"restraint of trade" and therefore forbidden by the Sherman Anti-Trust Act? What are the best methods for conducting collective bargaining? What results have been obtained thus far? What are the real object of collective bargaining? What effect will collective bargaining have on the number of middlemen? Can producers, by the collective bargain method, base selling price on cost of production? The whole question of a "just price" is involved here.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS FOR STUDY

1. Price Question (a Survey and Summary of the Theory of price—just price—basis of price—marginal utility theory of value—place of cost of production—of supply—of demand; an equilibrium price; Socially desirable ideal price of agricultural products.)

2. Legal Status of Collective Bargaining in Agriculture
   Federal Laws (Sherman Anti-Trust Act, Clayton Amendment)
   State Laws
   Court Decisions
   Attitude of Federal Trade Commission, the U. S. Bureau of Markets, federal, state and city prosecuting attorneys, etc.

3. Economic Status of Collective Bargaining in Agriculture
   History of each case of collective bargaining
   Methods
   Results
   Objects

4. The Policy of Collective Bargaining in Agriculture
   Place of collective bargaining
   Price fixing
   Price stabilizing
   Relation to speculation
   Relation to existing middlemen
   Probable effects on number of middlemen
   Co-ordinating factor between selling price and cost of production?
   Conclusions and summary

FARM LABOR PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES

D. D. LESCOHIER, Wisconsin, Chairman.

We are accustomed to speaking of "The Farm Labor Problem." It is essential that we now recognize that instead of a single farm labor problem, America has a variety of farm labor problems. Those who speak of the farm labor problem look at the question solely from the employing farmer's point of view. To him, the labor problem is to secure skilled farm help when he wants it and for such time as he cares to employ it at wages he wants to pay. Publicists have spoken of the farm labor problem, with no thought in mind but a real or fancied shortage of farm labor.
It is essential that we now recognize that the farm labor problem is not so simple as this. The farm laborer has his farm labor problems as well as the employing farmer; and the nation has its interest in the well being of the farm laborer just as surely as it has in the prosperity of the farming industry.

It requires but cursory survey of the farm labor situation within the confines of any particular state to discover that even within a single commonwealth different farming industries demand varied types of labor for varying periods of time and offer distinctly different wage and other inducements to the workers they employ. In other words, farming, in its different branches and in different localities, seeks radically different types of labor and offers radically different inducements to labor, just as city industries seek a variety of kinds of labor and offer a corresponding variety of labor conditions and opportunities.

The next step in the solution of America’s farm labor problems would seem to be a detailed examination of the demand for labor in each state, of the available supply of labor and its sources, and of the advantages offered workers by the farms of the state.

I. The demand for labor.

Map the state showing relative importance of the several crops in each locality, and of stock raising and dairying.

Study, in selected localities or counties which are typical of specific types of crop areas (1) The demand for labor during the different months of the year; the length of time for which workers are sought; degree and kind of skill required; whether month or day wages are paid and scale paid during different months in specified years.

(2) The relative demand for skilled, partly skilled and unskilled farm laborers.

(3) The proportions of year round, crop season, and short season help. In other words, the amount of opportunity for steady work.

(4) The tendency or lack of tendency of farm laborers to become tenants and farm owners.

II. Supply of Labor.

Extent to which supply of labor meets demand in each locality and during each month of the year; sources of supply of labor, whether local, transient, or from nearby farming or urban districts; facilities for training farm labor in the locality; amount of steady work available to farm laborers in the locality; “out-of-farm-season” employments of farm laborers; proportion of laborers who become tenants or owners; opportunities to become owners; extent to which married men are sought or used by farmers as year round farm hands; proportion of farmers who have tenant houses for farm hands; wage scales which obtain, month and day; cash annual wages on the farm and also estimated value of house rent, support, or other benefits received by the laborer; methods used by farm hands to get work on farm.

III. Methods of securing farm labor.
Careful study of the means or agencies through which farmers obtain help will facilitate the better organization of means for bringing the farmers and farm laborers together. In this connection, the extent to which farmers co-operate by exchanging work and the organization or lack of organization among the farmers for facilitating such exchange; the extent to which farmers depend on advertising, private employment agencies, public employment agencies, other specific arrangements for securing help, and the relative efficiency of these different methods should be studied.

SUBJECT FOR DEBATE

1. Resolved: That the state should limit land ownership to an economic holding.
2. Resolved: That farm organizations should come under the operation of the anti-trust laws.
3. Resolved: That it would be to the best interest of society to abolish private property in land.
4. Resolved: That experience has shown that government price regulation is socially and economically desirable in time of crises.
5. Resolved: That all trunk highways should be constructed and supervised by the National Government.
6. Resolved: That every county of more than 10,000 inhabitants should be compelled to support a county nurse.
7. Resolved: That the state should take an active part in land settlement.
8. Resolved: That the present system of county and township government should be abolished.
9. Resolved: That the provision exempting Federal Farm Loan Bonds from taxation should be repealed.