

#### Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

**Section 7, Pages 181 - 210** 

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)

Date: 1931-1932

Callnumber: Governor's Office, Governor Henry H. Woodring, Correspondence, Subject Files, Box 18

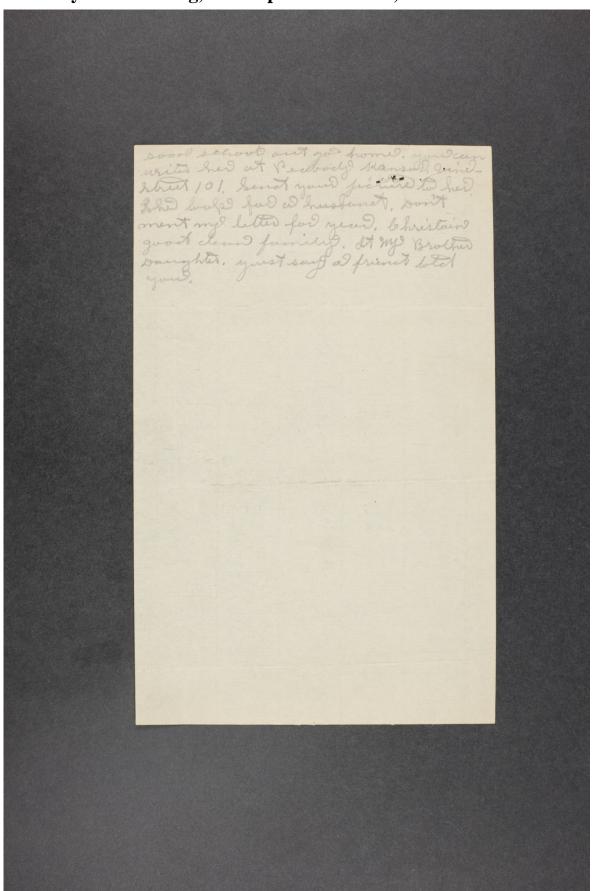
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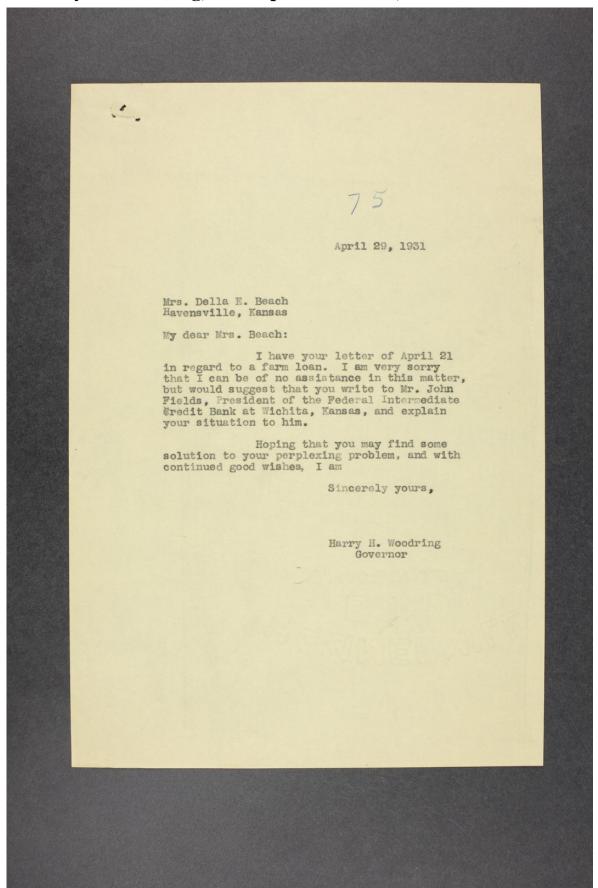
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# KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

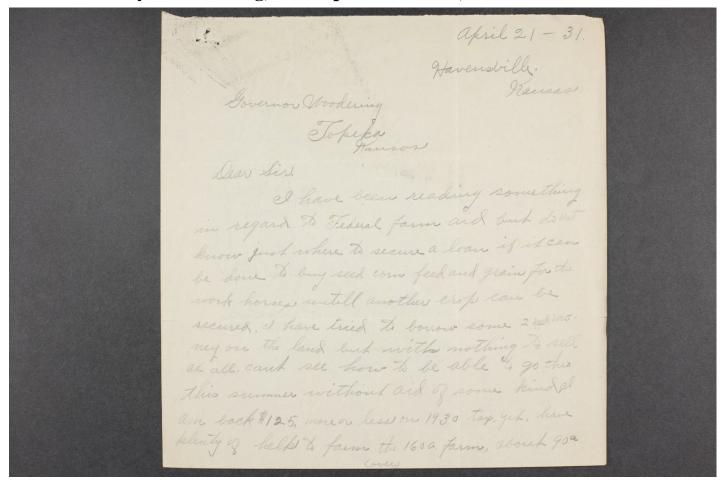








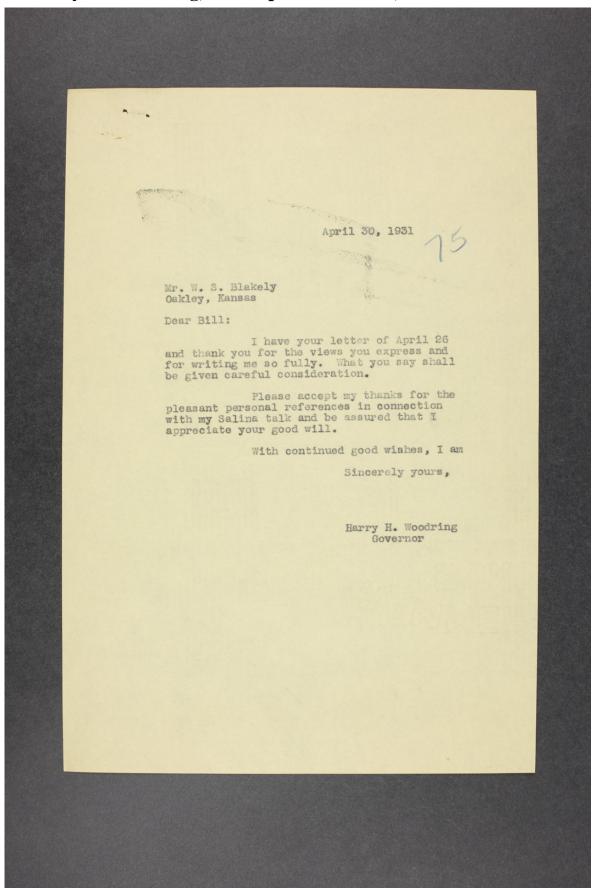




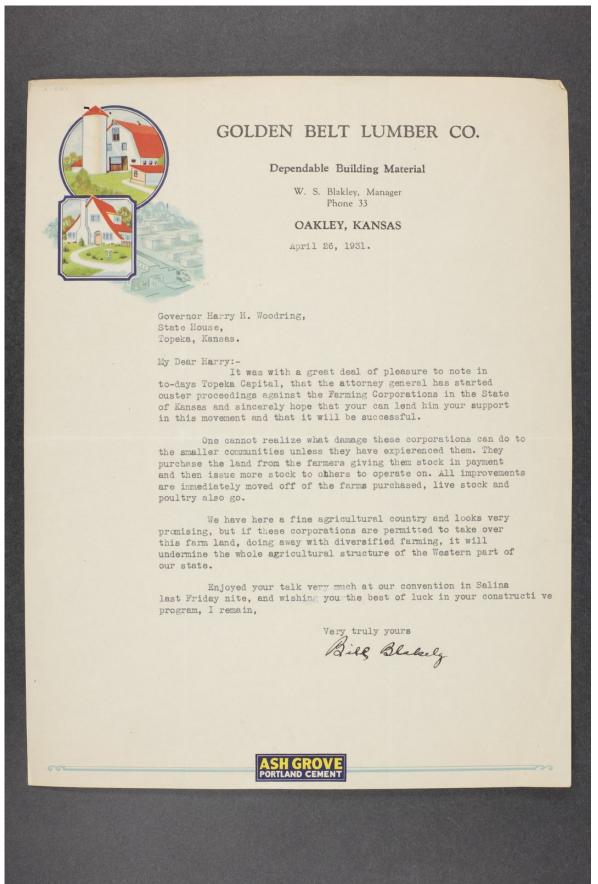


of farm ground, would you be so kind as to	
inform me in regard to this matter I have	
a family of g at home now to feed and at the price we are now receiving for produce	
it is impossiable to get along without	
some help. I don't want & leave the farm	
as all no cheldren love form life we support no	
automobile, drive 4 mi & do our trading and	
glad Is cancell all amusements Is hold the farm	
and raise a crop this years Davis Welcome	
may to fokeka the fel of 4 500 loans	
for my farm n.w. 49,14-7-12-Lincoln Twop. Pottanatomics the loan et is gut well acquainted with me and my honesty B. a. Leinbach. Origina Bo	
for other reference with ne and my honesty	
B. a. Leis back Price ( Sank of anaga Kana, H. a. Gerulymache	
Kans. hoping & hear fy ret.	
the favor am Line of return mailor to growt me	
Kaus, hoping & hear by return mail or to growt me the favor am Lincerelly Della E. Beach.	

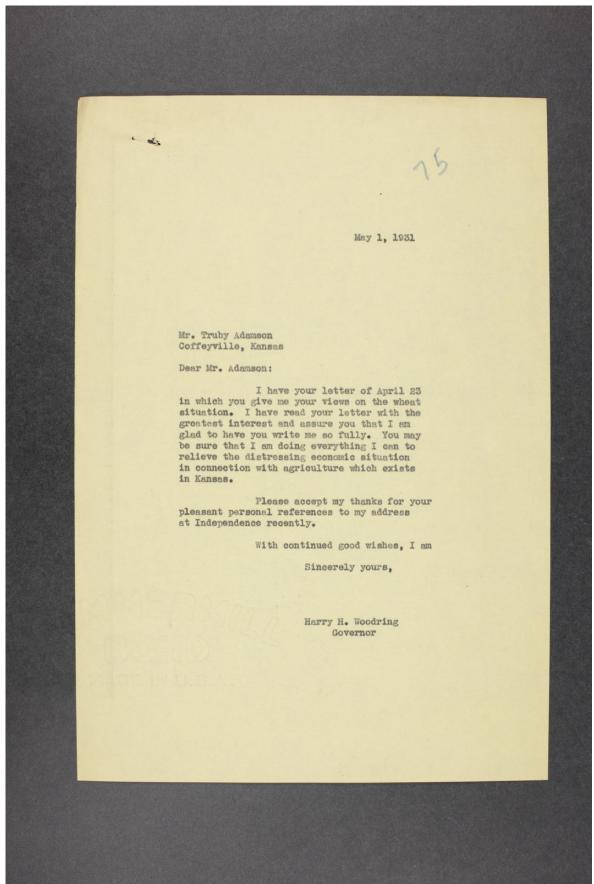














Golemon Harry Woodring, apl. 23, 1931.
Dear Sir: Aling the Legion rally
yesterday evening at sudependent
my views of the wheat situation.
These views original has been side of the sence as that has been my occupation for the gast fifteen usears.
The state of the second of the
it is my belief and of I also of
cotton) it would solve the seou- omic ills from which the nation
is suffering.  Jan glad to see a Kodesha  man and presonal acquaintance so  shly libring the effice of Governor
to last wishes from a
fellow legionaire and domoerat.

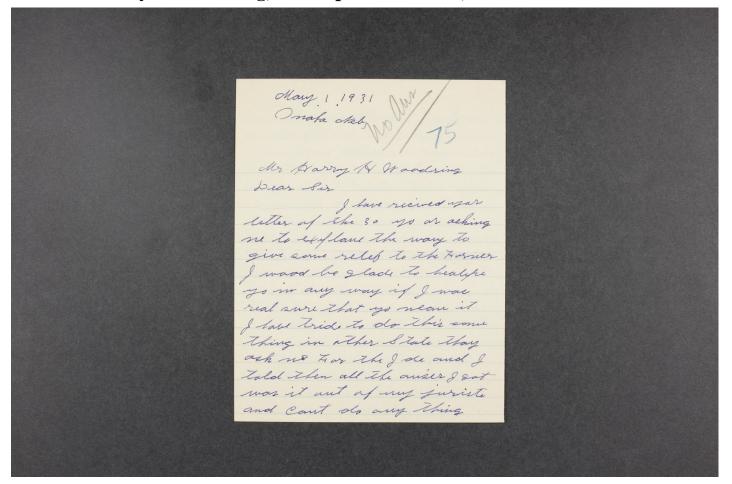


A suggested wethod for profitably and permenantly eliminateing the
1. Each grower to grow as many acres as he desires.
2. Just before harvest thinted states Department of agriculture to estimate
3. U. S. D. C. also to estimate probable.  sparly consumption by U. S. C.
4. From estimated yield and estimated consumption U.S. D. a. to determine amount of needed' wheat and amount
of surplus wheat grown in 4. S. a.
5. Sovernment to licence allgrain buyers. 6. Federal Farm Board to fost and maintain, if necessary, a price maintain, if necessary, a price
t proposipary, afor
on wheat equal to cost of imported wheat plus tariff- provided that
wheat plus tariff- provided that from each 100 bushels of downstice what delivered to buyer by the
wheat plus tariff- provided that from each 100 bushols of downstice
wheat plus tariff- provided that from each 100 bushels of downstic wheat delivered to buyer by the grower said grower must take you for the 'needed' wheat at import

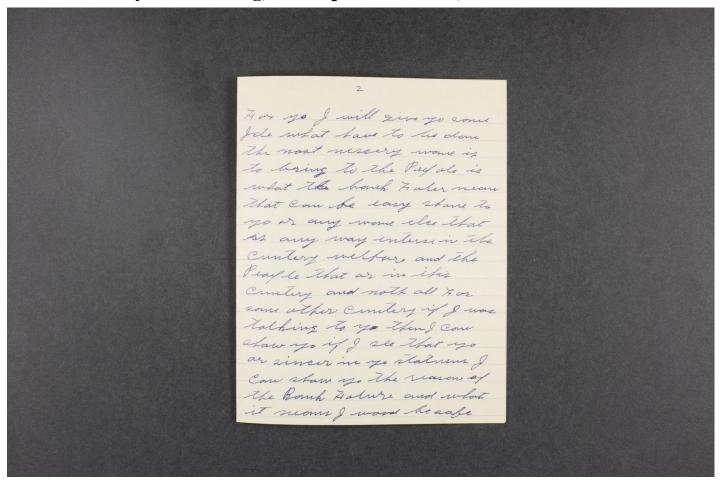


I t lack to Paris grand who
wheat lack to farm ground up with either tankage or molasses
per manently taken off the market.
1 & I consider their be region
· VI III · OII · OI I · OI I · OII · OII
self. If he had no use for feed he could accept certificates in lieu
the could accept certificates to the best of feed and dispose of them to the best wet be grant of his ability. But surplus wheat must be grant of his ability. But surplus wheat must be grant of his ability.
I want drain burger would be the
and it would be compulsory for him to buyou the above described
basis of returning to grower the per cent of wheat, in the form of feed, as
desimpled by the U.S.D. W., as they
(1) ell lors mudaling
I this method would be as soon as it eliminate the surplus as soon as it reached the market and place said
surplus to a good use at the same time putting the tariff into effect.
With sincere wishes for a more prosperous agriculture and nation.
I all a amsour
R.R.2. Coffeyville,

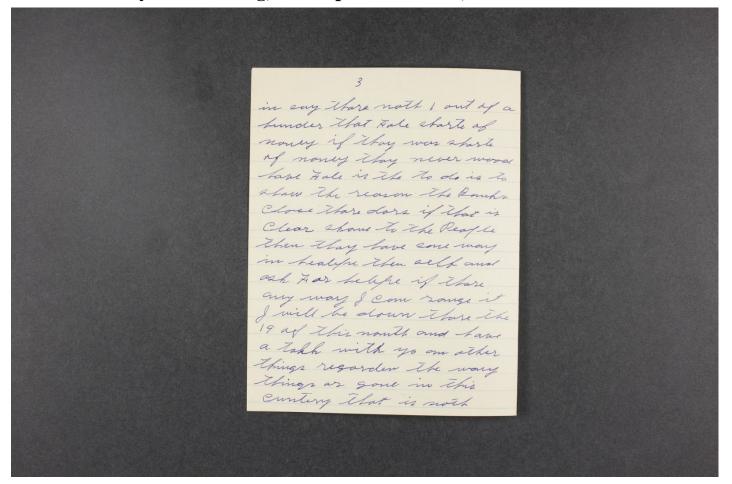




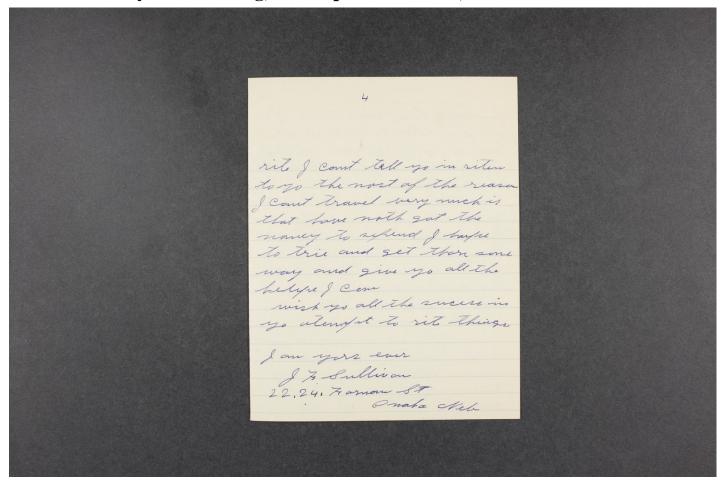




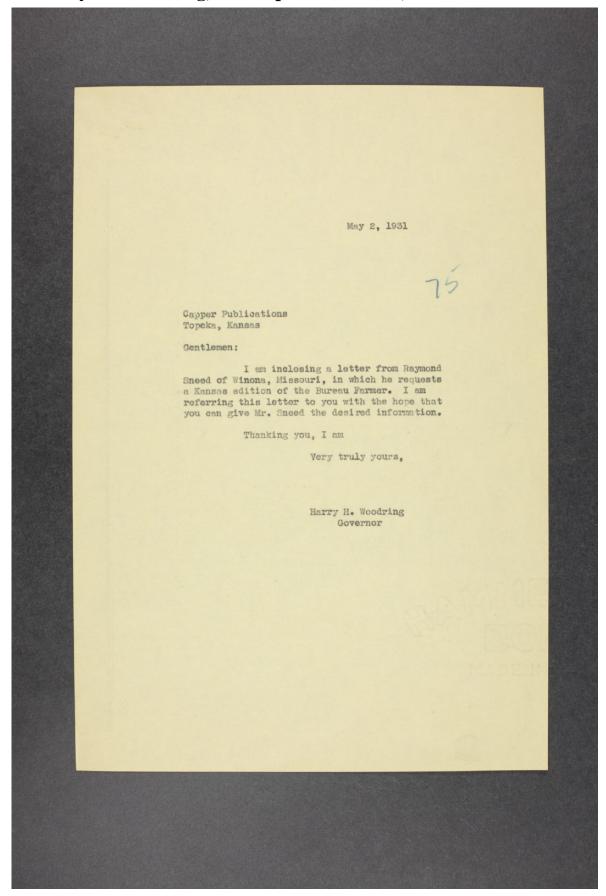




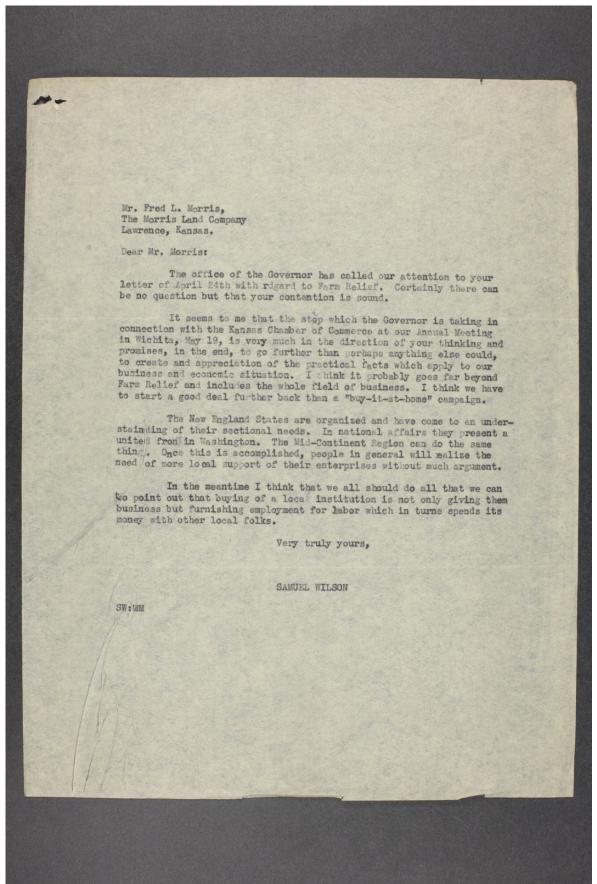




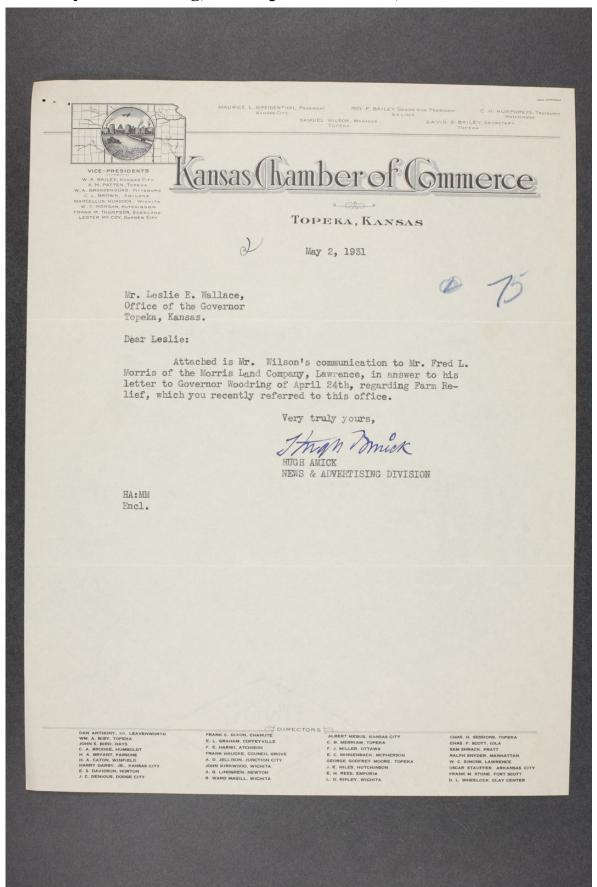




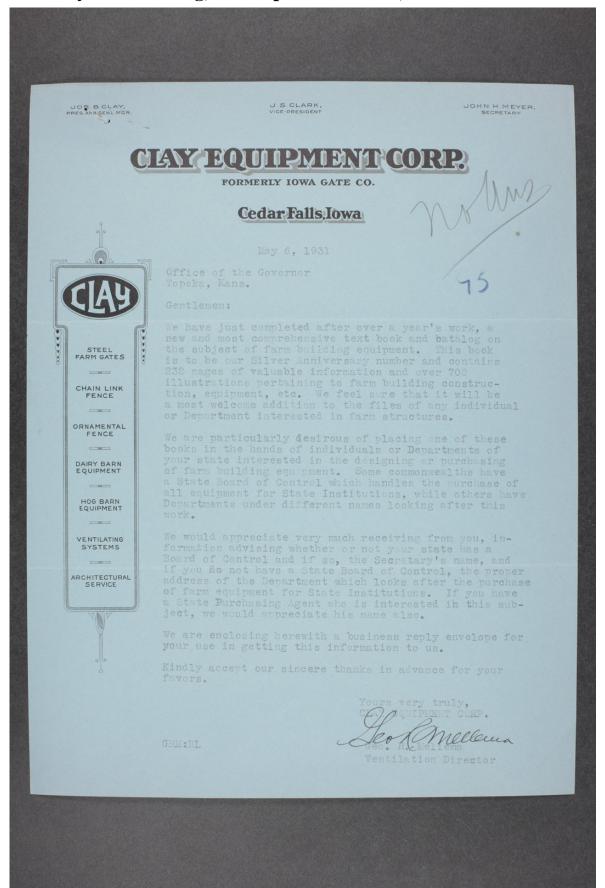




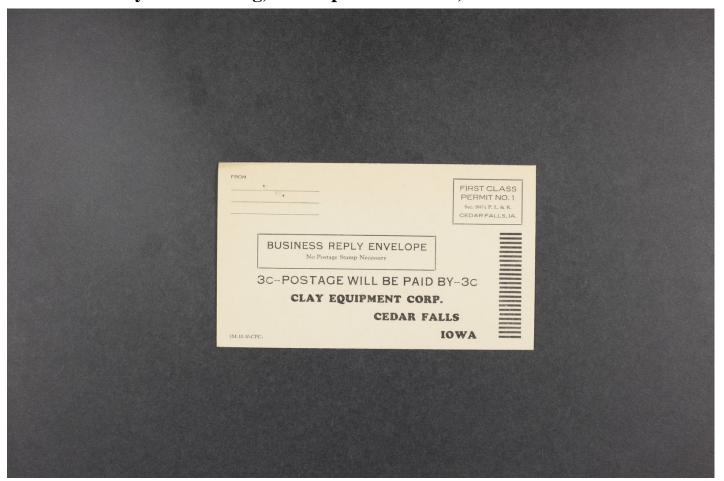




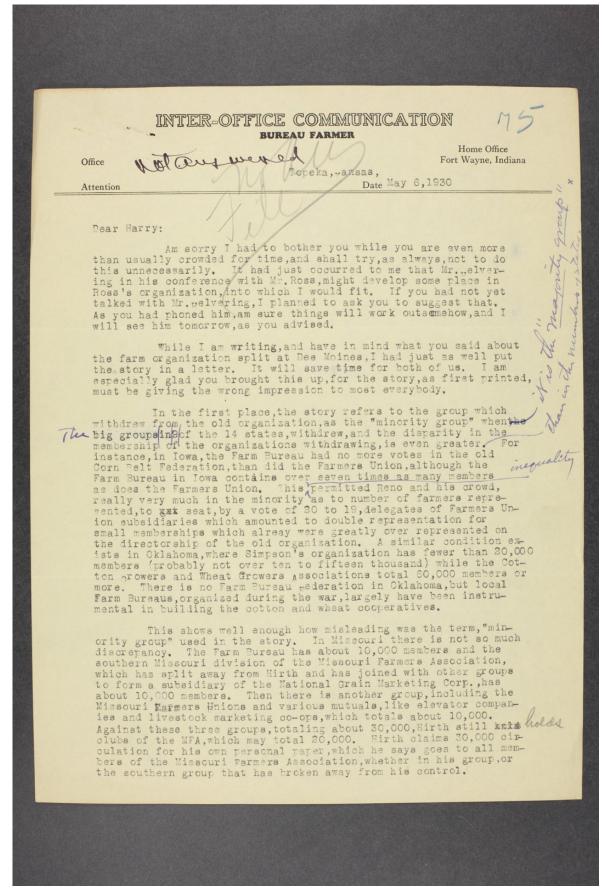














#### Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

#### INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION BUREAU FARMER

(Gov. Woodring - 2)

Home Office Fort Wayne, Indiana

Attention

Office

Date

I'll just give you a table, as completely as I can, of what really is back of each group, since the split of the Corn Belt Federation. My membership figures are for last year or year before, and may be too high, as there has been some loss of membership - some places quite heavy. In some cases I do not know for sure which leadership the state groups followed and in such cases I am putting the figures in the Hirth Column, but following them with a question mark. My figures will show the Hirth group as about half the Snyder group, and I am sure that is giving Hirth too large a proportion. But here they are:

STATE	FARMER'S	UNIONS	FARM B	BUREAUS	OTHER	GROUPS	
_	Snyder ,	Hirth	Snyder	Hirth	Snyder	Hirth	
Colo. Ill. Ind. Iowa Kans. Ky. Minn. Mo. Mont. Neb.	5,000 15,000 10,000 3,500 7,500	3,500 ?	60,000 60,000 75,000 22,000 25,000 10,000	4,500 ? 1,500 ? 2,000 ?	10,000	25,000 3,200 6,600 20,000 8,000	î
No.Dak. Okla. Wis.	37,500	17,500 15,000 ?		5,000	8,000	15,000	

These figures, I think, foot up 359,000 for the groups following Snyder - that is, splitting off from the old Corn Belt group - and 156,000 remaining with Hirth and his associate leaders. I am Quite sure both figures are too large. I have figured in the membership of the two big wheat pools - yet am not sure they had delegates at the meeting. But that should not change the comparison, as am sure the Northwest Wheat pool would have gone with Hirth's crowd and the Southwest with Snyder.

The figures above are not half as important as the records of the men. For instance Hirth, Reno and Simpson have just been named as the agricultural steering committee, by Senator Borah, at the recent so-called "Third Farty" meeting called in Washington. I have no doubt they have been working strenucusly for months on the scheme they tried to put over, of committing Middle west agriculture to whatever program they finally decide to espouse. They may expect only to use against Hoover, as much as they can control, but the thing Snyder's followers are concerned about is not Hoover (few of them axe have much regard for him) but the danger that farm strength, under such leadership, will be used by speculative and allied interests, to wreck the co-operative marketing structure and program of the Federal Farm Board has built thus far.



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#### INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION BUREAU FARMER

Office

(Gov. Woodring - 3)

Home Office Fort Wayne, Indiana

Attention

Date

In the successful scheme to beat Dr. Huff and elect Simpson head of the national Farmers Union last winter (successful because Huff was working hard in his job with the Farmers National Grain Marketing Corporation, and was not playing organization politics at all) the leaders of the "insurrectos" were Leonard Herrin, secretary of the Nebraska Farmers Union, Milo Reho, president of the Iowa Farmers Union, Wm. Hirth, president of the Missouri Farmers Association and John Simpson president of the Oklahoma Farmers Union. \_\_rom some acquaintance and a considerable knowledge of their records, I believe that Herrin is the only sincere one of the group. I have known Herrin 15 or 20 years. He is very radical and extreme in his beliefs. His beliefs may be right but his record is that he cannot work with others, even when they, sincerely are seeking the same things he claims to be for.

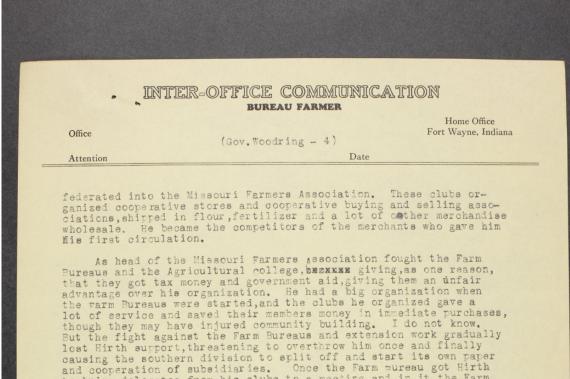
My first knowledge of John Simpson was a few years ago when there was a row and a split in the Oklahoma Farmers Union. Simpson was editor of their paper, which I represented in an advertising way, so I got only his side of the story, as printed in the paper. But anyhow, his faction split off from the other and he took his following and the paper to Okmulgee and kept up the scrap till he got what he wanted, when he moved back to Oklahoma City. In his attacks on the Federal Farm Board and its subsidiaries, he not only was proven wrong in his assertions, but he failed to get the support of the state organizations of Wansas, Colorado, Illinois, Missouir, Wisconsin, Minnesotar North Dakota and Montana. In my table of figures I am conceding the Hirth crowd the Wisconsin membership of the Farmers Union (with a question mark) because I think it possible that later disaffection in Wisconsin might have changed things, but until quite recently the Farmers Unions of the four northern states there, were solid for Huff.

Of Milo peno it is enough to say that he is one of the most powerful speakers ever in farm organization work, yet with all his power and ability, and in the field 20 years before the Farm Bureaus were started, his organization in Iowa has less than one seventh the membership of the Farm Bureau. I think it is putting it mildly enough to say he is well known in that state as an opportunist and demagog.

Hirth's record, which I started to tell you, briefly, is this. He bought the paper he still owns, and now calls Missouri Farmer. It had some other name when he started out to build up circulation. He went into nearly all the towns of any importance in the state and largely through their Chambers of Commerce (organizing chambers where they had none) got local business people interested in backing him to fight the mail order menace. He proposed to restore the trade of the country people to the home merchant by a crusade against the mail order houses - which he said all other papers were afraid to attack because it would interfere with their advertising. He is a fine speaker and a strong organizer and he got his list up to 50,000, the town business men buying subscriptions for their owstomers to make most of the list. After a few years - and the mail order houses still flounishing - his Chamber of Commerce support died out and he began forming the Missouri Farm Clubs, which were



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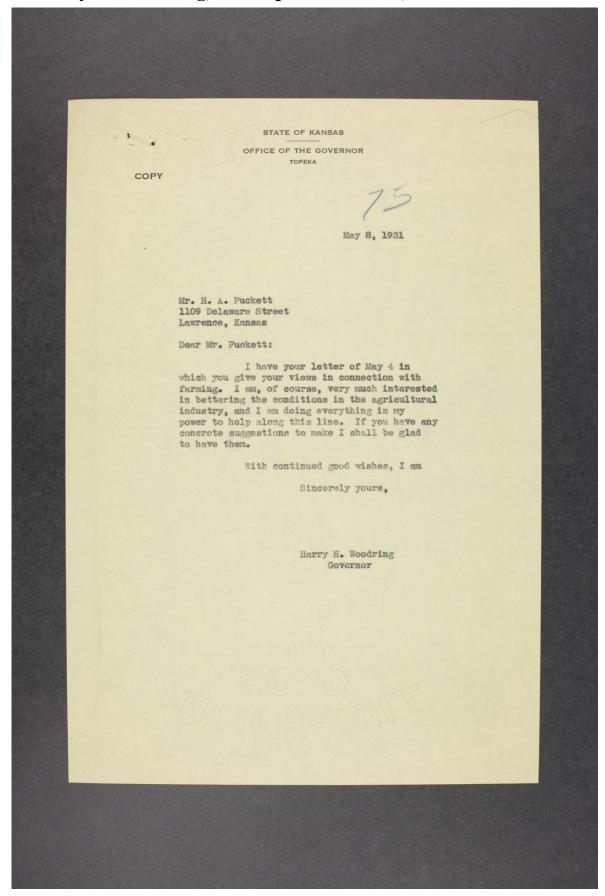


advantage over his organization. He had a big organization when the Farm Bureaus were started, and the clubs he organized gave a lot of service and saved their members money in immediate purchases, though they may have injured community building. I do not know. But the fight against the Farm Bureaus and extension work gradually lost Hirth support, threatening to overthrow him once and finally causing the southern division to split off and start its own paper and cooperation of subsidiaries. Once the Farm pureau got Hirth to bring delegates from his clubs to a meeting and in it the Farm Bureau (state) offered to turn the offices over to the Hirth association officers, turn the Farm Bureau patronage to the Farm Club subsidiaries and accept all paid up members of the Hirth organization as paid up for the same length of time in the Farm Bureau, in order to stop the strife and have one big organization enjoying all the privileges of the Farm Bureau and operating under its constitution and rules. Hirth refused to agree to this and Cowden, the Secretary resigned and it looked as though two thirds of the delegates might follow him out, when he was persuaded to stay another term. At the end of that he permanently got out. The two things did not happen at the same meeting, come to think (in case some one should dispute me) but the offer was made in an informal joint meeting in the winter and at the regular annual meeting of the Missouri parmers Ass'n the next fall, the split between Cowden and Hirth developed.

Since then a number of things have happened to show Hirth's hold is slipping and I think he is seizing on this crisis to attack somebody and use the excitement to help him rally a larger following. He always has used the fight psychology to keep his followers enough het up to prevent their doing too much thinking.

This split at mes Moines has been hanging fire for some time. At every meeting of the Corn Belt Federation, Reno and Hirth were out with propositions so incendiary that there was danger of injuring the cause of agricultural organization. It is a contest, as I see it, between a few brilliant, magnetic leaders who are self-seekers, exploiters, hell raisers, and the rank and file of sound, unselfish farm leaders who have no "powers to move the masses" and who have to depend somewhat on time to demonstrate their soundness. It is not in any sense an issue between Democrats and mepublicans. Kinney, editor of the Farmers Union paper here; nr. Huff, who was head of the national; Ricker, of Minnesota, O'Shea of Montana; Miller and a mi Wadsworth of Missouri and doubtless some others heads of the groups with Snyder are Democrats. But they, like the mepublicans of their group seek only to save and strengthen co-operative marketing.

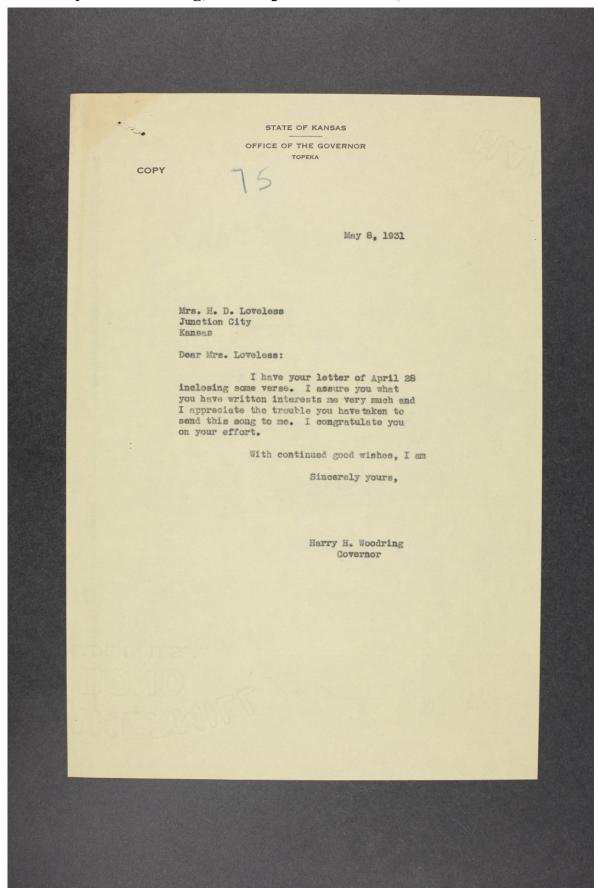






Some Woodning Many 1 2931.  Some Woodning Many 15
Dear Six: I have feen interested in
farming I stock raising for several years learning the ways of those whot made a
success of those who just existed, I when a person knows what goes tood making
a success in that line it is not hard
to see many of the farmers worst troubles of today.
The farming furinesh is in a fad way at present, but could be remedied a great deal
fy feter management in many cases there are several causes which make fusiness
bod for the farmer of I cannot kely fut felieve
it will take some time to get farming tack in good condition again.
of the worst troubles & know how they can
I would like to prove to the farming puflic
that some things can be fettered for most of them, but I cannot accomplish this alone
I want to ask if you are interested in the
Hoping a battorable reply, 1109 Del: Sh. Jane, Yours Truly Laurenge







The sont conction City, Tans.  Of the 2th 1931.
Lovernor Harry A Woodring
Tofeka, Nausas Des Lovernor Woodring: -
Sowmal-Port of a week ago that you had mirted light of the other states
governors to set in with you at- the session of the Nausas State Chamber of Commerce to be held
at Wichita in May. That written some verse with
no farticular idea in nind at the time. It has occurred to me since that it night be a good theme song for
you are staging at chichita. The song



Governor Harry H. Woodring, Correspondence Files, Box 18

"The Moore is Loose", written for the tune, Our enclosing the song ender separate Cover. The a Reed Republican, Law very expect to support you m 1932 your vito of the Muir Capital Fune ment bill was, all things to , a great service to the state I think such a service long ateh toward statesman



