

measure his personal advancement and prosperity. The kind of a program to encourage cooperation and coordination which I have in mind, would not interfere with the freedom of proper opportunity; rather, it would enhance the individual's chance to better his individual fortune.

The need of this time is to shorten the bridge between producer and consumer, and to reduce the toll that must be paid for passing over it. We all know a good deal about the various cooperative societies, associations and corporations which have undertaken, in many cases with notable success, to improve the position of the agricultural producers. Such organizations have been successful in all parts of this country, and in many parts of the old world. They have already done a great work and taught us many valuable lessons. Where there are obstacles, imposed by unfortunate statutes or public policies, in the way of expanding such activities as these, they might well be gradually removed through measures of helpfulness and encouragement.

On the whole, I think the agricultural community has been more alive to the promotion of its interests along these lines, than has the urban community. The farmers have seen where their interest lay, and have been more prompt and energetic in adopting effective measures to promote them, than the people of the city and town have been. There is need to have working and practical cooperative associations of producers in the country, and at the same time to have equally effective cooperations among the consuming communities of the cities and towns; and, finally, to link these two sets of cooperators together in a coordination for mutual advantage to both. I believe it is possible, and altogether desirable, that systems of credit and finance should be developed, under public auspices, to encourage both these kinds of cooperation, and to draw them together into