



ALASKA TO MAINE VIA DOGSLED—Off on a 5000-mile dog-sled trek, from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Lewiston, Me., is letter-carrier Cecil A. Moore, right. Fairbanks postmaster Maude H. Boyle, left, gives Moore one of 12,000 letters bearing a special Alaska commemorative stamp, which he plans to mail back from Maine. Along the way, Moore will pick up cacheted envelopes from 25 cities, which will be sold in an effort to raise a \$200,000 fund for underprivileged children.

Science, Machines Double Agriculture's Ability To Produce Within Half Century

By ROBERT E. GEIGER
AP Newsfeatures Writer

WASHINGTON—In 50 years science and machines have just about doubled agriculture's ability to produce.

That's the score-card of farm experts summing up progress in the first half of the 20th century.

They estimate each acre of American land can produce 89 per cent more of the foods and fiber needed for human consumption than it could produce in 1900.

And because of mechanization the farmer himself is 115 per cent more capable of producing materials for human use than was the farmer of 1900.

Mechanization was well under way before 1900. This was the changeover from hand tools such as the scythe to horse-drawn machines like the mower. These animal-drawn machines made the farmer more efficient, but the animals themselves—mostly horses and mules—required hours of care, and many acres were needed to feed them.

Steam, Gas Displace Animals
In the early 1900s steam and gasoline vehicles began appearing on farms. This placed the farmer behind the steering wheel. It not only made the farmer more efficient but released additional acres for raising more food and fiber for human consumption.

While horses and mules were declining from around 30,000,000 head to about 8,000,000, farm tractors, trucks and automobiles were increasing from zero to 10,000,000.

In the past few years science has become a full-fledged hired hand of agriculture. Better seeds were created, more knowledge was uncovered about the use of fertilizers and insecticides, better animals were bred and more know-how was accumulated about how to grow crops.

In estimating the efficiency of

land and farmers the statisticians add up the total farm production. Then they subtract the products needed to feed the animals that supply farm power. That gives the efficiency factor in terms of the ability of land to produce needed foods and materials—clothing, etc.

In 1900 this factor stood at 240 and now is around 455, an increase of more than 89 per cent. (The year 1870 was rated 100.)

The total farm output divided by the volume of agricultural effort (total hours worked) gives an estimate of the efficiency of each worker.

In 1900 this factor was 151 and now is around 325, an increase of more than 115 per cent. Actually, fewer agricultural workers now are producing far more food and materials than were produced in 1900—and from approximately the same number of acres of croplands.

Breaking down the increases that have taken place, the experts rate each improvement as follows:

1. About 30 per cent of the increase in supplies for human needs has come from acres no longer needed to feed horses and mules. Almost 60,000,000 acres were transferred from raising livestock feed to producing things for humans.

2. Most of the other 70 per cent increase comes from improved farm seeds and animals, from the increased efficiency of machines and improvements in farming methods.

Of the savings in manpower, one Agriculture Department expert says:

If the farmers in World War II had used the same types of machines and methods commonly in use by farmers in World War I, it would have required 4,500,000 more farm workers to raise the crops this nation produced in 1944.

Seed Of Legumes, Grasses Sell Fast At Good Prices

Seed of eight of the important legumes and grasses is moving out of the hands of growers faster than usual and at higher than 5-year average prices, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

For the country as a whole about 63 per cent of the record-breaking alfalfa seed crop had moved out of the hands of growers by mid-October as compared with 55 per cent during the five year period 1943-47. Southern grown seed had moved out in particularly large volume, from 72 to 89 per cent had left growers' hands. Prices to growers the country over this year averaged \$34.83 a hundred pounds for clean seed as compared with a five year average of \$32.27.

About 52 per cent of the below average red clover crop had moved off farms by mid-October compared with an average of 41 per cent. The price per hundred pounds of clean seed this year averaged \$38.83 as compared with a five year average price of \$33.13.

The crop of alsike clover seed that ran about 14 million pounds of clean seed this year as compared with an average of 16 million, has also moved out of growers' hands rapidly. By mid-October 64 per cent of the commercial crop had been sold by growers compared with an average of 56 per cent. Prices were higher than usual: \$29 a hundred for clean seed compared with a five year average of \$28.47.

Of the sweetclover seed crop, next to the smallest on record, 78 per cent had been sold by growers whereas the usual is 60 per cent. The price was \$14.32 per hundred pounds compared with a five year average of \$10.03.

Timothy seed, less than half the usual crop, has moved rapidly: 81 per cent as compared with a usual 73 per cent. The price was the highest on record, \$21.24 per hundred pounds compared with an average of \$5.47. The below average sudan grass crop also has moved faster than usual but at below average prices: \$5 a hundred as compared with an average of \$5.89. The bromegrass crop, below average and prices more than doubled, has moved at a fast pace—\$27.30 this year compared with \$12.95.

Crested wheatgrass had moved out at greater than average rate



GI GOLD RUSH—Men and officers of the 5th and 9th Reconnaissance Technical Squadrons stationed at the Bolano County, Calif., Air Force Base pan for gold at Webber Creek, near Placerville, Calif. In search of nuggets to gain funds for the purchase of equipment for their recreation room. Under the seasoned guidance of old-time prospectors, the GIs tried hard and had a lot of fun, but didn't enrich their recreation-room fund by very much.

at a record price of \$24.50 a hundred, compared with the five year average price of \$11.90.

Colds Prevented, Cured By Newly Tested Remedy

CHICAGO — (P) — One of the antihistaminic drugs now on the market was used successfully in curing and preventing colds in tests made on volunteer patients, two researchers have disclosed. The drug, known medically as neohetramine, is for public sale without prescription under the trade name Anahist. The researchers said their 100 percent success for cures was possible only when the drug was given within 8 hours after the onset of a cold. It was of no value when a cold had reached the full-blown stage, they said. Reporting the experiments, the

researchers said there were no cases of drowsiness or other ill effects when the drug was administered in doses of 100 milligrams a day over 180 days.

The council of pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical association, in a statement, "warned against the indiscriminate use of Antihistaminic substances which are now being promoted widely for the prevention

and treatment of colds." The council, without naming any specific Antihistaminic substance, said:

"Cases are already reported and records show that about one-third of those who take these drugs become drowsy or even fall asleep while at work or in occasional cases while driving cars or operating machinery. Experience with these drugs is not

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Federal Fiscal Situation Rapped By Sen. Morse

PORTLAND — (P) — Sen. Wayne L. Morse told the Chamber of Commerce here that this country cannot stabilize taxes until the budget system is changed.

"Our federal budget is a hodge-podge," the senator declared. "It is made up of accounting incongruities. For example, we include in our federal budget capital investments as part of the operating costs of government. No business man builds up a budget on such a basis."

He said that "deficit spending" should be used only to indicate that administrative and operative costs of the government are not being covered by income.

yet long enough to know whether or not they are harmless when used over long periods of time."

Morse said he would not consider it "deficit spending" to put out money on capital investments which, eventually, would bring in far greater returns than the original outlay.

THIEF HAS HOT FOOT

ORLANDO, Fla. — (P) — One James found out the hard way to watch his step after this. Picked up by Police Lieut. Joe Beach on suspicion in the theft of a \$20 bill, James told a convincing story and was released.

As he left headquarters, police noticed he had a slight list to starboard. Closer examination showed the sole of James' left shoe was a bit thicker than the right. The \$20 bill was folded under the sole. In jail, James said, "I'd have gotten away if I'd just squatted a little."

Dexterous Daphne



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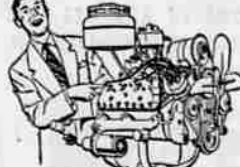
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BETTER IN COMFORT!

Smooth-riding Mercury now rides smoother than ever—thanks to improved "Cushion-Coil" front springing...new "Lounge-Rest" Foam-Rubber Seat Cushions! Steers easier, too, with improved "Stedi-Line" steering. Warmer in winter with new, faster-heating "Merco Thermo" heating system, optional at extra cost, plus Fiberglass insulation!



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For day-in, day-out dependability, there's no car like the 1950 Mercury with its improved, new "Split-Second" starting plus "Hi-Power Compression"! It's got "get-up-and-go" to spare! And Mercury's smoother, livelier 8-cylinder, V-type engine is built to go farther with less maintenance!



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Every way you consider it, the new 1950 Mercury is better than ever to own! Better in comfort! Better in performance! Better in economy! And because Mercury popularity is growing so fast, its resale value is better than ever, too. Get the new 1950 Mercury—and get 1950's "better than ever" new car value!

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