



OFFICERS OF THE OREGON HEREFORD ASSOCIATION were caught talking things over during the recent Klamath County portion of the annual tour. Pictured here, left to right, are Norman Jacob, Merrill, vice president; Herb Chandler, past president of Baker; Lawrence Horton of Klamath Falls, another past president; Dick Richards, secretary, of Warren. The picture was snapped at the Horton Ranch, Poe Valley.

Life Getting Easier For Farmers In Russia Today

Editor's Note: Soviet Russia recently announced, with much fanfare, a "new" farm policy as part of its announced aid to catch up with, and surpass, U.S. production in all fields. Just what is this policy and what will it mean to the average Russian farmer? How does that Russian farmer live in comparison with his American counterpart? A veteran Washington agricultural reporter gives the answers in this dispatch.

By BERNARD BRENNER
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Ivan, the Soviet farmer, eats black bread and potatoes while American farmers eat meat and vegetables.

Ivan and most of his friends on Soviet collective farms have never had running water or electricity in their homes. In a Communist state which builds hydrogen bombs, jet airliners and sputniks, most farmers regard indoor plumbing as a luxury they hope to enjoy—some day.

Ivan has seen automobiles. The manager of his collective farm drives one. But Ivan has never been able to afford a car and doesn't expect to own one anytime soon.

In spite of a standard of living most Americans would consider low and drab, however, Ivan is probably happier today than in many years, in the opinion of U.S. government experts on Soviet agriculture.

Due to various important government decrees aimed at easing controls and boosting market prices in Russia, these U.S. experts believe most Soviet collective farmers can count on making more money this year.

The latest decree abolished a complicated government procurement price schedule under which collectives were required to deliver a large part of their production to the state at artificially low prices.

In its place, the decree sets up a system of uniform fixed prices for all sales to the state. On a few "showplace" farms which had been earning bonuses for over-quota production this reform may not be popular, but for the average collective it will mean more income.

Prices will be fixed by geographic zones, taking into consideration factors like farm costs, labor productivity, and the need for building up capital reserves. Experts here said the new regulation "even gives some recognition to the law of supply and demand" by allowing prices to rise or fall in response to sharp ups and downs in produc-

tion. Another significant feature of the decree wiped out the "arrears" accounts against many collectives which had failed to meet government delivery quotas in past years. These accounts had reached "considerable proportions" despite a similar slate-cleaning action in 1953-54, experts said.

These moves add up to a "potentially important improvement in Soviet agriculture," one specialist said here. They are part of a pattern of concessions to Soviet farmers that began after the death of Stalin in 1953.

One reason for easing the Communist grip on the Soviet farmer was the demand for increased food and fiber production. Another, experts believe, was a feeling in Moscow that the rigid control and exploitation of farmers under Stalin had weakened the drive to "export" Communism to underdeveloped nations where peasants make up a majority of the population.

Even with the recently-eased regulations, many of the features of the collective system which irked peasants most remain in effect.

The Soviet farmer works in a labor "brigade" assigned to specific farm tasks. If some brigade members loaf on the job, the result is less production and less income for the hard-working man or woman.

Officials here can only guess about the typical Soviet farmer's income because Russian figures are scanty and often unreliable. Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.), visiting some of the best collectives in Siberia last year, was told farm family income there ranged from 15,000 to 20,000 rubles a year. At a "realistic" exchange rate this would equal — at best — \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year for the best farmers on the most efficient farms.

But the thing to remember, specialists here said, is that for most Soviet farmers life is better today than it was in the past and more improvements are coming.

Just how much improvement there will be is an open question. The average Soviet farmer today produces enough to feed himself and three or four others. The average American farmer produces enough for himself and 20 to 22 others.

One expert here believes the new concessions will make Communism more popular with farmer Ivan, and spur him to step up production. But this same expert believes the changes have not yet gone far enough to provide a permanent cure for the built-in disadvantages of the collective way of life on the farm.

Greed Blamed By Islander For Most Of World's Woes

By DOUGLAS DILTZ
United Press International

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — "Civilized" nations of the world must learn to live with the brotherly-love attitude of the South Sea island people or risk ultimate nuclear catastrophe.

This admonition to the "outside world" came from the 73-year-old patriarch of a remote Pacific isle, who doubts that civilization can change its dangerous ways in time to avert disaster.

"Man on outside is too greedy," said big, husky Parkin Christian. "All trouble comes from this. Man not satisfied. Always wants more . . . what other man got."

He said that on his home island of Pitcairn there is not only a lack of desire to "grumble and fight," but "no time for it."

"We have to work too hard," explained the 6-foot-3, 225-pound great-great grandson of Fletcher Christian, the man who led the "mutiny of the Bounty" against English Capt. William Bligh in 1789. The mutineers took refuge in Pitcairn where they intermarried with the natives.

"We have to live mostly on our own products," said Parkin. "Our only income is from selling wood carvings and other handicrafts to passing ships. But we don't fight. It is a waste of time and always brings bad."

Christian is a living example of what he preaches. He recently retired as chief magistrate of Pitcairn with a record of never having sent a single person to jail in all his years on the bench.

"Too busy on Pitcairn to do crime," he pointed out. "Have a policeman but he's the good-for-nothingest man on earth."

GIRLS PREFER . . .

NEW YORK (UPI) — American teen-age girls prefer tooth paste to tooth powder, deodorants to anti-perspirants, bobby pins to hair pins and liquid shampoo to lotion and cream varieties, according to a report from a national magazine. (Seventeen).

"We have one jail. It is full once in a while . . . when they go in to sweep," he adds with a smile on his Polynesian face. "We don't worry. Never have much trouble. Things mostly peaceful."

When asked what, then, were his duties as chief magistrate, Christian replied: "Nothing worth talking about . . . kept records of births and deaths . . . gave death warrants and put marriages together."

Christian said 153 Anglo-Polynesians now inhabit the hilly, two-by-three-mile island. Some are descended from Americans who moved to Pitcairn some generations ago. The island is ruled by the British governor in Fiji, some 3,000 miles away.

Christian came to the United States to attend the Seventh-Day Adventists' World Conference in Cleveland, and was interviewed on his way back to his island home.

His wife died 18 years ago and his only son now is married and lives in New Zealand. The old patriarch lives in a small wooden house with a corrugated iron roof. One-third of Pitcairn's population bears the name of Christian, so he really isn't lonely.

Religion is the key to the life of the people on Pitcairn. They believe ardently in the Bible and adhere to it closely.

"You got to believe Bible and live it," said Christian. "It's the only way to stop the fighting and learn to live together."

Police Crack

Down On Flippers

SACRAMENTO, (UPI) — Increased enforcement against motorists throwing lighted cigarettes or cigar stubs upon rural highways is promised by the California Highway Patrol.

Patrol Commissioner B. R. Caldwell sent a memo to all field commands emphasizing the potential danger of fire along the highways during the dry months and calling for stepped up enforcement against one of the chief causes of field and forest fires.

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