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LOOK FORWARD, AND NOT BACK!

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NATION'S LABOR PROBLEM

OVER A MILLION AND A HALF WOMEN WORK AS FARM HANDS IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

Our government never faced so tremendous a problem as that now lying dormant at the doors of congress and the legislatures, and which, when aroused, will shake this nation from center to circumference, and make civilization hide its face in shame. That problem is—women in the field.

The last federal census reports show we now have 1,514,000 women working in the field, most of them south of the Mason and Dixon line. There were approximately a million negro slaves working in the fields when liberated by the emancipation proclamation. We have freed our slaves and our women have taken their places in bondage. We have broken the shackles off the negroes and welded them upon our daughters.

The Chain-Gang of Civilization.
A million women in bondage in the southern fields form the chain-gang of civilization—the industrial tragedy of the age. There is no overseer quite so cruel as that of unrestrained greed, no whip that stings like the lash of suborned destiny, and no auctioneer's block quite so revolting as that of organized avarice.

The president of the United States was recently lauded by the press, and very properly so, for suggesting mediation between the engineers and railroad managers in adjusting their schedule of time and pay. The engineers threatened to strike if their wages were not increased from approximately ten to eleven dollars per day and service reduced from ten to eight hours and a similar readjustment of the overtime schedule. Our women are working in the field, many of them barefooted, for less than 50 cents per day, and their schedule is the same as that of the engineers, and after the day's work is over they milk the cows, slop the hogs and rock the baby to sleep. Is anyone mediating over their problems, and to whom shall they threaten a strike?

Congress has listened approvingly, to those who toll at the forge and behind the counter, and many of our statesmen have smiled at the threats and have fanned the flame of unrest among industrial-laborers. But women are as surely the final victims of industrial warfare as they are the burden-bearers in the war between nations, and those who arbitrate and mediate the differences between capital and labor should not forget that when the expenses of any industry are unnecessarily increased, society foots the bill by drafting a new consignment of women from the home to the field. Pinch no Crumb From Women's Crust of Bread.

No financial award can be made without someone footing the bill, and we commend to those who accept the responsibility of the distribution of industrial justice, the still small voice of the woman in the field as she pleads for mercy, and we beg that they pinch no crumb from her crust of bread or put another patch upon her ragged garments.

We beg that they listen to the scream of horror from the eagle on every American dollar that is wrung from the brow of tolling women and hear the Goddess of Justice hiss at a verdict that increases the want of woman to satisfy the greed of man.

The women behind the counter and in the factory cry aloud for sympathy and the press thunders out in their defense and the pulpit pleads for mercy, but how about the woman in the field? Will not these powerful exponents of human rights turn their talent, energies and influence to her relief? Will the Goddess of Liberty enthroned at Washington hold the caloused hand and soothe the feverish brow of her sex who sows and reaps the nation's harvest or will she permit the male of the species to shove women—weak and weary—from the bread-line of industry to the back-alleys of poverty?

Women and Children First.

The census enumerators tell us that of the 1,514,000 women who work in the fields as farm hands 409,000 are sixteen years of age and under. What is the final destiny of a nation whose future mothers spend their girlhood days behind the plow, pitching hay and hauling manure, and what is to become of womanly culture and refinement that grace the home, charm society and entice man to leap to glory in noble achievements if our daughters are raised in the society of the ox and the companionship of the plow?

In that strata between the ages of sixteen and forty-five are 950,000 women working as farm hands and many of them with suckling babes tugging at their breasts, as droned in perspiration, they wield the scythe

and guide the plow. What is to become of that nation where poverty wrecks the crowns of the queens of the home; despair hurls a mother's love from its throne and hunger drives innocent children from the schoolroom to the foe?

The census bureau shows that 155,000 of these women are forty-five years of age and over. There is no more pitiful sight in civilization than these saintly mothers of Israel stooped with age, drudging in the field from sun until sun and at night drenching their dingy pillows with the tears of despair as their aching hearts take it upon God in prayer. Civilization strikes them a blow when it should give them a crown, and their only friend is he who broke bread with beggars and said: "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Oh, America! The land of the free and the home of the brave, the world's custodian of chivalry, the champion of human rights and the defender of the oppressed—shall we permit our maidens fair to be torn from the hearthstone by the ruthless hand of destiny and chained to the plow? Shall we permit our faithful wives, whom we covenanted with God to cherish and protect, to be hurled from the home to the harvest field, and our mothers dear to be driven from the old arm chair to the cotton patch?

In rescuing our citizens from the forces of civilization, can we not apply to our fair Dixieland the rule of the "women and children first?"

There must be a readjustment of the wage scale of industry so that the women can be taken from the field or given a reasonable wage for her services. Perhaps the issue has never been fairly raised, but the Farmers' Union, with a membership of ten million, puts its organized forces squarely behind the issue and we now enter upon the docket of civilization the case of "The Woman in the Field" and demand an immediate trial.

RAILROADS APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

The Southern Railway Ask for Relief—President Wilson Directs Attention of Public to Their Needs.

The committee of railroad executives, headed by Mr. Frank Trumbull, representing thirty-five of the leading railroad systems of the nation, recently presented to President Wilson a memorandum briefly reviewing the difficulties now confronting the railroads of the country and asking for the cooperation of the governmental authorities and the public in supporting railroad credits and recognizing an emergency which requires that the railroads be given additional revenues.

The memorandum recites that the European war has resulted in general depression of business on the American continent and in the dislocation of credits at home and abroad. With revenues decreasing and interest rates increasing the transportation systems of the country face a most serious crisis and the memorandum is a strong presentation of the candle burning at both ends and the perils that must ultimately attend such a conflagration when the flames meet is apparent to all. In their general discussion the railroad representatives say in part: "By reason of legislation and regulation by the federal government and the forty-eight states acting independently of each other, as well as through the action of a strong public opinion, railroad expenses in recent years have vastly increased. No criticism is here made of the general theory of governmental regulation, but on the other hand, no ingenuity can relieve the carriers of expenses created thereby."

President Wilson, in transmitting the memorandum of the railroad presidents to the public, characterizes it as "a lucid statement of plain truth." The president recognizing the emergency as extraordinary, continuing, said in part:

"You ask me to call the attention of the country to the imperative need that railway credits be sustained and the railroads helped in every possible way, whether by private co-operative effort or by the action, wherever feasible of governmental agencies, and I am glad to do so because I think the need very real."

The conference was certainly a fortunate one for the nation and the president is to be congratulated for opening the gate to a new world of effort in which everyone may cooperate.

There are many important problems in our complex civilization that will yield to co-operation which will not lend themselves to arbitrary rulings of commissions and financing railroads is one of them. The man with the money is a factor that cannot be eliminated from any business transaction and the public is an interested party that should always be consulted and happily the president has invited all to participate in the solution of our railroad problems.

MARKETING WORLD'S GREATEST PROBLEM

WE ARE LONG ON PRODUCTION, SHORT ON DISTRIBUTION.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The economic distribution of farm products is today the world's greatest problem and the war, while it has brought its hardships, has clearly emphasized the importance of distribution as a factor in American agriculture and promises to give the farmers the co-operation of the government and the business men, the solution of their marketing problem. This result will, in a measure, compensate us for our war losses; for the business interests and government have been in the main assisting almost exclusively on the production side of agriculture. While the department of agriculture has been dumping tons of literature on the farmer, telling him how to produce, the farmer has been dumping tons of products in the nation's garbage can for want of a market.

The World Will Never Starve.
At no time since Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden have the inhabitants of this world suffered from lack of production, but some people have gone hungry from the day of creation to this good hour for the lack of proper distribution. Slight variations in production have forced a change in diet and one local fly has felt the pinch of want, while another surfeited, but the world as a whole has never been a land of plenty.

We now have less than one-tenth of the tillable land of the earth's surface under cultivation, and we not only have this surplus area to draw on but it is safe to estimate that in case of dire necessity one-half the earth's population could at the present time knock their living out of the moss of the forest, gather it from wild vines and draw it from streams. No one should imagine that the world will never starve.

The consumer has always feared that the producer would not supply him and his right has found expression on the statute books of our states and nations and the farmer has been urged to produce recklessly and without reference to a market, and regardless of the demands of the consumer.

Back to the Soil.
The city people have been urging each other to move back to the farm, but very few of them have moved. We welcome our city cousins back to the soil and this earth's surface contains 10,092,160,000 acres of tillable land where they can make a living by tilling the earth with a forked stick, but we do not need them so far as increasing production is concerned; we now have all the producers we can use. The city man has very erroneous ideas of agricultural conditions. The commonly accepted theory that we are short on production is all wrong. Our annual increase in production far exceeds that of our increase in population.

The World as a Farm.
Taking the world as one big farm, we find two billion acres of land in cultivation. Of this amount there is approximately 750,000,000 acres on the western and 1,200,000,000 acres on the eastern hemisphere, in cultivation. This estimate, of course, does not include grazing lands, forests, etc., where large quantities of meat are produced.

The world's annual crop approximates fifteen billion bushels of cereals, thirteen billion pounds of fibre and sixty-five million tons of meat. The average annual world crop for the past five years, compared with the previous five years, is as follows:

	Past Half Decade.	Previous Half Decade.
Crops—		
Corn (Bu.)	3,934,174,000	3,403,655,000
Wheat (Bu.)	3,522,769,000	3,257,526,000
Oats (Bu.)	4,120,017,000	3,508,315,000
Cotton (Bales)	19,863,800	17,541,200

The world shows an average increase in cereal production of 13 per cent during the past decade, compared with the previous five years, while the world's population shows an increase of only three per cent.

The gain in production far exceeds that of our increase in population, and it is safe to estimate that the farmer can easily increase production 25 per cent if a remunerative market can be found for the products. In textile fibres the world shows an increase during the past half decade in production of 15 per cent against a population increase of three per cent.

The people of this nation should address themselves to the subject of improved methods for distribution.

Over-production and crop mortgage have driven the farmer into various competitions with each other. The remedy lies in organization and in co-operation in marketing.

THE RURAL CHURCH

THE FARMERS THE CUSTODIANS OF THE NATION'S MORALITY.

Co-operation of Church, School and Press Essential to Community Building.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The church, the press and the school form a triple alliance of progress that guides the destiny of every community, state and nation. Without them civilization would wither and die and through them life may attain its greatest blessing, power and knowledge. The farmers of this nation are greatly indebted to this social triumvirate for their uplifting influence, and on behalf of the American playmen I want to thank those engaged in these high callings for their able and efficient service, and I shall offer to the press a series of articles on co-operation between these important influences and the farmers in the hope of increasing the efficiency of all by mutual understanding and organized effort. We will take up, first, the rural church.

The Farmers Are Great Church Builders.

The American farmer is the greatest church builder the world has ever known. He is the custodian of the nation's morality; upon his shoulders rests the ark of the covenant, and he is more responsive to religious influences than any other class of citizenship.

The farmers of this nation have built 120,000 churches at a cost of \$750,000,000, and the annual contribution of the nation toward all church institutions approximates \$300,000,000 per annum. The farmers of the United States build 12 churches for every 1000 people, and rural church communities on the farm are 25 per cent of the total membership of all churches in the country.

The farm is the power-house of all progress and the birthplace of all that is noble. The Garden of Eden was in the country and the man who would get close to God must first get close to nature.

The Functions of a Rural Church.
If the rural churches today are going to render a service which is in accordance with the demands of the times, there must be co-operation between the religious, social and economic life of the community. The church to attain its fullest measure of success must enrich the lives of the people in the community it serves; it must build character; develop thought and increase the efficiency of human life. It must serve the social, business and intellectual, as well as the spiritual and moral side of life. If religion does not make a man more capable, more useful and more just, what good is it? We want a practical religion, one we can live by and farm by, as well as die by.

Fewer and Better Churches.
Blessed is that rural community which has but one place of worship. While competition is the life of trade, it is death to the rural church and moral starvation to the community. Petty sectarianism is a scourge that blights the life, and the church prejudice saps the vitality, of many communities. An over-churching community is a crime against religion, a serious handicap to society and a useless tax upon agriculture.

While denominations are essential and church pride commendable, the high teaching of universal Christianity must prevail if the rural church is to fulfill its mission to agriculture. We frequently have three or four churches in a community which is not able to adequately support one. Small congregations attend services once a month and all fail to perform the religious functions of the community. The division of religious forces and the breaking into fragments of moral efforts is oftentimes little less than a calamity and defeats the very purpose they seek to promote.

The evils of too many churches can be minimized by co-operation. The social and economic life of a rural community are respective units and cannot be successfully divided by denominational lines, and the churches can only occupy this important field by co-operation and co-ordination.

The efficient country church will definitely serve its community by leading in all worthy efforts at community building, in uniting the people in all co-operative endeavors for the general welfare of the community and in arousing a real love for country life and loyalty to the country home and these results can only be successfully accomplished by the united effort of the press, the school, the church and organized farmers.

EUROPEAN WAR SHATTERS KING COTTON'S THRONE

FLEECY STAPLE MUST PAY RANSOM INTO THE COFFERS OF WAR.

Nation Rings With Cries of Stricken Industry.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

King Cotton has suffered more from the European war than any other agricultural product on the American continent. The shells of the belligerents have burst over his throne, frightening his subjects and shattering his markets, and, panic-stricken, the nation cries out "God save the king!"

People from every walk of life have contributed their mite toward rescue work. Society has danced before the king; mildy has decreed that the family wardrobe shall contain only cotton goods; the press has pleaded with the public to "buy a bale"; bankers have been formulating holding plans; congress and legislative bodies have deliberated over relief measures; statesmen and writers have grown eloquent expounding the inalienable rights of "His Majesty" and presenting schemes for preserving the financial integrity of the stricken staple, but the sword of Europe has proved mightier than the pen of America in fixing value upon this product of the sunny south. Prices have been bayoneted, values riddled and markets deluged by the battling hosts of the eastern hemisphere until the American farmer has suffered a war loss of \$400,000,000, and a bale of cotton brave enough to enter a European port must pay a ransom of half its value or go to prison until the war is over. Hope of the Future Lies in Co-operation.

The Farmers' Union, through the columns of the press, wants to thank the American people for the friendly sympathy and assistance given the cotton farmer in the hour of his distress and to direct attention to co-operative methods necessary to permanently assist the marketing of all farm products.

The present emergency presents as grave a situation as ever confronted the American farmer and from the viewpoint of the producer, would seem to justify extraordinary relief measures, even to the point of bending the constitution and straining business rules in order to lift a portion of the burden off the backs of the farmer, for unless something is done to check the invasion of the war forces upon the cotton fields, the pathway of the European pestilence on this continent will be strewn with mortgaged homes and famine and poverty will stalk over the southland, filling the highways of industry with refugees and the bankruptcy court with prisoners.

All calamities teach us lessons and the present crisis serves to illuminate the frailties of our marketing methods and the weakness of our credit system, and out of the financial anguish and travail of the cotton farmer will come a volume of discussion and a mass of suggestions and finally a solution of this, the biggest problem in the economic life of America, if, indeed, we have not already laid the foundation for at least temporary relief.

More Pharaohs Needed in Agriculture.
Farm products have no credit and perhaps can never have on a permanent and satisfactory basis unless we build warehouses, cold storage plants, elevators, etc., for without storage and credit facilities, the south is compelled to dump its crop on the market at harvest time. The Farmers' Union in the cotton producing states have for the past ten years persistently advocated the construction of storage facilities. We have built during this period 2,000 warehouses with a capacity of approximately 4,000,000 bales and looking backward the results would seem encouraging, but looking forward, we are able to house less than one-third of the crop and warehouses without a credit system lose 90 per cent of their usefulness. The problem is a gigantic one—too great for the farmer to solve unaided. He must have the assistance of the banker, the merchant and the government.

In production we have reached the high water mark of perfection in the world's history, but our marketing methods are most primitive. In the dawn of history we find agriculture plowing with a forked stick, but with a system of warehouses under governmental supervision that made the Egyptians the marvel of civilization, for who has not admired the vision of Pharaoh for storing the surplus until demanded by the consumer, but in this age we have too many Pharaohs who dream and not enough Pharaohs who build.

THE PATRIOTIC DOLLAR

CONGRESS DECREES DOLLARS INDULGING IN LUXURIES MUST FIRST SALUTE THE FLAG

War Revenue Tax of \$100,000,000 Levied—Beer Bears Brunt of Burden.

Congress has levied a war tax of \$100,000,000 to offset a similar amount of loss on import revenue due to the European disturbances and of this amount beer is the heaviest contributor, having been assessed approximately \$50,000,000; a stamp tax on negotiable instruments, it is estimated, will yield \$31,000,000; a tax on the capital stock of banks of \$4,300,000 and a tax on tobacco, perfumes, theater tickets, etc., makes the remainder.

Congress has decreed that the brewer, the banker and the investor must shoulder the market and march to the front; that milder who would add to her beauty must first tip Uncle Sam, and a dollar that seeks pleasure, must first salute the flag; that Pleasure and Profit—the twin heroes of many wars—shall fight the nation's battles and by an ingeniously arranged schedule of taxation congress has shifted the war budget from the shoulders of Necessity to those of Choice and Gain, touching in its various ramifications almost every line of business.

All hail the dollar that bleeds for its country; that bares its breast to the fortunes of war and risks its life to preserve the stability and integrity of the nation's credit.

The market place has always been a favorite stand for war revenue collectors. The trader is a great financial patriot. His dollar is the first to rally around the star-spangled banner and the last to hear the ood of the dove of peace. He is called upon to

share in the war and the cost of the war. His heart with the color of the realm. Men can neither be free nor brave without food and ammunition, and money is as important a factor in war as blood. Many monuments have been erected in honor of heroes slain in battles, poems have been written glorifying their noble deeds, and the nation honors its soldiers while they live and places a monument upon their graves when they die, but very little has been said of the dollar that bears the burdens of war.

Honor to the Dollar that Bears the Burdens of War.

All honor to the dollar that answers the call to arms and, when the battle is over, bandages the wounds of stricken soldiers, lays a wreath upon the graves of fallen heroes and cares for the widows and orphans.

All honor to the industries that bend their backs under the burdens of war; lift the weight from the shoulders of the poor and build a bulwark around the nation's credit.

All honor to those who contribute to the necessities and administer to the comforts of the boys who are marching; cool the fever of afflicted soldiers and kneel with the cross beside dying heroes.

A dollar may fight its competitor in business, industries may struggle for supremacy in trade and occupations may vie each other with envy or suspicion, but when the bugle calls they bury strife and rally around the flag, companions and friends, mess mates and chums, all fighting for one flag, one cause and one country.

The luxuries in life have always been the great burden-bearers in government. We will mention a few of them giving the annual contributions to the nation's treasury: Liquor, \$350,000,000; tobacco, \$103,000,000; sugar, \$54,000,000; silks, \$15,500,000; diamonds, \$3,837,000; millinery, \$2,479,000; furs, \$2,024,000 and automobiles, \$870,000. We collect \$665,000,000 of internal and custom revenue annually and \$450,000,000 of this amount classifies as luxuries, and to this amount we should add the \$100,000,000 war tax now levied.

The war tax is immediately effective. Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! the industries are marching \$100,000,000 strong and beneath the starry flag they will fill the treasury again while they shout "Hurrah for Uncle Sam!"

In every field of human activity the demand for more competent men and women is growing every day. Especially so in agriculture.

Home pride is a mighty valuable asset, and the farmer who has none is carrying a heavy handicap on the road to success.

Work is the salve that heals the wounded heart.