

consumers' organs by the establishment of regular business channels and long-term contracts.

(iv) These efforts of agricultural and consumers co-operative organizations should be encouraged and furthered by the creation of a committee representing national and international co-operative organizations of agriculturists and of consumers—a committee which should be entrusted with the establishment of a programme of research and documentation, as well as with the task of elucidating the lessons taught by past experience, with a view to bringing about new achievements.

2. *Agricultural Credit.*—(to be continued).

(From Journal of Ministry of Agriculture, Vol. 34 No. 4, July 27).

AGRICULTURE: THE NATION'S BUSINESS

The title, Agriculture: the Nation's Business, may be challenged. It implies that agriculture, more than all other lines of endeavour, is of particular concern to the whole nation. There are those who think this claim is presumptuous. There are those who are prone to suggest that the farmer demands privileges far beyond those enjoyed by other workers whose task is equally difficult and whose product is equally valuable. The facts, however, justify the claim that the farmer's problem because of the magnitude of his business and because of the potent influence which it has on the other industries, has an importance greater than that of any other single industry.

The farmer is peculiarly the victim—as well as the occasional beneficiary—of forces beyond his control. He is the child of fortune—good or bad. He is the passenger in a boat of which he controls neither oars nor rudder. This condition is due in part to the nature of the industry, in part to the farmer's failure to develop his own power.

Under prevailing practice, the farmer sells his product on a market over which he has no control. He purchases his supplies on the same kind of market. With few exceptions—and those are of

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Legislation will not cure the fundamental difficulty of the farmer's position. He himself by his own efforts must work the cure. Certain legislation has helped and will help to clear the way for effective measures of selfhelp. The mere machinery created by legislation will not function unless the power of intelligent direction and co-operation is applied.

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4 No. 4, July 27).

The real solution must rest on the transformation of the farmer as a class from mere tiller of the soil into a business man, fitted and empowered to control his own industry as other business men control theirs—plus the realization on the part of those not engaged in agriculture that the farmer is a most essential part of our economic organization and is entitled to the treatment of an equal.

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The farmer must have a greater control over the marketing of his own products, a control approaching at least that which is exercised by producers of other commodities over the marketing of their products. This is a difficult task.

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Wise, intelligent co-operation between farmers and men in other lines of industry—all business men—will extend and strengthen the power of the farmer to help himself. (*Country Gentleman*—U. S. A.) reproduced.

(From Journal of Jamaica Agricultural Society—June 1927.)

HOW THE DUTCHMAN LIVES.

BY T. J. MANSHOLT, THE HAGUE.

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In his interesting book published seventeen years ago, Mr. Robertson Scott called us "Free farmers in a Free State." This characterisation of our farmers is still absolutely correct.

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As to the land, in more than half of the country, from day to day, from year to year, from century to century, our farmers have had of course to fight against water. Nearly 35 per cent of the surface of our country is alluvial. This explains the great fertility.