

BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS DEMANDED FOR PEOPLE IN COUNTRY

Personal Credit Unions and Better Marketing Facilities Important—Much Has Been Accomplished During Past Few Years.

Calling attention to things which have been done during the last few years the improvement of agriculture and the betterment of rural life, David P. Houston, secretary of Agriculture, in his annual report for 1919, expresses the opinion that among the other steps which should be taken are the following:

- (1) The building up, primarily under State law, of a system of personal credit unions, especially for the benefit of farmers whose financial status and scale of operations make it difficult for them to secure accommodations through the ordinary channels.
- (2) Expansion of existing facilities and activities for aiding farmers in marketing, including especially the extension of the market news and food products inspection services, and the assignment of trained market specialists to each State, in co-operation with the State authorities, to stimulate co-operative enterprises and make helpful suggestions as to plans and methods.
- (3) Continuation of the present policy of Federal participation in road building, through the appropriation, if the financial condition of the Nation permits it, of \$100,000,000 for at least each of the four years beginning with the fiscal year 1922, to be expended under the terms of existing legislation.
- (4) The regulation and control of stockyards and packing houses.
- (5) Federal legislation further to protect consumers against misbranded, adulterated, and worthless feeds entering into interstate traffic.
- (6) Similar legislation dealing with fertilizers.
- (7) Increased support by States for rural schools and more definite direction of their instruction along lines related to rural problems and conditions.
- (8) The requisite legislation for the improvement of the sanitary conditions in rural districts and for the building up of the needed hospital and medical facilities.

Need For Broad Rural Survey.

"Present conditions, and particularly present states of mind," says the Secretary, "indicate the need of a fresh, broad survey of rural life, of its special problems, and of its relationships. It should be viewed as a whole. A comprehensive flexible program should be developed for the guidance of the different agencies, each of which has its peculiar functions and responsibilities. Furthermore, the principles and purposes governing agricultural life and agencies should be set forth for the education of the American public, particularly the urban part of it. The Nation as a whole needs a fuller appreciation of its basic industry and a more definite sense of direction of its efforts to foster it. Many agencies are now following more or less well-defined, helpful plans of their own devising, but these are at least piecemeal, and there is confusion of leadership and objectives. A program made by any one element would be partial and unsatisfactory. We should have a meeting of minds of all those directly concerned, of farmers, of agricultural leaders, and of business men.

"The President has already indicated his intention to call a conference at which there will be not only a generous representation of farmers but also of agricultural agencies and organizations and of business interests which have an intimate relation to farm problems. I believe that because of changed conditions here and elsewhere, and of disturbed states of mind this conference should be called at the earliest possible date. It may be that as one outcome of it the creation of a rural life commission, with a temporary or a permanent status, will be determined to be in the public interest. Certainly, the best means of fostering our basic industry can not too frequently receive definite consid-

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Nearly everybody has something the matter with the teeth, but keeps on postponing a visit to the dentist. Some people are afraid of pain, some afraid of the price, and some don't want to lose the time.



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Achievements in Agriculture.

The past five or six years, Mr. Houston says, have been especially fruitful of legislation and administrative action in matters looking to the improvement of production and distribution. He cites definitely the following achievements:

- (1) The Bureau of Markets, excellent in the character and extent of its activities any other similar existing organization.
- (2) The co-operative agricultural extension act, the object of which is to disseminate information among the farmers, mainly through trained agents. As has been indicated, there now expended annually from Federal, State, and local sources more than \$14,000,000 for work contemplated by this act.
- (3) The cotton-futures act, with amendments, under the provisions of which standards for cotton have been established, the operations of the futures exchanges supervised, and the sale of cotton put on a firmer basis.
- (4) The grain-standards act, which aims to bring about uniformity in the grading of grain, enables the farmer to obtain a fairer price for his product and afford him a financial incentive to raise better grades of grain.
- (5) The warehouse act, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to license bonded warehouses and which makes possible the issuance of reliable and easily negotiable warehouse receipts, permits the better storing of farm products, increases the desirability of receipts as collateral for loans, and promotes the standardizing of storages and of marketing processes.
- (6) The Federal aid road act, as amended, which made available \$294,000,000 for co-operation between the Federal and State Governments in the construction of rural roads. It has conducted to the establishment of more effective highway machinery in each State and strongly influenced the development of good road building along right lines. It will stimulate larger production and

better marketing, promote a fuller and more attractive rural life, add greatly to the convenience and economic welfare of all the people, and strengthen the national foundations.

- (7) The Federal reserve act, which authorized national banks to lend money on farm mortgages and recognized the peculiar needs of the farmer by giving his paper a period of maturity of six months.
- (8) The Federal farm loan act, which created a banking system reaching intimately into the rural districts and operating on terms suited to the farmer's needs. It is attracting more capital into agricultural operations, bringing about a reduction of interest to farmers, and placing up on the market mortgages which are safe investments for private funds.
- (9) The vocational education act, which, among other things, provides for co-operation with the States in training teachers of agriculture and in giving agricultural instruction to pupils in secondary schools.

FOREST SERVICE TAKING SHINGLE CENSUS

Replies have been received to date from about one half of the four hundred fifty shingle operators of Oregon and Washington to whom the District Forester at Portland, Oregon, recently mailed requests for information concerning the 1919 shingle cut in the two states. In order to make these statistics as complete as possible, the Forest Service desires to receive a report from every shingle operator in the district, and will furnish blank schedules on request to any operator who failed to receive one before.

This region leads all others in the United States in the production of shingles, the state of Washington producing about 75 per cent of the total cut in the United States. Next to Washington, Oregon leads all others in the production of shingles.

Practically all the shingles are made from western red cedar, one of the principal commercial trees of the

region. The shakes of the early settlers first proved the value of this wood for shingles. The split and shaved shingle was the first development from the shake to the present form of shingle. The straight grain of the wood and its soft texture made the manufacture of the shaved shingle easy. These were produced by splitting the shingle block with a frow and shaving the shingle on both sides by hand with a draw knife to give it the proper taper. About 1845 shaved shingles began to be manufactured commercially along the Columbia and Puget Sound region. Many of these were consumed locally, and some were shipped by water coastwise to California ports and thence by rail throughout the Southwest. The production of western red cedar shingles was a small industry however, until the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad, in 1883. Shaved shingles were soon replaced by the machine sawed shingle.

MATERIAL IN \$75 SUIT, ALL WOOL, COSTS \$5.25

25 to 40 Per Cent Increase in Wear-in Apparel Absurd, Says Secretary of National Growers.

SALT LAKE CITY.—The statement of H. R. King of Seattle in addressing the National Retail Clothiers' association at Chicago that clothing prices will advance from 25 to 40 per cent, partly because of higher wool prices, was characterized as "absurd" by Dr. S. W. McClure, secretary of the National Wool Growers' association. Mr. King said before the clothiers that Australian wool had increased from \$1.14 a pound in 1914 to \$4.10 a pound now.

"The truth of the matter is that wool is no higher in Boston, the wool market of the country, today than it was 90 days ago," Dr. McClure de-

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clared, "and the highest price yet paid for clean scoured wool in Boston is around \$2.10 per pound for the very finest grade. Ordinary three-eighths blood wool, out of which soldiers' uniforms were made and which is the most useful grade for clothing purposes, is selling today in Boston at from \$1.30 to \$1.40 per pound scoured. This wool has not advanced in the last 90 days.

"To manufacture a suit of a man's clothing, suitable for the average-sized individual and made of medium winter-weight goods, requires about 62 ounces of wool, which wool can be bought in Boston today for \$5.25. This is on the presumption that the

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suit is made of all wool. Such suits as this retail today at from \$60 to \$75.
"If one were to use the very finest wool grown in this suit, not more than \$7 worth could be used.
"The price of wool has not been responsible for the advance in the price of clothing and even at present wool values the wool required to manufacture a suit represents less than 10 per cent of the price at which such suit is retailed.
"There may be some reason for advancing the price of clothing," Dr. McClure asserted, "but it cannot be blamed on the price of wool."
Frank Gilliam went to Portland the first of the week, where he will combine business with pleasure for a few days.

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UNITED STATES AND GOODYEAR TIRES
No advance as yet but several other standard makes have already advanced from 15 to 20 per cent this spring.
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