

# FEDERAL AGENCY IS LARGE BUYER OF COMMODITIES

### Apples, Prunes, Butter, Clothing, Other Surplus Products Are Purchased To Aid Poor, Lift Prices.

By Preston Grover  
WASHINGTON—So rapidly is the government expanding its purchases of surplus commodities for relief distribution that the expanded outlays of last year will be nearly doubled during the coming 12 months.

The purchases are specifically intended to peg prices by removing temporary surpluses, principally those affecting farmers. Nevertheless, a second purpose is recognized. That is to get the surplus of food to hungry mouths in the shortest possible way. The federal surplus commodities corporation, an agency of AAA, does most of the buying. Recently the WPA stepped into the field to buy \$10,000,000 of surplus men's, women's and children's clothes which the garment trades complained were depressing the market and preventing employment of thousands of needle workers.

This was the largest single purchase but a stream of smaller ones by the commodities corporation more than makes up.

**It's Going Up**  
The buying program, started in 1933 in connection with the destruction of "little pigs," ran to about \$1,300,000 a month during 1936 and most of 1937. It speeded up to \$2,600,000 a month during late 1937 and early 1938. This past May and June it swelled abruptly to about \$6,000,000 a month and is scheduled to average \$7,000,000 monthly for another 12 months. The corporation asked even more but congress rejected its request for \$50,000,000 extra.

The corporation does not buy major crops. It buys primarily surplus portions of perishable crops and processed products in local areas where removal of even a small amount affects prices. For instance, recently there was a surplus of dairy products in the Wisconsin area. FSCC took off \$200,000 worth to keep the price from sagging. Similarly, in a few months period, ending May 1 the corporation bought 70,550,000 pounds of rice, 45,100,000 pounds of dried prunes, 5,500,000 bushels of apples, 1,720,000 boxes of oranges and grapefruit, 10,170,000 pounds of cabbage, 8,320,000 pounds of butter and like quantities of numerous other commodities. The operations reached into 45 states.

Sometimes the corporation buys directly from individual farmers or processors. More often it buys from central markets, trusting that benefit will trickle back to the farmers.

**FSCC says it is difficult to estimate how much such purchases affect prices. There is no way of guessing the drop if the surplus remained.**

**Both Sides Of It**  
Consumers protest they are denied lower prices but FSCC retorts that low farm prices help nobody in the long run. Arguments are endless. Merchants say the government artificially holds up prices with one hand while with the other it distributes free goods to the merchants' customers. Further, they argue that buying up the surplus simply encourages further production.

H. R. Tolley, AAA administrator, concedes that without crop control and other guides the buying would be useless. He says the purchases do not ordinarily raise prices, but prevent slumps. WPA claims that by its \$10,000,000 clothing investment it benefited 160,000 clothing trades workers at the same time it obtained clothes for relief distribution.

Large figures show purchases totaling about \$17,000,000 in fiscal 1937, on up to \$45,000,000 in 1938, mostly in the three months ending last June 30. The estimate for 1939 is \$79,000,000, and more if the next congress wills it.

The system is a short cut on the standard business pattern, but like many another federal spending program it is popular with state officials. Since most of the food purchased is turned over to state relief agencies, they favored a 1939 program of \$175,000,000.

**Nearly Always Miss**  
PHILADELPHIA (UP)—Data assembled by the Franklin Institute in connection with an exhibition disclose only one recorded instance of a man being struck by a meteor. The accident occurred in India in 1827.

**British Babies Join Clubs**  
LONDON (UP)—The club baby may soon become a feature of British family life. There are already five baby clubs in the country and others are soon to be started as part of the "fitness campaign."

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'GEE'-WOMAN Shirley Temple oh'd with excitement when J. Edgar Hoover, chief of government's G-men, took her through federal bureau of investigation at Washington, showed her a comparison microscope (above) used in firearms identification. Earlier during her Washington visit, Shirley saw President Roosevelt, told him about tooth she lost while eating a sandwich.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIONS CLUB CHANGES LURES NATION'S AGED. TIME OF MEETING TO CITY SURVEY REVEALS TUESDAY DINNER HOUR

NEW YORK (SpI)—An idea of the extent to which California and other Pacific coast states have attracted the aged as an Eden in which to spend their retirement years is presented by statistics of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company as the result of a study recently completed. The analysis reveals that of 93 American cities with populations exceeding 100,000 at the time of the last census, the two with the oldest populations—Long Beach and San Diego—are located in California, which also includes two of the other five Pacific coast cities in which more than six percent of the inhabitants had reached or passed up 65 in 1930.

Altogether, 18 of the 93 cities were listed as having had more than six percent of their residents in the age range of 65 years or over. The percentage in Long Beach was 9.2 and in San Diego 9.1. San Francisco, however, with a percentage of 5.4, was just at the average for the country as a whole. In Spokane, Wash., the percentage was 7. Tacoma, Wash., 6.9, Portland, Ore., 6.6, Los Angeles, 6.2 and Oakland, Cal., 6.1. The youngest city of the group was found to be Gary, Ind., with only 1.7 percent of its inhabitants aged 65 years or more.

**"Burst the Clouds"**  
KLAMATH FALLS (UP)—County Judge Grizzle, en route to court, was told by a hobo, who accused him for a coin, that the real cause of cloud-bursts are airplanes, which set up currents of air that disturb atmospheric conditions that finally result in the bursting of clouds and the downpour of rain. The judge is still figuring how much he really ought to have given the man for this new scientific information.

**Dog As Speedometer**  
BERKELEY, Cal. — (UP) — Mrs. Lusk Rowland told the traffic judge she knew she wasn't speeding at 37 miles an hour, because her pet dog, Hi Chow, any time she exceeded 30 miles an hour, flops down and whimpers, while at the time she was ticked, Hi Chow was sitting up and enjoying the ride. Between Hi Chow and the fact that Mrs. Rowland's speedometer was inaccurate, the judge suspended sentence.

**Farmer On Go at 95**  
EASTEND, Sask. — (UP) — Henry J. Lewis, 95-year-old Eastend farmer, has young ideas. He left alone on a trip of several hundred miles to visit his son. When he returns, he declared, he will buy a car and take a bride.

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# ITALY'S STATUS CAUSES FRANCE DEEPER WORRY

### Gap Between Populations Is Growing Wider Each Year — French Uneasy Over Old Roman Empire Lands

By Peter C. Rhodes  
United Press Staff Correspondent.

PARIS—(UP)—The perennial fear of a rapidly falling birthrate and a diminishing population assails the French again, but this time anxious eyes are turned toward Italy.

Strained relations in the Mediterranean and the imminent danger of three frontiers to guard instead of one has made a giant out of the normal population problem, and one that is causing great concern to government and army chiefs.

The alarming situation is portrayed in a current bulletin issued by the French National Alliance against depopulation which treats the Italian problem for the first time since 1918 when Italy did an about face and became an ally of France. This study backs up the current diplomatic and military strain between the two countries with threatening population statistics which reveal that already Italy is far in the lead.

Today France counts a population of 41,000,000, of whom 1,000,000 are Italian emigrants and 1,500,000 from other countries. To this Italy has a population of 43,000,000 of whom only 150,000 are foreigners, and has in addition large colonies planted in other countries totaling more than 3,000,000.

**Disparity To Continue**  
The disparity in birth rate is even greater, France registering only 615,000 births to Italy's 985,000 in 1937. For 1938 it is estimated that Italy's birth rate will pass the million mark while in France it will fall far below 600,000.

Frenchmen today are repeating an old axiom culled from France's history as a growing nation and empire: "No lasting entente is possible between two neighboring powers when the population of one grows and the other diminishes."

Recognizing the power of an expansionist policy based on the statistics of a growing population, the French openly express the fear that inevitably Italy may begin to look with longing eyes on neighboring regions where there is plenty of room for the surplus population to move. The desire to make such regions Italian are recognized as strong.

The French are particularly anxious about lands which formerly belonged not to the old Roman Empire, but to the kingdoms which consolidated themselves into the Italy of today. They think particularly of Corsica which became French only in 1768 after long wars with the ruling house of Genoa; of Upper Savoy and the Alps Maritime provinces (comprising the Riviera beyond Nice and the ridges of the Alps) which were taken by France in 1660 after the war with the kingdom of Savoy, and Tunisia which was conquered by France in 1881.

**Worry Over Old Lands**  
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# VETERANS PICNIC SET FOR SUNDAY IN ASHLAND PARK

### Many Students At Oregon Pay Way By Toiling

Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold a picnic in Lithia park at Ashland, Sunday, July 31, at which posts and auxiliaries in district 8, comprising Brookings, Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland and Klamath Falls will have large representations. The picnic will include the families of the veterans and also the chapters of Grants Pass and Medford Disabled American Veterans of the World War and their auxiliaries, invited as special guests of the V. F. W.

Each veteran and family is asked to bring their picnic basket and table service. Coffee and lemonade will be served by members of Crater Lake post and auxiliary of Medford V. F. W.

Ten o'clock is the time set for the picnic in the upper picnic grounds of the park and a good time is promised all. Games and races for the children and grownups will take place throughout the day with suitable prizes for winners. A soft ball game will be played in the afternoon by teams from the V. F. W. and D. A. V.

Members of the committee are working hard to make this picnic a success and one long to be remembered in veteran circles and it is hoped that a large crowd will avail themselves of the opportunity to get together and a chance for the veterans to visit with their buddies.

**Man Sits on Rattler**  
WADDELL, Cal. (UP)—When Seymour Rodgers, wishing to rest after an hour's work of wood chopping, sat down on a rattlesnake, he had the good fortune to sit down on its head instead of its tail. As a consequence, the snake was able to rattle Rodgers a warning to get off, which he promptly did, before it could get its imprisoned head into action.

**Dog Food Scientific**  
BERKELEY, Cal. (UP)—So numerous are the demands made on the department of household science of the University of California by dog food manufacturers for accurate information on dog diets, that the department now maintains a pure bred Cocker Spaniel colony for experimental purposes.

**Battery Blasts Hullbeje**  
LAWTON, Okla. (UP)—Battery B 1st field artillery, at Fort Sill, fired 13 times at a moving target 1,000 yards distant. Ten shots struck the target and constituted the best such firing record ever to come to its attention. Maj. L. S. Arnold said today. The hits were scored with a 37-millimeter gun.

**Bass Caught in Hat.**  
WARSAW, Mo. (UP)—George Kaden of Cole Camp has the best fish story to date for the Ozark season. He said he lost his hat out of a boat, leaned over to pick it up with a paddle, and scooped a four-pound bass into the boat.

**Kansas to Light Road.**  
TOPEKA, Kan. (UP)—Kansas is to experiment in safety highway lighting. Evan Griffith, director of the state highway department, has announced. He said only one other state—Michigan—has attempted such a program.

# MANY STUDENTS AT OREGON PAY WAY BY TOILING

### WAKE UP YOUR LIVER BILE—

EUGENE (SpI)—The old-fashioned "hustling" type of boy or girl is still in existence—at least at the University of Oregon, according to Karl W. Onthank, dean of personnel administration.

Dean Onthank cites as proof figures of earnings of students who worked part time during the past year. On the university campus these totaled more than \$200,000, not including money earned during vacation periods.

Of this total, \$54,000 was earned from jobs obtained through the university employment office, directed by Miss Janet Smith, employment secretary; \$28,350 came from national youth administration work, and the university itself paid wages amounting to \$37,600 to students working part time at various positions.

During the year the employment office handled a total of 2,852 jobs for students, of which 227 were permanent and the others "odd jobs." Work undertaken by students ranged from cutting lawns, taking care of children, caring for furnaces, housework, and gardening to skilled sten-

ography and bookkeeping. No work has yet been reported that is too difficult or tedious for the hard-working students, Miss Smith declared.

Permanent jobs include housework for room and board, clerking, stenography and many other types. Some young men obtain their rooms for the year by sleeping at the city fire station and being ready to go out on call during the night.

In addition to work found during the year, the employment division found summer jobs for 581 students in 1937, which brought a total income of \$40,542. Permanent jobs filled by graduates totaled 100, with an estimated annual income of \$129,000.

**Takes Canary, Too**  
OMAHA (UP)—The burglar who broke into a roofing company office apparently either had a musical turn of mind or a love for birds. When clerks arrived to open up in the morning, the thief had stolen the secretary's canary besides other loot.

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