

ADDRESS

WALTER EBLING, *State Statistician*

I think I have the distinction of being about the only person who has been in this assembly for the first time. I have talked to a number of you growers, and I have been impressed with the age of your organization. I just met Mr. Treat, and he tells me it is just forty-six years ago that he attended the first meeting of this organization.

To those of you who are not acquainted with the work of a statistician, I wish to say that a statistician is one who has the responsibility of estimating various crops and livestock production. I have given very little time to cranberries. We have 182,000 farmers in this country, and the number of those engaged in the cranberry industry is exceedingly small. The dairy industry probably reaches 165,000 farms, whereas the cranberry industry reaches I don't know how many, but the number is limited. We are taking more interest lately, because there has been more effort to cover the agricultural field completely.

The matter of collecting agricultural statistics is the oldest government enterprise in agriculture. In 1839, long before we have any other type of agricultural enterprise, we have had this sort of work.

I am therefore particularly happy to have an opportunity to meet with you today, and to meet so many of you growers. I am also particularly happy to meet your group, because I have long known about it. You have a very interesting and specialized industry. As time goes on, I hope to become acquainted with many more of your members. I have asked your secretary to give me a list of the names of your producers. We may want to get information from you, and I am sure you will be glad to give us a few facts when we ask for them. I am happy to be with you, and hope I can meet with you again. Our crop reports come the first week in the month, and dairy reports right after that. Mr. Chambers was coming today, and I sandwiched this meeting in between the two.

COMPENSATION INSURANCE

A. B. SCOTT

This question of workingmen's compensation and insurance rates is a "hang-over" from last year. I don't know of how much interest it will be, but I will sketch it briefly. Last summer, after an increase of approximately 20 per cent in compensation insurance rates, I took the matter up with the Commissioner of Insurance, asking if it would be possible to have some rate adjustment made or some action taken to prevent the increase in rates. I will read his reply to my letter:

"The writer has discussed the contents of your letter of June 27 with the rating committee of the Wisconsin Compensation Rating and Inspection Bureau. We note your statement that the rates applicable to cranberry operations have increased almost 28% in the past year.

"For your better information, we can advise that the rates upon all classifications have been uniformly increased approximately 25% since May 1, 1931. The increase was made necessary by the following events:

"1. The last session of the legislature increased the benefits payable under the compensation law by approximately 5% and made certain