

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Woodring. Some subjects included are farm organizations, federal government, and federal relief.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1931-1933 : Woodring)

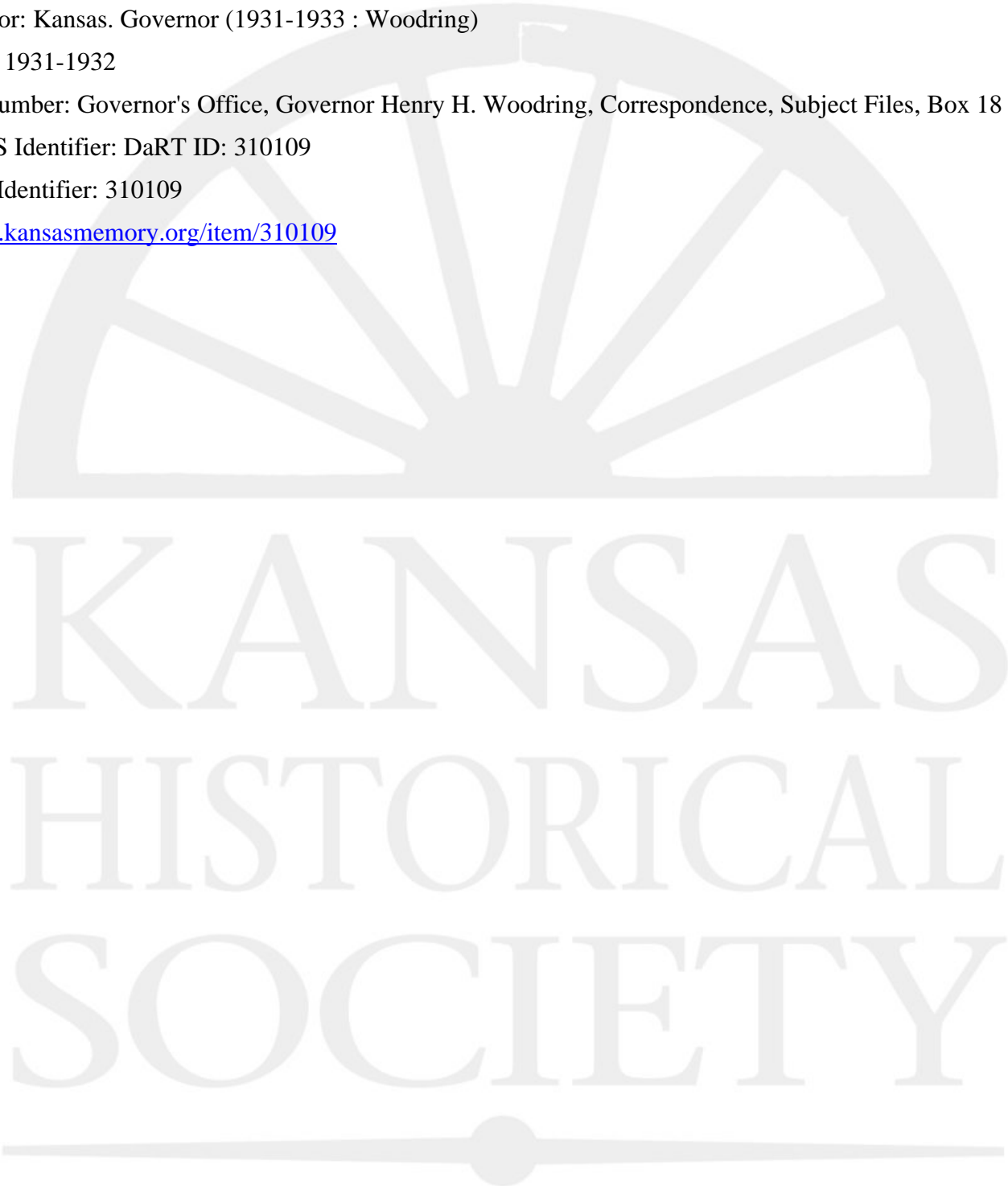
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Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

75
January 27, 1931

Mr. S. P. Sharon
Edgerton, Kansas

Dear Mr. Sharon:

I have your letter of January 21 in which you ask for assistance in the matter of a foreclosure on your farm. It distresses me very much to be compelled to write you that there is nothing I can do in this matter since this is wholly a private transaction between yourself and the bank. I am very sorry there is nothing I can do, but wish to express my sincere sympathy.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harry H. Woodring
Governor

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

Jan 21 - 1931
Mr. H. Woodring
Topeka Kansas
Dear Sir - I would
like to ask you for a little
help I live at Edgerton
Kansas I own a 80 acre
farm here and the
Edgerton State Bank holds
a second Mortgage against
it they have bin eating this
Mortgage for about 7 years
a year at the time and now
they want me to pay it
or they are going to
foreclose on me and I had
poor crops last ¹⁹²⁹ year and
a failure this year 1930 and
I can't pay only interest and
they say I got to sell my

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farm but I can't sell it
for any thing but just
enough to pay them off
and I don't think that
they are doing me right
to try and make me sell
out a year like this and
So I am writing you a
few lines to see if there
is any way that you can
help me to keep them from
selling me out this
bad year and have them
to stay me another year
I have a large family
11 in the family I can
keep my family very

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I have lived and owned this
farm for 13 years and I do
not want to give it up

well but if they sell me
out I will have to ask
for help so if there is
any way you can keep
them from sell me out
this year I would like
to have your help

Yours Truly

S. P. Sharon
Edgerton
Kansas

They say I will have to
do something right away
so let me know by return mail

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

75

January 31, 1931

Mr. Ernest C. Thomas
Pleasanton, Kansas

My dear Mr. Thomas:

Please pardon the long delay in acknowledging your letter of January 7. The delay has been made necessary by the press of other business, and I note carefully the contents of your letter relating to the enlargement of city limits. I am very glad you have written me so fully and what you say is very informative and shall receive consideration.

With continued good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harry H. Woodring
Governor

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

TO THE HON. GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS,
TO REP. HNO.O.MORSE OF LINN CO. KANSAS.
TO PRES. WARD OF THE KANSAS FARMERS UNION:-

In Pursuance of manifestos and resolutions indorsed by the Linn County Farmers Union, we respectfully call your attention to the needs of legislation to,modify or clarify the present law of 1929 pertaining to the extension of city limits, as we find under the present law, cases of small towns actually decreasing in population and having no real extension needs, attempting to make extensions for the sole purpose of increasing city revenue and this at the injury of property holders' values and injustice to township farmers.

Legislative Com. Linn Co. Farmers Union.

G. W. Lawhead, LaCygne, Kas., Pres.
Fred S. Jackson, Mem.
Orval Barnett, Mem.

F. C. Gerstenberger, Pres. Linn Co. Farmers Union,
V. F. Carrico, Sec. & Treas., " " " "

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Valley View Farm	West Branch Farm	Whitehaven Farm Phone 244
<h3 style="margin: 0;">REGISTERED BIG TYPE DUROCS</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">QUALITY~SIZE~PREPOTENCY</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">THE THOMAS FARMS</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">Ernest E. Thomas, Owner</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">Breeders of The Best in Swine and Poultry</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Pleasanton, Kansas</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Jan. 7, 1931.</p>		
<p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">JERSEY BLACK GIANTS</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">HATCHING EGGS</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">and</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">BABY CHICKS</p>		<p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">GOLDEN BUFF MINORCAS</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">HATCHING EGGS</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">and</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">BABY CHICKS</p>

Hon. Harry Woodring,
Governor of Kansas.
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Sir-

We wish to call to your attention a law unjust to farmers which was approved March 11, 1929, which should be repealed or at least clarified to meet the ends of justice. Same refers to the matter of extensions of the limits of incorporated towns in Kansas. A copy of this law is hereto attached for your convenience.

As this law now stands it is vicious in the extreme and strikes directly at the farmer and stockman whose holdings are adjacent or near a city's limits; and renders his property values, personal rights, plans and investments unsafe and insecure. When one considers the number of small incorporated towns in Kansas and the aggregate acreage adjacent thereunto, it becomes a matter of great moment to the agricultural interests of the State and a menace to many farmers who are already overburdened with taxation.

Many small cities go rashly into debt for improvements which they cannot afford, or for other reasons, and find themselves overwhelmed with a tax burden. Under this law as it now stands the easy relief is to take in adjacent territory from the surrounding agricultural units and spread the city taxes over the farms and rural industries; thereby compelling the farmer to open his purse at their behests and assist in paying debts he had no voice in contracting and for which he receives no benefits. In many cases the city levy would amount to confiscation. This is not only an injustice to the adjacent property holder but to the entire township who must assume the deficit when property is taken off the township tax rolls and transferred to city.

When the commissioners are petitioned according to this law now in effect, it places the adjacent farmers on the defensive, harrasses him, and forces him into the expense of litigation unless he decides it would be easier to surrender his rights peacefully and without protest. Even a decision by the commissioners favorable to the farming interests may bring only temporary relief and no permanent security, as the commissioners may be petitioned again and again on the same or other adjacent holdings, and each time the farmers must fight or be overcome. This procedure is followed by Kansas towns actually decreasing in population and having no extension needs other than for tax revenue purposes. Under this law the city's limits is an ever changing line thus menacing new victims and more of them.

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Valley View Farm

West Branch Farm

Whitehaven Farm
Phone 244

REGISTERED BIG TYPE DUROCS

QUALITY~SIZE~PREPOTENCY

THE THOMAS FARMS

Ernest E. Thomas, Owner

Breeders of
The Best in Swine and Poultry

Pleasanton, Kansas

PP2.

JERSEY BLACK GIANTS
HATCHING EGGS
and
BABY CHICKS

GOLDEN BUFF MINORCAS
HATCHING EGGS
and
BABY CHICKS

The board of county commissioners is an ever changing body and it places the farmer in the position of being dependent upon the will and wish of the commissioners instead of placing limitations on what cities may ask of them. It is also possible that in some cases commissioners may be corrupted or have private or public interests to serve.

Such a threat hanging over adjacent or near adjacent property renders it dead capital in the hands of the unfortunate owners or if not dead capital, greatly reduces its value and desirability and renders improvements and investments unsafe and insecure. No one wishes to invite being taken into the city for purposes of city tax revenue only, and at the same time being subjected to city ordinances and city tax valuations. Agricultural pursuits cannot be carried on under city rule; and when the city has no real extension needs, these lands must be used for agricultural pursuits or lie idle. This law has been invoked in Linn Co. and the towns decided against have seen fit to harrass the commissioners when they decided against them.

In the farmers' fight waged against Pleasanton, Kansas, the Linn Co. Farmers Union stepped in and helped out the afflicted farmers, and we attach hereto a printed copy of their Resolutions of Protest, and they have decided to bring legislation to bear in correcting such abuses. A copy of this letter and duplicates of the attached papers are being furnished to Mr. C. A. Ward, President of the Kansas State Farmers Union, also to our Representative Mr. John O. Morse of Mound City Kansas; and when this matter comes before you, we bespeak for the farmers of Kansas, your just and favorable consideration.

Attached hereto is a text of a law setting forth such point as we believe would be fair to city as well as adjacent property holder. Any relief along lines set forth will be much appreciated by myself and many others in a like situation.

Yours very truly,

Ernest E. Thomas
E. M. Goss



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(copy for reference)

CHAPTER 109, LAWS OF KANSAS, 1929

RELATING TO THE ENLARGEMENT OF CITY LIMITS.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Kansas.

Section 1. That whenever any city desires to enlarge the limits thereof from territory adjacent thereto, the governing body of such city shall in the name of the city present a petition to the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the city is situated setting forth by metes and bounds the territory sought to be so added and asking said Board of County Commissioners to make a finding as to the advisability of adding said territory to said city.

Section 2. Notice of the time and place of said hearing, together with a description of the property sought to be added to said city, and the names of the owners thereof so far as can be ascertained from the record of said county, shall be published for three consecutive weeks in some newspaper of general circulation in said city. On the day set the board of county commissioners shall proceed to hear testimony as to the advisability of making such addition, and upon such hearing, if said board of county commissioners shall be satisfied that the adding of such territory to the city will be to its interest and will cause no manifest injury to the person owning real estate in the territory sought to be added, they shall so find; and thereupon the governing body of such city by ordinance may enlarge the limits thereof to include the territory so added; PROVIDED, that the boundary lines of no city shall be extended to include lands not located in the county in which such city is situated, but this restriction shall not apply to cities now located in more than one county: PROVIDED, that no such proceeding shall be necessary when the territory sought to be added is subdivided into lots and blocks; but in such cases the city shall have power to add such territory to the city by ordinance: AND FURTHER PROVIDED, no unplatted territory of over twenty (20) acres shall be taken into said city against the protest of the owner thereof unless the same be circumscribed by platted territory that is taken into said city and unless said tract to be taken into such city shall be improved property receiving city benefits and protection. The board of county commissioners may for good cause shown continue such hearing beyond the time specified in the notice without further publication. Application for adding separate parcels of territory to said city may be made in the same petition, and upon such application the board of county commissioners may make findings as to the advisability of adding any or all such parcels as hereinbefore provided. The order of the board of county commissioners shall be spread at length upon the journal of proceedings of said board, and a certified copy thereof recorded in the office of the register of deeds in such county.

Section 3. Any owner of land sought to be taken into the limits of a city under the provisions of this act, who shall be aggrieved by the decision of the board of county commissioners, may appeal to the district court of the same county in the manner and method as now provided by section 19-223, Revised Statutes of 1923.

Section 4. That sections 12-501 and 12-502 of the Revised Statutes for 1923 be and the same are hereby repealed: PROVIDED, this act shall not repeal section 13-202 and section 13-1602, Revised Statutes of 1923.

Section 5. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Approved March 11, 1929. Section 13-202 and 13-1602 apply and relate to cities of the first class.



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TRANSCRIPT OF A PROPOSED LAW THAT WOULD BE FAIR TO CITIES AND SAFEGUARD
THE INDIVIDUAL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS OF ADJACENT REAL ESTATE OWNERS AND
AGRICULTURAL UNITS ADJACENT AND NEAR THE INCORPORATED TOWNS OF KANSAS.

RELATING TO THE ENLARGEMENT OF CITY LIMITS.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Kansas;

Section 1. That whenever any city, having extension needs for purposes other than tax revenue, desires to enlarge the limits thereof from territory adjacent thereto, the governing body of such city shall in the name of the city present a petition to the Board of County Commissioners of the County in which the city is situated, setting forth by metes and bounds the territory sought to be so added, and asking said Board of County Commissioners to make a finding as to the advisability of adding said territory to said city.

Section 2. Notice of the time and place of said hearing, together with a description of the property sought to be added to said city; and the names of the owners thereof so far as can be ascertained from the record of said county, shall be published for three consecutive weeks in some newspaper of general circulation in said city. On the day set the board of County Commissioners shall proceed to hear testimony as to the advisability of making such addition, and upon such hearing if said Board of County Commissioners shall be satisfied that the adding of such territory is for bona-fide extension needs of the city, and not merely to increase the tax revenue to said city, and that this addition sought to be added will be of interest to the city and will cause no manifest injury to the persons owning real estate sought to be added- they shall so find; and thereupon the governing body of such city by ordinance may enlarge the limits thereof to include the territory so added; ~~PROVIDED~~, that the boundary lines of no city shall be extended to include lands not located in the county in which such city is situated, but this restriction shall not apply to cities now located in more than one county; ~~PROVIDED~~, that no such proceeding shall be necessary when the territory sought to be added is subdivided into lots and blocks, but in such cases the city shall have power to add such territory to the city by ordinance and ~~FURTHER PROVIDED~~, no unplatted territory shall be taken into said city against the protest of the owner thereof, unless the same be circumscribed by platted territory already within the limits of the city, and unless said tract to be taken into such city shall be improved property with dwelling house or houses and other necessary improvements, the same at that time receiving benefits provided at the expense of said city. The use of city owned utilities when paid for at the price fixed by said city and when the installation and all expense connected therewith is borne by the adjacent purchaser, he shall not be regarded as being under city benefits and protection.

AND ~~FURTHER PROVIDED~~, that after petition and a hearing before the said county commissioners, the said commissioners find there is no justifiable extension needs to the said city and that such addition would be manifest injury to the adjacent property holder sought to be taken in, then IT IS ~~FURTHER PROVIDED~~ that said city may not again petition the commissioners for a hearing regarding proposed extensions until such time as it can show that there has been a change in conditions necessitating additional territory for specific needs and purposes other than the raising of tax revenue for the city. The Board of County Commissioners may for good cause shown, continue such hearing beyond the time specified in the notice without further publication. Application for adding separate parcels of territory to such city may be made in the same petition, stating the specific need for each and every separate parcel and upon such application the board of county commissioners may make findings as to the advisability of adding any or all such parcels.

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as hereinbefore provided. The order of the Board of County Commissioners shall be spread at length upon the journal of proceedings of said board, and a certified copy thereof recorded in the office of the register of deeds in such county

Section 3. Any owner of land sought to be taken into the limits of a city under the provisions of this act, who shall be aggrieved by the decision of the board of county commissioners may appeal to the district court of the same county and in the same manner and method as now provided by section 19-202 Revised Statutes of 1923.

Section 1. / Title / Section 12-501 / and 12-502 / of the / Revised / Statutes / of Kansas / for 1923 / be / and / the / same / be / referred / referred

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*Farmers Union of Linn County
Resolutions of Protest*

F. C. GERSTENBERGER, Blue Mound, Kansas,
President of Linn County Union
VERN CARIGO, Parker, Kansas
Secretary of Linn County Union

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF
FARMERS' UNION

Geo. Lawhead, LaCygne, Kan., Pres
Fred Jackson, La Cygne, Kan., Sec.
Orville Barnett, Parker, Kan., Mem.

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Since the court has decided that the advisability of extending city limits is "A legislative question in which the court has no jurisdiction and since the law leaves the question open as to just what is evident injury to property holders and what is justifiable benefits to cities in order to extend their limits, we, the legislative committee of the Farmers Union of Linn County, Kansas, respectfully submit the following manifesto for the immediate and future consideration of the Hon. County Commissioners, city official, and the Commercial Clubs of Linn County, Kansas.

Relative to our position as to the legal and just merits of, first, benefits to city; second, injury to property holders; third, when transition to city's jurisdiction is timely without injury and legal benefit to city, we have to state as follows:-

FIRST. When in case of growing cities, adjoining property stands in the way of needed extensions, it might be of justifiable benefit to add such property to the city; but, on the other hand, to add property for the sole purpose of creating revenue for the city, is not justifiable benefit as it is evident that cities could become tyrants creating debts and exacting revenue from property holders and township farmers who had no part in creating such obligations.

SECOND. In the matter of public utilities furnished adjacent property holders the cities' inherent rights in the matter is fully protected without including such properties within city jurisdiction, since the matter of furnishing such utilities is a matter of the cities' volition, and ordinarily the cities are glad to have such customers as all extensions are paid for by the property holder and who pays for his utility on a commercial basis and at the price set by the city furnishing the utility.

THIRD. Relative to tracts adjacent to city conveniences no additional outlay of taxes is specifically made to meet the SOLE needs of adjacent city locations.

FOURTH. Creative values are mutual the country creates the wealth of the town as much and more than the town creates the wealth of the adjacent country.

FIFTH. Relative to injury to property holders, we hold that under conditions of transition in towns not increasing in population and who have no real extension needs, loss of saleability and value would result from such transition; and this would certainly be evident injury to property holder; also putting the farmer and stockman at the mercy of city ordinances that could at will interfere with his rightful operations and make insecure his plans and investments, certainly is manifest injury, a misfit, and a miscarriage of legal authority. As long as farm units are utilized as such and their inherent value is agricultural in character, injury both from a point of business operation and saleability will result by the addition of any part of them to the jurisdiction of the city.

SIXTH. Under conditions existing in a growing industrial city where values as saleable lots and blocks exist, it is made more saleable and valuable by being added to the city; but the same tract under conditions of a city not increasing in population and not used in lots and blocks but must be used as

agricultural units, the saleability would in a large measure be destroyed and injury result, as additional taxes are the same in both the above described causes. It is evident that injury resulting from the latter case should be legally classified as resulting from conditions not legally justifying such transition.

SEVENTH. In regard to time of transiting of adjacent property from country to city, it is evident it is timely, just, and legal when there is no loss of saleability or value to property holders by said transition; but this condition exists only in growing industrial centers where holding will be of greater value as city lots than for agricultural purposes and at this point be of merited legal benefit to the city and injury to property holders will result. Under such condition their interests are mutual, within the meaning of the law, of interest to city, and no evident injury to property holders.

In times past, towns in Linn County have been content for the most part in accepting methods of justice ordinarily practiced by cities in extending their limits by natural growth and mutual understanding, property holders willingly surrendering their holdings into lots and blocks for city addition. We, the farmers of Linn County will gladly co-operate with such towns for the common development of the community; but in the future, all towns in Linn County that allow themselves to be so misled by a few agitators into policies of attempted forcible expansion, injustice and injury to property holders, must suffer the consequences of their own unworthy action toward farmers who are now forced to organize to protect themselves against any evident organized injustice and tyranny.

RESOLVED, That it shall be the duty of this legislative committee to make full report with respect to the activities of all towns regarding their attitude toward their adjoining population. That all farmers may be fully informed before selecting future homes and all other matters of co-operative interests.

RESOLVED, That while we concede that it is within the province of any town to determine its attitude toward its adjoining population, even to the extent of being misled to elect to break faith and destroy the saleability of these agricultural units without justifiable cause, and in this day when farmers are suffering the effect of organized injustice, it is our intention (as it related entirely to the future) to prefer such towns that are acting worthy of our co-operative confidence.

RESOLVED, That we recognize that the preservation and progress of our home towns in Linn County is absolutely necessary for the common moral uplift and prosperity of all our people, and should have first consideration over distant towns; but that such progress can only be assured on basis of absolute justice and mutual understanding, rather than by towns that are not increasing in population and extension needs being misled to seek through political and official intrigue to attempt to pass their excessive taxes to an already overburdened farming population. Cities that seek to extend their limits solely on grounds of needed revenue, break faith with home investors who stand in the same relationship to home

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town as they did at time of acquiring these properties; and such action on the part of the city inflicts injury and injustice on property holders and on the township in which located as well.

RESOLVED. That we wish it understood that this manifesto is in no sense intended in the spirit of vindictiveness or retributive in character; but its purpose is to clarify the situation and meet the ends of justice.

RESOLVED. That we recognize our commercial clubs, our business men and our newspapers as important tribunals seeking accurate information and ever eager to promote common prosperity along lines of mutual interest, understanding and justice. Therefore be it.

RESOLVED. That we request that these resolutions be read to all commercial clubs and published in all the Linn County papers.

In the last analysis, evident injury must be either bodily or financial injury. Financial injury would result in any depreciation in value to property. We, the undersigned property holders, maintain that such loss occurs and is "evident injury" within the meaning of the law when all transitions from country to city are made in small towns not increasing in population and having no real extension needs even through such property added be nothing more than house and lot, and if it be a part of an agricultural unit, even greater injury results.

La Cygne, Kan., June 21, 1930

G. W. LAWHEAD, Pres
FRED S. JACKSON, Sec.
ORVILLE BARNETT



Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

ALBERT HILLMER, PRESIDENT

E. C. RAFFETY, VICE-PRESIDENT

F. C. LARSEN, CASHIER

G. W. MEHL, ASST. CASHIER

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

SYLVAN GROVE, KANSAS

February 9, 1931.

Dear Fellow American:

I am herewith submitting in all sincerity and earnestness of purpose a plan which it is believed will effectively bring about curtailment of production and as a consequence strengthen the economic position of the producer. He would then again be enabled to pay his debts and become a consumer in the markets of the country. Under the present depressing situation he is unable to do these things, and he is more and more in greater and greater numbers gradually being eliminated from the picture with resultant injury to his immediate business contacts who also are being forced to retrenchment policies with consequent curtailment and decrease of profits and buying power clear down the line to the manufacturer. If it does not already exist, a serious, nation-wide emergency, I believe is certainly in the offing.

All business has slowed up tremendously. Mercantile establishments are wrestling with the problem to move their goods. Many of them are resorting to price reduction sales but the response is far from satisfactory. The requirements for replacements have been reduced to almost a minimum which condition is adversely affecting the jobber, the wholesaler and the manufacturer with a consequent curtailment of out-put and labor, which aggravates the labor situation. The ability then of labor to consume is also in a position of being forced to curtailment.

Self preservation is the first law of life. Food and shelter are the things we need first. These things are now acquired under a system that has grown in complexity and right now our economic equilibrium seems to have been disturbed. There is a great inter-dependence of welfare in our relations. In an economic sense, every man is every other man's brother and keeper. The producer's problem is the industrialist's problem and vice versa. There should be no outstanding conflict of interest. One cannot well exist without the other. Agriculture and its immediate business contacts cannot long endure under a continuance of the present situation. For the ultimate good of the entire country it seems convincing that the economic position of agriculture and the producer generally must be strengthened. There should be no conflict of sectional interest in a program of this kind. The heart of the nation certainly must be big enough to willingly cooperate under a constructive plan for the economic welfare and happiness of every worthy American.

The plan enclosed is designed to effectively bring about curtailment of production under organized and cooperative action in order to attain a domestic basis in relation to the commodities so curtailed and thereby with the aid of tariff protection increase the value of these products. With the price disparities removed and the new wealth in the form of money thus created there should be a general stimulation in all kinds of business and consequent industrial expansion. The plan is not intended to impair the position of any legitimate existing agency or business, but it is believed that all will prosper in the general stimulation of business by giving the producer a chance to also exist, live and enjoy the comforts of life, which this great country can so well and ably provide. I believe the logical place to best begin to strengthen the economic position of our country is where wealth first originates. That is the callings conducted nearest to mother earth. New wealth comes primarily from the soil. When 800,000,000 bu. of wheat is worth \$1.00 a bu. at the initial markets there is \$800,000,000 of new wealth in the form of money created to enter the channels of commerce and trade for each and every legitimate activity to share in its regular and usual undertakings. Should wheat be worth only 50c bushel, then the whole country is in a sense robbed of \$400,000,000 of new wealth which then will not come into circulation. What is true of wheat is also true of cotton and other products of the soil. And another thing, when wheat is in a favorable economic position it usually re-acts favorably on other agricultural products and properties. Farms, livestock and corn, for instance, usually are in more favorable position when prices are high.

In the agricultural sections we are in a sense all farmers. We want to be able to buy new overalls instead of patching the old ones, new shoes, shirts, etc. We also want to be in a position to use automobiles, tractors and other farm machinery, and be able to consume part of the gasoline that is produced. We want to keep our farm buildings in good repair by regularly giving them a coat of paint, and to build additions when necessary. We desire to be in a position to be consumers in a reasonable way of the many splendid things that are made in factories. That will enable the industries to prosper in larger degree and we are indeed glad that these fine institutions should enjoy prosperity, and thereby be enabled to retain their employees and strengthen the economic position of labor. We are all American citizens, human and pretty much alike, no matter in what part of the country we live. The prosperity of each business is dependent upon the prosperity of its clientele. This clientele has its clients who in turn contribute to its prosperity, and so on, making of our entire business structure a sort of network, every thread of which is an integral and important part of the fabric. But the source of all wealth comes primarily from the things produced from the soil in some form or other, agricultural and otherwise, and a prosperous condition here is essential for the welfare of all.

The enclosed plan is being sent to other members of Congress with the hope that it will receive courteous, sincere and earnest consideration. It has been shown to quite a few representative farmers, business men, bankers, lawyers and others around here, and has met with universal approval as a plan that is workable, practicable and worth-while, and there is an earnest desire on the part of those who have become familiar with the plan, that Congress will see its way clear to take the necessary action at the PRESENT SESSION. Agriculture is very sick and it is felt that it is urgent that immediate relief be given it. When a patient is sick and needs the doctor, he must have him at once.

Will it not be possible for the present session of Congress to include this plan in some way under the duties of the present Federal Farm Board and restore material prosperity to a suffering and unhappy people? It is being submitted in no unkindly spirit, but in all sincerity and earnestness of purpose, with the hope that the statesmanship at our National Capitol will appreciate the need and respond in united, sincere and earnest effort to make possible for American citizenship the greatest of all material blessings, Prosperity.

Sincerely and cordially,

F. C. LARSEN.

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES
SEPARATION SHEET

Instructions:

1. Complete in duplicate
2. File one copy where items originally located.
3. File duplicate with the items separated or give to department receiving items transferred.

Description of item or items:

"A PLAN TO STABILIZE THE FARMING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES"

Originally filed in (name of record group, series, box no., folder title, etc.):

RECORDS OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE (ADMINISTRATION OF HARRY W.
WOODRING) CORRESPONDENCE: SUBJECT FILE — FARM ORGANIZATIONS, FEB 1931. Box 24.18
Folder 1

Department and/or location to which transferred:

OVERSIZE Box 8, FOLDER 3

Separation date: 1/29/93

Separated by (person): R. A. McINNES

Received by (person): _____

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

A Plan To Stabilize The Farming Industry of the United States

This plan for increasing and stabilizing commodity prices contemplates government-sponsored organization of the producers, whereby, under effective tariff protection, cooperative action is to be undertaken for the purpose of curtailing production and placing the country on a domestic basis. The figures used herein are based on estimates in order to intelligently explain the plan, and these are subject to revision after correct statistical information has been obtained. These figures pertain to the wheat, perhaps the most important and

far-reaching commodity at this time. As a matter of convenience in clarifying the idea, the explanation is confined to winter wheat and it is assumed that all the wheat under discussion is this particular grain. The plan itself, of course, may be applied to all wheat, but the season varies, hence winter wheat is used as a basis. The plan may also be applied to cotton, another important commodity, and other products. The figures and basic idea refer to unit farming.

With no new surplus created in this country it would seem very reasonable to assume that wheat should reach at least \$1.10 per bu., which price under the above estimates, would enable the government to break even as its wheat holdings then would be worth the entire investment in the proposition, and the farmer would also be benefitted by the increase. Under such a plan no one will lose. The farmer will have received a justifiable increase, and in the wind-up it will not have cost the government anything. The farmers will again have more money—more money with which to pay their debts and to buy the comforts and necessities of life. More new wealth in the form of money will have been created and placed in circulation for each and everyone to share in his legitimate activity. Increased income makes the farmer and his business contacts better consumers of manufactured articles, makes more frequent replacements of these things necessary and enables the retailer to prosper and with him the wholesaler and the manufacturer, in fact everybody, with a consequent restoration and "pep" in business.

permitted to stand in the line of a practicable plan for the unit farmer would be feasible not to under the encouraging plan, but, in the event the curtail in the same proportion by unit farmers contracts, enforce the auto-imposed tax hereinafter relation to the unit farmer coming under the plan. special regulations and be necessary as to these

As to farmers who make both as to fee simple leasehold, after having an agreement with the government contingency can be handled by the contract with the government against the operation of a lien against the title, having copies of all government filed with the proper The successor should as tract by payment under of his investment with, and then become entitled to the profits provided for in this transfers should be certain and recorded seat. This detail should to handle.

Should a farmer consider the provisions of the plan thereby automatically upon himself payable government, which tax lent in amount of the wheat assumed to be a fourth acreage on a balance price the same as the allows those who operate

The entire proposition government sponsorship of five contractual relations the farmer and the government and does not attempt force. The tax mentioned self-imposed. However, voluntary choice, regarding imposed tax, it is distasteful to the individual farmer and more sound procedure to operate under the plan the 100 percent acreage the intention of being increased. As to fixing the acreage, this will be determined by the government and usual of the land he proposes to

All blank forms should be the government and agencies charged with the execution of the plan. All subject or in connection with the plan should be free of postage. The formation in the question be obtained correctly with the government's plan executed and entered into by the farmer, the penalty in case of intentional violation.

The plan itself, it is understood, in the event

Estimated annual average wheat production in the U. S.	800,000,000 bu.
Estimated annual wheat surplus	200,000,000 bu.
Estimated average yield per acre	15 bu.
Estimated ratio of surplus to production, 1 to 4, or	25 percent.
Estimated cost, raising, gathering, and marketing an acre of wheat	\$9.00
Estimated net profit to farmer at \$1.00 per bushel, each acre	6.00
Estimated net profit to farmer per bu. at \$1.00 per bu.40

In order to arrive on a domestic basis it will be necessary to reduce production 25 percent. This should logically be attained by curtailing the acreage 25 percent. Inasmuch as the 1931 crop is already planted we are assuming now to do this for the 1932 crop, after which the actual good will be accomplished, although the potential good will immediately assert itself, because confidence will be established when the plan is placed in actual operation.

The term "Government" as used here in will refer to government agencies set up to administer the plan as well as to the government itself.

FIRST STEP: Immediately buy 200,000,000 bu. of wheat, or if the government has some on hand now, it should buy enough more to make the total holdings 200,000,000 bu., and arrange for storage capacity so as to be enabled to hold this much wheat as a revolving wheat holding.

SECOND STEP: Constitute every bank in the rural wheat districts a government agency for the purpose of administration of this plan, giving the active officers power to administer oaths and take depositions and acknowledgments in behalf of the government. Pay such banks 1c per bu. on all wheat handled through them under the plan. It is obviously less expensive to use existing agencies than to set up new institutions for this purpose, and the bankers as a class are familiar with the operations of their customers and should be well qualified to correctly handle a proposition of this kind.

THIRD STEP: Have every farmer prepare and certify thereto under oath before his banker, a questionnaire setting out his normal wheat average for the last five years (1927-28-29-30-31) and his contemplated acreage for the

1932 crop. Use the figures as a basis for fixing his acreage for the 1932 crop, the idea being to get a 25 percent curtailment in acreage. The farmer is to enter into a definite and specific agreement to this.

FOURTH STEP: The government is to enter into definite agreement with every farmer through the banker agencies, providing that said farmer sow only three-fourths of his average, usual and contemplated acreage. The wheat which the remaining one-fourth acreage would produce under the foregoing estimate, the farmer is to buy from the government at current prices, and also agree to re-sell to the government only at the end of the wheat season at an increase of 30c per bu. No wheat is to be delivered in the transaction, the government retaining possession of the wheat. The one-fourth abandoned acreage may be used by the farmer for other purposes. Illustration: A farmer with a usual 160 acre wheat acreage will be required to sow only 120 acres. He will be required to buy from the government 40x15 bu. of wheat at current prices, say 70c per bu. or 600 bu. for \$420.00. The government will pay him \$1.00 per bu., or \$600.00 at the end of the season, a profit of \$180.00, through a transaction on paper backed by wheat. The wheat raised on the three-fourths acreage is to reach the markets through the usual and regular channels of trade. If necessary for financial reasons, arrangements should be made with the Federal Reserve Banking System so this class of paper will be eligible for discount under reasonable terms. With the 30c increase guaranteed by the government, the amount of the original purchase price will be a liquid asset at the end of the season.

Analysis of Results so far as the Government is concerned:—	
Purchase of 200,000,000 bu. surplus at 70c per bu.	\$140,000,000.00
Guarantee to wheat farmers at 30c per bu.	60,000,000.00
	\$200,000,000.00

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

February 2, 1931

75

Mrs. Lottie LaBau
Overbrook, Kansas

My dear Mrs. LaBau:

I have your letter of January 27 and it distresses me very much to hear of the conditions you describe. I would suggest that you get in touch with the local Red Cross officials and perhaps they can be of assistance to you. I certainly hope you will be able to obtain the help you need.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harry H. Woodring
Governor

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

Overbrook, Kas Jan 27¹⁹³¹
Gov. Harry H. Woodring
Topeka Kas.
It is with much regret
that I am asking aid from
the Red Cross. We have raised
nothing to sell and heavy
mortgage on live stock, my
children need shoes clothing
and food walking to country
school with holes in shoes
It hard to ask for such,
such a cause But we have
work with sweat on the brow
trying to save our crop.
I have made to the Red cross
I would like help for our
children need it. I ask

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

this not to be publish in
print, It hurts more to
ask for aid, than to give
when we had it. For reference
write W.C. Butell who run
for representative but was defeated
He knows our condition
and how we have work
to save our crop. Just to see
it dry up. We have 3
children in country school
We look for sympathy from
our friends but ever farm
has his troubles.

I remain very Respt
Mrs Lottie LaBar
Everbrook Mo.

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

Drought Relief

75

February 2, 1931

Mrs. Weri Conklin
1713 Garfield Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas

My dear Mrs. Conklin:

I have your letter of January 27 with inclosure. I am sorry to say that I do not feel there is anything I can do in this situation. I thank you for the interest you have taken in the matter and with continued good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harry H. Woodring
Governor

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

27
Jan - 1931 -

Mr Woodring
Dear Sir -
There isn't any need to make a
comment on circumstances. for
you know more than I do.
But just take a look at these
pictures, then in the name of
all that is good why, yes why
cannot the surplus wheat be
given to all unfortunate ones -
seems to me you could set the
Ball rolling where it is so close
to home, it can be done
then why not now
yours Respectfully
P.S. has been concluded
No, need to divulge my name.

Jan. 23 / 1931

THE KANSAS CITY KANSAN, FRID.

SCENES IN ARKANSAS HUNGER AREA



Scenes from the "hunger area" in Arkansas where Red Cross workers are providing food and clothing for scores who have been destitute for weeks are shown here. The upper photo shows the scene in front of the Red Cross office at Lepanto, Ark., where citizens are lined up waiting for supplies. Below, at the left, is 9-year-old Isaac Busfy getting his first food in three days—a loaf of bread. At the right Kenneth Ward tries on his first pair of shoes in two years.

CITY KANSAN

THE
lat
and U
to the

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26, 1931.

TWO CENTS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!



Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

JOHN S. BIRD, President
A. UNREIN, Vice President

C. A. BEEBY, Vice-President
A. F. BIEKER, Secy.-Treas.

THE WHEAT FARMING CO. (INCORPORATED)

HAYS, KANSAS

February 3, 1931

Hon. H. H. Woodring,
Governor of Kansas,
State House,
Topeka, Kansas.

My dear Governor:

In your Kansas Day speech, you referred to the possibilities of factory chimneys marching out on the plains of Kansas. This is a matter in which I am very greatly interested, and this interest will be indicated by a couple of editorials that were prepared some weeks ago and sent to more than 200 Kansas newspapers of the Plains Region.

There is a much brighter future for the plains of Kansas than most of its people and many of its leaders appreciate or understand. There are at least three major factors that enter into the possibilities of unusual future:

1. A more profitable crop industry through better yields, better seed varieties and cheaper production methods, and a program that will include not only wheat, but the grain sorghums, corn, barley, and more livestock.
2. The possibility of a decentralized industrial life on the plains of Kansas through availability of natural gas with the mammoth pipe lines that are coming to traverse the state together with high tension electric power lines which bring the coal mines to the manufacturers doors.
3. The processing of the grain crops and the livestock production that should be incident thereto together with the industrial business that is bound to come coupled with cheaper power and a remarkable reservoir of intelligent and industrious labor is destined to solve any unemployment problem that Kansas may have.
4. Realization of the above means a standard of life for the farm and the village that will be equal to that of any city society or community.

I know you are busy. I have no desire to overwhelm you with lengthy articles upon this matter, but I am making bold to send you a copy of a few editorials which were prepared in the hope of helping to develop a better rural and urban Kansas -- especially in the Plains Region.

I beg to remain,

Sincerely your friend,

J. S. Bird

JSB*ALH

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

February 5, 1931

Mr. Charles O. Munson
Junction City, Kansas

75

My dear Mr. Munson:

I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations on your selection as a Master Farmer of Kansas. You may take the greatest pride in this outstanding recognition, for it reflects a high quality of rural citizenship and sterling personal traits of the highest order.

It must be a source of great satisfaction to you, to realize that you have been chosen as an outstanding farmer in a state whose agriculture is conspicuous, not alone in the United States, but in the world.

I extend my cordial greetings and good wishes for your continued health and prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

Harry H. Woodring
Governor

ly Capital

RUARY 1, 1931.

***** 40 PAGES—THREE PARTS

s Master Farmers 1930

Kansas Forecast

Increasing cloudiness; slightly colder south portion and rain in southwest portion today; Monday cloudy; probably some rain.

1930 MASTER FARMERS ARE GIVEN AWARDS

Ten Outstanding Men Who Make Farming Their Profession, Guests of Honor At Banquet Attended by Large Number of Friends.

S. A. LONG, J. C. MOHLER, SPEAK

F. B. Nichols, Managing Editor Capper Farm Press, Toastmaster; Presentations by T. A. McNeal—Capper Unable to Attend.

Ten outstanding farmers of Kansas whose ability on the farm and whose sterling rural citizenship are recognized were awarded honorary Master Farmer degrees by Kansas Farmer at a recognition banquet last night at the Jayhawk hotel. The honorary degrees and engraved gold medals were presented by T. A. McNeal, editor of Kansas Farmer.

The newly honored farmers who comprise the 1930 or fourth annual class of Master Farmers are:

- Roy W. Ellis, Coldwater, Comanche county.
- ✓ Frank J. Schaffer, Pratt, Pratt county.
- ✓ William Page, Detroit, Dickinson county.
- ✓ Bruce S. Wilson, Keats, Riley county.
- ✓ John M. Lewis, Larned, Pawnee county.
- ✓ F. W. Dusenbury, Anthony, Harper county.
- ✓ Gus Brandenburg, Riley, Riley county.
- ✓ Earl E. Ferguson, Valley Falls, Jefferson county.
- ✓ William A. Long, Fowler, Ford county.
- ✓ Charles O. Munson, Junction City, Geary county.

The Florentine room, beautifully



Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18



William A. Long, Fowler, Ford county.



Charles O. Munson, Junction City, Geary county.



Frank J. Schaffer, Pratt, Pratt county.

**atches Speeding Ship
e-U.S. Loses Citizen**

Jan. 31.—(A. P.) Harry Grube, coming from Latvia, whose parents the Atlantic States, returned to Riga last year to wed. Born on a British ship, the young fellow will be a British subject until he is 21. Then he may select his nationality. Mother and child were doing well tonight.

LE MURDER

Altho Alleged Unidentified.

g., Jan. 31.—st time in 145 an was sen-ay for murder entity has not

ouse, traveling icted of mur-ose charred ouse's burned onely road. as innocent of

MILAR CASE

n. 31.—(A. that in sentenced pleted of

**TO HANG 32 MEN TODAY
IN TOWN'S PUBLIC BLOCK**

Modern Turkey Exacts Lives Of Old 'Die-Hards.'

Sheik, 96, Drops Dead in Cell on Learning of Death Sentence—Would Have Been Spared.

Istanbul, Turkey, Jan. 31.—(A. P.)—Sheik Essad, 96, leader of a holy war which flamed and died in a day last December, dropped dead in his cell today when told he was to be hanged for treason. Parliament planned to commute the sentence.

The court today sentenced 37 more to die, including the sheik's son, Ali, 63. Sentences of five condemned, all over 65, were commuted to 24 years hard labor. The 32 others will be hanged tomorrow in the public square at the village of Menemen.

The revolt's objective was restoration of the caliphate and the fez and against introduction of Occidental customs.

TO GIVE DOG TO HOOVER

Group Obtains Elkhound Puppy From Norway for Him.

New York, Jan. 31.—(A. P.)—A Norwegian elkhound, two months old, will arrive Monday from Norway to be presented to President Hoover by the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America. The puppy was selected from one of the best kennels in its native country. Probably there are not more than 30 of the dogs in the United States.

FAST TRAIN HITS FREIGHT

Winchester, Ky., Jan. 31.—(A. P.)—A Florida-bound Louisville & Nashville passenger train crashed

manche county.

✓ Frank J. Schaffer, Pratt, Pratt county.

✓ William Page, Detroit, Dickinson county.

✓ Bruce S. Wilson, Keats, Riley county.

✓ John M. Lewis, Larned, Pawnee county.

✓ F. W. Dusenbury, Anthony, Harper county.

✓ Gus Brandenburg, Riley, Riley county.

✓ Earl E. Ferguson, Valley Falls, Jefferson county.

✓ William A. Long, Fowler, Ford county.

Charles O. Munson, Junction City, Geary county.

The Florentine room, beautifully decorated, was crowded with guests. P. B. Nichols, managing editor of the Capper Farm Press, was toastmaster and introduced the speakers in his usual pleasing manner.

Capper Sends Regrets.

Senator Capper was unable to leave his official duties in Washington, but he sent a telegram expressing his sincere congratulations to the 10 master farmers and the record they have made as farmers. Senator Capper's telegram follows:

"Toastmaster Kansas Master Farmers banquet. I regret very deeply my inability to be with you tonight but the press of legislation here and particularly the acute situation in regard to the oil industry makes it impossible. Please convey to the Kansas Master

WHY MASTER FARMER AWARDS ARE MADE

Master Farmer Awards are made thru Kansas Farmer in recognition of intelligence, skill and sincerity of purpose exhibited in the operation of the farm, in business methods, in home life and public spiritedness; and in recognition of the contribution each Master Farmer's individual efforts have made to the agricultural progress of the state.

ARTHUR CAPPER.

Farmers my sincere and heartfelt congratulations on the records they have made as farmers, as home builders and as worthwhile citizens which made them eligible for the degree of Master Farmer. It is such as these Master Farmers who keep the faith and win the way for us who follow them toward better times and better communities and a better state and nation. With best wishes."

Marco Morrow, assistant publisher, sent his regrets over being unable to attend. He is in a hospital recovering from the effects of an operation, and was sorry he could not be present at the presentation of awards.

Composite Master Farmer.

A composite of these men who have gained such wholesome recognition as farmers was presented at the banquet by J. C. Mohler, secretary of the state board of agriculture. Mr. Mohler,

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

February 6, 1931

75

Mr. J. S. Bird, President
The Wheat Farming Company
Hays, Kansas

My dear Mr. Bird:

I have your letter of February 3 in which you outline your views for Kansas development. I have read them very carefully and have been very much interested in what you have to say because I value your opinions highly.

I thank you for writing me so fully your views in connection with this matter and also for the clippings you inclose.

With very best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harry H. Woodring
Governor

Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

INVESTING A COMMUNITY'S TIME ✓

In this series of articles it has been demonstrated that due to present trends in one-crop farming, productive work upon the farm has necessarily been limited to a few months each year.

A suggestion for the use of enforced idle time which may at first seem more or less fanciful, but upon sober reflection, practical, is this: There is possibility of a decentralized industrial life on the plains of Kansas. The great discoveries of natural gas with the mammoth pipe lines traversing the country, together with high-tension electric lines provide an abundance of cheap and reliable power.

The Sunflower State is coming to possess superior highways in increasing mileage and number over which pass buses, motors and trucks—the transportation of a commonwealth.

The British Isles owed their manufacturing supremacy during the greater part of the 19th century to the coal measures of Wales; New England's enviable manufacturing position was based on water power, but what the coal mines meant to England and the water power to New England, that and more natural gas, bus and motor truck transportation and electricity may mean to western Kansas.

Here is the labor and the cheap power; the question of raw materials comes next. In the last ten years hundreds of new products are being made from former waste products of the farm, such as corn stalks, wheat straw and fiber of all kinds; a splendid oil is being made from sunflower seeds, as well as synthetic rubber from the sap of this hardy weed. Manufacturers no longer seek to place their plants in large cities where social problems, congestion and lack of adequate housing complicate the situation.

We think of Kansas as a great agricultural state, which it is, but it is more. The eastern half of the state has a wider variety of mineral resources than any other equal area in the United States. Oil, coal, shale, salt and many other mineral resources are in extensive commercial production.

Cheap power, the remarkable reservoir of intelligent and industrious labor, magnificent transportation facilities developing together with the wealth of raw materials at our doors, may be one solution of the problem of adequate use for Kansas of every golden hour.

J. S. Bird, Hays, Kansas.

Number 9.