

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXII, No. 21

Section 1

January 31, 1939

COTTON SURPLUS

Senators representing the cotton-producing states, assisted by experts from the Department of Agriculture, were searching yesterday for a solution to an acute problem facing the nation's major exportable farm commodity, says a report in the New York Times. These legislators turned from the relief appropriation to their sectional problem to find that their part of the farm situation already had reached an emergency phase. Back of it was the continually piling up of loan cotton, already amounting to nearly 11,000,000 bales, calling for further acreage reduction or other drastic steps either to remove the drag of this surplus from the market, or to recapture the country's shrinking foreign market for the staple. The group of southerners was called together by Senator Smith of South Carolina to discuss his new bill providing a plan to reduce the present heavy surplus.

WHEAT TAXES, FREIGHT RATES

A group of wheat growers recommended to the Agriculture Department yesterday that processing taxes be re-enacted and freight rates on farm products "adjusted," says an Associated Press report. The recommendations, considered at a conference last week of about fifty growers from many states, were addressed by R. M. Evans, Agricultural Adjustment Administrator. Both President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau have said recently that they are opposed to the imposition of a processing levy, but Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has advocated the tax. "It is not anticipated that loans and conservation payments will enable the grower to achieve parity income at all times," the recommendation said. "Therefore, it will be necessary that parity payments be provided in years of low prices. It is recommended that in order to provide sufficient funds for parity, a processing tax be levied so that the commodity will pay its own way." Freight rate adjustments were suggested to correct "faulty distribution."

FARM PRICE INDEX DOWN

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics said yesterday the government index of farm prices dropped to 94 percent of the prewar level in mid-January, compared with 96 on December 15 and with 102 on January 15 a year ago. The bureau attributed the decline principally to a sharp break in egg prices and a greater than seasonal decline in prices of dairy products. (A.P.)

Conservation The Scientific Monthly (February) contains an item
Education on conservation teaching by Carroll L. Fenton. Review-
 ing papers at the recent meeting of the American Nature
Study Society, it says in part: "Conservation education which takes
exhibits and demonstrations into the village and country schools was
described by John C. Caldwell, of Tennessee. Mr. Caldwell has a car,
a trailer and a tent; he can hold a meeting in a town or stop to work
with children by the roadside. Tennessee's trailer educational service
has visited 350 schools and held 600 meetings. Each visit is intended
to begin a conservation project in which teachers and children cooperate.
Once such a project is begun, there is no need for a law to force the
teaching of conservation."

Electrified American farms now are being electrified at the rate
Farm Survey of about 200,000 a year, a far more rapid acceleration
 than was recorded in all the years prior to the depres-
sion, a survey by the magazine Steel reveals. In 1924 only 204,780
farms, as classified by the Census Bureau, were using electricity sup-
plied by a central or commercial source. By 1929 the number had more
than doubled to 576,168. The depression slowed the movement so that in
1933 there were only 4,100 new installations. But the number has in-
creased year by year, until at least 1,460,000 farms now have electri-
city supplied by commercial or government-sponsored companies. (Press.)

Sugar Cane "Two new disease-resistant varieties of sugar cane,
for Sirup known so far as CP 29/116 and Co.290, seem likely to lead
 to a restoration of sugar-cane growing for sirup for home
and farm use in the coastal plains areas of South Atlantic states," says
the Country Gentleman (February). "Formerly an important source of
sirup in the South, the sugar-cane crop was invaded some years ago by
mosaic disease. In the spring of 1937 the Extension Service of South
Carolina co-operated with plant breeders of the United States Depart-
ment of Agriculture in introducing these two new sugar-cane varieties
which combine disease resistance with desirable sirup-making qualities.
It is probable that these new varieties will largely replace other
disease-tolerant varieties now grown."

"Paths to Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, in his
Plenty" book "Paths to Plenty," published last week, assails
 totalitarian charges that democracy is doomed, and urges
all clergymen to redefine religion in terms of general welfare. "De-
mocracy is on trial today," the Secretary writes. "It has been chal-
lenged in this country and the whole world. Organized violence, dis-
regarding legal rights, moral rights and individual rights threatens
to destroy the democratic ideal. Those who advocate the rule of force
ridicule democracy. They say democracy does not work. They say that

"Paths to Plenty" (continued)

only through discipline imposed from above can there be any security for the common people. Even in this country, where we have never known anything but democracy, this dangerous doctrine is beginning to be heard... We Americans must not and will not let the rule of force replace the rule of law. But if we are going to succeed, our democracy must be efficient and it must have purpose. It is vital that the wills and hearts of all the people of the United States be captured by the doctrine of the general welfare in the capitalistic-democratic sense of the term. We should seek it more enthusiastically, more efficiently, and more righteously under our set-up than do the Nazis and Communists under theirs." (Washington Post, January 28.)

Senate, January 27. The Senate continued debate on the relief bill. The McKellar amendment to increase the amount from \$725,000,000 to \$875,000,000 was defeated by a vote of 46 to 47. The following committee amendments were agreed to: Striking out the clause which limits the scope of the civil service provision; Prohibiting employees paid from this appropriation from attempting to influence the vote of other such employees; Requiring that relief employees be American citizens. The committee amendment regarding hosiery mills was agreed to after being amended to read as follows: "...no funds herein appropriated shall be used by any Federal agency to establish mills or factories which would manufacture for sale articles or materials in competition with existing industries." Messrs. Connally, Hayden, Adams, and McKellar discussed briefly the provision regarding allocations of relief funds to Federal departments. Mr. Thomas of Okla. discussed S. 1057 (introduced the same day) for the regulation and stabilization of agricultural and commodity prices through the regulation and stabilization of the value of the dollar...; to Com. on Agriculture and Forestry.*

The House was not in session.

Items in Appendix: Address by John Napier Dyer at Vincennes, Ind., "Farm Buying Power".

Senate, January 28. The Senate passed H. J. Res. 83, making appropriations for relief and work relief. The following amendments were agreed to: Prohibiting politics in relief (amended). Increasing amount available for allocation to Federal projects from \$83,000,000 to \$93,000,000. \$3,000,000 of this authorization was later earmarked for the Railroad Retirement Board. Providing that if the employees under subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of section 1 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938 are exempted from the civil-service proviso, employees under sub-section (3) shall also be exempted. This would enable the conference report to permit

*Mr. Barbour submitted an amendment he intends to propose to the First deficiency bill to add \$200,000 for Dutch elm disease eradication.

Senate, January 28 (continued)

Farm Security Administration employees to be placed under civil service in case the conferees should reinstate the House proviso regarding employees in certain other departments. Mr. Russell and others spoke in opposition to the committee amendment which provided for striking out the proviso to eliminate wage differentials, but the committee amendment was agreed to. Messrs. Adams, Glass, McKellar, Hayden, Byrnes, Hale, and Townsend were appointed Senate conferees on the joint resolution.

Messrs. Nye, LaFollette, Murray, O'Mahoney, Schwartz, Gillette, Johnson of Colo., Frazier, Gurney, Bulow, Thomas of Okla., Lee, Norris, Wiley, Reed, McNary, Capper, Lundeen, Shipstead, and Mrs. Caraway jointly submitted an amendment which they intend to propose to H.R.2868, the First Deficiency Appropriation Bill, to increase from \$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000 the item for insect-pest and plant-disease control.

The Senate received from the Labor Department a proposed bill to require reports by contractors and subcontractors concerning wages, value of materials, and employment; ref. to Com. on Education and Labor.

The Senate adjourned until Wednesday, February 1.

The House was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Plastics Business Week (January 28) reports that interests from Coffee in South America have developed "coffee plastic" as the first fruit of a program for the development of non-beverage uses for the annual 4,000,000-bag coffee surplus. The item says in part: "Most remarkable feature of coffee plastic is the fact that it is wholly the product of unroasted coffee beans. Additives are substantially zero, because the bean itself furnishes bulk material, plasticizers, and dyes in a full range of colors. Since the beans are not roasted in the production process, the plastic has no odor. Most comforting feature, from the point of view of the domestic plastics industry, is the fact that there will be no effort whatever to introduce coffee plastic to the North American market. ...Coffee plastics will be manufactured into South American products for South Americans. Contemplated products include a flooring to be produced in tile-like squares about one foot or so on a side, an insulating and acoustical wallboard, a roofing material, and all the wide range of molded products to which synthetic plastics have been adapted. Since coffee plastic has good dielectric strength for all electric currents except those beyond the usual radio frequencies, it is expected to find a large field in electric fixtures, radio parts, and radio cabinets. During the synthesizing of plastics from the beans, it is anticipated that valuable byproducts will be recovered--among them a 'drying oil' similar to linseed, a fertilizer which also acts as a growth agency for desirable soil bacteria, vitamin D for both human and animal consumption, a colorful series of vegetable dyes, and, of course, caffeine."

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Vol. LXXII, No. 22

Section 1

February 1, 1939

CIVIL SERVICE EXTENSION

A seven-man committee headed by Associate Justice Stanley F. Reed of the Supreme Court was appointed by President Roosevelt yesterday to study ways of extending the Civil Service to professional, scientific and certain administrative positions in the Federal Government. In an Executive order establishing the committee, the President also modified an order issued last June by which the merit system was extended to thousands of employees in hitherto exempt agencies. As modified, the order exempts, pending the special committee's study, certain administrative, technical and scientific positions. The first order still applies to approximately 45,000 government employees, whose positions will be brought under the Civil Service system today. Mr. Roosevelt estimated that an additional 5,000 will be temporarily exempted by the modified order he issued yesterday. (Baltimore Sun.)

FARM LEADERS NOT AGAINST CROP CONTROL

Four farm leaders have declared in a statement recently that there was little opposition to crop control at a meeting of farm and business representatives called last Thursday by the United States Chamber of Commerce. Signers of the statement were C. V. Gregory, associate publisher of Wallaces' Farmer, Des Moines; John Vesecky, president of the Farmers' Union; and O. O. Wolf and W. R. Ogg, officials of the American Farm Bureau Federation. They said that a number of business spokesmen, and nearly all farm representatives at the conference agreed that as long as business and labor control production, agriculture has little choice but to do likewise. The chamber, in a formal statement, said that no attempt was made at the conference "to arrive at any agreement on any subject." (Washington Post.)

TOBACCO ACT CONSTITUTIONAL

The 1935 federal tobacco inspection act was held constitutional recently by the Supreme Court. The measure provides for federal inspection of tobacco sold at designated markets, provided this is approved in a referendum by the growers who sell on the market. Approval of two-thirds of those voting is required. Tobacco ready for auction at warehouses is examined by the federal inspector, who then places the government grade upon it. The legislation was designed by Congress to stabilize tobacco prices. Operators of four tobacco warehouses at Oxford, N.C., challenged the legislation. (A.P.)

Australian Wool Trade The Pastoral Review (Melbourne, December 16) says editorially: "Great interest has been aroused by the signing of the Anglo-American trade treaty, especially as in providing for freer trade between the two nations the import duties upon woolen apparel entering the United States have been considerably reduced. Indirectly the Australian woolgrower will benefit from this increased trade, as it will obviously lead to greater activity on the part of Yorkshire in primary markets, and, quite apart from its actual terms the treaty is most important because it demonstrates that the United States is prepared to co-operate more freely with other nations than she has done in the past. Australia was not directly represented at the recent conferences, but, nevertheless, hopes are aroused that the policy now begun will ultimately lead to a treaty between America and our country..."

1938 Forest Fire Losses For every acre damaged by fire in 1938 within the 158 national forests, according to the forest fire report for that year by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 946 escaped injury. Only 77 fires, or slightly more than one-half of one percent of the fires on the 158 national forests in 1938, burned more than 300 acres. A total of 13,404 fires was reported in 1938, an increase of about 2,000 over 1937, and nearly 3,000 more than the annual five-year average from 1933 to 1937. Most of the increase was in man-caused fires, and nearly all of that increase was reported in the central Mississippi Valley States and in the southern States. Man-caused fires comprised 57 percent of all those started in 1938, an increase of six percent over 1937, but a decrease of two percent from the annual five-year average of 1933-37. The total 1938 burn was 219,178 acres, or 1,057 acres per million acres protected. This was only 69 percent of the annual burn of 1,520 acres per million during the five-year period 1933-37. Dry weather was largely responsible in 1938. The decrease in burned acreage is attributed to increased efficiency of fire fighting forces, better equipment, more man power, and better facilities such as roads, telephone lines, and lookout towers. A great deal of assistance has been given by the CCC, not only in improving transportation and communication systems on the public forests, but in helping to fight fires which occur. (American Lumberman, January 28

Timber Survey American Forests (February) contains an editorial on the timber survey and a summary, "The Nation's Timber Stand," by Raymond D. Garver, Forest Service. An editor's note on the article says: "For the past eight years the United States Forest Service has been taking an inventory of the forest resources of the country. Calling for field examinations, cruising and mapping almost one-third of the land area of the nation, the task is a herculean one but justified by the need of reliable information with which to deal intelligently with our greatest renewable natural resource. Today

the field inventory or Timber Survey, as it is officially known, has been completed for three important forest regions of the country--the South, the Lake States and the Pacific Northwest. The first over-all summary of the Survey's findings for these regions was presented to the Society of American Foresters at its annual meeting by Raymond D. Garver, director of the Survey. Because of its widespread interest and its importance as an accurate picture of forest resources in these regions, Mr. Garver's summary is here presented in extracted form."

House, The House agreed to H. Res. 65, authorizing con-
January 30 tinuance of the investigation of the Select Committee on
 Conservation of Wildlife Resources. Mr. Robertson ex-
tended his remarks in the Record "to give a bird's-eye view of wildlife
conservation in the United States."

Messrs. Taylor of Colorado, Woodrum of Virginia, Cannon of Missouri, Ludlow, Thomas S. McMillan, Snyder, O'Neal, Johnson of West Virginia, Taber, Wigglesworth, Lambertson, and Ditter were appointed House conferees on H.J.Res. 83, the relief bill.

The House received three supplemental estimates of appropriation for the Department of Agriculture, totaling \$280,000 for the fiscal year 1939 and \$400,000 for the fiscal year 1940 (H.Doc.143); to Com. on Appropriations.

The House received from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture a draft of a proposed bill to amend section 8 of the act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. 487) regarding the administration of oaths to expense accounts; to Com. on Expenditures in the Executive Departments.

The Senate was not in session.

Items in Appendix: Address by Assistant Secretary of State Sayre, "Foreign Trade Policies and the Cotton Planter." Extension of remarks of Mr. Cochran containing tables, "United States Favorable Trade Balance Shown..." Address by Frank Knox, "The Farm Problem." Telegrams from Florida farmers requesting amendment of the Sugar Act of 1937. Extension of remarks of Mr. Bryson, criticizing the transfer of Soil Conservation Service area headquarters from Spartanburg, S.C. Address by Mr. Whittington before Ohio Valley Conservation and Flood Control Congress, "The Task Ahead in National Flood Control." Extension of remarks of Mr. Gearhart opposing importation of farm products. Extension of remarks of Mr. Hobbs, "Protection for Domestic Producers of Oil-Bearing Materials."
(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Sugar Beet Farm Implement News (January 26) contains an address
Machinery on sugar beet machinery investigations, by Prof. H.B.
 Walker, University of California. He says: "The studies
of sugar beet machinery initiated in 1931 as a cooperative project between
the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering and the California Agricultural
Experiment Station have been continued during the past year. The problem

Sugar Beet Machinery (continued)

is now being more vigorously attacked due to a substantial grant for this work provided by the United States Beet Sugar Association. The objective of the work is to reduce the peak labor requirements during the Spring for thinning and hoeing and later in the season for harvesting. Efforts are being directed toward the mechanization of these operations. From 75 to 90 man-hours of labor are required to produce an acre of sugar beets in California. In other sections of the United States where the growing season is shorter, 100 to 125 man-hours are necessary to grow this crop. When one considers that on the average 6 to 12 man-hours are required to produce a ton of beets the importance of the labor problem is evident...S.W. McBirney of U.S.D.A., and a co-leader in these investigations, has built a chain drop single seed ball planter. Also under test is an experimental disc opener cell type single seed ball planter developed by E. M. Mervine, U.S.D.A., Fort Collins, Colo., who is a project cooperator..."

Ill. Hybrid Prairie Farmer (January²⁸) reports: "In the 1938
Corn Tests Illinois official performance tests hybrid corn out-yielded the open pollinated varieties used as checks by 15.5 bushels per acre...according to Prof. George Dungan and R.R. Copper, University of Illinois...Yield of sound commercial corn was not the only basis used for valuing the hybrids. Percentage of plants erect at harvest time was strongly in favor of hybrids, showing that hybrids are 13.2 percent superior in this respect on the average. On all 10 fields they showed better than the open pollinated. The tests show that corn rootworms were the only insects causing damage to any of the test fields. Data on lodging caused by these insects showed many, but not all, hybrids above the average in resistance. A combination of Stewart's Disease and Diplodia stalk rot played havoc in some localities..."

"Jobs for All" Co-operation of labor, industry and Government for "democratic economic planning" offers "the most feasible long-time approach to jobs for all," Mordecai Ezekiel, economic adviser to the Agriculture Department, said recently in discussing his new book "Jobs for All". The Government, he said, should underwrite "the resulting programs of expansion," and he suggested a "framework" on which to build a program for concerted industrial expansion. This framework would include a national income goal, expanding from \$80,000,000 annually, to be attained by Government co-ordination of management, labor and consumer to increase production, income and consumption. (Washington Post.)

Bedspreads The February Consumers' Digest contains "Buying Bedspreads," condensed from a study by Bess M. Viemont, textiles and clothing division, Bureau of Home Economics.

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Section 1

February 2, 1939

MARKETING CONFERENCE Marketing experts from the East and Midwest studying the price of eggs at a conference at Cleveland yesterday recorded themselves as opposed to future price pegging. They approved, however, additional government purchases for relief. Summoned to discuss market stabilization by officials of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the group made its recommendations to W. D. Termohlen, director of the poultry section of the AAA. Egg producers, meeting with R. L. Cochran of the Farm Credit Administration's land bank division, debated three proposals, one of which they are expected to endorse. These were: (1) a recommendation that the Federal Government cease purchasing surplus eggs; (2) a suggestion that the government buy eggs only until the price in Chicago reaches 16 1/2 cents a dozen; (3) a recommendation that the government adopt a year-long buying program. (A.P.)

PRODUCTION CREDIT LOANS Members of the Farm Credit Administration's production system repaid loans totaling more than \$216,000,000 to the 535 production credit associations in operation, the FCA announced yesterday. These payments were \$73,000,000 above the amount of credit association loans outstanding at the beginning of the year. Credit is extended to farmers by these associations for periods ranging from four to six months to finance crops and for periods of a year or more to finance dairy cattle and range livestock. Losses on the \$1,000,000,000 lent by the associations since they were organized five years ago, plus estimated possible losses, are only a fraction more than 1 per cent, it is said, while accumulated reserves for possible future losses now amount to \$11,186,000. (New York Times.)

CIVIL SERVICE MENTAL TESTS Applying mental tests in a wider field than they heretofore have been used, the Civil Service Commission yesterday announced an examination for junior professional assistant in 22 classes of employment, where the applicants will be rated on their general knowledge as well as professional qualifications. These general tests are designed to measure aptitude for learning and ability of the candidates to adjust themselves to professional duties in the government service and while they have been used on prior occasions, it was said, they have not been required for the particular positions now under consideration. (Washington Post.)

House, The House agreed to H.Res. 66, providing \$7,500 for
Jan. 31 the Select Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources.

 The Committee on Rules reported without amendment
H.Res. 60, authorizing continuance of the Select Committee on Government
Organization (H.Rept. 14).

Mr. Peterson of Florida spoke in favor of legislation "separating
the Florida quota of sugar from the Louisiana quota, and asking that we
be given an adequate share of the cane sugar quota."

The Senate was not in session.

Items in Appendix: extension of remarks of Mr. Rankin, "The Power
Trust vs. the T.V.A.--A New Declaration of Independence"; radio address
by Mr. Patman favoring H.R. 1, taxation of chain stores; extension of
remarks of Mr. Massingale favoring the cost of production bill.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Cottonseed "Experiments recently conducted in the laboratories
Improvements of the University of Tennessee indicate the probability
 of increasing the yield of cottonseed oil in the south up
to 45,000,000 pounds annually," says an editorial in the Atlanta Consti-
tution (January 20). "A new automatic steam pressure cooker, a condi-
tioner for seed of abnormal dryness and a hydraulic plate, with enlarged
drainage capacity, are expected to increase production per ton of seed...
The oil is utilized in the manufacture of over fifty products. Linters...
are converted into dozens of manufactured products. Cottonseed hulls are
utilized as food for cattle and in the manufacture of paper. Cottonseed
meal...is used as a fertilizer...as well as...feed in cattle raising,
a fast growing southern farm industry...The industry comprises some 525
crushing plants throughout the cotton belt, representing an investment
in utilities of approximately \$67,000,000. It is therefore not to be
looked upon merely as incidental to cotton. It is vital to the south
both industrially and agriculturally. It is hoped that technical improve-
ments in manufacturing methods, which mean increased wealth to the south,
will continue to be developed."

Soybean "Any new crop which offers diversity in production
Progress and marketing is always looked upon with interest by
 farmers," says an editorial in the Nebraska Farmer (Janu-
ary 28). "When a crop offers possibilities for industrial use, as well
as for food and feed, it is more intriguing. Such is the soybean, al-
ready extensively grown in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and some other states
to the east. The crop is a legume, and from the beans, oil and meal are
extracted by heat and pressure for food, feed and industrial use. The
oil competes with other vegetable oils in cookery and is also used ex-
tensively in paint and plastic manufacture. The soybean meal is a satis-
factory high protein concentrate for livestock when properly supplemented,
and it also is used industrially for plastics and other products. In Fre-
mont (Nebraska) is the state's first soybean processing plant. It is
processing 550 bushels of soybeans daily, shipping all of them in from
Iowa..."

National Organization of the National Foods, Drugs and Cos-
Drug Board metics Board of Trade, Inc., has advanced sufficiently to
permit transaction of business, the board of directors
announced recently through Roscoe S. Conkling, vice president and gen-
eral counsel. The board is a non-profit membership corporation approved
by the State (New York) Supreme Court to act as a link between federal
agencies and manufacturers and distributors of foods, drugs and cosmetics
under new regulatory legislation. (New York Times.)

Argentine Argentina ended the year 1938 with an almost even
Foreign Trade balance between exports and imports and only a small
budgetary deficit, according to the Argentine Information
Bureau. Heavy grain shipments in 1937 provided an export balance of
750,000,000 pesos, so that the lower exports in 1938 caused no great
strain on the country's resources. A significant factor of the country's
trade has been the heavy increase in imports from the United States. In
recent months the United States has replaced Great Britain as the prin-
cipal supplier of goods to Argentina. (Press.)

Kudzu as W. H. Gregory, Alabama Extension Service, reports in
Forage the Birmingham News (January 21) that kudzu shows promise
as a forage plant in Alabama. "In a six-year average at
Auburn," he says, "kudzu produced a little more than two tons of hay per
acre annually, with the lowest yield being more than a ton and a half and
the highest yield being a little more than two tons and a half, showing
it can be counted on for hay under almost any kind of weather conditions.
Kudzu hay is a little richer in nutrients than alfalfa hay and is eaten
greedily by all classes of farm animals, both when cured for hay and when
used as a temporary pasture. It is also well adapted for use as a green
feed for poultry. Where kudzu has made good growth, erosion is stopped
and the soil is built up rapidly. At Auburn four crops of corn planted
in an area where kudzu had been plowed up averaged 34 bushels to the acre,
while corn in a companion lot, not following kudzu, made only 15 bushels.
Some farmers are under the impression that kudzu will become a pest on
their farms. As evidence that it will not, it has given no trouble to
adjoining cultivated fields at Auburn for a period of 25 years, and it
may be eradicated easily by over grazing."

Metal Film Robert W. Carter, in the Journal of Documentary Repro-
for Records duction (Fall) writes on "Metal Film for Permanent Records."
Reporting work by an industrial research corporation on
metal film, he says in part: "We have built a 35 mm. projection machine
and competent engineers have witnessed the sound and pictures reproduced,
and believe that our results are equal to standard cellulose films. The
outstanding importance of metal film for microfilm records is universally
acknowledged. Metal film is permanent, fadeless and practically indestruct-
ible. Metal film does not weigh any heavier than cellulose acetate film.
Metal film is positively incombustible and...eliminates all insurance
costs, together with expensive storage..."

Grading Aids I. W. Ringer, Seattle Retail Meat Dealers Association, is author of "Government Grading Helps Meat Sales" in *American Cattle Producer* (February). He says: "For more than twenty years the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been working on the grading of beef and other classes of meat. The work has been done in answer to the needs of homemakers, meat retailers and others interested in the industry. The need for some sort of a yardstick for measuring the quality of meat has become increasingly prevalent during recent years, with both the consuming public and the dealer growing more keenly aware of the benefits to be derived from merchandising meat which has been inspected under United States Government supervision and which has been carefully graded as to quality. Government graded meats give every retailer and homemaker this yardstick. While much has been said commercially about the economical cuts of meat, little has been said of the grades which denote quality...The United States compulsory grading system has been in operation in Seattle for four years and four months... Seattle has the highest consumption of meat, per capita, of any city in the United States...I am convinced that the consumers are going to continue to demand government graded meats on an increasing scale."

California An editorial in *Pacific Rural Press* (January 21)
Land Grant says that the University of California has received a grant of land for an experimental farm, the Wolfskill Grant, given to it by a John R. Wolfskill, who received the land in 1842. "The Wolfskill tract is interesting in many ways," says the editorial in part. "It produces the earliest apricots in the state. It is almost completely frost free and it has always been farmed without irrigation. Mr. Wolfskill brought in two date palm trees and set them out. These great trees bear dates and are probably the oldest and most northerly date trees of the state. There are pecan trees a hundred feet tall; and some great olives which Mr. Wolfskill stipulated must be preserved and cared for by the university. In this rich and favorable soil the university is going to make fruit experiments with rootstocks, better tops, newer varieties. The Wolfskill family found a generous living on this land and Mr. Wolfskill's vision that the university might use the land to bring better varieties and better income to all farmers of the state is in fair way to become a dream realized."

New Purple "New varieties of purple raspberries are rather un-
Raspberry common, but the Geneva (N.Y.) Experiment Station has introduced one recently, the Marion," says L. M. Cooley, in *Country Gentleman* (February). "Marion is about a week later in fruiting season than any other purple raspberry variety of present day culture, and was selected partly for that reason...Some consumers will put off making their purchases until too late. Plants of Marion are strong growers and hardy...The canes are upright and sturdy and support their heavy crop well. Marion seems highly drought resistant, too. Limited experience indicates that the variety may be immune to mosaic...Fruits of Marion are of good quality but slightly tart. This, however, is a desirable trait when they are used for preserving."

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Section 1

February 3, 1939

FLOOD CONTROL IN VERMONT

A satisfactory settlement of the controversy over flood control in New England is in sight, Senator Walsh of Massachusetts said last night. "The crux of the matter is the question of the consent by the states, and the form which that consent shall take," he said. "The Federal Government, under the flood control act of 1938, is empowered to go into any state with or without the state's consent, and construct flood control works...The Administration, very properly, has been unwilling to go ahead in Vermont, or anywhere else, without the consent of the state...The request of the Federal Government for exclusive jurisdiction is not a new policy. Practically all the states have from time to time given the Federal Government exclusive jurisdiction over such land as might be occupied for the erection of marine hospitals, postoffices, etc..." (New York Times.)

CATTLE RUSTLING

As evidence that the old "frontiers" of the United States have not yet disappeared, the Senate passed a bill yesterday to penalize the transportation of stolen cattle in interstate commerce. The bill was aimed at cattle rustlers in the West who, Senator McCarran, the sponsor, said, had adapted the speedy transportation of today to a crime, confined largely in the past to state jurisdiction. The bill carries a maximum penalty provision of \$5,000 fine, or five years in the penitentiary, or both. (New York Times.)

FARM AID CONFERENCES

While dairymen and farmers from the Middle West testified at a public hearing on the "cost of production" bill designed to replace the present farm act, Secretary Wallace and chairmen of Congressional agriculture committees yesterday continued their unsuccessful struggle with the Nation's cotton surplus problem. "There were as many views as there were men present," the Secretary of Agriculture declared as he emerged from the three-hour executive conference. He said he listened "with great respect," but offered no plan of his own and did not think any "real consolidation of ideas" had been accomplished. (Washington Post.)

E.P.Q. 1938 Of the thousands of preparations studied by chemists
Annual Report and entomologists of the Department, a combination of
 nicotine and bentonite (a natural clay found in the West)
seems most likely to meet the American fruit grower's need for something
that will kill apple worms. In his annual report to Secretary Wallace,
Lee A. Strong, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine,
outlines the progress of laboratory and field work. For several years
one of the Bureau's main efforts has been to find organic substitutes
for the inorganic insecticides. Organic insecticides, other than nico-
tine, that are giving increasingly good results are those containing
rotenone. Every year the Bureau discovers new ways for more effective
uses of substances long known to have insecticidal value. Two of these
new methods are practical for the protection from the corn ear worm of
sweet corn--especially the early varieties that have a very high market
value. They consist of fumigating or of oiling the ears as soon as the
silks have wilted. Another new line of attack on an insect pest is the
feeding of phenothiazine to animals. It renders the manure unfavorable
for the development of the larvae of such insects as horn flies. Recent
tests have proved conclusively that cotton yields in Arizona are sub-
stantially increased by treatments that kill small sucking insects in-
festing the plants. To protect more than a million acres of valuable
white pine forest from blister rust, a destructive fungous disease, the
Bureau destroyed more than 75 million currant and gooseberry bushes. To
wipe out black stem rust, the Bureau scouted 40,040 acres for barberries
and cleared these bushes from 3,744 properties. Inspection of nearly
10,000,000 cultivated peach trees on more than 88,000 properties in
21 States revealed 21,523 trees with phony peach disease and 57,155 with
mosaic disease. All these infected trees have been or are being destroyed.

New Wheat Two new strains of Baart and White Federation wheat
Strains which are resistant both to stem-rust and smut have been
 developed by the California College of Agriculture and
will be distributed to growers for 1939 planting, according to Fred N.
Briggs, associate professor of agronomy. These new resistant strains
are of special interest to growers since Baart and White Federation now
comprise approximately 70 percent of all wheat grown in the state. The
new strains are to be known as White Federation 38 and Baart 38. They
were developed as part of a co-operative project between the divisions
of plant pathology and agronomy at Davis. The plant pathology division
was represented in the work by Prof. J. B. Kendrick. (California Cultivator, Jan. 28)

Bang's Control "Since 1934 the United States Bureau of Animal In-
in Michigan dustry has paid out over a million dollars in Michigan to
 carry on a fight against Bang's disease," says an editorial
in the Michigan Farmer (1/28). "Some \$234,000 in indemnities were paid to
Michigan farmers during the 1936-37 fiscal year. Up to November 7, 14,299
herds containing 98,602 head of cattle in 17 northern Michigan counties

Bang's Control in Michigan (continued)

had been tested. Fine progress has been made in the fight against this disease, but the work will come to an end May 1 of this year if our State Legislature fails to appropriate funds to match upon a 50-50 basis the amount of indemnity paid to farmers for animals slaughtered after that date. Michigan farmers profited greatly when the state became TB accredited because of the healthy demand from other states less aggressive in their program. Already areas where the Bang's disease testing has been conducted are reporting a growing and profitable business with farmers in nearby states. This demand will continue to increase as the work progresses."

Senate, February 1 The Senate agreed to the conference report on H.J. Res. 83, the relief bill. The conference committee took the following action on the bill: Senate amendments prohibiting reduction of more than 5% in W.P.A. rolls before April 1 and providing that funds be apportioned in discretion of the Administrator were retained. The amount which may be allocated to Federal departments was changed to \$88,000,000, and the proviso earmarking \$3,000,000 for the Railroad Retirement Board was stricken. The civil service provision was amended by striking out all exceptions and the language remains in its original form. The provision prohibiting the use of funds appropriated in this bill from being used to establish mills or factories in competition with existing industries was broadened to include funds appropriated in the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938. The provision prohibiting employment of aliens and providing for preference to veterans was retained (revised). The provisions designed to prevent political activities in connection with relief were retained, but the provision prohibiting solicitation of campaign contributions from Government employees was narrowed to affect only employees paid from relief funds.

On January 30, during adjournment, the Senate reported: H.R. 2762, to consolidate the internal-revenue laws; from Com. on Finance, without amendment (S.Rept. 20); and S. 90, to provide for punishment of persons transporting stolen animals in interstate commerce; from Com. on Judiciary, without amendment (H.Rept. 21).

Mr. Walsh submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to H.R. 2868, the First Deficiency Appropriation Bill, providing for use of \$3,000,000 by F.S.C.C. for diverting surplus fish; Mr. King presented a telegram from the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce, recommending that surplus agricultural commodities be sent to the earthquake-stricken of Chile.

Mr. Burke was appointed to the Special Committee to Investigate the Civil Service System. The Senate received the following petitions from state legislatures: from South Dakota, favoring enactment of a cost-of-production farm bill and the refund of processing taxes; from North Dakota, favoring a cost-of-production farm bill and work-relief projects whereby farmers can work out their feed and seed loans.

House, February 1 The House agreed to H.Res.60, continuing the Select Committee on Government Organization and giving proposals reported from this committee preferred status.

Mr. Peterson of Ga. spoke in favor of his bill (H.R.1675) to establish a national land policy and provide homesteads free of debt to farmers.

Mr. DeRouen spoke in favor of a proposed appropriation of \$80,000 for sweetpotato research.

Mr. Alexander spoke in opposition to "the further dumping here of sago and tapioca starch" from the Netherlands.

Items in Appendix: Address of Under Secretary Wilson at Jackson Day Dinner, "The A.A.A.Wheat Program." Letter from a "dirt farmer of Montana" opposing S.570, cost-of-production bill. Legislative program of the National Grange. Extension of remarks of Mr. Hobbs opposing "the unfair competition against soybean oil by foreign oils and fats."

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Tobacco Situation The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that a large part of the 1938 tobacco crop had been sold at generally lower prices than received for the 1937 crop. Flue-cured markets have closed and only a small proportion of the burley crop remains to be sold, the bureau said. Substantial proportions of the lesser type, namely fire-cured, dark air-cured, cigar leaf and all of the Maryland crop, remain unsold. Sales of flue-cured leaf up to December 31 brought an average price of 22.5 cents a pound, the bureau said. The average price for the entire crop, estimated at 788,100,000 pounds, was expected by the bureau to be between half and one cent below last year's average of 23 cents. Burley prices averaged between 19 and 20 cents, with the higher grades and qualities materially lower in price and the lower qualities considerably higher than last year, the bureau said. The bureau expressed the belief that the actual marketing of burley will be considerably less than the crop of 387,700,000 pounds estimated as of December 1. (Associated Press.)

Tri-Purpose Egg Machine The American Produce Review (February 1) contains a description of a new egg candling, grading and stamping machine. "The new machine," it says, "consists of three primary units, a rubber roller conveyor, mass candling elements, and a grading table. The 6-foot roller conveyor is so designed that the eggs are separated and rotate as they pass over a candling light box...Single egg testing may also be provided for by attaching candling lamps to the side of the conveyor. After the eggs pass the candling unit they pass the totals counter, thus providing a record of all the eggs passing through the machine. The eggs then pass a common imprinting device, arranged to provide a brand name or mark on each egg. From the conveyor, the eggs pass to the weighing units and then into one or other of the four grading trays. Oversized and undersized eggs pass into separate trays. One of the important features of this machine is that each egg remains at rest during the weighing time and is not moved from scale to scale. In this way accuracy is enhanced and the risk of breakage of thin-shelled eggs is eliminated."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 25

Section 1

February 6, 1939

"DEMOCRACY IN ACTION"

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace last night appealed to the nation not to take our American abundance for granted, says a report in the Washington Times-Herald. The Federal Government must join hands with the farm and city worker to conserve American resources--human, natural and economic--so that this nation is never threatened with the fate of ancient civilization whose cities are now buried in barren wastelands, he said. In the first of a series of broadcasts, on "Democracy in Action," describing Federal participation in the New York World Fair, the Agriculture Secretary said: "So long as we maintain our rich resources of men and materials, so long, above all, as we understand the overwhelming importance of interdependence, the desolation I have just been suggesting need never happen here."

TVA POWER PURCHASE

The Tennessee Valley Authority announced day before yesterday that it had reached the basis for an agreement under which the TVA and local public agencies will acquire all Tennessee electrical properties of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation for a price of \$78,600,000. It was explained the contemplated purchases would not include the water, ice or transportation properties of Commonwealth and Southern. The major operating unit of the holding company in this state is the Tennessee Electric Power Company and the major cities expected to be affected immediately are Nashville and Chattanooga. (A.P.)

CANADIAN CATTLE DUTY

Duty on live beef cattle weighing 700 pounds or more and shipped from Canada to the United States was increased on February 1 from 1 1/2 cents a pound to 3 cents, says a Canadian Press report from Ottawa. The higher duty will be continued until April 1, when it will return to 1 1/2 cents. Under the new United States-Canada trade agreement, the quota, instead of being fixed for a year, was set at 60,000 head for each quarter. As soon as Canada and Mexico together have shipped that number, the tariff is doubled until the end of the quarter.

WORLD WHEAT ESTIMATE

The Department of Agriculture estimated the 1938-39 world wheat crop day before yesterday at 4,354,000,000 bushels. This compared with 3,686,000,000 bushels last year and an average of 3,549,000,000 annually during the five years 1926-25 to 1929-30. Included were all important producing countries except Russia and China. (A.P.)

Senate, The Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2762, to con-
Feb. 2 solidate and codify the internal revenue laws. This bill
 will now be sent to the President.

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amend-
ment S. 660, to provide for reapportionment of cotton acreage allotments
not planted by farmers entitled thereto.

The Senate received a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture re-
questing legislation to authorize him to delegate certain quasi-judicial
functions to subordinates; to Com. on Judiciary.

Mr. Walsh submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to H.R.
2868, the first deficiency appropriation bill, providing \$200,000 for
Dutch elm disease eradication.

The Senate received the following petitions from state legislatures:
North Dakota, requesting establishment of a division of cooperatives in
the Department and amendments to the soil conservation act; South Dakota,
requesting enactment of the Frazier-Lemke refinancing bill, the cost of
production bill and legislation providing for refunding hog processing
taxes to farmers.

Mr. Walsh inserted in the Record a letter from Francis Willey & Co.,
top (wool) makers, of Boston, opposing S. 162, providing for labeling wool
products.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, February 6.

House, The House agreed to the conference report on H.J.Res.
Feb. 2 83, the relief bill, and concurred in the Senate amendment
 striking out the provision to limit wage differentials.

This joint resolution will now be sent to the President.

Mr. Burdick spoke in favor of H.Res. 25, to establish a Select Com-
mittee on Futures Trading to investigate and recommend further legisla-
tion.

Items in Appendix: extension of remarks of Mr. Coffee of Nebraska,
favoring H.R. 3366, the coffee seed bill; statement by N. C. Williamson
before Cotton Conference of the Farm Bureau Federation favoring amend-
ments to the agricultural adjustment act; address by Dr. Claudius T. Mur-
chison of the Cotton Textile Institute, "King Cotton Has His Back to the
Wall."

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Canadian Farm A Canadian report in the Christian Science Monitor
Readjustment says that more than 9,000 farmers participating in the
 155 local Agricultural Improvement Associations are trying
to readjust farming conditions in view of the recurrent drought seasons
in Canada's western areas, according to George Spence, director of the
Federal Government's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation program. One phase of
the work that these farmers are carrying on is correction of the mistakes
made in land settlement 30 or 40 years ago, said Mr. Spence. This will
be accomplished by assisting farmers to move to areas in which the soil
is good. Commenting on the character of weather in the Western Provinces,

Mr. Spence declared that there have been three periods of drought in western Canada since it was settled, one in the 60's, one in the 90's, and one in recent years, the last having been the worst. The Passiser report to the British Parliament over 80 years ago told of a "great central desert" on this continent. In 1875, the district was investigated again by direction of the Ottawa authorities, and a contrary report submitted. Both of these reports were accurate, Mr. Spence averred, the first having been made during a drought period and the second at a time when there was adequate rainfall.

Apple Tree Pruning E. M. Bear, in the Gardeners' Chronicle (London, January 14) contributes an item on pruning of apple trees.

It says in part: "So far no one has been entirely successful in overcoming the biennial bearing habit in varieties which are most prone to it; but we do manage to even out crops more than we used to, so so that the 'off' seasons are not quite so lean as they were. In the case of trees of bush and standard forms, a good deal may be done by pruning to secure regular bearing...The rule should be to prune lightly before the 'on' year and hard before the 'off' year...The argument is that one cannot depend on old spur systems to bear in successive years, although they may do so in the most favorable weather conditions, but that it is wiser to aim at getting a crop on 2-year-old wood in the 'of' season. The reason for pruning hard before the 'off' season is to cause the trees to make plenty of growth to be left full length or treated very lightly before the following 'on' year. As trees age, and the old spur systems become long, ungainly and weak, it is well-known to be good practice to cut them back hard and even to remove some of them altogether if the branches are very thickly studded with them. It has been shown by experiments at East Malling Research Station that the right time for such treatment, if it is desired to correct alternate-year bearing, is before the 'off' year..."

Freight Traffic Strong indications that the flight of traffic from the railroads to competing agencies of transportation is tampering off and that loss of traffic by the rail lines, due to relocation of industry and other economic changes, has become relatively static, are contained in a comprehensive statistical study by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Presenting an analysis of actual and potential rail freight traffic, as measured by production, from 1928 to 1937, inclusive, the study shows that the revenue loss to the railroads, due either to diversion of traffic or rate reductions to retain it, probably amounted by 1937 to as much as \$1,000,000,000 or more in that one year. Using 1938 production as a base at 100, the study shows that the potential tonnage declined after that year to 57.1 in 1932 and rose to 91.6 in 1937, while the actual railway tonnage after 1938 declined to 49.6 in 1932, and rose to only 78.4 in 1937. While admitting that it was difficult to convert accurately the tonnage loss into dollars each year, the bureau said one method of estimating it made the freight revenue loss to the carriers \$523,000,000 in 1937; due to diversion alone. (Wall Street Journal.)

Farmer Surplus Agriculture in the United States as well as in other countries has developed a surplus of farmers, Dr. Joseph S. Davis, director of the Food Research Institute, Stanford University, and formerly chief economist of the Federal Farm Board, says in an article in the Harvard Business Review (Winter). Dr. Davis declares there is no prospect that so large a farm population as we have can earn a satisfactory living from agriculture. Abuses in trade-union activities and public relief contribute two major barriers to the normal flow of farmers into industry, he said. The removal of such barriers is "of vital importance for the satisfactory functioning of our society and in particular for the solution of agricultural problems." He mentioned "trade-union limitations on entrance into trades and insistence on wage rates so high as to reduce wage incomes and overstimulate replacement of labor by machinery." Another factor, he said, is "a public relief system so operated that many can and do shy away from employment on terms that they do not like and lie down on the public rather than use their initiative and enterprise." (New York Times.)

Freight Rates on Grain Primary grain markets of the Middle West asked the Interstate Commerce Commission last week for lower freight rates on grain and grain products, says an Associated Press report. Mill owners in the markets--Kansas City and St. Joseph, Mo.; Leavenworth and Atchison, Kans.; Omaha, Nebr.; and Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.--contend the present rate structure is "discriminatory and prejudicial" to them. They want the commission to compel the railroads to establish rates under which it would be possible to ship grain from one to another of these markets for milling or other purposes and then ship the products on a single rate, instead of a combination of rates. Under the present rate structure, a mill owner at Omaha, in order to use grain from Kansas City and ship the products to Chicago, now must pay a combination of 6 1/2 cents and 16 cents, or 22 1/2 cents per 100 pounds. Under the proposed revision, the rate would be 16 cents. Mills located in so-called interior points in the same territory now have transit, or stopover privileges. Thus a mill at Nebraska City, Nebr., for example, can obtain grain from Kansas City and ship the products to Chicago on a 16 cent rate.

German Trade With the U.S. A Berlin wireless to the New York Times, reviewing German foreign trade figures for last year, just published, says that German imports from the United States for the old Reich alone rose to 404,600,000 marks in 1938, which was an increase of 43.5 percent over the preceding year. Exports to the United States, on the other hand, dropped to 149,300,000 marks, a decrease of 28.5 percent. The German deficit in the German-American trade balance, which a few years ago had almost disappeared and during some months had even been converted into a German export surplus, rose from 73,200,000 marks in 1937 to 255,300,000 marks last year. This is far greater than the whole 192,000,000-mark trade deficit of the old Reich for the year.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 26

Section 1

February 7, 1939

LOW-COST HOUSING

A plan for new homes to cost only 50 cents to \$1 a day was presented by the lumber industry yesterday. The dwellings, of one and two story construction, would not be of standard design but would have a dozen architectural variations. They would cost from \$2,000 to \$2,500 each. The National Lumber Manufacturers Association and the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association said they were opening the door to a new era in low-cost housing. James G. McNary, president of the lumber association, said the two groups had obtained cooperation of leading manufacturers of building materials and equipment, housing research foundations, architects, home economists and building experts. They will conduct a national small homes demonstration. (Washington Post.)

CHARACTER INVESTIGATIONS

The Civil Service Commission is preparing to extend the scope of character investigations, and to effect improvement in examining procedure that will entail the employment of specialists from outside the federal service for some tests, it was disclosed yesterday as the independent offices bill was reported to the House, carrying \$1,600,000 over the present appropriation for salaries and expenses for the commission. The commission at present investigates the character of applicants for law-enforcement positions and also for postmasters, and it was brought out in the hearings on the bill that it is planned to extend these "to practically all examinations in the administrative, technical and professional fields." A statement from the commission said that in improving examining procedures, the employment of the specialist examiners in the major scientific fields is essential. (Washington Star.)

OHIO RIVER FLOODS

The Ohio River dropped slowly from flood crests along nearly half of its length last night, while the Weather Bureau's assurance of a "big margin of safety" for Louisville, Kentucky, lifted fears in the Lower Valley, says a Cincinnati report by the Associated Press. J. L. Kendall, meteorologist at Louisville, said that with an expected top of 34 feet, six feet above flood, that city had a big margin of safety. A stage of 45 feet would cause a major disaster. The Indianapolis Weather Bureau reported that conditions along the tributary White and Wabash Rivers were "not so bad."

New 40-Inch Harvester Implement and Tractor (January 21) describes a small harvester for family farms. "The new harvester," it says, "cuts a 40-inch swath, operating from the power take-off of a one-plow tractor. One man, with a helper if the grain is bagged, is the entire harvest crew. Once over and his grain is in the bin, unless he wishes to mow the crop for a period of curing; then the harvester picks it up from swath or windrow. The new machine is patterned after its 5-foot predecessor in its ability to save lodged, weedy, tangled crops and harvest grains, clovers, sorghums, peas, soybeans, alfalfa, lespedeza and other seed crops--over 100 different crops all told. Straw is left unbroken in a windrow behind the streamlined threshing rear, where it can be picked up and hauled in with ordinary hay tools. One hundred acres of all crops to be harvested yearly, with about 40 acres ripening at one time, is the capacity rating of the new harvester. Under average conditions, the machine will cover about one acre per hour or eight acres per day. It is intended for individual ownership and will not be advocated for custom work. The new harvester takes its place as part of a complete power farming outfit, designed and priced to give the small farmer his best chance for parity with large farms in cost of production. The coming of smaller-size power equipment looms as a major contribution to the future of family-operated farms, where a comfortable living, a happy home and security are the main objectives..."

A.J.Pieters Honored "A year ago The Progressive Farmer inaugurated the custom of announcing early in each year a recognition of some one man who had rendered distinguished service to agriculture in the South as a whole," says the February issue, "together with separate awards to 'The Man of the Year' for service to the agricultural interests of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia..."

"For service to the agriculture of our Southeastern states we nominate as '1938 Man of the Year,' Dr. A. J. Pieters who has just retired from the U.S.D.A., after a record of invaluable achievement as chief of the Division of Forage Crops. We salute and nominate Dr. Pieters because of his monumental work in introducing improved lespedeza varieties in the Southern states and promoting the general acceptance of this amazing crop...Let's hear Dr. Pieters tell how Korean lespedeza got its start in America: 'Among other samples of seed planted at the Arlington Farm in 1920 was one of a new lespedeza received from Korea. This was planted in comparison with several Essary selections from Tennessee and as soon as the plants were 3 or 4 inches high it was seen that here was a remarkable find. Naturally every seed was saved and for the next 3 or 4 years from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds were produced at Arlington Farm and distributed to state agricultural experiment stations and to private co-operators. The way this plant has spread to nearly every farm from Piedmont North Carolina to Kansas and to North Central Illinois shows a real need for such a plant existed and that lespedeza filled that need adequately and well.' And not only did Dr. Pieters discover and develop new varieties of lespedeza but by speeches, bulletins and books he has made himself a missionary in its behalf, preaching everywhere its three-fold value as (1) a hay plant, (2) a pasture plant, and (3) a soil-saver and soil-builder."

House, The House agreed to the resolution to continue the
February 3 Dies Committee on Un-American Activities.
Mr. Robertson spoke in favor of reciprocal trade agree-
ments.

The House received a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture re-
questing legislation to authorize him to delegate certain quasi-judicial
functions to subordinates; to Com. on Agriculture (received in Senate
February 2).

The House adjourned until Monday, February 6.

Items in Appendix: Extension of remarks of Mr. Smith of Wash.
favoring reciprocal trade agreements. Statement of commissioner of agri-
culture, Puerto Rico, requesting larger appropriations under the Bankhead-
Jones Act.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Graduated "If farmers think the family sized farm should be
Land Taxes preserved, what do they intend to do about it?" says an
 editorial in Wallaces' Farmer (January 28). "Our home-
stead tax credit law in Iowa favors the small farm as against the large.
But many farmers, as was shown in the tenancy hearings, think more should
be done, particularly in the field of the graduated land tax...We repeat
one suggestion made in favor of a graduated land tax. No tax of this
type would be levied on improvements, only on the land itself. And this
suggestion is that no individual, ownership, partnership or corporation
should be penalized for owning as much as 1,000 acres, provided the
assessed value of the land alone is not over \$50,000. Beyond this,
heavy special taxes would be levied, in order to force the breaking up
of big estates. Under such a law, of course, present owners of large
tracts would have several years to get out from under. Loan companies
taking over farms through foreclosure would be allowed a limited time
to sell these farms without being subject to this special tax...The Iowa
tenancy committee asked that further study be made of this problem..."

Automatic Two Tennessee agricultural scientists have a new
Hay Curing prescription for making hay when the sun doesn't shine
 long enough, says a Science Service report. A tin roof
for your barn, a thermostat, a humidostat and a power-driven blower are
all the southern farmer who wants to dry his alfalfa needs to do the
trick without fear of damage to the curing feed by the elements, John
W. Weaver, Jr., of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and C.E. Wylie of the
University of Tennessee reported recently to the American Society of
Agricultural Engineers. Put the tin roof on your barn and provide an
air space beneath. On good warm days, the sun's heat will dry the air
markedly. Then pipe that air into the hay in the barn through ducts and
openings in the floor. The hay will dry out nicely. A humidostat out-
doors turns the motor on and off in accordance with the moisture con-
tent of the air, and is one control enabling automatic operation of the
system. The other control is a thermostat to turn the blower on if the
temperature in the hay mass begins to rise, with the possibility of
spontaneous combustion.

Commodity Russell G. Smith, vice-president of the Bank of
Loans for America, San Francisco, in Banking (February) in a short
Banks article, "A Commodity Loan Department," says in part:
 "Bankers who have had no experience in warehouse financing
or whose experience has been limited to loans against commodities
generally warehoused, such as grain, whiskey, cotton, wool and other
staples, often think that field warehouse receipt financing is adapt-
able only to loans against staple commodities. Frequently they are not
aware of the excellent possibilities in financing other kinds of goods
in this manner...An outstanding example of field warehouse financing is
that which is engaged in by the canning companies of this state (Calif.).
Due to the highly seasonal nature of their operations and the large
amounts of credit required, bank loans are extended primarily on a
secured basis. As it would be neither practical nor economical for the
to transport goods, a warehouse is set up on the cannery property,
cannery, often in one of the company's own buildings, and all the canned
goods pledged as security for the advances are placed under the full
control of an independent warehouseman or his agent. The variety of
commodities against which field warehouse loans can be made is almost
unlimited. We have financed such diverse items as fertilizer, gold
concentrates, olive oil, road oil, tires and tubes, scrap metals and
sheet steel."

Isolation A report from Appleton (Wisconsin) in the Paper
of Lignin Trade Journal (February 2) states: "A tremendous future
 source of income is predicted for pulp mills through the
successful culmination of many years of work by Dr. F.E. Brauns, re-
search associate of the Institute of Paper Chemistry, which has led to
the isolation of lignin as it occurs in wood. Investigators have been
trying to solve the lignin problem for the last fifty years, but up to
the present time no one had succeeded in isolation without using such
strong acid or alkali reagents that it was changed from its native
state. Dr. Brauns has been able to isolate native lignin without acids
or alkali reagents which would destroy its natural properties. This con-
tribution is of great importance not only to pure chemistry but to
applied chemistry in the paper industry, because lignin has always been
a waste product. Only a small amount has been utilized in the manufacture
of vanillin, as a road binder, as a tanning material, and as a source of
yeast. Methods can now be devised to provide other uses for lignin,
turning waste into an important source of income..."

Frozen William H. Cathcart, of the American Institute of
Bread Baking, is author of "The Truth About Frozen Bread" in
 Food Industries (February). A note says: "Taste is al-
most as good as that of fresh bread, but much is still to be learned
about the technology of bread freezing and its effect on staling."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 27

Section 1

February 8, 1939

WORLD TRADE

The Commerce Department, analyzing last year's 8 percent drop in exports, found an encouraging note yesterday in the fact that 26 countries--including such important customers as the Netherlands, Russia and the Scandinavian countries--increased their purchases in this country. Sales to England dipped slightly lower than in 1937. Sales to France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Japan fell off. Total exports dropped to \$3,094,095,000 in 1938. This was attributed largely to lower prices. While American imports fell off 36 percent to \$1,960,528,000 last year, this country bought more in Honduras, the Netherland West Indies, Finland, Turkey, French Indo-China and South America. (A.P.)

Nations of the world, particularly those in Latin America, are veering away from barter trade because the exporters whose products make the trade possible are becoming dissatisfied with the uncertain returns from such transactions, George F. Bauer, export manager of the Automobile Manufacturers Association, declared yesterday. Mr. Bauer said progress toward world currency stabilization and a universal return to the gold standard would be possible if some way could be found to internationalize barter marks and other "two-way" currencies so that they can be used for purchases by third countries. (New York Times.)

A Rome wireless to the New York Times says a one-year trade agreement between Italy and Soviet Russia, marking the resumption of commercial relations broken off in 1937, was signed there yesterday. A communique explains that the agreement includes "several protocols and economic accords that liquidate controversial questions and regulate the commercial exchanges between the U.S.S.R. and Italy." The agreement calls for an exchange of goods between the two countries more than double the volume provided for by previous treaties.

FLOWER EXHIBIT

The annual Rutherfordiana Exhibit now is open at the Botanical Garden, First and Canal Streets, SW (Washington) where some of the 300 azalea plants are starting to bloom. They may be viewed daily and on Sunday between 9 and 4. Noon is closing time on Saturday. (Washington Star.)

WILDLIFE FOOD

Increasing international commerce, auto and airplane travel, are introducing new tree diseases which imperil American wildlife, as well as trees themselves, the Botanical Society of Washington was told last night. "We are very much disturbed," said Dr. G. F. Gravatt, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, "at the rapid rate at which new destructive diseases are appearing in this country." (Washington Post.)

Research Profits "From time to time striking examples, most of them drawn from American industry, have been given to show the earning power of research," says an editorial in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (February). "More recently the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of Great Britain has had something to say about returns from the considerable sums spent under its auspices for research and development. We learn that annual economies of not less than \$5,000,000 have resulted from work by the Electrical Research Association, which has cost a total of only \$400,000. The Cast Iron Research Association has perfected a new type of furnace which effects a saving of \$100 an hour when in full blast, and has found ways of increasing the strength of cast iron until now it is produced with a tensile strength approaching 60,000 pounds per square inch, whereas 10 years ago 24,000 pounds was the maximum. The Iron and Steel Research Council reports completed research which promises to save the industry nearly \$2,000,000 a year in the production of pig iron, and to save coal worth not less than \$6,700,000 annually in the production of steel. The extent to which appropriations have been made in the United States, even in economically difficult times, to maintain research programs speaks for our faith in the earning power of research. To find others equally pleased with their investment is extremely encouraging."

Nutrition Problems The *Canadian Journal of Public Health* (January) in an editorial on "Nutrition: A National Problem," reports: "Until two years ago no large-scale attempt had been made in Canada to secure accurate information regarding Canadian diets. Two surveys have recently been completed, one by Stewart in Alberta and the other reported in this issue (Nutrition in Toronto). The Dominion Government organized last year a Council on Nutrition. This body plans to carry out several surveys in different parts of the country to secure additional information regarding nutritional status and dietary mistakes. The composition of an optimal diet can now be stated with exactness and clarity. Two factors prevent the universal use of such a diet: poverty and a lack of nutritional knowledge. The first is difficult to overcome but the second is susceptible to attack. Results of the Toronto survey show some of the mistakes in diet that are being made. These errors should be used as the basis for an educational program. Even with limited incomes the total quantity of food and the quality of the diet could be improved by economical purchasing. The nutrition of a family could be improved by more judicious distribution of available food among the members. Increased interest in marketing and cooking would also accomplish a great deal in improving nutrition. The relation of nutrition to public health is a matter of national concern. If mothers are properly nourished, we can expect an improvement in maternal and infant mortality. There is every reason to hope for a better level of public health by improving nutrition..."

Electric Fences for Wildlife "It goes without saying that a practical device for keeping animals inside or outside of certain areas would be of utmost value to wildlife managers," says W. L. McAtee, Bureau of Biological Survey, in the leading article in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* (January). "Soon following increase as a result of lumbering or protection, or both, in the number of deer in older States having a rather dense human population, came complaints of damage in gardens, fields, and orchards. Difficulty in appraising the damage and in eliminating fraudulent claims have been among the perplexities of State game commissions for decades. If these troubles can be cured by an economical and effective deterrent, a very great gain will have been made. Experience indicates that in the electric fence the solution of these and similar problems may be at hand, and that this device needs only perfecting, and constantly cautious and intelligent use, to become a tool of great utility to game administrators and wildlife managers..."

Gov. Document Record Sale With the receipts aggregating nearly \$846,000, the sale of public documents reached a new high in 1938, Public Printer Giegengack recently reported to Congress. More than eleven and a half million copies of various publications were sold ranging from such best sellers as "Infant Care," to scientific documents for which there is a comparatively small demand. Because of the limitation placed on appropriations, some government departments are not distributing free publications as generously as they once did. Public Printer Giegengack believes government publications would achieve wider sales if the public knew more about them. (*New York Times*.)

REA Reports Progress The Rural Electrification Administration, formed three years ago to lend money for establishment of rural electric lines, announced in its annual report, released recently, that some 70,000 miles of REA-financed lines were in service in forty-three States at the end of 1938, with thousands of miles more under construction. More than 85 percent of the loans have gone to non-profit cooperatives, 10 percent to power and irrigation districts, municipalities and other public projects, and 5 percent to private companies. At the end of the fiscal year 1938, the report indicates more than \$57,000,000 had been spent for electrical equipment and such other equipment as farm and household wiring, appliances and plumbing for which a market is made by the extension of service. This is figured on the basis that new farm users match every dollar spent on generation and transmission facilities by spending another dollar for equipment, in part also financed by REA loans. The REA reports that while only about fifty projects were energized and operating on July 1, 1937, more than 340 are now serving current to an estimated 750,000 rural people. (*New York Times*.)

Senate, Feb. 6. The Senate passed H.R. 2868, the first deficiency appropriation bill, 1939, which was reported from the Committee on Appropriations Feb. 3, during adjournment of the Senate (S.Rept. 33). The following amendments to the Department items were agreed to: increasing the item for New England hurricane damage from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 and revising the proviso which requires matching of federal funds; increasing the item for insect pest and plant disease control from \$2,000,000 to \$5,417,000 and striking out the reference to white fringed beetles; adding items for judgments and claims. The item of \$500,000 for national forest protection and management (White Mountain National Forest) was retained in the bill.

The Senate passed without amendment S. 660, to provide for reappropriation of cotton acreage allotments not planted by farmers entitled thereto.

The Senate received the annual reports of the following: Rural Electrification Administration; to Com. on Agriculture and Forestry; National Academy of Sciences; to Com. on Library.

The Senate received a petition from the Georgia Legislature requesting prohibition of importation of foreign fats and oils and jute; to Com. on Finance.

The Senate adjourned until Thursday, Feb. 9.

House, Feb. 6. The House began general debate on H.R. 3743, the independent offices appropriation bill 1940, which was reported from the Committee on Appropriations (H.Rept. 23).

Items in Appendix: radio address by Mr. Celler, Feb. 5, "Confiscatory Chain Store Tax Bill; statement of the Domestic Fats and Oils Conference; radio address by Mr. Patman favoring H.R. 1, the chain store tax bill.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Wisc. County Soil Tests C. J. Chapman, soils department, Wisconsin College of Agriculture, in Better Crops With Plant Food (January) writes under the title "WPA Aids Wisconsin to Test Her Soils." "The idea of creating county laboratories (for soil testing) occurred to us," the author says in part, "as a means of cutting down the heavy load in our centralized laboratory at the university, and at the same time under the WPA setup provide employment for WPA clients trained to do this work...These county laboratories are being equipped with standard soil-testing kits which employ the same methods as are being used at our university laboratories...The county agents and WPA chemists have been instructed in the technique of making these tests. Dr. H. H. Hull, in charge of our State Soils Laboratory, has been appointed as state supervisor of the project...Regardless of whether the project is continued under WPA or not, we know that many of these county laboratories will be continued...Soil testing, we realize, has its limitations, but it is a valuable aid in starting farmers in the use of fertilizers and lime."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 28

Section 1

February 9, 1939

SURPLUS COTTON, Secretaries Hull and Wallace met yesterday with
FARM PRODUCTS southern Senators who are seeking some way of marketing the huge surplus of American cotton, says an Associated Press report. The cabinet members and Assistant Secretary of Commerce R. C. Patterson conferred with Chairman Smith of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Senator Bankhead, of Alabama, author of numerous administration cotton measures. Secretary Wallace had conferred several times recently with southern Senators about the surplus cotton problem, but this was the first time officials of the State and Commerce Departments appeared. The Agriculture Department has sent to Congress a proposal to supplement present cash subsidies to farmers with gifts of surplus farm commodities. The gifts would be made from stocks which have been put up by growers as collateral for government loans. As in the case of the present cash payments, growers receiving such commodities would be required to comply with the crop control program.

STATE FOOD, The need of having state food, drug and cosmetic acts,
DRUG LAWS which follow the pattern of the federal law, was emphasized yesterday by speakers at the Federal Wholesale Druggists Association in New York City, says a report in the New York Times. Many changes in labeling and organization have already been completed to conform to the terms of the federal act, which goes into effect June 25. It was said, however, that it is difficult to obtain government approval of specific labels. The belief was expressed in the open forum that the federal law has been conceived "in social frame of mind" and that its enforcement will be "reasonable." It was warned, however, that quick action was likely on "dangerous" items.

PACTS INCREASE The Commerce Department asserted yesterday that
FOREIGN TRADE United States trade with countries having reciprocal trade agreements with the United States was on a better basis than that with other countries last year. Exports to trade agreement countries, the department said, declined 6.8 percent and to non-agreement countries 3.1 percent, while United States imports decreased 28.9 percent from trade agreement countries and 41.6 percent from non-agreement countries. (A.P.)

U.S.Texas "Final plans for the projected new laboratory of the
Laboratory U.S.Citrus and Vegetable Projects Station in Hidalgo County
 have been approved and preparations are now under way for
construction work," says Texas Farming and Citriculture (February). "...
The appropriation was obtained on the strength of the excellent work al-
ready done at the station under the direction of J. L. Heid, chief chemist
(Bureau of Chemistry & Soils). Since the start in 1932 numerous canners
and other processors have availed themselves of the services provided in
working out problems having to do with the special attributes of the prod-
ucts of this area. The station has thus proved to be an important factor
in the development of a large canning industry in the Lower Rio Grande
Valley. The new station will be equipped with machinery and other apparat-
us for small-scale operations in such processing as canning, freezing and
dehydrating, but this field is so large that further expansion is anti-
cipated."

Management The Southwestern Social Science Quarterly (December)
and Land Use contains "Farm Management and Land Use Planning" by R. S.
 Kifer, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. He considers a
study made in Haskell County, Kansas, and says in part: "The field is
open for theorizing in farm management. When we are considering the un-
tested theories under which farms will be operated, we find that we lack
information on the increased return that may be expected from new or im-
proved farm practices. We may concede that soil and moisture conserva-
tion practices will serve to increase and stabilize yields, but we need
to know also just how much the improved practices will increase crop
yields and what, if any, will be the added cost of farm operation. We
need to know the conditions under which yields will be increased by con-
tour cultivation, by terracing, and by water conservation. Once we have
determined the increase to be expected in yields, we shall still be curious
as to the extent to which the increased crop returns will maintain present
land values. Furthermore, an increase in the yield of grain sorghums
greater than an increase in the yield of wheat would eventually lead to
some real changes in farm organization and in systems of farming. Recent
experience has emphasized the need for a flexible crop system as well as
for adequate reserves for cash and livestock feed. Evidence that a flexible
system has been forced on farmers lies in the increased acreage of summer
fallow, the increased acreage of row crops, and the increased acreage of
idle or nontilled land. That elasticity extends to other phases of the
farm business is shown by the general reduction of livestock numbers,
particularly of grain consuming animals in the area. Evidence pointing
to the practice of accumulating and using feed reserves is not so abundant...
Usually any reserves were depleted after one or at most after two years of
crop failure. Our studies of farms as they are operated throw very little
light on the problems which are involved either in the flexibility of
operations or in the accumulation and disposition of feed reserves."

International Conciliation The benefit to American agriculture from the British-American trade agreements are stressed by Lynn R. Edminster, special assistant to the Secretary of State at the College of Lincoln, Nebraska, in an article in *International Conciliation*, a publication of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, released last week. Denying the statement that "agriculture has been sold down the river," Mr. Edminster says: "The trade agreements' program has advantages which are unique as a means of increasing real farm income by increasing market outlets and by decreasing our own excessive tariff rates. In short the interests of agriculture are aided from both the producer and consumer standpoint..." (Press.)

Meteorological Commission John W. White, in a Montevideo, Uruguay, dispatch to the *New York Times*, reports the meeting of the Third Regional Meteorological Commission. "The commission," he says in part, "is composed of the directors of the weather bureaus of the South American countries and is one of the five continental commissions belonging to the International Meteorological Organization. Their main objective is to work out a system of uniform practices throughout the world in taking weather observations and entering them on uniform weather maps. Meeting with the South American weather men are experts from the United States, Britain, Germany and Italy. South American weather men displayed particular interest in one line of atmospheric investigation in which the United States has long been the recognized leader, that of sounding the upper atmosphere..."

Highway Reflectors Because a substantial reduction in accidents was observed after the installation of reflectors along U.S. 16 between Detroit and Lansing, the Michigan State Highway Department has installed reflectors along the 62-mile section of U.S. 24 which runs from the Ohio state line North to Pontiac. During a 6-month period after the reflectors were installed on U.S. 16 there were only 36 night accidents as compared with 91 the preceding year. Although some widening and other physical improvement had been done on U.S. 16, this reduction was so greatly in excess of reductions on other state highways during the same period that the installation was stated by Highway Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner to be a "completely successful demonstration of what the reflectors can do." U.S. 24, selected for the second demonstration, includes sections with the highest accident rate in Michigan. Traffic ranges from a daily average of 5,480 to a maximum of 15,000 vehicles. During the past four years there have been 133 fatal accidents along the section on which reflectors have now been installed, of which 71 were night accidents. (Engineering News-Record, February 2.)

"Jobs for All" The *Washington Star* (February 5) contains a 2-column review of the book, "Jobs for All," by Mordecai Ezekiel, Economic Adviser, Office of the Secretary. The review is by John Lear, Associated Press staff writer.

Dietary Report "Business men in food, drug and allied industries can find valuable information in a government report (Circular 507, 15 cents) issued this month on the diets of families of employed wage earners and clerical workers in cities," says a Washington report by the Business Week Bureau in the February 4 issue. "The study was made by Hazel K. Stiebeling and Esther F. Phipard, economists of the Bureau of Home Economics, in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration. It involved detailed analyses of a week's food consumption of 4,000 families in 43 well-distributed industrial centers. Especially significant are the facts regarding vitamin deficiencies. In some instances these facts are likely to prove disconcerting, particularly to the manufacturer of prepared foods, for the vitamin deficiencies of some of these relatively expensive foods are occasionally underscored..."

House, Feb. 7 The House continued debate on H.R. 3743, the independent offices appropriation bill, 1940. The House received a message from the President announcing his approval of H.J.Res. 83, the relief bill, and requesting appropriation of an additional \$150,000,000; ref. to Com. on Appropriations.

Messrs. Taylor of Colo., Woodrum of Va., Cannon of Mo., Ludlow, McMillan, Snyder, O'Neal, Johnson of W. Va., Taber, Wigglesworth, Lambertson and Ditter were appointed House conferees on H.R. 2868, the first deficiency appropriation bill, 1939.

The Committee on Ways and Means reported with amendment H.R. 3790, relating to the taxation of the compensation of public officers and employees (H.Rept. 25).

Mr. Pierce of Oreg. spoke in favor of H.R. 196, for control of noxious weeds.

The House received the annual report of the Rural Electrification Administration for 1938; to Com. on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Item in Appendix: Resolution of House of Representatives of Montana favoring a cost of production farm bill.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Forest Roads and Trails The Secretary of Agriculture has apportioned by states, for the fiscal year beginning next July 1, the sum of \$10,000,000 for national forest highways, truck trails and trails, the U.S. Forest Service announced the other day. The sum of \$6,666,667 represents the forest highway fund, by law expended upon those main forest roads within national forests which serve the needs of public travel. Forest highways are generally part of the state highway systems. Projects are selected cooperatively, with the Forest Service, Bureau of Public Roads and state highway commissions participating, and construction work usually is by Public Roads. The forest highway apportionment is based 50 percent on the net area of national forest land within each participating state and 50 percent on the value of these government lands. It is not required that those funds be matched by the states. (Press.)

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Vol. LIXII, No. 29

Section 1

February 10, 1939

U. S. SALARY

TAX BILL

Overriding Republican protests of unconstitutionality the House yesterday adopted by a vote of 269 to 103 an Administration bill permitting reciprocal taxation of salaries of all federal and state employees. The legislation, which now goes to the Senate, also prevents retroactive taxation of certain state employees who could have been taxed and penalized under a recent Supreme Court decision. The bill carried out in part the recommendations made last month by President Roosevelt, who urged a law "to make private income from all government salaries hereafter earned subject to the income tax laws of the nation and of the several states." While the House was debating the salary tax bill, a Senate subcommittee was considering a confidential report from the joint Congressional committee on internal revenue. "It is the opinion of this office," said the report, "that in order to effectively reach the compensation of all state and local officers and employees, an amendment to the Constitution will prove necessary." (Washington Post.)

EXPORT-IMPORT LOANS LIMIT

The House Banking Committee voted yesterday to apply a brake to international lending by the Export-Import Bank. It approved legislation to continue until January 15, 1941, the powers of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and several of its affiliates, including the Export-Import Bank. But first it wrote in an amendment to place a \$100,000,000 ceiling on the amount of loans the bank may have outstanding at one time. Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the RFC, said this action "should be reassuring to those who fear the United States will be drawn into war through financial entanglements." The powers of the RFC and its subsidiaries would expire on June 30 under existing law. (A.P.)

U. S. TOBACCO TO BRITAIN

Despite rapidly expanding tobacco production in British Empire countries and its increasing sale in the United Kingdom, British imports of American leaf tobacco in 1938 reached an all-time record of 257,600,000 pounds, the Department of Agriculture announced yesterday. Imports from the empire's producing countries also reached record levels, amounting to 32,900,000 pounds, an increase of 25,600,000 pounds over 1937. The increase in imports from this country was about 54,000,000 pounds. Imports from non-empire countries other than the United States amounted, however, to only 5,300,000 pounds, compared with 6,800,000 pounds the year before. (Press.)

Export-Import Bank Profit The Export-Import Bank made a net profit of \$1,081,346 in 1938, according to its annual report made public recently. This profit compared with \$853,910 netted in 1937. "The activities of the bank increased during the year but were confined, as heretofore, largely to two major fields, namely, the financing through short-term accommodations of the exportation of agricultural commodities, and the financing through medium and long-term credits of the exportation of industrial products," the report said. "No advances were in 1938 against foreign obligations issued in settlement of American claims arising out of blocked exchange." (New York Times.)

Labor Saving on Farms The Southern Agriculturist (February) in an editorial on rural electrification, says: "...A survey of labor-saving and comfort-producing equipment available to homes anywhere, regardless of distance from power lines, shows that nearly all such equipment made possible through the use of electricity is paralleled by similar devices that depend on other sources of fuel and power. Certainly, every home that can should have electricity; it is undoubtedly one of the greatest blessings that has ever come to the farm. The government program sets as a goal the electrification of only 840,000 farms during the next eight years, and private utilities probably will equal this number, making a total of 1,680,000. Adding that figure to the number already served, it would seem that the greatest number of farm homes receiving high-line service by the end of 1945 would be less than 3,000,000. Thus it would seem that almost 4,000,000 farm homes are likely to be without electricity at the end of the next decade. But there is no good reason for those millions of rural people to be doomed to a long period of 'washboard, wood-pile and pump slavery.' While many appliances, such as washing machines, vacuum sweepers, feed grinders and pumping outfits are economically operated with electric motors, gasoline motors provide power for similar purposes--even to the point of generating electricity for home lighting..."

Fertilizer Grades "In an effort to further reduce the number of grades of fertilizers offered for sale in Wisconsin and other midwestern states, a conference of agronomists and manufacturers of fertilizers representing the middle west was held recently," says Wisconsin Agriculturist (January 28). "Agronomists for each state in the middle west submitted a list of fertilizers for their respective states, which had previously been agreed upon by representatives of their own institutions...The manufacturers agreed to push the sale of the recommended list of fertilizers for each state, and further agreed to print this list in bold type when submitting their schedules of grades and prices to the trade this coming spring. In turn, the agronomists at this conference agreed to confine their recommendations to those grades which have been listed and endorsed. It is in the interest of economy, both to the manufacturer and farmer, that these grades be reduced to a minimum..."

House, February 8 The House passed H.R. 3743, the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill for 1940. An amendment to decrease the item for the Tennessee Valley Authority from \$39,000,000 to \$21,797,000 was agreed to.

The House Committee on Agriculture reported without amendment H.R. 3800, to amend section 8 (e) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (H. Rept. 31).

Mr. Dingell was appointed to the Committee on Wildlife Conservation.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget & Finance.)

Marketing Personnel Appointment of Edwin W. Gaumnitz as director of the division of marketing and marketing agreements of the Department of Agriculture is announced by Secretary Wallace. Mr. Gaumnitz succeeds F. R. Wilcox, resigned. The Secretary also named Philip F. Maguire as vice president of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. Both appointees will work directly with Milo R. Perkins, associate administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. (New York Times.)

Md. Roadside Beautification Landscaping of the rights of way and elimination of roadside scars along the Governor Ritchie Highway and the new Philadelphia road will be completed by spring, the Maryland State Roads Commission reveals. Sufficient funds are in sight to assure completion of the two most ambitious roadside beautification projects yet undertaken in this State, estimated to entail an expenditure of over \$200,000. Federal-aid appropriations now are predicated on use of a minimum of one-and-a-half percent of the total earmarked for a given road construction project to beautification. This means a total outlay of three percent for landscaping since Federal funds must be matched with State funds. (Baltimore Sun.)

Consumption of Textiles Consumption of cotton, rayon, wool, silk and linen in the United States during 1938 totaled 3,588,400,000 pounds, a decline of 19 percent from the 1937 total of 4,407,400,000 pounds, which was an all-time record, according to figures issued by the Rayon Organon, published by the Textile Economics Bureau, Inc. The 1938 decline, both in pounds and percentage, was the second largest on record, being exceeded only by the drop from 1929 to 1930. Rayon, the only fiber to show an increase in consumption during the year, exceeded the consumption of virgin wool for the first time. The 1938 rayon total was 327,100,000 pounds, a new high for the industry, which placed it second to cotton in pounds consumed. (Press.)

BAE Aids Turkey Industry The February issue of Turkey World (All-American Show Number) says in an editorial: "During the past few years the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has greatly improved its system of obtaining estimates on the probable size of the turkey crop. Two main reports are now made. One of these, an 'intention to start poults,' is made just previous to the brooding season, and the other, a report of turkeys being raised, is made during the growing season. Both reports have proven very valuable to the turkey industry and the predictions obtained through surveys have proven quite accurate..."

"On the cover page this month," says the periodical, "we present Thomas W. Heitz, marketing specialist, Division of Dairy and Poultry Products (BAE). Heitz and his associates have contributed much to the advancement of the turkey industry, through their work in developing and directing the use of government grades for dressed turkeys..."

Expensive Dove Meals "The price of wild doves has been going up down in Texas," says Field & Stream (March). "Last reports quoted the market at something like \$59 a pound--the same representing the cost per pound in fines assessed several Dallas 'big shots' found guilty of purchasing these game birds during a clean-up by agents connected with the U.S. Biological Survey. With a number of market hunters already under arrest, the federal men turned their attention to individuals who make market hunting possible--namely, the birds who buy the bird. The result was that a number of prominent Dallas citizens found themselves on the spot. Among them were two attorneys, the manager of an oil company, an executive in a steel company and others. Their fines, in some cases, ran as high as \$350 a whack. The same federal agents who cleaned up the Gingham Inn mess in Forth Worth last year are credited with the Dallas arrests."

Community Consciousness L. R. Neel, Associated Editor of the Southern Agriculturist, writes in the February issue under the title, "The Community Must Solve the Problem." He says that we have been looking to the national government for the solution of world, national and regional problems, and adds: "Help has come from this source, but no satisfying solution of our great problems has been discovered. By this I do not mean that we should not have a national agricultural program; should not, in emergency, have federal unemployment relief, moderate old age pensions and federal participation in the support of education (not in its direction) and in road construction to a reasonable extent. But the hope of the country is in the individual and his community...The minute he becomes community conscious, every farmer realizes that in the long run his efforts will fail unless his neighbors take steps to care for their soil. It is but small satisfaction to have a fertile farm if it is surrounded by gullied and abandoned land. A world of good can be done by waging public war on erosion. Terracing associations can be formed. Tree planting can be encouraged through the schools and otherwise...By cooperating lime and phosphate can be bought cheaper...Fencing materials can be bought cooperatively to advantage. Another saving can be effected when neighbors can build their line fences jointly..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 30

Section 1

February 13, 1939

**WALLACE'S
LINCOLN
DAY SPEECH** Ridiculing Nazi racial theories as "pure scientific faking," Secretary of Agriculture Wallace marked the occasion of Lincoln's birthday by the most outspoken criticism of Germany to be made by a member of the Cabinet since Secretary's Ickes's speech in Cleveland last December. Mr. Wallace spoke at a meeting under the auspices of the Lincoln's Birthday Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom. Deploring the treatment that great scientists have received in totalitarian lands, where they have been driven into exile or placed in concentration camps, Mr. Wallace said that in these countries "other men, who call themselves scientists, have been willing to play the game of dictators by twisting science into a mumbo-jumbo of dangerous nonsense." "Thus the dictatorial regime in Germany, masquerading its propaganda in pseudo-science terms, is teaching the boys and girls to believe that their race and their nation are superior to all others, and by implication that that nation and that race have a right to dominate all others," he said. (New York Times.)

**FARM BILL
HEARING** Secretary Wallace warned Senators a few days ago against a bill to fix minimum prices for farm products, saying that if the government attempted this there would be widespread bootlegging of farm crops and a billion-dollar increase in consumers' food costs. He added that it would not help the farmer. The administration farm head testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee, which is considering a "cost of production" farm bill sponsored by 17 Senators. Instead of trying a new farm program, Mr. Wallace suggested, Congress should find funds to increase benefit payments to farmers under the present farm act. "There is no doubt that the farmer is entitled to the cost of production," he said. (A.P.)

**RFC LOAN TO
PEA CANNERS** Favorable conclusion of negotiations with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for a loan of \$7,500,000 to be available to American pea canners was announced at Chicago a few days ago by L. S. Beale, executive secretary of the Canned Pea Marketing Cooperative. The loan will be used to pay growers and to assist in the orderly marketing of the abnormal 1938 pea crop, he explained, a separate cooperative to service the loan and to act as intermediary between the RFC and the individual borrowing canners. "Under the provisions of the loan, warehouse receipts on surplus stocks of canned peas will be accepted as security," Mr. Beale said. "The RFC has approved a certain case loan value. The current market average price is above these values, but sufficiently close to preclude the sudden dumping of warehoused peas upon the market." (New York Times.)

Tulip Breaking An editorial on virus control of tulip breaking, in the Gardeners' Chronicle (London, January 21) says in part: "For several hundreds of years gardeners, seeking to produce new multi-colored varieties, were working in the dark, for they did not know the underlying processes which gave rise to the whole host of types now labeled Feathered, Flamed, Bizarres, Bybloemens, Rembrandts, etc. In the past few years the position has radically altered and we now know that it is a virus infection which causes tulips to 'break'--a virus with the most ancient of pedigrees. A recent paper (The Antithetic Virus Theory of Tulip Breaking, by F. P. McWhorter (Bureau of Plant Industry), Annals of Applied Biology, 1938, Vol. XXV) has revealed that not one but two viruses are at work. ~~one removes the existing color from the flower while number~~ virus number one adds or intensifies floral color... The proportions in the virus mixture are all important; a little of virus number one goes a long way, but a lot goes too far, for it then cripples the plant. For the best results the amount of virus number two should be ten times that of virus number one. This prescription will not benefit other patients and, as yet, it seems that each tulip is a law unto itself when it comes to the correct virus physic..."

The Gardeners' Chronicle also contains a short article by A. Grove, on "The Elm Disease in the United States and Britain." He describes the work of the Department in combatting the (Dutch) elm disease.

Review of Politics The Department Library has received the first issue (January, Vol. 1, No. 1) of the Review of Politics, a quarterly published by the University of Notre Dame. This issue contains five articles and book reviews. "The Review of Politics," it says, "without neglecting the analysis of institutions, and techniques, is primarily interested in the philosophical and historical approach to political realities."

1938 Wheat Income The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has estimated that income from the larger quantity of wheat sold last year was \$432,691,000, about 28 percent smaller than the 1937 income from wheat and somewhat below the prewar average. The decline in average prices to 69 cents a bushel last year from \$1.03 in 1937 more than offset larger sales during 1938, the BAE said. Cash income from wheat produced in the United States during the past three decades has fluctuated rapidly and over a wide range in response to changing supply and demand conditions, the BAE said. The high wheat income of \$1,572,387,000 in 1919 and the depression low of \$199,757,000 in 1932 are the extremes in the 29-year period from 1910. (Wall Street Journal.)

Fruit on Contour Planting fruit trees on the contour is a moisture-conserving and soil-saving practice fast growing in popularity in the drier regions of the Midwest States. The contour plantings include both trees and vines. Farmers who insure their fruits extra moisture by contour planting and cultivation report that it takes little, if any, more time to till the crooked rows and that the control of erosion more than offsets the disadvantages of crooked rows. (Successful Farming, February.)

World Botanic Gardens Nature (London, January 21) contains an item on "Botanic Gardens of the World: Materials for a History" (Brooklyn Bot. Rec. 27, No. 3, July 1938). "Apart from its intrinsic value to botanists, the list (of gardens) will prove helpful to research botanists and teachers of botany...The list is intended not only as a guide to existing botanic gardens, but also as material for a history of botanic gardens, existing or defunct...We believe no such comprehensive history exists at present..."

Old RR Cars as Refrigerators "Farmers in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan have discovered a way to provide themselves with fruit precooling plants and storage warehouses at nominal cost through the use of retired railroad refrigerator cars," says H. H. Slowson, in Ice and Refrigeration (February). "One transportation company has placed more than 100 such cars in midwestern orchards in the past five years, most of them within the past 12 months...Near Hopkins, Michigan, the experiences of a farmer with a large car in his apple, peach and cherry orchards have been the subject of close study by horticultural experts from the Michigan State College. Conclusions reached by Prof. H. A. Cardinell, in charge of the investigations, are summarized in a report recently issued by the college. In it he says: 'Perhaps the greatest need in handling a perishable crop in Michigan is adequate facilities for quickly removing heat from produce before it is marketed or stored. To be able to do this at the orchard is one of the advantages the retired refrigerator car affords at very low cost. Furthermore, they can serve later in the season as efficient air-cooled storages.' The article mentions the electric fan and ice bunker installed in the car and describes in detail the experiments by Michigan State College.

La. Rural Book Service In the Southern Planter (February) Margaret Zahler, the author of "Louisiana Readers Get Books," says in part: "With more than 40,000,000 people in the United States still without library service and with many of these out in rural areas, the Louisiana experiment has significance...It is called the 'tri-parish demonstration' because it brings three counties into one unit for the purpose of getting books out to rural readers. This method is favored by the American Library Association which advocates working on a larger scale than the town or county when these are too limited in funds or too sparsely populated to finance library service. The Louisiana Library Commission began the experiment...Little branches have been set up in grocery stores, post offices, farm homes and village halls...In one small village with a population of 165, people borrowed 817 books in a month, almost twice the number borrowed per person in big city public libraries...In the first six months months of the experiment some 17,000 books were borrowed where not a single library book had been available before...Many books were passed on to other families and were sometimes read by five or six people before they were returned to the bookmobile or library..." The support of the state legislature was won, she says, and this "should encourage rural leaders in more than 12 other states trying to secure state aid for rural readers."

Farm Credit Repayment About 96 percent of the \$325,684,000 lent to farmers and livestock men by the regional Agricultural Credit Corporations since 1932 had been repaid at the end of 1938, the Farm Credit Administration announces. The loans were made to meet emergencies in 1932 and 1938, and the corporations have not engaged in any extensive new financing since 1934, when they began an orderly liquidation, having been supplanted by the permanent production credit associations of the FCA as short-term farm loan agencies. At the end of last year 11,659 loans totaling \$11,081,297 were outstanding, while repayments during the year totaled \$6,814,942. Net chargeoffs and losses from all sources to the end of last year amounted to \$2,014,460, or six-tenths of 1 percent of the total amount loaned. (New York Times.)

Vanillin from Wood "Two processes for obtaining vanillin from wood now threaten the chief clove-producing countries, Madagascar and Zanzibar," says Waldemar Kaempffert in the New York Times. "One process was developed by Drs. Tomlinson and Hibbert of McGill University, the other by an American chemist, Guy C. Howard. In both processes vanillin is extracted from the sulphite liquor which dissolves everything but the fibers in chipped wood. The liquor long has been a nuisance, a waste which has been turned into streams despite the chemical values that it contains. Both the Canadian and American processes have reached the commercial stage, so that vanillin is produced by the ton from wood and sold for about 30 cents a pound less than the clove product."

Turkeys by Air Two turkeys left Calcutta, India, on a 2,000-mile flight by an airline to the desert fortress of Sharjah and arrived in time for the Christmas dinner--they were the dinner. The turkeys were live birds. Prairie chickens have been flown by a Canadian air line which have arrived literally hot from the oven. (Press.)

New White String Bean Newest of horticultural contributions to Minnesotans is a creamy white string bean developed by T. M. Currence of the horticultural department at University Farm. Dr. Currence has named the bean Duluth. It is believed that the Duluth, because it is the only near white bean, will have greater market appeal than the light colored wax bean. (The Farmer, St. Paul, January 28.)

National Parks Improvements Work on the eighty-nine PWA projects for improvements in the national parks and monuments, from PWA allotments, announced in 1938, got under way before the January 1 deadline, the National Park Service reported recently to Public Works Administrator Ickes. Ranging from allotments for \$500 to \$230,000 for one project, most of the work involves improvements to utilities, including sanitation facilities, water systems, lighting and power plants in the various areas of the federal park system. (Press.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 31

Section 1

February 14, 1939

WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Dr. Leo K. Couch of Washington, assistant in charge of wildlife surveys of the research division of the U.S. Biological Survey, told the North American Wildlife Conference yesterday that scientific wildlife management will ultimately endow North America with a larger population of birds, fish and mammals than subsisted on the continent at the time of Columbus, says a press report from Detroit. "Restore the natural food supply and cover and give the females a chance to rear their young and the problem is a simple one," he said. "Long and patient study has taken much of the guesswork out of the field of conservation."

HIGHWAY TRANSPORT

That highway transport in the United States has been subsidized to the extent of more than ten billion dollars by those who pay taxes on homes, farms and other property, is the conclusion reached by three of America's most eminent and experienced engineers, in a special study for the Association of American Railroads, made public yesterday by John J. Pelley, president. For public carrier trucks of three-ton capacity and up, the subsidy ranges from \$876 to \$2,047 a year, according to the report of Clifford Older, C. B. Breed, and W. S. Downs, the engineers making the study. Mr. Older, as chief of the Illinois Highway Department, had charge of the Bates road tests. Prof. Breed is head of the School of Civil Engineering of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Prof. Downs is professor of highway engineering at the University of West Virginia. (Washington Post.)

R. A. PEARSON

Dr. Raymond Allen Pearson, 65, former president of the University of Maryland, died at his home in Hyattsville, Maryland, yesterday. Dr. Pearson, specialist in agricultural science and educator of note, was for a time a special assistant to Resettlement Administrator Rexford G. Tugwell. During the world war, his services were enlisted by the Agriculture Department as one of its assistant secretaries. At the time of his death Dr. Pearson was serving as coordinator for the Farm Security Administration in its work with the land grant colleges. (Washington Post.)

TRADE PACT

A Rome wireless to the New York Times says a trade agreement between Italy and Germany was signed yesterday by Count Galeazzo Ciano, Italian Foreign Minister, and Ambassador Hans-Georg Viktor von Mackensen of Germany.

Topographic
Mapping for
Highways

The February issue of Roads and Streets contains an address by J. C. Carpenter, Bureau of Public Roads (Fort Worth) on the value of modern topographic mapping for highway surveying. In summary, he says: "If we would profit from what we see now taking place in highway improvement, we must, through the use of the planning surveys, develop the systems of highways with the characteristics which are being found necessary or desirable after long experience in the countries of Europe that are giving greatest attention to the development of highway transportation. This means that, based upon the highway planning surveys, we must have first a reclassification of our highways; second, a provision for roadways and paths to serve all types of traffic that exist or that will certainly develop. The characteristics of the motor vehicle for fast, through traffic must be recognized, and this use separated from the purely local use. Third, there must be the beginning of special motor roads in congested areas leading from the very hearts of our cities through the metropolitan areas, designed to permit free flow of motor traffic fully separated from other types, and all cross traffic. Fourth, at the other end of the classification, based on traffic density, is the big mileage of land service roads which must be organized and more rapidly brought to a continuously usable condition. Fifth, in between lies the program of State and Federal-aid systems on which work must continue with a constantly higher level of design standards to meet the traffic service requirements safely. Sixth, to accomplish these improvements a radically new policy of land acquisition must be formulated and put into effect to provide adequate space and to control unsightly and undesirable ribbon development. These are only partial details of the future programs which are now made possible through the accurate data of the highway planning surveys, if these data are used intelligently to formulate the highway administration policies of the immediate future."

British
Wildfowl

Country Life (London, February 4) in an editorial on a (British) wildfowl protection bill, says in part: "The special sub-committee of the British Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation comprised over thirty experts--sportsmen, landowners, ornithologists, biologists and wildfowlers, as well as representatives of suitable societies. It was a practical group and it made a very careful inquiry into present conditions concerning wildfowl before presenting its recommendations, which are embodied in the present bill. Wildfowl are not the property of any one nation. They are migratory. The main cause for their rapid decrease in Europe is not so much shooting by sportsmen as their commercial exploitation abroad. The duck decoys of Holland are vast organized slaughter traps for the annual taking of hundreds of thousands of duck, and this decoying goes on long after our close season is in operation. The ducks are then put in cold storage, and many of them are eventually sold in this country..."

Senate, The Senate received the President's message requesting
February 9. an additional appropriation of \$150,000,000 for relief
 (H. Doc. 152). This message was received in the House
February 8.

Messrs. Adams, Glass, McKellar, Hayden, Byrnes, Hale, and Townsend were appointed Senate conferees on H.R.2868, the First Deficiency Appropriation Bill for 1939. House conferees were appointed on February 8.

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment S. 26, to empower the President to create new national-forest units and make additions to existing national forests in Montana (S.Rept.39).

Mr. Murray submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to the Second Deficiency Appropriation Bill for 1939, providing \$5,000,000 for water-conservation and utility projects.

Both Houses received from the Secretary of Agriculture a letter requesting legislation to prescribe the duties of the Under Secretary of Agriculture; to Senate Committee on Judiciary and House Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Lucas was appointed to the Select Committee on Government Organization.

The Senate received the following petitions from State legislatures: Montana: Favoring cost-of-production farm bill. South Carolina: Requesting distribution of surplus cotton to the needy and its use in highway construction, and "legislation to restore cotton to its former economic importance in world commerce." North Dakota: Requesting research on production of power alcohol from farm products, establishment of a Division of Cooperatives in the Department of Agriculture, loans to drought-stricken farmers for reestablishment of livestock herds, loans to finance wheat crop insurance, and amendment of the \$10,000 limitation on soil-conservation payments.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, February 13.

House, The Committee on Agriculture reported without amend-
February 9 ment S.660, to provide for reapportionment of cotton
 acreaage allotments not planted by farmers entitled thereto.

The Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments reported without amendment H.R.3646, to authorize certain officers and employees to administer oaths to expense accounts (H.Rept. 36).

The House adjourned until February 13.

Items in Appendix: Statement by Commerce Department, "1938 Results Under the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program". Extension of remarks on the Public Salary Tax Bill by Messrs. Van Zandt, Fenton, Osmer, Hancock, and Ludlow.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Greenbelt Community Hugh A. Bone, professor of political science, University of Maryland, in the American City (February) is author of "Greenbelt Faces 1939". He discusses "civic and governmental activities of this garden city's first year--an evaluation for the future;" and says in part under "Conclusions": "In the first place, the community possesses an extraordinarily high degree of morale. There is safety, health, and a fair degree of security and happiness among the residents. The majority are enjoying psychologically and economically the highest standard of living in their experience. There are more clubs and civic activities per capita than in any other city within the writer's knowledge. If anything, the citizens of Greenbelt are over-stimulated... Greenbelt faces the problem of educating its people about the social implications of the experiment to a greater degree than it has during the past year. Much educational work is still needed before the economic needs of the community can be solved through the cooperative method. The city faces the problem of overcoming an unfavorable press and improving its public relationships. Newspapers have magnified frailties and absurd incidents to make life in 'Utopia' appear ridiculous without presenting at the same time some of the tremendously significant social assets of the model community. The Greenbelt experiment during the past year has been a particular success in the humanitarian and psychological sense. Whether it will be able to repay the Federal Government financially and become self-supporting is still conjecture. If it is able to fulfill the latter test, there will be a great impetus in the direction of 'garden cities,' which bid fair to revolutionize urban life."

Rural Radio Business Week (February 11) reports that this week there was issued "the first published survey ever made of the radio ownership and listening habits of the nation's farmers." "The conclusions are interesting if not startling," it says. "With a radio ownership of 69%, farm families trail city cousins by 13%. But, as would be expected, farmers stay home to do a little more listening than city folks. The survey was made by personal interviews of 14,000 farm families. Thus the results were possible of division by economic groups. No fixed national standards were applied, but the interviews in each community were divided into three groups representing the top, middle, and low economic levels. In these classifications, the percentages of radio ownership were 89%, 71%, and 69%."

There is included a table comparing rural and urban radio ownership and listening habits.

Egyptian Cotton Egypt, facing difficulties similar to those of American cotton growers, has established a Cotton Advisory Council, the Department of Commerce reports. Its thirty-eight members include Cabinet members and delegates of growers, merchants and spinners. Its duty is to recommend how to safeguard the interests of the growers and expand the demand for Egyptian cotton. The department says it is reported that the Egyptian Minister of Finance has declared that on no account would the government buy cotton. (Press.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 32

Section 1

February 15, 1939

AAA PRICE ADJUSTMENTS The Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced yesterday rates of "price-adjustment" payments which will be made to farmers who plant within their 1939 acreage allotments of cotton, corn, wheat and rice. The rates are: cotton, 1.6 cents a pound; cor, .6 cents a bushel; wheat, 11 cents a bushel; and rice, 12 cents a hundredweight. Payments, to be made on the normal yield or each farmer's allotted acreage, will supplement soil conservation payments. No payments will be made on tobacco, since the 1938 average farm price of this crop was above 75 percent of the "parity" price goal of the crop control law. (A.P.)

NEWSPRINT FROM WASTE Newsprint from "de-inked" waste paper has passed its most severe test and the inventor, Dr. W. F. Hochstetter, predicted yesterday that the process he believes will revolutionize the industry would be producing paper commercially in a matter of months. Night before last the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette tested the new paper. Even skeptical pressmen praised the new paper's resistance as it rolled through the presses at the rate of 40,000 an hour. Dr. Hochstetter claims his process will reduce the price of newsprint from the present scale of \$50 to \$55 a ton for wood pulp to \$30 to \$35. (A.P.)

FAIRCHILD BOOK AWARD The autobiography of Dr. David Fairchild, retired from the Department of Agriculture (Bureau of Plant Industry) won the recognition of members of the American Booksellers Association yesterday as "a discovery" among its annual awards for favorite books of the past year in several classifications, says a report in the New York Times. Dr. Fairchild's account of "his wanderings over the globe seeking growing things which would enrich the table and the landscape of American life" was published last October under the title, "The World Was My Garden."

U.S. CANADIAN TRADE TREATY Asserting that Canada had played a memorable part as reconciler of the world's two great English-speaking democracies, Prime Minister Mackenzie King introduced the new Canadian-American trade treaty in Parliament yesterday as one evidence of the success of this role. The Prime Minister praised Secretary Hull as "a great reformer in the matter of trade" and asserted that his example and service to the world were "unparalleled by any other individual in any country." (New York Times.)

Hormone Control of Milk C. W. Turney, Missouri Experiment Station, is author of "Hormone Control of Milk Secretion" in Hoard's Dairyman (February 10). He says in part: "At the Missouri Experiment Station, the late Professor C. H. Eckles began a study of this problem more than 30 years ago. In this work he was assisted by O. E. Reed, now chief of the U. S. Bureau of Dairy Industry... Since this classic work was reported, numerous attempts have been made to further determine just what some cows possessed which enabled them to produce large amounts of milk...There is increasing evidence (at Missouri) that the pituitary influences the absorption and utilization of sugar, fat, and protein and probably is the chief factor which makes possible the great feed consumption of the high producing dairy cow. It is almost impossible to believe that such a small structure as the pituitary could secrete so many hormones which could influence milk secretion in so many ways, yet the evidence is becoming more convincing all the time...The study of the pituitary and the glands and organs which it influences may make possible the selection and mating of animals which have more of the desired qualities; it may be possible to determine the potentially high producing animals while they are still young and further it may be possible to determine the potentialities of the bulls as well as the heifers in so far as their glands would influence milk secretion. Finally, as knowledge of the influence of nutrition on the activity of the pituitary develops, it may be possible to formulate rations which will keep animals functioning at an optimum rate."

Tenant Loan Plan "One of the most constructive phases of the broad program of agricultural adjustment is the tenant purchase loan plan provided by the Bankhead-Jones act," says an editorial in the Montana Farmer (February 1). "The first fiscal year of the plan's operation ended June 30, 1938, with a total of 1,885 loans made, four of which were in Montana...Funds for loans are allocated to states on the basis of total farm population and the prevalence of tenancy. Both percentage of tenancy and total farm population are relatively low in Montana, so this state's share of the loan money is comparatively small...While the money available for the tenant purchase loans is too limited for anything more than a mere test-tube demonstration, the program has a number of worthwhile possibilities. If this experiment in developing tenants into owners appears to be working out successfully it should have some influence in encouraging insurance companies, mortgage companies and other large landholders to work out similar purchase plans so that their tenants may eventually achieve ownership. There may also be a possibility of expanding the government's activities along this line in later years."

Veterinary Remedies The February issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association contains a paper by H. E. Moskey, Food and Drug Administration, on "Veterinary Remedies Under the New Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act."

**Electrical
Farming**

The February issue of *Electrical West* contains "What's Ahead in Electrical Farming?" by H. B. Walker.

The author says in part: "No one yet can predict the degree to which the farms of the future will be mechanized. Here in the West great strides have been made in eliminating labor, in speeding up time-consuming processes and tasks on the farm. Yet only the surface has been scratched. Electric power can and will play an increasingly important role in raising the efficiency of agriculture. The same benefits electric power has given to industry can be applied to farming. The development of the processes and applications by which this may be done represent not only a tax on the ingenuity of the farmer but a distinct challenge to the electrical industry...Some one has listed more than 200 uses of electricity in agriculture...But even with all these applications we have not exhausted, or in many cases even explored, the possibilities of use combinations; that is, power in all its applications with automatic controls for exact time intervals of operations, variable speeds, unit sizes, etc.; heat for intensity control, humidity control and air movement; light intensity, light quality, photo-electric applications and all the other things which go together with electric energy in the form of power, heat and light. Who is willing to say we cannot pasteurize fruit juices electrically, or even pick olives electrically, or attract weevil from stored grain, or stimulate plant growth, or kill weeds and other pests, or pick chickens or sort fruit, or do dozens of other things peculiar to agriculture? We do kill insects, we do sterilize, we do sort fruit, we do pasteurize milk and we do many other tasks electrically."

SCS Work Aids

Planting of vegetation to check erosion and controlled **Texas Wild Life** hunting has multiplied several fold the number of quail on the farm of L. B. Haberle near Jacksonville, Texas, says a report by a correspondent of the *Dallas News* (February 5). Mr. Haberle's is one of the 156 farms being operated in the area of the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture CCC camp here which have included wild life conservation as a part of their complete and coordinated conservation program. "Protection of the few scattered birds on my farm in the spring of 1936, together with three pairs of quail which were imported, has steadily increased the number until there are now five large coveys of bob whites of approximately fifteen birds each on my 180-acre farm," Mr. Haberle said. "Controlled hunting does not necessarily mean no hunting," he explained. "Hunting within season and leaving enough birds in each covey to insure reproduction can well be defined as controlled hunting and we practice that on my land," he continued. Many farmers in this section are following the practices put in force by Mr. Haberle and almost every one of them have seen their wild life crop increase during the last two years. They plan to continue supervision of hunting and many are planting increased acreage to peas and winter legumes to furnish food for quail.

Senate, Feb. 13 The letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, requesting legislation to authorize him to delegate quasi-judicial functions to subordinates, was taken from the Committee on the Judiciary and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

The Senate received the following petitions from state legislatures: South Dakota, requesting cancelation of seed and feed loans and the appropriation of sums authorized by the Clarke-McNary Act and the Norris-Doxey Cooperative Farm Forestry Act; South Carolina, requesting relief to certain farmers in that state for crops destroyed by hail and wind storms in 1938; Montana, requesting legislation to permit unrestricted domestic production of sugar and to provide tariffs and quota reductions on foreign sugar.

The Senate adjourned until Thursday, Feb. 16.

House, Feb. 13 The Committee on Banking and Currency reported without amendment H.R. 4011, to continue the Commodity Credit Corporation, Export Import Bank (H.Rept. 38).

The same committee also reported without amendment H.R. 4012, to continue the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (H.Rept. 39).

Items in Appendix: extension of remarks of Mr. Martin of Colorado, favoring the public salary tax bill (H.R. 3590) and of Mr. Rutherford opposing the bill; address by Woodbury Willoughby of the State Department, January 26, "Reciprocal Trade Agreements and Their Effect Upon American Dairy Farmers."

Bill approved by President: H.R. 2762, to consolidate and codify the internal revenue laws. Approved Feb. 10, 1939 (Public No. 1, 76th Congress.)
(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Civil Service Examinations The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 27, unassembled, senior consultant in home economics education, \$4600, Office of Education, Department of Interior; No. 26, assembled, fisheries marketing agent, \$2300, assistant fisheries marketing agent, \$1800, Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce; No. 23, assembled, physiotherapy aide, \$1800, physiotherapy pupil aide, \$1440, Public Health Service and Veterans' Administration. All examinations must be on file not later than the following dates: (a) March 13, if received from states other than those named in b; (b) March 16, if received from the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Supplement for Hogs "'Supplement C' was the 'spot' news for swine feeders who inspected the hogs and results of the Purdue feeding tests," says Successful Farming (February). "For the second year running, Supplement C stole the show. It is made by mixing 20 pounds meat and bone scraps, 20 pounds menhaden fish meal, 40 pounds soybean oil meal, 10 pounds linseed meal, 10 pounds cottonseed oil meal. It contains approximately 48 percent protein. In 1937, the lot getting this supplement made the largest daily gain at the least cost per 100 pounds gain. For winter, it is recommended that 10 pounds of alfalfa leaf meal be substituted for 10 pounds of the soybean oil meal."

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Vol. LXXII, No. 3³ 3₂

Section 1

February 17⁶, 1939

WILDLIFE CONFERENCE Optimistic reports on the duck population were given by Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, to the annual North American Wildlife Conference night before last, says an Associated Press report from Detroit. Mr. Gabrielson cautioned, however, that increasing numbers of hunters may force tighter limitations on the duck hunt. The hunting army has risen from 448,000 in 1935 to a million last year, he said. "For four successive years, our waterfowl have been building back," he said. "Preliminary figures indicate a nice increase in the breeding stock again this year. This increase is not as large as those who ask for longer shooting would have us believe, but it is decidedly encouraging."

BARTER PACTS "Germany's efforts to beguile American farmers, organized and unorganized, into a direct barter agreement, is making no headway," says J. Fred Essary in a Washington report in the Baltimore Sun. "...Not one farm organization with representatives in Washington, it appears, has been tempted to go in. It was learned that the larger Chicago packers have announced their refusal to go into any deals with German buyers which do not involve straight cash payments... Norman Draper, Washington representative of the Institute of American Meat Packers, said he knew of no negotiations going on between the packing industry as a whole and the German interests..."

EMPLOYMENT ON FARMS The Agriculture Department reported yesterday that farm employment gained 2 percent in January compared with the normal increase of about 4 percent. The number of workers was estimated at 8,914,000. The department said employment gained everywhere except in the East South Central States, where weather was unseasonable. (A.P.)

N.Y. FARM AND HOME WEEK A farm outlook for 1939 justifying moderate optimism was pictured yesterday and praise for the Hull trade agreements program as an aid to agriculture was voiced at Cornell's Farm and Home Week. Dr. William I. Myers, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Cornell, said: "We are appreciably better off now than we were at this same time last year..." Dr. F. A. Southard, Jr., assistant professor of economics at Cornell, said that America's trade agreements had served the needs of the entire country, including agriculture. (New York Times.)

Motor Truck Regulation Booth Mooney, associate editor, Texas Weekly (February 11) writes an editorial on the Texas truck load limit and the public interest. The concluding paragraph says: "The motor truck industry has a proper and important place, of course, in the transportation system of today. But its very position as a part of the whole transportation system makes it subject to regulation, just as other parts of the transportation system are subject to regulation--rigid regulation, not alone by State laws but by Federal laws as well. The factor to be considered most seriously in regulating the motor transport industry is the best interests of a majority of all the people. Fair and equitable regulations should be imposed. Profitless experimentation should be kept at a minimum..."

Weather Bureau "To the United States Weather Bureau, which is starting its seventh decade, may be paid most validly the compliment that it is 'sixty-nine years young,'" says an editorial in the Washington Star (February 13). "It stands on the edge of a new era in weather forecasting in which, infused with the fresh blood of new ideas, there may confidently be predicted advances in the science of meteorology which will make the old methods of foretelling storms and fair weather seem very antiquated indeed. There are two major prospects ahead. One is long range forecasting--predicting the weather for a week or a month ahead. The other is much greater accuracy in short range forecasting. Progress in both will depend largely on research work now being carried on at the bureau. Notable advances have been made in the last few years...As the establishment starts its seventieth year a new world is open to its investigators--a world which undoubtedly holds the secrets of many of the forces, now unknown, which govern weather changes on earth. This is the stratosphere, the region of the atmosphere starting about ten miles above the earth where temperature no longer declines with increasing elevation. A decade ago, at the time of the first Piccard balloon ascensions, this region was altogether unknown. Today it is explored every day and routine reports received from it by means of those marvelous robot products of human ingenuity, the radiometeorographs..."

Electric Fence Laws "Wisconsin is the first state to enact a law governing the electric fence," says an editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer (February 11). "That law, which went into effect last October, makes it the duty of the State Industrial Commission to provide regulations as to the construction, inspection and use of such fence. It is practically impossible to write all the necessary provisions into a law, so some official agency must be designated in each state to make such rules as will insure the safety of the fence through the correct use of proper equipment. Also to define the legal use of the fence along highways and its proper marking in cases in which the public should be informed of its presence. There is need of some legislation of this kind in all states..."

House,
February 14

The House debated the National defense bill.

Mr. Wolcott submitted resolutions requesting the Senate to return H. R. 3790, the Public Salary Tax Act, to the House, but the resolutions were ruled out of order. Mr. Thorke-son spoke in opposition to the same bill.

H. R. 2728, to add certain lands to the Cleveland National Forest, Calif., was taken from the Committee on Agriculture and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget & Finance.)

Sulfanilamide
Derivative

The Journal of the American Medical Association (February 11) contains an editorial on sulfapyridine, a new sulfanilamide derivative. It says in the last paragraph: "In the light of evidence now available, the general use of sulfapyridine does not seem to be warranted at present. Because of its definitely experimental status, the drug should be used under conditions of controlled investigation. Under the new law passed by Congress in 1938, a new drug may not be released for interstate sale until it has been licensed. Under the regulations, manufacturers of new products may obtain permission for properly qualified workers to investigate the preparations. The Food and Drug Administration has a great responsibility. It has not released sulfapyridine for general sale in interstate commerce and for this action it deserves commendation. The law gives opportunity for the first time for a drug to be tried first in hospitals which have facilities for observing all its manifestations. Such a procedure is established in the interest of the public and is much preferable to the former custom of frequently placing the drug on the market before adequate tests had been made. Most likely sulfapyridine will be released, but it is a wise course to withhold it from general distribution until observations now under way are completed."

Record Citrus
Crop Forecast

The Federal Crop Reporting Board has estimated 1938 production of oranges at 80,931,000 boxes compared with 74,476,000 in 1937 and 49,577,000 averaged in the 1926-36 period. Production of grapefruit was estimated at 40,896,000 boxes in 1938; 31,093,000 in 1937, and 16,772,000 for the ten-year average. The California lemon crop was estimated at 11,234,000 boxes compared with 9,355,000 in 1937 and 7,487,000 for the ten-year average. The production of each of these crops set a new record, the board said. (Associated Press.)

U.S.Imports
Curtailed

The Argentine Ministry of Finance has announced a sweeping curtailment of imports from the United States, totaling \$31,000,000, says a Buenos Aires report by the Associated Press. "It is necessary importations from the United States return to the level of three or four years ago if the equilibrium or balance of payments under present conditions be maintained," the announcement said.

Wool in Wrappings "Casein is beginning to cross those barriers of restricted chemical use which the comparatively high cost of its plastics and coatings derivatives had seemed to indicate," says an editorial in Chemical Industries (February). "Those who reasoned logically that this interesting and valuable raw material was thus doomed to rather limited employment, find some satisfaction in the fact that the new uses opening up are made promising by lower cost factors in favor of casein in the operating rather than the strictly chemical items of the budget. These new developments exemplify again the very great versatility of chemical processing as compared with mechanical fabricating." The periodical reports a new, large casein wrapping plant in Chicago, and says: "It is significant that this market (for casein wrappings) has been won chiefly from waxed papers and in competition with cellulose transparent sheetings...Casein is also preparing to come into competition with cheap, abundant cellulose in the fibre field. There is a 'synthetic wool' plant in Bristol, R.I...The pound-year construction costs of this new casein fibre plant are reported to be not greater than 3 cents. Initial plant investment is apt to be an exceedingly important element in a young industry such as synthetic fibres where improved processes press thick and fast..."

Portable Fruit Grader & Sizer "Designed and built with the view of possibly reducing the cost of handling fruit in the packing house, a portable grader and sizer, which handles fruit in the groves, is being used by an Arizona firm which contracts for the picking and hauling of much of the grapefruit being delivered to Phoenix packing houses," reports Citrus Leaves (February). "The equipment is mounted on its own running gear, is pulled as a trailer behind a truck and has its own power unit--a small gasoline motor. It makes five tentative size separations. The fruit is dumped by the pickers onto a hopper-like grading table where culls are thrown out before the salvaged fruit passes through the sizer. From the sizer bins, the fruit flows into field boxes for transporting to the packing house where boxes containing fruit of a like size are stacked together. This makes it unnecessary to run all the fruit through the processing equipment in the packing house to get out fruit of a certain size to meet the desires of an individual customer..."

Modern Spray Equipment American Fruit Grower (February) contains an article by Dean Halliday on new, modern high-powered spray equipment. He says in part: "Progressive manufacturers have so improved the design and effectiveness of present day spraying and dusting machines that there is now available to equally progressive growers just the right type and size of outfit...Streamlining is the rule. Power take-offs are becoming increasingly popular. Rubber tires are now considered standard equipment...In one manufacturing plant, recently visited the working model of a new duster embodying new steering design which permits sharp turning at row ends was displayed...Where the power unit is a part of the rig, engines have become standardized to the high compression gasoline type...Large tires prevent bogging down of heavily loaded sprayers and dusters and provide new riding ease for operators..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 34

Section 1

February 17, 1939

CONSERVATION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES President Roosevelt called on Congress in one message yesterday to consider methods of conserving and utilizing the nation's energy resources, and in another suggested a \$2,000,000,000 federal-state program for abatement of water pollution. Each subject was covered in reports from the National Resources Committee. Without adopting the committee's recommendations for his own, the President pointed out that some legislation affecting coal, oil, natural gas and water power would expire at the end of this fiscal year and other similar measures would terminate after a few years. He offered the report as "a useful frame for legislative programs affecting these resources." (New York Times.)

TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES Outlining a tentative plan for inaugurating the intensive training for government employees called for by President Roosevelt's civil service reform program, the Civil Service Commission announced yesterday that a careful survey is contemplated of the training facilities now available in order to determine what needs are unmet. "Until existing facilities have been fully developed, and are shown not to meet existing needs in full, no new schools should be initiated," said the commission in submitting its suggestions to the Council of Personnel Administration, the Office of Education, the Bureau of the Budget, the Appropriations Committees of Congress and organized employee groups. Under the President's order, which became effective February 1, the commission is instructed to cooperate with all government establishments, the Office of Education, and public and private institutions of learning to establish practical training courses for employees that are designed to spur the competitive promotion system likewise provided by the presidential order. (Washington Star.)

COTTON EXPORTS Commerce Department reports showed yesterday exports of American cotton slumped to the level of the 1880's during the first six months of the current marketing season. Shipments to foreign countries between August 1 and February 1 totaled 2,192,285 bales, compared with 3,832,247 during the corresponding period last season. With the exception of the World War year of 1917, exports have not been less than 4,175,000 bales since 1885. (A.P.)

Dairy Electric Coastal Cattleman (February) contains an item on a
Water Heater new type of electric water heater for dairy farms. "This
heater," it says, "which is fast becoming popular along
the Gulf Coast, was introduced about a year ago and placed on test at
Texas A. & M. College...A recent survey in Harris County, where sanita-
tion requirements are very strict, disclosed the fact that the dairymen
were spending a lot of time, labor and money in attempts to obtain hot
water...With this dairy water heater, however, all the waste and worry
is eliminated. An ample supply of hot water is always available at milk-
ing time and it is always at the same temperature. Hot enough to use
straight in milkers and other machines or to mix with cold water in the
washing vat for utensils, pails, etc. The fire hazard is eliminated as
there is no flame. It is convenient to use and does not require any ad-
vance preparation. Located alongside the washing vat in the milk room,
all that is necessary to get hot water out, is to pour cold water into
it. The cost of operation is as low or lower than kerosene or gasoline
burners and a great deal safer to use. A check of 4 dairies near Houston
revealed that on the average dairy farm, about 10 gallons of hot water
is needed each day. The average operating cost of the dairy water heater
on these same dairy farms was 5 cents per day or about $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per gallon."

Maintenance "The building of thousands of miles of farm-to-market
of Farm Roads roads as work-relief projects during recent years has been
a boon to many communities, but it has also given the
local governmental units a heavier job of highway maintenance than ever
before," says the Nation's Agriculture (February). "A report from an
Illinois county which recently bought motor equipment to replace part
of its old, horse-drawn machines indicates the possibilities of the new
types of road maintainers. The county still has 13 horse-drawn drags
in use, and the average annual cost of maintaining the roads with this
equipment is reported as approximately \$125 a mile. Two 50-horsepower
tractors care for as much mileage as the 13 horse outfits, and the average
cost of maintenance is given as approximately \$50 a mile. For remote
sections of the country where traffic is light, and where the townships
do the maintaining, the 50-horsepower tractor may be too expensive for
the amount of work to be done. In recent years, small tractor outfits
have been designed which give efficient and low-cost service under such
conditions. Both large and small maintainers can be used to do grading
work, of course, which makes it possible to keep them in steady use..."

Wild Life Wild life in the national parks in Alberta is thriving,
in Alberta with most species of big game decidedly on the increase,
according to an investigation conducted last summer in
Waterton Lakes, Banff and Jasper National Parks by Dr. R.M. Anderson,
biologist of the National Museum of Canada. He reports that the destruc-
tion of game by predatory animals is not excessive but merely normal. (Press.)

House, The House passed the National defense bill.
February 15

The House received a supplemental estimate of \$10,250,000 for payments to Federal land banks on account of reduction in interest rate on mortgages under the provisions of the act of July 16, 1938; to Com. on Appropriations (H.Doc. 154).

Items in Appendix: Extension of remarks of Mr. Smith of Ohio opposing the Public Salary Tax Act (H.R.3590). Statement of S. K. Warrick, of Scottsbluff, Nebr., on "cost of labor to beet-sugar producers".

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

"Alky-Gas" "Unwelcome to many farmer-users and to all who would Unprofitable like larger commercial outlets for surplus farm products, is the news that the Atchison 'alky-gas' plant is closing up," says the Farm Journal (February). "The reasons: Too-high costs of distilling alcohol for blending; refusal of the Chemical Foundation to put in more than the \$500,000 to \$600,000 already expended; failure to obtain private capital from other sources; inability to enlarge and improve the plant in the hope of reducing costs; finally, a not very enthusiastic welcome of alky-gas by the public. The last reason may be considered the most important, for rapidly increasing sales at the higher prices charged might have made it possible to enlarge the producing plants to a more economical operating basis. Notwithstanding steady sales at some filling stations, and the good will of many co-operatives, sales did not reach expectations. The Sioux City case, where the Chemical Foundation promised a producing plant whenever sales of this fluid reached and maintained a level of 3000 gallons daily, resulted in disappointment. Users of the blend bought readily, and had no particular complaint, but in the words of one dealer, 'it didn't stick.' Available information indicates that under present conditions alky-gas is not economically sound."

Predict Wool The Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicts that Markets Up American wool producers will find more favorable markets in the season opening April 1 than prevailed a year ago. Factors tending to strengthen the markets, the bureau said, included a higher rate of wool consumption and prospects for materially smaller surplus stocks. The bureau said domestic prices had advanced considerably in recent months, while world prices had declined. It said that unless foreign prices advanced, prices in this country could not rise much from present levels without attracting larger imports. Imports in 1938 totaled 31,000,000 pounds, the bureau said, compared with 150,000,000 in 1937. (Associated Press.)

Contour Farm Fences "Like straight corn rows, straight boundary line fences between farms will oftentimes be replaced by boundary lines following the contour on Illinois farms where serious efforts are being made to control erosion losses of fertile top soil," says B. B. Clark, Illinois State Coordinator of the Soil Conservation Service, in the Agricultural Leaders' Digest (February). "Among the first farmers in the state to adopt contour boundary lines between farms will be Henry Miller and Edward Sharpe, who operate adjoining farms near Mount Carroll. Both farmers are cooperating in an erosion control demonstration...The Miller farm contains 118 acres and the Sharpe farm 265 acres. Where the contour rows have been meeting the straight line boundary, the two farmers have had the problem of 'point rows.' It is to eliminate these that they decided to use a contour boundary. The plan will, of course, be discontinued in case either one should sell or move off the farm," Mr. Miller explained..."

Peach Borer Control "Results of experiments conducted in Georgia, New York and Illinois have shown that ethylene dichloride emulsion has a number of advantages over paradichlorobenzene for control of the peach borer...Ethylene dichloride emulsion is effective at low temperatures of soil and therefore can be used late in the fall and early in the spring, when it is too cold for paradichlorobenzene to be effective," says Oliver I. Snapp, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine (Ft. Valley, Georgia), in American Fruit Grower (February). "The material has also given good borer control during midwinter in Georgia. It appears to be safer on young trees, as well as being more quickly and completely effective than paradichlorobenzene. Furthermore, the ethylene dichloride treatment requires a minimum of preparation of the soil before treatment and no attention subsequent to mounding after treatment. Just as good results are obtained by pouring it around the trees as by the use of a sprayer. The cost is a little less than that of paradichlorobenzene...Unless breathed in high concentrations over a long period of time, no harmful results may be feared in working with it...A device for regulating under pressure the quantity of spray used on each unit treated has been developed by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine."

Wooden Shingles The Farm Journal (February) reports a study made at Pennsylvania State College on the length of life of wooden shingles. "In 1909," it says, "the roof of a large barn with northern exposure was covered with untreated redwood, western red cedar and chestnut shingles, and also with creosoted chestnut, pitch pine and loblolly pine...That treatment with creosote lengthens the life of shingles is evident from the 25-year test. Southern yellow pine and Pennsylvania pitch pine are not durable woods, but creosote made them at least as durable as western red cedar or redwood, both of which were used as basis for comparison. Untreated chestnut singles failed, but treated chestnut shingles remained nearly as sound as when laid, except for surface weathering."

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 20, 1939

NATIONAL FARM INSTITUTE

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace and Sidney Hillman, C.I.O. vice president, joined Saturday in proposing an intergroup council of agriculture, labor and industry, which with the aid of the government would work for economic reconstruction, says a Des Moines report by the Associated Press. Charles R. Hook of Middletown, Ohio, steel manufacturer and chairman of the board of the National Association of Manufacturers, pledged the support of industry, asserting "it is ready and anxious to put its shoulders to the wheel along with agriculture, labor and government." These three leaders, with Secretary Wallace representing the dual role of agriculture and government, were speakers at the concluding session of the National Farm Institute, which for two days discussed economic intergroup relations. In proposing the plan, ^{the} Secretary said it would probably be most consistent with our traditions of democracy for agriculture, industry and labor to form their own council, on their own initiative and entirely independent of the government, but prepared always to cooperate with the government in promoting the prosperity of all groups.

I. C. JAGGER

Dr. Ivan C. Jagger, well-known plant pathologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died in San Diego last week. He was 49 years old. One of Doctor Jagger's outstanding contributions was the introduction of brown blight and mildew resistant lettuce varieties that virtually saved the lettuce-growing industry in Southern California. One of the first, Imperial F, was introduced in 1930. Since five other Imperial selections have been introduced, the last one in 1938. He also cooperated in the breeding work of cantaloup No. 45, a variety resistant to powdery mildew. This introduction made possible the retention of Imperial Valley's reputation as the country's largest melon producing center.

HIGHWAY CONVENTION

A new approach to the question of the design and capacities of roads may be expected to result from the highway planning survey now under way in 46 states, delegates to the annual convention of the Association of Highway Officials of the North Atlantic States were told at its closing session. Efforts will have to be concentrated near and in cities and on increasing the traffic capacity of other roads by improvement of sight distance, H. S. Fairbank, chief of the division of information of the Bureau of Public Roads, said in an address. (New York Times.)

New Iowa Farm Lease "A new type farm lease that gives both tenants and farm owners a break and can be read without aid of a lawyer has just been drawn up by the Iowa State College Agricultural Economics Section," says L.R. in Successful Farming (February). "New features of the lease are: (1) Improvements or repairs to be finished before the tenant takes over the farm are listed to show the tenant what he is paying for; (2) the lease does not have to be changed each year if both parties are satisfied with the way the farm is being run; (3) the landlord's share of the crops and crop expenses is shown in the lease, probably the most important part of the agreement; (4) tenant may make improvements and move them or get paid for their unexhausted value when he leaves the farm; (5) tenants are free to make plans for row crops and conserving crops, or these plans may be agreed upon each year; (6) difficulties arising between landlord and tenant are to be settled by a third and disinterested party to prevent delays, expense, or ill feeling."

Farm Products The Department of Agriculture announces that it looks for an improvement next spring in the domestic demand for farm products, but it added that general foreign demand conditions continued relatively unfavorable. For the year it is expected that demand conditions will be relatively stable, compared with other recent years. Farmers were getting slightly lower prices for their products in mid-February than in mid-January, the department reports. Declines in dairy products, grain, eggs, tobacco, truck crops and some other commodities more than offset advances in meat animals and some fruits. Although industrial activity failed to make the usual seasonal upturn in January, industrial inventory situation appears to be generally healthful and there is enough stimulus in sight from government spending, building construction, automobiles and textiles seemingly to preclude any important recession, the department said. (New York Times.)

Flying Weather The Coast Guard has announced a special weather service to aid trans-atlantic flying, says an Associated Press report. Admiral R. R. Waesche, commandant, said that arrangements had been made with the Weather Bureau to take special weather readings at Coast Guard stations along the Atlantic Coast and from Coast Guard vessels detailed to the North Atlantic to hunt for icebergs. Additional observations will be made both at sea level and with radio balloons at high altitude by the cutters of the ice patrol.

Rural Sales Daily average sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas in January were the highest on record for that month, the Commerce Department reports. The unadjusted index figure of 91.3 was approximately the same as that reached in 1929, when it stood at 91.2. As compared with January 1938, an increase of about 5 1/2 percent was recorded. (Press.)

By-Products from Lignin New and useful chemical reagents, hitherto unknown, which are valuable as solvents, wood preservatives, lacquers and plastics can be made by hydrogenating lignin, says a Washington report in the New York Times. Two research workers of the Forest Service, E. C. Sherrard and E. E. Harris of Madison, Wisconsin, have disclosed the discovery in a patent. In their patent, the inventors point out that lignin constitutes about one-fourth of the dry weight of the wood from which pulp for paper is prepared. Normally this lignin in the form of waste liquor that comes from the wood digesters is directed into streams, polluting them. According to the patent, the lignin in the waste liquor is recovered with acids, then washed in water and dried. Four colorless components are obtained, one of which is valuable as a solvent for gums, resins, nitrocellulose and oils and as a wood preservative and two for making certain plastics. The inventors have dedicated their patent to the free use of the public.

Emergency Farm Loans S. P. Lindsey, Jr., of the Farm Credit Administration, said last week that emergency crop and feed loans for 1939 are now being made in all the early planting sections of the South and Southwest and are available in the other districts as needed. Lindsey, who is director of the Emergency Crop and Feed Loans Section of the FCA, said the 1939 loans will be made, as in the past, only to farmers who cannot obtain credit from any other source. The money loaned will be limited to the farmer's necessary and actual cash needs for growing his 1939 crops or maintaining his livestock. The interest rate on the loans is 4 percent a year.

Fertilizer in Water "Western farmers now can mix fertilizers in their irrigation water and let gravity give their crops food and drink at the same time," says the Farm Journal (February). "One firm sells ammonia gas for irrigation; another sells calcium nitrate...Helped by scientists, western farmers have originated devices that carefully measure and distribute the exact amount of commercial nitrogen fertilizer into irrigation ditches. One concern has recently bottled ammonia gas (80 percent nitrogen) in steel cylinders. The gas is bubbled from the cylinders into the water. With this new method, hauling and spreading are eliminated. Fertilizer can be applied at any time during the growing season, which is not possible when broadcasting. The new method has worked out particularly well on row crops where a large amount of nitrogen is wanted at a certain stage of plant growth... Commercial nitrogen is being used in much the same way as the ammonia gas. Some growers mix it in a tank and let the concentrated solution drip into the irrigation water; some scatter the material in irrigation furrows; others simply slash open a bag and hold it in the irrigation ditch until all the material has been dissolved."

County Planning Bushrod W. Allen, Office of Land Use Coordination, in the Land Policy Review (January-February) is the author of "Circles of Influence" (in county planning). He says in part: "When a good job of mapping a county's land resources is done, an indispensable step has been taken toward a permanent program for the county. Thus the singular importance of wide and interested participation by the farm population in the mapping project that has been laid out for the year. Land resources are one of the determinants of future agricultural adjustment, just as they are fundamental to any genuine understanding of existing maladjustments. It cannot be emphasized too much that while competent mapping, rooted in the knowledge of farm folks, provides a basis for many of the changes that can be made now, such work is a process that is never finished. Unless mapping is an authentic product of the aggressive interest of farmers themselves, any campaign for a permanent betterment of agriculture is likely to break down. Moreover, 'If this system of coordinated land use planning is to endure,' said the agreement signed at Mount Weather, Virginia, last summer by the Department and land grant college committees, 'farmers must see tangible results from their work.' Farmers are planners by nature. They are accustomed to looking ahead and patience is more than a superficial trait with most of them. Nevertheless, they have an understandable desire to see results from their planning while they are still able to enjoy some of its fruits. Hence, we must prepare now for application of the plans that farmers are drawing..."

Science of Snow Surveying "How Much Snow?" is the title of an article by Myron M. Stearns and Blaine Stubblefield, in Scientific American (February). He says in part: "To make snow surveys, state, federal and private agencies join hands. Some of the work is supervised by the U.S. Forest Service, some by power companies. Some is done by cities, by irrigation districts, utility districts, private land companies and lumber companies. California, like several other western states, has a state bureau of water resources. The U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Engineering coordinates all the different reports into a single survey for the entire mountain area from Mexico to the Canadian border and with the cooperation of Canadian authorities, even beyond the boundary. In April, forecasts based on the snow surveys go on the main news service wires. Newspapers print them in full. They are carried in radio broadcasts. Ranchers, hotel keepers, river men, orchardists, western salesmen of farm machinery, automobiles and almost everything else, store keepers, dwellers along the great sand rivers of the Southwest, all take note and build or modify their plans accordingly...The leading snow scientist is Dr. J. E. Church, of the University of Nevada...Under the vision of President Joseph E. Stubbs of the university and the enthusiasm of Samuel B. Doten, later director of the Nevada Experiment Station, which undertook the task, the funds provided by the newly created federal Adams act for research were applied to this problem..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

February 21, 1939

FARMERS AND INSURANCE

Insurance companies have a direct stake of more than \$1,600,000,000 in farm values in the United States, aside from the interest these companies share with other business institutions in the contribution of agriculture to general business prosperity. Howard R. Tolley, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, cited these figures yesterday in an address to the Chartered Life Underwriters, in the course of which he said that the less direct stake of the companies in programs for agricultural welfare is also of major importance. Not only do these programs bolster the insurance companies' immediate investment, but they also have added heavily to farm purchasing power. In turn, this has been a contributing factor in urban business improvement and widened the companies' field for sale of policies, Mr. Tolley said. He cited the most recent index of about 124 for demand deposits in country banks and rural retail sales, as compared with an index of about 49 for each in 1933 when these "action" programs for farmers had their beginning. (Washington Post.)

HOUSE PASSES RFC EXTENSION

Legislation extending the lending powers of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the life of the Electric Home and Farm Authority to June 30, 1941, was passed by the House yesterday. Simultaneously Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the RFC, forwarded to President Roosevelt and to Congress a summary of the corporation's activities since its organization February 2, 1932, showing total authorizations of \$13,206,639,807. (Washington Post.)

SALARY TAX APPROVED

A special Senate committee yesterday approved application of the federal income tax to state salaries and taxation of federal salaries by state governments. At the same time Senator Brown, of Michigan, chairman, announced, that, while "the committee is not entirely satisfied on the constitutionality of the issue involved, it felt it would be proper to pass the House bill so that the intricate question may be presented to the courts." The chairman made it clear also that the committee is making no recommendation regarding the reciprocal taxation of state and federal bonds. (Washington Star.)

Senate, Both Houses received the President's message recom-
February 16 mending conservation of the National energy resources
(H. Doc. 160).

Both Houses received the President's message recommending water-
pollution control (H.Doc. 155). Ref. to Senate Com. on Commerce and
House Com. on Rivers and Harbors.

The Senate passed S. 1102, to continue the functions of the Re-
construction Finance Corporation, which was reported from the Committee
on Banking and Currency (S. Rept. 54).

The Senate passed S. 26, to empower the President to create new
national-forest units and add to national forests in Montana. On re-
quest of Mr. McNary, S. 243, to extend the provisions of the Forest Ex-
change Act to lands adjacent to national forests in Oregon, was in-
definitely postponed.

Mr. McNary submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to
S. 1332, to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act with respect to hops.

House, The House began general debate on H.R. 3218, the
February 16 Legislative Appropriation Bill, which was reported from
the Committee on Appropriations (H. Rept. 43)

Received the following supplemental estimates of appropriation;
referred to Com. on Appropriations: Proposed provision affecting exist-
ing appropriation for International Production Control Committee (H.Doc.
168).

Senate, The Committee on Appropriations reported with amend-
February 17 ments H. R. 3743, the Independent Offices Appropriation
Bill (S. Rept. 70).

The Senate adjourned until Monday.

House, The House passed the Legislative Appropriation Bill
February 17 (H.R. 4218).

The House received the annual report of the Farm
Credit Administration for 1938 (H. Doc. 14); ref. to Com. on Agriculture.

The House adjourned until Monday,

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Air Express Record Air express shipments in December scored the all-
time high for any one month in the history of the service
of 83,956, an increase of 29 percent over December, 1937,
the Air Express Division of the agency reported recently. Gross revenue
for the month was 30.5 percent over December, 1937. Shipments in and
out of New York City for December totaled 42,242, an increase of 27.5
percent over December, 1937, and 18 percent over October, 1938, the pre-
vious high month. Outbound shipments were up 25.5 percent and inbound
32.5 percent. (Press.)

Financing Last year the Federal land banks and the Land Bank
Farm Buying Commissioner made more than 6,000 loans to finance the
purchase of farms, said F. F. Hill, governor of the
Farm Credit Administration. "Such loans averaged from \$3,000 to \$4,000
each and as a rule the purchaser had experience, equipment and savings
so that what the lending institution advanced was supplemented by the
new owner in completing the deal. Commissioner loans to an individual
farmer can be as high as 75 percent of the normal value of the property
which he wishes to purchase but cannot exceed \$7,500." Governor Hill
pointed out that this year there would probably be 100,000 farms sold
throughout the United States to satisfy the demands of the farm real
estate market. On an average, there are about thirty farms coming up
for sale in each county.

Safety for Following the advent of tractors and power take-
Farm Machines off driven machinery and their increasing popularity in
recent years, the number of serious accidents caused by
machinery has risen to alarming proportions, reports J. B. Davidson,
head of the Agricultural Engineering Department at Iowa State College.
Prof. Davidson says that manufacturers recognize the growing agitation
for safety devices and are working together in removing danger spots
from farm machinery before each state passes laws formulating corrective
safety codes. During the last few seasons manufacturers have been
active in enclosing the machine parts which are causes of accidents,
Davidson says. Fenders now shield the rear wheels, some tractor models
have hooded engines and others have enclosed transmissions and power
take-off shafts. Latest trends in the safety movement point toward the
development of safety devices which form an integral part of the machine.
Thus, when safety devices are removed, the machine becomes inoperative.
Danger points are also being marked with suitable labels, Davidson finds.
Special training, emphasizing carefulness in handling the newer, more
powerful farm equipment, may prove to be a powerful weapon in the fight
to decrease the number of deaths and serious accidents on the farm,
Davidson believes. (Wisconsin Agriculturist, February 11.)

Soybean J. Sidney Cates is author of "Big-Time Performance
Progress for Soys" in Country Gentleman (February). He tells of
the work of the Department, first under the late C.V. Piper,
and afterwards under W.J. Morse, Bureau of Plant Industry, in introducing
and developing soybean varieties. Describing the soybean laboratory at
Urbana (Ill.) he says: "These laboratory workers have not only developed
a line of new plastics from soybean meal but have devised a so-called
laminated plastic with almost metallic hardness and strength which is al-
ready being used, I am told, for instrument boards of automobiles. And
then on exhibition was a synthetic fiber closely resembling wool...My
attention was called to still another way of using soybean protein which
there was strong hope might be worked out, of making a paint of an entirely

Soybean Progress (continued)

different sort, a paint without oil. There is high hope that we will have just a dry powder--extracted from the soybean--which, when mixed with water much as we mix up whitewash, will give a protective coating far more durable than any of the paints we now use...We come now to the newest and most striking of the late soybean news, the development of green-vegetable varieties and varieties suited to human food as dry beans. When Morse came back from the Orient in 1931, after a two-year stay studying this great Oriental crop, he brought with him a large collection of a radically new type of soy--the green-vegetable type... Today, from this material he brought back there have been developed something like seventy-five distinct green vegetable varieties, fitting an even wider range of country than do the field-bean kinds. They vary in maturity all the way from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty days... The green-vegetable soy has met with uniform high favor as a home-garden crop... Many canners are now packing the green beans and I have never eaten anything more delightful from a tin can... Soybean history furnishes a typical example of how more diversified farming comes... It comes like the automobile has come, through development, through the work of exact observing men seeking broader truth of how Nature behaves; and this is the road of science and research."

BAE Hog
Outlook

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicted last week that hog production would continue to increase this year and possibly equal or exceed the 1929-33 average of 80,000,000 pigs. In an official monthly publication, C. L. Harlan of the bureau recalled that drought and price increases sharply reduced hog production in the Corn Belt prior to 1937, but that since then there had been sharp increases in all regions. Between 1935 and 1938, he estimated, the pig crop expanded from 38,000,000 to 48,000,000 head and a further expansion seemed likely. In the South, hog production increased to 19,000,000 head last year, compared with 14,000,000 in 1935. The 1938 figure was the largest since 1924. In the eastern Corn Belt the pig crop has reached its pre-drought average. In the western Corn Belt a smaller increase is reported. (Associated Press.)

F.S.Develops
Bell Device

A new bell-ringing device, permitting emergency radio calls to be completed as easily as telephone calls, has been developed in the Forest Service's radio laboratory at Portland, Oregon, the Department of Agriculture reports. The device, planned for use at fire-lookout towers, ranger and dispatch stations, will eliminate noise from loudspeakers when operators are "standing by" and make it unnecessary for forest officers to stay close to their radio sets. (Press.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 37

Section 1

February 23, 1939

SENATE ACTION

The Senate Banking Committee has approved legislation continuing the Export-Import Bank and the Commodity Credit Corporation until June 30, 1941. The banking committee voted to limit loans by the bank to a total of \$100,000,000. An increase from \$500,000,000 to \$900,000,000 in the borrowing authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation was approved by the committee. (Washington Star.)

The independent offices appropriation bill, granting nearly \$2,000,000,000 to some 40 governmental agencies, was approved by the Senate yesterday without a record vote. First of the major 1940 supply bills to pass the Senate, the measure goes back to the House containing two controversial alterations of the House bill: an appropriation of over \$17,000,000 for two dams of the TVA, and omission of the authority for the FHA to function for the next two months. (Washington Post.)

The Senate Finance Committee reported favorably yesterday by a vote of 14 to 3 a House bill which would set up reciprocal taxation of salaries paid to employees of the Federal and State Governments. Senator Byrd, a sponsor of the measure in the Senate, has stated that about 4,000,000 persons would be affected by the bill, which would cover salaries paid after December 31, 1938. (New York Times.)

U. S. -PHILIPPINE TRADE RELATIONS

Opposition to altering the Philippines independence act developed in the Senate Territories Committee yesterday in the face of a warning that abrupt severance of all ties might involve the United States in a Far Eastern conflict. The warning was voiced by Francis B. Sayre, assistant Secretary of State, while testifying in support of legislation to prolong preferential trade relations 15 years after the islands become politically independent. Independence is now scheduled for 1946. (New York Times.)

FARM LABOR DEFINITION

Representative Lea of California, chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, has introduced a bill to define an agricultural laborer under the national labor relations act. Mr. Lea said it has the support of many farm and dairy producers associations and cooperative enterprises. He observed that while the labor act exempted "an individual employed as an agricultural laborer," it nevertheless contains no definition of that term. (New York Times.)

Canadian
Wheat Bonus The Canadian Government will abandon its present wheat bonusuing policy at the end of the present crop year, says a report in the Wall Street Journal. Agriculture Minister Gardiner informed the House of Commons the government will substitute a program of encouraging farmers' wheat pools. The minister said the government is facing a loss of about \$48,000,000 this crop year as a result of the current policy of buying from producers at the basic price of 80 cents a bushel No. 1 northern at Fort William and selling it in the open market. For the crop year beginning August 1, he added, the government will adopt the recommendations of the Royal Grain Commission, which reported that the government should get out of the wheat business, continue the futures trading system with supervision of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and encourage creation of cooperative marketing associations of wheat pools.

Forestry and
Regulation Southern Lumberman (February 15) says editorially: "In this issue we are devoting consideration space to Chief Forester Silcox's recent official utterance on 'A Federal Plan for Forest Regulation Within the Democratic Pattern,' and accompanying it, A.G.T. Moore's reply, 'The Responsibilities and Opportunities of Government in Forest Conservation.' Together the two occupy some four or five pages, but we feel that the importance of the subject justifies these pronouncements from two authorities on the subject of forestry, both of whom are sincerely devoted to the cause of conservation but who would approach the goal perhaps by different paths...The views of both Mr. Silcox and Mr. Moore are worthy of careful and thoughtful consideration. There is, very definitely, a forestry problem in this country. Mr. Moore and Mr. Silcox represent two different schools of thought in the approach to the solution...but they are agreed on the one central idea of the desirability of conservation."

Standard Box
Cars and
Packages Standardization
Industrial / (February) prints part of an address by K. F. Nystrom, of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, who suggests that the railroads, with the National Bureau of Standards and American Standards Association, study the possibilities of developing standard dimensions for cartons and shipping boxes as the first step toward economical standard box cars.

Keeping Farm
Records "Important as are farm records each year, they will prove doubly valuable for 1939," says an editorial in the Ohio Farmer (February 11). "With the regular five-year census due in 1940, certain types of information required can only be supplied accurately from a farm account. A recent trial-census enumeration of the Bureau of the Census showed that many farms did not have accurate records from which to supply the necessary information. The coming census will cover, among other things, the 1939 crop acreage and production, classes of livestock and livestock products, uses of land, items of farm finance, expenditures and facilities..."

Land-Use Programs "National Land-Use Programs and the Local Governments" is the title of an article by Leon Walcott, Social Science Research Council, in the National Municipal Review (February). This issue is devoted to county government--1939. He sees opportunities for strengthening of local governments in rural areas through regulation of land use by the federal government, and says in part: "We have a series of programs with lines of action running from the national government to the farms and farmers of the nation. These lines in many instances are direct. That is, they devolve through agencies of the national government--regional, state and local--right to the individual farmer. They do not cut off at state levels to be promulgated further from there. These are the programs which give prominence to national-local, as distinguished from national-state, relations.....What is now is that the Congress has placed the responsibility for each activity in a national department or independent establishment and has not authorized the delegation of that responsibility. As these programs reach the individual, they very materially affect the use or manner of use to which he puts his farm. He is not, of course, coerced into complying with national regulations but he can find ample reason for participation. Under the AAA program, for example, an acreage allotment of soil-depleting crops is set for every farm in the country..." Citing the offices of the Department which affect land use, he says: "Some of the controls over economic life which were transferred to national and international markets have been restored to individuals and local governments. It will be valuable to protect these gains. But there are other controls yet to be restored and still others which may yet be taken away. Let us hope that local governments will take the initiative in restoring and protecting these, but above all let us hope that students of government, by exploring the essentially regional problems, will point the way and assist in their solution through purely local efforts."

Palatable Poultry Feed "The value of any feed mixture for chickens is dependent on its palatability as well as its composition," says Harry W. Titus, National Agricultural Research Center, in Country Gentleman (March). "...The chicken has a very poor sense of smell and though there are some taste buds on the tongue, the sense of taste is not well developed. Birds will take quinine without showing any distaste for it, and many poultrymen have observed that tobacco dust in the mash does not decrease the consumption of the mash. On the other hand, the chickens possess a 'form' sense and a well-developed sense of touch. They are attracted by bright, shiny objects and are able to distinguish between certain colors but ordinarily show no marked preference for any color. These facts suggest that the odor and taste of a feed mixture do not greatly affect its palatability, but that the physical properties of the feed particles are very important...According to Halnan, an outstanding British authority on poultry nutrition, experience or memory also plays a part in determining whether or not a feed mixture will be palatable..."

Senate, Agreed to the conference report on H.R. 2858, first
Feb. 20 deficiency appropriation bill for 1939. The conferees
adopted the Senate proviso regarding matching of federal
funds for New England hurricane damage and retained the Senate items for
judgments and claims. The following Senate amendments were reported in
disagreement: N.E. hurricane damage, House, \$3,000,000, and Senate \$5,000,-
000,000, insect pest and plant disease control, House, \$2,000,000, and
Senate, \$5,417,000. The \$500,000 item for work on the White Mountain
National Forest was not subject to conference committee action.

Began debate on H.R. 3743, independent offices appropriation bill
for 1940. Most of the debate related to the TVA.

House, Passed S. 1102, to continue the Reconstruction Finance
Feb. 20 Corporation, but substituted the language of H.R. 4012.

Debated H.R. 4011, to continue the Commodity Credit
Corporation and Export-Import Bank of Washington.
(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

New Fruit Dr. L. K. Tressler of the New York Experiment Station
Products predicts a bright future for the fruit industry, if the
widespread interest in the development of new uses for
fruits and fruit products shown by research workers in government and
state laboratories and in private industry can be taken as an indication
of what may be expected during the next 10 years. He predicts that
canned and bottled apple and cherry juices will become important year-
round beverages within the next decade and that the production of these
juices will utilize millions of bushels of first and second grade apples
and cherries. Frozen sliced apples and apple flakes or apple flour for
the baker are expected, he says, to absorb large quantities of apples.
The introduction of quick freezing units and cold storages by farmers
operating roadside stands, he believes, is already within the realm of
possibility, and, coupled with an increasing use of cold storage lock-
ers, means that more and more fruit will be preserved for use either by
the farmer and his family or for sale out of season to his customers.
(American Agriculturist, February 18.)

Storage "Tons and tons of dirt have been moved by Montana
Reservoirs and northern Wyoming farmers and stockmen in the last
three or four years to build dams across ravines or cou-
lees for the impounding of water," says the Montana Farmer (February 15).
"These reservoirs, dotting the landscapes from the mountains on the West
to the Dakota lines on the East, have stored hundreds of acre feet of
water for livestock, for irrigation and in some cases for playground or
domestic use. This water, worth millions of dollars to the livestock and
farming industries, has done much to change the land use pattern in the
two states. Large blocks of grazing land which in previous years were
of little value because of lack of water, now form valuable parts of
grazing districts and aid in the development of an efficient range man-
agement program..."

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Section 1

February 24, 1939

COTTON SURPLUS Secretary Wallace outlined yesterday before the Senate Committee on Agriculture three possible plans for dealing with the large surplus of American cotton and then indicated he favored some means of subsidizing exports. The three plans are: (1) To continue the present loan program and find some way to place American cotton in world markets "on a competitive basis"; (2) a program of increasing cotton growers' income so they would give up government loans and permit a large amount of cotton to flow into domestic and foreign channels; (3) a plan for fixing a high price on domestic cotton that would let the surplus flow into world markets for what it would bring. Declaring the present administration farm program was "fundamentally sound," Secretary Wallace said it had kept cotton prices from falling below present levels and the surplus from growing much larger than it is now. At the same time Mr. Wallace said the program could not continue to pile up stocks of cotton under government loans and ignore the decreasing exports of American cotton to the world. (A.F.)

TRANSPORTATION REGULATION The Association of American Railroads asked Congress yesterday to provide for regulation by a single government agency of all rail, water and motor transportation systems. The Interstate Commerce Commission, or a similar body, would continue to fix rates, under the plan outlined to the House Interstate Commerce Committee by R. V. Fletcher, general counsel of the rail association. The I.C.C.'s financial and administrative functions, however, would be vested in a new five-man "transportation board." (Washington Post.)

COURT UPHOLDS MILK ORDER The constitutionality of Secretary Wallace's milk-marketing order for the Greater Boston milkshed, which had been challenged by 30 dealers, yesterday was upheld by Federal Judge George C. Sweeney. Judge Sweeney held that the Secretary was within his authority in regulating the price of milk and establishing a price equalization pool for distribution to farmers supplying milk to the Boston market. (A.F.)

REORGANIZATION BILL INTRODUCED A new government bill, dropping controversial features that led to defeat of the old administration measure and providing for majority vote veto by Congress of any Presidential reorganization plan, yesterday was introduced in the House by Representative Cochran of Missouri. The bill confined itself largely to power for the President to submit plans for transfers, consolidations and abolitions of agencies and functions in the interest of both efficiency and economy. (Washington Post.)

Senate, The Committee on Commerce reported without amendment
February 21 S.685, to create a Division of Water Pollution Control in
 the Public Health Service.

House, The Committee on Military Affairs reported without
February 21 amendment H.R.3134, to amend Public No. 545, 75th Cong.,
 authorizing detail of employees to foreign countries
(H. Rept. 80).

Senate, The Senate agreed to the House amendment in the
February 22 nature of a substitute to S.1102, to continue the Re-
 construction Finance Corporation. This bill will now be
sent to the President.

Mr. Lee inserted in the Record and discussed briefly an amendment which he intends to propose to the next relief-appropriation bill, providing that W.P.A. labor may be used by the Soil Conservation Service for soil-conservation projects.

House, The House agreed to H.Res. 95, providing funds for
February 22 the Select Committee on Government Organization. The
 resolution requests the executive departments to detail
to this committee "such number of legal and expert assistants as said com-
mittee may from time to time deem necessary".

(Prepared by Office of Budget & Finance.)

Medical Care In "The Problems of Rural Medical Care," Harold
for Farmers Maslow, in Rural America (February) says in the con-
 cluding paragraph: "The general picture today is that
in the wealthier rural districts, emergency sickness care can usually
be obtained by farmers on relief, while in the poorer regions, even this
care is often unobtainable. Generally, the so-called, medically indigent
farmer who is not on relief, but who can pay for his own living needs
except for the large medical care bills, is not considered eligible for
free public treatment. Rarely do rural welfare officers provide non-
emergency care or preventive service to farm families. The necessary
expansion of public medical care can hardly be expected from the rural
areas dependent as they are on the yields from the inadequate property
tax; state or federal grants-in-aid are needed. The next level of the
low-income farmers who can pay for some care, but who cannot afford
adequate care, will require some form of partial public subsidy. The
Farm Security Administration has developed many rural medical organiza-
tions with the cooperation of the medical societies on the basis of
standard loans to its clients; this machinery can perhaps eventually be
utilized for such a subsidy system. A different form of subsidy would be
the further governmental provision of hospitals, laboratories, and public
health nurses on a free or partially free basis. This latter plan would
also help raise medical standards and, if combined with some form of
insurance to bring economic security to physicians, can place rural care
on a par with that found in the cities."

Precooling Oranges "Recent tests made in California by U.S. Department of Agriculture refrigeration specialists have shown that oranges, precooled before or after loading, can be shipped from coast to coast with only one re-icing and arrive in just as salable condition as fruit that received standard refrigeration service," says J. H. Currie in Country Gentleman (March). "In the cooler fall or spring weather, it has been shown that costs can be cut even more. If the oranges are precooled, no icing en route is necessary. Precooling carries the oranges until the cool Rocky Mountain section is reached. Then the vents of the ice bunkers are opened and the shipment moves under ventilation. This new method of precooling has greatly simplified the shipment of the vast amount of oranges that leave California each year. It has been estimated to save both consumers and producers around a million dollars annually."

Insect Light Trap "There is now available a light globe made especially for catching insects," says American Fruit Grower (February). "Its application to fruit farms lies in its use in packing houses and storages or on the outside of the fruit farmstead buildings. For growers who operate roadside markets, the globe would help in keeping down all kinds of troublesome insects that fly around at night. While it acts as an efficient insect trap because it kills the bugs by heat when they enter its side openings, the globe gives equally as brilliant illumination as the usual bulb cover. The globe comes with a removable bottom, easily emptied of the dried insects. Another model of the light trap does not have the detachable bottom. For permanent installations, the globe is fitted with a ceiling holder, but it also comes with a portable attachment that fits on ordinary light sockets..."

Northern Laboratory Plans for the new federal laboratory to be built this spring in Peoria for developing new commercial uses for crops have been received from the United States Department of Agriculture, says a report in the Bloomington Pantagraph (February 10). It will be a three story brick building designed to house 250 workers who will devote their time to a study of all crops produced in surplus in this region. They will endeavor to find new uses for both crops and farm wastes. One of the 306-foot wings will contain research laboratories equipped for work in chemistry, physics or biology. The other wing will contain a smaller number of laboratories, semi-plant scale equipment for the production and study of motor fuels, and space for heavy engineering apparatus. Service shops and special research rooms will be located in the basement. Both the offices and the laboratories will be air conditioned. Construction will be fireproof throughout. Steam will be generated in a small separate power plant, designed to assure smokeless combustion of coal.

Dust Explosion Safety Codes H. R. Brown, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, is author of "Control Dust Explosions" in Safety Engineering (February). He says in part: "The Dust Explosion Hazards Committee of the National Fire Protection Association, formed with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has prepared safety codes for the prevention of dust explosions covering the hazard in a number of industries. The following safety codes have been approved as American Standard: for the prevention of dust explosions in starch factories; for the prevention of dust explosions in flour and feed mills; for the prevention of dust explosions in terminal grain elevators; for pulverizing systems for sugar and cocoa; for the prevention of dust ignitions in spice grinding plants; for the prevention of dust explosions in wood flour manufacturing establishments; for the installation of pulverized fuel systems; for the prevention of dust explosions in coal pneumatic cleaning plants; for the use of inert gas for fire and explosion prevention; for the prevention of dust explosions in woodworking plants... Additional detailed codes are in the course of preparation..."

Consistometer Tests Jams Western Canner and Packer (February) reports that the consistometer, originally designed by E. P. Bostwick, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, for measuring the consistency of tomato products, is now being tested for measuring the consistency of preserves and jams. "The instrument attracted the attention of the preservers in the (San Francisco) Bay area who saw possibilities for its application in testing the consistency of jams and preserves."

World Poultry Congress The National Poultry Digest (February) says that the visitor to the World's Poultry Congress will see the following high spots of the poultry business: Scientific Meetings--a gathering of the poultry scientists of the entire world to discuss the newest scientific developments as they apply to poultry; Popular Programs--daily talks will be given which will cover practical phases of the industry; Youth Program--the boys and girls will have their own camp and special entertainment, judging and demonstrations, by 4-H boys and girls, Future Farmers of America, and rural Boy Scouts will tend to develop further leadership for the poultry industry; Consumer Program--a variety of daily programs, open to the public, will depict the purchase, care, refrigeration, distribution and nutrition of poultry and eggs, presenting feature demonstrations, style show, puppet show, movies and parade of nations; Competitive Live Bird Show--at least 7,500 specimens of the best in each breed of poultry will vie for ribbons at the Congress; International Live Bird Exhibit--interesting and unique specimens of fowl from all parts of the world will be shown, including such rarities as the long-tailed fowl of Japan, green-footed fowl of Poland, blue-egg hens from Chile and other unusual products; Pageant of Poultry--a living American standard of perfection will show a male and female of each breed and variety of chickens, turkeys and waterfowl; Mammoth Trade Exposition--exposition of products in the Great Exposition Hall; Hall of Nations and States--special educational features prepared by each nation and state to dramatize the outstanding features of their land."

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Section 1

February 27, 1939

RURAL SCHOOL PROBLEMS

The educational spotlight turned upon the problems of rural schools and the intention of administrative leaders to seek a revision of the general curriculum of the nation's public schools, with the opening yesterday at Cleveland of the sixty-ninth annual convention of the American Association of School Administrators. The keynote of the convention was struck by Dr. John A. Sexson, superintendent of schools in Pasadena, California, and president of the Association, who declared that the resources of the small communities of the country--social, economic and civic--had suffered slow starvation in the last two decades. "Perhaps the most tragic result of the depression is the havoc it has wrought in the educational institutions of the smaller communities," he said. "America has been and still is a nation of homes and neighborhoods which have by kindness, cooperation and sacrifice built for themselves a rich, nourishing culture resting solidly upon local resources. Within the last two decades these resources have receded." He said that half the school children and teachers of the nation were in small communities, defined as those below 2,500 in population. (New York Times.)

WEATHER SERVICE

The Weather Bureau has promised quicker forecasts for 25 to 50 principal cities. Its chief, F. W. Reichelderfer, said these will be made possible through the bureau's informing the weather men in these cities by teletype of the frequent reports for aviation, and thus allowing them to modify accordingly the general forecast. The resulting local forecasts will be made available generally through the radio, press and telephone. These local forecasts, according to E. B. Calvert, in charge of the forecasting division of the central office in Washington, will supplement but not replace the usual state forecasts from the six district centers. In some areas the new service can be started soon, while in others it will start after July 1. (New York Times.)

AZALEA SHOW

The annual azalea show in the Botanic Garden (Washington) opened Saturday in the exhibition conservatory with more than 350 plants on view. The entire show is expected to be at its best about March 1 and will be open to the public for about three weeks. (Washington Star.)

Gapeworm Treatment The National Poultry Digest (February) in its department, "Poultry Research," says: "During the past year three Bureau of Animal Industry scientists--Everett E. Wehr, Paul D. Harwood and Jacob M. Schafer--found that gapeworm-infested chicks treated by inhaling barium antimonyl tartrate dust were able to dislodge the parasites. The barium antimonyl tartrate, which is not yet available commercially, is made by combining tartar emetic and barium chloride. The bureau has applied for a patent which will give the public free use of the product. In laboratory tests...infected chicks were placed in a large glass jar. A small amount of the dust was placed on their heads and the remainder sprinkled into the jar which was then covered with a cloth. The dust was agitated by air pressure so that the chicks would inhale it. Ten minutes in the jar was sufficient to kill the parasites. A few hours after treatment the infected chicks ceased coughing and gaping. Post-mortem examination of the treated chicks' throats showed that the barium antimonyl tartrate dust was more than 98 percent efficient in killing the parasites. Since the original tests were run, the bureau scientists have been able to treat from 50 to 55 chicks at a time by placing them in a large galvanized box and introducing the dust with a blow gun."

Food and Drug Laws The Winter issue of Law and Contemporary Problems (Duke University) says in a foreword: "Volume I, Number 1, of this quarterly presented a symposium on 'The Protection of the Consumer of Food and Drugs'...In June 1938 a new law was enacted... It seems appropriate to devote this issue to a second symposium on the subject of the protection of the consumer--of cosmetics as well as food and drugs..." The articles are: The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938: Its Legislative History and Its Substantive Provisions, by Donald F. Cavers, Editor (formerly ^{Adviser to} the Department); The Formulation and Review of Regulations Under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, by Ralph F. Fuchs, Washington University School of Law; The Enforcement Provisions of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, by Frederic P. Lee; The Control of False Advertising Under the Wheeler-Lea Act, by Milton Handler, Columbia School of Law; An Appraisal of the New Drug and Cosmetic Legislation from the Viewpoint of Those Industries, by James F. Hoge, The Federal Food Legislation of 1938 and the Food Industry, by Robert W. Austin; Consumers Appraise the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, by Louise G. Baldwin and Florence Kirlin (the former formerly of the Extension Service); Representation of the Consumer Interest in the Federal Government, by Saul Nelson, Bureau of Labor Statistics; State Food, Drug and Cosmetic Legislation and Its Administration, by Ole Salthe (Consultant to the Food and Drug Administration).

Frosted Foods Institute The Fruit Products Journal (February) reports that interests engaged in production, packing, processing, transportation, warehousing and distribution of frosted foods have formed the National Frosted Foods Institute.

Strawberries for Market "Trials conducted for the past several years in Connecticut show four varieties to be the most promising for market purposes," says D. F. Jones, Connecticut (New Haven) Experiment Station, in an item on strawberries, in Country Gentleman (March). "These are Catskill, Dresden, Howard and Pathfinder. Howard, also called Premier, is the most dependable in yield. It is the leading commercial variety in the Northeast and does well over a wide range of soil and seasonal conditions. The other three varieties have not been so thoroughly tried, but so far have much promise. In Connecticut they yield as much, have larger and brighter berries and are easier to pick. Dresden is particularly promising on account of its bright color and firmness, which it holds for some time after picking. For the home garden, Dorsett and Fairfax should be added to the above list on account of their unusually fine flavor and sweetness. Neither variety will yield as much in New England as the other varieties named and their high quality is quickly lost after picking, but where they can be used fresh from the garden they offer a real treat."

Farmers' Food Dollar Statisticians of the Department of Agriculture have estimated that farmers got only 40 cents of every dollar paid across the counter in 1938 for farm products. This was 5 cents less than in 1937, but 7 cents more than in 1932. The statisticians said the difference between the cost and selling prices of farm products represented the costs of marketing, processing, transporting, and distributing the foodstuffs. (A.P.)

Grass for the West The Farm Journal (March) contains a short article on work at the Fort Hays (Kans.) Experiment Station in getting semi-arid western land back to grass. "In January," it says, "Supt. L. C. Aicher announced methods which look like a solution. The methods as worked out by forage crops specialist Leon Wenger and his men make use of two grasses found on the semi-arid western plains, blue grama and buffalo grass...Blue grama is more drought resistant... Buffalo grass likes more moisture...Gramma seed is lighter than its straw, therefore impracticable to thresh. Buffalo grass seed is hard to get, too, because the plants have a tendency to spread out close to the ground. To solve the seed-gathering problem, investigators started selecting plants of buffalo grass which grew up high enough for harvesting. Strains were selected for seed bearing. Since the seed of grama could not be threshed economically, investigators started planting the seed-bearing grass itself, mixing in buffalo grass. The selected varieties of buffalo grass grew high enough to cut--nine inches or more. The tested method at the Fort Hays Station is to spread the hay on the ground with a manure spreader and punch it into the soil by means of a packer which has narrow, diamond-pointed wheels about an inch wide and six inches apart. After the packer has gone over a field, the straw sticks out of the ground much as it does on a wheat stubble field. This condition prevents soil and water erosion..."

Senate, Mr. McKellar inserted in the Record an amendment
February 23 which he intends to propose to S. 1303, to amend the
Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938...with respect to
cotton.

Mr. Connally submitted an amendment which he intends to propose
to H. R. 3790, Public Salary Tax Act of 1939.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, February 27.

House, Mr. Moser inserted in the Record an article by
February 23 George D. Riley entitled, "Control of Public Service
Again Shifts More Tightly Into Hold of Minority Politico-
Professor Group" and spoke briefly in support of the article.

House, The House agreed to the Senate amendment to H.R.4011,
February 24 to continue the Commodity Credit Corporation and the
Export-Import Bank. This bill will now be sent to the
President.

The House began general debate on H. R. 4492, Treasury-Post Office
Appropriation Bill for 1940, which was reported from the Committee on
Appropriations (H. Rept. 98). Messrs. Face, Ludlow, and Murdock of
Arizona discussed briefly the possibility of the Post Office Department
using cotton twine instead of jute twine.

The Committee on Agriculture reported without amendment H.R.913,
to prohibit the unauthorized use of the name or insignia of the 4-H
clubs (H. Rept. 99).

The House received a letter from the Civil Service Commission
transmitting the annual report of the Board of Actuaries (H. Doc. 179).

The House adjourned until Monday, February 27.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget & Finance.)

Gov. Employee The University of Minnesota is offering in-service
Fellowships fellowships in public administration for young men and
women who have had three years of Government service, for
the year 1939-40. The fellowships will carry stipends of from \$1000 to
\$1500 for the year. The purpose is to help promising Government employees
"to better equip themselves to fill positions involving administrative
leadership and responsibility, and to encourage governmental bodies to
give recognition to such persons in making promotions to administrative
posts." Applications may be obtained from the Public Administration
Training Center, University of Minnesota, and they must be filed before
April 1. (Washington Post.)

"Household The February Commentator contains Household G-Men by
G-Men" Edith M. Stern. The "G-Men" are scientists working out
the standards for the new food, drug and cosmetic act.

Other articles of interest to the Department are: Sick Man of the High-
ways (the trucker) by Charles S. Allen; Machines Make Jobs, by Justin W.
Macklin; and Shock Troops of Science (entomology and aviation in insect
control) by George H. Copeland.

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Section 1

February 28, 1939

FREIGHT RATE

DIFFERENTIALS

The war on freight rates between the North and the South, which started when eight Southeastern States asked the Interstate Commerce Commission to remove what they considered to be prejudicial railroad freight rate differentials, should be decided largely in favor of the Southern States, William E. Lee, commissioner, and Michael Corcoran, examiner, recommended to the I.C.C. yesterday. The recommendation, which is considered of great economic importance to the South, embodied a suggestion that before the commission issues an order carrying out the rate adjustment recommended in the report, an effort be made to have the parties agree upon the bases to be established, leaving details on which the parties cannot agree to be the subject of the commission's orders. (Press.)

NEW YORK

MILK SHED

More than 8,000 farmers from all parts of the seven-state New York milk shed voted unanimously yesterday to carry out voluntarily price agreements embodied in the invalidated federal-state marketing order. The voice vote, approving recommendations made by Holton V. Noyes, State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, authorized former Senator George F. Rogers of Rochester, chairman of the meeting, to name a committee which is expected to draft a plan for enforcement of the contracts with dealers under penalty of withholding milk from distributors who refuse to meet its terms. (New York Times.)

FARM MORTGAGE

HOLDINGS

The government's holdings of the total mortgage debt of American farmers have increased from 12 to 40 percent in the last decade. The Farm Credit Administration said recently that about 35 percent of all farms in the United States carried mortgages in 1938. The debt was estimated at about \$7,082,000,000. Federal land banks and land bank commissioners held mortgages totaling \$2,835,900,000. The increase in government holdings came about through refinancing operations in which the government took over loans previously held by private lending companies. (A.P.)

Light-Weight Freight Cars Anticipating the need for light-weight freight equipment, American Car and Foundry Company has developed two new designs of modern light-weight welded steel freight cars. One is a 50-ton all-welded alloy steel box car and the other a 40-ton welded-riveted refrigerator car. Low alloy, high-tensile, corrosion-resisting steel has been used to the fullest extent practicable in both types of cars, the thickness of plates and shapes being reduced to a minimum while still providing adequate strength. The light-weight of the box car is 37,500 pounds and that of the refrigerator car 44,200 pounds. This represents a reduction in weight of approximately four tons in each design. New developments incorporated in the all-welded box car include steel ends with extra long corrugations extending around the body end posts, steel doors of increased rigidity, and a new design of under-frame having integral all-welded construction. New developments in the welded-riveted refrigerator car, in addition to those mentioned above, include ice bunker, ice hatch, removable steel bulkhead, a unique and very efficient application of insulation, and a new and economical method of using dry ice in combination with water ice. (Scientific American, March.)

Products of Research The leading article in the Scientific Monthly (March) is "Research in Industry," by Frank B. Jewett, President, Bell Telephone Laboratories. He says in part: "Broadly speaking, we have been prodigal in a free use of nature's stores without more than a speculative concern about what we would do when the stores were depleted. I doubt if we could have done otherwise. To cite but a few examples--we have exhausted soil fertility, which nature unaided can not restore; we have destroyed forests and have consumed minerals which nature will not replace. Our whole present civilization is primarily grounded in the use of natural products. Each step forward that we have made has increased our demand for mechanical power and accelerated our drain on the natural supplies which were accumulated through long geologic ages. On the other hand, in our progress we have learned how to make many blades of better grass grow where one poor one grew originally; we have learned how to expedite the restorative processes of nature; how to make and employ substitutes and how to create usable power in ways nature never employed. And although much of our knowledge is in the laboratory test-tube stage, we do see a way out and can extricate ourselves and go forward if we have the wisdom and will to follow the charted course which scientific research indicates. There is no reason to believe that the problems of waste land from forest operations; of depleted fertility; of crops for other than food purposes; of low-grade ores, or of substitutes for metals and materials now showing signs of exhaustion, can not be solved."

New Hard Spring Wheat Farmers of western North Dakota are being given an opportunity this year to grow a new hard red spring wheat that promises to outyield popular varieties now being grown in the Northwest. It is said to be as resistant to stem rust as is Thatcher and more resistant to leaf rust, by which Thatcher has been seriously damaged in the past two years. Pilot has been grown in test plots by the experiment stations of the northwestern spring wheat states and last season was produced in sufficient quantity by the North Dakota station to enable its release to farmers. About 2,000 bushels are available for planting this spring. It is being sold in 5-bushel lots at the state college station at Fargo, as is also a quantity of Rival, another recommended variety. Pilot and Rival were grown at the University of Minnesota farms and in test plots in Minnesota the past season but did not do so well as in North Dakota. In experiments conducted at Langdon, N.D., Pilot outyielded Thatcher in 1938 by 3.1 bushels an acre. (Northwestern Miller, February 22.)

Wheat, Flour Export Sales The Agriculture Department reports that sales of wheat and flour for export totaled 86,900,000 bushels from July 1, 1938, to February 20¹⁹³⁹. Approximately 62,600,000 bushels were sold under the government's export subsidy program designed to place 100,000,000 bushels of surplus grain in world markets by July 1. Government losses on the grain sold to date averaged about 25 cents a bushel, the department said. Wheat actually exported was estimated at 66,000,000. The department said 83 percent of the total sales represented grain and 17 percent flour. Sales included approximately 640,000 bushels of wheat and wheat products to the American Red Cross and other relief agencies. (A.P.)

Sweetpotatoes for Starch Chemical & Metallurgical Engineering (February) contains "Sweetpotatoes as Raw Material," by Messrs. Paine, Thurber and Balch of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and W. R. Richee, Laurel (Miss.) Starch Factory. A note says: "The means that have been taken to preserve the potatoes so that production of starch could be maintained over a 12-month period and to lower the cost to the manufacturer is a story that has real significance for numerous industries using agricultural commodities as their starting material."

FCA Interest Reduction Following action of the boards of directors of the twelve federal intermediate credit banks, the loan and discount rate of the banks was reduced to 1 1/2 percent per annum, effective February 24. The Farm Credit Administration pointed out that during the past five years the loan and discount rate has been reduced from 3 percent to the present rate. During the same period, the earnings of the banks, after payment of all expenses and provision for reserves, amounted to \$12,327,000, before payment to the government of franchise taxes amounting to \$1,501,000. The rate of interest on agricultural production loans handled by the 535 local production credit associations were reduced from 5 percent to 4 1/2 percent on all money advanced beginning February 24.

Migratory Farm Workers The Sunday Washington Star contains an article, "Tractored Out' of Farms--Migratory Agricultural Workers Present New Problem," by C. Belmont Faries. In it the author tells of the work of the Farm Security Administration.

Exports to Latin America The Bureau of Agricultural Economics said recently that during the last five years the United States had regained nearly one-half of the Latin America export trade it lost between 1929 and 1932. Agricultural exports alone increased from \$37,000,000 in 1932 to approximately \$53,000,000 in 1937. In 1929 agricultural exports totaled \$129,000,000. Principal Latin American countries for United States agricultural products are Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia and Brazil. Cuba absorbs more than 40 percent of the total. Wheat flour and lard are leading agricultural exports. (A.P.)

Civil Service Examinations The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 29, unassembled, senior pharmacologist, \$4,600, pharmacologist, \$3,800, associate pharmacologist, \$3,200, assistant pharmacologist, \$2,600, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and Food and Drug Administration. Applications must be on file with the U.S. Civil Service Commission not later than: (a) March 27, if received from states other than those named in b; (b) March 30, if received from the following states--Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

New Farm Equipment Business Week (February 25) in an item on the annual Western Tractor and Power Farm Equipment Show at Wichita recently, says: "Small, rubber-tired tractors predominated and some high-speed models were featured. Combines tend to be smaller... The new tractors are designed for the single-family farm and are faster, smaller and cheaper than they have been... There is an almost complete swing to rubber tires... Tubber tires will rot out before they wear out and tire manufacturers are weatherproofing their product this year... Traction is increased by running about 150 pounds of water into the tire before it is inflated... A majority of the tractors hold to the 5 to 6 m.p.h. top gear, but several new, wheel-type models emphasized a road speed in excess of 25 m.p.h. for to-and-from job travel... The federal soil and water conservation programs have been a great boost for tractors in the Wheat Belt... One of the most interesting exhibits at the show was a damming-lister, which prepares land to hold 100 percent of the rainfall. A high speed plow that was exhibited is the first radical change in plow design in nearly one hundred years..."

Lumber Survey A 20 percent increase in the consumption of lumber in this country this quarter from the first quarter of 1938 is estimated in a summary by the Commerce Department's Lumber Survey Committee. This means a gain in consumption of about 5,000,000,000 feet, the survey points out. (Press.)