CUYAMACA CLUB
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

Nov 23d 15

Mr Charles Frederick Bishop
Washington D.C.

I have yours of 16th with enclosures
covering the question of the
'Cooperation and County Interest
Endeavors' The ideas thus formulated
appeal to me with great force
and I hope they will find
realization in actualities.

You ask if I will agree to
contribute an article for

publication - goats - once per
year - on thirty days notice
that such an article is
desired from me

I would gladly be excused
from this undertaking, and
when I state that I am nearing
my 80th birthday, you will probably
conclude that I am "too old"
for good service in that way

However, as I now feel
about as young as I used to
be" I will do what I can
if called upon Yours truly

L Gage

COÖPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY-INTEREST ENDEAVORS
OF
CHARLES FREDERICK BISHOP
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Evans Building,
Dec. Twenty-One,
Nineteen Fifteen.

Dr. Harry P. Judson, President,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Judson:-

In November, I addressed you and a number of other leading men of the nation relative to a campaign of self-help and of news of cooperation to be carried on in full pages of county newspapers. You were good enough, under date of November 22nd, to express your interest in the subject thus brought under your notice. Forty-five eminent people have already promised to contribute articles during the year at from thirty to sixty days' notice.

My letter to you of November (which I hope you will read again) invites you to use an opportunity to reach and ultimately touch the millions with whatever friendly and helpful suggestion you can extend to those who need prompting towards self-help, self-knowledge, and an increase of the moral fiber of determination. We may not have made the function of the page fully clear to you. Its purpose (in addition to county upbuilding) is to bring the extremes of our body politic closer together in a bond of sympathy, so as to avoid what must appear to all students of the subject, a positive catastrophe, a "turning turtle" of our government. It seems as if the two most tremendous questions of our nation are these:--

(1) The rapid drifting of the people to the cities. Nine hundred and eighty-nine counties of the United States--more than one-third of all the counties--showed an actual decline in rural population in the last census.

(2) The rapid increase of tenancy. Twenty-five per cent of all the farms were operated by tenants in 1880; thirty-seven per cent in 1910; and the tenant total is now over 2,500,000 out of 6,000,000 farms.

Out of these two tendencies, all that is troubling and troublesome can grow. A continued increase of landless men in the country and aimless men in the cities means anarchism--of this there can be no doubt. Tenants as a class do not love the land they till; how can they love the nation? The millions who are moving to the cities are subjected to the social stresses of the crowds, and, in most cases, fall; therefore they become poor citizens. The end of the Roman Empire was "the city".

COOPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY-INTEREST ENDEAVORS

CHARLES FREDERICK BISHOP

WASHINGTON D.C.

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Abandonment of thought for the man below, distressed and depressed, will not do; neither will financial charity do. The most powerful voices in the nation must be united in reassuring the restless ones that the lure of the city is deceptive for the masses; and that achievement in the country is possible only through substituting the strength of local cooperation for the weakness of local individualism. We are hoping thus to lead to the organization of county possibilities on just as safe and sane a business ground as has made the cities rich and great. The farmer must be organized and directed as business men are organized; not in the manner in which business men themselves would fail. The farmers must husband county strength; they must be able to borrow money at such a rate of interest as will permit them to employ money to make money. This will open new departments on the farm for profit, in turn enabling the farmer to pay such wages as will attract help to the farm; and thus go far towards curing the situation.

Do you think it is worth while to attempt the reversal of forces which are weakening our nation? Will you help to vivify the rural regions, and thus lessen the danger facing the nation? I trust I may hear from you in the affirmative. I place under your notice the splendid spirit of the letter written by Lyman J. Gage, former Secretary of the Treasury.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Frederick Bishop

CFB/RT

7

COÖPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY-INTEREST ENDEAVORS
OF
CHARLES FREDERICK BISHOP
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Evans Building,
November Twenty-Four,
Nineteen Fifteen.

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, President,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Judson:-

I should have been very pleased to have read in your letter of the 22nd a determination to contribute on article a year to that which is being attempted through a union of forces between the country newspapers of the United States and their thousands of readers.

Your knowledge of public affairs is so great that I am sure you will be inclined to agree with Senator Moses E. Clapp. In a letter received last Monday, he said: "I believe the greatest problem to-day that confronts the American people is the trend of our population to the cities. It is the great--probably the greatest--contributing factor in the ruin of nations that have perished".

To acquaint you further with material going out from this office, I beg to include proof of a joint article to appear in more than twenty-five counties of Illinois this week. We now have twenty-five counties signed up for cooperation.

I trust that after giving the matter further consideration, I may hear from you definitely, expressing the determination of cooperating at least during the coming year, by furnishing an article on cooperative matters. Our regular campaign will not begin until February or March of the coming year.

Very truly yours,

C F Bishop

CFB/RT

COÖPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY-INTEREST ENDEAVORS
OF CHARLES FREDERICK BISHOP
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Evans Building, November 12, 1915.

Dr. Harry P. Judson, President,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Judson:-

If it were my privilege to call on you personally, there would naturally follow the use of some of your time--an hour or more--, which I am sure you would gladly give to the subject of my call. Without calling personally, I want to set before you a movement that is now under way, and which unquestionably merits your attention. No monetary aid is asked either at the beginning of this letter nor at the end. There is one thing, however, most earnestly desired, and that is your moral support.

With this, I am enclosing a photographic copy of the Effingham (Illinois) Democrat, of October 21st, containing a joint editorial which went out over the signatures of fourteen newspaper publishers in fourteen separate publications and counties simultaneously. This editorial explains itself. Instead of fourteen, there are now twenty publishers signed up under contract, giving space values free, ranging from $750 to $1500 each. The space used in each paper will not be less than one full page each week, for the full period of time contracted for--one year. It is to be edited, under my direction, for the purpose of educating the public in connection with cooperative and community-interest matters. It is not to be edited with reference to politics, nor for the purpose of increasing legislation of any character, but rather to aid the rural citizen to see the benefits of self-help instead of waiting for legislation from above.

There are now in the United States 2935 counties, 2500 of which are eligible for organization. We expect to cover all eligible counties throughout the United States within six months' time after the first one hundred counties have been contracted with. We confidently believe that within one year's time this helpful reading matter will be going into the homes of five million subscribers, and that the page will, at that time, probably be read by fifteen million readers each week. Our cooperating publishers are agreed that it is more than likely, with such a move as is proposed, they will be able to double their circulation within five years' time.

The newspaper publisher not only contracts to set aside one full page a week, but invariably he is agreeing to become President of the county organization work, referred to in the Effingham Democrat statement. In each county, one man is being selected who will devote all his time and attention to organization work, with help-

COOPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY-INTEREST ENDEAVORS

CHARLES FREDERICK BISHOP

WASHINGTON D.C.

ers in each township, outside of the one hundred citizens prorated by township population. Each county organization will be self-sustaining. The one hundred citizens supply all necessary expense of the first year's work. It is an entirely unselfish business arrangement, so far as management and coordination of counties is concerned. It is the beginning of an organization which will solve many economic questions concerning rural districts, such as cooperative marketing, loans to farmers at easy rates (rural credits), and the furnishing of perfect fire insurance protection at a cost no greater than that of unsatisfactory assessment companies.

We are carrying this work out at own personal expense. We have not asked anyone for the price of a postage stamp, nor for any aid in meeting the expense incurred in putting out field representatives and we hope not to look for such aid. Should it become necessary, however, we already have offers of cooperation from a number of well-disposed citizens, who will advance such an amount as will aid us in organizing the entire United States within a few months' time, along the lines of newspaper publicity.

All of us, who love the nation of our birth or of our adoption, are united at least in one thought--that our nation need not remain permanently out of balance in any direction, but that by the earnest and determined thought of its thinking men working away on the mind of the nation as a whole, anything and everything which is right, and right to attempt, and worthy in purpose can be made a success.

We desire your help, in so far as agreeing to contribute, on thirty days notice, at least one article gratis a year, to appear over your name in all the contracting papers. This article is to deal with some phase of cooperative effort; or of rural betterment; or of self-help. We desire a decision at the present time, inasmuch as your consent, with others, will vastly stimulate the quickness with which this endeavor to save our rural strength takes shape. It is my present intention to read a paper relative to this whole matter at the Third National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits, to be held in Chicago this month. It is my hope to give to this conference such a list of distinguished men who have interested themselves in editing the page, as has perhaps hitherto never been gathered in relation to one constructive move.

Trusting that you are interested in a work of this character, and that you can see your way clear to respond as requested, I am

Very truly yours,

Charles Frederick Bishop

CFB/RT

Chicago, November 22, 1915

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 12th inst. was duly received. Your plan is interesting, and I wish it all success. I could not undertake, however, to agree to give any particular article on this subject. My engagements are too numerous to make it practicable.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Charles Frederick Bishop,
Evans Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Chicago, November 22, 1913

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Mr. Charles Frederick Bishop,
Evans Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Chicago, December 29, 1915

Dear Mr. Bishop:-

On the twenty-second of November President Judson wrote to you to the effect that he wished your plan success But that he could not undertake to write on the subjects you proposed.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to the President

D.A.R.-B.

Mr. Charles Frederick Bishop
Evans Building
Washington, D.C.

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AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

OF THE

AMERICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

The BANKER-FARMER

LOUIS M. TOBIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Read This
Carefully
Interest
Yours

October 25, 1915.

Mr. George M. LeCrone,
c/o Effingham Democrat,
Effingham, Ill.

My Dear Mr. LeCrone:

I take it that I have you to thank for the Effingham Democrat of October 21st, which carries on its front page, the remarkable announcement from the Editors of fourteen county newspapers in your section of the state.

It is remarkable not because the ideas you enunciate are new or unusual;--for your propaganda is the only one on which we can move forward with great and permanent strides--but it is remarkable that you should at once enlist so many strong papers and influences to take up the great cause of a better country life;--to, as you say, "the importance of making the most of life" and the principle of "self-help."

It is inspiring--yet intensely practical, and shows that our approaching 100th State Anniversary will see the old spirit re-vivified.

It is in line with the work I have been trying to encourage throughout the nation for the past five years in connection with my work as Chairman of the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers' Association, and before that, as President of the Illinois Bankers' Association, and through our non-commercial publication called the BANKER-FARMER.

Imagine the marvelous results that would come to the State of Illinois if every county, or half the counties in the state, would come together on such a platform as yours,

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
OF THE
AMERICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

BANKER-FARMER

LOUIS M. TOBIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

October 25, 1918.

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c/o Effingham Democrat,
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under the leadership of their newspapers. A good newspaper has, it seems to me, the greatest opportunity of any institution or agency in the whole country to do the most far-reaching service for its people.

Your program is splendidly expressed, and echoes and re-echoes the watchword of today--Citizenship and Cooperation.

The "importance of neighbors to neighbors"; to "arouse our group of readers to a general sense of their relationship to each other"; to "teach the man on the land not to depend on the man higher up--in schooling, in laws, in everything--but to depend on himself and the power that comes from working with his neighbors"--and then finally your suggestion, "let us endeavor to restore some of the old-time simplicity and independence of the pioneers", are real corner stones.

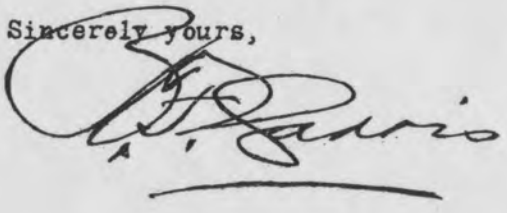
Pennsylvania is known as the Keystone State, but only because it was the "keystone" of the 13 original states, whereas Illinois is and must continue in greater measure to be the Keystone State of the Nation. With all her wonderful industrial and commercial development, she is still the agricultural state of the Union, and a greater and continued success must come from the stronger, better-equipped, and more universally successful agricultural population.

If your movement is followed up consistently and you secure as you surely must the cooperative body of one hundred citizens in each county, it means more for the state and the nation than any recent movement, I know of.

I enclose you a copy of the last issue of the BANKER-FARMER--that goes to every state in the Union. In its next issue we will spread your great story before all its readers.

I wish you God-speed, and hope that other sections of the state may follow in your lead.

Sincerely yours,



BFH/IC

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BHH\IC