

The Way of Life

by BRUCE BARTON

NEEDED!

I left my family in France and started back across the ocean, alone. There was none of the thrill that usually comes with heading toward America, none of the joy of coming home.

For a couple of days I was depressed. Everything I cared for was behind me; I was sailing into silence.

Then one day the wireless spoke. "Have arranged the following appointments for you," my partner wired. "Tuesday after your arrival, Baltimore. Wednesday, Pittsburgh. Thursday, Friday, Chicago. Best wishes. Please confirm."

Immediately came a feeling of relief and cheer. "I have work to go back to," I exclaimed. "Duties are waiting to keep me alert and a little worried and on my toes."

I was relating the incident to the chairman of the board of a large corporation.

"I know just how you felt," he said. "I've organized our company so well that I've almost organized myself out of a job. But every now and then a really big problem comes along, and the boys have to send for me. A hurry call came to

my home from Chicago last Sunday, and I had to leave on an hour's notice. My wife thought it was a hardship, and of course I let her believe that we men lead terrible lives. But all the way out on the train my spirit was singing: "Somebody wants me, I have work to do."

Joseph Medill was asked: "What is the greatest pleasure of your life?"

"To feel that I am at play when I am at work," he answered.

The book of Genesis presents work as a curse inflicted on humanity for its sins. We know in these times of unemployment how faulty that conception is.

To wake up in the morning and wonder: "Where shall I go today? What shall I do? That is the curse. America's most important problem is not education, not the government regulation of business, not even prohibition. Our real task is to work out some economic system by which we can provide honest jobs for all the people all the time.

Every man and woman is entitled to the glorious self-respect which comes from being able to say: "Thank God, I have a place. I am needed."

It is gratifying to feel that the age of indecency is approaching an end. It was bound to end some time, as such manifestations always do, in time.

HOOVER

Most of the criticism of President Hoover is based upon his inability to stir the emotions of the crowd. He never "makes the eagle scream" and he does not like to quarrel in public with his political opponents. But when he can get a group of men around a table to discuss any question of public importance, he usually gets what he goes after. That is what Mr. Hoover has been doing in the matter of the war-debt moratorium, the new plan for credit relief, and other measures of great public importance. It is a new method in American statecraft, but it seems to work. It takes leadership to work it, and those who have been saying that Mr. Hoover is not a leader need to revise their views. Leaders do not always wave their swords and parade with a brass band.

SIGNS

Down in New England, rural weather sharps are predicting a hard winter. The squirrels are laying in supplies of nuts with greater industry than for years. To the simple mind which attributes to animals the powers of foresight which humans do not possess, this is held a sure sign of long-continued cold.

Science knocks this theory into a cocked hat. One reason why the squirrels are hoarding more nuts than usual is that there are more squirrels. Last winter was a mild one and fewer squirrels froze or starved to death than ordinarily. All summer I have observed more squirrels around my own farm than in several years. Not only the common red squirrel, but the rarer pine squirrel with spectacled eyes, the still rarer pure gray squirrel, and the reddish-gray fox squirrel, as well as the little striped ground squirrel or chipmunk, have never been so numerous. Another reason for the "sign" is that there are more nuts than usual. Last year there were few butternut, fewer hickory nuts—or as my Yankee

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neighbors call them, walnuts. This year the trees are loaded with squirrel food. And a third reason is that it has been a mild, open fall so far, giving the squirrels fine weather in which to gather and store the nuts. There is just as much basis for most of the so-called "signs" attributed to animals as there was for the old "Indian signs." My grandmother used to tell of an old Indian who said he knew a sure sign of rain. "When I see it coming down," he said.

Eggs, Hops, Onions Stage Price Come-back This Fall

Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oct. 26.—Relatively favorable prices for eggs in comparison with most other farm products is noted in the October report on the agricultural situation and outlook just released by the agricultural extension service. The College index of Oregon farm prices shows an advance in egg prices from 53 per cent of the 1926-1930 average in May to 70 in October. This is the greatest improvement registered by any of the major farm industries.

Other commodities for which current farm prices are relatively good are butterfat, hops and onions. A temporary shortage in milk production was caused by poor pasture conditions during the summer, but this situation is expected to change during the winter and spring. The hop crop is below average and carry-over stocks are much less than a year ago. Production of late onions is expected to be 41 per cent less than last year and 26 per cent below average, which has greatly improved the market situation for this crop over last year.

One of the most unsatisfactory conditions is the potato situation. Nature stepped in to curtail yields substantially this summer, but the acreage was larger. Production of late potatoes is estimated at 22,000,000 bushels more than in 1930. Some fields may not be harvested, however, because of low prices, says the report. Prices are down to less than half the average.

An extremely short crop of honey is expected, but demand from large domestic and foreign buyers, although improved, is still inactive and beemen will try to expand local markets.

The report also contained an analysis of the strawberry situation and outlook which shows that a general increase in strawberry acreage is expected for picking next year. The combined acreage of Oregon and Washington, where most of the cold-packed strawberries are produced, will be 13 per cent greater next year than in 1931, but only slightly more than in 1928, according to data given.

"Have you heard that Goldrocks, the millionaire, is dead?"
"Yes, I'm very sorry."
"Why, he's no relative of yours, is he?"
"No; that's why I'm sorry."

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WOOL PROMOTION AIM-WEEK NOV. 9-14

National Observance Expected to Benefit Northwest States; Would Perpetuate Production Rate.

Boston, Mass., Oct. 28.—Wool producers in the Pacific Northwest states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho will share in all benefits resulting from "National Wool Week" November 9 to 14 and other wool promotion activities now underway in the principal markets of the nation.

This year, for the first time in history, all agencies interested in wool, have been brought together on common ground to promote the use of wool in this country.

Arthur C. Hyde, secretary of agriculture, and James C. Stone, chairman of the federal farm board will address the inaugural dinner of National Wool week at the hotel Waldorf-Astoria in New York City the evening of November 7, Colonel Charles F. H. Johnson, chairman of Wool week, has announced.

That domestic wool production be maintained at the highest possible level is a matter of great importance to Pacific Northwest wool growers. Like all other parts of the country, the Northwest has been expanding its wool production at a steady rate. In 1922 the three states produced 31,571,000 pounds of wool, divided as follows: Oregon, 15,355,000 pounds; Idaho, 13,704,000 pounds; and Washington, 2,512,000 pounds. The 1931 clip was 48,542,000 pounds, divided as follows: Oregon, 22,914,000 pounds; Idaho, 19,909,000 pounds; and Washington, 5,719,000 pounds. Thus the increase in 10 years is about 50 per cent.

For the last several years wool production and consumption totals have been moving in opposite directions in this country. Production has been mounting steadily since the low of 1922 until it reached a new all-time high in 1931. Since the first of January, 1931, consumption has made some sharp gains and present indications are that this year will see more than 500,000,000 pounds of wool taken for clothing purposes. The aim of the promotional activity is to perpetuate the demand for wool at the new high levels established so far this year.

Although the main work will be done in the larger buying centers of the nation the committee in charge of National Wool week is urging that western communities observe the period in fitting fashion. Reports to national headquarters from the West indicate that commercial and business interests are alert to the opportunity to boost an all-western product.

Nine men from the Pacific Northwest occupy positions on the general committee. Frank J. Hagenbarth, Spencer, Idaho, president of the National Wool Growers asso-

ciation, is a member of the executive committee. Others who are serving on committees include T. C. Bacon, Twin Falls, vice-president, Western Idaho Wool Marketing association; O. A. Fitzgerald, university editor, University of Idaho; Worth S. Lee, Mountain Home, director, National Wool Marketing corporation; J. F. Sears, Yakima, secretary, Washington Wool Growers association; R. A. Ward, Portland, general manager, Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers; Wm. L. Crowe, Portland, president, Portland Wool Trade association; J. W. Hoeft, The Dalles, Oregon, director, National Wool Marketing corporation.

Cover Crop for Lawn Soil in New Fertilizer Scheme

If you notice a heavy crop of vetch, field peas or other legume growing where your neighbor's lawn is supposed to be, don't accuse him of laziness, for perhaps he is just following out the recommendation to C. V. Ruzek, soil specialist at Oregon State college, as to preparation of new ground for lawns.

More time is lost in getting a good lawn established by being too much of a hurry than in any other way, says Professor Ruzek. Rushing to get the seed planted before the soil is well fertilized and supplied with organic matter for the future is poor practice, he says. Of course persons are familiar

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with the practice of saving top soil to put on the top of the lawn, though many still end up their operations with clay for a lawn seed bed. About the only thing to do then, he says, is to add two inches of good top soil obtained elsewhere. But with the best of care, the proposed lawn location will need a good supply of organic matter for the future, and there is where the legume crop idea comes in. Well rotted manure worked into the lower soil layers is ideal, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to get this type of fertilizer. As a substitute Professor Ruzek suggests taking a tip from the orchardist and growing a heavy green manure crop of some legume planted in the fall, which can be spaded under next spring before the lawn is seeded, thus fortifying the soil for many years to come.

This matter of organic matter is also important for the shrubbery and perennial beds, he points out. One way to help matters is to put lawn clippings over the beds around the plants, which can thus accumulate through the summer and fall and be spaded in the spring. A soluble nitrate fertilizer added to

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the clippings will hasten decay and help keep the soil supplied with that essential plant food.

Redmond—The Northwest Redmond Women's club is one of several groups holding discussion meetings on the "Progressive Home," study course based on a series of six programs prepared by Claribel Nye, state leader of home economics extension, Corvallis. These cover such topics as the successes of the present day family, changes in family relationships, some facts on marriage in the United States, education and the family, management and the family, and the family and its leisure. Two out-of-state study clubs for this course are in Hot Springs National Park, Ark., and Chehalis, Wash.

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EDISON

Twenty-three years ago, when Thomas A. Edison was seriously ill I prepared an account of his life, for publication in case of his death. I found in the reference room of the New York Herald an article several columns long which had been written about Edison in 1879. What man ever lived whose life was a matter of public interest for so many years? I can think of none. As far back as 1879, fifty-two years ago, Edison's name was known all over the world. Great men have sprung into the limelight, lived their full careers and gone to their graves since that time. Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson were just finishing college in 1879. William J. Bryan had not been heard of. Grover Cleveland was an obscure lawyer in Buffalo. Each of these and many others who have long since passed from earth left his mark on human affairs, but none so completely revolutionized the world as Edison.

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