 25 kilowatt hours of energy per month—a rather startling difference between present practice and hoped-for accomplishment.

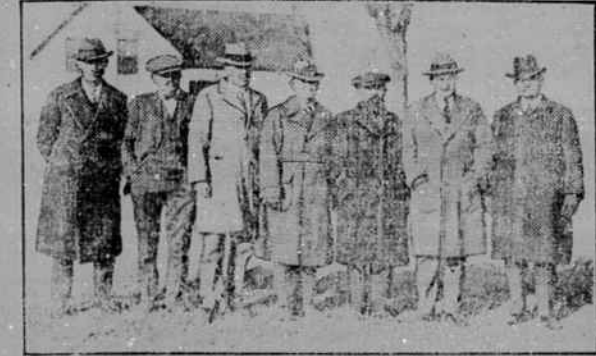
In that 210 between 30 kilowatt hours and 300 kilowatt hours lies the hidden reason why electric energy for farm use, when provided by a power company, has heretofore been an economic failure, according to the promoters of the Red Wing experiment.

Speaking for the joint committee which is in charge of the farm line extending five miles out of Red Wing

25 kilowatt hours, showing that he is still fighting to keep under this minimum.

Low Rates for Large Usage
Mr. Stuart then showed how the carefully studied rate tentatively established for the Red Wing experimental line is expected to operate by contrast with rates just alluded to. Having determined an equitable fixed charge for each customer of \$5.90 a month, covering insurance, depreciation, maintenance of the line, taxes and overhead expenses, the energy rate was made low. It is 5 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 30 kilowatt hours, and 3 cents per kilowatt hour for the excess.

Under these rates it develops that the farmer who seeks to secure electric energy solely for electric lights and nothing else has necessarily and unavoidably taken on an expensive proposition. But, if he uses electric energy



COMMITTEE BACKING MINNESOTA LINE

Left to Right: Isaac Emerson, farmer; W. J. Bryan, farmer; Charles F. Stuart, Northern States Power Co.; W. C. Coffey, dean of the Minnesota College of Agriculture; State Senator Herman Schmechel, farmer; C. S. Kennedy, Ottatall Power Co.; James E. Reed, president of Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation and chairman of committee.

and serving eighteen typical farms. Charles F. Stuart, assistant to the vice-president and general manager of the Northern States Power Company, which built the line, told of an investigation just made of more than thirty existing farm lines, in various localities, which serve 1,452 customers.

Why Farm Lines Haven't Paid
"It was found," he said, "that every one of these farm lines was losing money. The reason why was soon made all-apparent, for the average consumption for these 1,452 farmers was only 23.7 kilowatt hours per month, which is less than the average city resident customer uses. It seems probable that this low consumption is due to two factors, one being rate structures not inviting to liberal use of current and the second being that the farmer never has been shown how to use electricity liberally to his own advantage.

"Farmers have financed the building of rural lines and decided them over to the power companies, which usually charge at least 12 cents per kilowatt hour for the first hundred kilowatt hours, with a minimum bill of \$5 a month for the next hundred kilowatt hours, at a step 1 cent lower, and the excess perhaps at a further 1 cent reduction.

"These rates are not exorbitant, but do not invite the progressive farmer to a liberal consumption, in that the farmer never gets down to cheap electricity, no matter how much he uses. "Take a rate of 100 kilowatt hours per month at 12 cents net, with a minimum charge of \$5 per month. A study of lines with this rate reveals that the farmer makes very sure never to exceed his minimum bill. His \$5 entitles him to approximately 41 kilowatt hours, but his average consumption is about 35, showing that he is determined never to go over his minimum.

"Where the minimum bill is \$3 per month, his consumption is held under

for various other purposes, so that his total consumption increases, and thereby the benefit resulting from the electric energy on his farm also presumably increases, it becomes worth while. The reason for this was shown by an imaginary case, worked out by Mr. Stuart.

Cost Per Kilowatt Hour Decreases
It assumed that a farmer used 20 kilowatt hours per month, at the energy rate established for the Red Wing line. This would cost him the fixed charge of \$5.90 plus \$1 for the energy, a total of \$6.90, or 39.5 cents per kilowatt hour. But if he used 50 kilowatt hours per month, his total bill would amount to only \$9, or 18 cents per kilowatt hour. If he used 100 kilowatt hours, his bill would be only \$10.50, which is 10.5 cents per kilowatt hour; and if he used 300 kilowatt hours, his bill would amount to \$16.50 or 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

"This," said Mr. Stuart, "is what we call a rate schedule which would invite, rather than prohibit, the liberal use of electric energy."

As to Effective Usages
The practical tryout of such a rate is one of the two big objectives of the Red Wing experiment. The second is a serious study of the application of electricity to agriculture.

"This branch falls into the other objective in a very practical manner. "We realized," said Mr. Stuart, "that there would be no common sense in getting the farmer to consume a large amount of electric energy just to earn a low kilowatt-hour rate, and that the job was ours to show him how to use, to his own advantage, some ten times as much energy as he now consumes. We have not to find that out, and we must not do it at the expense of the farmer."

This part of the Red Wing investigation is now being followed through with every indication of some interesting results, although it is still too early, the joint committee declares, to try to indicate these results.

Believes There Is Money In Farming

Raleigh.—"I know that farming can be made to pay if done right for I have made money each year," is the unqualified statement made to County Agent Kope Elias of Mecklenburg County by B. F. Withers of that county. Mr. Elias states that B. F. Withers would be classed by some as a city farmer but that he is doing the kind of farming of which any dirt farmer could well afford to be proud. In reporting on a trip to the Withers farm recently, Mr. Elias says:

"Five years ago his doctor told B. F. Withers that he would have to get out of his office if he wanted to live. He therefore turned his attention to the worn-out farm of his childhood. He bought a few cows, a car of lime, sowed soy beans and cowpeas in the summer and put in some crimson clover and vetch for winter cover crops. On a recent visit to this farm I found a field of oats that would

make an average of 60 bushels to the acre. In another field, of eleven acres, alfalfa was about three feet high. When Mr. Withers started to improve this land it would not produce as much as ten bushels of corn to the acre. Now it is one of the most productive farms in the vicinity."

Reports like this come to the State College Extension Division week after week telling how the use of legumes will improve the soil, build up the fertility of the land and help to convert a worn out farm into a money-making enterprise. Agronomists of the extension service state that now is the time to make plans for sowing winter cover crops this fall. Many farmers are making a success of alfalfa and land can be started this fall for planting legumes each year state the extension agronomists.

Tom Tarbeel says that since the curb market was started in town his wife hasn't asked him for any money; in fact, she has made him one or two small loans.

Building Program And Farm Activity Prevent Unemployment

Washington, D. C., July 14.—The building that is under way in North Carolina, together with the demand for labor on the farm has served to prevent any noticeable unemployment in this state, according to the monthly review of the United States Department of Labor, just made public a few days ago. Unemployment in several Southern States was noted but the industrial situation in this section was generally considered satisfactory.

Skillful workers find ready employment on building projects in Virginia, the two Carolinas and Georgia according to the review and in a number of states part of the surplus of common labor is being taken up in farm work. The continued highway activity together with other public improvements in North Carolina is serving to take up most of the common labor in this state. Textile plants are starting up and the situation is much brighter than two weeks ago, according to the reports.

OWL CREEK

Mrs. Viola Lovincood is visiting her son, W. F. Davis, on Owl Creek.

Pinhook sawmill is running again.

The little baby of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Marcus has been very sick but is now improving.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henry Kephart on July 23rd a fine baby boy.

Mr. C. C. Hass killed two rattlesnakes last week; one being over four feet in length and one over two feet in length.

The farmers have about finished working their corn. Crops look nice.

SWAYNEY.

Hello, everybody. Here comes Swayney for the first time, but hope it is a welcome.

The Auto singing class of Swayney which was suggested by Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Lee, is progressing nicely. Met at Mrs. A. Blankenship July 6 and at Mrs. J. R. Halls July 13th. There were 60 present. Come on, everybody and lets have the best singing class in Swain County. We will meet at Mrs. R. L. Brooks next Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hall and Mr. and Mrs. J. Chas. Hall were pleasant visitors of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Hall th past week.

Mr. Dan Cole and daughter, Mae, and little son, Ted, of Whittier, are visitors of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Blankenship.

Last Wednesday evening, July 9, Master James R. Hall stepped out to the river with his fishing pole and the first fish he caught being 20 inches long. Come on folks. We just have plenty of fish. Everybody is welcome.

Miss Ava Hall and Master James Hall have just returned from a week visit to aCataochee N. C., where they visited friends and relatives.

Mr. Eli Blankenship and children of Whittier, were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Blankenship during the Fourth.

Misses Lillian and Helen Blankenship.

OBITUARY

Sunday June 15, 1924. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Anderson was blessed with a dear little baby boy. But the Lord had a place for him prepared in heaven, so on Wednesday the 18th. He called him away. Joseph Verlan was a very bright eyed cheerful baby. The very light of our home. But he is gone to join the ransomed in the blessed glory land where sorrow and death can never enter, where none take the parting hand.

Our home is lone and cheerless with its light passed away but Heaven seems nearer brighter, dearer, there we long to live for aye.

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Forestry Division Better Organized To Teach and Work

The Forestry Division of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey is now more completely organized for effective work in fire prevention and control than has been the case since the adoption of the policy under which state, counties and Federal Government co-operate in the work.

As at present organized, the Forestry Division is under the general supervision of J. S. Holmes, State Forester, with the work of forest fire prevention under the direction of Assistant Forester Harry Lee Baker.

Assisting in the work of direction there are, in addition, three district foresters, Fred B. Merrill, stationed at Lenoir, in charge of the North-western; Carl L. Peterson, stationed at Asheville, in charge of the Western and Southwestern, and K. E. Kimball, stationed at Fayetteville, in charge of the Eastern District.

These aides in direction spent a large part of their time in the field in touch with the forest wardens whom they supervise and instruct, and with the authorities and people of the co-operating counties, with whom they advise and among whom they find time to do a great amount of educational work.

Under the direction of the district foresters there are twenty-four counties now co-operating with the State and Federal Government a body of three hundred men who are the actual organizers and directors of the fire fighting forces. They, too, are given duties such as placarding the woods with warning signs, instructing as to sound methods of forest practice and teaching care and advantages of timber culture and conservation to the people with whom they are in most intimate contact.

These forest wardens in turn have on their lists as deputies to be summoned in time of need a body of a thousand men, ready to respond to calls and constantly improving in effectiveness and morale. During the "spring fire season," which is only recently over in the mountain districts, the results of fire prevention organization were shown in dramatic fashion by the extremely limited areas to which fires, once started, were confined. To prevent a fire starting, it is necessary, where conditions are such as to make the woods dangerous, to have carefulness on the part of those using, working in, or traversing forest lands. Although much time, thought and care is given to the effort of placarding this spirit of caution, it is a slow task to change old habits and customs and fires, therefore, continue of frequent occurrence during the fire seasons. In the organized counties, however, the wardens and their deputies are acting with greater celerity, sometimes with the instantaneous quality of a city fire department. As a result, fires that in former years would have swept whole townships are now frequently held in their tracks, with losses relatively insignificant when compared to the risk. In one district, although there were a number of extremely dangerous fires, the average area burned over was less than thirteen acres!

Co-operating in the work of prevention are nine counties in the Western and Southwestern District, six in the Northwestern and nine in the Eastern District.

Harry Lee Baker, Assistant Forester referred to above, is just taking up his work with the Survey, having reported for duty on June 15. He takes over the work formerly carried on by William Barrow Clark, whose untimely death a little over a year ago was such a loss to the service. The vacancy caused by Mr. Clark's death was hard to fill, and Mr. Baker was tendered the position after long consideration. He is a trained graduate in forestry, has had a wide experience in the National Forests in the West, and comes to North Carolina after valuable experience in direction of the forestry work in the Southwestern district of Virginia.—Natural Resources.

TAKE NO THOUGHT saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, What shall we be clothed? But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6:31,33.

failed Jesus was victorious. He completely broke the power of the enemy that forevermore is the conquered foe of the race. His kingdom is apparent never real. Thank God Satan is a vanquished foe, forever troublesome he may be.

POLICY FAVORING ELECTRIC FARMS

General Electric Co-operating to Make Electricity Available in Agriculture.

Extending electric service to the 6,500,000 farms of the United States has been made one of the principal objectives of the General Electric Company, which is desirous of seeing this immense market and field of usefulness made accessible. It is the belief of men at the head of that company that the way will be found to take electricity to the farmer on a profitable economic basis, and that when this way is discovered, the complete revolutionizing of farm life will result. Practical difficulties have delayed farm electrification. Even where high-voltage transmission lines are carried through agricultural sections, farms are usually so widely separated as to make economical electric service to them impractical.

Transformer Cost a Problem
To build a step-down transformer substation to serve a single farm costs nearly as much as one to supply a hundred farms. Transformers are essential in tapping a high-voltage transmission line.

The farmer's problem is to get electric service at a cost low enough to make it profitable for him to use. The utility company's problem is to supply the service at a cost that will enable it to net a fair return on the invested capital. Agricultural machinery, manufacturers and electrical manufacturers have before them the problem of designing implements and appliances for use in farm work that will be low in cost and high in efficiency.

A recent organization known as the Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture is tackling these basic problems of farm electrification. This committee represents several interested parties on both sides of the home—the farmers who will use the electric service and the manufacturers and business interests who will supply it.

Have Farm Women in Mind
Taking the drudgery out of women's work on the farm is, in the opinion of General Electric engineers, an even greater economic and social necessity than the improvement of the tools used by the farmer himself.

An important feature of the General Electric farm electrification program which opens up huge possibilities is high-voltage lighting. Research by the lighting experts at Schenectady has developed a highly efficient and economical lighting unit, which has been named the Novalux unit. A dozen or so of these along a mile of country road turn it into a white way.

Fifteen farmers of Union County are planning to grow improved corn this year with a view to field selection of seed this fall, reports County Agent T. J. W. Broom.

Pres. Eliot Shows How to Live to 90



CHARLES W. ELIOT, President Emeritus of Harvard University, who recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday, gives the following recipe for adding a 100 score of years to the allotted three score years and ten.

"How to live long—Go to church. Keep a clean heart and a good conscience. Give your mind exercise as well as your body, read, think. Exercise regularly, but in moderation, take a full shower, sleep. Avoid indulgence in tobacco, the habitual use of any stimulant, except tobacco, and alcohol, and tobacco, tea and coffee.

President Eliot holds fast to the opinion among America's "good old men." He has succeeded in extending the development of railways, steamships, automobiles, airplanes, breech-loading guns, the telegraph, telephone, the composition of radio automobiles, the X-ray, elevator and airplane. He was President of Harvard when the Hohenzollerns founded the German Empire.

One county agent said that an accurate record of questions asked him on Monday, June 24, shows that farmer wanted information on 159 different subjects.



Housework and Headache

There's relief for you housewives who suffer from aches and pains.

When lack of fresh air, working over a hot stove and the odor of cooking make your head throb, your back ache, your limbs tremble, just take 1 or 2

Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills
They'll relieve you quickly and safely.

Your druggist sells them.

Take **Calotabs** for the liver
Beware of imitations. Demand the genuine in 10c and 35c packages bearing above trade mark.

STANDARD This pump in town This sign on the Road **"STANDARD" GASOLINE** in the Tank a perfect day Made in the Carolina