

Farm Efficiency Lessening Need For Acreage Expansion In U. S.

WASHINGTON (Special)—Farm production in the United States has increased a half more rapidly than population since the world war. This increase in production certainly has been more rapid than at any time since 1890 and probably more rapid than any time since 1890. Moreover, it has been accomplished despite a decrease in the number of farms and in farm population, a decrease in the number of farm animals, and a slight decrease in crop acreage. Incomplete data for the years 1927 and 1928 indicate that agricultural production is still increasing at a rate more rapid than the rate of increase in our population. These facts, together with evidence that population growth is slowing up, are cited by Dr. O. E. Baker, economist in the United States Department of Agriculture, in support of his belief that the welfare of agriculture necessitates careful consideration of any proposals involving an increase in crop acreage.

It should not be necessary, he believes, to extend the net farm area of the nation during the next decade. "Nearly all the requisite increase in our crop acreage," he says, "could be obtained by cultivating the crop land that is now idle in farms. In addition to this idle crop land our farms contain more than 100,000,000 acres of plowable pasture, as well as large areas that could be cropped if cleared or drained. However, there will undoubtedly be a notable increase in crop acreage in the Great Plains region, where the tractor and combine are making super-marginal millions of acres of semi-arid land that was formerly sub-marginal and probably there will be a continued decrease in crop acreage in the hilly or less fertile lands of the East and South. After 1940 the country will still have available some 500,000,000 acres of potentially cultivable land, an area greater than the total cultivated land at present. Less than half of this amount would need to be added to the existing crop area in order to supply a population of 200,000,000. As acre yields of the crops are likely to increase, and the increasing production of meat and milk per unit of feed consumed by farm animals is likely to continue, it may be that not more than one-fourth of this 500,000,000 acres of potential crop land will ever need to be added to the crops, unless the United States should be called on to contribute increasingly to the foreign demand for food and fibers."

Cause of Depression

Overexpansion of the country's crop area, says Doctor Baker, is one of the fundamental causes of the present agricultural depression, but excessive stimulation of agricultural settlement during the last half century was more or less excusable. No one, Doctor Baker remarks, could have foreseen the coming of the automobile and the tractor, which has released a large amount of land formerly required to feed horses and mules, nor the increasing production of milk and meat per unit of feed consumed by the farm animals. Nor did anyone realize the influence of shifts from less productive to more productive crops per acre, and from less productive to more productive classes of farm animals. Moreover, he says, prior to the world war no adequate evidence existed of the rapid approach of a stationary population in the United States.

All this, it appears, is now changed. It is plain to everyone that new forces are abroad in the world, and Doctor Baker believes the application of science and invention to agriculture is advancing at an accelerating rate. Nevertheless, he thinks the tendency will be, as it has been in the past, to bring more land into use for crops than is needed. Unless agricultural settlement is prudently guided there is grave danger, he says, that periods of agricultural depression will recur.

Basis of Analysis

Facts relating to the trend of production, the trend of population growth from the basis of Doctor Baker's analysis of the long-time agricultural outlook. From a combined acreage of crops and pasture that has remained practically stationary since the war, agricultural production in the United States in the 5-year period 1922-1926 was 13.5 per cent greater than in the 5-year period 1917-1921. In production per capita of the population, the increase was about 5 per cent. More than two-thirds of the gain is attributed by Doctor Baker to animal products, and the remainder to plant products. Increased use of automobiles and tractors in agriculture in the period from January 1, 1920, to January 1, 1925, released from 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 acres of crop land previously required to feed horses and mules. In the decade from 1918 to 1928 the amount of crop land thus released probably amounted to at least 12,000,000 acres, and perhaps 20,000,000 acres, or from one-fifth to one-fourth of all the land required in 1918 for that purpose. This land is now largely used to feed meat and milk animals or to grow cotton.

Turning to consumption, Doctor Baker finds additional evidence that caution should be exercised in increasing the area of land in cultivation. At present the per capita consumption of beef and veal taken together, and also of eggs, is about the same as at the beginning of the century. Per capita consumption of mutton and lamb, and also of chickens, is much less. Consumption of pork per capita is about 10 per cent greater, and of milk about 12 per cent greater. Continuation of the indicated trend toward a greater per capita consumption of milk and pork, and lessened consumption of mutton and lamb, and beef and veal, would reduce the amount of land required to feed a given population, for the hog and dairy cow produce more human food per unit of feed consumed than do other farm animals. Since the war the consumption of

Chicago's Richest Girl



Rosemary Raur of Chicago received a nice gift for her 18th birthday the other day; to be exact, \$2,500,000, her share of the estate of the late Jacob Raur, founder of the Liquid Carbonic Company. The picture to the left shows Rosemary when she was 10, with an ice cream soda—when her income was only \$10 a day; to the right she is shown as she appears today.

Personal Safety In Flight Great Problem in Air

ST. LOUIS, May 29 (AP)—Personal safety in flight has become the principal problem in aviation, in the opinion of Lieut. James Doolittle, noted pilot with the Guggenheim Foundation, New York City, which was given to the third national aeronautics meeting here yesterday. He added "much has been done but there remains much yet to be done."

More and better airports, always studied with emergency landing fields, power plant reliability and low landing speeds were among the essentials listed by Doolittle for lessening personal peril. He would also have the manufacturer construct the craft so that it "crashed well."

Predicting that the present commercial trend of aeronautics for

consolidations would even be accelerated in the future with manufacturing and operating companies growing fewer and stronger, William S. Robertson, of St. Louis, president of an airplane manufacturing plant, cited need for experimentation as one of the controlling factors. His paper dealt with the four phases of aviation—concept, exhibition, military and commercial—saying that only in very recent years has commercial production compared with military.

Blame It On The Auto

HINDSDALE, Mass. (AP)—When a motorist sideswiped a pole here it inconvenienced people all over town. Our worst lights and the railroad signals and considerable groping was done before the damage was restored.

Railroads in Germany report that 12 percent of all towels placed in wash rooms are stolen annually.



This Stainless Spray—This simpler sprayer ...to kill flies

ONCE you dreaded even to try a spray—you were afraid it would stain walls or fabrics. But here is a new stainless spray—used properly, it kills the flies and then evaporates—disappears completely.

Once you hated to fill the "tank" on your spray pump. It was a messy, wasteful way. Now there is a sprayer that screws right onto the can. When the can is empty, discard it and screw a new one into place!

These new specialties from Shell Laboratories—Shell Fly Spray and the Shell Sprayer—offer you more than a mere way of killing flies. They simplify the job; make it almost a game—a safe and easy task.

Shell Fly Spray is sold in several handy sized cans. Shell Sprayers are available, too, in your stores or at Shell stations.



No mess, no trouble—the can of Shell Fly Spray screws onto the Shell Sprayer.

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BETTER QUALITY LOWER PRICES



WIST WATCH—White gold case, Swiss movement, 10-year Guarantee. \$19.98



COMPACT — Enamel case, powder and rouge. 98c
PERFUMES—in pretty bottles; all scents. 89c



PEN-PENCIL SETS—Self-filling pen, pencil to match; non-breakable. Guaranteed. \$2.98



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Lead the Mode
Special Group Priced at

\$8.95

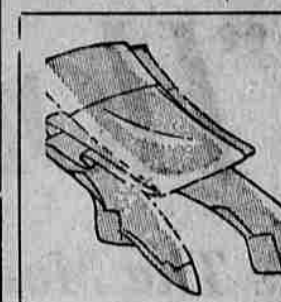
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Fine quality washable silks, developed in charming sleeveless styles, some with sun-tan backs. Gay colors, cool pastels.

Jackets to Harmonize \$4.95

Flowered Georgettes
for Daytime Wear
\$8.95

Nothing is smarter for warm weather wear than sheer, flower-sprigged georgettes, so exquisitely feminine in line and color. Models with or without sleeves.



Golden Crest All-Silk Full Fashioned Hosiery

Chiffon hose that are frivolously sheer or practical service weight with smart Nu-point heels. In all the new sun-kissed shades. Pair \$1.39

Pure Silk Hose. Service Weight. Silk to the hem. Hose—Pointed or French heel. Pr. 98c heel, Pr. \$1.49

Marvelous Values in Piece Goods for Summer Frocks

Here is a timely sale of smart materials to fashion your sports costume or dainty summer frock. The designs are new—and the colors are gay.

39-in. Printed Crepe All silk printed crepe, new designs and color effects. Yard \$1.49
39-in. Plain Crepe Fine quality silk in dark and light shades. Yard \$1.69

32-in. Rayon Gingham Lustrous quality, smart and new for home, street and school. Yard 25c
36-in. Bright Prints Gay colors in smart patterns. Finely woven cotton. Yard 30c

39-in. Imported Voile Very sheer, especially suited for dainty frocks, lingerie. Yard 25c



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Summery Models

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Gowns—Of fine rayon, made dainty by touches of hand work. Priced at \$1.98

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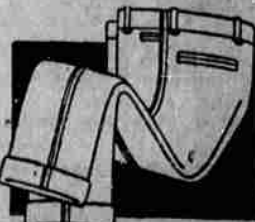


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