

Surpluses Bogey Forestalled Increase In Production

(Ed. Note: This is the second of four articles delving into that imminent food shortage and explaining the events leading up to the looming crisis.)

By OVID A. MARTIN
Associated Press Farm Writer
WASHINGTON — (AP) — Last summer and fall some allied military leaders were saying that the war in Europe could end by Christmas.

The government began to cut back production of war materials and arrange for a gradual conversion to peacetime production.

War food administration (WFA) officials—haunted by the fear of farm surpluses, agriculture's troublemaker of the thirties—followed suit.

They believed that if Germany were defeated in 1944 much less food would be needed to meet military and lend-lease requirements in 1945.

Meat production was declining because of a severe feed shortage the first eight months of 1944. But bountiful harvests largely replenished feed supplies by the fall of that year.

Fear Surplus

Fearing surpluses, the WFA made no effort to bring about a substantial revival in meat production—which a return of plentiful feed supplies would have made possible. The agency kept in force the reduced price guarantees for hogs which it established earlier when feed became scarce and livestock liquidation became necessary.

Had food officials planned last September with the idea that the European war could continue well into 1945, they undoubtedly would have raised the hog price guarantee. This would have encouraged higher production late in 1944 and through 1945.

As it is, millions of bushels of grain now stand unused because there are no animals to feed. When it became apparent that there was to be no early end to the European fighting, it was too late to do anything which would have brought more pork to market before the winter of 1945-46.

Only beef production is likely to be greater this year than last. But greatly reduced supplies of pork, lamb, mutton and poultry make beef all the harder to get.

Cattlemen contend that beef production could be even larger than now indicated, but that price control and other regulations hinder production. They say that the spread between prices which "feed lot" operators must pay for unfattened cattle obtained from western ranges, and the prices which they get from packers for fattened cattle, has been too narrow. They say this discourages the feeding of cattle to heavy weights and quality grades.

Many cattle go to market thin and underweight. This deprives the nation of 300 to 600 pounds of extra beef per head.

In Eggs
Official concern over possible surpluses is reflected in poultry and egg production, too. Last fall, when end of the European conflict appeared to some to be near at hand, WFA called upon farmers to reduce egg-laying flocks and to plan fewer chickens for meat in 1945.

WFA was influenced also by unhappy experiences it had with an egg surplus in the spring of

JUST KIDS

SALT LAKE CITY — (AP) — Maj. Homer J. Colman, an ex-Jap prisoner, says that the Nip is a "tough fighting man," but he's tickled pink if he obtains a yo-yo.

The major asserted that yo-yos to the Japs were "the most precious of all" and they would "strut around" playing with the toys.



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New Skyhook Logs Timber From Air

PORTLAND — (AP) — "Is there a real skyhook?" Yes, there is, and the answer to that long-awaited and much-advertised question is being demonstrated daily by the Pointer-Willamette company, which developed and tested the new high-line logging device near Portland.

The overhead logging machine, suspended from cables several hundred feet above the low point of a canyon on the north fork of the Molalla river, is operated by a veteran logger who conceived the idea.

Phil Grabinski rides in the cab of the skyhook, with control levers which make the affair seem like a sky-riding donkey engine. Six years of development work by the designers and Pointer-Willamette engineers have gone into the new device.

Lifts Loads Of 30 Tons
Hanging from a four-wheel carriage which runs over tramway cables two inches in diameter, the skyhook lifts logs 64 feet long, and loads weighing 30 tons. Efforts are now being made to cut the machine's weight to six tons and to speed its rate of climb.

Advantages claimed for the skyhook include the elimination of expensive logging roads, costing from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per mile, also saving trucks, trailers and truck tires; the saving of manpower, rigging and heavy equipment; safety factors, such as the absence of moving lines to strike sparks and start forest fires.

Tramway cables for the skyhook are suspended from tall trees fitted with guy wires to keep them from swaying. The moving machine can be propelled in either direction by an additional set of cables. The skyhook literally pulls itself along by its "own bootstraps," the 10-ton demonstration model having sufficient power to pull itself and a cargo of logs up a 50 per cent grade.

Easy Mobility
This extraordinary traction is achieved through a system of power-driven sheaves which grip the traction cables and revolve,

Tricycles Stolen From Small Boys During Nap

The Charles Martins, who live at 1157 High street, have had more than their share of brushes with "meanest" thieves.

Last Christmas, someone stole the lights and other decorations from their yard. But that was mild compared to what some other "human being" did Monday afternoon.

While the Martins' two boys, Larry 5, and Lyman, 3, were taking their afternoon nap, someone stole their two tricycles, which were parked in front of the house waiting for their small riders. The trikes are fairly new and sturdy, although, because they have been ridden so much, they show some signs of wear.

The two little boys have spent a couple of pretty empty days, without their playthings—they practically lived on the tricycles. When they first came to Eugene a while back, they were almost lost until the tricycles arrived from their former home in Madison, Wis. When the wheels came, they immediately found new little playmates in the block and had a big time.

But now they're trying hard not to be lonely again, and their mom and dad are hoping some one will find their tricycles and bring them home. The Martins' phone number is 1344J.

with the result that the vehicle moves with surprising speed.

A crew of four men, operating the skyhook in demonstrations, claim to have taken logs down a hillside faster than ever before. A quarter-million feet of logs is said to have been moved down a steep hillside in 20 hours of actual working time.

Inaccessible timber can be logged with the skyhook, and logs carried above the ground are not splintered or broken, and do not beat down standing trees. The machine can be moved on the ground to new locations under its own power by mounting tires on the same sheaves used to propel the vehicle.

R. W. Pointer, owner-manager of the Pointer-Willamette company, believes the skyhook may eventually be used in bridge construction, mining, gravel pit operations, ship unloading and in placing and pouring concrete in dams.

Wonders Of Aluminum Hold Investigating Solons' Eyes

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON — (AP) — Here we go again, friends. The subject is Aluminum, Wonders Of. Such as Sen. James E. Murray of Montana swinging an aluminum baseball bat and Sen. Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana ducking same.

Nobody got hit. The senators merely were investigating products produced and hauled to the senate caucus room by the Aluminum Company of America. These included a fireman's hat, a stepladder, a fishing reel, a shovel, a beer barrel, a mint julep glass, a window screen, two knitting needles, a collar button and a pair of dice.

I. W. Wilson of Pittsburgh, vice-president in charge of operations for the aluminum company, also brought along his aluminum chair, but he didn't sit in it. He used one of the senate's old-fashioned wooden chairs and described at length (20 pages of typescript) the future of aluminum in tomorrow's brave new world.

Aluminum Dice
While he talked, he fondled those dice, and I got to wondering what advantages aluminum ivories have over ivory ivories. I

guess maybe your hand wouldn't get so tired shaking 'em. The same general situation probably obtains in connection with aluminum collar buttons.

Why weight down your neck with one of those old, heavy, brass collar buttons when you can have a fine, lightweight collar button from the aluminum corporation?

When Wilson got his samples spread out, the chamber looked like a country fair. His assistants used an assortment of aluminum castings for footstools, while Sen. George A. (no relation) Wilson of Iowa examined a string of aluminum beads. The senators made up the special committee surveying small business after the war. Aluminum-Man Wilson told 'em there were at least 2,000 articles that could be made better of aluminum than anything else.

His tinkering with his own aluminum dice somehow seemed symbolic; neither he nor the senators had any idea what the government would do with its deluxe new aluminum factories, including one which is 12 minutes by taxicab from Grand Central station in New York.

Sen. Murray observed that copper was king in his home state of Iowa, but that he and his neighbors

didn't like the idea of Wilson's concern stringing aluminum electric wires across the Montana landscape. (That actually happened a while back.)

"We merely wanted Montana to have the best transmission lines that could be built," Wilson countered. He got no more back talk from the senator.

The experts discussed the history of aluminum. Wilson held up the first chunk of aluminum ever produced in America. Then he put it back tenderly in a red velvet-lined jewel chest. You get one guess as to what metal the chest was made of.

The meeting then broke up and Sen. Murray tried out the baseball bat. Wilson also wanted him to take the shovel. The gentleman from Montana backed off. He said he was afraid people would think he had joined the WPA.

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