

## Large Crops This Year Don't Necessarily Mean Slash In Meat Prices For Consumers

By SAM DAWSON  
NEW YORK, Aug. 12. — (P) — The more we have these days the more it seems to cost us. Many people see that result from this year's prospects of a bountiful harvest.

The nation this fall should have more feed for livestock than it ever had before. Some will come from this year's big crop of about 33 million bushels of corn. And some will be left over from last year—about 800 million bushels, of which Uncle Sam seems stuck with 500 million bushels that cost him about \$1.46 a bushel.

Yet, with all this corn left over from last year, and with the prospect of more pouring in than we have storage space for, still the price of meat is high. Lately it has been going a little higher.

The experts seem to think the price of meat, especially pork, will decline this fall. But even the most optimistic prediction along that line is always hedged: First, Uncle Sam won't—can't—under the law—let the price of corn fall very far; second, if the price of meat in turn should fall very far, he is likely to step in there, too, and keep it up. He's doing that, right now, with the price of butter, eggs, potatoes.

Livestock men are expected to shovel corn into hogs this year. And into cattle. But the supply of meat, if it increases greatly, won't mean necessarily that prices will be much lower. Our economy these days is much too complex.

Consumer To Pay Twice  
Economists say that you will

pay the artificially supported price of the meat in the store, and then turn around and pay, through taxes, the cost of supporting that price.

It is pointed out that the country cannot be prosperous if the farmer is not—that is the argument behind farm price controls that is accepted by almost everyone. The only point at issue is how to bring it about without hurting the city dweller.

The farmer isn't altogether happy about the big harvest, either. First, he has the uncertainty of just what Congress is going to do about the various price support levels. It is now heatedly debating. Second, he has the worry that if the feed surplus gets too large, he will be asked next year to accept con-

trols over the amount of acreage he can plant, the amount of feed he can market, the amount he can feed his hogs—and many farmers dislike such controls on their liberty as much as businessmen do.

Third, he wonders where he is going to store this year's crop since he knows that there is likely to be a billion bushels of corn which cannot be used at home or shipped overseas.

And finally, he may be wondering, along with some of the city dwellers, just how much of a financial strain huge surpluses of grain is going to put upon a government committed to supporting prices, and already going into the red. Just when does a bountiful supply of foodstuff become too heavy?

## Earth Swallows Ecuadorian Village During Quake

QUITO, Ecuador, Aug. 12. — (P) — Witnesses report one of the most fantastic pranks of Ecuador's disastrous earthquake—the little village of Libertad and its surrounding fields sank 1,500 feet straight down into the earth.

The town, with a population of about 100 persons, just disappeared. Where it once stood is a gaping hole half a mile in diameter and 1,500 feet deep.

The strange tale was told by military and medical officers returning from the quake area south of here near Pelileo, hardest hit city where thousands died. They said they were shown the big sink by Col. Gabriel Nunez, troop commander in the region. Most of the top soil earth in the

## NAMES CORRECTED

A news item in Wednesday's News-Review erroneously reported the principals in a circuit court case as State Industrial Accident commission vs. Orville Leroy Stock and Leola Smith Stock. The defendants in the case should have been listed as Orville Leroy Smith and Leola Smith Stock.

The cost of striping and restriping 100,000 miles of highway each year is estimated at \$2,800,000 or \$28 a mile.

Fri., Aug. 12, 1949—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 3

## New Charcoal Process From Sawmill Waste Tested

EUGENE, Aug. 12. — (P) — During the next ten days, this city is expected to be the mecca for metallurgists, lumbermen, electrolytic engineers, scientists and farmers from all over the Northwest. The attraction is the ten-day trial run of a new process for producing charcoal from sawmill waste.

Where current methods require several hours for charcoal to result from treatment of wood, the method used by Phillipson Retort Manufacturing Co. is said to produce charcoal 15 minutes after wood waste enters the retort.

From August 11 through 20 the plant on the west side of town will be open for inspection to interested persons as shake down tests are conducted under the supervision of the Oregon forest

products laboratory, Oregon State college. Scientists from the laboratory, which is headed by Dean Paul Dunn, will be present to take down data during operations. Dr. Phinister Proctor and Charles R. Ross, both of the forestry school, have been especially interested in the development of the process.

The number of U.S. forest fires dropped 13 percent during 1948.

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## Armed Services Unification Law Promises Harmony And Efficiency

By BRUCE RIOSSAT  
Another milestone has been reached on the road to military unity. President Truman has signed a new measure to tighten relations among the armed services to produce greater economy and efficiency.

Merger of land, sea and air forces is still a good idea off. But the present action marks real progress toward that goal.

First of all, it embodies fiscal and budgetary reforms recommended by the Hoover commission on government reorganization. The commission believes these changes will save \$1,000,000 a year.

Economies in the national military establishment are highly important, because about one of every three tax dollars is now consumed by this department.

Secondly, the new bill raises the military agency to full cabinet rank as the department of defense. In the process, it reduces the army, navy and air force to subordinate status.

The heads of these three branches will retain their titles as secretaries but they will be subject to direction not only from the secretary of defense but from a newly created undersecretary of defense. The measure in addition establishes three new assistant defense secretaries.

The defense secretary thus gains greater authority than he now has to direct the nation's military

affairs and to advise the president in such matters. But he is still far from all-powerful in his field.

He is specifically barred from transferring, reassigning, consolidating or abolishing any combatant functions now fixed by law. For example, he could not wipe out the marine corps or shift it to army jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the secretary is not empowered under the new act to prevent the secretary of any military department or any member of the joint chiefs of staff from presenting individual recommendations to congress on armed forces policy.

Numerous other changes will co-ordinate various subsidiary boards more closely and enlarge the secretary's power to direct military programs.

Intelligent citizens almost certainly will applaud this bill as a step that promises to slash the high cost of operating the military establishment and at the same time to lessen the bitter intramural conflicts in that agency.



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## Stork Wins In Close Race To Hospital Bed

SEATTLE, Aug. 12. — (P) — The William Eagles didn't quite make it.

The stork caught up with Mrs. Eagles in the hospital lobby at 4 a.m. Wednesday—12 days ahead of schedule.

Eagles bundled his wife into their 1936 car before dawn. During the nerve-tearing dash the jalopy wheezed and stopped. But fate was kind. It stopped next to a taxicab. The taxi continued the race.

Mrs. Eagles smiled about it today, relating:

"It was sort of funny. The cab driver kept reassuring my husband that it would be another three or four hours. He said: 'Think nothin' of it. I got four at home. I seen this happen before; it'll be quite a while yet.'"

He was over-confident. A son was born as the, were carrying Mrs. Eagles through the lobby on a stretcher.

## Road Workers Strike In Wage Controversy

ONTARIO, Ore., Aug. 12. — (P) — Malheur county road workers struck Thursday in the climax of a long controversy over a cut in their take-home pay.

Thirty of the men, who recently joined an AFL union, failed to report for work in the morning. Ten men stayed on the job.

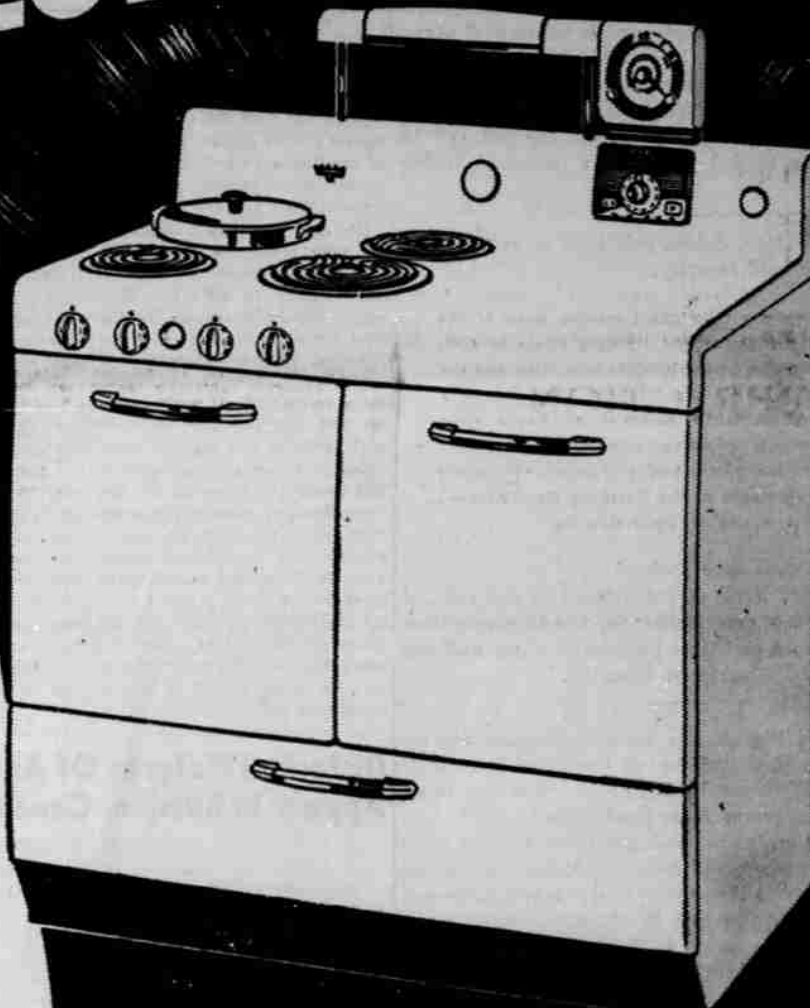
The workers voted to unionize after they were unable to persuade the county court to keep their wages at former levels.

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