

PUB
309

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FRANKLIN MALE CHORUS HAS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Franklin Male Chorus, composed of workers in the Franklin Creamery Association of Minneapolis, had a most successful season during 1925 and 1926. Thirty-one concerts were given to an aggregate audience of 21,500 people. Two hundred fifty hours were spent in rehearsals alone. These figures would mean very little for a professional chorus or choir, but for a group of amateur singers, most of whose time is necessarily devoted to earning a living by manual labor, they are significant.

Work for the coming season was resumed on September 13. The delegates to the Fifth Congress, most of whom were strangers to Minneapolis, had an opportunity to hear these singers for the first time. The new officers are: Hjalmar Hansen, president; Arne Froise, secretary-treasurer; Emil Bakken, librarian. Olaf Halten continues as director.

A CO-OPERATIVE THAT HOLDS A MONOPOLY

The Farmers' Co-operative Association of Herman, Michigan, boasts of being one of the few societies in the United States which has a complete monopoly of the business in the locality. There are 50 Finnish families in this farming community. The central business building houses the post office and the store, and there is no competition for either. The co-operative was incorporated in 1918 with only \$700 of capital. Since then the savings have been reinvested by the members until to-day the business is one of the soundest in the state. The society is a member and a loyal buyer from the Co-operative Central Exchange.

There are tens of thousands of other towns in the country where the post office has a monopoly of its particular business. Why can't the same thing be said for more of the co-operatives?

A NEW CREDIT UNION ADVISOR FOR NEW YORK

The department of Remedial Loans of the Russell Sage Foundation of New York City has for many years taken a

very active interest in promoting credit unions, and the progress of the movement in the Empire State is due primarily to the sponsorship of this organization.

Announcement now comes that Mr. Rolf Nugent, a graduate of Amherst College and formerly a member of the staff of the Department of State and Finance at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is now appointed as head of the credit union work of the Foundation. This means that he will devote most of his time to organizing new credit unions, advising those which seek assistance, and in general working for the extension and strengthening of the credit union movement in New York State. Members of the staff of The League know Mr. Nugent and congratulate both him and the credit unions on this appointment.

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF CO-OPERATIVES

"Consumers' Co-operation is democratic in theory but less democratic in practice. The average member of a co-operative society finds considerable difficulty in getting his point of view recognized, and the control comes from above rather than from beneath. Indeed, the Board of Directors, when once elected, becomes the supreme authority, and the members have a tendency to become inarticulate.

"This is a state of affairs which is a grave criticism of modern forms of Co-operation; because the very development of Co-operation should have had the effect of educating the individual to take a lively interest in his co-operative organization. The large societies with memberships of 100,000 and over are, in many centers, controlled by a body of little over one thousand members who attend their business meetings, and by the four or five thousand members who elect the directors. From the point of view of democratic principles, this state of affairs is not at all conducive to the realization of our ideals. . . .

"I desire to state, without equivocation, that an organization which fails to excite the active interest of its membership is building upon sand. I desire to raise an arresting hand to those co-oper-

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