

The Kent News

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1931

FARMERS NOT INSOLVENT

Nobody questions the sincerity or the good intent of those who, in public speech or in printed editorials and articles, deplore the depressed condition of agriculture and demand relief. But isn't there danger that these expressions of sympathy and demands for relief, accompanied as they always are by declarations that unless "something is done about it right away" bankruptcy is inevitable will react against the farmers and do them more harm than any conceivable "relief" could do them good?

From many sections of the country come reports that farmers are finding difficulty in renewing their loans or in making new loans to carry their industry. Is it surprising that this should be the case in view of the fact that for ten years past it has been dinned into the ears of the public, bankers and loan companies included, that nobody can make any money farming, that year after year agricultural operations have been carried on at a loss?

Suppose some member of Congress should make a campaign declaring in all his speeches that all the merchants in his district were on the verge of bankruptcy, that for years they had been doing business at a loss and were certain to fail soon unless they could have help from the government. And suppose all the newspapers in the district should back up the Congressman in such a campaign. In the first place, isn't it certain that the merchants would indignantly protest that such a campaign was ruining their credit and hurting their business? And in the second place, in case the campaign were continued, isn't it certain that it would ruin the credit and hurt the business of the merchants?

But that is precisely what has been happening to the farmers all over America for ten years. Is it any wonder the price of farm lands is low. Who would want to buy a farm when told in advance he can't make a living on it? Is it any wonder bankers and loan companies hesitate to lend money to farmers in the face of nation-wide propaganda that farmers are headed for bankruptcy?

It is true that prices for farm products are on a low scale this year and everybody regrets it. But other commodities also are on a low scale. And the truth is that agriculture right now is in better condition than any other major industry in the United States. In support of that statement here is a statement from a Federal Farm Loan Bureau report: "On December 31, 1930, 89 per cent of the number and 84 per cent of the amount of the total outstanding loans of 12 Federal Land Banks had no delinquent installments. On the same date, 89 per cent of the number and 87 per cent of the amount of outstanding loans of 48 operating Joint Stock Land Banks combined had no delinquent installments. This record of the borrowers of the Farm Loan System in spite of the hardships suffered by agriculture justifies confidence in the great body of farmers of the country and refutes reports circulated in recent years tending to create the impression that as a class they are insolvent."

President Hoover recently took occasion to rebuke unreasonable short selling on the grain exchange as tending to depress prices. Might it not be a good idea for all of us to not be playing the "bear" on agriculture and give the farmer credit for being able to manage his own business at least as successfully as other people on the average manage theirs?—Evening Journal.

UNVEIL TABLET AT OLD McFADDEN MILL

The Samuel Turbutt Wright Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled a tablet Saturday marking the Old McFadden Mill, a well-known Queen Anne's county landmark, located on the State highway from Old Dudley's to Crumpton. The marker is two mill stones taken from the Old Mill, with a tablet inscribed with the history of the Old Mill. Miss Ella Roberts, chairman of the committee and a granddaughter of the late Col. Lemuel Roberts, who was the owner of the Old Mill property, made the presentation address. Mrs. Austin F. Roberts, regent of the chapter and the wife of a grandson of Colonel Roberts, accepted the gift in the name of the chapter.

Ancient Jewish Custom
A sabbatical year was the one year in seven when all land of the ancient Jews was supposed to be fallow for 12 months. It is now used for a missionary's furlough, or a year of vacation from a profession.

Cattle Branding Old
A little delving into history convinces one that the branding of live stock with hot irons is probably as old as the industry itself. For instance, British histories make direct references to the branding of cattle and horses as early as the Eighth century.

LAZY SQUIRRELS ARE MILD WINTER SIGN

Kent countians are due for a comparatively mild winter, according to woodmen of this section. Many say squirrels this fall are showing less activity than at any time in recent years.

Apparently they are storing up very few nuts for winter, which means, according to veteran long-distance weather prophets, that the animals do not expect much extremely cold weather.

Last year there was very little activity by squirrels, and an exceptionally light winter prevailed. Several years ago prior to an extremely long and severe winter season squirrels are said to have stored up plentiful supplies of food.

Famous Physicians
The Greek god of healing, Asclepius, was a descendant of the Egyptian one, Imhotep, and the latter can be traced back to a real personality, that of a learned physician who lived about 3000 B. C.

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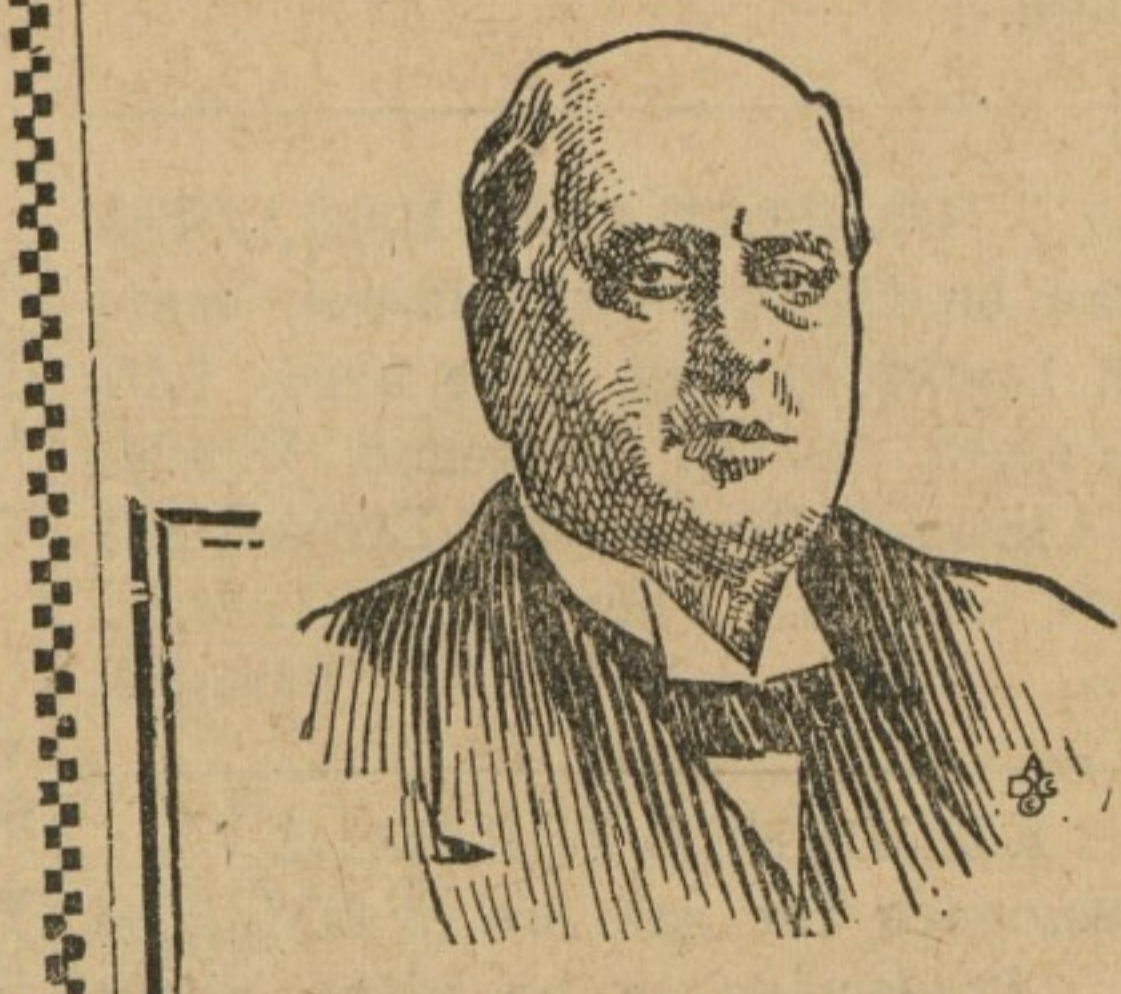
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