More than forty years have passed since the Northwest School of Agriculture held its first annual short course, the forerunner of its annual Farmers' Week and Women's Meetings and of the Red River Valley Winter Shows. It was held the last week of December, 1910.

Successful short courses had been held at Glencoe, Minnesota, by the high school agricultural department there during my superintendency. I visioned a larger field at Crookston and the faculty determinedly put their shoulders to the wheel to give the vision life and form. Dean Woods gave the plan his unstinted approval.

2.

The date of the first meeting was set during the Christmas holidays in order not to interfere with the regular school work. A farm crops exhibit was planned. The first task was to secure suitable prizes to be offered as awards. Farm machinery firms came generously to our aid. The local dealers and Crookston business firms generally assisted. A premium list was issued. A program for the meetings was prepared. It was a new undertaking for us all but the same loyal cooperation which has since its founding sustained this enterprise was forthcoming, and the first short course and grain exhibit became a reality.

The newly constructed building with its assembly room and gymnasium really made the venture possible. The short course and show were the first events held in that building, now called the Kiehle Building, as it was completed only a few days before the holiday season of the year 1910.

Many anxious days and hours were spent in planning this first venture. Would it attract enough people to make it worth while? Would there be any exhibits? I do not have access to the newspapers to learn their comments but I do recall we were agreeably surprised at the interest shown and the attendance.

Transportation to the school in those days presented a real problem. The Northwest Station had no motor bus. At times there were no open highways in the winter. Old "Colonel" and "Dick" had to trudge wearily to and fro hauling an open bob-sled bedded with straw for warmth. Every available stall was used for the teams that brought the visitors. Everyone at the school had burdens of responsibility for this and other things that had to be done.

I distinctly recall that my southern Minnesota notions regarding quality of grains were markedly changed when I saw the fine, golden wheat and other grains placed in exhibition. No such sight had I seen before. I am sure there grew in me the firm conviction that the Red River Valley must have another annual crops show.

The interest in the meetings concerned grain growing mainly. That wasn't quite my idea for the future. The valley needed something else, too, but the new things had to be brought in slowly. A demand had to be created and it was the Northwest School's duty and high privilege to foster this demand.

At the first short course and grain exhibit, the University's College of Agriculture gave yeoman service. Dean Woods had promised support and gave it. During the
seventeen years when it was my privilege to be associated in this work, the Central institution never faltered. The success of the "infant" in the valley became the concern of the deans who succeeded Dr. Woods, and of the State Experiment Station staff as well. It is a pleasure to record this evidence of cooperation. Other institutions contributed, as for example, North Dakota Agricultural College, Manitoba Agricultural College and others.

3.

The next two short courses in 1912 and 1913 were held during January at the school. The weather was cold which limited the attendance. The venture grew, however, from year to year. Magnificent donations for premiums were received. Silos, road graders, mowers, gasoline engines—the list represented real interest on the part of the donors. The number of exhibits increased. The grain show became Valley-wide.

The meetings brought large crowds. The evening meetings held in the school auditorium took on the aspect of a general community gathering where current problems of broader aspect than primarily of the farm were discussed. Farm crops and live-stock judging events were begun.

Soon it became evident that the distance from the city and the lack of accommodations during the day for man and beast were factors that limited growth and development of the week. The Great Northern Railway provided special train service to the school's spur track, stopped its regular trains at the school, and showed fullest cooperation, but the problem of caring for large crowds at the school remained unsolved.

Up to this time the Crookston Commercial Club, as the business men's association was then called, had taken an active part. I wish it were possible for me to list all the men and women who did so much to help make this Valley event an institution. Following a series of conferences with the Club's officers, the decision came to move the short course and the "Farms Crop Show," as it had come to be called to the city.

The station agronomist, Otto I. Bergh, first suggested the title, "Farm Crops Show." We were discussing the need of a short, crisp name for Harold Grandy, Northwest School student, our artist, to inscribe on the poster he was designing. The old timers will recall the sheaf of wheat and alfalfa, nicely colored, that formed the main motif in the early publicity. (See illustration.) The name "Farm Crops Show" took from the start.

4.

The Grand Opera House in the city was secured for the meetings. J. W. Wheeler, president of the First National Bank, consented to the use of the then unoccupied quarters (now the Commercial Hotel) for the farm crops exhibits.

Moving to the city gave the meetings and farm crops show a tremendous impetus. Visitors could find accommodations in the city and it became increasingly evident that the week was emerging to become an important event. Instead of special local train service from Crookston to the school spur, special trains were scheduled from the far points in the Valley during the week.

The evening meetings held in the Opera House attracted crowds beyond its capacity. The day meetings and the women's meetings were well attended. The number of farm crops exhibits increased each year. The Crookston Commercial Club in 1916 had inaugurated its policy of providing $1,000.00 annually, for expenses and has continued to do so ever since. President George E. Vincent and other notable
Third Annual Northwestern Minnesota

FARM CROPS SHOW

CROOKSTON, FEB. 18-19-20, 1914

PREMIUMS

Valued at Nearly $2,000.00

have been provided, as follows:

BIGGEST GATHERING

For Better Agriculture

OVER $2,000.00 IN PRIZES

Territory Included—Farmers from any of the following Northwestern Minnesota Counties may enter this Farm Crops Show: Kittson, Marshall, Roseau, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Beltrami, Norman, Mahnomen, Clay, Becker and Hubbard.

Farm Crops Show—The following will be on exhibit at the show:

Playford Cement Silo, 12x30, Value $225.00, as Sweepstakes Premium.

FREE TRIP TO STATE FAIR

Two Silver Cups will be Awarded

Rural School Spelling Contest

LOUIS W. HILL SILVER CUP, Grand Champion Premium, for Best Peck (15 Pounds) Potatoes.

Farm Crops Show Poster, 1914.
speakers gave addresses that lingered long in the minds of those who came. It began to look as though a new life had come into being.

Up to this time the unenviable job of securing premiums for the farm crops show had fallen largely, if not solely, upon one person and that was myself. I didn’t exactly tire of the job because the victims were mild, gentle and generous, but the thought came that the counties themselves might contribute a small sum each to finance the awards made to exhibitors from their county.

The Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association was formed, duly incorporated and officered with a director from each Valley county. Leslie Welter, Moorhead, was its first president and he did yeoman service for the Association. He was succeeded by leading men of the Valley, all of whom proved their worth.

But no law existed whereby the County Commissioners could appropriate money for such an association. Well, a bill had to be drafted and it fell to State Representative John H. Boyd, our farmer neighbor across the road from the Northwest Station, to introduce the bill in the Legislature. It passed but with a provision inserted by a cautious legislator requiring a unanimous vote of the County Board, instead of the usual majority. Later this law was amended to require but a majority vote. All the counties made annual grants to assist the farm crops show.

As business manager we were very fortunate in securing the interest and services of L. R. Boyd, Crookston. He also served as superintendent of the farm crops exhibits which in itself was an arduous task for the number of exhibits of grain, corn, grass seeds and potatoes grew yearly almost alarmingly. We were always hard put to find space. Raymond A. Rossberg, Crookston, proved an able assistant in connection with the meetings. Both served until they joined “the colors” as commissioned officers in 1917 but resumed their respective places on their return.

There were many others who helped. I can name only a few. S. M. Sivertson, C. C. Strander, State Senator John Saugstad, J. M. Cathcart, C. H. Zealand, E. W. Spring, Joseph Ball, W. R. Low and many others, including a host of workers from all the counties in the Valley.

From its founding the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association has remained active. Late last year its treasurer, H. C. Strander, Crookston, sent me a copy of a letter addressed to the Commissioners of the counties of the Minnesota Red River Valley, submitting budget requests for the Winter Crops Show financed by the counties. Each county has one representative on the Association’s board.

The current president of the association is Superintendent Thomas M. McCall, Crookston. Directors-at-large are former presidents and leaders including names of persons with whom I worked during early years in the Valley. They builted well and doubtless now find great satisfaction in what they have achieved.

Very soon after moving the “Farmers’ Week” to Crookston, came the problem of finding a place to accommodate the large crowds that wanted to attend the meetings, and of having a suitable place for the farm crops exhibits. The citizens of Crookston had previously rejected a bond issue for an armory. With this new need pressing for a solution, another election was held, and the bonds for the armory were voted.

Then began the big days and evenings for the “Northwest School’s Farmers’ Week and Women’s Meetings” and the “Red River Valley Farm Crops Show,” which was the new name duly emblazoned on huge multi-colored posters displayed throughout the entire Valley. The Valley Week had arrived!
Outstanding events crowded those eventful years. Kittson County’s “Alfalfa Gang” and their songs emanating from the top-most rows in the rear of the Armory, where the evening meetings were held. The songfests, led by Miss M. Lucille Holliday. The zeal and the enthusiasm of all. The living, breathing Red River Valley spirit which filled the air, but the list would be unending. Hundreds of men and women thronged the city during the “Weeks.”

They were receiving something that made them happier and better. They told me so. The meetings were purposely scheduled to fall midway between the holidays and the beginning of spring work in the fields. They were hungry for new contacts, to see something, to hear inspiring addresses, to hear the magnificent male chorus of 150 voices, and themselves join in singing, “Here we are again at another Farm Crops Show.”

6.

Something has been written about a “divine discontent” that isn’t satisfied with things as they are. This came into evidence at about this time. I recall it was hard work at first to get anyone interested. From the beginning everything centered on farm crops, on producing grains. This didn’t set so very well with a Southern Minnesotan who often mentioned that from his little home town in that part of the state, the weekly stock train bound for Chicago, frequently added on twenty carloads of stock. True farm husbandry required live-stock.

Something did happen, it appears. Very well I recall at the first short course week how intently the farmers listened to the talks on grain-raising and how, oh how, reluctantly they wended their way to witness a live stock judging demonstration at the school’s stock pavilion. Here was a new species of agricultural educator who had come to the Red River Valley, of all places! A livestock professor!

By 1915 or so something had happened. I came to know personally many who attended the first few short courses. They expressed their views frankly to me on “our” farm crops show and kindred subjects. They began calling for livestock talks. Said a Mr. Miller, Warren, one day: “Let’s have one-half day for horses, one-half day for dairy cattle, one half-day for swine, one-half day for sheep. We must get posted on the problems of livestock farming for the Red River Valley. We’ll soon be the greatest livestock section in the country.” Mr. Miller told me this with all the earnestness and fire that makes for success.

After reading so much of late about United States and Texas winning the war, I glimpse a sort of relationship between Texans and Red River Valleyites!

Gradually, livestock problems had been included in the programs at the farmers’ week meetings. More and more people volunteered their advice in recommending that such subjects be given prominence. The Red River Valley Livestock Breeders’ Association had been organized with Frank Jeffers as president. The poultry people held their annual show at the same time as the farm crops show. Why not have a livestock show, too?

7.

No need to have many animals at the show. No, just a few representative head of the leading breeds of cattle, sheep and hogs. It would be interesting to have such an exhibit, if only once, to try it out. Why, let’s rent Sathre’s Garage and try it anyway. I’m simply mentioning some of the suggestions thrown out here and there, and everywhere. I’d studied Dr. William James’ psychology. He was strong on the potency of suggestion.
Money would be required to finance it. The limit was placed at $300.00 for the first annual livestock show held in Sathre’s garage in connection with the 1917 farm crops show and meetings. The number of head exhibited was 67, or was it 87? In 1918 the livestock show was held in Torrance’s Garage which was roomier. The idea took.

In the spring a delegation visited the Brandon, Manitoba Winter Livestock Show. The visit was made by C. C. Strander, Lee R. Boyd and myself from Crookston, Prof. W. H. Peters, of Minnesota Agricultural College and W. E. Morris of the Agricultural College’s extension service, St. Paul. (Incidentally, on the journey to and from Brandon it was always possible to find four of the delegation at whist.)

At Brandon the province of Manitoba and the municipality of Brandon had achieved a big success. They’d spent over $200,000 for their buildings. Undismayed, a small group in the Red River Valley decided they, too, would try and see what could be done.

The Brandon visit played an important part in the developments that followed. While there we met Hon. Duncan Marshall, Commissioner of Agriculture, and J. D. McGregor, well-known breeder of Angus cattle. Naturally during our three days’ stay we had many talks together. They said: “We’ll do anything we can to help you.” And they did.

The Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association held a big meeting in Warren, Minnesota, June 20, 1918. A pageant was presented and Miss M. Lucille Holliday, song leader, was formally named “Miss Pep.” Mr. Marshall gave a stirring address featuring the scene in the House of Commons when Lord Grey announced the fateful decision, “It is war.”

On the train from Crookston Warren that morning Mr. Marshall turned to me to ask, “What shall I talk about today?” I had thought about that, too. My instant answer was, “The Will to Win!” I could see the response in that great patriot’s face. There were tears in his eyes. His breast heaved. By afternoon he had formed one of the greatest speeches it has ever been my experience to hear. He had a large audience that hung on his every word. This speech had a profound influence throughout Northwestern Minnesota and in Dakota.

The newly organized livestock association met the same day. Prof. William A. McKerrow of University Farm, J. D. McGregor, Duncan Marshall and our local leaders made forceful addresses. Highest enthusiasm reigned. When we all returned home we felt we were ready for business.

An organization that could acquire and own property was needed. The Red River Valley Livestock Association was organized and incorporated. Elected as officers of the association were C. G. Selvig, president; Frank Jeffers, Red Lake Falls, vice-president; Ward V. Gousseff, head of the Northwest School’s livestock department, secretary, and M. E. Dahl, Twin Valley, treasurer.

Shares were $10.00 each. A building was planned. It would cost $15,000. Up to this time the farm crops exhibits were placed on shelves along the inside walls of the armory. Too much space was taken that people wanted for seats. Hundreds couldn’t get into the armory for the evening meetings.

The upshot was that money should be sought for one livestock exhibit building, only one!—to house the farm crops exhibits, on first and second floors in front; have a livestock judging room in the rear; and to provide quarters for the livestock
OF MINNESOTA.

SIR:—

As draws to a close this EIGHTH ANNUAL GATHERING of the people of northwestern Minnesota as we must know it until a more embracive and comprehensive designation offers—

THE FARM CROPS SHOW, we wish to say to you, and in saying, believe we speak for all, that to your enthusiasm, your energy and perseverance in the larger measure is due the gratifying and encouraging success that the gathering has proven.

TRUE, you have had the co-operation to the utmost of many, but that they have as gladly contributed their efforts can be but a tribute to your leadership.

THE LIVE STOCK PAVILION, the opening of which has been a feature and factor in the success of the meeting, and which bids well to do much to promote our welfare and prosperity stands—not, we would say, as a monument, but as the cornerstone of the foundation of a monument which will arise to the the vision, the self-sacrifice and the integrity of yourself and they who have labored with you in the achievement.

Dated at Crockston, Minnesota February 14, 1919.

Scroll presented in behalf of audience at evening session of the Northwest School's Farmers' and Women's Meeting, 1919. (See appendix for typed copy.)

“A great surprise which overwhelmed the recipient.”
A Tale of Two Valleys

in the basement area of 50x140 feet. Besides this, to build a small frame building on the lot across the alley for sheep and hogs.

Right here I’d like to proclaim a roll of honor. It would include every last one of the men and women, too, who went right to work to raise $15,000.00 (and later $50,000 additional) by selling shares at $10.00 each for a livestock exhibit building to be located next to the armory at Crookston. M. R. Hussey, Crookston, accepted a contract to build without our having a penny, or thereabouts, in the treasury. But the thing was done.

The first exhibit held in February, 1919, filled every nook and corner. The attendance ran into the thousands during the week. Chas. J. Gullekson, Beltrami, who had sold a share or more to each of his Reis township neighbors, excepting four, for a total of $475.00 from one township, received the keys to the building from the contractor, made a prophetic speech that was cheered to the rafters and the Livestock Show was an established institution.

Leaders of the pavilion’s building fund were livestock breeders from every county in the valley and scores of other farmers who recognized the importance of this project. The Association’s secretary, W. V. Gousseff, worked zealously and with great success in the drive. Aiding in every possible way were community leaders who canvassed townships specifically assigned them.

Business men from Crookston, Warren, Red Lake Falls, Thief River Falls, Ada, Argyle, Hallock, Roseau, East Grand Forks, Detroit Lakes and many other places figuratively “took their coats off” and went to work to secure funds for this project.

I do not now recall the names of all the persons who were among the most active fund-raisers. The list must include Frank Jeffers, Dr. N. M. Watson, Sam E. Hunt, C. C. Strander, S. M. Sivertson, A. D. Stephens, John Saugstad, J. W. Wheeler, W. S. Lycan, S. A. Wallace, W. T. Carlisle, W. E. McKenzie, A. A. Miller, J. P. Foote, W. V. Gousseff, O. M. Kiser, E. C. Schroeder, N. P. Hanson, M. L. Enright, M. E. Dahl, W. V. Longley, A. E. Phiffner, C. L. Spaulding, L Lambersen, H. A. Morkassel, L. Jenson, William Ash, Peter Englestad, J. J. Sinclair, B. E. Sunderby, county agents in all the counties, and many, many others. These names bring back memories of cherished friendships. A great many more should be added and would be but for limitations of space.

The St. Paul Association of Commerce donated $2000.00 and the Duluth Commercial Club, $1000.00. H. V. Jones, publisher of the Minneapolis Journal took it upon himself to raise $2000.00 in Minneapolis. I was in his office when he did it. He gave $500.00 himself and then phoned three of his friends who promptly made the total $2000.00.

There was some difficulty in securing funds for the third building. It cost more than the estimates. It was built in 1921, the first year of the post-war depression which hit our Valley farmers, banks and business firms right between the eyes.

One morning while in Crookston I met James M. Hanson, cashier of the bank which carried the association’s account. He was an earnest worker but on that morning he was filled with gloom and despair. “Mr. Selvig, the Livestock Association will need to raise $23,000.00 to pay for the third building. How are you going to do it with the tide of falling farm prices, and resultant distress, facing the association? It can’t be done,” he said.
The Valley Comes To Life

Well, this was exactly the opposite of the Red River Valley slogan, “It can be done,” which President Marion Leroy Burton saw on my desk at the school. He liked it and referred to it in his address before the packed armory audience attending the Farmers’ Week meeting the same evening. He referred to it quite often. We now had a real test.

Raising the funds for the first two buildings had not presented unusual difficulties but in 1921 it was different. But it had to be done. A renewed drive was organized. The livestock breeders donated choice breeding stock which were auctioned off at two “donation” sales. We did not quite reach the goal but the $7,000.00 mortgage loan was soon repaid.

In 1919 the Legislature voted for an annual appropriation of $2,000.00 to help pay premiums for the livestock exhibits. In 1927, this was increased to $5,700.00 a year. In the depression year of 1933, when all state appropriations were reduced, the amount became $4,700.00.

10.

The 2600 or more stockholders of the Red River Valley Livestock Association now owned three substantial buildings located in the heart of Crookston’s business district adjoining the armory. When not used for exhibit or sale purposes the build-
ings are leased for commercial purposes and rentals received are used to help finance the annual exhibits and for maintenance of buildings.

All were two-story structures. Two were of brick and one of stucco. The sizes are (1) 50 by 142, (2) 73 by 141 and (3) 127 by 40. Total floor space is nearly two acres. It now houses the second to the largest livestock show in the state, being exceeded only by the Minnesota State Fair.

There were some unanswered questions at the start. Could winter livestock shows be held? Would weather conditions permit? After a few years experience the answer was in the affirmative. There have been a few blizzardly days. They are always remembered, of course, but, by far, fair weather prevailed.

President George E. Vincent of the University of Minnesota at one session made an open-air speech standing on a platform of bales of alfalfa hay. Then, as now, enterprising reporters gathered around to report his speech and to secure photographs as well. Result: nation-wide publicity on the salubrious climate of the Red River Valley in mid-February!

Stock, grain and potato judging contests had been instituted as a part of the farmers' short course program before the shows were moved to Crookston. Participants were judging teams from the special schools of agriculture located in Minnesota (3), North Dakota and South Dakota; from high school agricultural departments; from farm-clubs and later from 4-H and Future Farmers' clubs. These annual contests excited great interest. They were a year-round educative project.

A junior show was soon organized. It grew with the great expansion of boys' and girls' clubs, 4-H clubs and Future Farmers of America. A. J. Kittleson, boys' and girls' district club leader, was for years located at the Northwest School. He was succeeded by H. A. Pflughoeft. Later Mr. Kittleson became State Director of boys' and girls' clubs. I can only mention this activity. It has become a powerful educational movement full of promise for the future.

From the very beginning programs of special interest to women were provided. Leading experts presented topics of great variety year after year. Crookston's three Women's Clubs and the Fairfax-Andover Social Circle took turns, annually, a day each to act as hostesses. As the years went on these meetings at times attracted larger audiences than did the day meetings for the men. Music was featured. Usually the principal speaker at the evening session spoke before the women's meeting, also. It was inspiring to attend these meetings and I often was one of the audience.

The Opera House soon proved inadequate for the crowds that came from all over the Valley and from North Dakota as well. The completion of the Armory helped solve that problem. In it up to 1800 or more could be accommodated. Community singing became a feature. It can almost be said the story of the growth of the Valley's Week began with singing songs together, songs that stirred the Valley people to feel together, to think together and to plan together and which led them to act in concert.

Many years before I came to Crookston I had memorized Burk's trenchant saying:

"No men can act with effect who do not act in concert; no men can act in concert who do not act with confidence, who are not bound together with common opinions, common affections and common interests."

Nothing serves as well to create "common affections" as song. I found among my papers the following which bears on this theme. "For when they sing together as they do in the Red River Valley at the annual Northwest School Farmers' Week
meetings, where they really do *sing*; where the late Governor Winfield S. Hammond of Minnesota, said he had never received in his life greater inspiration; where President George Edgar Vincent has held spellbound 2400 people—all who could crowd in, all standing room taken, after addressing an overflow meeting of nearly equal size; where President Marion Leroy Burton taught the entire Valley how to live during the world's greatest (at that time) war. When folks who sing together and come to listen to such men decide to do something, even Atlas on his foundations begins to feel something is moving."

"The Valley's motto, 'It can be done,' is writ in the hearts of its people. It comes from the Valley, whether its source is the deep, rich, black soil of the earth, or the lovely purple of a thousand acre alfalfa field, or the golden gleams of sun-kissed wheat, or the serried rows of Red River Valley's Early Ohios—it doesn't matter. It is there."

The meetings held annually as a part of the Northwest School's program always drew large crowds. The speakers at the evening sessions were men and women of state and national prominence. Music was featured. Community singing attained a popularity under the direction of the school's music teacher, Miss Lucille Holliday.

The homey melodious tunes which established a flavor for the World War I era reached onto the Northwest School campus and projected a Northwest School personality into the national limelight.

And Lucille Holliday, brimful of Michigan pep and lilting songs, became noted as the most famous community singing director of the entire Middle West.

Miss Holliday could elicit melody from the deadest audience. She used catchy tunes everybody knew and soon had everybody chirping merrily. Her fame spread rapidly around the Valley and before war's end she appeared before huge audiences in the Twin Cities and elsewhere.

The same magnetic appeal that made her a great director wrought similar magic on the Northwest School campus. She glamourized and dramatized her musical productions and everyone was anxious to get into her shows. She was a showman. The Northwest School had had other excellent music teachers. But when Lucille Holliday left the campus she took her own special formula with her. There's only one Lucille Holliday.

She was followed by Arthur H. Larson, also of the School's faculty who won acclaim as a dynamic and inspirational leader. One year Fred W. Carberry, Milwaukee, Rotarian's superb song-leader had the time of his life as the Valley's song leader. O. W. Peterson and later T. W. Thorson led the male chorus of 150 voices.

The members came from a dozen different communities and rehearsed regularly during the year for the annual program at the show. Frank W. Murphy, Wheaton, sat with President Lotus D. Coffman and me in the audience during one of their programs. He said, "Mr. Selvig, this is the most inspirational music I have ever heard. No wonder the Red River Valley folks are happy. They find joy and love in song."

I have placed in the appendix the list of the principal speakers during the 1916 to 1930 meetings sent me by Superintendent A. A. Dowell. Each deserves special mention. Since 1930 there has been a succession of notable persons who have contributed greatly through presentation of their addresses. The interest continues, year by year.
One of the notable meetings attended by thousands occurred in February, 1926, when Governor Frank O. Lowden, of Illinois, came to Crookston. The Great Northern Railway tendered President Louis W. Hill's special car for the Governor's trip from St. Paul. The weather was mild, the roads were open. The largest crowd ever assembled greeted him. He spoke at the Women's meeting where there was a jam-packed church auditorium filled with eager listeners.

We knew the armory could not accommodate all who wished to attend so my good friend Arthur R. Fairbanks, manager of the local telephone exchange, fitted up a loudspeaker connected to the auditorium of the Methodist Church. I presided at the evening meeting. Governor Lowden spoke first to the 900 people assembled at the church so they might see the man they had come to hear.

We then went to the armory. It was difficult to reach this building as crowds jammed the streets. It was estimated over 5,000 persons failed to gain admittance to the armory. The crowds greeted him as he passed. The farmers felt they had in Governor Lowden a friend. This short trip to the armory affected him. When we reached there we had great difficulty in reaching the stage.

The room was packed full. His address was one of the most eloquent and sincere I have ever heard. He spoke of farming in terms the audience understood. He had himself been born on a small farm in Minnesota. He told of early days. He spoke with conviction his views regarding the plight of the farmers, stressing constructive solutions. He touched on no political issues. His address marked him as the great statesman he was. The audience rose as a man and gave him an ovation he said he would never forget.

Years later I became well acquainted with him. I came to regard him as one of the country's greatest leaders. We exchanged letters frequently. While I was in Congress, he came to Washington to attend a conference. As I was approaching the conference room, I was met by Congressman William E. Hull, of Illinois, escorting the Governor to the meeting place. "Governor, permit me to introduce to you, Congressman Selvig, of Minnesota," he said. Governor Lowden answered, "I knew Selvig years before he became a Congressman. He was superintendent of the finest agricultural school I've ever seen."

At a later date my wife and I visited him at his "Sinnissippi" farm near Oregon, Illinois. It was silo-filling time and the Governor was right there working with his men.

The Red River Valley Winter Shows had arrived. Thousands, instead of hundreds, came each year. The nation's leading speakers were heard. Outstanding specialists contributed to the programs. The women's meetings developed greatly. The pure seed growers were organized and assisted in staging the farm crops exhibit.

The Northern Minnesota Poultry Association held its annual poultry show during the "Week." Stock and grain judging contests assumed an important place. The Valley Dairymen's Association contributed materially. Boys' and girls' club activities played a vital part. There is no end to the activities centering in this undertaking.

Throughout all the years the several cooperating Valley-wide associations continued loyally to work together. This has been one of the finest fruits of the entire enterprise. Under Superintendents A. A. Dowell and T. M. McCall the Northwest School's Week and the Winter Shows have gone on and on to greater and better things. A changed economic era has failed to break down this solidly established institution. May it live long in the future is my sincere wish!