

Plans Study of Land Problems

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace Names Five Scientists to Make Investigation.

TO BE MOST CAREFUL SURVEY

Consideration Will Be Devoted to Country's Present Crop Production, Home Consumption and Foreign Demand for Products.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Washington.—Secretary Wallace has appointed a committee of five scientists of the Department of Agriculture to consider the entire problem of land utilization, especially with respect to the country's future requirements.

In appointing the committee Secretary Wallace suggested that as the basis of the work to be undertaken careful consideration should be devoted to the country's crop production, home consumption and foreign demand, relating the land now under cultivation to present and near future demands. It seems to the secretary that this study should be followed by a more careful survey and classification than has yet been made of lands which can be brought under cultivation.

half the total national area is in farms, and only about one-quarter of the total area is improved land. Many persons, deceived by these facts, assume that there is an unlimited reserve supply of farm land. Such is not the case, however; by far the greater part of the 1,000,000,000 acres not yet in farms probably can never be used for the growing of crops, and that part of the reserve land which may be regarded as potential farm land can be brought into use only at heavy expense for clearing, drainage, irrigation or fertilization.

Per Capita Acreage Decreasing. Population increases; land area does not. The acreage of improved farm land per capita, for instance, has declined at an ever-increasing rate since 1890. By 1950 the total population, at a normal rate of growth, probably will be about 150,000,000. This would require an addition of 243,000,000 acres of improved land if the present per capita acreage of improved land is to be maintained.

This situation presents the national problem of how best to use drainable, irrigable, cut-over and lands of inferior quality that heretofore have been rejected as unsuitable—whether they should be brought under the plow or reserved temporarily or permanently for forests or grazing.

The rate of expansion of our na-

COSTA RICA'S MEDAL



The government of Costa Rica has distributed medals in gold, silver and bronze in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of its independence. The king of Spain, presidents of the Central American republics and President Harding were recipients of the gold medal. The minister of Costa Rica, Senor Dr. Don Octavio Beeche, presented the medal to President Harding at the White House.

son of land under cultivation during, say, the next three years. The shrinkage in the volume of farm exports, the many indications of a probable increase of agricultural imports into this country, and the present depression in developed agricultural areas raise a serious question as to the wisdom of an immediate policy of stimulating the expansion of farm acreage.

BIRDS DIE BY THOUSANDS

Omaha Park Is Littered With the Bodies of Victims of Mysterious Disease.

Omaha, Neb.—Local ornithologists, who have made the study of birds and their ways a life study, are at a loss to explain the mysterious deaths of thousands of blackbirds in the past two days. Thousands of dead birds litter Fontenelle park.

There have been great flocks of the birds flying over the city for three weeks, but only a couple of days ago did they begin dying off in wholesale numbers.

According to persons living near the park, the birds fly to a certain height and then fall dying to the ground. All the dead birds are of the "grackle" variety, and all are males.

SCHOOL FARM ON 'LEPER ISLE'

First Efforts to Rehabilitate Hawaiian Race to Be Made on Island of Molokai.

Honolulu, T. H.—The island of Molokai, the famous "leper isle" of the Hawaiian group, will be the scene of the first efforts to rehabilitate the dying Hawaiian race, in accordance with

Side Car Used to "Exercise" Pet Dogs

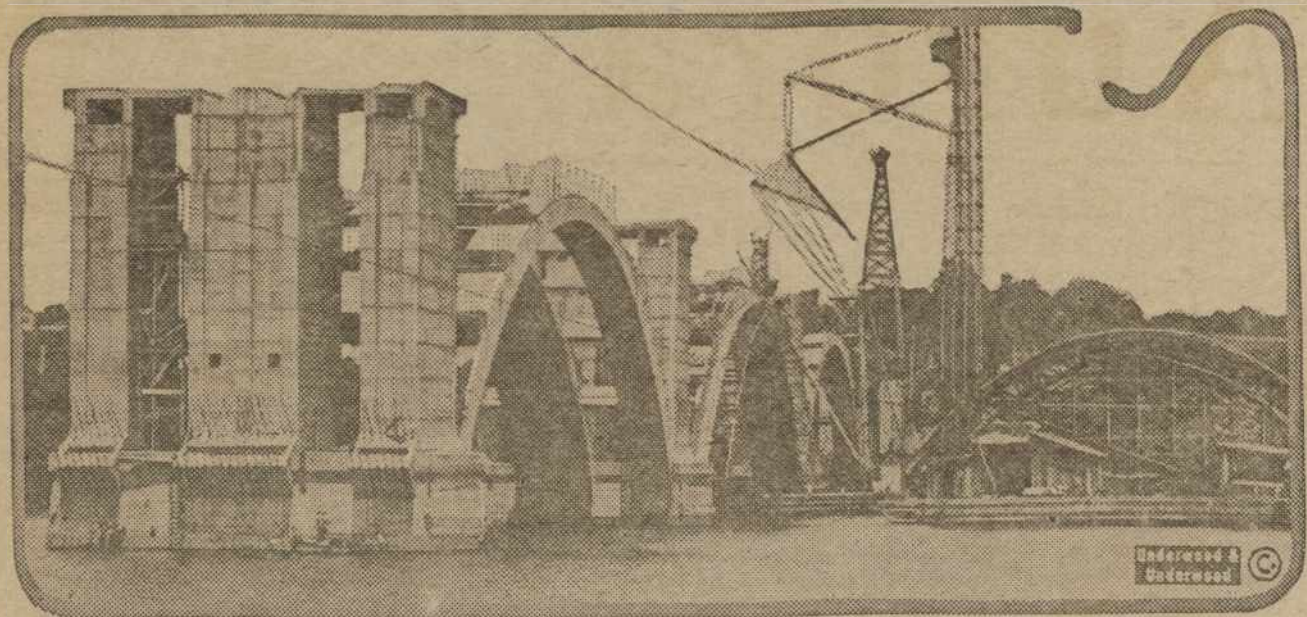
New York.—The motorcycle side-car has a new function. It is that of taking Pekinese pups for an airing. "It does beat the dickens," said one disgusted traffic cop on upper Fifth avenue. "I rode one of those things in France, and here now one comes by me every day with three small dogs in it and a chauffeur riding the bike part. He tells me they're his boss' pet dogs and they get their 'exercise' this way."

Busy Photographer in Moscow



It takes about 60,000 rubles to have a tintype made. But what care the "dandies" of Moscow how much it costs? The woman does a thriving business.

Letting the Tide Do the Heavy Work



An interesting and expensive piece of engineering work is under way in the construction of the Key bridge connecting the District of Columbia with Virginia. It involves the removal of the huge steel span from under the concrete arch, the steel span forming the temporary platform. The operations are governed by the ebb and flow of the tide, a floating platform carrying away the span as the water recedes. The building of this huge bridge is one of the biggest construction projects in the country, and will be completed in about a year.

U. S. and Mexico Claim Rich Land

Property in Heart of El Paso Now Worth \$3,000,000 in Dispute for Years.

RIVER CAUSES CONTROVERSY

Incorrigibly Vagrant Habits of the Rio Grande Cause Dispute Which Has Remained Unsettled for Sixty Years.

El Paso, Tex.—When a 600-acre tract covered with industrial improvements worth more than \$3,000,000 in the heart of a large American city does not know whether it belongs to the United States or Mexico, the situation may presumably offer faint hope to victims of income and excess profits taxation. Otherwise, however, it is fraught with disadvantages which overbalance these largely hypothetical benefits.

At least these are the conclusions reached by the officials of the Santa Fe railroad yards here and the owners of the large packing, stock yard, lumber and milling interests who in the last twenty years have built up, southeast of the El Paso Union station in what is known as the Chamizal district, one of the most thriving and compact industrial centers in the Southwest. Also these are the reasons why a statement recently attributed to Undersecretary of State Fletcher, that in any treaty to precede United States recognition of Mexico the "Chamizal question will be settled and settled right," has pleased several business men of more than local connections as much as any detailed point in the administration's Mexico policy yet revealed.

Sixty-Year-Old Controversy. The Chamizal controversy, now approaching the age of sixty years, is the result of the incorrigibly vagrant habits of the Rio Grande river, which, flowing out of the New Mexico mountains, begins to form the boundary with Old Mexico a few miles west of El Paso. It is by no means the only dispute arising from the same cause along the 1,500 miles of looped and twisted stream bed between here and Brownsville, Tex., but it is the only one in which anything like so much valuable industrial property is involved in so small an area.

Realizing that the Rio Grande was not to be trusted to keep to its bed, the Mexico and American peace commissioners who fixed the international boundary after the Mexican war in the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848, agreed that when changes in the river channel came about by accretion, that is, gradually, the boundary should follow the river bed; but that when sudden cutoffs were formed by the river's violently breaking through dry land to make a new course—evulsion, this process is called in the technical jargon of river experts—the old deserted channel should continue to be the line.

This formula would have sufficed, no doubt, if, in addition to its proclivities, the Rio Grande had not developed a sly and deceitful disposition. Waiting until the entire American population of the region 60

years ago—a few soldiers in far-away military outposts—were away in the Civil war, and until the Mexican border garrisons were likewise busy fighting for or against the Austrian usurper Maximilian, the river between 1863 and 1865 deserted its old channel a few blocks below the principal business district of El Paso for a bed approximately a quarter of a mile farther west and south, which, in the main, it still occupies. Chamizal lies between the old bed and the new.

Cause of Controversy. The controversy hinges on whether this change was accomplished by accretions or by evulsion. The United States' position is that the change, though relatively rapid, came about through gradual alterations of the channel extending over several years and not at all as the result of a sudden break through dry land. Hence, say the Americans, the international boundary according to the 1848 treaty follows the present river channel and the Chamizal zone is American territory. On the other hand, the Mexican government claims that the alterations of the '60s were the result of evulsion, making Chamizal Mexican.

Neither government regarded the

controversy as worth an argument until the rapid metropolitan growth of El Paso began 35 years ago. By that time the testimony of the few Mexicans who had witnessed the changes of the '60s was so confused and conflicting as to be of little value. Consequently, the permanent Mexican-American boundary commission, charged with keeping track of the Rio Grande's wanderings, has never been able to reach an agreement on Chamizal.

LACK MIDINETTES IN PARIS

French Girls Turn to Typewriting and Kindred Occupations for Livelihood.

Paris.—There is, alas, a shortage in the ranks of the little midinettes in Paris and there is a gloomy foreboding among the leaders of the wealthy and important syndicate of milliners. Despite the many improvements since the war in the working conditions of these girls, their number is decreasing, or the petite Parisian is turning to typewriting and kindred occupations.

The midinette's life was not always rosy, for she had to pay to be apprenticed, earned little when the apprenticeship was ended and faced enforced idleness when business was bad. So, notwithstanding the gay pictures of her painted by Parisian artists, it is not surprising that the Paris working girl is turning to other vocations.

Wedding Lasts for Seven Days

Marriage Customs of Palestine Are Among Most Interesting Celebrations of Country.

FOODSTUFFS AS PRESENTS

Wedding Begins on Monday and Winds Up With Breakfast on Following Sunday—Neighbors Take Part in Merrymaking.

Jerusalem.—The marriage customs of Palestine, demonstrated recently in the wedding of one of the prettiest girls of the city to a well-to-do merchant, are among the most interesting celebrations of this ancient city. No person who is privileged to witness one will ever forget either the gorgeous costumes displayed or the thrill of the music and dancing indulged in by the guests.

Not only the respective families of

the bride and bridegroom but also the entire neighborhood take part in the merrymaking, which generally lasts for seven days.

The celebration begins always on Monday and the wedding ceremony itself always occurs at dawn on the following Sunday.

Eye for Presents. Invitations are sent only to those from whom presents are expected. However, any person may attend who wishes. Presents are always in the nature of foodstuffs, such as rice, meat, sugar, coffee, flour, butter and vegetables. These are necessary to provide food for the hundreds of guests who flock to the bridegroom's house daily to take part in the singing and dancing.

Saturday brings the climax to all joy making. If the bridegroom's father is of even moderate circumstances professional musicians are hired for the day.

Men and women in Palestine do not mix together often, due to the general belief that women are not mentally worthy of association. Consequently it becomes necessary to entertain women separately.

On Saturday evening at eight o'clock there takes place the shaving of the bridegroom, a feature of the entertainment. Surrounded by scores of men and women who keep up incessant maddening yells, which may be heard for a mile around, the barber undertakes the operation.

March to Church. This done, a procession is formed, proceeding to the church with people marching two abreast. At the head come eight kawases (guards), followed by ten children carrying in their hands palm branches and long candles lighted. Immediately after hobble four priests dressed in their church robes and singing psalms. The bridegroom, accompanied by his father and the best man, comes next, trailed by 200 or 300 men. At the end of the procession come the women and children.

A similar procession having started at about the same time from the bride's place, the two groups meet at some appointed place and proceed jointly to the church. All along the streets men and women, wakened by the noise, lean out of their windows to watch the bridal party.

After the wedding ceremony is performed a general rush is made to the bridegroom's house, where a breakfast is served (by this time it being early morning) to all.

SAVING FAMOUS TREES



A special appropriation has been made by congress to save many famous trees on Capitol hill, planted in years gone by by members of congress from every state. Expert tree surgeons are busy at their work of restoration.

Pair of Bats Start Rumpus in Town

Defiance, O.—When Policeman Weaner rushed up to the residence of Sheriff Zeschke at 2 a. m., attracted by a great din, he thought either the sheriff was being murdered or a jail delivery was in progress.

But he found the sheriff barefoot, in his pajamas, armed with a broom and leaning against a door casing in the corridor of his residence.

His victim lay at his feet. "Two of them got in, but I only killed one," he panted.

It was a bat.

White Shirt Scares Colt; Farmer Dead

Sioux Falls, S. D.—A white shirt he was wearing while taking care of horses and cows is believed to have been directly responsible for the death of Hugo Schroeder, twenty-two years old, son of a Lake county farmer. One of the colts, attracted by the shirt, became frightened and kicked at the young man, striking him in the abdomen and inflicting internal injuries which caused his death some hours later.