

packages and in this connection we will hear from Mr. J. L. Wilcox, Manager of the Linderman Box and Veneer Co., of Eau Claire, Wis. We will hear from Mr. Searles on the Cost of Bog Development and we will have other general discussions.

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1 The Cranberry Industry in Wisconsin dates back over 50 years, and for many years prior to the war the State maintained an Experiment Station where the problems of the industry were studied. This Station was discontinued during war times in the interest of economy as a war measure and since that time no State assistance of any kind has been given this industry.
- 2 The industry, being a highly specialized one, is not reached by any other State Agency such as the county agent or the University Extension service and due to lack of State Aid, insects and diseases have caused great losses to the growers of the State and there is little incentive for the further development of the industry.
- 3 The nations crop of cranberries is produced in three states, namely, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Wisconsin. While Wisconsin is most favorably located as to market and has the largest acreage of land suitable for cranberry production Wisconsin produces only 10% of the nations crop. Massachusetts and New Jersey encourage this industry by operating State Cranberry Experiment Stations and employing a corps of trained men to work on the problems of the industry.
- 4 The present production of cranberries in Wisconsin averages about 50,000 barrels. These are raised on lands which are not suitable for any other purpose. It is perfectly possible to raise this production to 200,000 barrels, and in doing so make valuable much more land which now lies idle and contributes nothing to the coffers of the state.
- 5 At present cranberry growers in Wisconsin are paying taxes on 50,000 acres of this kind of land. This represents an investment of \$5,000,000 and gives work to several thousand people.
- 6 The Industry is asking through its Cooperative Association that the request for an annual appropriation of \$5,000 in the Department of Agriculture budget be allowed. This money if allowed will be spent under the direction of the State Department of Agriculture and is to be used for the employment of a trained specialist in cranberry insects and diseases, who will devote his entire time to advisory work among the growers.
- 7 The growers of Wisconsin are paying state income taxes of many times the amount asked for. We feel that we deserve this modest assistance from our state and in view of the possibilities for extension of the industry it will be a splendid investment for the State of Wisconsin.

The above report is a brief resume of the material to be presented to the Joint Finance Committee on January 28th.

CHAS. L. LEWIS, JR., *Chairman.*