Years of Unrest, Depression and Political Harassment
REGARDLESS OF THE JOB, WITHOUT GOOD WILL SUCCESS IN WORK IS ALL UPHILL

From its beginning, Extension has been a non-political agency dependent on local, state and federal good will and financing. Its services have been and are available to all people and have been used by more people of the state than those of any other agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This has posed some problems in that some attempts have been made to use Extension funding as hostage for passage of other measures.

Many taxpayers have little understanding of how taxes are levied or spent and it has sometimes been easy to excite voters for or against a measure or an agency by using misleading propaganda or omitting important facts or figures. The final decision as to whether or not a county has a county agent is vested in the voters and administered by the County Board of Commissioners. During its first thirty years North Dakota Extension was faced with many detours and stumbling blocks. Many counties voted and revoked on Extension work during those years and numerous staff changes resulted.

It could be said that the first ten years of Extension's foothold in North Dakota was just by the toenails and it was a true "trial under fire." But actually, during that time the fire was just being kindled and the trial had many more years to run and much more testimony to present before Extension was judged worthy of a place in the taxpayers pocketbook in many counties.

Extension as an agency partially funded by federal funds is governed by the federal Hatch Act and all Extension workers are prohibited from political activities for party candidates. That does not prohibit them from testifying or lobbying before legislative bodies as is illustrated in the next few pages. Public policy and especially national public policy is often party oriented and much skills is required for conducting public meetings for discussing it. "Pros" and "cons" may be heatedly debated by those in attendance and the discussion leader may be accused of being prejudiced. Extension has had responsibility for conducting such meetings and, regardless of the national administration, has been criticized for fulfilling that responsibility. At times it may have been prudent to overlook that assignment.

No two county agent have the same personality nor, regardless of training, the same ability to present their programs. Those differences make recruiting and training of Extension workers a strong challenge and sometimes mistakes are made. During early Extension history a shortage of qualified candidates and low Extension salaries made it difficult to maintain a full county agent staff. Sometimes it was necessary to hire an agent and send him to a county after only one to three days of orientation and training. This writer had only one day of orientation before going alone to his first county. It was a matter of swim, sink or float. I wasn't smart enough to swim and didn't intend to sink so I just floated around until my feet touched ground and I was safely ashore.

PATIENCE AS ONE TRAVELS HIS ROAD GETS HIM HOME SAFELY WITH HIS LOAD

Good will was essential to a successful cattle testing program and the following true story illustrates how personalities more than work effort may affect a program's success.

Tuberculosis testing required that each animal be confined and inoculated. Then, three days later each animal had to be confined again and the inoculated area inspected. That was not difficult for most dairy cattle but was often a rough and tumble job with beef animals that weren't used to being stalled. Some farmers did not have adequate corrals or chutes and their animals had to be roped and snubbed. They were not too anxious to cooperate.

One such situation occurred with J. Clayron Russell, Golden Valley County Agent, and the manner in which he solved it is a lesson in "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

Mr. Russell was routing the veterinarian, traveling with him and assisting with arrangements for testing. One farmer let it be known that no county agent or veterinarian was going to test his herd. He boasted in pool halls and whenever he had an opportunity before a crowd that he had a gun and would use it if necessary on anyone who attempted to test his herd. Local people wondered what their county agent was going to do. Would he ask the Sheriff for protection?

There was much suspense and speculation but county agent Russell was in no hurry and he routed the veterinarian all around that farmer's neighborhood so the farmer could see their herds tested without protest. When most of the other farmer's herds had been tested, Mr. Russell suggested that he and the veterinarian visit the farmer just for a friendly visit and strictly not to mention testing of his herd. The veterinarian was kind of allergic of "bucksheath fever" and refused to go until Russell outlined topics such as crops, weather, family, etc., for discussion.

When they drove into the farmer's yard he met them near the barn and it was plain that they were not welcome. Mr. Russell engaged him in general
conversation and learned that he had a boy of 4-H club age. The farmer said his boy wasn’t a very good worker and he was having difficulty getting him to clean out the hen house. There was a little more small talk and then they left, unwounded. They had broken the ice and made a little progress towards friendliness but there was still a raw chill in their relationship.

A few days later Mr. Russell again routed their travel to that farmer’s yard. He cautioned the veterinarian not to mention testing but to be friendly and talk about things in general. Russell in turn would seek out the son and see if he might be interested in becoming a 4-H club member. There was a poultry club in a neighboring community and the boy seemed anxious to be a member of it. Before leaving he took the boy to the poultry house and showed him how to clean it out, how to build some nests and talked briefly about the poultry project. He then invited the boy to attend the next meeting of the neighboring 4-H poultry club. Feelings were much friendlier when they left but they weren’t yet on the friendly “cup of coffee” basis and still no mention had been made of testing.

Several days elapsed before Russell again routed their travel to the farmer’s place. The veterinarian was becoming impatient but Russell told him to be patient and to let him lead the conversation. When they arrived at the farm they immediately noticed a much warmer atmosphere but no mention was made of testing. Finally the farmer said, “you aren’t driving out here just to be friendly so how about that damned cow testing program that’s going on around here.” They explained the purpose and advantages of the testing program and that they were not trying to force him to have his herd tested. They asked why he was reluctant and he said that he just didn’t have pens or chutes to handle his herd for testing. That was quickly taken care of by a neighbor’s offer to use his facilities and the farmer’s herd was soon tested.

That farmer became a good Extension supporter and his son was an active 4-H club member.

Not all county agents have had Mr. Russell’s touch or techniques and because of some rash acts have jeopardized Extension work in their counties. One instance reported by county agent leader Gorman at the same time Mr. Russell’s work was reported well contrasts such technique differences.

In that instance a young man was employed and sent into a county that was about to vote whether or not to reestablish county agent work. Mr. Gorman took him to that county about a month before the election and introduced him to some community leaders interested in a positive vote for Extension. Mr. Gorman discussed and outlined educational programs concerning county agent work and warned and rewarned him not to engage in any rash acts.

Gorman especially warned him of a farmer who was fighting county agent work with all of his ability and ingenuity and said it would be best to leave him alone.

Gorman returned to that county about a week before the election to see how the educational work was going and to suggest and give help for completing it. He was quite satisfied with the agent’s report and was about to leave when the agent dumbfounded him with the remark that he surely fixed that farmer who was fighting county agent work. He said that he found the farmer in the pool hall one day and when a lot of people were there. He had backed the farmer into a corner, pointed his finger right at his face and told him what county agent work would do for him and other farmers. He said he had kept at the farmer until he admitted in front of all those people that he was for county agent work.

That young potential county agent was greatly puffed up but Mr. Gorman soon deflated him. Gorman reminded him that success or failure of any program depended largely on public relationships and public good will and that humiliation of anyone in public was not generally the “road to success.”

WHEN ONE HAS A VERY ROUGH RIDE, UNKNOWN FRIENDS RALLY TO ONE’S SIDE

War time prosperity began to run out during 1920 and the whole next decade was a period of hard times for Extension. Emergency federal funds used to employ war time Extension staffs were discontinued and Extension was back to its former local funding level.

Poor crops had not allowed many farmers to benefit from the high war time grain prices but there had been no lack of credit and many were heavily in debt. Wheat was selling for around $2.50/bushel in 1920 and just a year later it was bringing only about $1.25/bushel.

Bankruptcies increased rapidly in both business and agriculture and it was a heyday for agitators. The Non-Partisan League was in its full glory pitting towns people against farmers and Extension became the “whipping boy” in many counties. Eddy county agent A.C. Peterson’s 1921 annual report states—“the political situation is so intense and so bitter that the farming element is absolutely opposed to the city or village inhabitants. They refuse any attempt to
come together to discuss problems of mutual interest. They look upon a new man in a new position (county agent) as some representative sent here to promulgate interests of some private concern or to act as a press agent for one political party or another."

That statement was surely somewhat extreme but it foretold hard times ahead for Extension. In truth, few knew the real purpose of county agent work or its cost to the local taxpayer. It was easy to make people believe that big tax savings could be made by voting out the county agent and indeed many counties did so. In fact, 21 of the 35 counties having county agents tried to do so in 1922. Constant vigilance by the county agent leader and his assistants in checking sufficiency of petition signatures filed with county auditors eliminated eight counties from voting. Sufficient petitions were filed with 13 county auditors and defensive county agent campaigns were conducted in those counties largely by local supporters. Publicity was an important part of the campaign and a favorable local paper editor was a valuable asset. General letters to the voters signed by the College President, Extension Director, County Agent Leader, Demonstration Leader and 4-H State Leader had strong appeal and were frequently used. Quarter and half page ads were used and paid for by local Extension supporters.

Campaigns to vote out county agent work were successful in five of those thirteen counties as follows:*

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<th>1922</th>
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<th>Against County Agent Work</th>
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<td>810</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>**Stark</td>
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<td>1,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Walsh</td>
<td>2,514</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

County agent leader John Haw expressed his feelings following the 1922 election referrals as follows:

"Loss of five counties is not considered too much of an indictment of Extension considering the circumstances and inability of the people as a whole to pay their taxes, and the wave of radical sentiment proclaiming that nothing short of fixed prices on cost plus basis could solve the farm problem, and the almost revolutionary sentiment for tax reduction.

"In the fall of 1924 undoubtedly a number of other counties will vote on the question. While this vote is more or less disrupting, yet it is the opinion of this office when this vote is taken and carried with a good majority, it puts Extension work on a firmer and more stable basis than would otherwise be secured. Hence, the attitude of the office is rather favorable toward the matter of voting in the various counties.

"The personnel is now made up of men and women well trained and of considerable experience back of them. We believe that in practically all cases the work is thoughtfully planned and efficiently executed. The general supervision from the Washington office is always suggestive and helpful and in every instance is welcomed and appreciated.

"It is the opinion of this office that the general outlook for Extension work has passed the experimental stage. Its plans and methods have been well thought out, have been tried in the field and have received the stamp of public approval. There can be no doubt of the effect of this great system of agricultural education upon the agriculture and, hence, the general prosperity and economic conditions that follow.""

Mr. Haw's predictions for more referrals in 1924 came true and continued through 1932. However, he left North Dakota Extension in 1924 to head the Northern Pacific Railroad Agriculture Development Department and missed out on some interesting referral campaigns.

Many of the records for the year 1924 were lost or misplaced in a mass of old records piled in disorder in basement rooms of the Agricultural Building. Therefore, most of 1924 Extension history has been recorded from memory by N.D. (Bert) Gorman who was county agent leader at that time. One of the important bits of history of that year which was to have a lasting effect on Extension Service was the vote on county agent work in the counties. No record exists of the number of counties that voted in 1924 but one county which did not vote officially brought on a situation in the state legislature a few months later which resulted in a change in the Extension law.

Karl Swanson was county agent in Burke County in 1924 and it is no discredit to him or his work that the controversy that raged around keeping the county from voting was to stir up the leadership in the legislature in 1925 resulting in the House of Representatives repealing the Extension law.

Some time before the time limit for filing petitions requesting a vote on county agent work, Karl Swanson notified the state office that petitions were being circulated in Burke County. State leaders became fearful that Extension work would be voted out in Burke County and they got involved in checking petitions with the county auditor. They found that insufficient signatures were on file by the deadline filing date and informed the county commissioners of that lack. The commissioners
ignored that lack of signatures and proceeded with plans to conduct the election. Extension then got a friendly local resident to file a legal complaint and the court enjoined the commissioners from conducting the election.

However, ballots had already been distributed and several townships did vote. No results were announced as the vote was illegal but it was generally known that Extension work lost in most every township that allowed a vote.

Burke County Senator Ralph Engerson was one of those involved in securing petition signers and he much resented the state office interference in that Burke County election. He stated he would "fix" Extension and he kept his word by introducing a bill in the 1925 state legislature to repeal the state law authorizing Extension. That bill caused Extension much grief in dealing with the 1925 legislature and although it did not prevail it did result in revision of the state law. Extension also suffered a severe cut in state funds for that biennium. They also learned that interference in county elections should be avoided.

Although no official vote was taken in Burke County, Karl Swanson resigned as county agent and was placed as county agent in Williams County where he retired in 1943.

Burke County was without a county agent for nearly two years when E.M. Gregory was assigned there on April 1, 1929. Politically, much of the unrest was quieted and Gregory served Burke County well until he became an Extension Supervisor in 1934.

Both Bottineau and Mercer Counties voted out Extension work in 1924 and petitions were circulated in several other counties but failed to get sufficient signers.

North Dakota politics has had several eruptions but probably the most activity was generated during the days of the Non-Partisan League and the IVA's. National Democrat and Republican party lines did not suit North Dakota politicians and in efforts to reap more votes liberal politicians organized the Non-Partisan League and the conservative politicians formed the Independent Voter's Association called the IVA's. Generally speaking Non-partisans prevailed in rural and small town areas and IVA's prevailed in the larger towns and cities. Politics appeared to be somewhat of a town versus country affair and that feeling was whipped up by such astute politicians as A.C. Townley, William Lempke, Lynn J. Fraser and William Langer. IVA's changed their party name more than once but their general leadership and philosophy remained the same.

Extension is strictly non-political and it has had to operate in whatever political format has prevailed. Its first 25 years saw some rough times but in the main the North Dakota Cooperative Extension Service has enjoyed more than 75 years of continuous growth in size, in efficiency and in the respect of people of the state as reflected in their participation and support of Extension's programs. There have been two periods in Extension's history, however, when there seemed to be serious doubts as to Extension's future. Early actions of the 1925 legislature have already been mentioned and that was a very trying time. N.D. "Bert" Gorman spent five weeks at that 1925 session working with friends of Extension in trying to get the Extension law reenacted. He reported it was heartening to learn that in time of trouble Extension had many good friends both in and out of the legislature. Some paid all of their own expenses to Bismarck to testify in support of Extension. Mr. Gorman later wrote of his experiences with the 1925 legislature and of how that experience prepared him for understanding of legislative "horse trading." His story of that experience follows:

"The Non-partisan League and the Independent Voters Association had divided control in the legislature. The League having control of the House by a wide margin while the IVA's had a majority of one in the Senate. The divided control set the stage for a spirited legislative battle and it raged around the appropriation for several bridges wanted by the Leaguers from the western part of the state.

"The College budgets including the Extension budget were tied up in this controversy over the bridges. The League representatives refused to approve the agricultural college budgets until the funds for bridges were approved.

"Shortly after arriving in Bismarck I ran across Mark Connelly, who owned the New England, North Dakota newspaper and at that time was a clerk in the Senate during the session. Mark was later assistant secretary of the Greater North Dakota Association and had an ardent supporter of Extension. No one was better equipped to guide an amateur lobbyist through the difficult task of getting an Extension law reenacted than was Mark Connelly. Mr. Connelly had taken an active interest in securing county agents for Slope and Hettinger Counties and had a thorough understanding of the value of Extension work. He also was well versed in the political situation and was friendly with a large number of legislators. Mr. Connelly deserves a great deal of credit for the enactment of the law Extension has operated under since 1925.

"While in the repeal of the Extension law, the House members voted along party lines, the Leaguers opposed and the IVA for, many of the House members who were Leaguers were strong supporters of Extension work. As an outsider it was difficult for me to understand the workings of the law making
bodies. In fact, during most of the period of five
weeks while the two parties maneuvered over
appropriation for bridges and appropriation for
educational institutions as the main issues, I was so
confused, bewildered and discouraged that I would
have given up had not the advice of older and more
politically wise friends of Extension prevailed.

"A short time before the final day for introducing
bills, it became known that those who had opposed
Extension work might accept a new bill particularly
if the new Extension law would direct the wording of
the ballot on the county agent instead of on work.
Mr. Connelly and I, with help of Senator Benson of
Rollette County and Cass County Legislator
Twitchell, began putting together the draft of an
Extension law which we hoped would be accepted by
the opposition.

"Two bills were prepared, one dealing with the
manner of instituting and discontinuing Extension
work and the other having to do with the
administration of the work. At one o'clock on the
final day for introducing bills, we succeeded in getting
the agricultural committee of the Senate together for
approval of the bills and Walter Maddock, then
Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate,
agreed to delay opening of the Senate session until
the Agricultural Committee could approve the
Extension bills and file them for introduction. After
some argument with Senator Engerson and members
of the Senate Agricultural Committee on the issue of
whether the ballot should read "for county agents
and against the county agent" or "for county agent
work and against county agent work." The bills were
approved directing the vote on the work and thrown
into the Senate hopper ready for introduction within
the time limit.

"There was then the long period of trying to get
support among the House members before the bill
came up for a vote in the House. An interesting
incident occurred during that period which might
spread some light on the reason for the apparent
Non-partisan League opposition to Extension Service
legislation. One evening as I was standing at the cigar
counter in the Patterson Hotel, a very good friend of
mine who worked in one of the state departments
dropped in accompanied by two House members from
western counties. He introduced the legislators to me
and told them of my mission at the legislature. Both
legislators expressed the opposition to both the
Extension Service and the Agricultural College
budgets and stated in no uncertain language that they
would vote against them when they came up for
passage. My friend left the legislators to visit with me
stating that he had an errand to do and would be
back in a few minutes. When he returned it was very
evident that he had been on a mission for the two
House members and that he had been disappointed
in his search for something that would aid them in
an evening's entertainment. I inquired what they
wanted, stating that being I was a county agent
maybe I could help them. They were reluctant to tell
me. I assured them of opposing county agent work
and refusing to give the service an opportunity to
help them. I said I was sure neither of them had
ever been in a county agents office. Finally my friend
told me that he had hoped to get a quart of liquor for
the legislators but had failed in his efforts. Now,
follows an admission that no good Extension worker
should make but by some strange coincidence I
happened to have a quart of alcohol in my bag in my
room.

"I took the two House members to my room and
gave them the quart of liquor. They offered to pay for
it and when I refused they invited me to the party
which I also refused. I assured them that the gift was
in no way meant to influence their vote - that they
had voted against Extension and declared their
opposition to it and should continue to vote against
the work. I explained to them that the reason for the
gift was that they were friends of my friend and I was
sure he would do a favor for me sometime. We had a
pleasant visit and parted friends.

"The next morning I met one of the House
members of the night before and after greeting me
very cordially he explained that he and the other
House member were not opposed to Extension work
but that Extension legislation, like college budgets,
was trading stock for appropriations for bridges for
the western part of the state and that in due time
they would give their support to the Extension bills.
A few days later I met the other member in the
House lobby. The greeting was again cordial and the
story was the same.

"When the Extension bills came up for a vote in
both the House and in the Senate in the late days of
the session they carried by a fair majority both in the
House and Senate. I cite the above incident not to
imply that such a practice was common among
legislators or that it had any great bearing in the final
passage of the bills but to show that it is possible that
the Extension law was repealed by Non-partisan
League members for the purpose of supplying a strong
advantage in trading stock for bridge appropriations
that the IVA's in the Senate were holding up.

"No one can say if the repeal of the Extension law
in the House of Representatives in 1925 was a serious
attempt to do away entirely with Extension work, if it
was to force a change in the law or if the purpose was
to build up the size of the trading stock for one party.
Whatever the intent the result was on the one hand,
two new Extension laws which were probably better
than the old law and, on the other, creation in the
minds of the Extension staff grave doubts as to the
future of Agricultural Extension work."

"The second low point in North Dakota Extension
work was in 1932 when nineteen counties voted on
county agent work. Taxpayers' associations were active in all counties. In many counties they took an active part in circulating petitions to place county agent work on the ballot and campaigned against the work. In several counties after sufficient petitions were filed to place the work on the ballot, counter petitions were circulated on which the signer requested that his signature be stricken from the original petition. This resulted in keeping two counties from voting where the county attorneys ruled that counter petitions were legal. In several counties attorneys ruled that names could not be withdrawn from the original petition. Of the 19 counties voting, 9 lost including Grant County in which no effort was made to carry the election since no agent had been employed there since April of that year.

"Besides the activities of the taxpayers associations, the reason for the large number of counties voting was attributed to the discouragement of farm people and their determination to get tax relief no matter what service it eliminated.

"The loss of nine counties was a distinct blow to Extension work. There were but 21 counties then operating.

"One difficulty which appeared that year and was not present in previous years was that the business people of the county took the attitude that the question of retaining county agent work was a problem of the farmer, and therefore, the businessman should take no part in it and let the farmers decide.

"The following tabulation shows the results of the vote on Extension work in the fall of 1932. Grant County, which lost, is not included since there was no agent in the county and no effort was made by Extension to carry the vote."

Extension Staff — 1930.
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<th>Majority For</th>
<th>Majority Against</th>
<th>Precincts For</th>
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<td>—</td>
<td>4,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43,054</td>
<td>42,606</td>
<td>4,395</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>85,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Of the $192,668 of funds received by Extension in the fiscal year 1932-1933, $88,396.33 was from Federal sources, $43,357.21 from state and $59,042.83 from county appropriations. After August 1, the federal funds were supplemented with funds from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration for the employment of emergency agents. Counties in which emergency agents were placed contributed from $300 to $800 each year for clerical help.

"Governor Langer vetoed the 1933 Legislature's recommendations for a State Extension appropriation leaving only sufficient state funds to pay rental to the College.

"After the ending of the fiscal year in June 30, 1933, the Extension Service had to exist on county and federal funds.

"During the 1933 session of the legislature, there were some legislators who expressed a desire for repeal of the Extension law, their intention being to completely eliminate Extension work. The Governor seemingly disappointed that his move failed, did all in his power to handicap Extension work by vetoing the Extension appropriation."

"Actions of the State Legislature and the number of counties voting in the fall of 1932 presented a discouraging outlook for Extension work. Yet, Extension workers were not discouraged. There was, with the formation of a number of new agencies in the USDA, a large number of openings for which Extension workers were qualified. In fact, many of them had offers of positions in those new agencies but for the most part they chose to remain with the organization they had helped to build and take their chances with what might come. Most of them were born and reared on farms in North Dakota and they felt they were a part of the struggle that the people of the state were going through."

Newspapers play an important role in all political campaigns and county agent work in McKenzie and Mountrail Counties, especially, received plenty of newspaper space before the 1932 election.

It is interesting to note that then Senator Gerald P. Nye, Congressman J.H. Sinclair and former Governor Walter J. Maddock were strong supporters of county agent work in both counties. Total votes cast indicate a relatively large voter turnout in both counties but with different results.

Publicity for and against county agent work surely was not limited to McKenzie and Mountrail Counties. It is presented here only to illustrate the intensity of feeling, both pro and con, towards county agent work at that time."
Langer will Speak Over KFYR Monday, at 8 P. M.

LOSSES IN HAY DEAL CANNOT BE LATED TO HAINES

A few days ago, somebody mentioned "hay" and the fight started. Somebody said that Municipal money was out several thousand dollars on the food and seed relief and at noon the back-pedaling started. Since then the rumors have been flying thick and fast. As the thing stands at this moment, Frank Haines, county auditor, is the target. The boys up at the north house, who are tall fators than Frank can, have the blame for the losses all saddled upon him.

The losses in the hay deal have been variously fixed by the boys who whisper on the streets, all from anywhere between $15,000 and $10,000. The amount is not to suit the need for a good argument. At this moment the sun seems to shine the exact amount of the latter. We doubt very much if there is anyone on the face of the earth who could. The Sun has tried to stay out of the county auditor fight. Likewise, we have refrained from braying any particular candidate for county office. However, a condition has arisen within the past few days which has thrown a far different slant on the whole thing.

We find that a family worked out scheme has been under way for some time to saddle the losses taken by Municipal county in the food and seed relief work but winter and spring, when the abundance of Frest Karnes was in its prime, a plan was hatched to a few holes of hay agents, Mr. C. A. Finke, Mr. Finke appointed hay men at each embarking point in the county. It was the idea of the hay men to supervise the unloading and attend to the sales of all goods received. Sales were to be made for cash and the funds from such sales were to be turned back into the county treasury. At no time was any provision made for the removal of the hay to those points in the county in order to make money from the various hay men. The extension agent, however, was permitted by the authority to name the hay men, and provided with meals, etc., and travel expenses in the performance of his duties. The Agrie. College purchased and loaded the supplies at distant points, shipped them into the county where the extension agent took charge of the distribution. The county auditor paid for the supplies upon arrival and was supposed to be repaid out of the sales of supplies to farmers who had secured them. That was the set-up.

How well it is worked is in no manner that which has not as yet been settled. It is not at all surprising that there should be losses in the performance of such a gigantic undertaking. From the start, anyone can see that Municipal county was the post. No one ever took a chance wherever. If

Dear Voters:

It is conceded that victory for the Non-partisans was assured at the coming election, and the old reactionary gang was about to be placed on the shelf, when, true to form, in the eleventh hour and in a desperate attempt to regain lost ground, they stab our candidate for governor in the back.

Such tactics will not be approved by the rank and file. Before passing judgment, they will consider the motive back of the attack, and, with the judgment until Langer has had an opportunity to defend.

Even in politics, fair play is a virtue.

Yours very truly,

R. E. Sorenson, Chmn. NPL Ex. Com.

VOTER'S GUIDE

For some sixteen years the people of Mountrail County, without their consent, have had a county agent foisted upon them. Several attempts have been made to bring the question of continuing the office to a vote of the people, but the county commissioners have always been successful in defeating the resolutions. At last the question will be settled, and the people will have their way.

The use of the ballot for this purpose is a matter of great importance. The people of Mountrail County are entitled to the best information and the most accurate guide. What better guide than the Republican party, which has always been strong and steadfast in its support of the people's interests?

For U. S. Senator:

LEON H. BOYD

For Governor:

W. M. LANGER

For Lieutenant Governor:

OLE H. OLOIN

For Secretary of State:

ROBERT BYRNE

For State Treasurer:

ALFRED G. DULS

For State Auditor:

REBECCA McCANN

For Attorney General:

BEATRICE MANCHESTER

BUREAUCRACY AND THE COUNTY AGENT'S OFFICE

The use of the ballot for this purpose is a matter of great importance. The people of Mountrail County are entitled to the best information and the most accurate guide. What better guide than the Republican party, which has always been strong and steadfast in its support of the people's interests?

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For State Auditor:

REBECCA McCANN

For Attorney General:

BEATRICE MANCHESTER

(Complete Article, Page 48)
BUREAUCRACY AND THE COUNTY AGENT’S OFFICE

For some sixteen years the people of Mountrail County, without their consent have had a county agent foisted upon them. Several attempts to bring the question of continuing the office to a vote of the people have proven abortive. At last the question goes on the ballot and the writer of this article was in hopes that it would be determined by the people without any outside interference. Immediately, however, a flood of propaganda is unloosed on our unsuspecting citizens. I have before me a propaganda pamphlet purporting to set forth the facts concerning County Agent work. On second page we find this statement: “Amount appropriated to maintain county agent, $3,320.00;” but he does not tell you that the amount actually expended was $4,077.43. This sum is what it actually cost the taxpayers of the county. Again he says that twenty-eight cents per quarter section is all the farmer pays. Now, Mr. farmer, he doesn’t make any effort to explain to you how much it will cost you on your quarter section. The facts are by taxing every quarter section in the county at 28 cents per quarter section would make $2,098.64, much less than half the cost to the taxpayers. But that Mr. farmer only tells a part of the story. If he had told you that all state lands are exempted, and the approximately one half of the land in the county at the present time is not paying taxes.

Again we find in this high powered propaganda pamphlet this statement which proves to me just how much he doesn’t know about the farmers’ business. Here it is: “Railroads, Public Utilities and other corporations pay one third of the amount appropriated by the county.” Now Mr. Extension agent, can you tell me when any of the aforesaid corporations ever paid any of the aforesaid taxes until the people of the County first paid the taxes to them? Has not the learned gentleman yet discovered that all taxes are passed on to the consuming public, and the producer of the raw material?

Again we read from this same pamphlet: “The county extension agent is the medium thru which the farmers and their families may gain in full measure the information and services available from the State Agricultural College and the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture”. Since reading this I have taken the time to look up this U. S. Department of Agriculture. In looking up the birth and growth of our Federal Bureaus one is almost led to believe that we are living under a bureaucracy rather than a democracy, as we find we have in the U. S. over 150 bureaus employing an army of millions of men and women. The greatest of these bureaus we find is the Bureau of Agriculture. I have before me a table which shows the alarming increase in expenses. This table shows under this department 124 bureaus with an expense in 1911 of $19,916.26, in 1931 it had increased to $269,865.944.69.
MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY AGENT

There being so much criticism directed against the County Agent in last week's issue of the Sun, we the undersigned taxpayers of Mountrail County, who believe in and use the County Agent, felt it our duty to investigate some of these charges and the motive for making them. In the first place we find the County Agent is not and has never at any time been responsible for the collecting of outstanding hay and seed accounts. Mr. Campbell has later admitted that he knew this to be a fact. In regard to the great savings and losses referred to on feed and seed, we are authoritively informed that if the County Agent had had his way, all accounts would have been audited last July at the close of the seeding season. As to the County Agent's claiming any credit for securing Federal aid, we have positive proof that under his leadership and aggressiveness, Mountrail County was the first county in the State to present their case for drought relief before the Agricultural committee at Washington in 1930. The same is true of Red Cross aid. It is also true all needy counties received aid thereby receiving the benefits of County Agent work. Because the writer of this article doesn't know of any instance where any county in North Dakota re-engaged a County Agent, is no proof that there wasn't any. We cite him to two adjoining counties, Burke and Ward, and we know of others.

We are all agreed that under this depression, short crops and low prices, that our taxes are high and should be reduced. We believe the movement to reduce taxes has in general accomplished some good results, but we cannot agree with that movement in proposing to discontinue the office of County Agent under the impression—that in a noticeable amount—it will reduce the tax of any individual taxpayer. In the past the County Agent has been the one to which we all look to for relief when bothered with agricultural problems. In times like these—lack of moisture, invasion of grasshoppers and numerous other perplexing problems, that office is now more valuable to the farmer than at any other time in its existence. At the cost of 25¢ per quarter section we fail to see any good business economy in discontinuing this office, compared with the direct benefits received thru this office.

It is very evident the motive for these charges against the County Agent is more to satisfy personal grudges, than it is to effect a worthwhile saving to the taxpayers in general.

According to the record of the Clerk of District, in the past four years, 13 cases have been filed wherein Mr. Campbell has figured as either defendant or plaintiff, and if he was sincerely interested in saving the taxpayers much good hard-earned money that is spent in court costs, wherein the tax-paying public receive absolutely no benefit, there is one place where he could perform some worthwhile service.

Sgd:
To the Voters of Mountrail County:

At the polls November 8, you will be handed a separate ballot to vote upon the question of continuing county agent work.

Are we going to close up this one office which gives us direct contact with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Experiment Station and a nation-wide hook-up to provide us with breeding stock, good seed, marketing information, and training for farm boys and girls and instruction to women on canning, sewing and making better homes thru 4-H and Homemakers Clubs? Are we going to close up an office at which there has been over 11,000 farmers call the last 22 months.

We, the members of the Farm Council have met on several occasions to plan the program of work for this county. We wish you would carefully study the enclosed pamphlet setting forth the cost and nature of the work and ask yourself, can we afford to be without the services of this office?

We do not believe that any man who received a seed or feed loan, or who received any cracked wheat, can help but feel very grateful toward our county agent’s office for its work in securing these things for us. We sincerely believe and hope that this gratitude will show itself by your voting to keep the county agent’s office in our county. We know that it was this connection with the Department of Agriculture that made it possible for us to secure so much relief work.

In voting out the county agent we shut off the funds for any extension work so that in case of grasshopper outbreaks, livestock disease epidemics, or further drought relief, we would be without funds or leadership to carry on the necessary work.

Study the enclosed pamphlet carefully and after discussing it with your neighbors vote on November 8.

FOR COUNTY AGENT WORK

MOUNTAIL COUNTY FARMERS’ ADVISORY COUNCIL

Claf Enger, Lostwood
Geo. Frye, Stanley
Harry Hardy, Ross
Mrs. S. Satterlee, Blaisdale
A. T. Reynolds, Van Hook
Hugh Miller, Parshall

E. C. Allenson, Parshall
Mrs. A. Oyebaum, Van Hook
C. G. Johnson, Stanley
C. J. Platt, Belden
A. N. Winge, Van Hook

50
The County Agent's Side of The Picture

Work which will be discontinued if Co. agent office is voted out

Installation of shelterbelts.
- If Boys and Girls Clubs.
- Free veterinary service with prevention of diseases.
- Homemakers Clubs.
- Issuing of coal mining permits.
- Location of seed and feed for those in need.
- Poultry culling and disease eradication.
- Special assistance at Poultry shows, fairs, etc.
- Sire exchange—exchange list.
- Alfalfa and sweet clover seed location and distribution.
- Gopher poison distribution.
- Contact with the Experiment Station, for distributing new varieties of grains.
- Contact with the United States Department of Agriculture. (who will handle fight against grasshopper hordes)

No more agricultural meetings of any kind.
Distribution every year of thousands of bulletins.

THE ONLY FARMER'S OFFICE IN THE COUNTY

"Keep County Agent" says Nye

Let us not destroy the institution so much needed during depression and which was so helpful to farmers and people of this county, meaning the county agent offices. The county agent did things and made sacrifices such as public officials have never seen or done before. No office in the State or County has been of as great importance to its people. It is an institution which showed no favoritism and its unbiased requests for aid gave us in Washington material upon which to function.

The most helpful and the finest of any who administered a.d was that given by the county agent. Let us not take a step backward by discontinuing this office which rendered you such fine service, and which will mean so much in your future recovery and success.

Sen. Gerald P. Nye

I believe I can assure you that our people will speak in no uncertain terms in commendation of the fine work you have done and of the extension program itself. I, in common with my neighbors who are raising a generation of young farmers want our boys to have the advice and counsel that your training is able to give them. Your work in insuring the seed and feed loans alone has repaid the citizens of Mountrail county ten times what your work has cost them. Certainly we are all for governmental economy but we must avoid a penny wise and a pound foolish economy.

Walter J. Maddock
Ex-Governor and Vice President, Farmers Union

28 Cents
Per Quarter Section
Is Mountrail County's Investment For County Agent Work

For the benefit of those who are interested in wise expenditure of the county tax funds, the following information on County Extension Work is presented.

Mountrail Co. Farm Council
Olaf Enger, Lostwood, E. C. Allenson, Parshall
Geo. Frye, Stanley, Mrs. A. Oppenboen Van Hook
Harry Hardy, Ross, C. G. Johnson, Stanley
A. T. Reynolds, Van Hook C. J. Platt, Belden
Mrs. C. Satterlee, Blaisdell, A. N. Winge, Van Hook, Hugh Miller, Chairman, Parshall
Some Facts About County Agent Work

The amount appropriated by Mountairl County to maintain extension work is $3329.

In the county agent's office, farmers of the county have a representative who is constantly on the alert to further their interests. All organized activity designed to develop a more satisfactory agriculture is under the direct supervision of the county agent. In the county agent's office, farmers have a service which they call upon regularly for information and assistance with the problems which come up daily.

Major activities directed to the county by the extension agent include: first-aid general agricultural development, work with farm women through homemakers clubs and work with boys and girls through 4-H clubs.

26 cents per quarter section of land in the amount farmers invest to carry on this worthwhile program. Railroads, public utilities and other corporations pay one-third of the amount appropriated by the county.

The Co., extension agent in the medium thru which the farmers and their families may gain in full measure the information and services available from the State Agricultural College and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Discouragement of county agent work would mean severing our connection with the Department of Agriculture, a powerful organization thru which we have secured so much aid.

The Co.'s agent's office, thru contact with the U. S. Department of Agriculture has paid for itself many times over in relief work alone. Where else could we get such service? Voting out the county agent will not reduce the cost of farming or taxes.

Following are a few results of county agent work in Mountaire County.

Result Of County Agent Work In Mountaire County For 21 Months

| TOTAL SEED & FEED LOANS HANDLED | 8273 |
| Amount in dollars | $1,292,700.00 |
| Loans made out in county agent's office free | 1750 |
| Waivers secured for farmers free of charge by county agent | 7780 |
| Many of these could not be secured by the farmer himself. Every loan had to go thru the county agent's office. Loans not made out by the county agent were made out by committees appointed and trained by him. |

FEED AND SEED FREIGHT PERMITS

1741

These were secured and handled by the county agent. Freight alone saved amounted to over $50,000. Twice this was saved for the farmers by allowing dealers only a small handling charge.

COAL MINING PERMITS

976

Tons coal mined 9,100

Remember our county agent was the person responsible for all this. Many more farmers made use of this, but did not turn back the permits.

CALLS BY VETERINARY

1,000

These calls were made by the county agent's office, and did not turn back the permits.

FARMERS ASSISTED IN INSECT-RODENT CONTROL

1,000

The county agent has assisted many farmers in controlling insects and rodents.

NUMBER OF 4-H CLUBS

21

Number of members enrolled | 202

NUMBER OF HOMEMAKERS CLUBS

18

Number of members enrolled | 258

Voter for county agent work and keep those going.

CARLOADS CRACKED WHEAT RECEIVED

225

125 Carloads more than regular allotment received because of county agent's assistance.

TONS HAY SHIPPED IN

10,175

Because county agents have helped us we got it for less than one-half what same quality might otherwise have cost us. Anyone else shipping hay for themselves profited much by reduced rate secured by county agents.

RED CROSS AID

Hundreds of Families

County agent thru the department of agriculture was able to assist Red Cross chapter by getting Red Cross aid started. This kind of service alone makes it worth while for us to have a county agent.

NUMBER OF FARMERS ASSISTED IN MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

1315

Poultry diseases and control, turkey demonstrations, live-stock, and fire exchanges, shepherds, wool control, rural engineering, sheep and wool, Indian horse trouble, etc.

NUMBER OF FARMERS ASSISTED IN SECURING SEED

1500

Pure varieties of North Dakota seeds shipped in. Who can estimate value of having right kind of foundation seed?

OFFICE CALLS

10,807

These calls were made by the county agent to farmers at which information and help relative to farm or home problems and of course, all phases of relief work were given.

FARM CALLS ANSWERED BY VISITS

742

These visits by the county agent were made on the request of a farmer to assist on some farm problem. Three times this number of requests were made, but relief work prevented many farm calls. The above figures show the extensive use made of the county agent.

NUMBER OF GENERAL MEETINGS HELD

111

These meetings pertained to better methods of handling stock, crop cultivation, weed control, animal disease control, poultry and turkey work, etc.
Our old friend McGarry of the Alexander Chronicle allows his prejudices to get the better of his judgment and in last week’s issue of his newspaper attacks extension work and the county agent of McKenzie county whom he accuses of playing politics to hold his job. Perhaps, Mr. McGarry is right and the county agent is playing politics as he alleges. If he is what of it, and why not?

There is nothing criminal in a man defending himself or his office in a political campaign. In fact if he didn’t he wouldn’t be worth much as a county agent or a man. The editor of the Farmer and Guide is firmly of the opinion that the county agent in this country and the agents in the other northwestern counties of the state are in a position to justify their existence in the past two years if any public official or quasi-public official in the state is.

The writer knows if Mr. McGarry doesn’t, that western North Dakota counties received relief in the drouth period of a year ago months before they would have had if no county agents were employed in Williams, Mountrail or McKenzie counties.

The writer was with Senators Nye and Frazier in Grand Forks on June 10, 1932 when they received telegrams from County Agent Fisk of Mountrail county calling attention to the fact that his county already had over 400 families on the Red Cross and predicting worse conditions. The senators immediately got in touch with Washington by telegram taking Mr. Fisk’s word for it and insisted on an immediate investigation. A few days later Senator Nye made a personal investigation and found the facts as set forth by Mr. Fisk to be true.

The writer went to McKenzie county and immediately interviewed Mr. Hendrickson and found that he too had made a survey of McKenzie county, had a grasp of existing conditions and was cooperating with Mr. Fisk and Mr. Swanson of Williams county in an effort to wake up the department of agriculture at Washington to the seriousness of the situation.

Shortly afterward the department of agriculture sent a Mr. Brown up here to verify the statements of the county agents. Later still Mr. Hyde made a personal investigation. The result was feed loans last fall and seed loans last spring. In making these loans available the county agents worked night and day. Whether the system is right or wrong facts are still facts, truth is still truth, and Mr. McGarry if he is honest instead of prejudiced will have to admit that the county agents were worth many times their salaries in these piping times.

In counties where there were no county agents, for instance, farmers paid as much as three dollars for help in making out seed and feed loans. In fact that very thing was done in the southern and eastern parts of McKenzie county and many of the loans were returned because they had not been properly made out. County Auditor Arne Tolefsen, Arthur Hagen of Arnegard, W. B. Chappell of Watford City, members of the committee in charge of these loans can verify these facts. The papers made out in the county agents office, free of charge went through without a hitch and the farmers got their money more promptly than those who had their applications filled out elsewhere.
This is only a small part of the county agents' value to the county. In the matter of the purchase of cottonseed cake the county agent by his contacts was able to save the farmers of the county $3.05 per ton by co-operative buying of this feed.

There are so many things that the county agent has done for the farmers of McKenzie county in the two years that the writer has been acquainted with his work that it would take columns in which to tell it all. He has checked hog cholera, Glanders in horses, secured pure brass sires for farmers who wanted to improve their stock, audited the accounts of farmers and showed them where they were weak or strong, secured coal mining permits, got out of bed in the middle of the night to save sick horses, cows and pigs and in many other ways been of such service not only to the farmers, but to businessmen as well that his worth can not be measured in dollars and cents.

To prove that his work is appreciated in Washington we will quote from statements made by Congressman James H. Sinclair and Senator Gerald P. Nye. Mr. Sinclair of his own volition wrote the following letter to the editor of the Farmer and Guide:

Mr. James Curran  
McKenzie County Farmer  
Watford City, North Dakota  
Dear Mr. Curran:

I have been informed that there is an election called with reference to abolishing the office of County Extension Agent in McKenzie County.

I regret to learn this as I think Mr. E. A. Hendrickson, your present County Agent, is one of the most efficient men in the state of North Dakota. His work in connection with the seed and feed loans and other relief measures during the past two years was of the highest character and certainly proved him valuable to the farmers of McKenzie County. He has proven himself worth much more to the agriculture of northwestern North Dakota than the small amount of tax required to pay his salary.

I believe it is in the interest of economy to continue his office in a county as large as McKenzie and you can render a service to the farmers of your County by advising them of Mr. Hendrickson's worth:

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

J. H. Sinclair

Senator Nye in his speech in Watford City last Friday made the following statement:

"Let us not destroy the institution which did so much during this depression, which was so helpful to the farmers and people of this county, meaning the County Agent's Office. The County Agent did things and made sacrifices such as public officials have never seen or done before. No office in the state or county has been of as great importance to its people. It is an institution which showed no favoritism and whose unbiased requests for aid gave us in Washington material upon which to function. The most helpful and the finest of any who administered aid was that given by the County Agent. Let us not take a step backward by discontinuing this important office which has rendered you such fine service and which will mean so much in your future recovery and success."

For the information of the voters of the county the following figures and facts may make interesting reading. They can be verified at the office of the county auditor between now and election day if anyone is sceptical as to their authenticity.

For the year 1931 the net taxable valuation of all property in McKenzie County was $10,249,703.00.
The net taxable valuation of all village property and also public utilities in the county was $1,881,195.00.

This leaves the remaining property consisting of farm real and personal at a net valuation of $8,368,908.00.

Hence farm valuations are 81.646 per cent of the net assessed valuations of all property and therefore pay 81.646 per cent of the total county general tax which includes the levy for county agent work.

The county agents budget allowed for the year 1931 was $2,850.00. Farm property pays 81.646 per cent of this amount, or a sum of $2,326.21. This last amount divided by the 8713 assessed quarter sections in McKenzie County makes an average tax per quarter section assessed, including the farm personal property thereon, 26.7-10 cents.

In other words, it costs only 26.7-10 cents per assessed quarter section in McKenzie County to maintain the county agent.

The County agent budget for 1932 has been allowed for only $2,660.00 or $290.00 less than the 1931 budget. The above facts are figured out for the year 1931 instead of the year 1932 in that all the assessment figures are not available for 1932.

It may also be of interest to know, that the county agents budget for 1931 was as high as it ever has been, and that the county agent cannot exceed the amount set in his years budget.

OUT OF THE 1931 BUDGET THE COUNTY AGENT LEFT AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF $155.21. This means that he spent only $2,504.79 of the $2,850.00 budget allowed.

The amount the county agent can spend for various purposes are set by the Board of County Commissioners. For the year 1932, the County Agent budget reads as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary from County, or $90.00 per month</td>
<td>Fill $1,080.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, railroad fares, hotels and meals</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone and telegraph</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery and supplies</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stenographer or extra help</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $2,660.00

The county agent is often compelled to drive 20,000 miles per year to visit farmers who request his services. Figuring at the above allowance of $900.00 he would get only 4.5 cents per mile for the use of his car and the purchase of gasoline, oil and repairs.

His regular mileage rate is set at 7 cents per mile, the lowest of any county officer, and in case he exceeds the amount allowed in his budget for mileage, he will be forced to take it out of his other budget allowances or his salary.
North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs

October 14, 1932

A matter of utmost concern in the work of the Division of Home Extension Service in the Department of the American Home has come to our attention. This division was created in the General Federation in order to point out to club women the importance of giving their whole-hearted support and encouragement to the work of the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. The interest of the Federation lies particularly in the phases of the program which apply to farm women and girls.

In North Dakota this work is carried on through the county agents in the various counties, and the local organizations they sponsor are Homemakers' Clubs for women and 4-H clubs for farm boys and girls.

In North Dakota a state law provides that counties may vote on county agent work by petitioning to have it put on the ballot at the general election. This has been done in your county and the matter of continuing county agent work in your county will be decided at the general election on November 8th.

This is not a political question; but it is a question of our giving our support to an educational program which is nation-wide in scope, and which has the endorsement of the General Federation. Indeed, the Division of Home Extension Service was made a part of the federation program so that there would be no question about the stand which federated club women should take in this matter, and in order that club women may have an opportunity to do what they can to help bring this service to farm women and girls.

As you know, quite a number of Homemakers' Clubs are now federated, and every year new ones are coming in. There are about 450 in the state now with a membership of over 8,000.

I understand that there is considerable misinformation being circulated regarding the cost of the work. In reality, the cost is only a few cents out of each hundred dollars of taxes and the county agent's budget is very reasonable as compared with expenditures in other county activities.
It may not be generally known in your community that a considerable proportion of the county agent's salary is paid from federal funds appropriated by Congress and comes from outside the state entirely. No state funds are used in paying salary or expenses of county agents. In counties employing a woman assistant her entire salary comes from federal funds. Voting out the work does not save the county the entire amount of the county agent's budget by any means, but only the part contributed by the county. Federal money so "saved" would be used for extension work in some other county, or may even revert to Washington to be apportioned to other states.

The money saved by farmers through the services of a county agent far exceeds the small cost of the work, and the value of 4-H Club work to farm boys and girls who are often denied the privileges of town children can scarcely be estimated.

If a county votes out county agent work it will mean depriving the Homemakers' and 4-H Clubs of much of the services they are now receiving from specialists from the Agricultural Colleges, and this usually means that these clubs soon grow discouraged and disband.

We are appealing to you, therefore, through the Department of the American Home, to use your influence as club women to keep this valuable service in your county. There is need of tax reduction, it is true, and practically all county agent budgets have been materially reduced during the current year. However, it is false economy to destroy a service which is devoted to helping farm people to get back on their feet financially and providing practical educational advantages for women and girls on the farms and in the smaller towns.

Please see that this letter is read at the next meeting of your club.

Yours sincerely,

Winifred Knauf,
President.

Mrs. H. W. Mcardle,
Chairman of the Department of the American Home.