



Farmers' Welfare Dependent On Industrial Prosperity

THE nation's six million farm families, together with other millions almost wholly dependent upon agriculture, should feel a deep and growing concern about forces now at work. These forces either will or will not bring about industrial peace, and a full and complete postwar economy in the country.

As so often has been pointed out, agriculture and the 35 million people supported by it are mainly dependent upon labor and industry for material prosperity. It is axiomatic there can be no prosperous agriculture without large purchasing power in the non-agricultural fields. Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson forcefully called attention to this fact recently in an address at Oklahoma A. & M. college when he said:

"Farmers cannot afford to forget that their income is derived mainly from the spending of non-farmers. If agriculture is to be prosperous, the first essential is that city people must have plenty of buying power—and that means full employment at good wages."

So farm leaders, during this congressional recess, are making an interim appraisal of pending legislation affecting agriculture directly, and labor legislation which will have an effect upon farm income. The Farmers Union, considered the most liberal of the farm organizations, is strongly in favor of the Murray full-employment bill. It also approves the proposed emergency unemployment compensation bill to give laid-off workers an additional \$25 for 26 weeks, and specifically favors the food allotment bill introduced by Senator Aiken (R., Vt.) which would provide more food for some 18 million low income families through a nation-wide food stamp plan.

Better Diet for All

Roughly, this measure has a two-fold purpose . . . to make an adequate diet possible for every family and to increase the demand for farm products. It is estimated that this will cost from \$750,000,000 in prosperous years to \$2,500,000,000 in depression years. This measure was introduced last year by Senator Aiken and Senator LaFollette (Prog., Wis.) but because of the war's uncertainty, no action was taken. Sen. Elmer Thomas (D., Okla.), chairman of the agricultural committee, is said to favor the measure.

It is significant that much of this legislation in behalf of labor was introduced by representatives from farm states. . . . Murray of Montana, Aiken, Vermont, LaFollette, Wisconsin, Senator Pepper (D., Fla.) introduced the minimum wage increase bill and Congressman Patman (D., Texas) sponsored the companion full-employment bill in the house.

There is an old adage that "you can't reason with a hungry man" and so empty stomachs have a direct bearing on political action and political beliefs. If we do not have a full postwar economy, then we may very well have thousands of empty stomachs. Hunger breeds socialism—or worse.

The American Farm Bureau federation, while it has not yet taken a definite stand on these specific measures, plans an executive board meeting in Chicago in September to draw up its legislative program in time for the scheduled opening of congress in October. It is certain, however, that the Farm Bureau recognizes that maintenance of a high national income in the postwar years with "full production and full employment" is imperative to our national welfare.

Economic Balance Sought

It is true that in some areas there have been rumblings from farmers against high wartime wages . . . that these wages have lured men away from farms . . . that workers should have saved enough to tide them over. Nevertheless, the consideration is now peacetime wages with shorter hours and no overtime. Labor does not expect to receive war wages in peace time, nor does the farmer expect to get war prices in peace time. What both farm and labor leaders here are striving for is a standard of wages and prices which will assure an economic balance in the postwar era.

High on the list of musts in agricultural legislation is the program supported by all farm organizations, to regroup farm credit and loaning agencies into one independent agency. This will mean a complete reorganization of the department of agriculture. Secretary Anderson has already made a start in this direction by revamping the war food agencies into commodity divisions, with a direct line of responsibility. The general idea behind the independent farm credit agency is still to loan federal money, but to create closer local control for its use.



RECONVERSION PROBLEMS FACE OFFICIAL WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON.—A lively fuss is being raised against the government failure to provide for reconversion. The Mead committee said only half what it thought about the job being bungled, the senators privately conceding they were just trying to prod Mr. Truman gently into more forceful action. They really exposed nothing which has not been apparent for many months, as Mr. Roosevelt had no announced program, and Mr. Truman has been busy with San Francisco and Potsdam.

Behind the failure to make a plan (and this is apparent, if it has not been fully reported) is the scrapping between the various government departments. The army has never forgotten its scare at prematurely anticipating the end of the European war.

The army is keeping its production going at a terrific pace, and told the Mead committee (although this was not published in the report) that it is drafting 3,000 men a month while discharging 4,000 a month for a net discharge of only 1,000 a month.

To add fury to this plain muddle, the CIO, New Dealers and some others have been increasingly agitating for a vaster government spending program, like the old PWA, to take up a slack in employment, which has not yet developed, and is not immediately forecast in view of the national starvation for consumers goods and services, unless perchance chaotic management of the problem disrupts production.

INTERNAL BICKERING

To the problem, Mr. Truman put his best new man, John W. Snyder, who found it to be a nest of economic and political booby constrictors, and his grappling so far has not indicated whether he will throw them or they him.

So we have had such a condition as this following incident discloses:

A business man came to Washington seeking authority to build a plant to supply parts for the automobile industry, admittedly the key in reconversion. He was told he could go ahead as his effort was immediately desirable. He then went to the steel manufacturers who informed him he could have no steel unless he had a priority. Washington thereupon refused to give him a priority.

This, as I say, is a known condition, but behind it is a truly major threat to reconversion, in the relationship of the unions and management, a fact not observed by the Mead committee, or fully reported. The administration has detected the importance of this all-controlling phase, as is evident in Labor Secretary Schwelmbach's promotion of a labor-management conference to plan a workable substitute for the no-strike pledge and perhaps a new labor board setup or at least to provide a sensible agreement, under which men may work and the nation produce in the brave new world.

A show-down between labor and management is coming. I am sure, before much reconversion can take place, I think it is planned. With the threat, publicly brandished by CIO leaders for a wave of strikes, the key automobile and other industries which CIO controls can hardly go far with much reconversion, even if the government requires the army to be reasonable and loosen up on men and materials.

Involved legitimately are the problems of prices and wages. These related problems are in a far worse muddle than the Washington reconversion machinery.

UNIONS SHOW GAINS

The union war worker is the man who made the biggest wage increase during the war. The Little Steel formula was shot so full of holes by the unions (upgrading pay devices, vacations, pay for portals to portals and back again to portals, etc.) that it stands only as a sieve against the largest group of the people, the middle class non-factory workers.

There are only 15 millions of people in the unions and 45 millions outside the unions. Their wages were rather effectively frozen by the government formula, while the unions went on up. But prices went on up also, through the sieve of the OPA (black markets, and especially deteriorated goods and services).

In my non-factory town, for instance, the last bond drive could not meet its baby bond quota because the average man just did not have anything left after buying his family the necessities of life and paying his taxes. Those prices will not come down until reconversion has proceeded to the point where competition is restored in both goods and services. Not until quality of goods and work are restored, and both become readily available, can the government do anything effective on price control, which is the essence of economic control.



Treated Lumber Boon To Farm Buildings

Chemically Treated Durable Wood Available

The nation's treated lumber industry, geared to wide scale production by war demands, is now ready to supply the postwar construction needs of American agriculture, estimated by federal agencies as high as 2½ million homes and 7 million other buildings, including barns.

Census figures of 1940 show that as a class, farm buildings are the oldest of any group in the country.



Ideal farm buildings.

about three years older than the average age of buildings in other categories.

Lumber, always the farm front's most popular and useful building material, will prove even more vital in postwar construction, through the successful application of chemicals to make it more durable and useful. Experiments at the U. S. Forest Products laboratory, and elsewhere, have perfected treated wood that is fireproof, longer lasting, and termite and decay resistant. For instance, pressure treatment with Wolman salts makes wood impervious to termites and decay, and treatment with Minalith makes wood resistant to fire, even open flames.

Wolmanized lumber is being used for such installations in the termite-infested islands of the South Pacific, as it was in Africa. It was also used for the construction of hangars used by the U. S. navy for its sub-patrol blimps on all three seacoasts.

Postwar Machinery Beet Harvester



A one-man beet harvester that tops, lifts, cleans and windrows in one operation is the John Deere new Integral beet harvester. Eight rows of beets are windrowed together, with the tops placed in two windrows of four rows each. The tractor moves along in low gear, the harvester tops the beets in the ground, automatically lifting them.

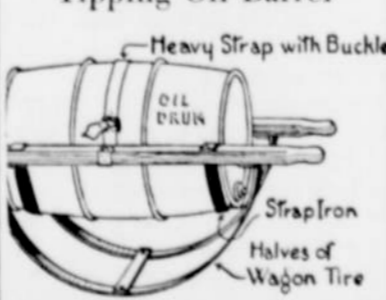
Saving Nicotine Can Be Made by Practice

Insufficient nicotine will be available unless extreme care is taken in its conservation. The average farmer wastes about half of the nicotine he purchases.

The following are the reminders on how the saving may be brought about.

- Don't dust with nicotine when weather is cold.
- Don't dust when wind is blowing.
- Don't run the fan too fast.
- Don't drive too fast.
- Don't delay application.
- Spot-dust with a hand-duster.
- Treat the seed bed.
- Dip plants before transplanting.
- Keep plants growing vigorously.

Tipping Oil Barrel



This idea permits easy extraction of the last drop of oil in the barrel without heavy lifting. The rig is made of two stout poles and an old wagon tire cut in half.

Renovate Strawberries

The renovation of strawberry fields should begin immediately after harvest. The heavy mulch should be removed with a hay rake and the sparse mulch cut into the soil.

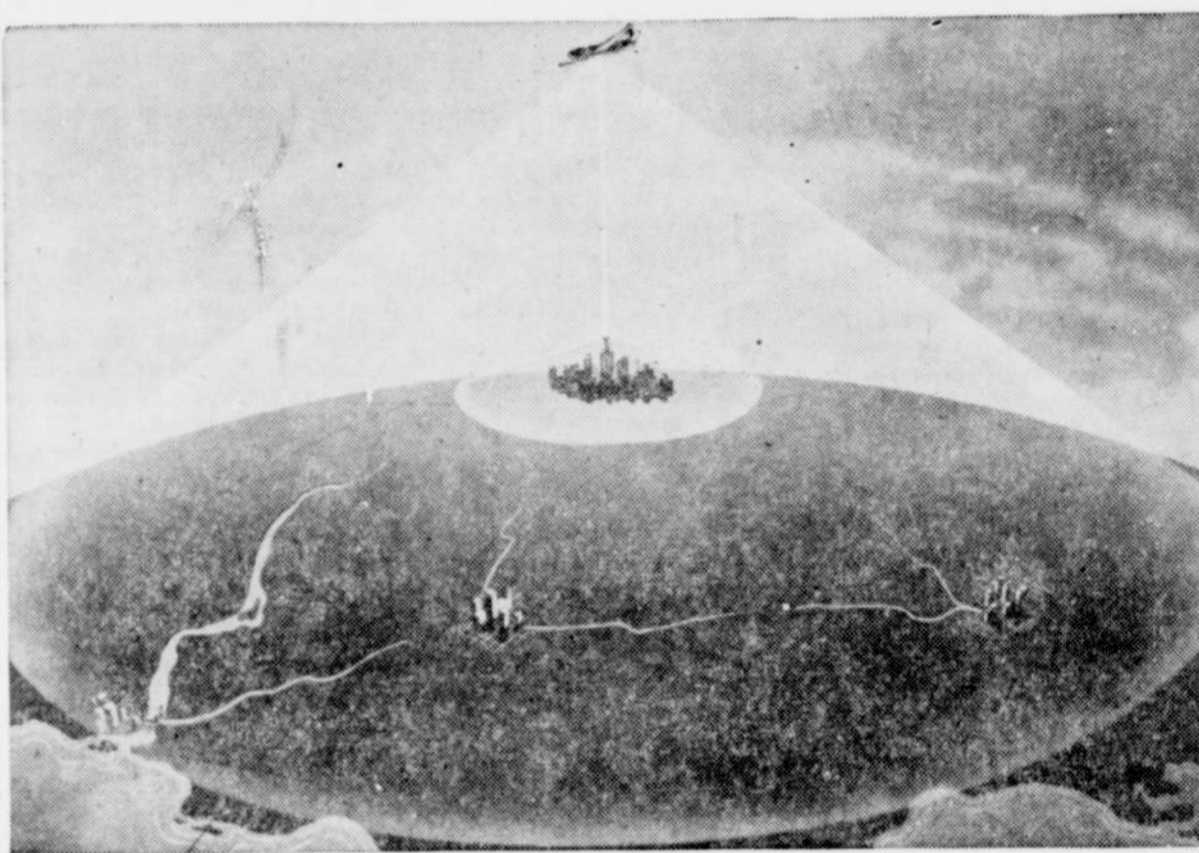
Before cultivating, apply a complete fertilizer at the rate of 500 to 800 pounds per acre. If the soil is acid, apply lime. Rows should be cultivated to 12 or 15 inches. If an open furrow is left, the roots will dry out rapidly.

President Truman Announcing Surrender of Japs



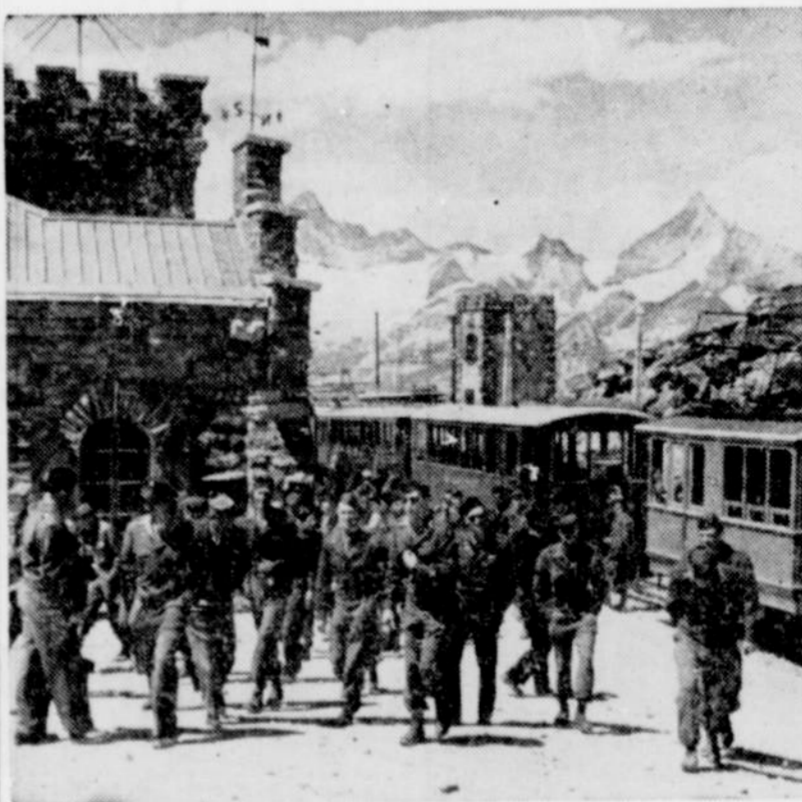
Photo shows President Harry S. Truman as he announced the end of the war with Japan. Left to right, front row, Admiral Leahy, Secretary of State Byrnes, President Truman and ex-Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Three years, eight months and one week after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor the Japs accepted the terms of the Allies for an unconditional surrender.

Antennas to Blanket Nation With Television



Plans to inaugurate a new system of television and FM radio broadcasting from stratosphere airplanes cruising six miles in the air, as soon as permits and equipment can be obtained, were announced by Westinghouse Electric. Initial flight tests of the system, known as stratovision, are expected to be made soon. Large circle shows the increase to about 103,000 square miles possible under the system of stratovision.

Furlough in Island of Peace



American soldiers enter Switzerland on furlough to spend eight days in the tiny land that remained a veritable "Isle of Peace" in a sea of war for nearly six years of the European conflict. Photo shows a few G.I.s in the Swiss Alps, altitude 10,290 feet.

Novel Hits Jackpot



"Before the Sun Goes Down," a novel about a small town in the 1880s by Eliebeth Metzger Howard, has been awarded \$145,000 in prizes by Doubleday, Doran & Company, and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. It is her first novel and will soon be published.

Unaccustomed Service Returns



With the end of gas rationing motorists have learned how to say, "Fill it up," again. Service stations are beginning to get back into the complete one-stop service with windows cleaned, water supplied, oil checked and tank completely filled. Just like in the good old days. Tires are also checked—and advance orders taken for new ones, when—!

Still Swim Champ



Keo Nakama of Ohio State retained his 400-meter crown and was judged the individual winner, having the most points in the recent Senior AAU swimming and diving championship.