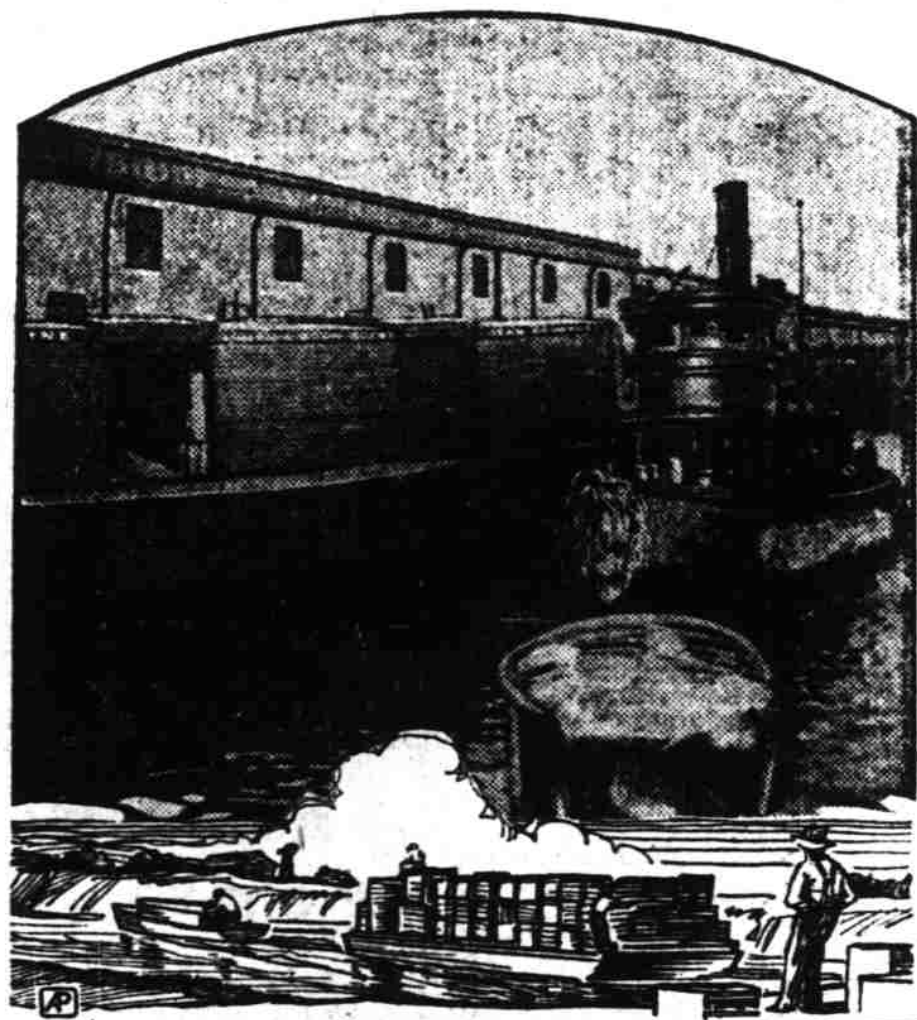


IT IS OUR PATRIOTIC DUTY TO SECURE SUGAR FACTORIES

SIXTY BARGES READY TO HAUL FARM PRODUCE ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI



From the Twin Cities to St. Louis three score of barges soon will be plying the Mississippi, giving farmers of the middle and northwest means of getting produce to market at what it is hoped will be a material saving. Above is a tow boat with a barge being loaded at the docks. The scene below shows farm products being towed by canal to the barge line.

By FRANK I. WELLER

(Associated Press Farm Editor)

WASHINGTON, May 12—(AP)—Handicapped by ice in the early spring, the upper Mississippi barge line service between St. Louis and Minneapolis and St. Paul soon will be in full operation, offering farmers the shipping facilities of four tow boats and 60 barges.

Initiated as an emergency service during the war, the line originally was opened under the railway administration. Later it was made a part of the inland and coastwise waterways service and in 1923 was placed in control of the inland waterways corporation a section of the war department, with all stock in the line owned by the government.

While the line is conceded a signal advantage to agriculture in that it offers cheaper transportation, officials have not definitely estimated the annual saving effected. A differential of 15 per cent is authorized by the interstate commerce commission between rail and water rates on produce originating in similar areas and consigned to similar points. On the lower Mississippi the differential is 20 per cent, and present figures indicate a saving of \$1.50 on commodities as a whole. What it will eventually become for the upper Mississippi, the inland waterways corporation does not predict in the absence of a more complete observation.

No fresh goods or livestock are handled on the barges, although large quantities of grain and oth-

er produce that will keep in transit are handled. It is explained that movement is too slow for products subject to spoilage, and that the barges do not have the necessary equipment for transporting livestock.

Following a personal inspection of the line, Secretary Dwight Davis of the war department said avenues of cheaper transportation will enable the farmer to compete with South America for the exportation of corn and with Canada for the exportation of wheat. Likewise, he said, thousands will have the advantage of cheaper coal and coke, steel products and other commodities.

Factory products from the region served by the line will reach every community west of the Mississippi at greatly reduced freight rates, the war secretary said, and farmers of the west and northwest will find an additional means of distributing their products for consumption east of the Mississippi.

"While the entire industry of the middle west will benefit from the reduced rates of this service on both raw materials and manufactured articles," Davis continued, "it is natural that in this agricultural region they should prove of especial advantage to the farmers."

Wait till the cool of the afternoon to transplant cabbage and cauliflower plants. They wilt badly in the morning.

ANTIQUATED WAYS OF THE FARMERS OF FOREIGN LANDS

Antiquated production technique in cultivated crops and a scarcity of livestock prevail generally in areas recently visited by Leon M. Estabrook, who is making a trip around the world to enlist official cooperation in the preparation of a world census of agriculture for 1930. Mr. Estabrook, formerly with the United States department of agriculture, is director of the world agricultural census project, conducted under the auspices of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

Among the countries recently visited by Mr. Estabrook are the Dutch East Indies, Malaya, Straits Settlements, Siam and India. In many parts of these countries he observed water buffalo drawing plows not much better than crooked sticks in small rice paddy fields. This is a typical illustration of the agricultural methods observed by Mr. Estabrook. Man labor is the chief source of power, and is widely employed on small plots of from one-tenth to one-half acre in extent.

In Siam, for example, Mr. Estabrook found practically everything except plowing done by human labor. Rice and teak are the important crops in Siam, and the extent to which man labor is employed in harvesting them is shown by the fact that even the sawing of planks from teak logs is done by men and women. In livestock production, however, Siam is more advanced than the other countries visited by Mr. Estabrook. Many herds of humped Indian cattle, water buffalo, small ponies, pigs, goats and poultry, especially ducks, are to be seen on Siamese farms.

In Malaya domestic animals are conspicuously few and nearly all the agricultural work is done by coolies. Effort is concentrated on the production of rubber, rice, coconuts, and palm oil to such a degree that food production is sometimes reduced below local requirements.

In the Federated Malay States, which together with the non-Federated Malay States produce about half the world's rubber supply, Mr. Estabrook found increasing dissatisfaction with the British government's rubber restriction scheme. This plan, launched under the Stevenson act for the purpose of sustaining rubber prices, and recently announced as inoperative after January 1, 1929, has failed to produce the desired effect. Failure of rubber producers in the Dutch East Indies to co-operate in the British restriction scheme, and an enormous increase in the deliveries of wild rubber by natives, have been important factors militating against the success of the undertaking. How serious the outcome has been for Malaya can be surmised from the fact that about half the country visible from the train is in rubber plantations.

In Java relatively conservative agricultural methods have been largely offset by exceptional fertility. The island supports 35,000,000 people on an area of only 48,000 square miles. Much larger neighboring islands support a considerably smaller population. This is generally attributed, says Mr. Estabrook, to the presence of unusually favorable soil conditions in Java, the island being of relatively recent volcanic origin. Increasing irrigation and good roads are adding to the productive power of Japanese agriculture. Nevertheless, much of the original fer-

tility of the soil has been lost through leaching and continuous cropping, and fertilizers are now required. Moreover, the native farms are very small and although farm animals are fairly numerous, the cows are not milked. Co-operation for purchasing is practiced by the natives but not, except in rare cases, for selling.

Cultivators of the soil in India, Mr. Estabrook says, are desperately poor. Few countries, he declares, offer so much scope for agricultural advancement as does India, in which country it is estimated that fully 70,000,000 never have enough to eat. It possesses every variety of soil and climate, and the reason for the appalling poverty and misery of its people, says Mr. Estabrook, is obscure. It is true that in large areas the soil looks poor, and in some places sterile. Much of the country from Calcutta to Delhi is dry and semi-arid, and almost every field has a well.

DIPPING IS BEST REMEDY FOR SHEEP AND FOR GOAT LICE

Dipping is the only practical method for eradicating sucking or biting lice from sheep and goats.

Spraying, and fumigation are effective and practicable only under unusual circumstances. Dusting powders applied by hand are sometimes of value in holding the parasites in check in winter when the weather is too cold for dipping, according to Leaflet 13-L, "Sheep and Goat Lice," just published by the United States department of agriculture.

Arsenical, coal-tar creosote, and tobacco or nicotine dips are used for eradicating or both of the types of lice. The leaflet gives descriptions of the parasites, explains the damage done to the animals and to the fleeces, sounds warning of the danger of infestation of clean animals at public shearing sheds, and gives estimates of the amounts of dip required. A second dipping from 14 to 16 days after the first is required to insure the eradication of lice which have hatched from eggs laid before the first treatment.

Leaflet 13-L, entitled "Sheep and Goat Lice," may be obtained free on application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

When using one of the coal-tar creosote preparations in dipping livestock, only soft water should be used to dilute the mixture. When hard water is used a separation of the ingredients often occurs and the first animals to pass through the dip are likely to receive a dangerously large quantity of the chemicals.

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