ASKS CAPITAL TO AID FARMERS

Myron T. Herrick Advocates European System of Rural Credits.

OPERATION IS NOT INTRICATE

American Agriculturist Spends \$250,-000,000 Yearly For Interest, Which Would Not Be the Case if He Were Able to Enjoy the Benefits of the System-Life Insurance and Credits.

Myron T. Herrick, United States ambassador, obtained leave of absence from his post at Paris mainly to urge before the recent convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents in New York the adoption of a financial plan for the relief of the farmer, who is now paying about \$250,-000,000 in interest. He told the insurance men that the psychological moment has arrived for the adaptation of a plan from the European system for financing rural credits in this country. In this connection the ambassador suggested the creation of a life insurance plan to cover the indebtedness in the event of the death of the borrower.

"This subject of agricultural credits," he said, "while of great magnitude, is really, after all, not intricate. The operation of the Credit Foncier, the Landschaften, the Raiffeisen and hundreds of kindred institutions for land and personal credit so eminently successful and beneficial in their results in Europe can be very easily explained. It is simply an application of the story of the bundle of sticks tied together-singly, easily broken; together, able to withstand any pressure.

"Villages, municipalities, cities in America are really a fungous growth on the country. They are the natural out-growth of the fertility of the soil. They are dependent upon it for life,

The Credit of the Village.

"The village, in order to maintain schools, make streets, build waterworks and lighting plants and other municipal utilities, pledges the united credit of the municipality, the security extending over long periods. This is done by aid of legislation, which also provides restrictions as to the amount of the loan, etc. In other words, it is a financial 'setup' created by legislative authority, and the result is magical in

"As soon as this security is created by uniting the credit of the municipality it becomes cosmopolitan in its nature. Instead of depending on the home market it has become current security in any money center of the United States at a low rate of interest.

"Were it not for this legal authorization of the arrangement it would depend on the local market and neces sarily little or no improvement could take place, or at least it would be slow. cumbersome and expensive. Inconsistent as it may seem, the result is that that which is an artificial growth on the country has a broad and secure market, while the country-the great country itself, which produces and is re lages and the municipalities and the cities-has a local and restricted market and insufficient capital to promote its legitimate advancement.

Every year the farmer is spending something like \$250,000,000 more for interest than would be the case if he were able to enjoy the benefits of this system. The sum which he expends in interest should be applied to the development of the country. It has been estimated by good authority that he needs immediately for legitimate development of the soil more than \$2,000,

"It only needs the application of the alert minds of the Americans to work out and adapt these systems, for the psychological moment has arrived when it is necessary for it to be done

Will Unlock Vast Capital.

"There are large accumulations of capital which are now restricted to local communities for investment, being permitted to be applied only to munic ipal bonds and securities of that class. aside from local leans. When this se curity is created and put into the same category this vast capital will then be

unlocked for this investment, "In the creation of rural securities I have considered with especial interest the embodiment of a life insurance plan. It would undoubtedly be of great value to have the debenture, or security, accompanied by such a policy, which would insure the liquidation of the indebtedness in case of the death

of the borrower. "This is the usual practice where land and buildings are mortgaged. A fire insurance policy accompanies the mortgage and becomes a part of the bond security. In case of the maturity of the policy by fire the money is to be paid to the holder thereof 'as his in-

terest may appear.' "The introduction of the life insuronce policy in agricultural credits is undoubtedly a sound economic proposition. Furthermore, it would give the rural community, which is almost a virgin field for life insurance, an understanding of the value of life insurance. There has just been created in France a commission to draft a report on agricultural insurance. This is just along this line. The life insurance policy would also be an excellent accompaniment for the security of the personal credit societies"

SUBURBAN TRUCK CARDENING TO BE A RESULT OF PARCEL POST

Representative Tells How Farmers' Profits Are Made Greater.

CONDITION that allows the farmers of the country to get but \$6,000,000 for what finally sold to the consumers for about \$13,000,000 is directly attacked by the new parcel post service. As to the manner in which farm profits are increased and prices to consumers reduced by the service, Representative David J. Lewis of Maryland has given an interesting review, in part as fol-

"The mere articulation of the farm and countryside with the town and railways by the postal van will be of very great social importance. It will lead to a new industry-the suburban gardenor. He will be able to send his shipments to his patrons direct at cost of service, and the economic barrier of an individual transportation system is removed. Four acres and independence has been a dream of the past. It is apparent that it may become a fact through the postal van. And what a fact! Shifting the unwholesome tendency of population to the nickelodeon civilization of the cities back to the country. As the president has stated, the high cost of living was bound up in this postal legislation. Two dozen eggs, a dressed fowl, three pounds of butter, a like amount of country sausage, a country cured ham and a half bushel of apples sold recently at a farm near Washington at \$2.85, but when they got to the consumer the cost was transportation rights and the means ral districts. have been provided by which the prudent and husbanding spirit of the workers of our country can give themselves a measure of relief.

"There is considerable objection to the parcel post in this country. It comes from men who make their objections with an earnestness and spirit that should cause one to halt and consider. I mean the local merchants. They ask 'Why make the limit from four to eleven pounds in weight? Is not this limit obviously designed to be just large enough to get his patron away from him to the mail order house and yet so small as to exclude the local merchant, since he commonly ships in larger weights? This objection was largely overcome with the substitution of the zone system for the flat rate proposition. The rates should not create unnatural markets by ignoring distance. The flat rate idea represents a misapplication of the 'principle of negligible costs' in rate making. It is rightly applied to letters, because the element of transportation cost with them is less than one-fourth of the total cost. But where weight is involved to any extent the transportation cost is not negligible, and even in the smallest countries, like Switzerland and Belgium, the rates recognize distance.

Connects Farmers With Outside World.

Some 40,000,000 of our people, the producers of vital necessaries, live in the country, off the railway lines. The express companies, of course, and the railways, too, have no means of reaching this country population. Any system at all adequate to directly connect the producer and consumer, especially with reference to vital necessaries, will have to connect the farmer with the railways and the towns. Only the postal system possesses the agency for that purpose. It possesses it in the rural free delivery structure, now almost complete and ready for adaptation to the larger service. We are spending over \$40,000,000 on that service, and it is waiting, one might say, with empty wagons to receive and convey in retail quantities the necessaries of life from the farmer in the country to the hungry mouths that need them in the city. The express company, therefore, is excluded as the remedy to connect producer and consumer for two main reasons-its rates are prohibitive and its instrumentalities do not reach the farm. 'The computation of the outlay the postoffice department will have to make for this increased service can only take place as the development of the traffic proceeds. The simplified and reliable motor truck is now in sight. No abrupt change will take place, and the postal department will gradually adapt the rural delivery structure to meet the needs of the traffic as they become manifest.

"The postal system of the United States is certainly the most efficient agency of its kind throughout the world. I have divided the number of presence of so many persons whose atpostal employees in England, France and Germany into the number of mail clety. There was a good deal of jesting pieces handled each year and then made a like division for the United States. The result shows that for the they had outwitted them. year 1908 the efficiency of the average employee in England was 31,117 Germany 25,901 and in the United well into the morning. The hour was a States 51,591. We certainly have the test of faith in the principle, but it was most efficient postal agency to handle met pretty well. the small shipments."

The new act naturally made neces sary big appropriations for equipment of the various cities. It is worthy of note company of Japan has introduced a that Chicago has received attention as pew feature in the direction of providbeing the most important parcel post ing for the safety of its passengers. center in the country. That city has To each ticket sold is attached a coureceived an apportionment of \$15,000 pon representing a certain seat in a for the rental of automobiles and oth lifeboat.

Express Companies Must Cut Rates to Hold Their Town Business.

er vehicles for the delivery of parcels Beyond doubt, Chicago will receive the largest volume of business in the new service of any city. New York, Boston and Philadelphia have received appropriations of \$10,000 each for parcel

The Parcel Post "Hospital."

Another feature upon which postoffice department officials are putting much thought is the "parcel post hospital," to correspond to the dead letter office. One example of an office in London is cited. A clerk had sixty-one loose address labels and these were the articles which had lost their addresses: Ten geese, nine ducks, six rabbits, four dolls, six boxes of cigars, one tin trumpet, one ostrich feather, two powder puffs, one toy locomotive, three jars of jam, one plum cake, one plum pudding, one wheelbarrow, one bottles of whisky-fifty articles and sixty-one labels.

had the public packed their articles intelligently.

Express Rates to Be Changed.

The express companies are meeting the rates in effect under the parcel post law. They will compete for the parcels that come within the scope of the Bourne act. It is the purpose of the express people to try to hold their bustness in the towns and cities. They \$5.55. Give the small shipment its cannot deliver their parcels in the ru-

> If the express companies cut their tions. rates to compete with the parcel post law, starting with New York as a central point or basis, the following reductions must be made: From 26 there, but no one would dare appear cents on a one, two or three pound package, within fifty miles of New tons is one of the attributes of our York, to 5, 8 or 11 cents; from 30 cents on a four or five pound package to 14 or 17 cents, and from 35 cents on a six, seven, eight, nine, ten or eleven pound package to 20, 23, 26, 29, 32 or tability. And to be respectable is to 35 cents.

Six pounds, about the medium weight for a parcel, will be carried by the postoffice department 50 miles for 20 cents, 100 for 26, 200 or 300 for 32, 400 or 500 or 600 for 38 cents and 1,000 for 44. For the same service the express companies would charge: One hundred miles for 35 cents, 200 for 45, 300 or 400 miles for 50, 500 miles for 55, 600 miles for 60, 700 or 800 or 900 for 70 and 1,000 for 80.

The parcel post package cannot weigh send sixty-six pounds in six packages fifty miles for \$2.20, for which the ex- reached the top he exclaimed: 'Now, press companies charge \$3.05. A comparison of aggregates shows that the express companies charge \$51.50 for what the parcel post will charge \$38.28. The parcel post rate reduction from present express charges is 25.67

In order to meet the competition better the express companies will increase their delivery force and employ the most modern equipment. The contest bition of the cubists and futurists. I is to be spirited.

PLAY GIVEN AFTER MIDNIGHT.

Stage Society Outwits Police and Sunday Law.

Shortly before midnight recently automobiles began to arrive in front of the Lyceum theater in New York and discharge men and women in evening dress. Soon all the orchestra seats in the theater were occupied, and the custain then rose for the start of a dramatic performance.

It was the first production of the Stage Society of New York, and the performance was held after midnight because the police had threatened to arrest all concerned in the play, planned for a week earlier, if it were given on Sunday. There was no police interference, although Inspector Dwyer was in the audience and the society had on hand a city magistrate, who is a member of the organization. He was said to be there to accept ball if there were any arrests.

Among those who were in the audience were leaders in the theatrical profession, in the operatic field, in arts and letters and society. The object of the organization is to produce plays by new authors and such as might not be readily accepted for production by the atrical managers.

The members of the organization were jubilant at the success of their venture, at the crowded house and the tendance meant influence for the soheard at the expense of the police, and it appeared that the members felt that

Three one act plays were given, and the performance, beginning promptly pieces handled, in France 38.241, in at 12:15 a. m., as was promised, lasted

Each Has Lifeboat Ticket,

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha Steamship

"WE ARE OUR OWN BETTERS"—TREE

Famous Englishman In Speech Strikes Our at Snobbery.

SAYS WE REVERE BUTTONS.

Declares Most Pitiable Frame of Mind Is That Admitting Social Inferiority. Says Gentleman Is One Who Doesn't Try to Be One.

At the Hudson theater, in New York, Sir Beerbohm Tree talked on "Our Betters" to an audience which was not only interested but interesting. On the stage were Viola Allen, Daniel Frohman, Bishop Boyd Carpenter, Francis Wilson, Edwin Markham, Dr. Henry Leipziger, A. Barton Hepburn, Henry Clews, William McAdoo, Dr. E. R. Gould, Louis K. Anspacher, J. I. C. Clarke and other well known men and women.

It was the first time that most of the audience had seen the distinguished Englishman in his own undisguised personality, and it was apparent that seed cake, one bottle of gin and two they decidedly approved of him in the role of himself. His commanding figure and erect carriage prepared them All trouble might have been avoided for one personal reference which be made in the course of his lecture.

"In an interview with me printed in one paper," he said, "the statement was made that I am seventy years old. Well, I think that must be what is called being born before one's time."

Sir Beerbohm's ideas about our beters were expressed when he declared there is no more pitiable frame of mind than that shown in the familiar utterance of thousands of Englishmen, 'God bless the squire and his relations and keep us in our proper sta-

"On that symbol of respectability, the frock coat, there are two buttons," he said. "Nobody knows why they are without them. A reverence for butcommon humanity. And we put on our mental clothes, buttons and all, with the same subservience to custom. We sing in unison the hymn of respece what other people are. Being oneself is the greatest of luxuries and, may add, one of the most expensive.

"Valor in the weak is always dangerous. I heard a story the other day of a mouse that strayed into a wine celiar and, coming across a pool of whisky, dipped one foot in and licked it experimentally.
"'Humph!' he said, 'that's pretty

good!" and forthwith put in two feet. then all four, then rolled in it, and licked himself all over. After awhile he more than eleven pounds, but one can reached the point that he bounded up the stairs two at a time, and having where's that cat that chased me last

"People imbibe from their betters habits of good form they are never able to shake off.

"But what is a gentleman? He is a man who doesn't care whether he is a gentleman or not! He is a man whose courtesy isn't regulated by his interests

"I saw in Munich recently an exhiwas quite sure of one picture. It was a monk shooting wild duck. But I was told it was the 'Dawn of Buddhism.' What I took to be an Egyptian mummy floating in green pickles was a cab accident. By the way, I notice that these schools always paint their dogs green with red spots. That's symbolic of something. I am confident it is.

But I don't know what. "Among our betters are those who could show us the right pronunciation of the English language. The stage has done a great service in preserving the language of Shakespeare. I wish there could be established a standard of pronunciation for the English speaking world. There is none now. Among our inconsistencies is the drop ping of the 'g,' which is vulgarity in the lower classes and a sign of smartness in the upper ones. And, by the way, in another local interview I am represented as saying 'Fawncy!' Now. an Englishman never says that. We say 'Fancy!' Say it very often."

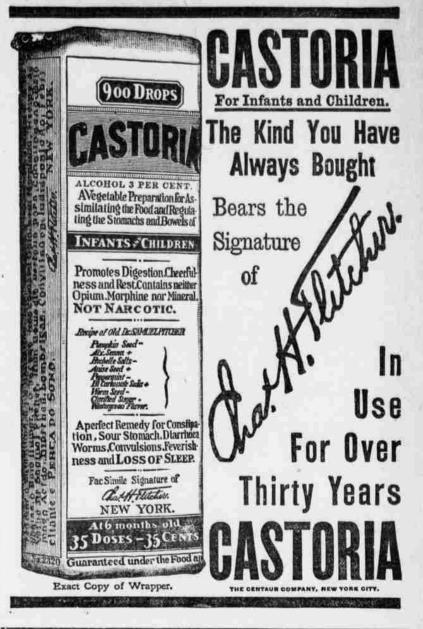
Sir Beerbohm summed up by saying that the boy scout movement is doing much to break down artificial social distinctions. In the end men's betters

TRAFFIC RULE FOR WALKERS

Compelled to Obey Policemen's Whistle

In a Test In Chicago. Pedestrians in downtown Chicago have come under the away of the po liceman's whistle the same as vehicles. The test was made recently, and the scheme may be extended. Eight policemen-four mounted and four on foot-were on duty and expounded to pedestrians the new traffic ruling.

"One minute, please, ladies and gents," they would say. "Stand where you are for the present on the side walk. There, don't push out in the street that way. One moment, there, madam; wait for the signal. Pedestrians are to be put under the same regulations as teamsters. Pedestrians going north or south can pass when the officer blows one long blast on his whistle. Two blasts from the whistle and east and west traffic goes through There's your signal, people. Learn to recognize it. All right; step lively



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