

### Suit Seeks \$4,000 Claimed as Wages

Beulah H. Richardson, 62 South Modoc ave., Medford, is seeking \$4,000 plus interest from Southern Oregon Humane Society, according to a complaint filed in circuit court.

She alleges in the complaint that the money is for wages owed her by the Southern Oregon Humane Society. On Jan. 1, 1950, she entered into a contract with the humane society for employment for 10 years beginning Jan. 1, 1950. It was agreed to pay her \$200 a month it is alleged.

However, on March 1, the president of the Southern Oregon Humane Society, acting on the authority of the board of directors, discharged the plaintiff and refused to pay her since that date, according to the complaint.

Beulah Richardson charges that she has performed all the terms and conditions of the agreement and is still ready to perform the agreement.

About 400,000 divorces are issued in the U.S. yearly.

### Future Parents May Lose Right To Decide Number of Children

By WATSON DAVIS  
Director, Science Service

Washington—The day may come when individuals will no longer have the right to determine how many children they will bear, without regard to biological and cultural consequences. Dr. George W. Beadle, geneticist and 1958 Nobel prize winner in physiology, suggested here as a result of the development of knowledge about heredity and genetics and the growth of world population.

Dr. Beadle, chairman of the California Institute of Technology's biology division, speaking at a Resources for the Future forum, said that decisions must be made about man's genetic future because:

Genetic knowledge we have attained "can be applied to directing our own evolutionary futures," but we shall "fail miserably unless it is done with more wisdom than so far demonstrated."

**Something Must Happen**

"With present rates of population growth, something will have to happen before too many generations." Questions to be answered "will be far beyond science in their implications."

"Genetics will have a great deal to say about such things as the necessity of genetic diversity in populations, the biological consequences of in-

terpopulation mixing and the effect of mutation rates that will result if exposure to artificial radioactivity is significantly increased over its present levels."

Dr. Beadle predicted that biochemists may, before long, be able to duplicate in test tubes the conditions under which "living" molecules arose on earth a few thousand million years ago.

Citing the recent discovery that deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is the primary genetic material, in viruses and probably in animals including man, Dr. Beadle told how this new knowledge of the stuff of the genes fills important gaps in our understanding of evolution.

**Objective Terms**

Life can now be defined in objective terms, Dr. Beadle observed, as the ability to replicate in the manner of DNA (duplication of molecules in the image of the original one) and to evolve through mutation (change of the genes) and natural selection.

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"Complete chemical and biological understanding of DNA and the chromosomes will sooner or later shake our social, political and religious life even more profoundly than the atomic bomb."

**To Keep Records**

Wallace suggested that hereditary and health records will in the future be kept of all the people of the world, listing diseases, death causes, intellectual attainments, abnormalities, the blood types of each person by families. These would not be used by a genetic Hitler, but would allow choice of marriage partners to avoid hereditary disease.

Wallace observed that world populations now increases at the rate of 48,000,000 a year and probably 30,000,000 come from areas where the income per capita is less than one-tenth that of the U. S. and where illiteracy is more than 5 per cent. These millions in the future will become the most powerful political force in the world.

The population explosion in the long run threatens Russia more than the United States, Mr. Wallace believes. He is more concerned with the increasing lack of opportunity for these rapidly breeding people to demonstrate productivity in hope and joyous living than he is about possible inferior genetic quality.

**Wonders Described**

The wonders of human growth were described by Dr. Beadle as follows:

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"If we could but expose the secrets that lie locked within this minute sphere, we would have achieved complete understanding of man, including the manner of his origin from subhuman ancestors and the nature of his destiny in an evolutionary future now unknown. Not in your time or mine, nor in the time of our sons and grandsons, will we succeed in doing this. But still the progress of modern science has been so great in this direction in recent years that it is now possible to redefine some of the most basic concepts of biology in terms enormously more meaningful than those used but a few years ago.

### Realized Net Income To Farm Operators Higher

Editor's note: The following summary of agricultural developments in 1958 and the prospects for 1959 was written for UPI by Ezra Taft Benson, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. By EZRA TAFT BENSON  
Secretary of Agriculture  
(Written for UPI)

The realized net income of farm operators in 1958 rose about 20 per cent above 1957 to the highest point in five years.

The prices that farmers received for their products averaged five per cent above 1957 and were also the highest in five years.

The value of farm assets, the proportion of farms owned by their operators and the farm standard of living were all higher in 1958 than ever before.

The Agricultural Act of 1958 provides more freedom for corn, cotton and rice producers to plant, market, compete and make their own decisions. Corn producers took advantage of the act to vote almost 3 to 1 in favor of eliminating corn acreage allotments and accepting realistic price supports in the referendum of Nov. 25.

**Sounder Legislation Lacking**

The national wool program, the special milk program, the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act were all extended by legislation in 1958. Nothing was done, however, to provide sounder legislation for wheat, tobacco and peanuts.

New emphasis is being placed on the conservation reserve. If preliminary indications are borne out, there will be almost as many acres in the conservation reserve in 1959 as there were in both the acreage and conservation reserves in 1958.

In short, 1958 was generally a year of sound, if limited agricultural progress. What about prospects in 1959?

Because of record supplies, there will probably be some decline in agricultural prices and income from the improved 1958 position. Even so, realized net income could still be the second highest since 1953. Total farm production in 1958, including crops and livestock, was about eight per cent higher than ever before. Output of crops alone was more than 1/10th above the previous record. High production is likely again in 1959, barring a severe drought.

**Record Carryovers**

Wheat and feed grains will have record carryovers in 1959. However, the cotton carryover is down sharply from the 1956 peak, and a further reduction is expected in the 1959 carryover. Rice stocks also will be cut again. As regards dairy products, government stocks are presently at the lowest point in

### Forestry Leaders Speak at Conference Opening Centennial

Corvallis - More than a dozen of the Northwest's and the nation's top forestry leaders will speak at the Centennial Forestry Conference at Oregon State college, Feb. 20 and 21.

Theme will be "The Next Hundred Years in Forestry" with speakers outlining what the decades ahead will bring in forest management, engineering, and products utilization. The conference is one of the major opening events of the Oregon Centennial Year program. It is open to the public.

Foresters are expected to attend from throughout western United States and Canada.

**Conference Plans**

Plans for the conference are under the direction of the Oregon State college school of forestry staff. Dean Henry J. Vaux of the University of California will be conference leader and will be opening and closing speaker at the meetings.

Research needs in the years ahead will be previewed by Robert W. Cowlin, director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, and Thomas Vaughan, director, Oregon Historical Society, will trace the background of Northwest forestry and forest industries.

Population pressures and their effects on forestry in the years ahead will be discussed by Charles A. Sprague, former governor of Oregon and now publisher of the Oregon Statesman, Salem; Thomas J. Williams, superintendent of Crater Lake National Park; and Reed W. Bailey, director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah.

Ervin L. Peterson, assistant secretary of agriculture, will be speaker for the annual Oregon State college forestry Fernhopper banquet the night of Feb. 21.

### New Dehydrator Aids Processors

Washington - A new dehydrator that features fast, uniform food drying has been developed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced here.

It promises to save hours in drying time in addition to turning out a better product. The new dryer also solves the problem of time-consuming removal of the wood splinters that sometimes contaminate foods dried on wooden trays, USDA scientists said.

Consisting mainly of a broad, endless, moving wire mesh belt that forms a trough, the dehydrator is expected to contribute to commercial use of two new processes—dehydrefreezing and dehydrocanning. It assures rapid as well as uniform drying of the food. A product that is uniformly dried will retain its shape uniformly when water or moisture is added, USDA scientists said.

Several companies have adopted the dryer which was developed at the USDA's Western Utilization Research and Development Division in Albany, Calif.

### Foresters Speak at Conference Opening Centennial

Corvallis-Hog production is on the upswing, both in Oregon and across the nation, reports Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Oregon hog farmers produced 19 per cent more pigs in 1958 than in 1957. Marks found as he studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture. The 1958 spring pig crop in the state was 8 per cent larger than a year earlier. And the fall crop was nearly a third larger than the previous fall, making it the largest fall pig crop in Oregon in the last 15 years, Marks said.

Nationally, farmers produced 8 per cent more pigs last year than in 1957 and only one per cent less than in 1955—a year of heavy production and falling pork prices.

Right now, it looks like 1959 will continue the upward trend, Marks added. A recent USDA survey of hog producers over the nation indicated they intend to farrow 12 per cent more sows during the six months from Dec. 1, 1958 to June 1, 1959, than during the same period a year ago.

**Larger Crop Expected**

If the nation's farmers carry out these intentions, and the number of pigs per litter equals the 10-year average, the 1959 U.S. spring pig crop would be 13 per cent larger than last spring and the largest since 1951, Marks pointed out.

Oregon farmers intend to expand even more, planning to farrow nearly one-third more sows during the six-month period than during the same period a year earlier, Marks said.

The large Oregon increase will have little effect on the national supply of pork, however. Marks added, since the state produces only about one-third of the pork used by Oregon housewives. The rest is shipped in from other states, and local hog-market prices tend to follow corn-belt market levels.

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several years.

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