

## YOUR FARM PROBLEM

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
(First of a Two-Part Series)

This nation has a serious farm problem.

It does not affect agriculture alone. It is everybody's problem. Today your government has approximately \$5 billions of your money invested in farm commodities.

You own outright more than \$2.5 billions worth of wheat, corn, cotton and other surplus farm products. You have outstanding loans on agricultural commodities totaling about the same amount. This figure is growing daily.

You are paying more than \$14 millions each month just to store these surpluses. This bill is growing, too, as additional inven-

ories are accumulated by your government.

The losses which your government sustained in disposing of just a small portion of your holdings during the first three months of this fiscal year amounted to \$47 millions.

But, you ask, don't we have a farm program designed to insure agricultural prosperity and prevent the very situation we find ourselves in today?

The answer is that we are operating under the same farm program we had last year and for several previous years. Actually we have strengthened it in several important respects to permit farmers to take broader advantage of its provisions. Existing legislation binds us to a continuation of price supports at 90 per cent of parity on basic commodities through the 1954 crop year.

Nevertheless, farm prices have declined steadily from the record peaks established under the impetus of the Korean war in February, 1951. During the 12 months immediately before I became secretary of agriculture, the farm price parity ratio slid from 113 to 95 per cent. Since February of this year, prices have been more stable than in 1952, averaging about 93 per cent of parity.

This story of declining farm income and mounting agricultural surpluses is the best evidence that our present program is not functioning effectively.

For more than a decade, our farmers have been producing under pressure. To meet the wartime needs of ourselves and our allies, they turned out record amounts of food and fiber between 1941 and 1946. With the

## Death Toll May Be Down for '53

Oregon may end 1953 with a 20 per cent traffic death reduction, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry announced this week.

Whether the reduction will be realized, Newbry said, "rests squarely in the hands of every individual driver." Even though only one day of the upcoming three-day holiday, New Year's eve, will be counted in the 1953 toll, Newbry said this probably is the most dangerous one due to the number of people who will be drinking.

"These individuals," he said, "must be made to realize that their actions determine the degree of safety on streets and highways." If they forget their responsibility to themselves and others, he said, New Year's eve accidents could help wipe out Oregon's chance of earning either a first or second place in per cent of death reduction in the country.

Last year Oregon's final traffic toll was 460; this year by mid-December it stood at 361, which indicates the state could finish the year with nearly 100 lives saved if people use common sense where speed and liquor are concerned.

Safety officials urge those planning holiday parties to make it a practice to serve food and coffee to departing guests. Newbry suggested that hosts might also make it their duty to see that guests who have had too much to drink either ride home with non-drinking friends or take a cab.

### Elaine Clark Winner

Elaine Clark was the winner of a set of electric door chimes given as a Christmas prize by the House of Shoes.

end of the second World War, they were asked to provide the commodities required in the rehabilitation of Europe and other sections of the earth. Then came the Korean War, with new and heavy demands for farm goods of all kinds.

Suddenly this situation was radically altered. World food production had been climbing since 1946. By 1952 this was exerting strong pressure in the market places. Our wheat exports dropped by one-third in a single year, cotton by even more. Not only had important nations increased their own production, but they found that they could supply their reduced needs at lower prices from exporting countries which had no farm price support programs.

Just as many American consumers have turned from butter to less expensive spreads, so have other nations sought cheaper wheat, cotton and other products. We have learned through sometimes bitter experience that when the farmer is in trouble, there is likely to be trouble ahead for everybody. This year, net farm income is expected to be nearly \$1 billion less than it was in 1952. And in 1952 it was more than \$1 billion below the preceding year. While farm income has been dropping, our total national income has actually increased.

This disparity cannot continue in an economy such as ours. When the farmer can't buy the products of industry, there are certain to be serious dislocations.

How we got into this situation is not as important, at the moment, as what we propose to do about it. I have outlined here some of the major problems facing agriculture. In a subsequent article, I should like to discuss some of the possible solutions.

## Religious Emphasis Week Slated at OSC

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Nine religious leaders from across the country will take part in Religious Emphasis week at Oregon State college, January 24 to 28.

The week, traditionally one of the outstanding student events, is designed to "tie religion in with everyday living." The Campus Religious council, composed of representatives from the various student church groups, is the sponsor. This year's theme is "Religion—the Third Dimension." The nine church leaders — all

of different faiths — will speak at round table discussions, fire-side meetings in living groups, special evening assemblies and in some classes. An all-campus convocation is scheduled for January 27 at 1 p.m. with Dr. Martin L. Harvey, Negro educator, as the speaker.

Dr. T. Z. Koo, professor of Oriental studies at Iowa State university, and one of the visiting speakers at the first OSC Religious Emphasis week in 1938, will return for this year's meetings.

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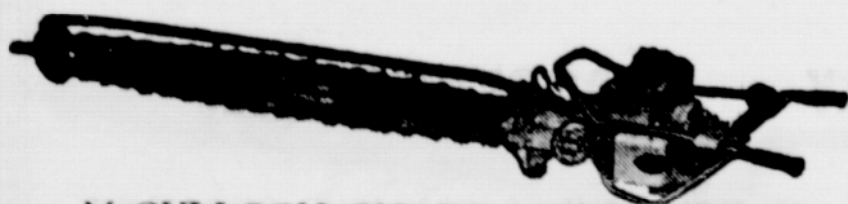
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My AGITATOR drags when 'ere I run,  
My BOTTOM leaks, till wash is done.  
My GEARS are worn, my COGS don't fit,  
My MOTOR'S dead, my DRAIN PLUG'S split.  
My WRINGER'S warped, and out of shape,  
You've patched me up with rags and tape  
Because you're filled up with disgust  
I'm the one who's kicked and cussed.  
Now, Mr. Man, of the house,  
Don't be such a louse,  
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