

Fertilizer From Abroad Aids U. S. To Produce Food

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—Looking at it from an earthy, everyday point of view, what the world may need first is not bigger and better supersonic airplanes, atomic bombs, international conferences, or United Nations skyscrapers. What it needs worst is just more fertilizer.

The International Emergency Food Council meeting in Washington this week is hearing nothing but tales of gloom. The number of people in the world is increasing. The supply of food is not. The acreage under cultivation is no bigger than it was before the war.

That reduces the problem to growing more food on the same amount of land to feed more people. One way to do that is to use more fertilizer, as the U. S. did in the war.

Making more fertilizer and spreading it around doesn't sound too hard. But data presented to the IEFC on the world fertilizer situation reveal that mankind is still pretty clubfooted in the head and not much better than a Neanderthal when it comes to using his noggin to maneuver his lazy bones out of the mire.

Principal commercial fertilizers are phosphorous and nitrogen compounds. The phosphates are in fair supply now, and the IEFC is relinquishing its controls over them as of July 1. The big shortage is in the nitrogenous fertilizers which this year are 25 per cent under world demand and probably won't be any better next.

Only five countries have excess nitrogen to export. They are Chile, Canada, the United Kingdom, Norway, and Belgium. They have to make up the shortages in nearly 100 importing countries which don't produce enough at home for their own use.

U. S. Must Still Import.
The U. S. is in this class. Though it has doubled its fertilizer consumption since the start of the war and now produces over 600,000 tons, 22 per cent of the world supply, the U. S. must still import 200,000 tons of nitrogen.

To increase the production of explosives in wartime, the U. S. government built a number of ammonia, nitric acid, and grain-planting plants. When the war was over most were declared surplus. Some were taken over for the production of fertilizers. But the other plants were so scattered about the country that their use in combination to produce fertilizers requires service by a large number of tank cars for reshipment of chemicals from plant to plant.

If enough foresight had been used to locate these plants better so that they could have been converted to nitrogenous fertilizer

production in time of peace, the world's food production situation today might be a lot happier.

European fertilizer production is all snarled up. The principal difficulty is lack of coal to run the plants. Coal production can't be stepped up till there is more food for miners, industrial and transport workers. They can't get more food till there is more fertilizer.

U. S. Dollars Preferred.
Germany used to be a big nitrogen fertilizer exporter to the rest of Europe. Bombs destroyed some of the chemical plants. But the allied military government authorities at first didn't want the nitrogen plants repaired to operate because they were considered munitions plants.

So here you had the sorry spectacle of the U. S.—which produces less fertilizer than it uses—exporting and buying not only fertilizer but also food for occupied Europe, while German fertilizer plants remain idle and European food production is below par.

This year an effort is being made to get some of the German nitrogen plants going again in the U. S., French, and British zones. Production of 200,000 tons is hoped for. All the German potash plants are in the Russian zone, so nobody knows what they're doing.

All countries that have fertilizer surpluses want to export to the U. S. to get dollars. That's one of the factors which makes it difficult to get the exporting countries to allocate their surpluses to countries that don't pay so well.

Social Security Tax Freeze Gets Approval

WASHINGTON, June 4.—(AP)—Legislation freezing the social security tax at the present one per cent on employees' pay and employers' payrolls was approved yesterday by a House Ways and Means Subcommittee.

Under present law the tax will rise to 2.5 per cent next Jan. 1 unless Congress acts to prevent an increase.

Chairman Reed (D-N.Y.) said the subcommittee will propose that the levy be allowed to rise to 1.5 per cent against employer

and employee in 1950, continue at that rate through 1956, and then rise to two per cent.

Burglary Suspect Dies Of Policeman's Bullet

PORTLAND, Ore., June 4.—(AP)—A burglary suspect was fatally wounded early today by a policeman called to investigate noises on the roof of a building.

The victim was identified as Allan John Cameron, Portland.

Detective Sgt. D. J. Mitola said Patrolman C. L. Fitzsimmons reported seeing a man climb down the side of the scientific research building in East Portland and break into a run. The patrolman fired once without effect, then fired a second shot which brought the man down.

Mitola said the roof showed evidence of an attempt to enter. A second man was believed involved.

State Guard Officer Under 21 Acceptable

SALEM, Ore., June 5.—(AP)—The minimum age requirement of 21 years for commissioned officers in the National Guard will be waived if applicants either have been commissioned upon graduation from officers candidates schools, if they hold reserve commissions, or if they have been granted battlefield commissions in the army, Brig. Gen. Raymond F. Olson, acting adjutant general, said.

"We want experienced officers in the National Guard," General Olson said, "and under this new policy we can accept many young men under 21 who formerly could not receive commissioned recognition."

Oregon national guard units also have openings for enlisted men from 18 to 35 years old, and up to 55 years for veterans.

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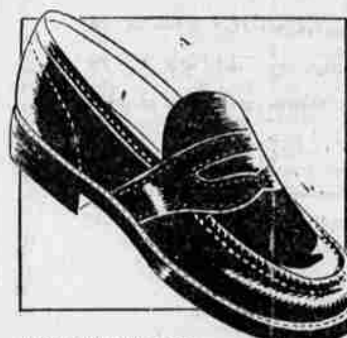
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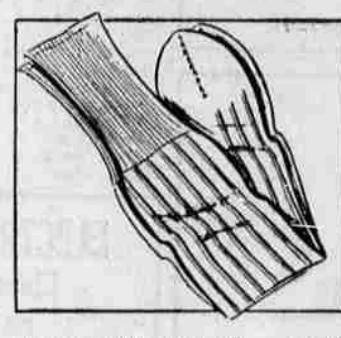
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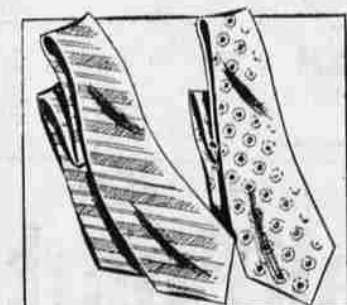
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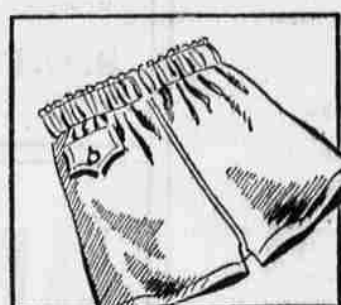
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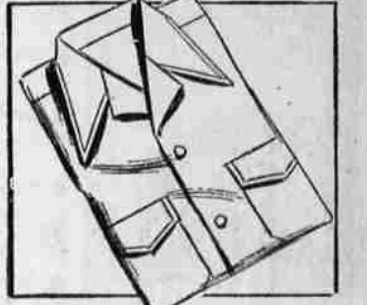
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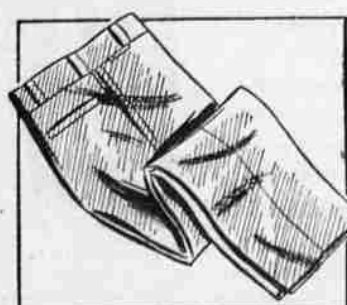
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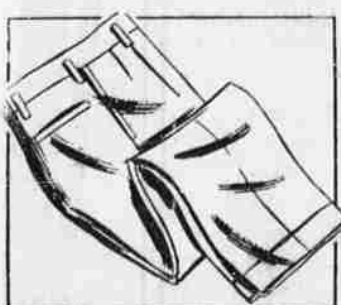
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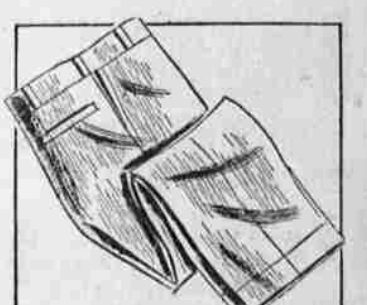
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