

## Figures Featured Futuristic Farmers

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mas and crisp weather—and keen thoughts." All these with forecasts of frost bite and sun burn. The almanac was started by Robert B. Thomas, publisher and philosopher. Perhaps he was thinking of the 1948 election forecasts when he wrote in 1802: "Read newspapers, but consider, before you believe; for common report is often a great liar." Fan mail is nothing new, either. Many years ago, Mr. Thomas' fine little book published a letter from one F. C. Crawford of Nashua, N. H., which read: "I have read the Old Farmer's Almanac these many years and I wish the damned fool that changed the reading of the moon's column had died before he done it."

## Paint Firms Get Indictments

ST. LOUIS —(AP)— Three corporations and three individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury here this week on charges of conspiracy to fix prices of water-mixed paints.

Corporations indicted were the Reardon Co. of St. Louis, the Muralle Co. of Staten Island, N.Y., and Wesco Water Paints Co., Berkeley, Calif.

Individuals indicted were L. A. McLean, West Coast manager of the Reardon Co.; Chester Braham, general manager of Muralle, and J. G. Penniman, general manager of Wesco.

The indictment charged that the defendants and five co-conspirators, which were named but not charged in the true bill, have engaged since 1939 in a conspiracy to fix at uniform and non-competitive levels the price at which water-thinned and water-mixed paints are sold, both wholesale and retail.

The corporations named as co-conspirators were the M. Ewing Fox Co., New York; Iddings Paint Co., Long Island, N.Y.; Monsanto Chemical Co., western division, Seattle, Wash.; National Chemical and Manufacturing Co., Chicago and Synkoloid Co., Los Angeles.

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## Survey Shows Fewer Tenants

WASHINGTON —(AP)— A smaller number and percentage of the nation's farms were operated by tenants in 1945 than at any time since 1890, the census and agricultural economics bureaus reported this week.

Tenant-operated farms numbered 1,858,421 and made up 31.7 per cent of the 5,859,169 total of farms in 1945, the two bureaus said in a survey of changes in the farm situation between 1890 and 1945.

The report included these observations: The average size of farms, 184.8 acres, has increased by one third since 1900. The number of small and large farms has increased since 1940, but the number of intermediate-sized farms has "decreased appreciably."

## Realtors Attack Housing Plans

NEW YORK —(AP)— Government policies affecting housing came under fire of speakers Friday at the convention of the National Assn. of Real Estate Boards here.

Hobart C. Brady, Wichita, Kas., president, said the association would continue to oppose peacetime rent control and extension of federally owned and operated housing.

Earl Bunting, managing director of the National Assn. of Manufacturers, said the government has poured \$20,000,000,000 of federal funds since 1933 into housing without solving the shortage.

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