

Former Governor Lowden, of Illinois, Tells Farming Truths

SAYS EITHER THROUGH DESIGN OR IGNORANCE FARM PROBLEM IS MISREPRESENTED

(Special to The Enterprise)

By EDWARD PERCY HOWARD

Bearding the financial lion to his den, Ex-governor Frank O. Lowden, rich farmer of Illinois, who declined to run for the vice presidency on the Coolidge ticket, recently invaded the big city of New York and made a few pat statements relative to the situation of the farmer in this country that made the city folks forget the cabarets for a minute and realize that if the city interests are determined to exploit the farmer, then the city folks will have to pay the price.

The former governor literally tore the hide off the metropolitan newspapers, explaining in moderate but clearly understandable language that either through ignorance or design the entire farm problem is misrepresented in the great metropolitan centers.

"Our agriculture is decaying," said Governor Lowden. "Farm bankruptcies in recent years have increased more than 600 per cent. According to the Department of Agriculture the farmer could have obtained a larger income since 1920 if he had hired himself as a farm hand."

The former governor said that in considerable portions of the country farms can not be sold today for the value of the improvements the farmers have installed. The new fence has gone, he said. Old barns, old fences, old houses going to ruin for lack of paint are to be found on every hand. "And yet despite these facts, which are gathered from the records," he said, "there has been a persistent effort during all these years of farm distress to minimize the seriousness of the agricultural situation."

Interviews from prominent financiers, articles in magazines—one going so far, I recall, as to characterize the agricultural depression as a myth—have appeared with astonishing regularity during all this time, denying there has been a serious situation on the farm, or announcing confidently that the farmer's troubles were over and that his future was assured.

False Facts

The manner in which the city public is misled by the city newspapers was clearly brought to the front.

"If the price of some major farm product, as cotton, for instance, goes up, as it did the year before last on account of the boll weevil," Governor Lowden explained "that abnormally high price has been employed to reconstruct the modern magical index number, so as to show the purchasing power of the farmer has been restored. And this despite the fact that during this very time yield was so low outside of the two States of North Carolina and Texas that the cotton farmers of the South found themselves in as desperate a situation as they ever faced."

Before he finished Governor Lowden rather wondered if even so the boll weevil is not the farmers' friend, if the drought should not be welcomed in place of the rain drop. Index numbers, he declared, are totally misleading when applied to agriculture. "Whatever may be the popular opinion in the cities," he said, "the ablest farm economists generally agree that the farm situation is desperate. It will take twenty years to adjust the difference between what the farmer has to pay for what he buys and what he gets for what he sells if nothing is consciously done to relieve the situation. At the end of that time, they tell us, there will be another maladjustment of prices, but this time in favor of the farmer, with a great and unwholesome increase in the cost of living to the so-called consuming classes, with its attendant distress."

Next, Mr. Lowden dissected the fallacious reasoning of the city folks when it comes to judging the farm problem from their economic standards. According to the classical economists of a century ago, he explained and our political economy of today is based largely on the teachings—the competitive principle is the all powerful and controlling factor in the business world. They deducted from this the "iron law of wages" under which the field wages never could rise above point of bare subsistence. Under the law labor was doomed forever to a life little above that of the beasts of the field.

Tells Farm Truths



Former Gov. Frank O. Lowden of Ill. bearded capital and big city publishers in their den to tell them the truth about the deplorable conditions in agriculture today. "Co-operative Marketing is the only solution," he says.

THE CURE

Here is Governor Lowden's cure for the existing ills of agriculture.

"Farmers co-operative marketing association—there is no other way out. I can foresee the day, I think, when everything produced upon the farm will be marketed by the farmers themselves through an organization of their own creation. I like to think of the time when the representatives of all these great farmers organizations shall meet in a congress once a year and shall there work out a program for the future, just as other industries now meet annually for the purpose of forming an intelligent and cooperative program for the year."

At such a meeting, if it shall appear that one branch of agriculture is expanding more rapidly than conditions warrant, steps will be taken to restore the balance as betwixt, just as other industries now do in the farm.

In this way we shall achieve a balanced agriculture. Even more desirable, however, we shall restore the proper balance between agriculture—the greatest of all industries—and other business activities in this organized world in which we find ourselves. There can be no enduring prosperity unless all the principal industries which go to make up the commercial world, keeping step with one another, shall march abreast.

"They now see that the 'iron law of wages' has gone into the discard," said Gov. Lowden. "Former President Hadley of Yale, one of the foremost economists of his time, says: 'Those of us who were brought up on the old fashioned text books of political economy can hardly conceive how small a part of the prices or wages or rents of the world have actually been determined by competition.' We are coming to learn that unrestricted competition is not clothed with the virtues it once thought to possess. Unrestricted competition is a form of warfare. Whether among the nations of the world for larger armaments, or among the producers of useful commodities it has been found to entail losses to society far beyond the benefits it has conferred."

High Prices, No Crops

Illustrating his point Governor Lowden called attention to the recent statement of the Department of Agriculture on the estimated value of farm crops for last year, which was heralded in the cities as another proof that the farmer had come into his own, for it was found that the total value of farm crops for the year was three quarters of a billion dollars in excess of the value of the crops of the year before. Welcome news—but the corn crop was twenty per cent smaller than the crop of the preceding year. The total value, however, exceeded that of the preceding year by two hundred million dollars. The quality of the crop was far below that of the preceding year.

"And yet under a marketing system, which it is claimed is one of the most noteworthy achievements of this commercial age, the smaller crop of

inferior corn was worth more in the market than the large and superior crop of the year before."

Then Governor Lowden proceeded to show how the farmer is caught on the horns of his marketing dilemma.

"The cause of this lesser and inferior crop was a cold, wet summer," he said. "It was a summer disastrous for corn, but very favorable for the growth of grasses. There was, therefore, an increase in the production of milk with the result that something like a hundred million pounds more of butter was produced in 1924 than in the year before. This was only 5 per cent of the total annual production of butter, but it created a surplus of two and a half per cent, and this resulted in a decrease in the price of butter from twenty to twenty-five per cent. And the price of butter, let it be remembered, largely controls the price of all dairy products."

Same Juggling in Cotton

"Last summer the cotton crop, particularly in the southwest, was suffering severely for lack of rain. And then one day the heavens opened and the rain descended. As a result, the Government, which before had estimated the crop at 12,400,000 bales, increased the estimate to 13,000,000 bales. This was an increase of less than 5 per cent in the yield. And yet, because of this estimated increase the price declined in the market 20 per cent. This meant that the total crop of the larger estimate was worth less in the market by \$300,000,000 than the crop by the lesser estimate."

"Now there is no music sweeter to my ears than the patter of raindrops upon the roof, breaking a drought in the summer time, and yet, to save my life, I can not tell whether that rain is a sweet and fragrant bearer of a benefit or bankruptcy. When the hot summer winds scorch the fields I do not know whether to pray for rain or to thank the Almighty for the unbroken drought."

"Something is wrong with our methods of marketing when the aggregate money value of a larger crop of prime necessity is smaller than the value of a smaller crop."

In South Carolina This Week

Mr. Elbert S. Peel, secretary of the county unit of the Federal land bank in South Carolina this week on business in connection with the association.

At Eden House Monday

Messames Carrie B. Williams, L. C. Bennett, J. W. Manning and Elbert Peel and Mr. Julius S. Peel spent Monday at Eden House.

Beaver Dam Local And Personal News

Mr. and Mrs. John Itaynor and family, of near Oxford, spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Raynor.

Mrs. J. E. Rogers spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. H. A. Cullipher.

Mrs. E. H. Ray spent Sunday with Mrs. W. H. Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. Pope Williams, of near Oxford, spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bourgeois.

Many of the local people have been attending the revival in Williamston.

Mr. M. G. Peele went to Williamston Tuesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Billie Cullipher spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Onley Cowan in Williamston.

Agent Increases Milk Demand in Goldsboro

The demand for milk in Goldsboro has been decidedly increased as a result of the recent campaign by the home demonstration agent to encourage milk drinking. Some milk now has to be shipped in each day to supply the increased demand.

Notice of a Special Tax Election July 14th, 1925, in Smithwick District, Martin County, North Carolina.

In compliance with the wishes of a petition signed by a necessary number of qualified voters of Smithwick school district, which was duly approved by the Board of Education of Martin County and in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the new school code of 1923.

Notice is hereby given that the elec-

Washington Store Gives Special Values

Elsewhere in this paper you will find an ad of J. K. Hoyt, style headquarters in Washington, which will give you an idea of the real values that can be found in that store for the midsummer wardrobe of either man or woman.

Dresses of linen, voile, English broadcloth, georgette and silk are all going at special prices.

A full line of men's linen suits have just arrived and no matter what your size, John Keis Hoyt, jr., can fit you with one of these stylish midsummer suits.

A special election will be held in the old Smithwick schoolhouse of Smithwick school district, on the 14th day of July, 1925, in said Smithwick School district, which is described hereinafter for the purpose of ascertaining the will of the qualified voters of said district as to whether a majority of such voters favor the levying and collecting annually, of a special tax with which to supplement the funds for six months public school appropriated by the board of education, and annexation of Smithwick School District to Jamesville school district, the rate of said special tax not to exceed a maximum of 30 cents on the \$100 valuation of all property, real and personal, within the bounds of the districts, described as follows:

Beginning at Gardners Creek bridge running on the creek @ W. W. Robertson's mill; thence up the mill pond to Cypress Branch; thence along C. C. Keys' line to the Tarleton Road, thence along said road to Deep Run; thence down Deep Run to Bulberry Branch; thence up Mulberry Branch to the Jones Road; thence up said road to the colored Baptist church, known as St. James; thence a straight line to Wiltz Siding; thence along said road to the Jamesville and Williamston road; thence along the old boundaries to Devils Gut, "Swains Landing," thence across Devils Gut to Kaders Eddy; thence down Roanoke River to Jamesville School District line; thence along said line to Gardners Bridge, the beginning.

At said election, those who are in favor of the levy and collection annually of a special tax of not more than 30 cents on the \$100 valuation and the annexation of Smithwick school district to Jamesville school district shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words, "For local tax," and those who oppose the levy and collection annually of a special tax of not more than 30 cents on the \$100 valuation and annexation of Smithwick school district to Jamesville school district shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words "Against a local tax."

That Mr. J. A. Gardner be and he is hereby appointed registrar, and Mr. W. C. Griffin and Mr. Clyde Wil-

liams are hereby appointed poll holders for said election.

That a new registration is hereby ordered and that the registration books will be open for such purposes beginning with the 3rd day of June, 1925, and will continue open until the

4th day of July, 1925. The registrar will be at his residence during the above dates for the purpose of registering all those qualified to vote in said district.

Done this 1st of June, 1925, by order of the board of county com-

missioners of Martin County.

By HENRY C. GREEN, Chairman.

Attest: J. SAM GETSINGER, register of deeds and ex-officio clerk to board of county commissioners. je2 4tw



Mid Summer Dresses

A SPECIAL PURCHASE OF VOILES.

LINENS, AND SILKS AT

\$3.95-\$6.95-\$9.95

Wonderful Styles and all fast Colors

MENS LINEN SUITS

COOL AND COMFORTABLE

Extra trousers to match, if you wish them

either white or tan; all pre-shrunk.

\$11.75-\$12.50-\$14.95-\$16.50

SUMMER UNDERWEAR

English broadcloth \$1.75

Soisette \$1.50

Fancy striped \$1.95



J. K. HOYT

WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

With All Its Power
The Money Saving SALE
 AT THE
Bargain Land
STARTING
Saturday A. M.
It's Important To You

If It Is Printed We Can Do It



Nuff Sed



The Enterprise Williamston, N. C.

Nassef's Dept. Store
 Williamston :: North Carolina