

## From the Farm Foundation Archives

This press release was issued after the December 6, 1933, statement by Frank Lowden announcing the formation of Farm Foundation.

(The following statement was made public December 6, 1933 by Mr. Frank O. Lowden, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Farm Foundation and is sent to you at his request)

The will of Mr. Alex Legge, late president of the International Harvester Company and former chairman of the Federal Farm Board, is soon to be filed in DuPage County, Illinois. The will recites:

"I am interested with others in the formation of a foundation to be devoted to the general welfare of the farming population of the United States and improvement of the conditions of rural life."

Such a foundation, known as the "Farm Foundation", was formed before Mr. Legge's death and became the principal beneficiary under his will. To it he bequeathed the sum of \$500,000. This bequest is in addition to a contribution of over \$400,000, already made by Mr. Legge at the time the Foundation was organized.

Frank O. Lowden, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Farm Foundation, stated that this generous support from Mr. Legge, together with contributions from the members of the Board of Trustees and others, assured the success and usefulness of the Foundation.

"The Farm Foundation", said Mr. Lowden, was organized only recently and it was intended to defer any public announcement until all those active in its formation had made their contributions to the initial endowment. Now that the sudden and untimely death of Mr. Legge has disclosed his great interest in the project, a statement by the Board of Trustees seem appropriate.

"For many years Mr. Legge had felt the need of some agency free from local or political considerations, which could act as a clearing house and testing ground of ideas for the improvement of farming conditions and farm life and encourage experimentation and cooperative effort along sound lines. Such an agency should be adequately endowed and equipped to carry on research and educational work and directed by Trustees chosen for their diversified experience, recognized ability and interest in farm problems.

"The same need was voiced in the report of the business Men's committee appointed in 1927 to study agricultural conditions, by joint action of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and the National Industrial Conference Board.

"While Mr. Legge was developing interest in this plan, another group in New York in which Mrs. Mary Harriman Rumsey and George MacDonald were active, had reached the same conclusion.

"The result was the formation of an Organization Committee which formulated a plan along the lines suggested by Mr. Legge and the setting up of the Farm Foundation by execution of a Trust Agreement.

"The governing body is a Board of Trustees of twenty-one members, seven to be chosen at large and the other fourteen to be classified and chosen as experienced in and representative of farming, manufacture, merchandising, transportation, finance, the farm press, the ratio and the state universities maintaining agricultural departments.

"The members of the first Board of Trustees named in the Foundation Agreement, are"

"Members at Large

Bernard M. Baruch, Alexander Legge, George MacDonald, Clarence Poe, Mary Harriman Rumsey, John Stuart, Clifford V. Gregory.

"Farmer Members

Frank O. Lowden, Charles C. Teague, Roy Johnson, W. E. Riegel, R. E. Lambert.

"Finance Member

Melvin A. Traylor

"Manufacturing Member

Owen D. Young

"Merchant Member

Robert E. Wood

"Transportation Member

Ralph Budd

"Farm Press Member

Dan A. Wallace

"Radio Member

Frank E. Mullen

"University Members

Chris L. Christensen, A. R. Mann, F. D. Farrell.

"This Foundation is permanent and it is the hope of the founders that it may become a helpful factor contributing over the years to the solution of many problems affecting the welfare of the farming and rural population of our country. Its field, which is not duplicated by any other existing foundation, is broad, covering any social, education, economic or cultural problems of interest to any substantial portion of the rural population and including the sound coordination of the agricultural life of the country with the urban and industrial life."