



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:  
Writers Project Research Notes.

**Copyright Notice:**

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org/copyright](http://www.mnhs.org/copyright).

Cooperatives  
Livestock Assn (N.Y. Mills)

(Finnish Daily Pub. Co. Duluth) SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly 3 5 Date of Publication ~~1917~~ Feb. 6, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 11 Date Line of story Feb. 1, 1917  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 12, 1938

(A farmer correspondent writes.)

" New York Mills, - The Co-operative ~~Ex~~ Live Stock Shipping Association again shipped a large number of cattle to St. Paul. It is reported here that over 300 carloads of live stock was shipped from these yards last year. The estimated value was \$1,300 per car. About the same number of cars of butter ~~xxx~~ and wheat was also shipped from this locality. Is it a wonder that the farmers are getting prosperous here?

This may have something to do with the fact that two banks are now operating here, one was started this year. This I think was a grave error on the part of the farmers to let the rich ' pull us by the nose' and divide our interests into two banks. This condition we must remedy as soon as possible. Let the rich own one bank and we the other, then it would be as it should. Now farmers, think this over seriously. Can't we unite our forces also in this field as we have done on all the other things. For after all, we are the ones who keep all these institutions operating and we should also own them. " (The correspondent does not give his name)

Your item No. 25 Page No.        Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Politics  
Anti-Monopoly Editorial

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa Weekly 1 1 Date of Publication April 27 1893  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 12 No. 17 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minnesota Hist. Library Date consulted Oct. 4th 1938

A good indication of the opinion of the Finnish people with regard to monopolies and millionaires is given in the leading article on the front page of the Uusi Kotimaa. The article is not signed and probably is the opinion of its editor J W Lähde.

Translated the article reads as follows:

"HOW MILLIONAIRES ARE MADE IN AMERICA"

" Stamp down, crush and oppress the weak, wrest everything, reduce wages, lengthen the work day-rule or ruin-that is the policy of American monopolists, that is their system of rule and order. That is what the late Jay Gould did, the Bell Telephone Company did, the Standard Oil Company ~~XXX~~ and the Minneapolis Flour Mill barons did---All the money kings follow the same policy. In the east where there are a lot of money men, their life becomes boring without activity so they gather together in half-dozens and buy some industrial or commercial establishment in the west. Like a hydraulic press they squeeze from these establishments, incomes for themselves as large as the traffic will bear. All industry, All

Your item No. 3 Page No. 1 Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

commerce and all farm products are in the hands of these princes of wealth. They buy from the Government the land which according to law should be given to the citizenry. From these lords of Finance the immigrant can buy the land, upon which he is immediately compelled to pay taxes in spite of the fact that the money kings had kept the land without paying any tax. All the factories too are in the hand of the wealthy princes from whom the farmer is compelled to buy his farm implements beginning with the axe. When the farmer has opened up some of his land for cultivation and built a home on the place the tax load is increased in ratio with the improvements. The fact that the assessor is his neighbor does not help. The taxes are increased by the gentlemen in the county seats and State Capitols. The assessor often gets the blame in spite of the justness of his appraisals. The people are supposed to elect their representatives to the Legislature and the Congress to look after their interests, but they go there instead to celebrate, revel, and to serve the interests

Your item No. 3 Page No. 2 Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

of the monopolists who pay them. These are the representatives that the people support and pay taxes to. They are united with the traitors to the people; the wheat ring, the great timber thieves, the speculators and other public parasites. They are their friends. They make laws, but not for the benefit of the farmers and working people, the laws are made to benefit the monopolies. They are like soft clay in the hands of the patrons of gold.

The courts are mere playthings for those who are able to buy superior legal talent and by their wealth silence the witnesses.

It is easy for the heartless and the callous to become a millionaire in America but the honest can never achieve that stage. The interests of the people, the love of country as the philosophy of patriotism is termed is totally alien to the American Millionaire. 'the public be damned' was the favorite slogan of the late Vanderbilt ~~XXXXXX~~

'Let the workingman suffer' said the late Jay Gould when he was yet among the people. Now he is no better than any workingman. There are no millionaires in America who can be considered honest. Their

Your item No. 3 Page No. 3 Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

life is like that of a spider, with the laws of the United States being the spiders web and the citizenry like ~~XXYX~~ flies their prey.

Among the American millionaires Filip Armour the meat king of Chicago is perhaps the most honest and respected. Sometimes even his enemies admit something good about him. He is said to be exceptionally diligent and is often considered as benevolent and kind. About the enjoyment of life he knows less than the proverbial alligator about Hambletons drama. As soon as this ~~XXXXXX~~ honest alligator has swallowed one negro he is craning his neck for another. That is what Armour does with the millions he gathers. Who would doubt that Armour who has millions is the happiest in his own office with two hundred tobacco smoking assistants around him hearing nothing else but figures and the noise of the telegraph and typewriters. The assistants around him are human machines among whom his will is the driving force. If Mr Armour could read the Finnish language and would see this article he would no doubt be unperturbed by it. He would say,

Your item No. 3 Page No. 4 Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

'that fellow is a complete fool'---In this he would perhaps be right. Was not Diogenes in his ragged woolen coat and Alexander of Macedonia in his kings mantel equally right. About old man Armour very much that is bad can not be said. He is said to contribute two hundred thousand dollars each year for benevolent purposes, but is it not also true that he is considered the best among American millionaires. All the rest can be summed up as traitors to the interests of the people to whom there is nothing noble in the world.

It is better to be poor and honest than to be a millionaire and a crook. Honesty will inherit the heavenly earth where Jay Gould and his like will have no part."

Your item No. 3 Page No. 5 Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Cooperatives  
Livestock

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly. 6. 1. Date of Publication Feb. 9, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 12 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 12, 1938

"New York Mills,- The Cooperative Livestock Ass'n. of this community shipped on an average of three cralloads of livestock per week during the year. This is one of our strongest co-ops in operation in this part of the state".

(The entire membership of this particular co-operative ~~xxx now~~ at that time were Finnish, however, now, there has come other nationalities who participate)

Your item No. 32 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Uusi Kotimaa

2

4

May 17, 1927.

46

59

Minn. Hist. Library.

Feb. 10, 1939.

"Co-operative Wholesale, Superior, Wis. Sales, first 10 years.

Year	Branches	Sales	Net Profit
1917	15	\$ 25,574	\$ 268
1918	25	132,423	2,063
1919	40	313,664	7,530
1920	48	409,591	6,798
1921	56	312,347	3,499
1922	56	337,567	1,183
1923	56	504,177	5,181
1924	60	613,215	5,973
1925	65	835,532	8,869
1926	74	1,048,293	11,648"

Cooperatives  
New York Mills, Early

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa Weekly 3 6 Date of Publication April 27th 1893  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 12 No. 17 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct. 4th 1938

As a forerunner to the co-operative movement of New York Mills there was a farmers store which carried advertising in the Uusi Kotimaa.

In the advertisement it is emphasised that the store was not organized for the purpose of profit but instead to distribute goods to the people at a lower price.

An appeal is made to the people to join the corporation. The store was called the Farmers Trading Company (Maanviljelijain Kauppa Yhtio)

Your item No. 4 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Cooperatives  
Debate, Chisholm

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Daily) 7 3 Date of Publication April 6th 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 15 No. 82 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 5th 1938

In local news from Chisholm Minnesota an announcement of ~~XXXX~~ a socialist meeting and entertainment is made, followed by a report of a co-operative meeting where Mr Axel Ohrn spoke on the question of consumers co-operation. In the article it is indicated that Mr Ohrn was confronted with a considerable opposition from the I W W and Syndicalist elements who had come to his meeting. An excellent report on the arguments pro and con is made which centers on whether workers should participate in co-operatives because of their syndicalist ideology. Mr Ohrn seems however to have been on the winning side of the arguments.

Your item No. 9 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Uusi Kotimaa

5

31

Dec. 3, 1920.

39

89

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 7, 1939.

### "Handicraft"

"Prosperity on the farm means prosperity in the state and nation.

"This week we come to you with a plea for loyalty to home industry, for yourself and your neighbor. Picture for yourself for a moment that you would all forsake your own cooperative creamery and dispose of your produce to local cream stations instead of your creamery. The loss in buttermilk and the cut in your income would amount to thousands of dollars yearly. You would fall prey to 'Big Business' and be forced to accept any price they would impose upon you.

"There are two ways of disposing of your cream: First, manufacture your own butter and sell it direct to the market and each one receive whatever that particular grade would bring in that market. Second, very improper method is the selling of cream to local cream stations. Yet get in return poor butter and consequently low prices. Persons who sell cream to such stations should not complain of 'hard times' for it is he who does all in his power to create those conditions for himself and his neighbor.

"Unite with us! Out with the cream stations!

E. F. Mattson  
New York Mills Coop. Creamery  
Ass'n.



Uusi Kotimaa

4

1

Feb. 11, 1921

40

12

Minn. Historical Library

Feb. 3, 1939

Under title "Influence of cooperatives on peoples culture" the Uusi Kotimaa editorially describes the role of the role of the cooperatives in advancing the cultural achievement of the people.

In the course of the editorial a number of important authorities on cooperation are quoted and its practical application is dealt with.

Cooperatives  
Press

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op) 6 Date of Publication May 19-1921  
Vol. 19 No. 116 (edition, page, column) Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 24 1938

In 1921 already the "Tyomies" was the official publication of the Co-operative Central Exchange and carried a streamer headline each thursday on the top of one of its pages reading as follows:

"OSUUSTOIMINTAOSASTO Luokkatietoisen tyovaen osuustoimintaliike" translated, "Co-operative Department Class consious workers co-operative movement" The words Co-operative department appeared in large capital letters and the remainder of the text was also in capital letters but in smaller type.

Your item No. 49 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
Farm, Georgia

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op) 7 4 Date of Publication May 19 1921  
Vol. 19 No. 116 (edition, page, column) Date Line of story  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 24- 1938

In an item entitled "Information from Fairfield Co-operative Farm" an account is given about the activities of the people building a co-operative farm enterprise in Jessup Georgia. According to the article there are a number of Finns as shareholders of this farm which had 23 members. A description is given about the activity of the people on the farm, the climatic conditions of the region and other things. The people who want to find out more about the farm are urged to come and see the place or communicate with the "Fairfield Co-operative Farm Association L Box 214 Jessup, Georgia. It is indicated in the article that from some quarter the enterprise is looked upon with suspicion but nevertheless it has so far been successful. It is said that the intent is not to build a Utopia like the "Sointula" colony on Malcolm Island British Columbia Canada. The intent instead is to work on a co-operative basis for the common good"

Your item No. 50 Page No. Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Bureau, Ed. Culture  
Cooperatives  
Sax

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op) 8 4 Date of Publication May 19 1921  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 19 No. 116 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 24th 1938

In local news from Sax, Minnesota it is said that the co-operative which has been in existence for three years has gone forward satisfactorily. The reporter states that "without doubt the co-operative is on a more solid foundation than any in northern Minnesota, of its size and considering the short time that it has operated". Further in the article it is stated that there has also been other co-operative activity. The "other matter upon which the ~~XXXXXX~~ people have co-operated is the hall just recently built". The opening of the Hall is announced to take place with a celebration May 28th and 29th.

Your item No. 52 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
List of Stores, 1921

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op) 6 7-8 Date of Publication May 19-1921  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 19 No. 116 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 24th 1938

Advertising of the following co-operative enterprises appeared  
in the May 19th issue of the Tyomies.

" Central Co-operative Creamery Association  
422 Cummings Ave. Superior Wis.

Consumers Store  
202 Lincoln Street Hibbing Minn.

Little Swan Farmers Co-op Stock Co  
Little Swan, Minnesota.

Cloquet Stock Mercantile Co.  
Cloquet, Minnesota.

Knife Falls Co-operative Association  
Cloquet, Minn.

Sampo Co-operative Ass'n  
500 Sixth St. Monessen, Pa.

Farmers Co-operative Mercantile Ass'n  
Iron River, Wisconsin.

Ishpeming Co-operative Ass'n  
Ishpeming, Mich.

Co-operative Elanto Company Osuuskauppa  
Nashwauk, Minn.

Co-operative Trading Company  
1165 McAllister Ave. Waukegan, Illinois

Your item No. 51 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Ed. & Culture  
Cooperative courses

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op) 6 3 Date of Publication May 26th 1921  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 19 No. 122 Date Line of story  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 24th 1938

Under title "Osuustoimintakursit (Co-operative Courses), a Man by the name of Jalmar Makinen writes about the co-operative movement and the importance of co-operative education. He claims that so far much too little is known about co-operation and its principles. Another point that he makes is that the Courses are not only necessary for the co-operatives themselves but are a tremendous value to the labor movement in general. He says that often administration of the co-operatives are left into the hands of enemies of the movement who want to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ not only destroy the co-operatives but the labor movement as a whole. An example is cited from the copper country of Michigan where an enemy of the workers is manager of a co-operative, having belonged to a strikebreaking organization during the strike of the miners. According to his opinion the labor movement also needs capable administrators, thus he says: "The lack of capable functionaries is also a problem of the Socialist Branches,

Your item No. 54 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

unions, Co-operative boarding houses (Poikatalojasa) and other organizations. Many of these have properties, funds, etc. as well as income and expenditures but very few have regular and systematic accounting"

The Co-Operative Courses help in educating such people.

Your item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Uusi Kotimaa

7

5

July 8, 1921

40

53

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 3, 1939

"Finlands Cooperators Song  
(Tune "Suloisessa Suomessomme")

Under this title appears a song with five verses  
written by Aarne Kouta.

It praises cooperation and the need for the strong  
to defend the weak.



Ed. & Culture  
Press (Newspaper Column)

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op) 7 3 Date of Publication July 14 1921  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 15 No. 162 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 25 1938

For a long time there appeared in the Tyomies Co-operative Issua  
a column written by August Haanpaa, called ~~XXX~~ "(Salat Julki)  
Secrets Exposed" in which vital information on various problems  
of everyday life, organization, politics, etc. was given. In it were  
exposed the weaknesses of the co-operatives, crooked politicians  
and every other thing that was against the interest of the  
workingclass.

The column also referred often to the circulation of the Tyomies  
in new territories and aided in getting new readers for the paper.

Your item No. 60 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
Central Coop

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: <sup>ie</sup> Tyomus (Coop) 6 1-2-3 Date of Publication July 28, 1921  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 19 No. 174 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted Oct. 26, 1938

Under title "Information from Cooperative Central Exchange Semi Annual Board of Directors Meeting" nearly two columns of space is devoted to this meeting held on July 19th, 1921, dealing mainly with two problems, the problem of fire insurance and establishment of an auditing department. On the first matter the Board decided that a conference be called to discuss the problem. On the second a decision was made to establish such a department to work closely with the Education Department of the Exchange, the auditing to begin by January 1st, 1922. A written agreement was at the time made with H. V. Nurmi to head the department.

Your item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name \_\_\_\_\_

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



*Cooperatives*  
*Ed. of administrators*

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomus (Coop) 6 3 Date of Publication Sept. 1, 1921  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 19 No. 192 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted Oct. 26, 1938

*Tyomies*

One of the early activities of the Cooperative Central Exchange was the education of capable administrators and functionaries for its growing institutions. Thus in the Sept. 1st issue of the ~~Tyomus~~ is published a list of names of students who have been selected to attend the cooperative courses. Usually the local cooperatives paid the cost of upkeep and the tuition for the student that they sent. But in addition to this the Central organization itself gave scholarships to deserving and capable people. In this issue of the paper the Education Department announces that the courses are limited to about 30 students and that the Central organization itself is appropriating \$290.00 as scholarships of different amounts from \$35.00 to \$50.00

Your item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W. A. HARJU

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

*Ed + Culture  
Coop Ed.*

Tyomus (Coop) 6 3

Sept. 1, 1921

19

192

Minnesota Historical Library

Oct. 26, 1938

One of the early activities of the Cooperative Central Exchange was the education of capable administrators and functionaries for its growing institutions. Thus in the Sept. 1st issue of the Tyomus is published a list of names of students who have been selected to attend the cooperative courses. Usually the local cooperatives paid the cost of upkeep and the tuition for the student that they sent. But in addition to this the Central organization itself gave scholarships to deserving and capable people. In this issue of the paper the Education Department announces that the courses are limited to about 30 students and that the Central organization itself is appropriating \$290.00 as scholarships of different amounts from \$35.00 to \$50.00

W. A. HARJU



Cooperatives  
Private Bus. Oppos.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomus (Coop) 2 5 Date of Publication Oct. 20, 1921  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 19 No. 245 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted Oct. 26, 1938

Naskali

Writing about the consumers cooperative store in local news from Lawler, Minnesota one signing his name as "~~Naskali~~ Awl" explains that the enemies of cooperation are trying to use differences of opinion among the people to destroy the cooperative. He regrets the fact that some people can not see it possible to unite in the cooperative. Even though its constitution and principles do not favor any group. Because they have affiliated their local cooperative to the Cooperative Central Exchange he says the conflict has become sharper. He urges the settlers to unite with their purchases to build the local organization.

"The pennies you take to the private store strengthens your enemies. In this town there are three private traders who are trying to destroy our Cooperative. We are facing a hard winter so stop and consider how we will make our own store go forward!"

Your item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W.A. Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Uusi Kotimaa

7

1

Mar. 3, 1925.

44

18

Min. Hist. Library

Feb. 7, 1939.

Frederick, S. D.

Story of the Frederick Co-op. Merc. Co. for the year 1923-24  
also a financial report, etc.

Sales for 1923	-	\$102,298.76
Net Gain	-	4,571.94
Sales for 1924	-	\$116,757.41
Net Gain	-	6,446.38

This store is member of the Central Co-op. Wholesale, Superior,  
Wis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomias (Co-operative Edition) 6 3 Date of Publication Jan. 28, 1926  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 24 No. 23 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Soc. Date consulted Mar. 6, 1939

In a box 3 columns wide and a half a column long an appeal from the Educational Department of the Co-operative Central Exchange is published urging upon all co-operators to start a movement of protest against the destruction by the fascists of the Italian Co-operative movement. It is stated that on "March 15th the fascist government began its final action to destroy the co-operative movement in Italy by destroying its center the Italian Co-operative League."

An urgent appeal is made to all co-operatives to take the matter under discussion and to pass resolutions of protest against the viscious attack of the Italian fascist Government. A united front of workers' organizations and co-operatives is called for on an international scale. The International Co-operative Alliance is requested to take the initiative in the matter on a world wide scale.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. Harju (1)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Työmies (Co-op Edition) 6 6 Date of Publication Mar. 4, 1926  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 24 No. 53 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Soc. Date consulted Mar. 6, 1939

The Co-operative stores always hired their managers from a large number of applicants secured by advertising the openings in the Työmies. A typical advertisement of this kind appears in this issue of the paper. Under title "Places open" the following advertisement appears.

"Manager wanted

An honest, experienced and sober manager is wanted for the New York Mills Co-operative Store. The applicant must speak the English and Finnish language, and know double entry bookkeeping (the Nurmi System). He must have an interest in the co-operative movement, not afraid of work and know his profession. The volume of business is \$50,000.00 annually. A bond of \$3,000.00 is required the cost of which is borne by the Company. The store has a bookkeeper and the manager is required to wait on trade.

Applications, with the amount of salary required must be in the hands of the undersigned before March 10th. Applicant must be ready to assume responsibility by March 15th.

Santeri Porkkonen  
Secretary of the Board  
Route 4 New York Mills, Minnesota."

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. Harju (1)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.



Politics  
Acquisition of Territory

(Finnish Daily Pub. Co. Duluth)

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen Wkly 4 3 Date of Publication Jan. 19, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 6 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Library Date consulted Oct. 10, 1938

"The purchase of West India islands for 25 million dollars was opposed by all conservatives in the Danish parliament, but the support came from radicals and socialists. is  
Vicious propaganda/spread thruout the Islands by the Danish conservatives that negroes are lynched and shot ~~wholesale~~ wholesale, by Americans, without cause or trial. This rumor has caused the West Indian natives to become very restless and scared of Americans as if they were devils".

(The above is editorial comment and carried no title. AB)

Your item No. 16 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Ed. & Culture  
Suffrage

(Finnish Daily Pub. Co. Duluth)

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly. 5 7 Date of Publication Jan. 19, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 6 Date Line of story Jan. 17, 1917  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 10, 1938

" WOMENS PAGE"

"Womens Economic Independence. - At a meeting of American women, a ~~xxxxxx~~ speaker advocated to young women that they should strive to become economically independent, therefore, selfsupporting. They portrayed the feeling of satisfaction and pride, among men as well as women, that the joy of working brings to them self respect and independence.

The ~~xxx~~ women speakers at the aforementioned meeting had never known or experienced a life of selfsupport by either hand or brain. They had not aquired their property and leisure by their own work.

To these easily influenced, young and inexperienced women, they painted a rosy picture of the competitive nature of industry and of labor, without explaining the requirements demanded in order for one to bear her burden. They failed to reveal how difficult it really is for a woman to rise into economic independence, for woman's work, however equal to men's it may be, is still standardized a great deal lower than men's in money value. These girls were

Your item No. 18 Page No. 1 Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

(Finnish Daily Pub. Co. Duluth)

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

not told, that if they exchange ~~their~~ <sup>the</sup> leisure ~~of~~ <sup>at</sup> their own homes to useful work, that they are required to produce, while on the job, their full capacity. Neither were they told that it makes no difference whether you are a man or a woman, when it comes to the productivity of labor. Nothing of woman's special privileges, ~~which~~ accustomed to at home, do the industrialists consider, but only the brutal weighing of their use value while applying it to the machines. These facts must be made clear to young women before they venture away from home, otherwise they will surely face an unhappy future. Only those who have climbed the heights know how rocky the ~~re~~ paths are for the adventurer. The carefree adventurer type will accept any kind of wage labor as recreation. They will even accept housework for half the wages of regularly employed domestic employees and sometimes even have dependents to feed. In these instances such "careerists" on the jobs unwittingly do a very disastrous disservice to their fellow countrymen, hindering not only their own life, but the entire future of womanhood

Your item No. 18 Page No. 2 Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

in the struggle for their daily bread.

All work is pleasant and joyful, only under one condition, and that is, when you govern your own job and really become its master. This code applies to men as well as women. If you feel that you are not fitted for certain work, then work becomes a drudgery.

Women who accept any kind of work, to be able to enjoy life and wear good cloths, until they 'catch a victim', a man who will be able to give her a good home, is really a parasite on the labor market and a detriment to the developement of women in their struggle toward economic independence.

So, even in this field we must look ~~the~~ at truth straight<sup>at</sup> in the eye and not idealize our observations to <sup>any</sup> brighter than they really are, and thereby we will save ourselves from many dissappointments. Let us set for ourselves demands and present them to the employers so we can at least dream of a day of equality among men and women laborers".

Your item No. 18 Page No. 3 Your name \_\_\_\_\_

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
Stockholders Dividend  
(Heinola)

(Finnish Daily Pub.Co. Duluth) SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly 7 5 Date of Publication Jan.26,1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 8 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct.11,1938

" New York Mills, Jan.22. - The Heinola Co-op Creamery held stockholders its annual/meeting today declaring to its patrons a \$4,000 rebate, amounting to three cents per pound of butter fat, besides an eight per cent stock dividend.

The board of directors elected for the coming year were; Oscar Hill, President; Aug. Jacobson, Vice President; Otto Amberg, Tres., E. Matti, Secretary. The trustees were, Ed. Sumi, Gust Kostamo and P. Majala.

The New York Mills Co-operative Creamery also at its annual meeting declared a dividend to its stockholders and patrons last week amounting to nearly eight thousand dollars. They also decided to pay the patrons 3 to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents rebate on each pound of butter fat bought from the farmers during the year. This makes a total of over ten thousandx dollars paid back to the farmers by the the two creameries here which otherwise would have gone into the hands of private dealers. The new directors elected were; T. Perala, M. Niemela, C. A. Matala, M. Rosseri, Ed. Blomberg, Matt Erkkila and T. W. Jacobson."

Your item No. 21 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
Heinola Ann. Report

(Finnish Daily Pub.Co.Duluth)

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly 7 5 Date of Publication Jan.26, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 8 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct.11, 1938

"New York Mills, Jan.22.- The Heinola Co-operative Mercantile Ass'n., (At the village of Heinola) according to the co-op reports, enjoyed a prosperous year ending Dec. 31, 1916. Eighteen hundred dollar~~d~~ net gains were reported out of a total gross sales during the year of \$10,000. A change of managers took place at the close of the year. Mr. Väinö Kela was placed in charge upon the resignation of the former manager, Mr. John Hagelin."

Your item No. 22 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Cooperatives  
Social

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen Wkly 7 4 Date of Publication Feb. 20, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 15 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 18, 1938

"Brookston, Minn.- There is no other social or cultural activities here except the (S.S. Osasto) Finnish Socialist Branch.

Well, we have a co-operative - or as they call it as yet- a buying circle in <sup>whose</sup> ~~which~~ behalf a social was held at the Socialist hall which netted over \$70. I hope the best of luck to all such honest and upright endeavors".

"Correspondent"

Your item No. 45 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
Annual Meeting, Kettle  
River

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly 6 6 Date of Publication Mar. 6, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 19 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist Lib. Date consulted Oct. 18, 1938

"Kettle River, Minn. - Kettle River Farmers Co-operative  
at it's yearly stockholders meeting declared a net profit  
to the patrons ~~of~~ a sum of \$779.38.

We must understand that this co-operative began operations  
less than a year ago on a 'shoe string' and our hopes at times  
for it's success was very feeble. However, we must give credit  
where it is due, namely, to Manager Victor E. Laury and  
book keeper Werner R. Ruusunen. Also we must not forget the  
loyal farmers who have so faithfully partonized and defended  
their own store.

The four other stores have also enjoyed a very prosperous  
year altho our co-op has taken quite a slice from their business.  
But <sup>as</sup> the old American saying goes; 'Competition is the life of trade'."

Your item No. 55 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
yearly Meeting, Menahga

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly 6 7 Date of Publication Mar. 9, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 20 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 24, 1938

"Menahga, Minn. The Farmers Co-operative Merc. Ass'n.  
held it's yearly meeting last Monday. Gross business was  
\$52,500 with a net gain of \$3,200. All former board members  
were re-elected for the coming year. Matt Hepokoski was again  
appointed manager. All stockholders and patrons were highly  
pleased with the years' progress."

Your item No. 56 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Beckman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Cooperatives  
Kettle River

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly 6 5 Date of Publication Mar 17, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 22 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 25, 1938

"Kettle River, Minn.- The Co-operative Creamery during the fiscal year brought an 18% net profit to the stockholders. Butter sales totaled \$44,277.77. There are four other cream buyers in tpwn, one buyer alone handled ~~35~~ 35,000 pounds of butter fat. If the other buyers have done nearly as well, then one co-op creamery, if it handled all the production, which it easily could do, should become a very profitable undertaking."

"Correspondent."

Your item No. 64 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen Wkly 7 6 Date of Publication Mar.27, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 24 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 31, 1938

"Pike, Minn. - Sandy Township officials were elected today as follows: H. Mattonen, Assessor. M. Jacobson, Clerk. E. Rajala, J. Wiita and E. Mattonen for Supervisors. D. Jylkka, Justice of Peace. For constables, Lonquist for West side and E. Haavisto for the East.

At the polling place much talk was prevalent about establishing a telephone system thruout the township. The township fathers were all in favor of the plan".

Your item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. 73 Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
Buying Club, Sawyer

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Daily) 7 3 Date of Publication April 6th 1917  
Vol. 15 No. 82 (edition, page, column) Date Line of story  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 5th 1938

It is reported from Sawyer Minnesota in local News published in the Tyomies that the constitution committee of the "Farmers Association" had just held a meeting. In the article it is indicated that there is a move on foot to establish a buying club of the Farmers and that it will soon be possible to start purchasing and selling goods through the organization. It is stated that others besides Finns are expected to join when the Association is gotten under way. The reporter is Nester Lammi.

Your item No. 8 Page No. Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



Cooperatives  
Organization, Orr

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Daily) 7 4 Date of Publication April 6th 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 15 No. 82 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted October 5th 1938

A large mass meeting is announced in the local news from Orr, Minnesota where the matter of organization of a co-operative store will be discussed and considered. The meeting is to take place on Sunday April 8th 1917.

Your item No. 10 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
Organization, Zim

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Daily) 4 1 Date of Publication April 9th 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 15 No. 84 Date Line of story  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct. 5th 1938

In local news from Zim, Minnesota the following is said about  
the co-operative just in the process of organization:

"The co-operative seems to be taking form despite all obstacles.

The new and old customers will leave the private store keepers  
to drift for themselves. Our stump farmers are finally  
discovering their own interests."

Your item No. 11 Page No. Your name W A arju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

*Cooperatives  
Organization, Sawyer*

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

1917

Source: Tyomies (Daily) 7 4 Date of Publication Apr. 13th ~~XXXX~~  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 15 No. 88 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 10th 1938

A report is made of the Farmers Association meeting held in Sawyer Minnesota. The Hall had been filled with people. The reason for the good attendance is given as caused by the severe exploitation of the pioneer settlers of the region. The meeting selected a Board of Directors and a manager for the Association. The people are urged to come to the next meeting on Sunday and bring with them their orders for goods. ~~Nestor~~ Lammi was selected manager.

Your item No. 17 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



*Agriculture - Cooperative  
Crops - Org., Cromwell*

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

*Date ? 1917*

Source: Tyomies (Daily) 6 4 Date of Publication April 30th 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 15 No. 102 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 12th 1938

In local news from Cromwell Minnesota it is said that the farmers are busy in their fields attempting to put in as much crops as possible because of the rising of the prices of farm products.

The movement for a co-operative store in the community is making rapid strides among the local Finnish people. A meeting had been held at the Socialist Hall on the previous Sunday where 40 people had attended to discuss the matter. Enthusiasm had been found to be widespread and running high for such an enterprise, but the writer warns that this has been true even before so now it must be kept up so that something will be accomplished.

Your item No. 29 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Public Welfare  
Cost of living

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies ( Daily ) 4 5 Date of Publication May 12th 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 15 No. 112 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Historical Library Date consulted Oct 18th 1938

In Duluth local news it is stated that "Living costs are rising rapidly" In the text of the article it is pointed out that the price of bread has just been increased from 8 to 10 cents for a one pound loaf and from 10 to 15 cents for a pound and a half loaf. It is indicated that wages however have not increased and there is a move on foot to raise the prices of milk. The milk price had been discussed at a meeting held by the distributors/

Your item No. 39 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

~~MINNESOTA ANNALS~~  
Social Ethnic Studies

Source: Unsi Kotimaa 5 1-2 Date of Publication Jan 6, 1920  
(Publication Edition, Page, Column)

Vol. 39 No. 1 Date line of story

Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Feb. 2, 1939

"A. C. Townley, of the Non-Partisan League has a 2 column article dealing with the political struggles of the farmers urging them to organize their co-operatives and unite economically and politically against the greedy grain speculators and the large millers."

Your item no. Page no. Your name Alfree Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis



Dec 31-1920

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Jan. 6, 1920

Source: Uusi Kotimaa

~~xx~~ 6 ~~xx~~ 5  
(edition, page, column)

Date of Publication Jan. 4, 1920

Vol. 39

No. 1

Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_

Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib.

Date consulted Feb. 2, 1939

"Wolf Lake Township Co-op. Creamery Ass'n. will hold  
it's annual meeting Monday Jan. 12, 1920. Stock dividend will  
be declared. Everyone is invited. The meeting will be held  
at the Youth Club Hall.

Andrew Jarvimaki, Pres.

Chas. E. Kinnunen, Secy."

Your item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Beckman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Social Ethnic Studies  
~~MINNESOTA ANNALS~~

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 8 3 Date of Publication Jan. 13, 1920  
(Publication Edition, Page, Column)

Vol. 39 No. 3 Date line of story

Where consulted Minn. Hist. Library Date consulted Feb. 2, 1939

"Snellman, Minn.

A four-township meeting of our Co-op Creamery  
will be held Jan. 17th at the creamery building.

David Kivinen, Sec. "

Your item no. Page no. Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis

Uusi Kotimaa(New Homeland)  
Bi-weekly

~~MINNESOTA ANNALS~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 4 5-8 Date of Publication Mar. 2, 1920  
(Publication Edition, Page, Column)

Vol. 39 No. 17 Date line of story

Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Feb. 3, 1939

"New York Mills Co-op. Merc. Co. ~~retails~~ retail prices for  
March 2, 1920.

Peaberry coffee	- - - - -	.45
Best lard	- - - - -	.30
Big prunes	- - - - -	.35
Cream cheese	- - - - -	.40
Salt Salmon	- - - - -	.30
Occident flour #98	- - -	-7.75
Hams	per # - - -	.28
Oil Meal #100	- -	-4.75

"Largest retail store in 'Clover County'."

Your item no. Page no. Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis

MFP-3



Social-Ethnic Studies

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ANNALS

Source: Uusi Kotimaa ~~5~~ 2 Date of Publication Aug. 27, 1920  
(Publication Edition, Page, Column)

Vol. 39 No. 62 Date line of story

Where consulted Minn. Hist. Libr. Date consulted Feb. 6, 1939

"New fixtures and other major repairs have been completed  
in the Sebeca Co-operative Store. It is now longer and wider  
making it easier to handle the ever increasing trade."

Your item no. Page no. Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis

To Be Typed

Uusi Kotimaa April 26-1930  
Vol 49 No 49 Page 1 Col 3  
Consulted at Minnesota Historical Library  
St Paul, Minnesota February 24th 1939

Translated by W A Harju from an Article entitled "The builders of the Co-operative Central Exchange thrown out of the Board"

\*\*\*\* "The removal of Tenhunen, Vainionpaa and Corgan"

After the Board of Directors activities were approved with <sup>no</sup>one objecting to anyone on the Board, the secretary of the machine meeting at Cloquet, Elmer Salo, arose and made the Cloquet Machine meeting proposal to remove Tenhunen, Corgan and Vainionpaa. The left wingers immediately demanded an explanation for which the floor was given with reluctance. After a long fight just as the Chairman's Gavel was about to end the discussion, Alanne acting as a 'bumper' (buffer) intermed and declared that they should be given time to explain and be questioned. A great number of the delegates demanded the floor on the question and the Chairman was finally compelled to allow a half hours discussion on the matter. The time however was limited to three minutes, so no one could make himself clear and the questions asked were not answered. After a half hour of questions from the floor the Censor committee (the rules committee) proposed that the members of the Board under attack be given a half hour in self defence, ten minutes for each, in which they were to be able to explain all the corruption which the meeting wanted to conceal.

The speech of Vainionpaa

Vainionpaa explained very calmly that during all of the time that he has served on the Board of the Co-operative Central Exchange as well as the time he has served other co-operatives by which he had been employed, he has always done so sincerely and honestly and for the best interest of the co-operators. There are here delegates from those co-operatives which I have served. If there is anything to be said against my activity, why are not the mistakes brought up here. I have received a declaration of confidence from all of these co-operatives by which I have been employed. If I have been in some <sup>way</sup> against or made

mistakes in the co-operative movement why then are not these transgressions exposed here. In the discussion on the report of the Board there was not a word said that I had boycotted or worked against the interests of the Central Exchange. I therefore can come to only one conclusion that I am being removed because of my political opinions. Where is your great principle of 'Neutrality respecting the different currents in the labor movement?' No other charge has been made against me but the one that I belong to a revolutionary Party which is based on the class struggle and that I support co-operative principles which recognize the class struggle. You may ask about my activity from Nashwauk, It was I who fought for the Central Exchange there and finally succeeded in getting the co-operative there to support the Exchange. Who is at this meeting from there now? A person who has continuously and consistently, tooth and nail, fought against the Central Exchange, and that person is here removing us who for over ten years have been building this institution!. At the time when I went to manage in Marengo they called the Exchange a devils circle. It was during my time that the Marengo co-operative became a member of the Co-operative Central Exchange and is still today a loyal supporter. You can also ask about my activity in New York Mills where I am at present employed, to see whether I have there disrupted or built the co-operatives and the Exchange. Those years that I have been on the Board of the Co-operative Central Exchange speak for themselves. At no time have I received even a reminder with regard to my activity, so with no regrets, I can go before the people and sincerely and honestly put before them my case. As to my personal desire to remain on the Board, I do not care. In fact it requires a lot of effort and expenditure. I regret however that those people who have tried to wreck this institution and have not succeeded before, seem to succeed now to do anything they want with the Co-operative Central Exchange with the aid of an inner circle. I thank you for the attention given me.



Tenhunens speech

The time allotted to us does not permit the answering of the many questions nor to explain even a fraction of those things which should be made clear, to really understand the question involved.

Mr Alanne is the most open minded. He openly states that the Central Exchange is now economically so strong, that it can without any danger eliminate the Communists. So long as this movement needed builders the Communists were alright. Now however the belief has grown that the movement can get along without them, even though they compose the largest single group and are the original founders; now they can be thrown out. This is not the first time that an attempt is made to throw out Matti Tenhunen from the Exchange. This is already the third time, and I am confident that if I remain true to the principles of the Communist Party that this will not be the last time that attempts and actions of this kind will take place in this institution. The Knight of the white robe Nylander, comes here from the east to tell the workers and farmers of the central States how to 'run' things. A man who with his pure white program at this moment is wrecking the Brooklin co-operative bakery. This man comes here to tell us how the work should be done here!.

Comrade Simila I believe you are sincere. I can not believe that you meant what you said, when you made the accusation that I had boycotted the Exchange. That charge you can not prove, and there is not a soul in this hall that can prove it. I deplore the fact that there are so many honest Workers and Farmers who have been misled by this issue, but I am confident that when these honest workers and farmers will see where they are led, they will correct the mistakes which are made in this tense mental condition.

Corgans speech

The speaker mentioned the fact that he had known of the removal procedure

since last Wednesday, as at that time he had refused to submit to a proposal that was made to him. He said that he would therefore not speak in an attempt to change the decision that had already been made, but instead would use his time to explain some of the principles as well as other factors leading to the removals. He went on to say that it was ironic, that he who had served the Central Exchange for nine years, during which time not one instance can be cited where anyone has said anything against his activities, that now the job to make the proposal for his removal has been given to a person whose record is such in the co-operative movement, that if the impoverished farmers would be thoroughly acquainted with it, they would throw the maker of the proposal out of the window. Then he went on to explain the many social currents that make up the membership of the Exchange and how the range of opinion extends down to pure capitalist co-operation as expounded by Alanne. At the same time he said that he is proud of the fact that it is precisely this capitalist element which temporarily has achieved such power, that they are the ones behind his removal, that that in itself proves and gives him credit in the class struggle for being on the side of the workers and poor farmers. The speech was broad and to the point which can not be dealt with in detail because of lack of space.

After this by secret ballot the proposal made at a previous machine meeting was adopted by a vote of 167 for and 89 against. Thus the annual meeting removed from the Board of Directors of the Exchange those who for many years had served it, the only members who had honestly and at all times fought for the interests of the poor in that Board." XXXX



(Cokato)

Finnish Study  
Ralph K. Andrist  
December 6, 1939

The Cokato Farmers' Mercantile Association  
Material given by Mr. A. W. Nelson, manager.

In 1910 the Cokato Farmers' Mercantile Association was formed, taking its membership entirely from Finns and Swedes. The board of directors consists of 7, and custom decrees that 3 shall be Finns, 3 Swedes, and seventh shall be of the nationality which is numerically greatest in the cooperative at the time of election.

By the end of the first year, \$3,900 in stock, at \$10 a share had been sold, and at the present time \$15,000 in stock is held, although the Association is worth twice that.

The Association is a true cooperative. The store in general sells at the prevailing market prices, and a dividend, based on patronage, is declared. The dividend amounts to 4%.



Finnish Study  
Ralph K. Andrist  
December 6, 1939

The Finnish Mutual Fire Insurance Company

From an interview with William Onkka, Cokato

The Finnish Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Cokato is the only cooperative venture in the Cokato community to be formed by the Finnish people alone, although they have taken important parts in the formation of other cooperatives.

It was first organized on March 28 in 1892, and started business on May 1 of the same year. The board of directors at its organization was made up of these men: Jacob Ojanpera, Pres.; Oscar Ingman, Secy.; Peter Gunnary; Erik Paavo; Isaac Abrahamson; Jacob Peterson; Adam Zachariason.

Starting off with only a few members, and most of them poor farmers, it has grown to have 480 policy-holding members, with a coverage of \$2,250,000 worth of property. The assessment is low, \$.25 per \$100 for five years, with special assessments levied to meet disbursements. The area covered takes in 11 townships, practically the limits of the Finnish settlement in Wright and Meeker counties.

At first only Finnish members were taken, but in the past fifteen years or so, with property exchanges, other nationalities have come into the company, until now only the name remains to indicate it as an independent Finnish venture.

Työnies

6 and 7

Sept. 22, 1927

25

223

Finn. Hist. Soc.

Mar. 3, 1939

In this issue of the Työnies appears a two-page spread chronologically depicting the important happenings of the Co-operative Central Exchange from its beginning to 1927. The spread is illustrated by seven drawings on each side of the paper. The pictures depict what had taken place during each year. 1917 and 1918 are illustrated by four pictures, 1926 by two and the rest with one picture each. To explain the pictures short statements appear before or after them as follows and in the following order:

#### 1917

In July a group of serious minded representatives of co-operatives gathered at the Superior Workers Hall and decided to start their own co-operative wholesale.

In September practical action is taken. The Co-operative Central Exchange begins its activity with 15 member societies. An office is opened in the editorial room of the 'Iapatoosu'. (Trans. note Office of Finnish Comic paper of that name) A typewriter was borrowed. That was all of the machinery in the beginning.

#### 1918

In order to overcome the lack of forces the first co-operative courses are organized in July. Several courses have been held afterwards. Other regions have also followed our example.

In September the Co-operative Central Exchange moves into its own building.



Tyones

6 and 7

Sept. 22, 1927

25

223

Min. Hist. Soc.

Mar. 3, 1939

#### 1919

The activities of the Co-operative Central Exchange expands. A modern bakery oven is built and new machinery is secured. Our own bakery goods become a larger item of sales than private bakery goods.

#### 1920

The need for co-operative education becomes more pressing. The Co-operative Central Exchange establishes an educational department. It is made responsible for organizing and conducting educational work.

#### 1921

The co-operative movement is not local in nature. Being a social movement it must be national and international in scope. In 1921 the Co-operative Central Exchange joins the Northern States Co-operative League and thereby does its part the American co-operative movement to organize and centralise.

#### 1922

A uniform bookkeeping system becomes imperative for the co-operatives. In January the Co-operative Central Exchange starts a new service, the auditing department.

#### 1923

The expansion of the movement requires added funds. The Co-operative Central Exchange issues its own bonds to secure loans.



Työnies

G and 7

Sept. 22, 1927

25

223

Finn. Hist. Soc.

Mar. 3, 1939

#### 1924

In controlling the quality of goods, to overcome the chaos of labels and to carry out a standardization of commodities it becomes necessary to have our own label.

#### 1925

More co-operatives begin to understand the necessity for their own wholesale and its advantages. In 1925 the Co-operative Central Exchange has 65 member stores.

#### 1926

The demand for bakery goods increases. The old building lacks space. A new building is purchased for a bakery. A new bakery oven and other new machinery are secured.

The business expands beyond the Finnish people. Co-operative educational work is extended to include the English speaking people as well. Our own monthly magazine the 'Co-operative Pyramid Builder' is established.

#### 1927

As a result of participation of our organization in the American Co-operative movement, two of our delegates are elected as representatives to the Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance in Stockholm, Sweden."

Finnish Study  
Ralph K. Andrist  
December 6, 1939

The Finnish Mutual Fire Insurance Company

From an interview with William Onkka, Cokato

The Finnish Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Cokato is the only cooperative venture in the Cokato community to be formed by the Finnish people alone, although they have taken important parts in the formation of other cooperatives.

It was first organized on March 28 in 1892, and started business on May 1 of the same year. The board of directors at its organization was made up of these men: Jacob Ojanpera, Pres.; Oscar Ingman, Secy.; Peter Gunnary; Erik Paavo; Isaac Abrahamson; Jacob Peterson; Adam Zachariason.

Starting off with only a few members, and most of them poor farmers, it has grown to have 480 policy-holding members, with a coverage of \$2,250,000 worth of property. The assessment is low, \$.25 per \$100 for five years, with special assessments levied to meet disbursements. The area covered takes in 11 townships, practically the limits of the Finnish settlement in Wright and Meeker counties.

At first only Finnish members were taken, but in the past fifteen years or so, with property exchanges, other nationalities have come into the company, until now only the name remains to indicate it as an independent Finnish venture.

(Cokato)

Finnish Study  
Ralph K. Andrist  
December 6, 1939

The Cokato Farmers' Mercantile Association  
Material given by Mr. A. W. Nelson, manager.

In 1910 the Cokato Farmers' Mercantile Association was formed, taking its membership entirely from Finns and Swedes. The board of directors consists of 7, and custom decrees that 3 shall be Finns, 3 Swedes, and seventh shall be of the nationality which is numerically greatest in the cooperative at the time of election.

By the end of the first year, \$3,900 in stock, at \$10 a share had been sold, and at the present time \$15,000 in stock is held, although the Association is worth twice that.

The Association is a true cooperative. The store in general sells at the prevailing market prices, and a dividend, based on patronage, is declared. The dividend amounts to 4%.



Firms of Minnesota.

R. K. Andrist - November 7, 1939.

In the early part of this century, Finnish immigrants began settling in the northeastern section of the State, and they brought with them the knowledge of Consumers' Cooperation. The Firms not only knew the methods of cooperation, but they also knew the necessity of it. They had experienced hard times under the Czar, and had developed a spirit of communal self-reliance that other people in the new world lacked. They are clamish by nature and wherever they settled, they started cooperative enterprises among themselves.

From about 1910 on to the present, the Finnish people have sponsored the only cooperative store movement in our state worthy of the name. They have kept the Rochdale principles surprisingly well, and proved that consumers' cooperation can work even in as difficult a type of business as the retail store, where profits are small and as a result, patronage rebates small. Contrary to the previous experience of other cooperative attempts in this country, the Finnish stores have had few failures, and those under unusual circumstances.

(Stores - Virginia, Cloquet, Cookato).

The background of most of the societies in the State is a small group of loyal Finnish Cooperators, many of whom were born in Finland and learned about cooperation there. Their object was to set up a cooperation after the pattern of cooperations in Finland, and in doing so they have made an unqualified success.

Their cooperative store was the social center, their community life was built around it. The store itself becoming insufficient for their meetings, a social hall was often erected. Educational and social events were put on there and people learned to think of the cooperative not only as a place to buy

sugar, tobacco and bread, but also as a place to gather for pleasure and education.

Today we find these small stores have been the foundation or root from which has grown, all types of cooperative undertakings, where one can purchase practically everything he may desire and find entertainment in their halls, parks and playgrounds. Whatever the corporators' demand is, the Central Cooperative Wholesale, a buying and manufacturing unit, composed and owned by the various cooperative societies, will supply their demand.

Cloquet Cooperative Society: Incorporated in 1910, January, by 121 shareholders, all Finns. By the end of the first year the paid-in capital stock was \$1,662.00.

In 1918 all written records of the society as well as all the tangible physical properties were destroyed by the great fire that swept through the city in October, 1918. After the fire a temporary structure was erected on the property and business started again.

At the first annual meeting, January 1919, it was decided to erect a new building with the cooperation of the Finnish Workmen's Society. They continued to grow and started branch stores and other types of business. In December, 1934, their sales were \$69,548.00 and for the entire year 1934, \$736,907.00.

- - - - -

Virginia Work People's Trading Co. This society was organized in 1909 by a group of Finnish Cooperators most of whom worked in the iron mines. It is the second largest in Minnesota. During the difficult years of 1929 and 1930 when the communists attempted to gain control of the Central wholesale, and as many cooperative stores as possible, the Virginia Store was in the midst of the strife. The left wing did gain control of their creamery, but not of the store,

which now has several branches, and was one of the leaders in organizing the Range Cooperative Federation.

(Coop. Survey - Sponsored by Minn. Dept. Agric.)



Uusi Kotimaa

4

6

May 9, 1922

41

37

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 6, 1939

Under title "Cooperation among American Finns" a long article signed by a "Friend of Neutral Cooperation" appears in which an attack is made against the leadership of the Central Cooperative Exchange of Superior, Wis. and Mr. V. S. Alanne is praised. In the article the other leaders of the C.C.E. are dubbed as reds. It is also indicated that if Mr. Alanne will lead the fight for neutral cooperation he is promised the support of the Finns by the writer.

The writer also indicates that Uusi Kotimaa should become cooperative paper for "Neutral Cooperation" against the red dictatorship of socialists.

Under title "A Word on Neutral Cooperation" Mr. V. S. Alanne writes an answer to the article by "a friend of neutral cooperation" appearing in the May 9th, 1922 issue of the Uusi Kotimaa.

In his answer Mr. Alanne says in part as follows  
\*\*\*"First, I am not a supporter of such neutral cooperation as the writer of the article. The writer of that article would desire the leadership of the American Finnish Cooperative Movement to be in the hands of a "guaranteed responsible nationalistic grouping." I want to further, as I have in the past see in the leadership of our cooperative movement men from the Labor Movement, internationalists, because the Cooperative Movement is not, and must not be nationalistic, but it is in nature fundamentally international and world wide. The Cooperative Movement is first of all a workers and toilers movement and for that reason belongs to them--and not to any middle or upper class strata. To the working people therefore belongs its leadership."\*\*\*

In a very effective way Mr. Alanne further answers all the arguments made by the "Friend of Neutral Cooperation" indicating that in all instances he supports only one policy in the Cooperatives and that is its close alliance with the Labor Movement. He says that the "Friend of Neutral Cooperation" would like to have the Finnish Cooperatives become the supporter of the Bloody General Baron Mannheim under whose leadership were "murdered 15,000 of Finland's men, women and children because they rose to abolish the system of capitalist exploitation in their own country."\*\*

Uusi Kotimaa

2

4

May 26, 1922

41

42

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 6, 1939

He warns that the writer is badly mistaken  
if he thinks that he would ever become a part of  
that camp.



Uusi Kotimaa

23

7-1

Oct. 27, 1927.

46

124

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 21, 1939.

The Finnish Mutual Fire Ins. Assn. of Carlton County in the 1918 Cloquet fire paid out \$105,000, out of which sum the loyal members were compelled to carry \$18,000, even though many of these members suffered losses in uninsured properties. The railroad companies later paid back 40% of this sum.

The correspondent says "In closing I wish to urge farmers to join us in this non-profit type of insuring your property, proved over a period of several decades to serve you cooperatively, that is, fairly and honestly. Stop placing money into the pockets of a few individuals! We will gladly serve you and take you as a member in Carlton or St. Louis Counties. If there are those who do not wish, for some reason, to take their policy in the Finnish Mutual, there are other language group insurance associations operating the same way as ours, where your insurance needs will be met. The main thing, however, is that you join with us."

Fraternally yours,  
Emil E. Johnson,  
Secretary.

### "Kettle River"

Farmers in this locality have a great victory to record in their diaries in the field of cooperation and their loyalty to it. We have here a creamery, store and telephone system, all built, owned and operated cooperatively by local farmers. Here is proof beyond doubt that these beginnings have already brought many economic improvements to the local farmers.

In the year 1923 the Kettle River farmers became aware of the fact that they were receiving 10¢ to 20¢ less for their cream than farmers in other localities. From a careful survey of the problem, they came to the conclusion that, in localities where farmers owned their creamery, prices were higher. Even the bankers and local merchants, who saw in the cooperative store a danger to their welfare, seemed to strongly welcome the idea of a cooperative creamery, but they could not agree that a creamery in town should be completely controlled by farmers or cream producers, so the local businessmen busied themselves with organization of a creamery, taking under their wing all the prosperous farmers. Construction was begun and completed on an ice house, and a foundation for a creamery was laid. At this point something happened:

The farmers, producers of dairy products, began asking why people who never owned a cow should be so interested in a cooperative creamery! Why can't we, they reasoned, build our own creamery without the interference of others, particularly people who never farmed? and why can't we have a truly cooperative creamery where all profits will be returned to those who toil and produce them, and not to private businessmen?

So the farmers refused to follow a handful of businessmen and set out to build their own creamery, sold shares and incorporated it.

The businessmen, with their ice house and creamery foundation became desperate. They offered both for sale. The farmers purchased the ice house but the creamery foundation was left as a landmark and a headache for those people who think a cooperative creamery can be operated with the producers.

once A private butter maker, known in a neighboring town for his unfairness, became excited about his future when he realized the farmers' determination to build the cooperative creamery. He began a price war (an old trick practiced everywhere by private operators), established a cream station and paid top prices for butterfat. However, the cream buyer lasted only a few weeks and closed his shop. Other firms such as the ~~and~~ powerful Bridgman-Russel also opened up a cream station but failed to swing the farmers away from their own institution, which was operating at full capacity, giving farmers the best of prices and excellent service.

This was in 1924. Those who observed the Bridgman-Russel venture stated that in the two weeks that the station was in operation they took in only five gallons of cream. More stubborn were the disgruntled local businessmen. They made another desperate effort to break the cooperative. Two buyers had failed. They would ~~not~~ try to get the Duluth Creamery & Produce Company to open a station in Kettle River. Surely, by this time the farmers' stubborn resistance had waned. This was in 1926, three years after the cooperative creamery started operation. The plan failed. The farmers would not budge. They would not scab--these Finnish farmers. The Duluth Creamery & Produce station moved out with a reported operating loss of \$500-\$600.

A private creamery in Moose Lake is now operating a cream station there but the farmers are stubbornly passing up their offers and plan to dry up this station also and soon hold the fourth, and possibly



Uusi Kotimaa

2

Aug. 23, 1927.

46

98

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 17, 1939.

the last, cream station funeral in Kettle River.

E. W. Manty,  
Secretary.

"Kettle River Cooperative Day Festival"

On Sunday, August 21, the Cooperative Creamery is holding a picnic at the Kettle River school grounds. We cordially invite all our patrons and friends to attend. There will be bands and entertainment. Those who have been in the struggle from the very beginning will relate some of the early history of our great organization. Our creamery organization has to its credit something which is unusual generally in the cooperatives. We have set aside an educational fund every year so we can proudly point out that we not only manufacture thousands of pounds of the best butter every month, but we also carry on a continuous educational campaign, a program without which we couldn't have survived in the beginning of the struggle.

### "Cooperation"

"Is the Cooperative Movement Neutral?" This is the remark of Matt Tenhunen, Delegate from the American Cooperative League to the International Cooperative Alliance Congress held at Stockholm, Sweden.

"Cooperation does not discriminate against race, color or creed, is the fundamental principle of our league.

"We believe that the Cooperative Movement must draw to itself all toilers regardless of their nationality or political party affiliation. Workers in capitalist countries, the Chinese coolie, the communist and the social-democrat, the worker without political affiliation, all should find a place within the Cooperative Movement.

"Let us examine, therefore, the question of neutrality. It is wrong to base your theory of neutrality as if it were inherited from the Rochdale pioneers, for at that time such conditions did not exist, and therefore could not create rules pertaining to political neutrality. Therefore, political neutrality is groundless and cannot be wrapped up on the sanctity of the pioneers on which, unfortunately, many of our supporters rely and believe.

"Political neutrality basically was admitted only after the cooperators began to struggle against private retailers, and here political action was meaningless. Furthermore, supporters of the Cooperative Movement were not, at this early period, interested in political movements.

"Since that time, conditions have completely changed. Syndicates and trusts have gained control of production and dictate the retail and wholesale prices. Cost of living is increasing because of higher

taxes, tariffs, duties and freight rates. The present struggle against living costs is a struggle against the trusts as well as against the political power which is influenced by the same trusts. Only under these conditions do our struggles become political.

"Supporters of this purely neutral policy say that cooperation must be free of all political movements. We recognize this as fundamental, and considering the fact that the great masses of co-operators gain nothing by submitting to the dictates of this or that political party, be it social-democratic, conservative, or any other party, we feel that this can mean only one thing, that the co-operators must follow some type of 'neutral politics,' in other words, no kind of politics. The growth of the cooperative movement in various countries proves that class differences and antagonisms force the masses of co-operators to reach out into ruling class political institutions in order to gain more ground for further development. The last Congress of the American Cooperatives not only reaffirmed their decision that the Cooperative Movement is part of the Labor Movement, but also carried on a systematic struggle against the income tax. Simultaneously, the French and German organizations carried on a fight against import and income taxes. The British Cooperatives support the trade unions in their fight against anti-union decrees of the conservatives, for they fully realize that the conservative Tory parties' attacks against the trade unions is also damaging to the cooperative movement. The British Cooperative movement also has its own political party. This is how they participate in the parliamentary elections and maintain their representatives in the lower house. The British Labor Party and the Cooperative Movement are so close together that they have made an official affiliation.

The Cooperatives in Switzerland have carried on political struggles against the bread monopoly. Workers' cooperatives in Belgium are affiliated with the labor party. Austrian Social-Democratic Party



and the Cooperatives are very closely related. We can only say that political neutrality has already been relegated into the ash can of past history.

"Political neutrality in our organization is an impossibility. Not all problems confronting our cooperatives can be solved without witnessing the ruling class interference, and neither can we stay divorced from the political struggles of the exploited classes.

"Our International Cooperative Alliance, in its limited circle, according to the report given, speaks of taxes, war and the united front with the trade unions is nothing but breaking the so-called 'neutrality' clause in its most modest sense. And then we have Fascism, which destroys the Cooperatives wherever they appear. This problem the Alliance has already analyzed. The Cooperatives must fight Fascism, which is a political problem. The Alliance voluntarily limits its activity to only a few of the above problems, but nevertheless, they are political.

"We urge the Alliance to take a definite stand, politically as well as economically, in the defense of the toiling class, who constitute the huge majority of the membership of all Cooperatives the world over. Cooperative associations are not political units in themselves and therein lies their neutrality, but they are organizations of the toilers whose interests it must defend, and for that reason 'political neutrality' to the toiler is very strange and can only shackle their development. For that reason this Congress must solve this problem correctly for all time to come and so that this 'political neutrality' can no longer be the main front of our International Cooperative Alliance."

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op Edition) Date of Publication Oct 2th 1930  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 28 No. 237 Page 4 Col 3 Date line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted Mar 16th 1939

Under title "Left Wing Co-operators to Superior Oct 19th" Wm Marttila in the Tyomies writes and article urging all of the left wing co-operators to attend a conference to be held in Superior, Wisconsin Sunday Oct 19th. The meeting is called for the purposes of taking the next steps that are necessary in the struggle against the Halonen leadership in the co-operative Central ~~XXXXXX~~ Exchange. According to the article the meeting is to be broader then the left wing co-operatives alone. Delegates are urged to attend from Finnish Clubs, Womens sections and from among the left wing groups in the right wing co-operatives. All are urged to participate who are willing to struggle for the progressive left wing co-operative movement.

It was at this meeting October 19th 1930 that the Workers and Farmers co-operative Unity Alliance was established by the election of a Board of Directors who later incorporated the organization according to the Laws of Wisconsin.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W A Hain

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

Uusi Kotimaa

7

1

June 4, 1951.

50

55

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 27, 1939.

Jack Vainsonpaa, one of the founders of the Central Co-operative wholesale, and a member of its board of directors expresses his opinion in an annual meeting of the New York Mills Co-operative store in regard to the value of the C. C. W. shares. He says, "It is regrettable that I have to tell you that the C. C. W. shares are almost worthless. They have, up to the present paid interest on the shares regularly each year, but the last C. C. W. annual meeting decided to discontinue that practice. Your organization in face of grave financial difficulties offered C. C. W. shares in payment for debt, they were turned down. Your cooperative store, in case of death of a share holder, will buy back shares, especially from people in grave financial difficulties, but the C. C. W. will not only refuse to pay interest but flatly refuses to honor its own shares. This problem places me in a position to say that the C. C. W. shares are next to worthless."



Uusi Kotimaa

23

7-1

Oct. 22, 1927

46

124

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 21, 1939.

Thompson, Minnesota

The Finnish Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Carlton County was established in 1911 in Thompson Township.

In 1919 there were 202 members, holding \$285,325 worth of policies. The great forest fire of 1918 caused several policy holders to leave the association, fearing financial collapse because of the large number of fires. However, nearly all have been reinstated so that at the close of 1926 there were 343 policy holders, with property value amounting to \$952,952. At this date (Oct. 20, 1927) there are 380 paid-up policies, making a total of insured property value of over one million dollars. The Norwegian Mutual Fire Ins. Assn. has 3,389 policy holders according to the last report from the State Ins. Commissioner. Established about 40 years ago purely as a Norwegian association, this organization now carries \$14,471,045 in policies.

The German Mutual has 1,875 members with policies valued at \$8,025,444.

The German Farmers Mutual has 1,747 members with policies valued at \$6,285,345.

The New Sweden Mutual has 2,562 policy holders with \$12,203,365 worth of policies.

The New York Mills Finnish Farmers' Mutual Fire Ins. Assn. and the Cokato Finnish Assn. are also very strong.

In this state there are 162 mutual fire insurance associations.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 3 3 Date of Publication Aug. 11, 1932  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 51 No. 32 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Mar. 3, 1939

"Cook, Minn. The educational committee of the Cook  
Cooperative Merc. Co. met on the second of August.

"It was unanimously decided to begin publishing the  
kylvaja (The Planter) more regularly than heretofore. The  
following were elected as editorial board: Wm. Manninen,  
John Hiltunen and Isaac Ryttonen. Anyone wishing to submit  
articles to this paper please contact any of the above men  
in your locality.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op Edition) Date of Publication Mar 3 1932  
 Vol. 30 (edition, page, column) No. 53 Page 7 Col 2 Date Line of Story  
 Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted Mar 17th 1939

During the time and after the split in the Co-operative Central Exchange not only those co-operative that belonged to the Workers and Farmers Co-operative Unity Alliance were dissatisfied with the leadership of the Exchange. Thus in this issue of the Tyomies is published a proposal of the Board of Directors of the Finnish Supply Company of Toimi, Minnesota demanding an investigation of the affairs of the Exchange. The proposal of the Toimi co-operative to the annual meeting of the ~~XXXXXX~~ Exchange includes among other things: That the Annual meeting investigates the qualifications of the employees of the CCE. That if there is more people employed than needed, they be immediately dismissed. That the educational work be organized on a committee basis. That the policy of the Exchange should be to make the label and commercial question secondary and the promotion of co-operative principles and comradeship primary. That the publication of the Osuustoimintalehti be reconsidered. That the annual meeting make an effort to stop the factional fight in the co-operatives. That the CCE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ shall not under any conditions establish new stores or buying circles where

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (edition, page, column) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

Co-operatives already exist. That the supervision of auditing be made  
a responsibility of a controll commission of 5 members, and that all  
co-operatives be brought together as soon as possible. The proposal was  
signed by John Heikkinen Chairman and John Perry Sec'y of the Finnish  
Supply Company.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (C-op Edition) Date of Publication Sept 22-1927  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 25 No. 223 Page 8 Col 5 Date Line of Story  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted March 6th 1937

In this issue of the Tyomies several pages are devoted to the Co-operative Central Exchange and its growth. Under title "Ten years of the Co-operative Central Exchange" a chronological account is given of the Exchange starting from its first meeting. The names of the members of the first Board of Directors are given who were, "Matti Tenhunen, Otto Arlund and Antti Missinen, Superior, Wisconsin, John Niemi and John Partanen Cloquet, Minn. and A Wirkkula and H Lepisto, Iron River, Wisconsin. The initiative to establish the wholesale came from the Board of Directors of the Hancock Michigan co-operative store, which had sent out a call in the beginning of July 1917 for the conference to be held on the 30th of that month. The article also states that previous to this there had been a considerable discussion <sup>about a</sup> central wholesale among the co-operators. A conference had already been held as early as July 1st and 2nd 1916 for the purpose but it did not result in any concrete action at the time.

W A Harju

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

Cooperatives  
N.Y. Mills Store

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Siirtolainen wkly 7 1 Date of Publication Feb. 20, 1917  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 27 No. 15 Date Line of story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Oct. 18, 1938

"New York Mills, Minn. - The local Farmers Co-operative  
its  
Store held ~~their~~ yearly stockholders meeting here Wednesday.  
Last year showed excellent results with net gains amounting  
to nearly \$3,000. The board of directors elected for the  
comming year were; Herman Perala, Wm. Oman, Victor Maki, Isaac R.  
Maki and R. P. Jacobson".

Your item No. 4B Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 6 1 Date of Publication Mar. 9, 1933  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 52 No. 10 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Library Date consulted Mar. 7, 1939

"Heinola, Minn. - According ~~the~~ to the decision of the last stockholders meeting of the Heinola Co-operative Mercantile Co. to build a branch store at New York Mills, becomes a reality on the sixth of this month when the opening celebration will be held.

From now on, the farmers in the vicinity of this village (N.Y. M) will have the opportunity to purchase all their supplies at their own co-operative store. An open house will be held all day and coffee will be served to all the patrons."

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name Alfred Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 2 6 Date of Publication May 25, 1933  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 52 No. 21 Date Line of Story  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Library Date consulted Mar. 7, 1939

"Heinola, Minn. - The annual meeting of the Co-operative Oil Service  
will be held on June 5th at the Finnish Farmers Club hall at Heinola.  
The meeting will open at 11 A.M.

Aale Höyhtyä, Sec."

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

Uusi Kotimaa

3

2

June 18, 1931.

50

57

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 27, 1931.

"New York Mills -- Childrens summer camp, sponsored by the Co-op, Womens Club, Farmer Labor Club and the Finnish Federation Local urges all who are interested to visit our camp next Sunday. We are holding an open house. Come over and have dinner with us. The price of the dinner is reasonable. Proceeds will be used to defray expenses of our childrens summer camp."

"Camp Committee"



Uusi Kotimaa

2

4

June 25, 1931.

50

58

Hist. Library

Feb. 27, 1939.

"New York Mills, The Heinola Co-op. Farmers Mercantile Co. is calling a special membership meeting to decide building a branch store at N. Y. Mills. All share holders are urged to be at this meeting. We want every share holders opinion on this question of expansion."

"Brd. of Directors"

## Co-op Store

The International Work Peoples Co-operative Association was organized during the 1916 strike of the miners of the Mesaba Range. It was a defensive move on the part of the miners in their struggle for higher wages, lower hours and union contracts.

As in the 1907 strike of the miners\*, the businessmen of Gilbert refused credit to the striking miners hoping to starve the miners back to work and thereby doing their bit to help the mining companies. For this assistance the mining companies allowed the businessmen the opportunity to place their friends to work.

The local strike leaders of Gilbert discussed the situation and came to the conclusion that a co-operative store must be organized so that the miners could get food. Gust Byman, Alfred Kangas and Sam Aho, three Finnish miners, were the most active in organizing the store. A committee was formed to work out the details and a lawyer from Eveleth, James J. Giblin, was hired to draw up the by-laws and constitution in accordance to the wishes of the miners and the existing state laws.

The name "International Work Peoples Co-operative Association" was chosen for two purposes; first, because workers of different nationalities had become members of the new CO-OP by purchasing shares and secondly, because the workers were conscious of the necessity of international solidarity if they were to be freed of the yoke of ~~s~~<sup>e</sup>pression.

It took several months before enough shares were sold to start the store. Many miners would not buy shares because they thought the store might go bankrupt. Section XV of the by-laws stated that

\*Duluth News-Tribune, July 24, 1907.

"they are liable according to law, one for all and all for one."

Some of the miners interpreted this to mean that they would have to pay for any and all losses in case the store was to go bankrupt. They were afraid they might lose whatever small savings or homes they might possess; others could not buy shares because they had spent their savings during the strike. The largest portion of shares were purchased by the socialist and the I. W. W. as these workers were more class conscious.

A building which is now the Aho and Laine Garage was chosen as the site of the new store. Fixtures were purchased, rent paid and everything was in readiness to receive the first carload of merchandise and to start business. The great day arrived, the first carload of groceries was at the railroad siding waiting to be unloaded. But it was sent C. O. D. and the new store had no bank balance. The money derived from the sale of shares had disappeared in lawyers fees, incorporation charges, rent, fixtures, etc. The bank wouldn't loan <sup>and</sup> money and the miners again had to dig deep into their pockets and give "toveri"(comrade) loans to the new enterprise. These loans were secured only by a receipt stating that so and so worker had loaned money to the association. These loans carried no interest charge or date of maturity.

Finally everything was set, groceries to be sold, men to sell them and are enthusiastic customers to purchase but these customers' resources had been drained by the strike and in the expense of setting up of the store. Credit was given the striking miners. Business boomed but little cash was rung up in the cash register--new purchases had to be made to replenish the diminishing supply of goods. The board of directors were very busy in these days, trying to get new loans and selling more shares in order to raise enough money to keep the store alive.



BY-LAWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORK-PEOPLES CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION  
GILBERT, MINNESOTA

Purpose.

The direct victims of the present era of business speculation are always and everywhere the producers engaged in production, or to state it more explicitly--the workers. And it is not enough that of everything they produce the workers yield the major portion in the name of profits and in the form of surplus values to the individuals, corporations and syndicates carrying on production, but in addition to that they, as unorganized consumers of small means, are exploited by private merchants and business speculators, whose greed often knows no other bounds than the one honored by the reckless highwaymen of former times, namely: "Take all you can get." In order to understand the reason for such methods we need not only recall the general slogan of present day business life--our commercial civilization--which says: "Each one for himself," that is: "A war of all against all." When we remember this we also understand that every individual business man, when he invests capital in some business enterprise, does it for the explicit purpose of making money with his capital. And whereas this money making, as already mentioned, is not limited by any definite conception of justice or morals, being only limited by the slogan, "Take all you can get," every individual businessman deems it his right to earn with his capital, not only his necessities of life, but continually more capital in order to strengthen his position and to secure himself against the competition of his neighbor. This leads to the fact that speculation for the attainment of this definite purpose is very detrimental to the consumer, for it leads to the direct extortion of the consumers by the private speculators, and often and almost without exception to the dishonesty of the dealers, such as selling adulterated and spoiled goods as commodities of full value, falsification of accounts, short weights, lying, etc. When we attain a general understanding that the individual struggles of the consumers of small means will not bring about any improvements in the methods of the businessmen, and when we also understand that co-operation is the sphere of all human development, both intellectual and economical, we urge all workers in Gilbert to join with us in our co-operative endeavour, and help support, by paying for shares and by purchasing goods from the workers' own business enterprise, the organization principles and the by-laws of which are published herewith.

Section I.

Any person may become a member of this association with the approval of the Board of Directors and by pledging to comply with the by-laws and constitution of the association.

Section II.

Shares of stock of the association may be redeemed on the condition that the shareholder moves away from the locality. In the event that a member requests that his share be redeemed, he shall, upon moving away, surrender his stock certificate to the Board of Directors in the proper manner and in return for a note payable after 90 days, after which period the Board of Directors must pay the said

note, and forward the payment to the new address given by the member after the aforementioned note has been returned to the association.

In all other cases withdrawal from the association and redemption of shares shall depend upon the decision of the Board of Directors, whether or not the applicant has sufficient reasons for the redemption of his shares.

### Section III.

A member may be expelled from the association whenever he does not fulfill his duties in accordance with the by-laws, especially whenever he has caused noticeable injury to the association by acting against its interests. The demand for the expulsion and the complaint with the evidence shall be presented to the Board of Directors in writing. An appeal may be taken from the decision of the Board of Directors to the general meeting of the membership.

### Section IV.

Immediately after a member has paid in full for his shares they shall bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum, provided the annual profit from the business warrants it.

### Section V.

The accounts of the association shall be closed on the first day of January and July of each year. At the same time the condition of the business shall also be examined and estimated together with all the property.

### Section VI.

At the annual and semi-annual meetings of the association an auditing committee shall be elected who shall engage trustworthy and capable auditors.

- a. The accounts and other records showing the condition of the association shall be left with the auditors before the annual and semi-annual meetings.
- b. The auditors shall submit to the Board of Directors a financial report in writing, addressed to the meeting of the association and with such statements as pertain thereto.
- c. The financial report and the statement of the auditors shall be completed at least five days before the meeting where the accounts of the association will be reported, and they must be submitted to any member of the association desiring to see them in the office of the association.

### Section VII.

Divisions of the surplus savings on purchases shall only be declared when the accounts are closed in January, providing a profit has been realized in the business after the interest on the capital provided for in Section four has been paid.

- a. The surplus savings on purchases shall be divided to all



customers of the association in proportion to their purchases, but with the first share of surplus savings corresponding with the value of one share of stock a person must purchase a share in the association. The cash register receipts must be returned to the office of the association before the last day of December.

#### Section VIII.

In accordance with Section 4 of the constitution, eleven members shall be elected on the Board of Directors of the association; six at the January meeting and five at the July meeting, from as many candidates as the meeting may deem necessary, and their terms of office shall commence immediately after the annual and semi-annual meetings, at the first regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors.

- a. The term of office of the member of the Board of Directors shall be one year, but they shall be released from responsibility with the members whose terms expire in reference to the accounts which have been approved by the membership of the association. All members of the association who are candidates for election to the Board of Directors but are not elected shall become alternate members. The alternate receiving the highest number of votes shall fill the first vacancy on the Board of Directors; an alternate's term of office shall end with the term of his predecessor.
- b. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors when necessary, or whenever at least ten members of the association so demand in writing. The request for a special meeting must specify in writing the reasons why the special meeting of the association is demanded.
- c. The meeting notices of the association must be posted in a public place at least ten days before the date of the meeting.

#### Section IX.

At the meetings of the association each member shall have but one (1) vote and the questions shall be decided by majority vote. In case of a tie in the election for members of the Board of Directors and the auditing committee, the election shall be decided by lot, but in other cases the chairman shall cast the deciding vote.

The voting for members of the Board of Directors and the auditing committee shall always be conducted by secret ballot; other elections shall be conducted as the meeting may determine.

#### Section X.

In all elections by ballot the member himself or his duly authorized representative must fill out and turn in the ballot in person. No member shall have more than one proxy in any meeting. All ballots that are indefinite or contain more votes than the number of officials to be elected shall be rejected.



## Section XI.

The Board of Directors shall prepare a report of the business for the preceding half year for each semi-annual meeting. They shall also present to the meeting a report from the auditing committee on the accounts and the examination of the property of the association.

## Section XII.

The order of business for the semi-annual meeting shall contain the following:

1. The election of officers for the meeting and a committee on credentials.
2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Election of members to examine the minutes.
4. Reading of auditors report on the examination of the accounts and property of the association.
5. Reading of the report of the Board of Directors on the condition of the association during the previous half year.
6. Granting of release from responsibility to Board of Directors.
7. Election of members in place of retiring members on the Board of Directors and the members of the auditing committee.

## Section XIII.

The Board of Directors shall choose from among their membership officers for the association for one-half year, namely: a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and a treasurer.

## Section XIV.

The chairman, or in his absence, the vice-chairman shall conduct the meetings of the Board of Directors, and minutes of their meetings shall always be kept. The treasurer shall keep in a safe place the valuable papers of the association, examine the cash register and keep an accurate account of the receipts and expenditures by a method of bookkeeping determined by the Board of Directors.

## Section XV.

The Board of Directors shall be held responsible for the funds and the property of the association, and also the possible losses incurred in the business, due to the neglect of the Board of Directors, for which they are liable according to law, one for all and all for one.

The signature of the association shall be subscribed by the chairman and the secretary of the Board of Directors.

## Section XVI.

The Board of Directors shall carry on the business of the association, taking care that the accounts are kept carefully, that accurate records of the receipts and expenditures are made, also of the goods carried in stock, and of the amounts due each member from the funds of the association, and to see that the rules are complied with and that the funds and the property of the association are properly cared for.

## Section XVII.

The business manager and his assistants are engaged and discharged by the Board of Directors, who shall also determine the amount of their salary and shall give the business manager instructions which he shall abide by. The Board of Directors also shall determine the amount of the bond that may be kept required from the business manager and the bookkeeper.

- a. The Board of Directors shall demand from the bookkeeper an accurate report monthly on the condition of the business and the receipts and expenditures.
- b. The Board of Directors shall see that the business manager and other persons employed by the association are capable and that they fulfill their duties faithfully.

## Section XVIII.

The Board of Directors shall hold its regular meetings on the first Sunday each month. Special meetings may be held as often as deemed necessary; the chairman or the vice-chairman shall give written notice of them to the members of the Board. A quorum for the transaction of business in a meeting of the Board of Directors shall require the presence of the chairman or vice-chairman and six members of the Board. All questions shall be decided by majority vote; in case of a tie the chairman may decide.

- a. In the meetings any member of the association may make motions for which he may deem to be reason. If the Board of Directors deems necessary, it may take the proposal with its statement to be decided upon by the association. If the Board of Directors decides the question, it must notify the party in question of its decision.

## Section XIX.

All motions to amend or change these by-laws must be made in writing to the Board of Directors, which shall leave the motions with its own recommendations to the association to be decided upon.

## Section XX.

No member of the association shall cause a disturbance in the place of business of the association for possible errors made by the business manager or assistants. All complaints shall be made to the Board of Directors in the order provided for in Section three for complaints against members.

## Section XXI.

Whenever mutual differences arise, either in the affairs of the members or the association, and when they can not be taken into court in accordance with the statutes in reference to the stock companies, the matter shall be submitted to a board of arbitration if it can not be adjusted otherwise; to which board each party in the dispute shall elect two members and these members shall then elect a fifth member to act as chairman.



No appeal shall be taken from the decision of the board of arbitration and it shall take effect just as a judgment received in a court of law. The board of arbitration shall furnish an extract from its minutes to both parties in the dispute not over eight days after it has held its last session.

## Section XXII.

General credit shall not be allowed to anyone over thirty days, excepting by a special decision of the Board of Directors.

## CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WORK-PEOPLE'S CO-OP.

We, the undersigned, for the purpose of forming a corporation under and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 3073 to 3078, both inclusive of Chapter 58 of the Revised Laws of Minnesota for 1905, and acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, do hereby adopt the following certificate of incorporation:

### Article I.

The name of this corporation shall be THE INTERNATIONAL WORK\* PEOPLE'S CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, and its principal place of business shall be at the Village of Gilbert, St. Louis County, Minnesota.

The general nature of its business shall be the operation of a general store or stores for the purpose of conducting a general merchantile business and buying, selling and otherwise disposing of goods, wares and merchandise of all kinds, both wholesale and retail; and the buying or otherwise acquiring, holding, leasing, selling or mortgaging real estate or lease-hold interests, and the leasing and erecting of buildings, as may be necessary for the use of the corporation in carrying out the purpose of its organization and the conduct of such business; and it shall have the power to do and perform all acts necessary and incidental to the proper carrying on of such business.

### Article II.

The time of the commencement of this corporation shall be the 20th day of September, 1916, and its duration shall extend for a period of twenty (20) years thereafter.

### Article III.

The names and places of residence of the persons forming this corporation are: Luca Klobuchar, Joe Perusich, Frank Kucheavar, Marko Sportsich, Domenico Guzzi, Mariano Giumbetti, Alfred Kangas, Erik Arvila, Nick Persha and Gust W. Byman, all of Gilbert, St. Louis County, Minnesota, and Alex Mahla of Sparta, St. Louis County, Minn.

### Article IV.

The management of this corporation and the conduct of its affairs shall be vested in a board of eleven directors, all of whom



shall be stockholders and they shall hold their offices for a term of one year and until their successors are elected and qualified. The annual meeting shall be held on the last Monday in January of each year. The officers of this corporation shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and a treasurer, who shall be elected annually by the stockholders from the Board of Directors and shall hold their offices for one yr. and until others have been chosen and qualified. Such officers shall be elected immediately after the annual stockholders meeting. Other officers deemed necessary in the management of the business of this corporation may be provided for in the by-laws of the corporation, and such by-laws may provide for the manner of their election or their appointment, and terms and duties of the same.

The names and addresses of the persons composing the first Board of Directors of this corporation to serve until the first annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified are: Luca Klobuchar, Joe Perusich, Frank Kucheavar, Marko Sportsich, Domenico Guzzi, Mariano Giumbetti, Alfred Kangas, Erik Arvila, Nick Persha, and Gust W. Byman, all of whom reside at Gilbert, St. Louis County, Minnesota, and Alex Mahla, Sparta, St. Louis County, Minnesota, of whom the following shall be the first officers of this corporation to hold such offices until the first annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified: Alex Mahla, President; Domenico Guzzi, Vice-President; Alfred Kangas, Treasurer, and Gust W. Byman, Secretary.

#### Article V.

The amount of capital stock of this corporation which shall be Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), which shall be divided into Three Thousand shares of the par value of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) each, which shall be paid in, in money, property or services, in such manner and at such times as the Board of Directors may order, provided that no share shall be issued for less than its par value, and no member shall be entitled to more than one vote at any stockholders meeting on any question or matter submitted, notwithstanding the number of shares said stockholder may hold, and no member shall own more than One Hundred (100) shares. The amount of capital stock and the number of shares may be increased or diminished at a stockholders meeting specifically called for that purpose.

#### Article VI.

The highest amount of indebtedness or leability to which this corporation shall at any time be subject shall be the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00).

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 19th day of September, 1916.

LUIS KLOBUCHAR  
JOE PERUSICH  
FRANK KUCHEAVAR  
MARKO SPORTSICH  
MARIANO GIUMBETTI  
DOMENICO GUZZI

ALFRED KANGAS  
ERIK ARVILA  
NICK PERSHA  
GUST W. BYMAN  
ALEX MAHLA

## MINNESOTA

WALTER KYKYRI, 105 NEBRASKA AVENUE, GILBERT, MINNESOTA

JANUARY 9, 1939

SOCIAL-ETHNIC: INTERNATIONAL WORK PEOPLES CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.  
(continued)

Through great sacrifice and hard work on the part of the Board of Directors, the store managed to stay open. Net sales for the first year were \$15,318.72 which resulted in a loss of \$157.67. The accounts receivable for the first year were \$4,228.69. This was due to the fact that the miners were on strike and many did not have funds with which to pay their bills. Konstant Nyman was the first manager.

The location of the Co-op store was unfavorable so the management leased the Rubenstein building and bought the merchandise of the A. E. McInnis Hardware Company. They started selling groceries and hardware, although the management was hard pressed for operating capital, but the store was able to make a small profit for the second year. Nyman, the manager, resigned and a former school-teacher from Boston, William Jackola, was hired as manager. Wages were comparatively low, \$75 for the manager and \$60 for clerks per month. Mr. Jackola did not keep his job very long as he had too big ideas for the miners. He was fired by the board because he faked that he had lost \$460. When the board threatened to make the bonding company pay the loss, Mr. Jackola returned the 'lost' money. Leo Kummer, the bookkeeper, was hired as the next manager. Then Mr. Kummer was exposed as a stool-pigeon for the Oliver Iron Mining Company, and he left before he was fired. Palmer's pamphlet, SPIE'S IN STEEL, designated Mr. Kummer as agent No. 9, giving full proof. Jacob Korpi was hired to take Mr. Kummer's place.

The store continued to grow and showed small yearly profits until 1922 when it had a loss of \$211. This was due to the fact that the



mines curtailed operations and many customers had to move away to secure employment. Jacob Korpi resigned and Matt Niemi was hired as manager.

June 4, 1922 Severi Alanne representing the Central Co-operative Exchange of Superior, Wisconsin asked the local store to affiliate with their organization. The board of directors was in favor of this but the membership refused to affiliate. Many shares were redeemed which caused the board to worry over the financial condition. The main discussions of the board were the accounts receivable, which had risen alarmingly.

A branch store had been established in Sparta in 1919 and as it showed a loss from trading, the annual meeting held January 28, 1923 decided to discontinue the store. The board of directors received numerous protests from the residents of Sparta so they decided to continue operations there. The next few years showed a profit at the Sparta branch.

The total net sales for the year of 1923 amounted to \$148,624.00 but with a profit of only \$950.

There was much unemployment in 1924 and this was reflected by the activities of the board of directors. Many clerks were fired and others hired. The directors tried to get jobs for themselves or for their friends. This caused much friction between the board and the employees, who at one time threatened to strike when a clerk was fired. The board rehired the clerk and another resigned so that a board member could have his job. Lauri Passi was hired as manager when Matt Niemi resigned. Although the net sales decreased, the net profit increased.

It was discovered that in the accounts receivable there were many accounts recorded and no sales records. This was never satis-



factorily settled. There was a severe shortage of working capital and many loans had to be made. The shortage of capital was due to the fact that accounts receivable had gone up and too many shares were redeemed.

The rent of the Rubenstein building was raised considerably so the board of directors scouted around for vacant lots on which to build their own store building. A special membership meeting held on April 15, 1925 decided to purchase the Murphy building for \$6,000 and the co-op association moved its business to its present site in July of the same year. A profit of \$2,554.25 was earned from trade this year.

At the annual meeting held January 31, 1926 it was decided to affiliate to the Central Co-operative Exchange of Superior as the store already owned two shares obtained as trade rebates. At this meeting it was also decided to send a "protest to the Mussolini Government of Italy against the National Lega"(taken from minutes of the annual meeting), copies of which were sent to Mussolini, the Finnish Federated Press, and the American Ambassador at England.

The Sparta branch store was burned a few days before the annual meeting, so that perplexing problem was solved.

The manager's report showed that a profit of \$3,493.63 was made even though the net sales had dropped. This drop occurred because many members had moved away because of poor labor conditions.

By 1927, these miners managing a business enterprise for the first time, had learned to make a profit. Although net sales steadily declined from \$148,624 in 1923 to \$104,331 in 1927, net profits rose from \$950 in 1923 to \$3,964.55 in 1927. The board showed too much leniency to share-holders as they redeemed \$1,520 worth of shares.

Twenty-five dollars was voted to the strike fund of the Colorado coal miners.

In 1928 the financial condition of the store was so good that they turned down offers of loans. The first hint of the impending split came in the April 19th meeting of the board of directors, when they instructed their delegates to the Central Co-operative Exchange meeting "to make a motion that the exchange put aside a certain percentage of the general profit to the Relief Fund which can be used as a relief for hard times or any such purpose."

(Minutes of meeting, April 19, 1928.) The Pennsylvania and Ohio coal miners requested financial assistance and a donation of \$25 was given.

A profit of \$1,264 was made in 1928 which turned out to be the last profit the store has made.

Lauri Passi resigned and Aaro Kaipainen was hired to fill his place. Mr. Kaipainen stayed only a few months and O.E. Saari was hired.

Dissention in the board of directors became very open as some board members criticized the TYOMIES for its editorials on the co-operative movement. The Gilbert co-operative store joined the left-wing when the split came in the co-operative movement. Meetings became very rowdy, neither group giving in. It was a knock down and drag 'em out fight and <sup>thin</sup> it was very apparent in the auditor's report. The net sales droppped to \$56,370 and a loss of \$2,179.50 incurred in 1930.

The Workers and Farmers Unity Alliance was formed in Superior and the Gilbert co-operative joined immediately. The right-wing



## SOCIAL ETHNIC: INTERNATIONAL WORK PEOPLES CO-OP ASS'N (continued)

elements refused to buy at left-wing stores and vice-versa, so the 'party liners'--as the left-wingers were ~~derisively~~ derisively called--of Virginia asked the Gilbert store to start a branch in Virginia. This was done March 26. 1932.

The main activity of the co-operative store was to fight for relief. The board members participated in relief demonstrations and even sent the store truck to Duluth to the first Hunger March. This was necessary as all the mines in and around Gilbert ceased operations. Some one had to pay for the food people were buying from the store, and if the store was to continue help was needed. Several times since the depression the store was on the verge of closing, but individual loans were secured. Net loss from trading was as high as \$2,984.86 in 1931. This loss has been slowly decreased each year so that in 1937 there was only a loss of \$390.27. Rigid economy was practiced; the store was made smaller and the wages cut.

In 1936 overtures were made to the right-wings groups. Peace and unity was the plea of the left-wing. Considerable sympathy to the unity of the co-operative movement is evident. The Gilbert branch store at Virginia was closed so that it would not be an obstacle to the Virginia people in their discussion of the unity question. The Gilbert store resumed buying from the Central Co-operative Exchange. All evidence shows that there will be complete unity in the co-operative field by 1940.

All the meetings were conducted in the Finnish language which discouraged other nationalities from participation. Every manager, nearly all the help, and a big majority of the board of directors have been Finnish.



## CIRCUMSTANCES OF INTERVIEW

## MINNESOTA

WALTER KYKYRI, 105 NEBRASKA AVENUE, GILBERT, MINNESOTA

JANUARY 11, 1939

## SOCIAL ETHNIC

1. Hannes L. J. Line
2. January 4, 1939, 9 A. M. to 12 A. M.  
January 10, 1939, 1:30 P. M. to 4 P. M.
3. Interview took place in the home of Mr. Line.
4. Raymond Munson of Minneapolis asked me to interview Mr. Line.

The house owned by Mr. Line is a five-room two-storey frame building. There are three rooms downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. The house has a full basement in which there is a hot water furnace. The house is across the street from the Gilbert primary school.

## MINNESOTA

WALTER KYKYRI, 105 NEBRASKA AVENUE, GILBERT, MINNESOTA

JANUARY 11, 1939

## SOCIAL ETHNIC

HANNES LINE, 200 IOWA AVENUE, GILBERT, MINNESOTA

Father, Isaac Jouppi, born 1837. Mother, Liza Jouppi, born 1838. Son Hannes, born January 28, 1871 in Ilma Joki, Vaasan Laani, Finland and was the oldest of a family of four. The other three children were girls, two of whom have died.

Hannes emmigrated to the United States in 1890. First settled in Marquette, Michigan in 1890, then in Bargga, Michigan in 1892, Ely, Minnesota the winter of 1893, spring of 1893 to Baraga, late fall of 1893 to Jacobsville, Michigan, Baraga in 1894, L3Anse, Mich. 1895, late 1895 moved to Eveleth, Minnesota, 1896 to Baraga, December 1896 to Eveleth, Minnesota, July 4, 1897 to Sparta, Minnesota, 1906 to Siletz, Oregon, 1907 back to Sparta, Minnesota, in 1908 he spent three months in Finland, in 1909 he moved to Gilbert, Minnesota where he has lived ever since.

He completed a public school course from 1883 to 1886, and a short term in business school in 1887.

He went to work at the age of seven herding cows and sheep for a large land owner in his district in 1887. Then he was a clerk in a stock company until 1888, then an assistant in a tax commission office from 1888-1890/ In 1890 he worked as a miner in the copper mine at Marquette, Michigan, in 1892 as a l<sup>m</sup>berjack in Baraga County. He was a miner at the Chandler Mine at Ely, Minnesota in 1893, that same spring a lumberjack in Baraga County, fall of 1893 a drill man in the stone quarry at Jacobsville, Michigan, 1894-~~5~~ a lumberjack,



## SOCIAL ETHNIC: HANNES LINE

1896-7 he was a miner in the Fayal Mine at Eveleth, Minnesota. In 1898 he was a clerk in the grocery store of Saari, Campbell and Kraker of Gilbert and Sparta, until 1914 when he went to work as clerk for the John Oja Store in Gilbert. In 1917 he worked a few months in the new co-operative store. In 1918 he became caretaker of the curling rink for the village of Gilbert. Since then he has worked continually for the village except for short periods of unemployment when he happened to vote for the losers.

He is very capable in making ice for curling purposes and in maintaining the ice in condition for best playing. Photography is his main diversion. He is perhaps the most active Finnish person in Gilbert and is a member of the National Luthern Church, The Finnish Civic Club, The Co-operative Store, and the Knights of Kaleva. At one time he was a member of the local Masonic Lodge but dropped out when he was unable to pay dues.

Mr. Line is five feet, seven inches tall, weighs 145 pounds, has long brown hair with a liberal sprinkling of gray, high cheek bones and a straight nose. He speaks very rapidly with a high-pitched voice. His movements are rapid and precise, which are unusual in a man 67 years old.

The informant emmigrated because he wished to better his economic conditions and to avoid military service in the Russian Army. He landed in New York via Liverpool and went straight to Marquette, Michigan.

In 1895 he was married at L'Anse, Michigan and has two sons, Hjalmer, an optician, who lives in Virginia; and Elmer, who is a butcher, at Ely.



## SOCIAL ETHNIC: HANNES LINE

His parents were very poor, owning no land and continually trying to buy a place of their own. They bought many farms but were unable to meet payments and therefore lost them. Mr. Line's father died when he was six years old and he had to earn his living from then on. This continual change from home to home gave Mr. Line quite a name. As he was born in Lutakko Croft, he was christened Johannes Lutakko Jouppi. The next move of the family brought them to the Laine Croft so this name was tacked on. Johannes was shortened to Hannes, so he was known as Hannes Lutakko Jouppi Laine. When he moved to America he found that there were many Laines, so he had his name changed to Line to differentiate.

Ilma Joki Pitaja is a very beautiful farming community. There is no manufacturing or lumbering in the district.

Mr. Line made a trip to the Finnish community settlement on Malcom Island, Sointula B. C. in 1905 with the idea of buying land and settling there, but the community was virtually bankrupt and he came back without taking any action.

Mr. Line in 1902 was a member of the "Sons of Finland", a revolutionary military organization whose main goal was the overthrow of the Russian government.

November 15, 1901 the Sampo Club was organized for the purpose of training Finnish speakers and for the discussion of current problems. Hannes Line was elected secretary. Charter members of the Sampo Club were Mike Talus, Jahn Saari, Hannes L. J. Line, Konstant Kykyri, K. Oscar Kangas, Alfred Lundstrom and Isaac Lahti.

Mr. Line states that he has never smoked or drank, nor has he ever seen a moving picture show.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op Edition) 14 16 Date of Publication Apr. 29, 1926  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 24 No. 101 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Soc. Date consulted Mar. 6, 1939

Under title "Financing of the Co-operative Central Exchange" an appeal is made to increase the operating capital so that it may be better able to more effectively serve its member stores.

The shortage of capital is ascribed to the rapid expansion and growth of business. It is pointed out that there would be many advantages to all concerned if the capital could be increased by \$20,000.00. That amount was the aim of the drive just started of which every member society had been informed by a circular letter.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. Harju (1)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op Edition) 8 1 Date of Publication June 3, 1926  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 24 No. 129 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Soc. Date consulted Mar. 6, 1939

In this issue the Tyomies devotes nearly three pages to the Cloquet Co-operative Society, its history and different phases of development. The description is amplified by a number of pictures of the Cloquet co-operative and its branches. Important of these is a picture of the building originally used by the Cloquet Society in which they conducted their business up to the great fire of 1918.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. Harju (1)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op Edition) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication June 24, 1926  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 21 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 147 \_\_\_\_\_ page 7 col. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Society \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted Mar. 6, 1939 \_\_\_\_\_

Under title "Different phases of the Cromwell Co-operative"  
nearly two columns of space is devoted to the Co-operative  
started in 1917 at Cromwell, Minnesota by the Finnish people.

The Co-operative in the beginning according to the article  
was caught in the mealstrom of fluctuation of prices. In the  
beginning during and immediately after the world war the prices  
skyrocketed. When the store was started a considerable stock  
was purchased at a low price. During the increase of prices  
the store made unusually large profits. The reporter says  
that a decision was made to distribute this profit as dividend  
which proved to be a disasterous policy later. When they began  
the payment of dividends they were caught by the sharmpp decline  
in prices. After the payment they did not have reserves to  
fall back on. This resulted in a period of difficulties which  
the writer describes. "The situation sometimes looked so  
dismal that it was not known when the Co-operative would have  
to close its doors"\*\*\*\*\*

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. Harju (1) \_\_\_\_\_

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op edition) Date of Publication Jan 20-1927  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 25 No. 16 Page 6 Col. 1 Date Line of Story  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted March 6th 1939

Under title "About the history of the Franklin Co-operative Creamery"  
the Tyomies devoted three fourths of a page to the different phases  
of its development. The article is written by V S Alanne and is a  
translation from the "Minnesota Co-operator" published at the time.  
At this time the Franklin Co-operative Creamery of Minneapolis  
worked very closely with the Co-operative Central Exchange.

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name

W A Hain

-----  
SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES  
-----

Source: Tyomies (Co-op edition) Date of Publication March 24-1927  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 25 No. 70 Page 8 Col. 6 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted March 15-1939  
-----

Under title "Consumers Co-operation in America" the Tyomies writes:  
"Even though numerous consumers co-operatives went bankrupt during the panic years of 1921 and 1922, the statistics for 1920 to 1925 show that consumers co-operation in the United States has grown much stronger. Those co-operative which were able to survive the panic years have all grown in membership and volume of business and several hundred new associations have been established, mainly co-operative stores during this period. The statistics show that the membership of the consumers co-operatives in the last five years has grown six percent on the average. Here it should be noted that these figures include all consumers co-operatives, such as bakeries, milk distribution enterprises, Gas stations etc. The business of the co-operatives in the last five years has increased 37 percent. In 1925 the sales of co-operatives in the United States, in round figures amounted to \$50,000,000, while the membership at the same time was 139,301. There were 456 consumers co-operatives in operation in 1925 with 534 stores. They employed 3,409 people!"  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*Of the States, Minnesota takes the first place in number of

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (edition, page, column) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

co-operative societies. One fifth of all the consumers co-operatives  
stores in the United States are in Minnesota. Second place goes to the  
State of Wisconsin\*\*\*\*\*

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. J. Haign

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies Co-op Edition Date of Publication June 16-1927  
 (edition, page, column)  
 Vol. 25 No. 141 Page 8 Col 1 Date Line of Story  
 Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted March 6th 1939

Throughout the history of the Co-operative Central ~~EXCHANGE~~ Exchange a lot of attention has always been given to abolish the practice of credit business in the co-operatives. Many articles were written in the Tyomies showing the disadvantage to the local stores as well as the central organization of credit business. Being a workers and farmers movement it could not however be abandoned suddenly. For this reason a continuous campaign was carried on against the evil. In this issue of the Tyomies appears a long article of this kind which is typical of the many that were written about it. This article is appropriately titled "Abolish credit slavery"

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name

*W. A. Hays*

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
 Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op Edition) Date of Publication June 30 1927  
 (edition, page, column)  
 Vol. 25 No. 153 Page 7 Col 4 Date Line of Story  
 Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted March 3 1939

Under title "Co-operative Central Exchange information" it is announced that Matti Tenhunen and Eskel Ronn two representatives to the International Co-operative Alliance Congress to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, from the American Co-operative League just left Superior, Wis. last week. It is also stated that they will visit the co-operatives of England, Denmark and Sweden.

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
 Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.



Uusi Kotimaa

2

5

July 2, 1927.

46

78

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 16, 1939.

"International Co-operative Congress."

Eskel Ronn, mgr. of Central Co. of Wholesale and Matti Tenhunen board member and both members of the executive board of the Co-op League of America sailed this week for Stockholm to attend the world wide co-op congress. Both men duly elected representatives of the American Co-op League and prominent in the co-operative movement in North America, particularly in the middle west.

Uusi Kotimaa

4

7

Aug. 30, 1927.

46

102

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 17, 1939.

#### Kettle River

During the first six month period the Kettle River Co-op Creamery transacted business of \$97,365.80 representing a production of 218,385 pounds of butter fat. In addition to this butter milk sales were \$161.36 making a total gross of \$97,527.16. The patrons were paid \$88,630.88 for their cream and milk leaving a total net gain of \$1,899.79.

Uusi Kotimaa

6 4-5

Nov. 15, 1927.

46

134

Minn. Hist. Lib.

Feb. 21, 1939.

(Advertisement)

"Finnish Mutual Fire Insurance Ass'n.

Otter Tail, Becker and Wadena Counties.

Insurance for all farm property except gasoline or kerosene powered machinery. Regular rates 25¢ per hundred per year.

All payments on property losses made promptly. Our service covering a period of twenty years proves this.

See your agents. Henry Hepola, John Kivijarvi, Benjamin Pansari, Issac W. Isaacson, Jacob Lalli, Henry Pulju, Abel Ristinen, Victor Myllykangas, Leander Suomela and Willis Joki.

You can also contact our executive board members.

Matt Kumari, President. Chas. Wick, Vice Pres. A. E. Anderson, Secretary. Sander Porkkonen, Assistant Secretary. Jacob Nurmi, Treasurer, Andrew Sarvi, Sec. Treasurer.

Thos. Salo, Chas. Kuha, and Adolph Hepola."



Uusi Kotimaa

5

5

Nov. 22, 1927.

46

137

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 21, 1939.

"Eskos Corner (15 miles west of Duluth, Highway #1).

A co-operative store was established here this fall. The building is modern in every way. Now it is up to the Farmers, who support our fine, big co-op creamery here to also support their store as loyally as they support their creamery."

Uusi Kotimaa

5

4

Dec. 1, 1927.

46

140

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 21, 1939.

"Sebeca--

Farmer Equity Elevator Company established in 1918 with 36 shareholder or \$720 capital stock, \$20 shares not entirely Finnish, about half. It is purely a co-operative."

Uusi Kotimaa

6

3

Dec. 15, 1927.

46

147

Hist. Library

Feb. 23, 1939.

New York Mills Co-operative Store.

Best Rice #10 . . . . .	¢ .78
Seedless Raisins #10. . . . .	1.00
Sugar, Loaf #10. . . . .	.65
" Gran. #10. . . . .	.73
" " #25. . . . .	1.75

Special Sale



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies Wkl 8 5 Date of Publication Feb. 21 1928  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 26 No. 27 Date Line of Story  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Mar. 10, 1939

"International Falls.- The Falls Co-operative store is holding  
an open house Red Star Coffee Day next Tuesday. The Womens Club of the  
Finnish Federation is in charge of the serving assisted by the special  
coffee expert from the C.C.W. Special coffee sale with ~~special~~ prices  
reduced will be offered to all patrons."

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies -- Wk1 -- 6 -- 7 -- Date of Publication Feb. 2, 1928  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 26 -- No. 27 -- Date Line of Story --  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. -- Date consulted Mar. 10, 1939 --

"Aberdeen, S. D. ~~the~~ total sales of the local co-operative creamery  
for 1927 amounted to \$1,068,977. Net profits from the years trading  
was \$50,132.

Since the creamery was organized in 1916 a total of \$355,764 has  
been paid to the producers of cream in trade rebates."

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies Wkl 1 6 Date of Publication Feb. 9, 1928  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 26 No. 33 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Library Date consulted Mar. 12, 1939

"Duluth, Minn. - The Head of the Lakes office of the Young Workers League reports a very successful six weeks Co-operative Pyramid Builder subscription campaign conducted by the youth thruout the Co-operative Wholesale territory. The quota of 1,000 subscriptions reached 800 already before the close of the drive. This is an excellent record for the Youth League in it's first attempt to help the co-operatives in their educational drive. More power to the Y. W. L."

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies Wkl 8 3 Date of Publication Feb. 16, 1928  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 26 No. 39 Date Line of Story  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Mar. 10, 1939

"Orr, Minn. The Orr Farmers Co-operative Trading Company yearly meeting was held in the Finnish Club Hall January 22. The total business turnover for 1927 was reported at \$70,322.93. The net profits were ~~\$4~~ \$3,779.45 be which the membership voted unanimously to/returned back to the patrons on the basis of their purchases. There were 71 members present.

The representative of the Finnish Womens club asked the assembly whether a small sum could be donated from the net profits for the purpose of establishing a circulating library. The request was voted down but a collection was taken which netted \$14.35 with which a stock of books will be ordered.

New board members were elected as follows: Matt Turja, Robert Lindfors, John Luoma, John Autio, Matt Impola, and ~~Julius Jalkanen Jalkanen~~ Julius Jalkanen."

(\* All Finns AB.)

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name Alfred Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

UUsi Kotimaa

1

1

April 24, 1930

49

48

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 24, 1939

A report of the Central Cooperative Exchange meeting appears in this issue of the UUsi Kotimaa with a heading "Legal Officers of Central Exchange sidetracked". In connection with this report appears an official protest on the illegality and unconstitutionality of the procedure signed by 34 delegates to the annual meeting.

W. A. Harju

IS

Uusi Kotima

1

1

June 18, 1931.

50

57

Minn. Hist. Library

Feb. 27, 1939.

"Peoples Voice Co-operative Publishing Co. Publishers of New Homeland (Uusi Kotima) yearly stockholders meeting was held in New York Mills June 16th, 1931. The meeting approved the auditors report and elected a new board of directors and also referred the sale of the paper to the incoming board. The sale will be made to the Finnish Federation."



usi Kotiman

July 16, 1931.

50

61

Hist. Library

Feb. 27, 1939.

Cook, Minnesota.

The Cook Co-operative store building became the strike headquarters for workers on strike at Highway #11. The road contractor who attempted to cut wages drastically was said to be the cause for the walkout.

All work on the road is at a stand still. The local co-operative store and all its members are supporting the strike. Most of the strikers are small farmers who work for the road builder."

Uusi Kotimaa

4

5

Oct. 1, 1931

50

72

Mimm. Hist. Library

Feb. 27, 1939

"A. J. Hayes, one of the officials in the Central Co-op Wholesale contributed an article recently to the 'Superior Labor Day Annual' on the aims of the co-operative movement. Hayes is a well known Finnish writer who has devoted his life to the labor and the co-operative movement."

(Hayes is the present general manager of the Central Co-operative Wholesale)

Alfred Backman

IS

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 6 1 Date of Publication Feb. 9, 1933  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 52 No. 6 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Lib. Date consulted Mar. 6, 1939

"Kettle River, Minn. - Kettle Co-operative Creamery Assn. held its annual stockholders meeting Feb. 4th. The audit report showed that production of butter for the past year was 723,236 pounds, almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  million. Total expense per pound in butter production was slightly less than  $2\frac{1}{2}\phi$ . The average price recieved by the ~~producer~~ creamery was  $19\phi$  while the farmer recieved the average of  $20\phi$  per pound~~x~~ butter fat.

Net profit for the year was \$2,254.40.

The membership decided to place \$200 into an educational fund and pay the ~~rest~~ remainder back to the producers on the basis of butter fat sold to the creamery.

H. V. Nurmi, representing the Co-operative wholesale, spoke on the necessity of using the fund set aside for educational purposes and subscribe for the Co-operative Builder to all the members. The proposal was rejected by majority vote of the membership."

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name Alfred Backman



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 2 1 Date of Publication Feb. 22, 1934  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 53 No. 8 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Soc. Date consulted Mar. 1, 1939

Under title "Improvement of the Co-operative Literature departments" an article appears in this issue of the Uusi Kotimaa relating to a policy of selling literature by the co-operatives begun by the Unity Alliance co-operatives two years ago or immediately after the split.

This policy entailed the establishment of literature counters in all of the stores affiliated to the Alliance. The article states that this method of distributing literature has been very successful in some of the stores but has not worked so well in other because the counters have not properly been taken care of. Practical suggestions are made on how to take care of the literature display and the importance of getting books, pamphlets and newspapers into the hands of the co-operators.

This article is typical of many that appeared before and after this time in the Uusi Kotimaa and all Unity Alliance supporting papers.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. Harju (1)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Jusi Kotimaa 8 3 Date of Publication May 3rd 1934  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 53 No. 18 Date Line of Story  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Soc. Date consulted Mar. 1, 1939

Under title "The annual meeting of the Central Exchange and the United Front" a long analysis giving the point of view of the left wing is given. The article refers to the resolution offered by the Mass Co-operative Company on the basis of which unity is deemed possible. The Central Exchange meeting is described as a gathering in which the leadership was bound to prevent unity by all means.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. Harju (1)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 2 6 Date of Publication Mar. 16, 1933  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 52 No. 11 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Library Date consulted Mar. 7, 1939

(Advertisement)

"ANNUAL MEETING of the Farmers Central Co-op Shipping Ass'n. will  
be held at the town hall March 20th beginning at 11 A.M., at New York  
Mills.

Santeri Porkkonen,  
Secretary. "

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name A.B.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa 2 1 Date of Publication July 26, 1934  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 53 No. 30 Date Line of Story  
Where consulted Minn. Hist. Soc. Date consulted Mar. 2, 1939

Under title "Unity Alliance Economic Situation Improves"  
it is reported that the business increase of the Workers and  
Farmers Co-operative Unity Alliance stands 65 percent over  
the same period last year.

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name W. Harju (1)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Tyomies (Co-op Edition) Date of Publication March 18-1926  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. 24 No. 65 Page 9 Col 3 Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted March 15th-1939

" Co-operative Societies in the United States "

"The United States was among the first countries where co-operative societies were established according to the pattern of the Rochdale weavers, who in 1844 started the English movement, from which it has subsequently spread throughout England and throughout the whole world.

The Interantional Co-operative Alliance was established in 1844. Into it are affiliated co-operative societies from thirty different countries including the United States.

The oldest co-operative societies of the United States are, The Protective Union Association of Worcester, Mass., and The Central Union Association of New Bedford, Mass.,. The former was established in 1847 and the latter in 1848.

In the beginning of the seventies a farmers organization known as the Patrons of Husbandry established several co-operative commercial enterprises, of which a few yet survive and have influence. From the time of the Patrons

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

of Husbandry our co-operative movement has grown very slowly. In late years however there has been somewhat of a revival. After the world war co-operative societies sprang up in many parts of the country, In 1919 and 1920 a great number of them were established.

There are mainly three kinds of co-operatives in existence today. There are societies of producers which engage in production of raw materials, Societies which engage in marketing and consumers associations.

The central union of Co-operatives societies of the United States (The Co-operative League) was established on January 1st 1924 with 328 affiliated societies, with a membership of 95,400 composing one tenth of the co-operative organizations of the United States.

In 1920 the United States Department of Labor estimated that in the marketing Associations there ~~was~~ was a business turnover amounting on an average to \$99,406 per organization, or \$378 dollars per member. In the Consumers societies the turnover amounted to \$95,618 for each Assn. The membership of the consumers societies was 191,147 and the paid in capital

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.



SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (edition, page, column) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

stock amounted to \$11,290,973. The producers co-operatives at the same time had a membership of 63,351 and a paid in capital stock of \$11,079,945. The co-operative movement has received a great amount of support among the farm population. At the end of 1925 the United States Department of Agriculture reported 10,803 farmers business enterprises of different kinds. This figure shows that in 1925 there were lacking only 45, double the number of associations that existed among them in 1915. It was in 1915 that the first census of the co-operative organizations among the farmers was taken. Besides this according to the information of the Agriculture department there is at least a thousand associations of this kind which have not registered with the Department. So in reality the total figure for 1925 comes close to and may exceed twelve thousand. The associations referred to represent only those which carry on business enterprise, which sell farm products, buy farm implements, who own creameries and cheese factories, who are engaged in fruit packing, who own elevators, stock yards, warehouses and conduct other activities of this nature. They do not include such organizations as banks, credit associations and insurance

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
(edition, page, column)  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

societies.

Of the above mentioned, 3,225 deal mainly in grain marketing, 2,197 deal in dairy products, 1,250 buy and sell vegetables and fruits, 121 deal in cotton, 71 buy and sell poultry products and the remainder deal in ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ miscellaneous farm products.

The largest number or 1,363 co-operatives reported from Minnesota, 1,094 from Iowa, 1,092 from Wisconsin and 822 from Illinois.

Labor banks are the latest successful co-operative enterprises among factory workers. During last year one labor bank was established for each month. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers which was the ~~XXXX~~ courageous initiator of labor banks on a co-operative basis owns such banks in twelve States. At the end of last year there were 35 labor banks in operation in this country. The capital of these banks amounted to \$8,000,000, reserves and undivided profits to \$3,000,000 and total resources to \$101,000,000.

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ (edition, page, column) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Line of Story \_\_\_\_\_  
Where consulted \_\_\_\_\_ Date consulted \_\_\_\_\_

These figures give some idea about the co-operative enterprises in America. It shows how the movement is growing and how it is beginning to take hold among the industrial workingclasses and not only the farmers".

Your Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name W. A. Hays

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)  
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S. E., Minneapolis.