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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

THE AAA IS A SOLEMN DUNCE

Why not use the system more generally? We refer to the method used this past week end in the corn-hog referendum. That referendum was conducted and campaigned for by AAA officials, to get corn-hog producers to say that they wanted to continue to receive government checks for not raising corn and hogs.

And why, we repeat, shouldn't the system come into more general use? Suppose, for example, that the government should hold a referendum among packers, solemnly asking them whether they would like to pay less for porkers and receive more for pork? Then the government could ask the consumers, most of them employed city folk, whether they would like to receive higher wages and at the same time pay less for pork?

Thus the government would have the whole data on which to base a program. The farmers would have voted for greatly increased prices, along with certain additional benefits. The packers would have voted to pay the farmers less, for discontinuance of the processing tax and for higher prices to the consumers. The consumers would have voted for lower prices to the packers. All would then be simple. It patently would be necessary for the government to borrow a few billion dollars, to be repaid by our grandchildren, with which to smooth out the difficulty. Part of this money would go to the farmers, to make up the difference between the market price for corn-hogs and the occasional slice of bacon with their

sired price; some more would go to the packers, to recompense them for the high market price; the rest would be disbursed among the consumers, enabling them to have an hot cakes. Indeed, the system of holding referendums among interested special groups has limitless possibilities for national insanity.—The Oregonian.

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