

Grasshoppers About Through For This Year But Eggs Laid Call For Battle Next Spring



\$500 CHILD—Mrs. W. H. Sessions and Viree Edwards, 3, share a joke together in the Sessions home in Bessemer, Ala. Viree's father, Layman Edwin Edwards, an unemployed miner, is being held by police charged with selling the child to the Sessions for \$500. Police said he used the money to buy a car. The Sessions have started adoption proceedings.

RENO, Nev., Aug. 1.—(P)—Nevada's tremendous horde of grasshoppers is about through for this year, but from now on you can call them Oregon's grasshoppers.

Federal entomologists returned from another survey of the locust-stricken area with the report that two thirds of the horde has migrated across the Nevada-Oregon border this summer into Lake and Harney counties.

But that is about as far as they're going this year.

"Most of them are in Oregon now, but they are pretty well spent," reported W. B. Mabey, U.S. Bureau of Entomology representative for Nevada.

"They are losing their strength and can't fly into the prevailing winds anymore," he said. "They are dying off pretty fast and by the middle of August there shouldn't be a hopper left in the area."

That doesn't mean, however, that the grasshopper plague is at an end for good.

The hoppers—or more techni-

cally, locusts—lay millions of eggs before they die. From the eggs will hatch enough grasshoppers—unless next spring's control efforts are successful—to cover even more than the 3,000 square miles they infested this year.

Next spring's big battle will tell the story as to whether the hoppers will continue on their Oregon journey. Federal, state and private resources will be mobilized for a concentrated five-week fight against the hoppers as soon as they start hatching between April 15 and May 1.

Rear Mightily on Wing

Egg beds already have been plotted and will be mapped minutely this winter. The campaign will have only five weeks to get their killing work done because about five weeks after hatching the little hoppers sprout wings and from then on they are impossible to control.

When they are on the move, they are so dense that a man has to cover his head as they roar across the land. Experts reported that when this year's horde was at its migratory peak, the roar of wings sounded like a distant waterfall.

Presently, about two-thirds of the horde is in Oregon. The ma-

for concentration, Mabey said, is in the Hart mountain antelope refuge, extending some 15 miles north of the refuge headquarters, overlooking Warner valley. Mabey said he doesn't believe they will go down into the valley this year.

Overall, the hoppers are 65 miles into Oregon, covering an area of about 65 miles by 20 miles.

Just how far they have gotten into California is not known definitely here.

7-YEAR VARIETY

Grasshoppers are members of the locust family and are properly called locusts. However, Ma-

bee explained that many people, especially in the mid-west think of locusts in terms of what are popularly known as the 17-year locusts.

The 17-year locust is not a locust at all; it is a cicada, an insect with big wings that makes a whirring noise like a rattle-snake.

Just how much damage the grasshoppers have done in Nevada, Oregon and California this year, no one here is willing to estimate.

They have eaten the foliage from thousands of range bushes, leaving only the naked stalks. Whether this brush will revive

next year is not known.

Areas Avoided by Cattle

The most damaged ranges are in northern Washoe and Humboldt counties of Nevada, and Lake and Harney counties in southern Oregon. That area is sometimes called wasteland but Mabey sputters at that term.

"It depends upon your point of view," he said. "If you are sitting in the middle of an orchard, that country up there may look like wasteland, but to a cattle man that is pretty darned good range."

"The cattle and other animals we saw up there are just as fat and sleek as those on good grassland in irrigated areas."

"Cattle seem to avoid areas where the hoppers have been," he said, but so far there has been no need to reduce the number of cattle on the range because of lack of forage. This may be necessary in the future, however, if the brush has been killed permanently.

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Protective Cover Aids Moisture To Soak Into Soil

Whether raindrops "dig in" to help in producing higher yields or "dig out" the soil particles and carry them away depends a great deal on the protective cover for the land, says J. F. Bonebrake, chairman of the Douglas County Agricultural Conservation committee.

When raindrops strike bare soil, the particles which give the soil its structure are broken and the surface is sealed over. This compact layer—often less than an eighth of an inch thick—may become "slick" so that it sheds water like a tin roof. Instead of soaking in, the raindrops run off. As the little trickles run together, they pick up particles of soil and the bombardment of these soil particles increases the erosion.

Where there is a good covering of grass or other thick growing crops, the fall of the raindrops is broken and the moisture filters down into the soil.

Crop residues serve the same purpose. The stubble of a small grain crop incorporated into the surface soil helps to break up the falling raindrops so that more of the moisture soaks in. The crop residues also help to hold the soil together—keep it from being broken up for easy erosion.

Mr. Bonebrake explains that the Agricultural Conservation Program encourages farmers to carry out practical measures for checking erosion and conserving moisture. The purpose is to provide an incentive to get farmers started in conservation farming.

Since the entire population depends on the soil for food and fiber it is to the national interest to see that the source of these necessities is protected.

He urges all farmers of Douglas County to use the program to help them with their conservation problems.

Government Reorganization Won't Save 'Billions' For United States

WASHINGTON.—How much money is going to be saved for the taxpayer by reorganization of the federal government? There has been some loose mention of possible savings of from three to four billion dollars.

These hopeful assurances have been made following publication of the score of reports by ex-President Hoover's Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of Government.

Anyone interested in playing a little game of "Who Said That?" finds trouble in pinning down the answer. In one broadcast, Mr. Hoover did say he thought minimum savings of \$3,000,000 might be made. But nowhere in the reports of his Commission and his task forces is it explained where these savings are coming from.

Truth of the matter is that many of the Hoover Commission experts seemed to be afraid of sticking their necks out. Careful examination of their reports reveals only half a dozen places in which definite amounts were mentioned as possible savings by reorganization.

In the report on Department of Agriculture, savings of \$80,000,000 were indicated. Functional reorganization of the department—shifting its jobs around from one bureau to another so as to provide more efficient management—was estimated to result in \$44,000,000 savings. The other \$36,000,000 could be achieved by changing the law governing operations of the various farm credit agencies.

"Savings" To Be Absorbed It has been generally understood that the biggest savings will be made through further reorganization of the armed services. Mr. Hoover himself has testified he thought savings of from \$1,000,000,000 to \$1,500,000,000 might be made here.

Legislation to permit Defense Secretary Louis Johnson to effect this reorganization now seems certain of passage, after a long tie-up in the House of Representatives. But the savings may be zero in the coming 12 months. The reason is that Congress last year authorized the armed services to make contracts for expenditures of \$1,500,000,000 more than it appropriated money for. So Secretary Johnson finds himself in the embarrassing position of having to save \$1,500,000,000 just to meet current expenses.

The next biggest chunk of savings is expected to come from better personnel management in government. Since the war, the turnover of federal employment has been as high as from three to five per cent a month. That means from 700,000 to 1,000,000 new employes a year.

The total government payroll is now about \$6,000,000,000. This includes the pay of the armed services. The Hoover Commission task force which studied government personnel problems estimated that it should be possible to make a 10 per cent reduction.

Better handling of government records was estimated to make possible savings of \$16,000,000 a year. The Hoover Commission made studies of typical government file cabinets.

Actual Savings Negligible The Commission found that cost of the cabinets, plus overhead for heat, light and service, cost \$29 a year for each four-drawer file cabinet. Every time the contents of one file cabinet were transferred to cardboard cartons in the steel racks of a central records office, the saving was \$27 a year.

For the Post Office Department, the Hoover Commission recommended that the auxiliary services be made self-supporting. Included were the service costs on money orders, post cards, special delivery, registered, insured and COD mail. Raising the rates would make these services self-sustaining.

The total of all these estimated savings is \$2,539,000,000. The net

Prime Minister Attlee Ill After Election Talk

LONDON, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Prime Minister Attlee has fallen ill, becoming the third of Britain's "big four" leaders to go on the sick list in time of a national crisis.

The British Press association said Attlee, 66, had been bedfast after delivering a Labor Party election campaign speech in London Saturday.

Only Herbert Morrison, deputy prime minister and fourth ranking member of the Labor government cabinet, remains fit for duty.

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