

Farmers Skeptical of New Legislation But They Are Willing To Be Convinced

Writer Finds Some Optimistic, Others With Gloomy Outlook, And Third Type Who Are Still Hopeful

(Mrs. Prescott is a nationally known writer on the human interest side of the farm problem.)

By CHARLOTTE H. PRESCOTT
Central Press Correspondent

SIoux CITY, Ia.—A thousand fluffy yellow chicks were peeping around the barn door at John Martin's place as I drove up. John's 160-acre farm lies in a broad hillland between the rolling hills of South Dakota. The alfalfa field I'd just passed belong-

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ed to him. It looked green and fresh in spite of the drought. "That's a money crop, isn't it, John?" I inquired.

"You bet," he grinned. He tossed two more handfuls into the warm dark of the chickenhouse, then walked gingerly down the boards, which slatted him until four years ago. He took up farming then.

Outlook Bright

"I've got two crops already," he went on. "See, those stacks over there?" Great stacks, 12 or 15 of them, were scattered over the alfalfa field. "I've actually got 175 acres in alfalfa. With any rain at all, I expect to get two more cuttings, and alfalfa's going to bring a good price this fall."

"You think things are looking up for the farmer, then?" I asked the right ideas. He actually thought that people have been saying for years should be done. When you have too much of a thing, cut down the production and you'll bring up the price. Big companies recognize this fact. The steel corporation doesn't manufacture steel when it isn't needed. No, it lays off men and shuts up shops until there is a demand.

"But the farmer, working by himself, has made a religion of raising all he could on every acre. Now that the farmers are getting organized, though, through various agencies, with a brilliant man like Henry Wallace (secretary of agriculture) to tell them what to do, they will get results."

Pull With Wallace

"Are the farmers going to cooperate with Wallace? Of course they are—nine out of 10 of them anyway. Why not? Suppose I have 100 acres of wheat land and the Government tells me that I'll agree not to plant 20 acres, I'll guarantee me the current world market price for my wheat plus a bonus for cutting my acreage. I'll accept the offer, won't I? Let me know how wheat's going up all ready—nearly trebled in price—and farm land's going up, too. If I have 100 acres of wheat land, I can't sell it for \$1 a bushel. My land is worth \$200. The company that holds the mortgage on my farm sent me a circular letter this

spring telling me not to worry and not to sell the any-where-into-sell. They didn't write that way last year."

Not Hopeful

"No," she told me, "we don't feel encouraged by the recent 'ambush' act. Of course the Democrats had to do something after promising so much, but the farmers aren't just a pacified handout to dissatisfied farmers. For one thing, we don't think it's wise to let a few conservative farmers say they would be told by any county agent or legislator who was sent. Even if there are millions of unemployed in this country, Almighty God has taken care of most of the surplus for this year."

"The recent rise in the price of farm commodities is helping the farmer who has caused it, but not the farmer. Nearly all farm commodities except cream, passed out of the hands of the farmer before the rise. Yet farmers, whose purchasing power is almost nil, will not get results of the things they buy—clothing and foodstuffs."

"The conditions on the farm seem to now position now that ever."

Tom Wolt is an officer in the Farmers' Holiday Association. The old brick homestead in which he lives and his 640-acre farm, rich with timber land, belonged to his father before him. He is a farmer by birth and training, a member of the board of directors of the Farmers' Holiday Association.

How are you farmers feeling now, Tom? I asked him.

He smiled. "Well, those of us who have been able to hold onto some of our grain are feeling pretty good. I've gone up from 10 cents to 40 cents, and wheat from 27 cents to 70 cents. We don't make some money. But the great majority of farmers had to sell before the rise, so it isn't worth much good. Of course, if the prices will hold up until after the new crop comes in, it'll be fine."

"What do you think caused the rise?" I inquired.

"A combination of things: The drought, inflation and a general better feeling. The Farm Relief Act isn't in operation yet, so it hasn't had a direct effect, but a lot of farmers feel encouraged because something is being done for them. They are encouraged, too, because they feel pretty sure that they are going to be allowed to keep their farms. Mortgage foreclosures have been checked and the Government is going to help refinance farm loans."

Cutting Crops Feared

"How do we like the blocment plan?" I asked. "I think it is a dangerous one. Too many disasters can affect crops to risk cutting them down deliberately. You see what's happened to small grains this year. The same thing will happen to our corn. We don't get a rain pretty soon. Why wouldn't it be better to plant the corn acreage, and then store the surplus? Secretary Wallace was off the market, in government warehouses? Then we'd have a reserve which could be used in case of famine."

"But even though we dirt farmers aren't getting exactly what we want in the way of legislation, we're going to give Roosevelt and Wilson a chance. Play along with them and see what happens. I've talked to a lot of the boys, and they all feel the same way."

"It's my guess that Tom comes nearer than either Mrs. Brown or John Martin toward seeing the feeling of the middlewestern farmer toward the new farm legislation. He's skeptical but he is willing to be convinced."

Fresh times immemorial there has been a popular belief that the last object seen by a person when dying leaves a permanent image in the eyes of the corpse. This is untrue.

Church News

First Baptist Church
Worship at 10:30 A. M. Rev. L. E. Jackson, A. Minister. Church school classes for 10:30-11:30 A. M. and 7:30-8:30 P. M. 1933-34 Session with the First Baptist Church for the year ending July 31. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th.

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Worship at 10:30 A. M. Rev. J. H. Foster, Minister. Church school classes for 10:30-11:30 A. M. and 7:30-8:30 P. M. 1933-34 Session with the First Methodist Episcopal Church for the year ending July 31. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th.

St. James Episcopal Church
Worship at 10:30 A. M. Rev. J. H. Foster, Minister. Church school classes for 10:30-11:30 A. M. and 7:30-8:30 P. M. 1933-34 Session with the St. James Episcopal Church for the year ending July 31. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th.

Holy Name Catholic Church
Worship at 10:30 A. M. Rev. James W. Collier, Pastor. Church school classes for 10:30-11:30 A. M. and 7:30-8:30 P. M. 1933-34 Session with the Holy Name Catholic Church for the year ending July 31. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th.

United Presbyterian Church
Worship at 10:30 A. M. Rev. J. H. Foster, Minister. Church school classes for 10:30-11:30 A. M. and 7:30-8:30 P. M. 1933-34 Session with the United Presbyterian Church for the year ending July 31. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th.

Embury Methodist Church
Worship at 10:30 A. M. Rev. J. H. Foster, Minister. Church school classes for 10:30-11:30 A. M. and 7:30-8:30 P. M. 1933-34 Session with the Embury Methodist Church for the year ending July 31. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th. The M. E. Church for July 10th.

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Hormel
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Hellman's... pint jar 39c
Marmalade - 1/2 lb. 21c
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Cracker Jack . . . pkg. 5c
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Royal . . . Med. can 27c
Baking Powder
LAYER CAKE . . . 29c
Her Grace Society
Salted Peanuts . . . lb. 10c
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Crabber
Cracker Sale . . . 2 lbs. 19c
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Fruit Salad . . . 20c
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