

ELECT SAM THOMPSON PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FARM BUREAU

Coolidge Pledges Co-ops Aid; He is Opposed to Price Fixing

FIVE THOUSAND FARM BUREAU FOLKS PACK A. F. B. F. CONVENTION HALL TO OVERFLOWING TO HEAR PRESIDENT

Chief Executive Believes Co-operative Marketing And Use of Farm Loan Credits for Orderly Distribution is Best Way to Handle Farm Surpluses Problem

President Calvin Coolidge made four important statements of administration policy toward agriculture in the address he delivered before the 7th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation at Chicago, December 7.

He pledged his aid to farmers' co-operative marketing enterprises; he said that he would approve any plan that is economically sound for disposing of agricultural surpluses at satisfactory prices, but is rigidly opposed to putting the government into business, directly or indirectly, which he said amounts to price fixing.

Five thousand Farm Bureau members were in the new ball room of the Sherman Hotel to hear the address. Thousands of other Farm Bureau members throughout the country heard the address as broadcast by several radio stations.

A Notable Occasion The occasion was a notable one in the annals of American agriculture. A President of the United States left Washington on the eve of Congress assembling and made a flying trip to Chicago for the sole purpose of addressing the American Farm Bureau, and through it the farmers throughout the country.

Following is the main body of President Coolidge's address to the Farm Bureau, which includes the message that he wished to lay before the farmers. His introduction has been omitted. This section of the address starts at the point where he reached the heart of his subject and continues through to the end.

Nearing Pre-War Level "The tendency appears to be to bring agriculture as a whole back to the same relative economic position that it occupied before the war. While general production, prices, and living conditions on the farms are improving, there is little ground for fear that agriculture is becoming decadent; yet some areas are still depressed; debts and taxes still remain.

Opposes Artificial Aids "Various suggestions of artificial relief have been made. Production has been ample, but prices compared with the war era have been very much reduced, although they are now considerably improved. The proposals made have, therefore, had the purpose of increasing prices.

BUREAU'S GUEST



PRES. CALVIN COOLIDGE

Side Lights on President's Visit

President Coolidge wore the only silk hat. Pres. Bradfute and the three other Farm Bureau leaders who greeted the President at the train stuck to their regular headgear.

The editor of the Farm Bureau News has heard from a number of folks who heard the President over the radio. His mother, at Oil City, Pa., picked it up from station KDKA Pittsburgh, very clear.

COOLIDGE OPENS CONVENTION AMID STIRRING SCENES

7,000 Pulses Beat Quicker As Nation's Chief Executive Sounds Keynote

FLAGS, MUSIC FEATURE

Speech Broadcasted From 7 Stations, Printed From Coast to Coast

Monday morning, December 7, at exactly eleven o'clock, came one of the crowning moments in the life of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The occasion was the opening of the seventh annual convention. Five thousand farmers, representing 40 or more states, were packed closely together with some 2,000 distinguished visitors.

Two hundred newspaper men and several motion picture cameramen were crowded around the speaker's platform and in the press section. A battery of four microphones was in front of the radio announcer who was cheerily painting a word picture of the scene to the hundreds of thousands of listeners.

Applause Greeted President Away up in the north end of the room an orchestra was playing. A large American flag hung suspended just above the speaker's stand. By its side was another flag pole with a flag carefully furled around the pole, and just at eleven o'clock there came a whisper, came a ringing of necks, the orchestra burst into "Hail to the Chief."

HEADS A. F. B. F.



SAM H. THOMPSON

NEW PRESIDENT OF A. F. B. F. CAME UP FROM RANKS

Started on 80 A. Near Quincy, Ill.; Helped Build Farm Bureau

Sam H. Thompson of Quincy, Illinois, president of the Illinois Agricultural Association, was born August 18, 1863, on a 40-acre farm in Gilmer township, near Quincy. He was the youngest of five children, three girls and two boys. He grew to manhood on this farm and received his education in the public schools until he was 21 years old.

At the age of 26 he and Miss Lemmie Dickhut were married. The same year he bought an 80-acre farm at \$75 per acre, going in debt for the entire amount. On this farm there were born to the Thompsons seven children, four boys and three girls. Five are now married and living on farms in the neighborhood of their father and grandfather.

HE SUCCEEDS O. E. BRADFUTE, WHO IN 3 YEARS FREED THE A. F. B. F. FROM DEBT AND STRENGTHENED THE ORGANIZATION

Three National Farm Bureau Leaders Before the Convention in Thrilling Contest, Which is Featured by Fine Spirit of Fair Play; Thompson Wins on 8th Ballot

Sam H. Thompson, president of the Illinois Agricultural Association, which is the Farm Bureau in that State, was elected president of the American Farm Bureau at the Seventh Annual meeting at Chicago, Dec. 7-10, which was attended by about 200 Michigan members.

President Coolidge's address to 5,000 Farm Bureau folks on the first day of the convention and the election of Mr. Thompson to the presidency of the Federation were the two big features of the convention. The last was unduly sensationalized by some of the newspapers as indicating the complete change in the policies of the American Farm Bureau.

Mr. Thompson succeeded O. E. Bradfute of Ohio, who had served three terms as president of the Federation and whose administration during the past year is credited with having brought the American Farm Bureau from a deficit of \$40,000 to a position where it is out of debt and able to report a cash surplus of \$10,000, which is the best position the Federation has been in since 1921.

Candidates Not Far Apart It was known that Mr. Bradfute would stand for re-election and that Mr. Thompson, a member of the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors, would also seek the honor. In this regard, it was said that Mr. Thompson was a strong supporter of a plan for a federal law to create a farm export corporation to dispose of American farm surpluses and thus increase our domestic prices.

In his annual address to the delegates, Mr. Bradfute pointed out that there was a great deal of discussion on the subject and that he hoped the convention would come to a unanimous opinion on the matter and whatever that opinion was, he pledged his administration to carry it out. Mr. Bradfute pointed out the dangers of governmental price fixing, as did Mr. Thompson's friends in the resolution which they offered for a farm export corporation "not involving government subsidy."

As had been expected, both Mr. Bradfute and Mr. Thompson were candidates for president and were offered as such on their records of service in the Farm Bureau. Mr. E. O. O'Neal, of Alabama, vice-president of the American Farm Bureau was also a candidate.

For seven ballots Mr. Thompson and Mr. Bradfute ran about even, with Mr. O'Neal having less than half the votes commanded by his rivals. On the eighth ballot, Mr. O'Neal released his votes and enough of them went to Mr. Thompson to elect him as Farm Bureau President for the next two years. The Bradfute men promptly made the election unanimous and pledged their support to whatever program should be developed later on the adoption of resolutions.

CASS CO. BUREAU HOLDS A ROUSING ANNUAL MEETING

Cassopolis, Dec. 11—That the Cass County Farm Bureau is a going concern was demonstrated by the interest in the annual meeting held here Dec. 10. The year's activities were reviewed, officers and delegates elected and future plans discussed. State Sec'y C. L. Brody addressed the meeting.

Resolutions adopted favored one auto license plate for the life of the car and a three cent gas tax to make up the difference in revenues; a reform in Cass county roadbuilding so that not more than 80 per cent of the contract price be paid before the engineer's final estimate is filed.

At the election of officers, J. C. Burgener, LaGrange and Paul H. Savage, Marcellus, were chosen to succeed themselves as President and Sec'y-Treas., respectively. J. W. Phillips of Pokagon was elected Vice-President. Roy D. Ward of Dowagiac was re-elected director for a term of three years and D. Elbert Harvey of Porter was elected director for a like term to succeed Ray

The contest was keen between Mr. Bradfute and Mr. Thompson, but without bitterness or any unpleasantness. In fact, on the first ballot, before any strength had been shown, it developed as the ballots were being counted that one voting delegate, almost certainly a Bradfute man, had not been properly seated. The man who nominated Mr. Thompson moved that the delegate be seated, as it developed that he was there in good faith and that his unfortunate position was due to his failure as an alternate delegate to have himself registered when the regular delegate had to leave the city. This brought a storm of applause and indicated the spirit of fairness that characterized the entire meeting. No log rolling or sharp practices were engaged in.

Where Farm Bureau Convention Was Held HOTEL SHERMAN, CHICAGO



