DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

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310.1

ITEM . 1 Increased Seedlings are the Basis For Food Increase - Provincial Newspaper Niigata Nippo (NIIGATA) - 8 Jan 46. Translator: K.Ketel

Summary:

After hearing respectfully the New Year's Imperial Rescript, the Nation, awakened from the nightmare of the past, has confirmed its vow to set forth in the new direction. In response to the Emperor's words, "We will vow anew and clear our national destiny", we have begun the first step for the new regime and we will not relax our resolution to establish a new JAPAN.

The pride of all agricultural countries, the farmers, have confirmed their vow to put all available energy into food increase in order to prevent compatriots from starvation. It is incumbent upon the farmers to guarantee the Nation's welfare. However, they have to overcome many hurdles to achieve that aim.

Officials and people must know what comprises the initial step to the increase of food production. That step is the guarantee of seedlings. Every efficient thing must be cultivated from its beginning. The source of farm produce is seedlings. If one has an assurance of sufficient seedlings, his production will increase.

Our prefecture was dependent on the import of seedlings for rice, potatoes, and vegetables from other districts. We have to import more than half of the amount of potatoes from HOKKAIDO in the coming spring, and 70 or 80 percent of sweet potatoes and vegetables must also be imported. The assurance of supply of those necessary foods will grow more difficult with the snarl in traffic facilities. Then it will be impossible to carry out the principle of sowing good seed on good soil. Moreover, due to the present insufficient fertile ability of the soil, bad results are forseen. Therefore, it is urgently necessary to obtain seedlings of all kinds through a definite supply. The prefectural authorities and the agriculture association have already set up plans and have created a deputy association in order to guarantee the supply of seedlings. However, the farmers show an air of being unwilling to co-operate. Surely they realize the fact that supply of seedling is necessary. Nevertheless, they are unwilling to renounce their old ideas and are unwilling to co-operate tosecure seeds by their own initiative. The fault lies with the past leadership of the Agricultural Experimental Section. Because of the section's inefficeint results of farm experiments, the farmers show no trust in them. It has been far easier for the farmers to buy seedlings from abroad.

Leaders and farmers must co-operate more closely. The prefecture plans to create model farms in order to promulgate new agriculture technique. However, thse technicians must first of all aim at the problem of storage and upbringing of seedlings independent of other countries. The farmers should not adhere to their old tradition, but should candidly co-operate with the leaders, who, on the other hand, should renounce their old distrust of the farmers. Both leaders and farmers should work for a food increase in order to stabilize the Nations's welfare. 931.6-729 12Jan46

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ITEM 3 An Appeal to the Farmers-Magazine: Shin Nihon Keizai (Monthly)-January 1946 Issue. Translator: Echigo-Lamb.

3/10/1

Full Translation:

As the food problem becomes increasingly serious, discontent with the farmers is gradually rising among city dwellers. It is a well known fact that the majority of city dwellers are literally hovering on the verge of starvation. Everyone, to be sure, deplores the fact that Governmental authorities are incapable of coping with the situation, and that war profiteers, by underhanded methods, are buying up goods. On the other-hand, the resentment of city residents against farmers, who greedily demand illegal black market prices and goods in exchange for food, is growing daily. In spite of this resentment, because they must eat in order to survive, most city dwellers humbly submit to the farmers demands. At the present time the city population, made up for the most part of low-salaried workers, are, so to speak, "eating up their subsistance;" they are using up their savings and exchanging their goods for food. Everywhere these desperate workers are saying, "just wait until we have a chance to get back at these farmers"; and talk of a "city rebellion" is spreading from street to street.

We do not hesitate, of course, to extend our sincere thanks to the many honest farmers. Though rice production for this year is optimistically extimated at 46,000,000 koku, actual production is expected to fall considerably below this figure. The total amount to be delivered was set at 30,000,000 koku. Having already submitted their crops of wheat, potatoes, and sweet potatoes to the Government, the farmers must now bear this huge additional burden.

In meeting this quota, farmers are handicapped by a serious labor shortage, and little or no fertilizer is being distributed. We are heartily sympathetic with the farmers who have produced their crop despite bad weather and severe labor shortage, and must still deliver two thirds of their crop to the Government. It goes without saying that their crops are the result of their own efforts; it is also an undeniable fact, however, that among the various strata of our society, with the exception of a portion of the priveleged classes, the farmer at present occupy the most favorable position. The farmers, who along with the war profiteers, encreased their wealth during the war and are continueing to increase it, may be said to constitute a new privileged class. This, at least, is the opinion commonly expressed by the general public. Feeding from the purchasing parties who go out into the country in search of food, it is reported that farmers in the prefectures adjacent to the capital earn between 500 and 1,000 yen per day. This amount is received for the sale of sweet potatoes and other vegetables. When, in addition, we consider the black market sale of rice, wheat, and other cereals, we can easily imagine the vast sums which the farmers acquire.

It is the consensers of public opinion that excess war profits should be confiscated. When we make this statement, needless to say, we refer to a certain portion of the munitions manufacturers who made huge profits from the war. What action is to be taken against them has not yet been definitely decided; we should remember, however, that their leaders,

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the ZAIBATSU, have already been ordered dissolved. Next to the industrialists, it is the farmers whose wealth has increased as a result of the war. From the outbreak of the war, the agrarian class, under the encouragement of the militarists and bureaucrats, were allowed to carry on production with the aid of city dwellers and school boys; and it can easily be imagined that during the war, they obtaindd most profits from the sale of their produce at black market prices. From this point of view, then, farmers may be said to bear a share of the war responsibility along with the militarists and bureaucrats.

Now these farmers, who themselves bear a share of war responsibility, are continueing to exploit the urban population, which is hovering on the verge of starvation. The position of these city dwellers is becoming more and more desperate. They must spend their last penny for food in order to survive. Of course, the Government is to blame for its inability to cope with this situation. We should like to know, however, if the farmers are going to show any consideration for the city populationwho, it must be admitted, have paid the greatest price for the war.

We are wondering, too, if the above-mentioned estimate of rice production for this year is not open to question. Even the poorest crops of previous years have not fallen below 55,000,000 koku. When we think of it, it seems evident that in the past few years, the annual rice production has been consistently underestimated.

The farmers will perhaps argue that Government officials are incompetent and that war profiteers have made exorbetant profits. Nevertheless, the consumers are the farmers' fellow countrymen and the bulk of them are city dwellers. Moreover, the majority of the city population suffered to a greater degree from the damages and consequences of the war. Now, in spite of the untold hardships which the city population has endured, the farmers threaten to strip these suffering people of their last penny. To exploit them in their present misery seems cruel and inhuman. Thus the farmers, who once were considered sincere and innocent of any guilt, have come to be regarded as war criminals, especially since the war is over. Who will say, when he considers their present behavior, that the farmers are worthy of participating in the building of a new JAPAN?

To be sure, the farmers are quite correct in saying that they were "taken in" by the militarists and bureaucrats, that their enthusiasm for submitting crops was considerably dampened by the actions of incompetent bureaucrats, and that war profiteers were addicted to black market activities; nevertheless, they must remember that the larger part of the consuming class is now only a step away from starvation. We therefore appeal to the farmers on behalf of the masses to make every effort to submit their crops, so that their fellow countrymen will not be allowed to starve.

The farmers are to be congratulated on the SCAP directive of 8 December ordering democratization of agrarian lands; they should remember, however, that more and more is expected of them by the people of JAPAN.

931.6-850 20jan46

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ITEM 2 (a) The Public Movement; (b) The Delayed Bounty on Offered Rice; (c) The Diligent Farmers First - Mainichi Shimbun - 16 January 1946. Translator: T. Unayama.

310.1

Full Translation:

I deeply appreciated the news which recently appeared in your paper concerning the direct connection between the autonomous townsmen organizations and farmers. In this report, I could find the germination of the powerful constructive ability of the people who objected to the go-slow Government officials. I had been impatient with the paralyzed state of Government offices, but more so at our lack of measures to deal with this situation. At that time, when I read the above-mentioned news, I felt the march of the revived Japanese people. We undoubtedly will make our way through the power of our autonomous organizations.

Concerning the movement for the emancipation of the people or defense of the people's livelihood, I remembered SANO Manabu's essay "Toward the Movement of Dual Rights," in the New Year's number of the "KAIZO." In the essay, SANO advocated the organization of a people's committee in opposition to bureaucratic organizations, and concluded that all problems of the people's livelihood should be solved democratically by the people.

The rights of the people have been already recognized, but the majority of people have not yet found the means of using them. The Diet is too narrow to be the instrument for developing the will of the people. Having read the essay of SANO and the concrete examples in your paper, I was very pleased. I, therefore, recommend all persons of the same sentiments to read the above-mentioned essay.

(NIHEI, Aizo.)

I am the son of a poor farmer. The farmers of our village have completed rice distribution for sale to the Government. I received the bounty for the rice just at the end of the last fiscal year. Actually, it was only ten per cent of the total sum of the bounty, which was 40 yen per koku, and that meant I received a small portion of 1944's bounty at the end of 1945.

What a business delay this is! Properly speaking, the bounty should have been paid on the day when I completed the offering. Nevertheless, it was delayed for a year and then there was only ten per cent! It is natural that the farmers' offering of rice is becoming increasingly disappointing when such an attitude is adopted by the Government.

(TSUKIJI, GUNMA.)

I think that the best method for improving the rice supply is to pay a bounty in the shape of fertilizer and farm implements, but they should not be delivered after the rice has been handed over. The Government officials and the leaders of villages are corrupted to such an extent that they cannot be trusted if the bounty is not delivered to the suppliers on the spot in exchange for the bags of rice.

(FUKUDA, NIIGATA.)

The Government Ministers' tour of the countryside, and the special distribution of "sake" are better than inaction. The special distribution of "sake," without discrimination between the diligent and the idle, will have negative results. The special distribution of the rice bounty should be made first to the diligent farmers with fertilizers and farming tools. The only measures for the improvement of the rice supply is, after all, to reward the honest farmers with the bounty which their diligence deserves. (TAKAGI, Seiichi, SAITAMA.)

931.6-823 189Ken 46

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ITEM 1 Laying Hold on the Farmer's Mentality - Provincial Newspaper Niigata Nippo (Niigata) - 15 January 1946. Translator: K. Ketel.

310.1

Summary:

Due to the present Government's lack of policy and indifferent attitude towards critical problems confronting the Nation, the Japanese people are assigned to solve these questions themselves. The Japanese farmers made up their mind to put into effect a self-administration regarding foods and other necessities by means of the farmers' committee. The Communist Party planned to carry out a people's administration, and movements are developing all over the country in order to supply foods and other commodities by forming alliances between producers and consumers. Such administration is already being carried out in HOKKAIDO. This country was destined to a poor harvest last year, 30 per cent of the usual crops. Therefore, by way of self-defence, the farmers formed an alliance with the HOKKAIDO Labor Union, the HOKKAIDO Federal Mine Workers Union, and some other 38 associations in order to exchange food for materials, machines, and fertilizers from the factories.

In our prefecture, one cannot yet observe such active administrations, but antagonism against the inability of the Government is growing steadily among the farmers. In order to overcome the food crisis, our prefecture has planned to produce 60,000 koku of food substitutes. However, the farmers waited for the promised supply of milling machines in vain. The crops began to rot, and the farmers lost their confidence. This failure to supply machines depends on the lack of materials and difficulties of continuing to operate the factories. However, a great deal of its fault lies on the part of the Government, for the latter took up temporary measures, but completely failed to improve the conditions.

The milling machines are scheduled to be distributed about the end of this month. However, it is very doubtful that we can begin work from next month, for even if we had received these machines, electric installments and equipment will not be ready. Some doubtful sources already reveal that only 100 koku, instead of the 60,000 koku, will be produced.

The Government intends to supply only half of the machines and to pay subsidies. The Government should know that the farmers don't need any money. They want machines and agricultural tools, and if they get these, they are resolved to increase food production. The Government should know that farmers cannot be persuaded by money, wine, or any bribes. It is necessary that the Government change its attitude and take hold measures for the guarantee of agricultural machines and materials.

931.6-823 18Jan46

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 826 DATE: 19 Jan 46

File as
No

ECONOMIC SERIES: 178

310.1

ITEM 1 Present State of Agricultural Association and Its Future - Jiji Shimpo - 13 Jan 46. Translator: T. Kitagawa.

Summary:

Systematic activities of agricultural associations all over the country are well under way, but owing to their tradition of feudal oppression, their movement is not as colorful as that of the urban trade unions.

The platform of the leading association is as follows: 1. Elimination of bureaucracy from associations: 2. Measures to cope with the poor crop experienced in 1945; 3. Solutions of food problems (especially of the system of delivering necessities for life to the Government under the fixed price delivery system); 4. Drastic improvement of farm land administration system.

Since the promulgation of the Farm Land Reform Bill by the Government, the associations have become engaged in more concrete problems. They have faced cases in which landlords sold their lands in haste at exceptionally high prices, requests by landlords of termination of lease, conflicts between associations and prefectural authorities regarding the fixed rice delivery system, etc. We cannot overlook the fact that the Bill has encouraged the birth of new agricultural associations.

The revised Farm Land Reform Bill offered difficulties which can be attributable to the following facts:

1. Though the Bill was drafted to democratize farmland administration and abolish class distinctions this proved to be merely bureaucratic idealism. Landlords are still in power in agricultural structure.

2. The bill stating that landowners may receive rent in kind in case tenants so agree will cause tenants to become servile should they wish to persuade the landlord to receive the type of rent which their landlord is not in favor of. Only a united body of tenants will be able to negotiate with landlords on equal level in such a case.

3. The land-purchasing committee of the agricultural association in the original bill was to consist of five representatives including the ranks of landlords, independent farmers, and tenants, respectively, but the Reform Bill provided that another three men of good reputation were to be added to the committee. This will reenforce the landlords' camp, for so-called men ofreputation usually are principals of schools, chief priests, or members of the management of the association, that is, men who are not the sort to share anything in common with tenants. Here is another reason to encourage tenants to band together.

Since the end of the war, generally speaking, leaders of agricultural associations of the country have busied themselves in the basic activities of establishing new associations or the revival of default associations, especially in districts west of KINKI. In HOKKAIDO the extremely poor food situation caused by the poor crop, which was 30 per cent of normal, and the inability to import food from other parts of the country because of lack of transportation gave rise to rioting. Farmers united in self-

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

defense and developed agricultural associations. But farmers of the district, instead of opposing the consumers, are willing to co-operate with them in tiding over the food crisis.

Characteristic of HOKKAIDO in the association movement is the lead taken by the lower echelon of the smaller local units. In the TOHOKU District in AOMORI-Ken, the Social Democratic Party and the prefectural authorities are acting in co-operation within the association movement. They are at present working to lay bare the goods hidden by former armed forces of JAPAN. In IWATE, the movement is not active. AKITA-Ken is the most progressive in the association movement among the prefectures of the district. Associations of the prefecture are insisting on their participation in supervising the distribution of rice delivery at fixed prices, which the Prefectural authorities have not yet agreed on. Preparations for establishment of associations are being made in YAMAGATA and FUKUSHIMA-Ken.

In MIYAGI-Ken, tenants in FUDODO village are actively engaged in trying to be exempted from tenants' fees for the year. Tenants in the Prefecture want to establish the association by themselves and to participate in problems concerning fixed rice deliveries through this organization. In KANTO District there are wide districts where the associations should be established. The prefecture has many lots formerly belonging to the armed forces of JAPAN. Especially the disposition of 70 chobu of land in ZAMA, where the army academy used to be, is a matter of dispute between the association and a nationalist body.

In SAITAMA and CHIBA-Ken the Communist Party movement is powerful. In HOKURIKU District the revival of former associations are progressing well in NIIGATA-Ken. Farmers in TOYAMA-Ken are insisting that national forest lands be sold to them.

In CHUBU District there are vehement advocates in GIFU urging that war veterans should be excluded from purchasing lots of the former KAGAMIGAHARA landing field.

West of the KINKI District, in MIE, OSAKA, KYOTO and KYOGO, preparatory meetings to establish agricultural associations were held. The association movement in SHIKOKU, especially in KAGAWA-Ken is rather active. In SAGA, OITA, FUKUOKA and KAGOSHIMA-Ken of KYUSHU, preparatory meetings for the establishment of associations were held. West of the KINKI district, the association movements have been disturbed in reviving the old associations and that much activity was asked of associations by candidates of the Social Democrat Party, whose base of political activities lies in the associations.

ITEM 2 On Agricultural Reform by HIKAMO, Rikizo - Magazine: Uikyokujoho (Monthly) - Jan 46 Issue. Translator: Mrs. Asaka & T/4 Kawata.

310.1

Summary:

Democratization of the Agricultural Districts.

A new bill to revise the agricultural system, at present one of JAPAN's most important problems, was introduced in the Diet. The principal object of this bill is to reform the Japanese feudal system, and establish a suitable democratic system in the new JAPAN. The majority of the farmers in JAPAN are tenants or small landowners, and in 1940, the statistics of the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture revealed that of the 5,480,000 farms in JAPAN, 1,700,000 were worked by tenant farmers and 2,300,000 owned by small landowners.

Therefore, 70 per cent of JAPAN's farmers are small landowners or tenant farmers, and these farmers have been influenced and dominated by the

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

large landowners. This system whereby tenant farmers and small landowners must serve the large landowners should be broken down. The MEIJI Restoration should have seen the end of the feudal system but it survived, so we should now abolish it completely.

Increase in Food Supply and Land Reform.

The second aim of this bill is to make a better plan for increasing and distributing provisions. In building a new JAPAN we must increase the output of all industries; however, the workers in industrial plants must have food s a system to increase the production of food must be established. To do this, we must make all tenant farmers small landowners no matter how small the land, for the land of the tenant farmer does not belong to him and the more he produces, the more he must pay his landowner for using it. Then, too, if the cultivated land is good, the tenant farmer never knows when he will be told to move.

The production of food will never increase as long as the people remain tenant farmers. If the products of the tenant farmers increase 20 per cent, rice alone will be increased by six million koku a year. This shows that these people have been oppressed by a few dominating landlords.

Renewed Faith in the Government and Food Distribution.

The third aim of this bill is acceleration of the distribution of food. The farmers in general have an antoganistic feeling towards politics, because the Government made difficult demands of them during the war and, furthermore, monopolized the products they produced. This antagonistic feeling is very strong, and they have lost all confidence in the Japanese Government. Therefore, a democratic government would be most essential to regain the confidence of the farmers. Consequently, we should enable these tenant farmers to buy the land they till.

Farm Bill Proposal.

The fourth aim of the bill is a reform in the foundation of the agricultural program. The large landowners have representatives in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Imperial Agricultural Association (TEIKOKU NOKAI), and the Producer's Association (SANGYO KUMIAI). They exert influence over everything pertaining to agriculture. However, the people who actually do the manual labor are the tenant farmers and the small landowners. Unless this situation is corrected, production will not increase.

According to this plan of reforming the agricultural system, the large landowners will disappear and their power and influence will be nullified. We would be assured production and progress, and a foundation for the solution to the problem of raising the farmers's living standards will be laid. The power of dominating landowners will disappear, and the problem of the production and distribution of foods will become a matter for the entire nation to settle.

Criticism of the Agricultural Reform Law.

Agrarian Reform was instituted to accomplish the above four objectives; however, the bill is still defective because the plan is to improve the agricultural system of JAPAN, and should state reasons for the necessity of the plan. This bill must be an independent one, and not just a clause in some other bill. It is the most important reform bill for JAPAN's new agricultural problem and must indicate clearly the method which is to be employed in the reconstruction of the agricultural districts.

The Government was to permit landlords to retain three chobu of land

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

but this has now been changed to five chobu. This system is undemocratic since some farmers will not be able to buy land and will be forced to remain tenant farmers. The agricultural district leaders must be appointed to the office not because he is wealthy or his family is influential, but because of his good character and public interest.

The Imperial Agricultural Association took control of the purchasing of the land, but this association is nothing more than a group of representatives of the large landowners and bureaucrats. Control by such representatives is contradictory to the democratic system which our government is adopting. The Government is going to charge 50 times the tent of the land for one year for rice fields and 48 times for dry fields; however, this should be reduced to 33 times for the rice fields. Furthermore, representatives to agricultural associations should not be appointed but should be elected to office by the farmers.

Problems Hindering Reform.

This bill applies only to land owners owning more than five chobu. It would take five years to put this bill into effect. It is takes five years, the large landowner can easily move out his tenants and cultivate all the land by himself which would prevent the Government from purchasing his land. The Government, according to the bill, can buy only what the large landowners have leased to tenants to cultivate, but by the end of five years, the landowner can surely adjust things to suit himself. Then the tenant farmers would be deprived of this land. Within this five-year period no one can forecast the abuses these large landowners will perpetrate on their simple tenants who probably have no knowledge of this bill.

In order to avoid difficulties arising from the ignorance of the tenant farmers in these affairs, a bill should be passed to protect the tenant farmers. A law should also be made to keep the large landowners from preventing tenant farmers from buying land and to prevent them from transferring the titles of their land to their families and relatives after 15 August 1945.

Agrarian Reform and the Future of the Agricultural Districts.

The new bill is an attempt to revise the agricultural system, democratize the farming districts, and develop farm industries. The classes of farmers should come to the same level and all the farmers should co-operate and unite together. If the farmers all unite, the capitalists will not be able to exploit them.

On the other hand, the Government and not business-men should control the prices of fertilizer and the former should organize co-operatives for the buying and selling of farm products. The use of machines will become more common and the circulation of money will improve.

931.6-826 19 Jan 46

DISTRIBUTION "X"

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310.1

ITEM 2 The Prospects of the Farmers' Movement - Provincial Newspaper Niigata Nippo (Niigata) - 12 Jan 46. Translator: K. Ketel.

Summary:

With the democratic revolution, farmers' associations are making brisk developments throughout the country. It has been reported that various associations are ready to carry out economic warfare in order to solve the food and land questions, and that they are meeting with success. Another report has revealed that the JAPAN Farmers' Association held a permanent committee meeting and that it planned to direct the coming farmers' movement throughout the country.

The first time a representative farmers' movement was carried out was in April, 1922, at the foundational mass meeting of farmers' associations in OSAKA. Since them this organization has fought against oppression for more than 20 years in order to protect the living standard of the poor farmers.

At the end of the TAISHO period (around 1925) a signal was given to the farmers of our prefecture (NIIGATA) by the OZAKI and OBATA Affairs and a resolute movement developed. After that, suppression by the bureaucrats started and the movement grew more and more. However, in spring, 1937, when the people's front was formed the farmers' organization collapsed and a Farmers' Association of greater JAPAN was established.

When hostilities between CHINA and JAPAN broke out, the oppression of farmers was cast down by the dissolution of the Farmland System Improvement League ordered in 1942. However, since the end of the war, the great waves of democratic revolution have washed away despotism and revived the old organization.

In November last year a general meeting was held in order to prepare for the new farmers' movement in NIIGATA prefecture and various farmers' association have been re-established.

There are two distinctive forms of movements, due to their different standpoints and ideals. The Farmers' Association led by executives of the Social Party stands vis-a-vis the farmers' committee under the direct leadership of the Communist Party. The Social-Democrats are trying for economic warfare by using the Farmers' Association, while, on the other hand, the Communists are going to advance into the political sphere of influence.

Our prefecture proposes four Social-Democratic leaders who have been recommended by the farmers' association to run as candidates, and expects that they would bring closer relations between the movement of the farmers and that of the political parties. The Communist Party boldly tries to carry out political warfare by means of the farmers' committee and by dissolving the agriculture associations. However, the Communist Party of our prefecture has not yet been completely organized, and it is said that it will still be a long time till this party is fully organized throughout the country.

Those parties are eagerly pressing towards a quick execution of revolutionary movements, but, on the other hand, the farmers of our prefecture are extraodinarily phlegmatic and many of them are still adhering to the feudal system. Furthermore, the bureaucratic organization remaines unchanged and the power of the landlords is rooted in the mind of the farmers.

The former Minister of Agriculture and Forestry MATSUMURA showed an unchanged bureaucratic tone in his speech in the Diet and many individuals are blocking the way of the farmers' movement. SCAP's directive regarding the release of the farmers will be of great significance and we are anxious to observe how the leaders of this movement strive for success. 931.6-797 16 Jan 46

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ITEM 1 Point System For Crop Deliveries Tried In AICHI Ken - A New Idea - Provincial Newspaper Chugoku Shimbun (Hiroshima) - 8 Jan 46. Translator: H. Shindo.

310.1

Full Translation:

Though rice delivery is one of the most important problems, and Government has done everything possible, the farmers persist in their unwillingness to deliver rice. Here is a new idea tried by AKI, Machi in AICHI-Ken, in reply to the farmers-argument. This idea aims at smooth rice delivery. It is called the Point System for Crop Deliveries (SOGO TENSU SEI KYOSHUTSU.) A list of points is kept showing delivery and holding-quota record of the annual crop. These points are fixed in proportion to the acreage, families, and cattle. Books, in which these points are to be written, are given to every farmer. One may gain points not only by delivery of rice, but by delivery of any other cereal harvested, depending on the type of crop planted by individual farmers. There is an assigned quota of deliveries shown in this book. Whenever rice, or some other crop, is shipped, each farmer must have his own delivery acknowledged by a director of the Agriculture Association or the chairman of the Agriculture Executive Association. In this manner, farmers gain the assigned full points by the end of March. In other words, farmers will have done their duty. In this connection, basic assigned points are as follows:

100 points per 0.1 chobu of paddy field.
70 " " " " non-rice field.

35 points per one koku of unpolished rice.
30 " " " rye.
22 " " " barley.

20 points per hundred kan of sweet potatoes.
15 " " " potatoes.

30 " " koku of rape seed.

Points for crops to be kept by farmers are as follows:

20 points per member of family.
20 points per cow or ox.

931.6-786 16 Jan 46

ITEM 4 The Agricultural Association Disapproves of the Government's Measures - Provincial Newspaper The Chugoku (a local press) - 20 Jan 46. Translator: S. Hirata.

310.1

Full Translation:

Concerning the Government's use of force in the failure of delivery of rice, vice-president of the National Agricultural Association, KODAIRA, made a statement as follows: "Under the present circumstances, there may have been no alternative for the Government but to take such measures as to use force in the event of failure of delivery, but it is difficult to commend such measures from the standpoint of the Agricultural Association. I suppose such a drastic measure has been adopted by the Government as its final recourse. The delivery of foodstuffs is the most important problem which confronts the Nation today. Whatever the measures of the Government, the Agricultural Association intends to go its own way in tiding over the crisis of the food situation by carrying out the delivery in accordance with the farmers' independent method.

931.6-921 24 Jan-46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 The Enforcement Of The Detailed Regulations Of The Revised Agrarian Community Law - Nippon Sangyo Keizai - 20 Jan 46. Translator: K. Sato.

310.1

Full Translation:

The Government on 20 January promulgated, effective the same day, our order of enforcement of the Detailed Regulations of the Revised Agrarian Community Law, which was approved by the last extraordinary Diet session. According to this law the directors (hitherto call presidents) of the Agricultural Associations of cities, towns, and villages will be elected by the farmers and not appointed by the Prefectural Governors. Likewise the directors of the Agricultural associations will be elected by the Representative Councils of cities, towns, and villages instead of being appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. The director of the National Agricultural association will be elected at the general meeting of the prefectural representatives. Thus the way has been opened for the complete democratization of the personnel of corporations which have often been censured being as bureaucratic, and also for independent co-operative activities.

The time for the election of these directors will be appointed by a special order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It is expected that it will take place at the earliest possible opportunity and that it will be some time around the beginning of March. The elections will be held in this order: City, town, village associations, prefectural associations, and the National Associations. They are expected to be finished by the end of March.

931.6-867 21Jan46

ITEM 1 Support of KUROTA's Statement - Asahi Shimbun - 25 Jan 46. Translator: T. Kitayama.

310.1

Full Translation:

The statement of KUROTA, Hisao, who proposed the democratic unification of a farmers' front, is watched with interest in all quarters concerned. About 20 delegates from six prefectures in the KANTO districts, that is, TOKYO, KANAGAWA, SAITAMA, CHIBA, TOCHIGI and IBARAGI, had discussions on 23 January on the various problems at present confronting them, especially the mass meeting of the farmers' associations in JAPAN. As a result they decided to support KUROTA's statement wholeheartedly and published the following agreement with their joint signatures:

1. The plan for the democratic unification of a farmers' front which was proposed by KUROTA, Hisao, and others, perfectly agrees with that of the formation of a single agricultural association. We, together with those throughout the country who are interested in the problem, support the proposal, and with endeavour to realize the unification of the whole agricultural front.

2. The Government, which is going to threaten the farmers with a compulsory delivery and the landowners, who are intent on taking back their farms, are irreconcilable enemies of laboring peasants. In order to overthrow these two fatal enemies of the peasant classes, we are forced to form a democratically unified farmers popular front.

3. We will break down the bureaucratic foodstuff administration, and, in order to tide over the present rice shortage, we will participate in the democratic conference with a view to overcoming the foodstuff crisis in the KANTO districts.

931.6-956 26Jan46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Self-Supplying Program of Foodstuff Production 1946 based on Yearly Estimate of Demand and Supply revealed by the Agriculture Office - Mainichi (TOKYO) - 29 Jan 46. Translator: T. Ukai.

Full Translation:

The food situation is pressing. Delivery of rice to the Government lingers, up to 20 January, at 9,071,000 Koku, 34% of the total amount to be turned over by the farmers. If this rate continues we shall face a great deficit in the middle of May, and consumers in urban centers may really face a crisis. In order to get over the crisis the Government has decided on, and announced at the same time, a yearly self-supplying program of food production for 1946 together with the sources of materials makes a point of producing a large amount of potatoes and wheat. The help and support of the Allied Head quarters are, of course, requested. It is remarkable that the foregoing program is based on an estimate of demand and supply of food during the course of a year, whereas that of the preceding year was a mere target.

It is further remarked:

1. A blocked acreage for planting seed potato will be prefared while the present state of transportation does not allow the easy supply of seed potatoes from HOKKAIDO which was previously depended on.

2. Self-supplying areas of vegetables will be established around urban centers, furnished with considerable subsidies.

3. Those areas which specialize will be encouraged to increase production.

4. The rotation system of crops as well as the mass system of planting is universally recommended.

5. Supplies of manures will be assured.

6. The production of seedlings will be concentrated and selectively prepared. Seedling of superior quality will be made available as far as possible.

7. Fruit growers, who were compelled in wartime to switch over their production, will be encouraged to come back to their former activities, and given fertilizers, etc. They can expect ample aid.

Original Program of Production of Foodstuffs for 1946 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Article	Acreage to be planted		Crops estimated	
Rice	2,906,205	Cho	57,566,413	Koku
Wheat	2,075,342	"	20,094,920	"
Oats	235,000	"	1,200,000	"
Soya Beans	420,841	"	2,861,705	"
Red Beans	75,570	"	462,550	"
Other Beans	57,187	"	433,358	"
Buckwheat	77,710	"	693,840	"
Corn	58,863	"	628,429	"
Other cereals	128,042	"	1,272,230	"
Sweet Potato	512,961	"	1,662,082,000	"
Potato	297,041	"	667,001,000	"
Vegetables	485,920	"	1,588,546,000	"
Fruits	65,344	"	134,065,000	"
Rape Seeds	76,068	"	452,910	"
Sugar Beat	25,000	"	3,750,000	"
Tea	22,448	"	8,604,000	"

931.6-1031 30 Jan 46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 4 Farm Implements To Go To Farm Villages By Exchange System For Rice - Nippon Sangyo Keizai - 29 Jan 46. Translator: Z. Konishi.

Full Translation:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, to stimulate the delivery of rice, in carrying out a special system of the distribution of fertilizer in proportion to the amount of rice products demanded.

Parallel with this, the Ministry was preparing a special distribution of farm implements in return for rice delivery by the same means. However, this step was revealed only recently. Further, to secure the commodities for this purpose, an increase in the prices of such farm implements as hoes, spades, weeders for use in rice-fields, electric thrashing machines, axes and hatchets was decided on at the rate of 2.3 to 3.5 times the present prices. This was notified to those concerned on January 28.

The special distribution method is based on the actual results of rice delivery. For example, those farmers who have completed their allotment and in addition have made a delivery of one to three sacks more would be given either one hoe or two spades. In the same way, to those who deliver over four sacks, one weeder is given.

Next, those farmers who deliver 80 per cent of their allotment and in addition, one to five sacks extra, are issued with one hoe. In the same way, those who deliver over six to ten sacks, are given either one hoe or two spades, and those who deliver over eleven sacks, are given one hoe and one spade. Consequently, those farmers who have completed their allotments, and made a delivery of one sack more, are to have the double issue of one hoe, which comes under the first instance, and one hoe and one spade, which comes under the last instance.

The revised prices of farm implements, hoes, spades, weeders and electric thrashing machines show an increase of approximately 2.7 to 2.9, 2.8 to 3.2, 3 and 3.3 to 3.5 times respectively compared with present prices. And the production schedules for these items in future is 1,000,000 hoes, 2,370,000 spades, 30,000 weeders and 5,000 electric thrashing machines. On the other hand, in the third quarter, 830 tons of steel and iron will be distributed for the increased production of axes and hatchets which is very necessary for the present urgent work on the reclamation of waste land. New prices will be increased 3.1 to 3.2 fold, while the price of motor roll bound in rubber, which is used for hulling rice, is to be increased 2.3 to 2.8 fold.

931.6-1029 30 Jan 46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 4 Proposal of Agricultural Unification - Mimpo - 24 Jan 46. Translator: T. Kitayama.

3/0.1

Extracts:

Proposal of Agricultural Unification by KUROTA Another Trial for Socialists.

Concerning the problems of agricultural villages and staple foodstuffs, movements for popular front are being actively developed throughout the country, with the formation of an agricultural laborers' conference in the AOMORI Prefecture as the first step. In the SAITAMA and OKAYAMA Prefectures also, the same movement is looming on the horizon. Even staff members of the Social Democratic Party, who have shown a hesitant attitude toward the unification of a democratic front, are now unable to resist the ever-increasing urge for a popular front in the provinces; and they are obliged to admit a common front in agricultural districts, though they still hesitate to approve of that in central cities and towns. Just at this juncture, the compulsory measures, which the Government has taken for farmers' delivery of rice and other staple foodstuffs, have served as a spur to that unification of a democratic common front in agricultural villages. This has led to the hastening of the formation of a single agricultural association, and the combining of democratic influences.

To cite an instance of this trend of a common front in farming villages, KUROTA, Koreo, who is a member of the central standing executive committee of the Social Democratic Party, as well as a leader of the [illegible] effecting formation of the [illegible] tural villages, and causing a great deal of repercussion in all farming districts. The intentions and purposes of their proposals for the unification of a popular front seem to be the development of the unification of an agricultural front into a single agricultural association, with the JAPAN Agricultural Association as a "mother-body."

The preliminary conference of the JAPAN Agricultural Association, which is under the influence of the Social Democratic Party, has a single agricultural association as its final objective, so that it has no objection to KURTA's proposal. But here arises a question. The Social Democratic Party published a plan at the central executive committee meeting. It was proposed by the standing committee, and the gist of it was that the unification of a democratic front should be proposed after the general election. This plan, however, was amended by OKADA, Soshi, to be proposed "after the complete maturity of the subjective and objective situation."

Even before the general election, if only an opportunity for unifying a democratic front presents itself, the party will execute the unification. The truth is that the party had decided not to publish its attitude toward a democratic front. But suddenly KUROTA, a member of the central standing committee, showed a positive attitude toward the unification of a democratic front, and this clearly testifies that opinion is split on this question among the staff members of the party.

There had been in this party an anti-staff influence, led by AKAHATA and his colleagues. The standing committee advised AKAHATA to stop the anti-staff movement. However, in the case of KUROTA, his movement was not made as a member of the party, but as an independent advocate of the unification of an agricultural front, so that the party cannot advise him to stop his movement. Thus, ths party attitude toward the statement published by KUROTA is widely watched with keen interest.

931.6-937 25 Jan 46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Demand for Reformation of the Agricultural Association - Provincial Newspaper Chubu Nippon (Nagoya) - 23 Jan 46. Translator: R. Shibata.

310.1

Summary:

A demand has been growing for the fundamental reorganization of the Agricultural Association (NOGYO KAI), as well as for the reformation of the agrarian system, in order to carry out the democratization of agriculture. For the purpose of putting farmers into absolute and unconditional service for the war, the Central Agricultural Association (CHUONOGYO KAI) and the National Economic Association (ZENKOKU KEIZAI KAI) were established by the Agricultural Body Law (NOGYO DANTAI HO) which was instituted by consolidating various agricultural laws and regulations at the session of a diet in the spring of 1943. In June of last year, the above two associations united to become a wartime agricultural body based on the General Mobilization Law. At the termination of the war, it became the present Agricultural Association. As is easily guessed from its career, the association, despite its name of a civil body, is of government origin in its character and is completely estranged from the farmers. A prefectural governor is authorized to appoint and dismiss the leading personnel of the association and to dispatch an order of obedience to bring the disobedient farmers under the control of the association. Farmers have had no opportunity to express their opinions, being checked by the character of the association. Business has been conducted just as in a government office. On the one hand, they have treated the farmers brusquely and with disgusting arrogance; on the other hand, they have been bent on profitable business as though they had forgotten the real aim of popularizing agriculture and increasing productive power. Moreover, what must be stressed even more is that the leading posts of the association were occupied by men of influence in the village, and such a group of men has afforded benefits and facilities only to the landowner class. Poor farmers have been put under difficulties, even in borrowing funds for production, because of a lack of credit or securities. Besides, farmers, in offering their products, have very often been daunted upon seeing unscrupulous acts committed by the staffs of the association, such as the unlawful disposal of the distributed goods, or the black marketing of agricultural products. Now, even from inside the association, a demand has been growing for the cleaning up of such a situation. For instance, the staff committee of the TOKAI KOKURIKU Branch of the Agricultural Association urged the dismissal of leading personnel and the sweeping out of such lower staffs as are easily ruled by their superiors.

However, a more fundamental reform is necessary for the democratization of the Agricultural Association. For the present, it is necessary to conduct promptly the election of the officials and staffs, not waiting till March, when an election is to be held under the revised Agricultural Body Law (NOGYO DANTAI HO), to make public official conferences, to appoint a staff solely from the agricultural point of view, to increase the welfare of farmers, to promote the shipment of products by reorganizing the business section of the association in which every farmer is compelled to enter the Agricultural Association willy nilly, must be reformed sooner or later. Farmers must be free to enter and quit the association. Furthermore, they must establish a Food Administration Committee (SHOKURYO KANRI IIN KAI) by which they will manage the production, requisition and distribution of products by their own hands. Then the function of the Agricultural Association will be only to conduct business in accordance with the decision of the committee. The real democratization of the present bureaucratic Agricultural Association can only be realized through such a drastic reformation. 931.6-976 27 Jan 46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Mental Attitude of Farmers at the Turning Point - Provincial Newspaper Niigata Nippo (Niigata) - 22 Jan 46. Translator: Y. Ebiike.

310.1

Summary:

The reform of the agrarian land system, a drastic revolution to all agrarian villages, perhaps has had more effect on our prefecture than on any other, since ours is the foremost rice-producing prefecture and at the same time most typical of the landlord system. What do the 1,000,000 farmers in our prefecture think of this democratization of agrarian villages?

Strange to say, the most conspicuous trend is that it is the tenant farmers themselves, not the landlords, who are more inclined to hesitate in accepting the new agrarian law, which promises to break down the privilege of landlords and to emancipate farmers from their slavish fetters. Although some landlords are willing to offer their land to their tenants, the fact that the majority of the latter do not want to become landed farmers impresses us with a feeling of unrest for the future of this reform. No money to buy farms, fear of a decline in the price of rice in the future, etc. may account in some measure for this trend, but more important is the fact that farmers still cherish their so-called tenant farmers disposition. They think it is of no advantage to them to be land holders, if farm rent can be paid in money and not in rice as has been the practice up to now. Hence, they prefer to remain tenant-farmers, saying it is a more carefree way of living. Since they cannot rid themselves of such an old-fashioned tenant-farmers disposition, it is not an exaggeration to say that it is the farmers themselves who are checking their emancipation; the democratization of agricultural villages can never be achieved without their co-operation.

The farmers in our prefecture have lacked an independent spirit, being bound by old conventions, while domestic simplicity characterize the agrarian life. But they must now bear in mind that the coming reformation includes the breakdown of long-established traditions and customs to some extent.

According to our prefectural authorities' policy, the Agricultural Association will buy one third of the 60,000 chobu of farmland in three years after the 1945 fiscal year, and the other two thirds is left for the farmers to purchase withtheir own funds. But in case the farmers will not buy it, more than five cho and two tan (the maximum allowed to the landlords) will remain in landowners' hands, and the feudalism in agrarian villages will not be completely swept away.

Farmers must get rid of their old tenants' disposition at once, and wage their co-operative offensive under the banner of the emancipation of farmers and the democratization of agricultural villages. The town and village agricultural farm land committee are due to be reorganized in the near future, and the staffs of the Agricultural Associations will be re-elected. Tenant farmers must be ready to make use of this opportunit The farmers must rise up in the coming agrarian revolution. No matter h the system is revised, it is of no avail without the desired results. We want farmers to awaken in the face of the epoch-making revolution in agricultural villages.

931.6-966 27Mar-46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 The Significance of the New Farmers' Association - Provincial Newspaper Shinano Mainichi (Nagano) - 22 Jan 46. Translator: K. Ketel.

310.1

Full Translation:

The Social-Democratic Party, the Communist Party, and other political parties are resolutely opposed to the compulsory expropriation of farmers, who have not yet delivered their allotted rice. Therefore, these parties are in direct opposition to the Government.

The Social-Democrats, and the Communist Parties have taken measures through the farmers' union (NOMINKUMIAI) and farmers' committees in order to carry out movements to administer the rice delivery. At present these movements are due to develop throughout the country. It is, however, not exactly clear whether the farmers' administration objects to the present distribution and delivery mechanism, namely the Agriculture Association and the Provision Union.

These movements have caused trouble with Government offices, which are calling them obstructions to the rice delivery. The Ministry of Agriculture also takes a negative standpoint and states that these movements are acting against the food administration regulations. From a national viewpoint it is quite insignificant as to whether or not they are acting against existing regulations. The main point is whether they are able to attain practical results, which government organizations could not obtain.

We must be careful in identifying these movements. The farmers want an independent management and delivery. We should not mistake this aim as a farmers' movement for the guarantee of rice, as the last few days have indicated. It is remarkable to observe the advance towards an independent solution of the food problem in the activity of the farmers' union and committee by means of rejecting selfish ideas and acting in concert with consumers. For instance, the farmers' committee of SHIOJIRI-Mura, OGATA-Gun, has decided to put into effect an autonomous delivery by landowning consumers within the village, in addition to the allotted delivery, and also to give them guarantee for the right to cultivate.

One must call special attention to the functional aim of the farmers union to extend the scope of its activity by the intention of managing the food crisis, thus going far beyond their normal function, which is to guarantee the farmers the title to their estates. The opinion that these movements are illegal is nothing but the view of a petty official. The alliance between a certain farmers' union and employees and consumers' unions has the same trend, although its objectives are somewhat different. The farmers' union of YOSHIDA, NAGANO-Ken, has agreed with the consumers' union upon suitable prices

All these facts indicate considerable activity to overcome the crisis. It is undeniable that, though these movements are carried out only partially at present, from the theoretical viewpoint a large-scale development throughout the country is extremely close at hand. There is perhaps no ground for criticizm except from the bureaucratic viewpoint.

However, we must pay attention and look forward to the birth and activity of the farmers' unions, which aim at the attainment public and social functions by casting off the bonds of class interests, as the result of the free will of the farmers. The fact remains, however, that many left wing leaders give us the impression of being still attached to past policies.

931.6-935 25 Jan 46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 4 Farmers Union Forming-Nippon Sangyo Keizai-23 January 1946. Translator: Yasuo Kurata.

310.1

Summary:

With the impending farm land reform and the possible food crisis, a movement for the democratization of farm villages is now gaining ground among farmers throughout the country under the leadership of both the Communists and the Social Democratics. Up to now, there have been two organizations such as the Farmers' Committee (HOMIN IINKAI) set up by the Communists and the Japan Farmers' Association (NIPPON NOMINKUMIAI) by the Social Democratic Party to carry out the movement according to their own policies. However, in view of the recent tendency to present a common front for economic democratization, it is up to them to reorganize these two associations into a single one to attain their common purpose.

In a situation like this, Messrs, KURADA, ITO and FUJITA of the National Agricultural Association(ZENKOKU NAGYO KUMIAI) made, on 22 January, some pertinent suggestions regarding an immediate merger of these two farmers' associations into the so-called Farmers' Union, and at the same time expressed their intentions to spare no efforts to give full support to the movement at second meeting for the organization of the Japanese Farmers Association.

Their suggestions included: (1) To struggle for eradicating the large landownership and reducing the tenant rent; (2) To take effective measures in regard to the delivery system; (3) To struggle against the red-tape agrarian associations; (4) To struggle against the feudalistic control system; (5) To promote increased production of farm products (for instance, to secure materials necessary for farming equipment and to establish the co-operative associations among farmers).

They insist, at the same time, that the Farmers' Union should be a permanent one and should not consist of tenants alone, but of all classes of farmers so as to produce considerable good through the movement. As a result of these suggestions, keen attention is being directed toward the future of this movement as well as the future policy the Social Democratic Party will adopt toward the suggested merger. 931.6-918 24 Jan 46

ITEM 2 Model farms to train farmers.- Provincial Paper Kobe Shimbun (Kobe) - 22 Jan 46. Translator: F. Nishihara.

310.1

Full Translation:

Aiming at developing the technical knowledge of farmers, the HYOGO Prefectural officials have set up training farms for them. After consultation with the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, there were established 16 such farms in 1945. Sixteen more farms in 1946 and 22 in 1947 will also be set up, totalling 54. On 29 January, the HYOGO Prefectural officials will consult with chiefs of the economic section of the prefectural offices (CHIHO JIMUSHO) and assistant chiefs of the Agricultural Association to devise practical measures.

Each farm will cover three chobu, and on the farms, rice, wheat, potatoes and other cereals and vegetables will be grown under the guidance of the Agricultural Research Institute. Farmers whose abilities are improved by this instruction will pass on their knowledge to other farmers, thus bringing about an increase in production.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 The Ordinance for Application of the Revised Agrarian Adjustment Law - Nippon Sangyo Keizai - 24 Jan 46. Translator: R. Shibata.

310.1

Summary:

The Government decided on an ordinance for the application of the revised Agrarian Adjustment Law (NOCHI CHOSEI HO) at the Cabinet meeting held on 22 January. Following SCAP approval on 23 January, the ordinance will be promulgated on 25 or 26 January. The items decided on in article 15 will be put into force on 1 April 1946, and other articles on 1 February 1946.

The principal points revised in the new ordinance are as follows: Limitation of the area of lands to be held by landowners (article 4); increase of organizations for purchasing lands in case cultivation is made on unutilized lands (article 6); application of the provisions in the Extraordinary Agrarian Administration Ordinance (RINJINOCHI KANRIREI) and the Agrarian Price Management Regulations (NOCHI KAKAKU KANRI REI) with regard to the price of lands (article 13); revision of the rate of conversion to be applied for payment of tenant fees in money instead of in kinds (article 15); qualification of electors of the agrarian committeemen to owners of more than 1 tan of land (article 18); permission to the agrarian committee in towns and villages to hire clerks (article 33).

The first election of the members of the agrarian committee in cities, towns, and villages is scheduled to be held at the beginning of March. The election of the members of the agrarian committee in prefectures will take place as soon as chiefs of the above committees are decided on.

931.6-948 25 Jan 46

Checking of Rice Delivery of Delinquent Landowners.

310.1

The delivery of rice is also making slow progress in our prefecture. Landowners, anticipating the realization of the farmland system improvement bill, are forcing the sale of their estates of rice fields on tenant farmers. By calling delinquent brokers into activity, these landowners are urging immediate purchases by tenant farmers. The price is 2,000 yen per one tan of land in most parts of our prefecture. Landowners are threatening the poor farmer with expropriation if he is unable to pay.

Tenant farmers are short of money. One bale of rice in the black market costs 1,000 yen. For selling ten bales of rice the farmer will be able to buy for five "tan" of land. Therefore, even sincere farmers are releasing their hold of rice. The rice which has to be delivered is disappearing in preposterous ways.

No representatives of the farmers' union called on the prefectural governor in November and demanded the immediate prohibition of farmland transfer, foreseeing these facts. Notwithstanding, the situation has turned out badly, as we imagined it would. The rice streamed into the hands of black marketeers and war profiteers. I believe that the control of illegal selling of farmland, which makes the contract prices invalid and gives stabilization to the agitated farmer's mind, will promote the delivery, much more than the governor's ride in a luxurious car, through the villages, to thank the farmers. (Letter from YOKOYAMA, Seiichi; FUKUSHIMA-Ken)

931.6-1002 29 Jan 46

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 What is to be Done With Demobilized Soldiers Returning to Farms - Provincal Newspaper Kahoku Shimpo (Sendai) - 27 Jan 46. Translator: A. Suzuki

310.1

Full Translation:

Agriculture, during the war, suffered from a lack of labor due to military conscription. Farmers were also much troubled especially with the decline in productive capacity caused by the shortage of fertilizers and agricultural implements. With the surrender, demobilization took place much faster than was expected, so that today the population of farms has increased. Now the problem is "What to do with the demobilized Every family has one or two young men who must plan for their future livelihood.

The first trouble is scarcity of land. Although redivision of arable land, under the agricultural land reform is going to be attempted, it merely changes the ownership and has no concern with the increase of arable land itself. Second, do the demobilized soldiers desire to return to farms after having been away for so long? It is a troublesome problem. Many have not yet made any decision to return to farming. Third, when the cities are in such conditions, and industries are ruined with no hope for immediate rebuilding, it is impossible for them to reenter factories.

At this crossroad, where shall we find a solution to this difficulty? At a crossroads, we cannot find any solution because of inflation arising from a lack of food. Some people expect agricultural over-production in a few years, so that farms will be in a state of depression.

The farmers are uncertain. Even those who seriously wish to plan are at a loss as to what to do. The farmers are now at a slack season, and plans should be made. This is a serious problem for production. Plans must be progressive. No matter how many people there are, machines should be used and production expenses reduced. There is a labor surplus, there is other work to be done. For example, they could change over to diversified agriculture and grow high class agricultural products Why not plan industrialized farms? The emphasis must be on progress and not an retrogression.

931.6-1023 20 Jan 46

ITEM 2 Election of Agrarian Committee To Be held on 5 April - Asahi Shimbun - 1 Feb 46. Translator: F Shibata.

310.1

Full Translation:

The election of the City, Town and Village Agrarian Committee, which the revised Agrarian Adjustment Law prescribes, was scheduled to be held in the middle of March. However, it has been decided to postpone the period until 5 April in order to avoid having the election conflict with the general election of members of Parliament which is to be held on 31 March. The period of registering electors for the committee is also postponed until 20 March. Accordingly, the election of the Prefectural Agrarian Committee, which is to be carried out by mutual voting by chiefs of the City, Town and Village Agrarian Committee, will also be delayed a little.

FARM REVOLUTION NECESSARY FOR JAPAN'S DEMOCRATIZATION

Avowed Purposes Of Social Democratic Faction Considered Nothing But Meaningless Words

By TAKAO INOUE

As soon as the Allied Supreme Headquarters urged a democratic revolution on the Japanese nation, the renegades of the erstwhile proletarian movement thought fit to come together again to form a political party called the Japan Social Democratic Party.

Such being the case, only a very few of the organizers of this new party can justly claim that they have never played false to their principles. A large majority of them have been fighting shy of Socialism and democracy since the days of the China Affair as though they were something pestilential. Some went to the plaza before the Imperial Palace and tearfully apologized for their past "misconduct." Some went so far as to shout an imprecation in their public utterances against liberals whom they insisted should be put to death. Still some others lent their aid to the destruction of labor unions and cooperated with bureaucrats in the enslavement of laborers. Of these despicable turncoats, those who held seats in the Diet, it need scarcely be said, supported the war, giving their ready approval for the war expenditure. Now, however, that a complete change has come over the situation in consequence of Japan's defeat, they had the impertinence to make a volte-face again with such alacrity that they are now behaving as if they had never deviated an inch from the path of democracy.

On October 16 last, the Japan Social Democratic Party made public its basic political and diplomatic policies. On its own showing, it advocates, first and foremost, the democratization of the Constitution based on the collective will of the nation. Now, the idea underlying the term "the collective will of the nation" is unmistakably fascist, agreement with those of the above-mentioned aristocrats. "The collective will of the nation", if realized in a country with diverse classes of conflicting interests, is clearly the product of the unjustifiable application of force and oppression.

Democracy Vs Fascism

President Truman stated that he is in favor of the position of the Japanese Emperor being left to be determined by the free will of the Japanese nation. The free election he advocates is just the opposite of the making up of "the collective will of the nation" by force. The one means democracy and the other Fascism. A free election points the way to the democratization of the Constitution, for under it all important State matters can be decided in accordance with the will of the common people who comprise a large majority of the nation. The Social Democratic Party is shaping its course quite differently, however. It evidently intends to check the people's free expression of their will by compromising and cooperating with the reactionary ruling class.

The Social Democratic Party promises in its economic policy an increase in the rationed supply of staple food. This is all to the good, but it is open to grave doubt whether it can redeem this promise under its policy.

It makes no reference whatever in its financial policy to the lightening of the heavy burden of taxation on the farming population. Nor does it care to consider any effective and pertinent measure to adjust the monopolistic prices of fertilizer, etc. It is also very lukewarm toward the farm-rent problem and the problem of the right of cultivation. How can such a party

It is simply nonsensical to insist on "nationalization" without considering at the same time a reform in the character of the Government itself. for nationalization of industries conduces to public interests only when it takes place under a democratic Government and when, moreover, the production and consumption of important materials are put under the public control.

Concerning the farm-rent problem, the Japan Social Democratic Party simply avers to "the reduction of farm-rents" in its agricultural policy without indicating exactly what reduction it has in mind. "Reduction" is a very comprehensive word; it may mean only one per cent reduction or it may denote as high a reduction as 99 per cent. If the former, it does not take the Japan Social Democratic Party to urge it. If the latter, it means an agricultural revolution with a vengeance. Now, from no part of the Party's platform can it be inferred that it is contemplating an agricultural revolution. Its agricultural policy is, indeed, more reactionary in its general tone than might have been expected.

Meaningless Words

The Party deliberately employs ambiguous terms such as "a radical reform of the farm land system" (what does "radical" exactly mean?) or "a rational distribution of farm land" in an attempt to avoid antagonizing absentee landowners as best it can. It seems to be particularly careful not to use words likely to jar upon the ears of landowners.

It is nevertheless quite obvious that the democratization of Japan is impossible without an agricultural revolution. This fact is in fact, so widely recognized now that the assertion made in some quarters that the land of absentee landowners should be confiscated or that their land should be distributed among indigent peasants without compensation surprises nobody. Even landowners themselves, if they are sensible enough, must be conscious of this trend of public opinion.

To return to the subject of farm rents, if a 99 per cent reduction should be made in the rents, there with tenant farmers and poor peasant as the chief movers.

Reforms Are Checked

In short, the Japan Social Democratic Party, like the capitalists and big landowners, is prone to disapprove, denounce and check Democratic Party is not shaped along these lines, however. Th Party goes no further than perfunctorily promise an increase reforms on the people's own promptings. It believes in such reforms only as will be decreed from above, as can easily be gathered from its labor policy. The labor policy of the Party stresses, above all, the "establishment of a Labor Ministry" and then urges "a revision of the Labor Disputed Mediation Law." It also insists on the creation of a Land Construction Ministry and a Social Insurance Ministry. To see the Party so intent on creating this new Ministry or that, one might suppose that it is obsessed by the absurd notion of regarding the increase of bureaucrats through the promiscuous establishment of Government offices as the best way to realize "a thorough democratization of the country."

It is hardly necessary to say that the improvement of the position of the laborers is very important for an effective solution of labor problems. It is true that the Social Democratic Party indulges in a few popular cants such as "the right of collective bargaining" and "the minimum wage system," but its true intention is to make it the Government business to arrange for the settlement of all labor problems.

As I have so far described, the policies of the Japan Social Democratic Party are tainted with Fascism, feudalism and bureaucratism against which it is nominally arrayed. I know that among the leaders of the Social Democratic Party there are a few genuine democrats. Among the local members of the Party especially I find many stout democratic fighters worthy of high respect. I have no doubt that these people will not be slow to appreciate and endorse the criticisms I have offered. I earnestly expect them to do the following:—

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party can justly claim that they have never played false to their principles. A large majority of them have been fighting shy of Socialism and democracy since the days of the China Affair as though they were something pestilential. Some went to the plaza before the Imperial Palace and tearfully apologized for their past "misconduct." Some went so far as to shout an imprecation in their public utterances against liberals whom they insisted should be put to death. Still some others lent their aid to the destruction of labor unions and cooperated with bureaucrats in the enslavement of laborers. Of these despicable turncoats, those who held seats in the Diet, it need scarcely be said, supported the war, giving their ready approval for the war expenditure. Now, however, that a complete change has come over the situation in consequence of Japan's defeat, they had the impertinence to make a volte-face again with such alacrity that they are now behaving as if they had never deviated an inch from the path of democracy.

On October 16 last, the Japan Social Democratic Party made public its basic political and diplomatic policies. On its own showing, it advocates, first and foremost, the democratization of the Constitution based on the collective will of the nation. Now, the idea underlying the term "the collective will of the nation" is unmistakably Fascism. In a country where there exists no class rivalry, "the collective will of the nation" may be found, but it can never be found in Japan as it is today. In this country, the class which ruled before the war is still ensconced in the place of power. The so-called "collective will of the nation" which we had during the war was one which was faked by these rulers by imprisoning or murdering many democrats who opposed the war. Nobody will think it possible, for instance, that Chozaburo Mizutani leader of the Social Democratic Party, and Marquis Kido, former Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, or Suehiro Nishio another leader of the Social Democratic Party and Baron Mitsui can see eye to eye on the democratization of the Constitution. Much less is it possible for the views of Kyuichi Tokuda and Yoshio Shiga, both prominent leaders of the Japan Communist Party, to be found in

Japanese Emperor being left to be determined by the free will of the Japanese nation. The free election he advocates is just the opposite of the making up of "the collective will of the nation" by force. The one means democracy and the other Fascism. A free election points the way to the democratization of the Constitution, for under it all important State matters can be decided in accordance with the will of the common people who comprise a large majority of the nation. The Social Democratic Party is shaping its course quite differently, however. It evidently intends to check the people's free expression of their will by compromising and cooperating with the reactionary ruling class.

The Social Democratic Party promises in its economic policy an increase in the rationed supply of staple food. This is all to the good, but it is open to grave doubt whether it can redeem this promise under its policy.

It makes no reference whatever in its financial policy to the lightening of the heavy burden of taxation on the farming population. Nor does it care to consider any effective and pertinent measure to adjust the monopolistic prices of fertilizer, etc. It is also very lukewarm toward the farm-rent problem and the problem of the right of cultivation. How can such a party be expected to increase food production? And it would be miraculous if the rationed supply of food could be increased without increased food production.

Must Lower Prices

It is true that the Party advocates nationalization of the synthetic fertilizer industry and other important industries, but nationalization does not necessarily mean a lower price or the advance of public interests. The success of nationalization depends on the character of the State which takes over such industries. If the State is not of the right character, the nationalization of industries will only prove prejudicial to public interests. The very inefficient working of the Government railways and the communications business during the war proves it. One may well stop to think whether there has been any reduction in railway freights and fares, in postal rates or in the price of tobacco.

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To return to the subject of farm rents, if a 99 per cent reduction should be made in the rents, there would surely be an increase in food production, as the recent example in Miyagi prefecture testifies. A better result in production would be reaped were farm land to be distributed gratis, into the bargain. Then and then only can we look for an increase in the rationed supply of food.

The policy of the Japan Social supply of food. As to how it intends to do this, it gives us no convincing explanation.

Another fact worthy of special note is that the Social Democratic Party adopts no policy of aid for farmers in their fight for the improvement of their position. It is strange that it does not strive to gain official recognition for farmers' unions or farmers' committees, for "a radical solution of the land problem" and "a rational distribution of farm land" which it advocates can best be achieved in each village or hamlet through the activity of these local organizations

the creation of a Land Construction Ministry and a Social Insurance Ministry. To see the Party so intent on creating this new Ministry or that, one might suppose that it is obsessed by the absurd notion of regarding the increase of bureaucrats through the promiscuous establishment of Government offices as the best way to realize "a thorough democratization of the country."

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As I have so far described, the policies of the Japan Social Democratic Party are tainted with Fascism, feudalism and bureaucratism against which it is nominally arrayed. I know that among the leaders of the Social Democratic Party there are a few genuine democrats. Among the local members of the Party especially I find many stout democratic fighters worthy of high respect. I have no doubt that these people will not be slow to appreciate and endorse the criticisms I have offered. I earnestly expect them to do the following:—

1. Establishment of the freedom of criticism within the party.
2. Democratization of the party organs.
3. Establishment of a system defining the responsibility of the Diet members of the party.
4. Prevention of the party's cooperation with undemocratic parties and organizations.
5. Development of a common front with all democratic parties and organizations.
6. Throwing open of the party's door to all adherents of democracy.

—From the Minshu Hyoron.

Nippon Times
30 Jan 46

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

310.1

ITEM 2 Farming Affairs Executive Corporation and Rice Delivery - Provincial Newspaper, Hyuga Nichinichi Shimbun (Miyazaki) - 30 Jan 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

Summary:

The Farming Affairs Executive Corporation should be held responsible for the poor results shown in making rice deliveries. The leaders of this corporation are in general too busy to devote themselves to the affairs of deliveries and in this lies the reason for the poor supply of rice. We hope the governors and the authorities of the Agricultural Association will manage to make these leaders of the corporation better able to devote themselves to the affairs of maintaining a food supply.

310.1

ITEM 2 "Farmers' Union for Farmers" - Provincial Paper "Niigata Nippo" (Niigata) - 9 Feb 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

Summary:

The first meeting of the All-JAPAN Farmers' Union is significant because of its political influence upon the formation of a democratic front among the farmers. The Farmers' Union, when present circumstances are considered, should be the farmers' own, including the middle-sized and small landlords, and must contribute to the democratization of agricultural economy.

The mild measures provided in the new Farm Land Law will be of no avail without stabilizing the livelihood of the vast majority of farmers in our prefecture who have been placed in the most miserable condition. We are in favor of the sound development of the middle class farmers. We believe that many young and vigorous men who will play a progressive role in the revolutionary period will emerge from this class.

Another important factor is that the age of party government will come. The farmers should be deeply interested in party government, and form their own party if necessary. Through such methods, a democratic country based on middle class farmers will be established.

310.1

ITEM 6 Ideas for the new Agricultural Village - Provincial Newspaper Kahoku Shimp (Sendai) - 27 Feb 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

Summary:

Since the issuance of the SCAP directive on the emancipation of farmers last December, various plans have appeared for developing the agricultur village as an essential element of peaceful JAPAN. Among them, there ar two with political influence; one is the plan drafted by the Agricultural Ministry and the other by the JAPAN Farmers Union. There is an important difference between these two plans as to the method of attaining the democratization of agricultural villages and new ownership of the farm lands.

The plan of the Agricultural Ministry intends to make use of the existing agricultural associations and other similar organs to establish new agricultural villages, while the plan of the JAPAN Farmers' Union favors the formation of farmers' unions throughout the country which are to bear the burden of democratization. As to the land problem, the plan of the Agricultural Ministry protests the landed interests so the landowners can play their part as disguided farmers in the reorganized agricultural associations, while the plan of the JAPAN Farmers' Union demands the guarantee of the right to cultivate the land and the radical reduction in rentals.

As can be seen from the above, there can be no dispute about the conservative character of the Agricultural Ministry as shown in its plan and the progressiveness of the other plan. The same can be said about the proble of improving agricultural techniques. The plan for the development of the new agricultural village should be based upon the actual living condition of farmers in the future. In both plans we can find no prospect for the pleasant future of farmers. The Agricultural Ministry, JAPAN Farmers' Union and all the farmers should make up a plan with a bright prospect for the future of new agricultural villages in peaceful JAPAN.

Japan Today—

FARMERS DURING THE WAR

By CPL. BARNARD RUBIN

(This is the fourth in a series of articles on Japan's agrarian problem and farm movements. To be continued.)

* * *

After the 'Chinese Incident' the tenant unions were harassed and slapped around by the authorities until they were officially dissolved in 1941.

However many ot the tenant unions maintained their organizations throughout the war.

The Secret Police—the Kempei-Tai were the main instruments of Government oppression. Beatings and imprisonments were frequent occurences.

The activities of one of these Kempei-Tai members who becom particularly notorious during the war is a good example of how the Kempei-Tai and Secret Police functioned in the rural areas.

Kenzo Nagashima was Kempei-Tai member who was also a Special Inspector of the Farm Section of the Saitama Bank. The Bank owned large areas of land in Saitama, acquired through defaulted mortagages and loans. Nagashima became known as the 'Terror of Saitama' and tenant union members were the special recipients of his attentions.

His reputation for brutality became so widely known in the area that after the Occupation the Japanese authorities were forced to arrest him. (To date we haven't been able to check on whether he's still in jail.)

* * *

Because of the continual surveillance the tenant union members were forced to resort to unique methods of resistance.

Many of the tenants were members of the Village Volunteer Fire Departments. If a fire broke out in a landlord's home or property, for one reason or another, the firemen never managed to arrive on the

the fact that a sizeable section of middle-class farmers benefitted financially as a result of the war.

* * *

The government for a number of years had been curtailing the activities of the cooperatives—which in any case, and in the main, had never really functioned for the benefit of the small and tenant farmer. The government finally took complete control of the cooperatives and they were used primarily as an instrument to force the farmers to come across with their alloted quotas.

* * *

The law concerning Agricultural Cooperative Associations (Law 46, 1943) was passed in 1943, setting up the Agricultural Cooperative Association (Nogyo-Kai) which was organized on local and prefectural levels, merging the local cooperative and farm organizations.

This was the only organization in the villages recognized by the government. Membership was compulsory for all farmers and even residents of farm villiages who were not actually engaged in farming were forced to join.

The whole set-up was under the dictatorship of the Prefectural Governor. All local offices and decisions had to be approved by him. As no member of a local was permitted to be a candidate for the national body and as all prefectural candidates had to be endorsed by him, the Prefectural Governor, not the farmers, dominated the sole farmers' organization permitted by the Japanese government to function in the villages during the war.

Herald Tribune 28 Jan 46

READERS IN COUNCIL

Urges Severe Penalties

To the Editor:

Something must be done to make the farmers willingly turn over their rice allotments to the Government before it is too late because, as things stand at the present, the farmers are selling their rice on the black market at a rate which spells trouble in the future. Something must be

Farmers Accused of Increasing Pelf At Expense of Hungry Urban Dwellers

Due to high prices demanded by farmers in selling agricultural products to urban residents who go to the country and buy vegetables and other farm products, the savings of farmers have greatly increased, the savings in Iruma-gun, southern Saitama Prefecture, alone reaching ¥121,230,327 at the end of September of this year, which are six times more than the amount at the outset of the war, says the Tokyo Shimbun.

With the aggravation of the food problem, the rude attitude of farmers toward the city and town residents who buy foodstuffs directly from farmers has become to be criticised. Should the situation be left to take its own course, such unfortunate incidents may occur as attacking storehouses of farmers, the paper points out.

The savings in rural districts have increased greatly, attesting to the bright financial condition in rural areas. Take the example of Iruma-gun, Saitama Prefecture. The savings at the agricultural credit associations there reached 121,230,327 at the end of September of this year, whereas the savings at the outset of the war were $20,028,624. Particularly, since the control by the economic police of farmers became eased, in June, last year the savings have greatly increased. The fact that the savings in Iruma-gun mounting to ¥52,576,789 in June of last year showed an increase of some ¥70,000,000 by the end of September of this year reveals the swelling of savings at astounding bounds. Furthermore, the above-mentioned figures do not include the savings deposited at banks where some one third of the amount just mentioned is mostly likely be deposited.

Farmers thus have plenty of surplus of money after having paid for fertilizer, clothing and other necessities plus tax. The sale of farm products at blackmarket prices may not be the only factor enabling the the farmers to accumulate wealth but the blackmarket transactions have a great deal to do in bring money into rural district, the paper says.

NIPPON TIMES NOV 6 1945

Allies Plan Aid To Jap Farmers

Summarization of Nip Situation Is Announced Here by SCAP

TOKYO (UP)—General MacArthur's headquarters revealed Tuesday that the Allied Command will soon issue an order which "will remove many of the shackles which now hold farmers and their families in a condition approximating slavery" in Japan.

"Free marketing in a state of freedom will follow," headquarters said in a statement answering requests for a summarization of the Japanese situation.

The statement concluded with the assertion that "that is nothing easy or soft about the life the Japanese must lead before they can be ac-

resign, it was learned Tuesday. An Allied directive has ordered the Japanese monopoly to disband.

An Imperial Ordinance requiring the reporting of all cases of venereal disease is being drafted by Dr. N. Tatebayashi of the Japanese Minis-

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His reputation for brutality became so widely known in the area that after the Occupation the Japanese authorities were forced to arrest him. (To date we haven't been able to check on whether he's still in jail.)

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Because of the continual surveillance the tenant union members were forced to resort to unique methods of resistance.

Many of the tenants were members of the Village Volunteer Fire Departments. If a fire broke out in a landlord's home or property, for one reason or another, the firemen never managed to arrive on the scene until the fire had done its work.

If one of their members was imprisoned, they would demonstrate and turn a water hose on the small local jail until the prisoner was released.

Another method used was to refuse to to send their children to school until a particular grievance was settled.

Sabotage of the food quota was another common tactic of the union members.

However it would be inaccurate to leave the impression that during the war the farmers were a seething, rebellious mass. Because of the continual surveillance and oppresion the tenant movement was never able to become an effective nation wide force.

In addition, decades of militarist propaganda had done their work well. More important, perhaps, was merging the local cooperative and farm organizations.

This was the only organization in the villages recognized by the government. Membership was compulsory for all farmers and even residents of farm villiages who were not actually engaged in farming were forced to join.

The whole set-up was under the dictatorship of the Prefectural Governor. All local offices and decisions had to be approved by him. As no member of a local was permitted to be a candidate for the national body and as all prefectural candidates had to be endorsed by him, the Prefectural Governor, not the farmers, dominated the sole farmers' organization permitted by the Japanese government to function in the villages during the war.

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To the Editor:

Something must be done to make the farmers willingly turn over their rice allotments to the Government before it is too late because, as things stand at the present, the farmers are selling their rice on the black market at a rate which spells trouble in the future. Something must be done to assure a supply of staple food for those who cannot afford to buy on the blackmarket.

I suggest the following measures be taken:

1. Raise the price of rice. In view of the current vicious inflation, the official price is too low.

2. Furnish farmers with fertilizer, agricultural implements and daily necessaries depending on the quantity of rice they hand over to the Government. A bigger wine and cigarette ration would also prove a good measure to gain the farmers' cooperation.

3. Impose a severe penalty on those who engage in illicit rice deals.

YOICHI HORIE.

NIPPON TIMES
JAN 26 1946

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The statement concluded with the assertion that "that is nothing easy or soft about the life the Japanese must lead before they can be accepted as a peaceful nation."

Meanwhile, Headquarters made these announcements:

1. The Japanese government was directed to submit a report covering all life and non-life insurance companies in Japan;

2. The Japanese government was directed to permit Korean Nationals being repatriated from Pacific island areas to Korea via Japan to bring into Japan any securities or other financial instruments they might have.

According to Jiji news agency, students of Doshisha university, one of Japan's oldest missionary schools, gave the faculty an ultimatum demanding that the institution reform along democratic lines within a week.

In keeping with the policy of the Mitsui Zaibatsu to dissolve itself, ten members of the board of directors of the Mitsui Trust Company will resign, it was learned Tuesday. An Allied directive has ordered the Japanese monopoly to disband.

An Imperial Ordinance requiring the reporting of all cases of venereal disease is being drafted by Dr. N. Takebayashi of the Japanese Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, according to a spokesman for Supreme Allied Headquarters.

The action is in response to SCAP's memorandum of Oct. 1 requiring the Japanese government to rule venereal diseases by law as infectious diseases, listing each case by name, sex, age and full address.

Supreme Allied Headquarters directed the Japanese government to make a comprehensive report on steps now underway to increase food production. The report is due on or before December 15.

The directive asks the Japanese to submit plans for immediate efforts to improve the food situation in the home islands and also long range plans to make the islands self sufficient.

STARS & STRIPES
NOV 14 1945

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

310.1

Farmers in Saitama Oppose Government

Take Definite Stand Against Plan to Effect Forced Delivery of Rice

In a move to oppose the recent Government decision to take compulsory steps for the prompt collection of rice and other staple foodstuffs, approximately 70 repsesentatives of the farmers of 24 villages in Saitama Prefecture met in a conference on Tuesday and established the Saitama Farmers' Council for the management of staple foods by the people.

Chief leaders of the conference included Gaku Sano, converted Communist, Sanzo Yoshimura, head of the Saitama Chapter of the Communist Party, Yoshizo Matsunaga of the Social Democratic Party and Ritsu Ito of the Farmers' Department of the Communist Party.

Following the adoption of the platform and covenant, the first session of the council presided over by Gaku Sano, adopted the following resolution.

1. Formation of the Council for the People's Management of Foodstuffs.

2. Formation of a democratic united front.

3.. Opposition to the Revised Agricultural Land Adjustment Law.

4. Opposition to the compulsory collection of rice and other staple foodstuffs.

One of the representatives, following the session, told the press.

"We are not against the delivery of rice to the Government. However, we desire that the Government will take steps which enable us to deliver rice willingly.

"By resorting to compulsory measures, the bureaucrats as ever are attempting to cover their inefficiency and incompetency. If the Government should follow the policy decided, sanguinary clashes might break out between the police and farmers.

"Small land-owner farmers and agricultural associations are particularly to blame. They force tenant farmers to deliver rice on the ground that tenant farmers after all must pay farm rent in rice. However, land-owner farmers will never deliver their rice. Meanwhile, the agricultural associations are frantically attempting to hide their black market rice deals.

"In our prefecture, the Communist Party established farmers committees in various parts and is working in the interest of farmers. In the past, the Communist Party was disfavored by farmers. However, farmers now are welcoming any proposal made by the Communist Party.

NIPPON TIMES
JAN 26 1946

Japan Today—

FARMERS TODAY (CONT'D)

310.1

By Cpl. BARNARD RUBIN

(This is the sixth in a series of articles on Japan's agrarian problem.)

* * *

Another beef of the farmers has been that the rate of taxation has always been higher for them than taxation on industry. According to an investigation made by the Imperial Agricultural Society in 1934, on an annual income of 300 yen a farmer paid 35 percent in taxes, a merchant 12½ percent and a manufacturer only 1½ percent.

Experts like Mr. Ladejinsky of our Department of Agriculture, have pointed out that the entire process of Japan's industrialization and the building of her industrial military machine was accomplished at the expense of the farmers through gross inequalities in the rates of taxation.

Farmers who were forced off the land through poverty and bankruptcy formed a huge reservoir of cheap labor for the zaibatsu. Industrialists and munitions factory owners were eager to get this type of employee as they assumed that the farmers having lived for generations under the feudal system of social relations would be 'ideal' docile and servile workers.

* * *

As we indicated yesterday, not all farmers are making tremendous profits through black market selling. The profits are mostly being made by the truck gardeners situated near the great urban centers.

Farmers claim that they are forced to sell on the black market in order to live. They are dissatisfied with the official price policy for agricultural products. While the costs of production have steadily mounted (most of which today must be paid for with rice) the official price ceilings on their own products are so low as to be all out of proportion to the general price level. Yet the official requisitions are so oppressive as to force the farmers to operate at a loss—if they do not resort to the black market.

In addition the government had pledged itself to give a crop rebate to those farmers who met their quota. In practise, the farmers say, agricultural officials in many cases broke this promise by applying such rebates against the short deliveries of other farmers in order to claim credit for fulfilling the general quota. In this way the honest farmer was actually penalized rather than rewarded.

One of the major causes for resentment on the part of the farmers is the fact that tremendous quantities of rice and foodstuffs were confiscated and hidden by the military during the confusion at the end of the war while they, the farmers are being accused of responsibility for the rice shortage.

The December 3rd edition of the Tokyo Shimbun, for example, reported a case where 750,000 bales of rice in the posession of the Army had completely disappeared.

The same paper on November 3 ran the following story about a black market deal of the Mitsubishi interests:

"An alert policeman recently stumbled upon a black market deal involving 250 bales of rice, 150 of which were concealed in sewage boats on a river in the town of Gyotoku, Chiba Prefecture.

"The rice, it was discovered, had been sold by several farmers of Sawara through a Korean to the Mitsubishi financial interests in Tokyo at the black market price of 2,000 yen a bale."

* * *

All this has increased the resentment of the farmers, and since the occupation they have turned to new organizational methods of trying to solve their difficulties.

Of this more anon.

STARS & STRIPES JAN 30 1946

PRESS COMMENTS

Sunday, February 10

ALL-JAPAN AGRARIAN FEDERATION

310.1

MAINICHI—Agrarian unions, mainly of the tenant farmers, were amalgamated into an All-Japan Agrarian Federation on Sunday at a large gathering of delegates from different parts of the country. There are still matters to be adjusted before the federation gets into stride, but such matters are expected to be solved in a spirit of compromise. From the declaration issued on Sunday, it may be presumed that the policy of the federation, which rests upon a non-partisan basis, will be directed toward post-war restoration rather than toward the development of class struggle. An immediate problem for the agrarian leaders is to cooperate in accelerating produce deliveries of the farmers; for without the cooperation of agrarian unions, there can be no solution of the problem, which is more urgent than any other matter at the present moment.

The Agricultural Land Reform Law enacted in the last session of the Diet provides the framework for agrarian reforms, and to the same end, strenuous effort will be kept up by the federation. At the same time, it must be remembered that the maintenance of a population of eighty millions on these islands is a difficult proposition, whatever might be the land system in force. After the conclusion of a peace treaty, Japan will be permitted to participate in international trade, and the shifting of population from the urban to the rural districts will be reversed in two or three years' time. Food is an international commodity, and on the resumption of foreign trade, rural economy will be affected by a different set of circumstances. Strong agrarian unions are, therefore, necessary to meet a situation inevitable in the future. One of the largest factors responsible for the defeat in the war was the decline in economic morality. It is one of the most important tasks for the agrarian unions to uphold the moral standard in the rural districts.

Post-war restoration, and not the unfolding of a class struggle, must be the guiding principle for the All-Japan Agrarian Federation, a conclusion which follows rather naturally from its non-partisan character.

NIPPON TIMES FEB 12 1946

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310.1

High-Handed Govt. Steps Re Rice Detrimental To Democratic Drives

FARMERS' ANTAGONISM TO RISE

Compulsory Purchasing Of Staple Foodstuffs Will Give Rise To Social Confusion; Even Agricultural Associations Voice Objection

310.1

The Government exercise of forceful action against the staple food control has been regarded in various circles as an outright oppressive law directed against the people's democratic movement in this country under a palatable pretext "for the security of rice delivery."

Moreover, these circles observe that the current Government measure, once put into force, will bring about nothing but a chaotic situation and the people's antagonism toward the Government.

Prerequisite For Stabilization Of Living

The surmounting of food crisis, needless to say, constitutes one of the fundamental prerequisites for the stabilization of the people's livelihood, and the Government has recently decided to resort to forceful actions for the security of rice delivery. It is an undeniable fact on the necessity of a more vigorous policy against the control of black-marketing, hoarding of materials, illicit transactions and readjustment of distributing channels, pointing out that the present food crisis in Japan was not due to the lack of rice but to the delinquency of the Government or its inept food policy.

However, it is highly skeptical whether the people in general desire such a control measure as was recently made known by the Government. The people fully understand that whenever the Government meets an irreparable stumbling block it would shift all responsibility to the people and rationalize its policy of high-handedness. It may be said, therefore, that both farmers and the general masses did not expect much from the Government's policies and, on the contrary, they pinned hope on the voluntary control of staple foods between the producer and consumer.

Tendency Of Democracy

This does not mean that the mountaining tendency of democracy alone motivated the people to take such a course, but the reason is that the people have been by far more sincere and fundamental than the Government in analysing the farmers' psychological conception. With regard to various conditions which made it impossible for farmers to deliver their farm products, for example, the shortage of agricultural implements, unbalanced Government price of rice and the bureaucratic measure for the rice delivery, the people who are now hovering over the starvation level have been still more sympathetic to farmers than any Government official.

In cities, they are controling the rice by their own hands, and the direct contact between the production labor union and the agrarian producer is being planned at present. Moreover, the Socialist Party is going to establish the farmers' union while the Communists are making efforts to organize the farmers' committee. These organs aim at replacing the hitherto-existing bureaucratic control institutes such as agricultural associations in towns and villages in an effort to let the farmers do the rice control.

These methods cannot be called forcible actions; in them there seems to be something which highly satisfy both producers and consumers.

Application Of Strong Measure

If the reason the people did and do not ask for the application of a high-handed measure in the rice delivery despite the stringent food difficulty be based on the fact that the people have been grasping the actual reality, the current Government measure does by no mean permit the people to entertain an optimistic view for its outcome. On the contrary, it will in due course of time give rise to the antagonism of farmers toward the Government and finally put the rice delivery itself into an extremely chaotic situation.

On top of this, all attempts to form a contact among production workers themselves will be brought to naught. For instance, democratic movements such as the creation of the farmers' union and farmers' committee will be subverted owing to the Government pretext that these movements stand in the way of the farmers' supply of rice.

Should these be true, the present exercise of forcible action by the Government apparently is no other than oppressive law meted out under the thin disguise of the Government security of rice delivery. The Government perhaps is not conscious of this fact, but if the result be so the matter will turn out to be all the more serious.

In various localities of the country, farmers' union and committees have already won high rating in their supply of rice to the Government either by themselves or through the joint front. Even the Government-sponsored agricultural associations are moving toward the democratic direction by electing their officials through the majority vote and they seem to be opposed to the current Government measure.

If it is permissible for the Government to resort to high-handed action on farmers for the rice delivery, why does the Government not exert more forceful influence or take a definite action against the financial capitalists who are still continuing a sabotage in the production of agricultural implements and people's daily necessities?

Undemocratic Entrepreneurs

It goes without saying that the Government fully understands the fact that the greater part of the responsibility for the present plight, in which the delivery of rice does not process as was anticipated, is to be ascribed to undemocratic, self-profiteering and unpatriotic enterpreneurs. Should the Government continue to take such a lopsided policy as this, not only the rice delivery but even the stabilization of the people's livelihood cannot be hoped of.

This, however, does not mean that the people are denying cooperation with the Government, but if the Government shows a better policy which will be appreciated by the whole of the people, it may be assured that the people will not spare any efforts to follow its policy.

Whether it is in cities or villages, the people will stand in readiness to oppose any Government policy which would run counter to the budding trend of democracy in this country, much less the exercise of forcible action by the Government.

Therefore, the condition which can justify the current Government measure is that the application of this law will be strictly limited to the undemocratic and vicious movement which apparently is against the will of farmers. In the exercise of the forceful action, moreover, the Government must see to it that its focus shall not be misdirected.

MAINICHI JAN 22 1946

Farmers To Set Up Cooperative Unions

310.1

Bill To Be Sent To Diet; Joint Land Control Aimed

The Government will present to the next session of the Diet an Agricultural Cooperative Union bill which rules the joint control of farm land and agricultural implements by farmers in their respective village or rural communities.

The bill worked out by the Agriculture Office also provides for the elevation of the economic and cultural standard of farmers and their protection from reverting to former destitute status. Outlawing meddling by absentee landowners, it further aims to improve the living of tenant farmers in rural communities.

Farmers' unions to be set up upon the enactment of the bill comprise an agricultural affairs service union, municipal and village agricultural cooporation union, prefectural agricultural cooporation union, special agricultural cooporation union and national federation of agricultural cooporation union.

MAINICHI MAR 14 1946

Japan Today-

310.1

Farmers Ask New Deal

By BARNARD RUBIN

Some time ago, a small delegation of Japanese farmers came up from the country to see us. Their spokesman, Kyoichi Washimi, had only recently been released from jail by the SCAP directive freeing political prisoners.

Washimi had been a farmers' union leader and was therefore imprisoned at the beginning of the war. Even before the war he had a two year jail term to his credit because of his organizing the tenant farmers.

Washimi and his friends had an interesting story to tell. In the Shimoy-Ina District (about 180 miles North of Tokyo), they said, the small farmers had found that they could no longer tolerate the dictatorial and oppressive acts of the village chiefs. So they simply called the entire farming population of the village to a town meeting, and voted to kick the chief out. And the chief went out.

This happened in ten villages of the district. The district officials officially suppressed the town meetings—but the farmers ignored the orders.

Conditions are so bad for the small farmers, that even those farmers who own their own land are forced to work for the wealthy landlords because their plot of land is usually too small to sustain themselves and their families.

In addition, they need ten times as much fertilizer as they can afford now. Because the Zaibatsu monopolists kept the price of fertilizer high, the average small farmer in the area could not afford to buy fertilizer at all during the war.

These farmers, Washimi said, can only spare about 45 per cent of the quota the government demands from them. If they gave up more than that, they themselves would starve. As it is now, if they weren't able to sell on the black market, they couldn't

Manure In Exchange For Rice, Govt. Plan

Steps Studied To Urge Farmers Turn Over More Produce

310.1

It is worthy of note that the Agriculture Office is at present contemplating a plan to supply fertilizer, farming clothes and farming equipments only to those succeeding in production increase and turning over designated quantity of agricultural products to the Government.

As regards the production of fertilizer this year, even if the Government production goal of 760,000 tons is achieved, sufficient supply to farmers would be impossible.

However, in view of difficulties in realizing production increase of foodstuffs without sufficient supply of fertilizer, the Government has carried out the special supply to farmers turning over rice to the Government manures aggregating 53,000 tons.

Going a step further, views have gained ground that supply of not only fertilizer but also farming clothes and farming equipments should be supplied only to farmers succeeding in production increase and turning over designated quantity to the Government.

MAINICHI JAN 4 1946

2-Point Demand Made To Agriculture Head

Agriculture and Forestry Ministry's Employes Seek Democratization of Offices

310.1

Clamoring for democratization of Government offices, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry's Association

New Law Effective On Farming Bodies

Revised Legislation Promulgated—Kohama Appointed Agriculture Vice-Minister

310.1

Effective January 20, the Government, on Saturday promulgated the Revised Agricultural Organizations Law together with the ordinance and regulations relative to the application of the law.

According to the revised law, officials of agricultural bodies in cities, towns and villages will be chosen by election while in the case of prefectural and national agricultural organizations officials will be selected at general meetings of the bodies.

In the former Agricultural Organizations Law, it was stipulated that officials of the agricultural bodies shall be appointed by the Agricultural Minister or prefectural governors.

Kohama Made Vice-Minister

Hachiya Kohama, former Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture, was appointed Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry succeeding Yoshinari Kawai who tendered his resignation, it was announced by the Government on Friday.

It was also announced that Yoshio Kusumi, councillor of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, was named Director of the Foodstuff Control Bureau of the Ministry as successor to Yoshitaka Kawanami, who had also submitted his resignation.

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FARMERS TO GET BONUSES

Implements to Be Given Those Assigned Rice Quota

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to work for the wealthy landlords because their plot of land is usually too small to sustain themselves and their families.

In addition, they need ten times as much fertilizer as they can afford now. Because the Zaibatsu monopolists kept the price of fertilizer high, the average small farmer in the area could not afford to buy fertilizer at all during the war.

These farmers, Washimi said, can only spare about 45 per cent of the quota the government demands from them. If they gave up more than that, they themselves would starve. As it is now, if they weren't able to sell on the black market, they couldn't keep going.

When we asked Washimi and his friends about Kagawa, the internationally known exponent of the cooperative movement, they laughed. "Kagawa," they said, "is more popular in the American lecture-hall than with the Japanese Farmer.

Sentiment against the emperor is increasing in these villages, according to the delegations. The Japanese press has reported nothing of this, although it knows about it. Washimi claims that "Farmer after farmer" arises at these meetings and declares solemnly, "We have lost faith in the Emperor." Many ex-soldiers returning to the farms are also voicing the same opinion.

Among the immediate objectives of the farmers in these villages: removal of district and agricultural officials who were members of the secret police (the names of these officials are being turned over to the proper authorities); the breaking up of the zaibatsu's grip on the production of fertilizer, and cooperative production of same; and the breaking up and redistribution of large landed estates.

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and turning over designated quantity to the Government.

MAINICHI JAN 4 1946

2-Point Demand Made To Agriculture Head

Agriculture and Forestry Ministry's Employes Seek Democratization of Offices

Clamoring for democratization of Government offices, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry's Association of Officials and Employes, Monday, made a demand in writing to Agriculture Minister Kenzo Matsumura with a demand that a reply be made by not later than January 10.

The demands included:

1. The establishment of a Personnel Affairs Management Committee. This committee should be composed of high-ranking officials of the ministry and representatives of employes corresponding to the high officials in number. Proceeding of committee meetings should be opened to public.

2. The according to complete and thorough freedom with regard to the establishment of a labor union among the ministry's officials and employes.

At the same time, the association issued a statement entitled "An appeal to the people."

At the outset of the statement, the association apologized to the masses for their past bureaucratic blunders which had led the nation to the present plight.

The association announced that it will put into practice a vigorous movement for everthrowing feudalism in Government offices, for realization of Government offices for people, for solution of the food problem and for emancipation of the agrarian population.

The association also requested a fair and impartial judgment from the people in general of their conduct in the future.

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successor to Yoshitaka Kawanami, who had also submitted his resignation.

NIPPON TIMES JAN 21 1946

FARMERS TO GET BONUSES

Implements to Be Given Those Delivering Assigned Rice Quota

In an attempt to increase rice collections, now at approximately 60 per cent of government-set production levels, the Agriculture Ministry will give bonuses to farmers who meet delivery of their assigned rice quotas, the Natural Resources Section of SCAP, said Monday.

The bonuses will be principally in the form of additional allotments of farm implements, salt and fertilizer. They will also include clothing, matches, cooking utensils, soap, candles, screen paper, pencils, toilet articles, medicines, tobacco and sake.

Based on the farmer's delivery of his assigned rice quota, one kan (8.26) pounds of fertilizer will be given for every bag of rice delivered over 70 per cent of the quota, and three kan given for every bag delivered over the full quota assigned to him.

In addition, the farmer is entitled to his choice of a sickle, spade or hoe and to two and a half "go". (.45 litres) of salt for each bag of rice delivered above the 80 per cent quota mark.

Through the plan, the Ministry said, it is hoped that more farmers will fulfill their quotas, and farmers will stop withholding portions of rice crops for bartering purposes.

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310.1

ITEM 1 Dr. Kondo Stressed Democratization of Agricultural Administration - Mainichi Shimbun - 7 February 1946. Translator: R. Shibata.

Summary:

Dr. KONDO, Yasuo, an authority on agricultural politics, made the following statement at a meeting of a society for the study of agricultural politics which is composed of younger bureaucrats in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

"It is true that the poor rice crop of last year might have been caused by unfavorable weather. However, the imperfect production conditions were also to blame. We can not expect much of the crop this year unless fundamental problems such as fertilizer are settled. Our economy must be conducted under the great restrictions brought about by defeat in the war.

"By the reparation plan, not a small part of our industry will be removed. Production can not but decrease to a certain degree. Under circumstances in which our economy must be managed with decreased production in a diminished land, it is utterly necessary that the control of economic circles should be strengthened or planned as much as in war time. Especially, a move for reproduction can not be smoothly managed without the domestic market which replaces the foreign market. We must find this domestic market in the agricultural villages. Here exists the very reason why reclamation work or increased productive power in the agricultural villages is so strongly demanded. It is most essential to direct the agricultural villages according to definite plans. We must avoid the unplanned removal of control, which may cause bad results and promote inflation, as seen recently by the temporary removal of control on perishable food. If the state of non-control on cultivation is left as it is, farmers will be inclined to cultivate profitable vegetables and fruits only. In the case of raw silk, too, which is important as a collateral article, farmers will become unwilling to raise silkworms, if no consideration is paid for special distribution of staple food to them. Here also lies the necessity of control on food. However, control must be always managed in a democratic way.

"Next, we must examine the requisitioning system. An individual allotment system has been ostensibly applied since last year. This system may by right when the allotment is carried out justly and fairly. However, when it is impartial, those who made the allotment should be responsible much more than farmers for completion of the delivery of rice. For all that, this system was urged to be applied, the actual allotment was mostly made according to the area of rice fields. Large farmers are less affected than small farmers who suffer vitally from this system. Replacing this system, the administration and delivery of food by the people come into question. For this, a scientific allotment method is indispensable as well as the precise investigation of production and the grounds for the allotment. The Government should promptly apply a combined allotment system based on calories, and the farmers will plan the most favorable cultivation method by themselves making efforts to execute the plan on their own responsibility. I believe agricultural administration in the future should be managed so as to promote such a tendency.

"In addition, as to the price of rice, recently I hear some political parties insist on raising the price of rice up to 300 yen or 500 yen. However, I think it does not matter at all to the farmers, so long as it does not come up with the black market price. Of course, I don't deny the price of rice should be properly set up in relation to the prices of other agricultural products. But what is more important to farmers than the price raising is that things be managed in such a way that wheat can be substituted for rice at the same rate, and prices of wheat and potatoes, the harvest season of which are close by, should be set up favorably."

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310.1

ITEM 2 Promoting Establishment of New Agrarian System - Agricultural Association Decides on Concrete Plan - Jiji Shimpo - 5 Feb 46. Translator: T. Ukai

Summary:

The Revised Farm Land Adjustment Law (KAISEI NOCHI CHOSEI HO) enforced on 1 Feb still leaves much to be desired, although it must have undergone much emendation and compromise before it was finally decided on in the last Diet session. The Agricultural Association, which had been long trying to prepare a concrete plan to meet the defect, has decided on the following items:

I. Tenant System

1. When the landlord wishes to have his land back again from the tenant, he must consult the Village Farm Land Control Committee (BURAKU NOCHI KANRI I-INKAI), and if the case cannot otherwise be managed, he must pay all the financial losses which the tenant suffers by the return of the land. 2. The spirit of independence of the tenant can be fostered by paying the tenant-rent in cash. The high rate of tenant-rent thus far paid in actual produce will be properly cut down, and tenants' attempts to turn to the black-market will be closely supervised.

II. The Creation of the Peasant-Proprietor.

1. The maximum possession of law by the peasant-proprietor is fixed by the decision of the Government, yet, when it relates to a special sort of agriculture, has no limit. 2. The agrarian land will be rationally managed by re-distribution. Since its exchange, sharing, etc., tend to make trouble, great attention will be paid to its improvement, planning and division. As a rule, land fit for tillage will come under the control of the Agricultural Association. 3. The price of agrarian land will be fixed by the Government. 4. The tenant who buys land, can avail himself of any resources withing his reach such as short-term loans or payment by installments and the Agricultural Association will offer all possible aid in this respect. 5. The buying, formal recording, etc,, of agrarian land are carried out solely by the Agricultural Association on behalf of the tenant.

III. Forests and Fields

Right of reclamation and cultivation of forests and fields, whether owned by the individual or the public, will be guaranteed.

IV. Agrarian Land Management

1. Useful scientific agricultural techniques will be widely introduced and taught. 2. Prices of agrarian products will be stabilized and the agricultural insurance system will be broadened and strengthened. 3. The tax burden on the peasant-proprietor will be lightened as much as possible. 4. Formation of Agricultural Co-operative Unions (NOGYO KYODO KUMIAI) will be helped and strengthened along with the increased establishment of process and distribution institutions, etc.

V. Agricultural Associations in Cities and Municipalities

Committees will be formed on the proportional representation system in agricultural associations in cities and municipalities; each will take a leading part in promoting agrarian reform.

VI. Ken Agricultural Associations

Ken agricultural associations will train leaders for promoting agrarian reform and let them help in the drafting of the third year plan of agrarian reform to be made by municipal agricultural associations.

VII. The All-JAPAN Agricultural Association (ZENKOKU NOGYOKAI)

It will provide each ken with some responsible leaders for agarian reform.

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ITEM 2 The Re-election of the Officers of Agricultural Associations - Nippon Sangyo Keizai - 7 Feb 46. Translator: J. Wada

Full Translation:

The re-election of the officers of agricultural associations and farm land committeemen was decided to be held in March simultaneously throughout the country. It need not be reiterated that the agricultural associations have been accused of having an extreme anti-democratic character in spite of their important role in the farming economy, including the handling of rice delivery. Therefore, the coming elections are the best opportunity for the farmers to realize democracy. The farmers should be so enlightened as to realize democracy in their community, taking advantage of the elections.

There is much to be re-examined in the present structure of the agricultural association, which is an amalgamation of the old industrial guild and the defunct agricultural society (NOKAI). While the former was an economic organization, the latter was a technical organization. However, the present task for the farmers should be the reform of agricultural associations, which have unduly oppressed farmers during and after the war, following the lead of the bureaucrats and militarists. They have misguided farmers in the execution of the war, and have often committed dishonest acts. The coming elections will afford the farmers the best chances for a thorough purge. The task is to train and practice democratic politics on the part of the farmers. If the farmers are so dull as to be unable to democratize their agricultural associations, the realization of democratic politics is out of the question.

The official positions of agricultural associations should be occupied by those who can really understand and practise democracy, whether they are landowners or tenants. However, in practice, it is very difficult to find such people in the present farming community. In case such democratic people cannot be obtained, those who will devote themselves, without private consideration, to the cause of the agrarian community, should be elected, irrespective of their understanding of democracy. In farming villages, favoritism and convention are very powerful. However, if the associations are left to prevail as they are, a democratic reform of the farming society is impossible. Although monopoly of political positions by a certain group must be avoided at any cost, it sometimes happens that inexperienced people have old thoughts or are worshippers of power. After all, the required minimum is that occupants should be those who are above committing irregularities. Being above wrong doing is sufficient to make the present corrupt agricultural associations fair and square, creating a bright atmosphere and finally bringing about democracy.

As the officers of agricultural associations have worked for privilege and have habitually committed irregularities, a deep gulf has been formed between the associations and the farmers. If unfair acts by officers are eliminated, the organizations will naturally become democratic. Speaking from the farmers' standpoint, they will become more confident of agricultural associations and of the Government behind them, and the delivery of rice will be more smoothly carried out.

The agricultural associations should share responsibility for having encouraged lack of confidence in the government by the farmers. The officers of agricultural associations have made bad use of their positions to oppress farmers and have manipulated the distributing agencies for private purposes. Their corruption is beyond the description of the word "demoralization." Truly, some of the organizations have won the confidence of farmers by fair management, but many of them are extremely corrupt and immoral. The officials are responsible for such a situation. At the same time, however, it can not be overlooked that the personnel at large stand too much on their official dignity and are too earnest in plundering the materials to be distributed among farmers. It makes the problem even more difficult that the personnel consists not only of influential people but of tenants and small landholders. Under this condition, we may well be afraid that the officers and personnel should indulge in a feeling of privilege and be tempted to commit corrupt acts. The farmers should guarantee that agricultural associations are managed in a fair and square manner. The re-election of officials will not bring about the democratization of agricultural associations.

The re-election of farm-land committeemen will be held at the same time, and the formation of farmers' unions is making favorable progress throughout the country. All these will do much toward the democratization of farming villages. The essential thing is that the farmers should be awakened.

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ITEM 1 (A) A Critical Moment for Persons who have Turned to Farming (B) Compulsory Issue of Coupons for Fertilizer - Yomiuri Hochi - 9 Feb 46. Translator: T. Hotta.

3101

Full Translation:

I am a man who is occupied in cultivating a certain military reservation in CHIBA-Ken. One of the leaders of the agricultural association said the other day, at a meeting, that one who is occupied in cultivating land must be ready to sacrifice for five years. He also told us that one third of us may run away by night, before long, because of money problems. Being newly-fledged farmers, we, of course, have neither one sen of income nor a radish as our own crop.

What we solely depend upon is a little sum of savings. Even this, however, is nothing before such mounting prices as 50 yen to 100 yen for a hoe, 35 yen for one kamme of potatoes and 350 yen for eight kamme of sulphuric ammonia. Moreover, in actual practice we can seldom get them with money. We don't cultivate land for mere pleasure. All of us made up our mind to turn to farming under the pressing circumstances of living. The Government has fixed the sum of the reclamation subsidy defrayed out of the national Treasury as 260 yen per tan. It is said, however, that the expenditure for engineering works and all other expenditures which are to be needed for cultivating land are included in this sum of 260 yen. It is therefore beyond question that the sum of money we can get is indeed very little. We have already had some failures among us. I claim that we cannot engage in cultivating land with any guarantee of our livelihood.

The Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry disclosed the other day that the Government will specially distribute four go and a half of rice to cultivators. Is it, however, a statement based on confidence? We know very well by experience what sort of things the vain promises of the Government are. In conclusion I demand the following articles from the authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Those who have turned to farming are now in a critical situation.

1. Prior distribution of seed, fertilizer and farming tools to those who turned to farming.

2. Increase in the sum of the reclamation subsidy. (A guarantee for the life of cultivators.)

3. Immediate increase food allowance.

(Letter from OI, Matsudo)
According to a letter introduced in this column the other day, a fertilizer factory in NI[illegible]HAMA, which is under the control of a plutocrat, gets a special distribution of 100 koku of rice a month and uses it as a prize for those persons who have not missed a day at their work. Fertilizer can be called food for land cultivation. Why doesn't the Government apply the compulsory offering system of fertilizer to a fertilizer factory? I want to say that a fertilizer factory, too, should try to increase the yield and offer it. I have here a plan.

The Government should fix the quota due to the industrial faculty of a factory, and issue tickets in proportion to the quota with a time limit. These tickets should be distributed among farmers in proportion to the quantity of rice they offer. The farmers' union of each district collects these tickets from farmers, presents them to the fertilizer factory that issued them, and demands the factory to exchange them for fertilizer. In the case of the factory denying the demand, a share-certificate of the director should be confiscated, and the factory should be fined. The ticket for fertilizer thus should always be exchanged for fertilizer. On the other hand, a fertilizer company should be given some prize in proportion to the number of tickets it collects, and the yield of fertilizer will be increased.

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310.1

ITEM 4 Whither Model Agrarian Villages? Many Such Villages Changed Into Black Market Villages - Tokyo Shimbun - 10 Feb 46. Translator: T. Okamura.

Summary:

Many model agricultural villages designated by the Government as Imperial Farm Villages (KOKOKU NOSON), with the termination of the war, have changed into black marketing villages. Agrarian villages throughout the country, during the war, tried their utmost to deliver the assigned crops or perishable food for sale in order to be nominated by the Government as model villages. Among these villages are dairy farming, rice producing and vegetable producing villages. The loss of their guiding ideals is attributed to the sudden conversion from model to lamentable black marketing villages, but in most cases, farmers are now in a situation to make big profits by selling their products at very high prices. In a certain village, farmers are making 10,000 to 20,000 yen per month by making bamboo baskets, while another farm house earns 1,000 yen a day by operating a poorly equipped sawmill.

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ITEM 4 (Continued)

There are many examples of former model agrarian villages that have become black marketing villages in the KANTO District. OBATA Mura in GUMMA Ken was nominated as a model village during the war. The village having about 1,200 households, had been a peaceful village with no disputes reported. The tax payment and the delivery of crops for sale were conducted in an admirable way, and the village had won the honor of being recommended several times by the Prefectural Governor. However, with the sudden cessation of hostilities, the villagers lost their enthusiasm for production of agricultural products. The delivery of rice has fallen down, while black market dealings are being engaged in broad daylight. The location of two large consuming towns of SHIMONITA and TOMIOKA near the village, plus a remarkable increase of evacuees, who thronged there from TOKYO and other war-striken cities, are counted among the main causes for turning the village into a bad village. The village authorities, however, are doing their utmost in order to reconvert their villages into their former status.

TSURUKAWA Mura in TOKYO-To is another village falling into the same category. The village, which is blessed by its geographical situation and agricultural products, had been boasting of its favorable rice delivery. However, the percentage of the rice offering for the 1945 harvest year registered 70 percent, showing a decline of 20 percent from the preceding year. The poor harvest in the 1945 crop year may be counted as a major cause for this, but the villagers have been tempted by the many urban dwellers who have been thronging there to buy vegetables, fruits, and sometimes dairy products, since the end of the war. The inflation boom is another element to stimulate innocent villagers to indulge in black market dealings. A farmer with an assistant is earning around 1,000 yen a day by operating a small sawmill. Another profiteering job is that of making bamboo baskets. Within two or three months after the end of the war, villagers are said to have made a profit of 10,000 to 20,000 yen per household. It is a matter of course that former model villagers do not show enthusiasm in offering rice which costs only 22 yen per bale.

In 1943, altogether 10 villages were nominated as model villages in CHIBA Ken, and, in the following year, another six villages were designated as such. The prefectural authorities had been planning to select further over 10 such villages in the 1945 to 1946 crop year. However, this project was suspended with the advent of peace. High black market prices of cereals caused by the acute shortage of vital foodstuffs drove villagers to sell their products at absurd prices. Sometimes villagers meet and agree mutually to eliminate black market dealings, but the situation prevailing in both urban and rural districts soon overcame the firm determination of honest farmers. Thus many are gaining large profits through illegal dealings.

Against these undesirable examples, YAMANOSO Mura in IBARAGI Ken, is still gaining prestige as a model farming village. Villagers who swore to maintain the honor and prestige accorded, mutually warm against black market dealings. This village's delivery of barley, wheat, sweet potatoes, charcoal, and fuels reached 80 percent of the assigned quantity in the 1945 crop year.

Among many model villages which deteriorated into black marketing villages in TOCHIGI Ken is a unique village which is to be reorganized into a democratic village. It is NIIAI Mura designated as a model village in 1944. The village has long been placed under the influence of KOBAYASHI, village master, and his kinsmen who are most feudalistic. Sponsored by KANEKO, leader of the Farmers' Union, and YAMADA, president of the JAPAN Public Opinion Investigation Institute (NIPPON YORON CHOSASHO) who is a native of the village, a movement to democratize the village has been launched. Among the aims of this movement are, the democratization of the Village Office, the opposition of the illegal demand for the return of land by landowners, the enactment of the payment of farm-rent in cash, and the wholesale retreat of the feudalis-

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ECONOMIC SERIES: 291 (Continued)

ITEM 4 (Continued)

tic village master, and other influential officials and village assembly men.

Early in January, by the arbitration by an ex-member of the Diet, KURIHARA, the resignation of the village master and other officials was realized, and KURIHARA, a teacher of the primary school was, at the unamimous recommendation of the villagers, installed as the acting Village Master. Thus the feudalistic village is now turning into a model village along democratic lines.

DISTRIBUTION "X"

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ITEM 2 The Tendencies In Various Districts Regarding the Farmers Front - Yomiuri Hochi - 9 February 1946. Translator: H. Naoji.

Full Translation:

310.1

Since the termination of war, there have been taking place many drastic changes in all fields of activity in this country along with the democratization of the nation. And as for the farmers, they are also making progress for the abolition of the feudal system which existed in the past in their domain and such a desire for the democratization of their society is embodied in the farmers' unions in all districts in this country. A development and a tendency of such a farmers' movement is one of the most important concerns for the democratic revolution which is the burning question imposed on our nation.

It seems that the farmers in this country, on the whole, are agreed on the principle that all farmers should unite together of their own free will regardless of any questions arising from political parties. Then, what is the condition of the farmers' unions and what is the attitude of the farmers in all parts of this country towards the JAPAN Farmers Meeting which is to be held today? Let us survey the conditions in various districts of this country.

HOKKAIDO

It was decided that the united democratic front in co-operation with the JAPAN Farmers Union, Farmers' Committee, and the National Farmers Union Federation, will be formed. This was decided at the preliminary committee meeting for the formation of the HOKKAIDO Farmers' Union held recently, at which were present about 60 representatives of the farmers' groups in 17 cities and towns in the district of KARACHI, and at the same time it was decided that they would co-operat e actively with the working bodies.

MIYAGI-Ken

Mr. ITO, Saburo. tenant farmer, said as follows: It is most natural that the united front should be formed with the combination of all farmers in this country, and it is undesirable for us farmers that the political party should avail itself of the farmers for some of its aims.

IWATE-Ken

In this prefecture, twenty unions have been already formed, and in the near future its number is expected to exc ed one hundred. The Social Democratic Party is engaged in the guidance of forming the unions with the sincere help of the Communist Party. If the formation of the JAPAN Farmer's Union definitely comes about, then those political parties will cease to help these farmers' organizations actively and that will be all the better for them.

NAGANO- Ken

In the near future, in all cities, towns, and villages, farmers' unions are to be formed and the farmers in this prefecture are looking forward to the unification of all farmers' unions without interference from any political party, such as the Communist Party or the Social Democrati Party.

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

Mr. IWATA, Kenji, member of the consultative conference of the farmers' union in this prefecture stated as follows in regard to the JAPAN Farmers' Union:

"It ought to be composed of representatives of farmers in all parts of this country and as a result of this, the movement for this union should be carried on by the voluntary will of the farmers themselves."

NIIGATA - Ken

Mr. KEIRO, Kato, spoke as follows regarding the JAPAN Farmers'Union.

"It is desirable for the JAPAN Farmers' Union to make efforts to tide over the present nation wide shortage of food and to aim at full delivery of rice to the Government. At the same time, we hope for the organization of a more powerful Government in place of the present incompetent one."

TOCHIGI - Ken

It can be said that the democratic front has been substancially completed in this prefecture with close co-operation of the Social Democratic Party, the Farmers' Union, the Communist Party, and the Labor unions. Most of the posts of the staff of the prefectural composition of the JAPAN Farmers' Union are occupied by members of the Social Democratic Party or the Communist Party.

SAITAMA - Ken

The ceremony for the formation of the farmers' union in this prefecture was held recently. Mr. MAGUCHI, Fukuzo, chief of the first executive union of the same farmers' union said that: It is most desirable for us who are working arduously for the increase in the production of food that the joint front of the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Pa rty should be realized as soon as possible. We should like the abovementioned two political parties to settle the current urgent problems such as the increase in the production of fertilizer and various agricultural tools.

TOYAMA - Ken

On 5 February a prefectural united committe meeting was held and it was proposed that it should joint the JAPAN Farmers' Union as a body but the proposal was rejected, and finally it was decided that it would join as a farmers' union by making it into the farmers' committee in this prefecture.

GUMMA - Ken

Mr. FUJIMOTO, Yaichi, member of the farmers' union of SHIBANE Village said:

"I hope that the JAPAN Farmers' Union will take the opportunity of liberating all farmers in this country from their feudal conditions. We are not going to agree willingly to the simple economic struggle which is plotted by the right group of the Social Democratic Party, because behind it we can see the intentions of the same party for making their own profit."

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POLITICAL SERIES: 309 (Continued)

ITEM 2 (Continued)

YAMANASHI - Ken

According to Mr. INAMURA, Hanshiro:

"I am glad to see that the JAPAN Farmers' Union will begin shortly their systematic activities for the liberation of the farmers. I hope that this union will be a practical one and not an ideal as it was in the time of the Communist Party's power. It seems to be unjust to lead the farmers in this country to conditions like that of the farmers of RUSSIA because of the differences of the two countries. The most efficient measure is that the farmers should be led by degrees to be able to spend their lives in the future more comfortably than they are today, without the employment of any forced methods. And the best way to achieve this is considered to be with the joint front of the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party.

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ITEM 3 Simplified Farmers' Union - Asahi Shimbun 6 Feb 46. Translator: J. Weiller.

310.1

Full Translation:

The inauguration plenary meeting of the JAPAN Farmers' Union is to be held at the auditorium of the Red Cross TOKYO headquarters on 9 February, and our farmers' organization, which, since the dissolution of the League of Agrarian Land Emancipation, has been prevented from being formed under the ruthless oppression during the war, is to restart on that day on a nation-wide scale. At the inauguration meeting, HIRA O, Rikizo, KURODA, Hisao, NOMIZO, Katsu, OKADA, Soshi and SUGIYAMA, Motojiro, who compose the Central Standing Committee, and about 200 delegates of the prefectural federations and chapters in towns and villages will attend. After electing the chairman and deputy chairman they will elect executives and committees for the ratification examination, agenda, declaration, rules, budget etc thence will go into the agenda of: (1) Fundamental reform of the land system. (2) Food question. (3) Democratization of agrarian villages. (4) Coalition with democratic bodies (co-operative Societies, fishermen's unions, labor unions, etc.) and movements for the unification of the farmers' fronts.

The preparatory committee of the union was formed on the 3 November last with the structure of the former All Country Farmers Union (ZENKOKU NOMIN KUMIAI) for its kernel, therefore ostensibly it is an agricultural section of the Social Democratic Party seeing that a greater majority of the attendants at the coming inauguration meeting are composed of the members of the party. In view of the fact, however, that the Communist Party having recently changed its attitude, is desirous of participating in the organization, and also the leaders of the union arising, at least outwardly, to be too much influenced by a political party, are inclined toward the simplification of the unions, the relationship between the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party surrounding the union's formation, while characterizing the union and deciding its scale, will become a political problem in connection with the proposed democratic front; furthermore it will have an important bearing on the question as to how the union may embrace in its folds the still unorganized farmers.

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

NOZAKA Called on The Farmers' Union

The relation between the JAPAN Farmers' Union which is under the influence of the Social Democratic Party, and the Farmers' Committees, offshoots of the Communist Party, is now presenting complicated aspects in the delicate atmosphere surrounding the organization of a simplified farmers union. At this juncture NOZAKA and ITO of the Communist Party paid an informal visit to the headquarters of the preparation for the formation of the JAPAN Farmers' Union at 1500 on 5 February and had cordial talks with HIRANO, KURODA, NOMIZO and ONISHI of the union. They only arrived at an agreement of the fundamental principle of "fairplay and cooperation between the two bodies", but without going into further details, the visitors left the headquarters at about 1630.

History of the JAPAN Farmers' Union

Our farmers union were split into faction according to the number of Proletarian Parties under whose influence they were, and there were constant changes of colors among them. As the army's advent into politic became conspicuous since the CHINA Incident they were gradually weakened by constant oppression and at last only the Agrarian Land League (NOCHI DOMEI), pared of fighting power, was left on the field, and even this was ordered to be dissolved by the TOJO Cabinet, thus all the organizations were entirely obliterated. On our defeat in the war, all the old proletariat parties, except the Communists, planned a combination, parallel with which a movement was afoot for simplifying the Unions. When the Social Democratic Party was formed on 2 November, the preparatory committee for the formation of the JAPAN Farmers' Union was called on 3 November and a round table conference was held under the sponsorship of, HIRANO, SUGIYAMA, KURODA, SUNAGA, NOMIZO, OKADA, ONISHI, NAKAMURA and NATSUNAGA, at which the preparatory committee was nominated composed of the above organizers and delegates each representing one prefecture.

At the first Committee meeting the organizing unit was decided on whereby the minimum number of a town or village chapter was fixed at 30, a Prefectural Federation to be composed of ten or more chapters and each member was obliged to pay three Yen per annum for the expense of TOKYO headquarters. Immediately afterward chapters and prefectural federations were set up in the country in rapid succession and although they are called chapters of the preparatory committee actually they have already started activities as unions, and are recognized by the headquarters. Such being the case, the plenary meeting on 9 February, while it will be the inauguration meeting, will also be the first plebiscite. The standing members of the preparatory committee are the organizers themselves. At the moment the prefectures where the federations have not yet been organized are KAGOSHIMA, MIYAZAKI, NAGASAKI, SAGA KOCHI, HYOGO, WAKAYAMA, and FUKUI. The total number of the membership is approximately 150,000.

All the personnel of the standing preparatory committee being leaders of the Social Democratic Party, it is easily imagined that the JAPAN Farmers' Union is functioning as the basis of the party. Against this the Communist Party is constantly endeavoring, since its formation for the organization of a Farmers' Committee, independently of the union, and at the Whole Country organizers meeting held for three days from 27 January, it confirmed this aggressive attitude as a policy for the expansion of the party's influence subsequently, on 4 February the Communist Party made the announcement to the effect on its attitude against the inauguration meeting of the JAPAN Farmers' Union on 9 Februar

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POLITICAL SERIES: 294 (Continued)

ITEM 3 (Continued)

(1) The JAPAN Farmers' Union must be formed in a democratic manner.

(2) The participating unions must retain the right of freely supporting the political party of their choice.

(3) The union should embrace the participating unions of different political inclinations.

Previous to this ITO, Ritsuta and others of the Communist Party approached the leaders of the union with a view to letting the union embrace the whole agricultural organization, but the above announcement seems to have made the matter difficult now. Be that as it may, the Farmers' Union movement will remain a class strife until, by the complete realizat of the land reform, the farmers are emancipated, so that agrarian organizations should not split up into several factions but should be consolidated into a single and powerful one. From this view point cries are quite audible demanding both the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party to devote their political endeavors to bring a single union into being which will embrace the whole agrarian populace.

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ITEM 4 The Formation of the Japan Farmers' Union Seen as Key for Unification of Farmers' Organizations - Asahi Shimbun - 6 Feb 46. Translator: R. Shibata.

310.1

Summary:

The formation meeting of the JAPAN Farmers' Union (NIPPON NO IN KUMIAI) will be held on 9 February in TOKYO. It is the first appearance of a Nation-wide farmers' union in this country since the Agrarian Alliance (NOCHI DOMEI) had been dissolved during the war under the pressure of militarism.

Immediately after the end of the war, the former proletarian parties, excepting the Communist Party, planned to unite various agricultural associations which had been set up seperately under the leadership of each party. Just after the formation of the Socialist Party, a preliminary committee for the formation of the JAPAN Farmers' Union was formed on 3 November. The committee consisted of its projectors, most of whom belong to the Social Democrats Party, and a representative from each prefecture. It was decided at the first committee meeting that the components of the branch union in a town and village must be more than 30 members and the Combined Prefecture Union was to be composed of more than 10 branch unions.

After this, the branch unions and Combined Prefecture Unions, were born one after another and commenced practical movements. Up to this time, combined prefecture unions have been set up in almost all prefectures except KAGOSHIMA, MIYAZAKI, NAGASAKI, SAGAHOCHI, HYOGO, WAKAYAMA and NARA-Ken, and members of the unions amount to about 150,000. As easily guessed from the preliminary committee, in which all standing members are the leading members of the Social Democratic Party, the JAPAN Farmers' Union has the appearance of the lower organization of the same party. The Communist Party, which had kept an opposite view on this problem and endeavored to organize separately a farmers' committee since its formation, recently changed its attitude and expressed its desire to participate in the JAPAN Farmers' Union. On 4 January, the Party presented its attitude on this problem, stating as follows:
(1) The JAPAN Farmers' Union should be formed in a democratic way.
(2) It should include every agricultural association, even if it be of a different character.
(3) These agricultural associations should be free in supporting any party they want.

At this formation meeting of the Farmers' Union on 9 February, following its formation ceremony, they will enter into a discussion of the thoroug reformation of the agrarian system; the food problem; democratization of agriculture; combination of various democratic groups, such as a co-operative society, fishers' association labor union and the like; and a united front of farmers' unions. The headquarters of the Union, also assumes an attitude, at least ostensibly, that they desire a nation-wide united farmers' union which is not tinged with any political color. How the relationship between the two big parties will reflect in the union, will have great influence upon its character and scale. Besides, this problem relates politically to whether or not the democratic front will be formed with any success.
However, the farmers' union movement is nothing but a class conflict whic aims at the realization of the reform spirit in agriculture and the release of farmers from their serfdom. In order to attain these objects agricultural organizations must not be divided into several factions, but must unite into a strong body. From this point of view, it is highly desirable that the two parties, the Social Democratic Party and Communist Party, make political efforts for the realization of the JAPAN Farmers' Union as a nation-wide united farmers' association.

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310.1

ITEM 4 Organization Meeting of the JAPAN Farmers Union-Mainichi Shimbun-10 February 1946. Translator: R. AOKI.

Summary:

The JAPAN Farmers' Union (NIPPON NOMIN KUMIAI), claiming to be the single national union of the 30,000,000 farmers in JAPAN, held its organization meeting on 9 February at the Red Cross Hall in TOKYO. Three hundred representatives from all parts of the nation assembled, together with another three hundred observers.

The Farmers' Union was originally started as an associate organ of the Social Democratic Party, but in view of the prevalent swing of social movements in favor of the popular front, now the Union has assumed a superpolitical party stand. Nevertheless, since most officers are of Social Democratic Party affiliation it remains to be seen what will happe. when some important party questions arise among the constituent proletarian parties.

The meeting approved the following demands which will be presented to the government authorities. 1. Prohibit the taking-up of lands from tenant farmers by landlords under the pretext to till them themselves. 2. Prohibit the arbitrary redistribution of tenant lands by land lords with the nominal procedure of extablishment of branch families, inheritance, donation, etc. Also make void illegal acts of land lords to force the tenants to purchase the lands at blakmarket prices through intimidation or makeshifts. 3. Also prohibit the land lords from continuing the share-crop rental system instead of outright transformation to the monetary rental system. 4. Compel the landlords to respect tenant rights even when the taking over of lands is necessary due to their evacuation from the cities or demobilization.

The meeting approved appointment of the following officers: SUNAGA, Yoshi president; NOMIZO, Masaru secretary; MATSUNAGA, Yoshio treasurer; SUGIYAMA, Motojiro- KAGAWA, Toyohiko-KATAYAMA, Tetsu, advisors.

310.1

ITEM 1 Agricultural Associations in Ishikawa-Ken - Provincial Newspaper Hokkoku Mainichi Shimbun (KANAZAWA) - 4 February 1946.
Translator: H. Nishihara.

Summary:

The Agricultural Association in ISHIKAWA-Ken have planned to establish new agricultural associations to meet the current democratic movements. The principles of the reform will be to expel bureaucratic control and to meet the future by taking into consideration the demands of the farmers . To complete the aim, agricultural councils and planning committees will be formed. Their membership will consist of representatives of land-owners, farmers and men experienced in agriculture. The chairmen will be elected from among the members. The agricultural associations will further reform its mechanism. The Guidance Sections will be called the Production Sections. They will throw away their former autocratic attitude. Another plan is being considered. According to this plan, the former Guidance Sections will be called the First Sections and the former Management Sections the Second Sections. Distribution committees will be formed in every agriculture association, to ensure fair distribution.

The agriculture association will publish weekly pamphlets, set up libraries in all associations, and encourage farmers to stage shows for themselves. These plans will help to develop farmers' culture. In this connection, they are planning to set up Culture Sections.. These plans will be materialized in March when the revised Agriculture Union Law will come into force.

Mr. NOMURA, Hidekatsu, of IZUMINO-Mura, KANAZAWA-Shi, and 23 other tenants held a meeting on 1 February at the house of Mr. NOMURA, and decided to form a"Farmers Union in IZUMINO-Machi." The Union made known its complaints against land owners, stating that the tenant farmers are being dispossessed of lands by them. It further decided to petition the prefectural government that, if and when the NOMURA Parade Ground is sold, the farmers of the nearby districts should receive priority. The Union will pursuade other farmers to become members. Later the staff members of the Union will be elected.

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310.1

ITEM 2 The Administration of Farming Necessities - Mainichi Shimbun - 19 Feb 46. Translator: H. Shindo.

Summary:

Farmers necessities are now under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and also of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Why are farmers, therefore, suffering from such a double control as this? This is a great obstacle to farming. The farm administration is causing a great political problem. The so-called production program for civilian goods, announced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has been a surprise to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry thinks that the program is at least not satisfactory from the following four points of view:

1) The program is moderate.

2) The figures for farming implements are obscure.

3) The proposed production of fertilizer is very low.

4) There has been no liaison between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has estimated the production of both of ammonium sulphate and nitrogen of lime at 312,000 tons for the period from January to July. However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has promised to distribute to farmers 350,000-360,000 tons during the same period. The announcement by the former ministry is the betrayal of the promise to farmers by the latter ministry.

Fertilizer or farming implements, therefore, can not be considered apart from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. On the other hand, their production is under the administration of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Responsibility must be made clear because obscure and divided administration affects today's food production directly.

310.1

ITEM 2 "Which is better to take, Fundamental or Palliative Measures? - Provincial Newspaper "Tokushima Shimbun" (Tokushima) - 12 Feb 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

Summary:

The turnover of rice on the part of farmers makes little progress, while the nation is facing starvation. The compulsory measure decided on by the Government, though it may be unavoidable, is only temporary in its effect. The most fundamental measure to expedite the rice delivery is to eradicate the causes which make delivery slow. The causes of the delay in rice delivery can be considered as follows: the lack of rice which is usually required for farmers to buy their farming implements and other necessities: high cost of commodities which forces the farmers to sell their rice in the black market: farmers' distrust of the officials: injustice of quotas and the suspicious attitude of farmers towards the Government policy which makes fools of honest men. To hasten the rice delivery, the Government should be most earnest in eliminating these fundamental causes before resorting to the compulsory measure.

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310.1

ITEM 3 Nippon Farmers' Association Appoints Standing Executive Committee Members - Yomiuri Hochi Shinbun - 11 Feb 46. Translator: Y. Yuyata.

Full Translation:

It is reported that the JAPAN Farmers' Association (NIPPON NOMIN KUMIAI), which was organized on 9 January, held its central committee meeting on 10 January. The following standing executive committee members were appointed through a reciprocal election: Messrs HIRANO, Rikizo; NAKAMURA Koichi; OKADA, Soji; ONISHI Tosuo, KURODA, Hisao; ICHIDA Uzen; and KAWAI, Giichi.

In addition to these members, the committee also appointed Mr. SUNAGA Yoshi as Chairman, Mr. NOMIZO, Masaru as Secretary and Mr. MATSUNAGA, Yoshio as chief accountant. It cannot be denied, however, that the elected membership is somewhat unsatisfactory as representatives of 30,000,000 farmers.

310.1

ITEM 1 Withdrawal of all officials of the National Agricultural Association decided - Asahi Shimbun - 22 Jan 46. Translator: T. Ukai.

Full Translation:

The National Agricultural Association (ZENKOKU NOGYOKA) held a series of meetings of the permanent officials on 29 January, of its councilors on 30 January, and of all officials on 31 January. They discussed the subject of re-election in accordance with the enforcement of the Revised Agricultural Organizations Law (KAISEI NOGYO DANTAI HO) and decided on the withdrawal of all officials from their posts including the vice-president, Mr. KOHIRA.

The public election of new officials is to occur during the first ten days of April and a small body of officials will remain to handle the business until that time. They are Messrs. KOSHIGHI, Tabei, YANAGAWA, Sozaemon, MATSUHARA, Iwozo, and MIYABE, Ichiro, as directors and SATO, Kanji, as auditor.

310.1

ITEM 3 Farmers Union Demands New Food Policy - Asahi Shimbun - 5 Feb 46. Translator: R. Aoki.

Extracts:

Representatives of the NIPPON Farmers' Union (NIPPON NOMIN KUMIAI) on 4 February called on the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry SOEJIMA and handed him the demands of the Union pertaining to food and other related problems. The Union criticized the government policies on food as mostly academic and insisted that they must be more concrete. The demands of the Union consists of the following five items.

1. Open the crown forests and pastures to the farmers.
2. Open the unused forests and waste lands.
3. Government subsidy for reclamation of inferior lands.
4. Solution of the fuel question.
5. Disbandment or democratic reorganization of the government fostered lumber companies and forestry associations.

Meanwhile the date for the inauguration of the NIPPON Farmers' Union has been fixed at 9 February. In conjunction with this ceremony, the NIPPON Communists' Party issued a statement recommending that the Union must be broad enough to embrace all those who want to join it, irrespective of their political affiliation, and that the Union must develope into a single union in the future.

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ITEM 1 Surplus Labor and Complex Methods of Management -- Provincial Newspaper Sekigake shinpo (Akita) - 8 Feb 46. Translator: B. Ishibashi.

310.1

Full Translation:

The release of farm-land, as resulting from the adjustment law, is to be carried out soon. That the land which has been monopolized so far by a minority is to be divided among the real cultivators is of no less significance than the reforms of the MEIJI Restoration. At that time, the farmers were emancipated from the territorial fetters of their feudal lords, as a result of the abolition of clans and the establishment of prefectures. The Government made clear its intention to carry out the second and third adjustment, to follow the present one, in order to reach the amount of land set in the plan.

The areas of land, which may be possessed by a person in some small nations of Europe are as follows: 3 cho 5 tan in YUGOSLAVIA: 30 cho in BULGARIA; and between 25 and 60 cho in RUMANIA. Compared with these, the limit of 3 cho 6 tan in our country can be regarded as being sufficient if we take into consideration the ratio of productivity between dry and wet fields.

That the land is to be subdivided so that cultivators receive benefits is a matter of deep significance. However, with the subdivision of the land, questions arise which call for our serious consideration; for instance, from what angle should farming production be managed, and how should surplus labor be arranged. Suppose the entire area of farm land in this prefecture is nearly 110,000 cho, and there are 100,000 farm houses. The average is a little over 1 cho per house. With a crop from one cho of farm-land, the farmer can afford to supply rice to several consumers, besides retaining rice for himself. Thus, his livelihood will be easy.

However, the population increases annually. Before the war, the population pressure in the farm-villages was alleviated by emigration to other countries, like MANCHURIA, and the flow to the factories in cities Now that such outlets have been lost, the excess population will cause the farmers to subdivide even their one cho farm-lands. Naturally, living will then become more difficult. From the viewpoint of rice deliveries, it may be supposed that quite a number of the farmers find themselves in a position where they can hardly produce the minimum quantity of rice to feed their own families. Naturally, the amount of rice deliveries will be gradually reduced. As the result, a self-sufficiency system in JAPAN cannot be established forever. This being the case, the questions of how to manage surplus labor in the farm-villages takes on more weight than ever.

Under these conditions, the authorities concerned must seriously consider a complex management system, for the farm-villages, with which to absorb their surplus labor and keep pace with the adjustment of farm-land. As for this prefecture, first, it is necessary to establish many small factories. A self-sufficient system for the farm-villages should be established, so that they themselves may produce agricultural and commodities of daily necessity. It is desirable to establish small dairies to utilize undeveloped land. On the basis of small stock-breeding enterprises, including those of cows and goats, which will put products on the markets in neighboring cities, it may be expected that the livelihood of the farm-villages will be gradually improved. Moreover, small enterprises like those of metal work, wood-work, and toy manufacturing will be beneficial.

Today, the low standard of living of farmers is still conspicuous in our country. A complex management system, to be put into effect with an adequate arrangement of surplus population, and the utilization of the winter holidays, etc., will not only be a guarantee of safety for the future of the farm-villages, but it will also be a necessary prerequisite for the improvement of the cultural standard of the farmers.

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ITEM 2 The Sentiment of Farmer Women - Asahi Shimbun - 23 Feb 46.
Translator: M. Kato.

310.1

Full Translation:

It seems that the Government is making an effort to stir up public sentiment in its favor regarding compulsory measures for rice delivery by the farming communities. Some urban people seem to support this government plan. Legal restrictions, however, if they are not designed on the social morals which can be applicable to every member of society, cannot but be regarded as tyranny. I myself had been ploughing our small fields until the war ended. The farm products which I had planted, such as potatoes, wheat, and vegetables had been sold to the State according to the allotment. The quantity was not, of course, large.

I was induced therefore, to express my sentiment obtained through this experience in order to aid in the solution of this problem. In this connection, I want to inform the public of the sentiments prevalent among the female workers, especially the women of the farmers' households, regarding these government measures. All goods are naturally flowing to the highest level of prices. A restriction is intended by the Government to be put on rice only. This is arousing complaints from the agrarian society. The farming community considers this government policy unnatural. The farming people, however, have such an exaggerated idea regarding the starvation of the urban people that profiteering is never thought of by the rural people.

The agrarian community is, of course, subject to the national morality. Nevertheless, the agrarian people, especially the women, tend to be reluctant to deliver the amount of rice alloted to them. These women seem to arouse sentiment against the fulfillment of this obligation. What makes them do this? It is because the life of the urban women seems to be far more easy than the daily life of the agrarian women. The women of the towns are leading a life in which their duties involve only cooking, washing, and going to the public bath.

The women of the farming family, even if they have many children, must do the household work early in the morning and have other tasks left to perform at night. The infants of the farmer's family are generally entrusted to the care of children, to be taken to the field where they are put to sleep. Thus the wives of the farmers work in company with their husbands with such application that neither their hair nor their soiled clothes can be attended to.

The crops of the farmers can only be harvested by such hard work. Suppose the working conditions of the town laborers were applied to the agrarian community. Those engaged in farming would be only the husband and grown up sons and daughters. The hours of ploughing would be limited to nine or ten hours a day. Holidays would be given once or twice a month. Then the shortage of labor would be supplemented from outside. From such a supposition, a far higher price level of farm products would result. Utilization of the domestic animals such as cows or horses, as well as tractors, in place of farm hands, would not increase the crops to cover the allotment.

In short, the exertion of the farmer's family, especially of the woman is the very thing that enables the farmer to produce enough harvest to cover the alloted delivery to the Government beyond their daily needs. Regardless of this reality, the Government has resorted to such means as making the allotment in proportion to the area of farmlands. This idea is based on the supposition

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

that land alone can produce crops. Faithful delivery will leave barely enough foodstuffs to feed the family. What is left after the toil and sweat of all the members of the household, is nothing more than a humble diet.

On the other hand, the female citizens of the urban community are privileged to lead on idle life without being soiled with mud. The ration to these privileged people is somewhat better than that of those hardworking producers. "The rationing system has been projected to serve for the easy life of the urban people at the sacrifice of our toil," is the conclusion of the agrarian women.

I am will aware of the city life as well as the rural life. The agrarian people's envy for city life is therefore not necessarily to be supported. Nevertheless there is something that appeals to us in the views of the farming women toward the urban ladies. I came up to the metropolis one and a half months after the termination of the war. The vast area devastated by the bomb-raids was bleak and desolate. Sowing the seeds of wheat was surely impossible at this times. The farmer's spirit in me made me shudder at this sight. This is, of course, partly due to the neglect of duty on the part of the Government. The time has come when laborers in factories and plants are calling for the management of their places of work by their own hands. Control was given to the capitalists in order to surpervise the sloth of the latter.

The citizens will do well to cultivate these deserted areas instead of spending all their time on tours for buying necessities. If this is realized, the food situation may become somewhat improved. Those who can clain the right to live must necessarily be those who have the evill to work, no matter what type of work it is. It is now a time when everybody is confronted with life or death through the shortage of foodstuffs. If any urban ladies lacking appreciation of the situation should indulge in such things as cleaning, and ornamenting themselves or their own children, or busying themselves in cleaning and sweeping their homes, they are surely under an obligation to listen in earnest to the complaint of the rural women.

The thought that there might likely be supporters of the Government in the urban community induced me to give bent to the sentiment representative of the silent agrarian women in the obscurity of society, being devoid of expression of their sentiments.

(by HIRABAYASHI, Taiko, a writer, TOKYO)

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1417 DATE: 18 Feb 46

EDITORIAL SERIES: 461

ITEM 1 The Significance of the Public Election of Officers for the Agricultural Associations - Provincial Newspaper Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 15 Feb 46. Translator: K. Ketel.

3/10.1

Full Translation:

The elections of officers of agricultrual associations of cities, towns and villages according to the amended laws are due to be held between 21 February and 10 March so as to precede the forthcoming general election. The said election is the first of its kind to be held since the democratization of the agricultural associations was planned. This public election will not only alter the town and village associations but will also change completely the landlord nature of the prefectural and central agricultural associations. If the agricultural association of today becomes autonomous in a town or village, it will be the first step in the democratization of rural communities and therefore, its significance becomes more and more great. It is needless to say that until now, the officers of these associations, similar to other offices, have been influenced by elements with characters like landlords or by leaders who acted in their behalf. They played a great role in gaining power in the rural community by connections with village offices and assemblies and various other agricultural organizations. It is a fact that the coming election will be of great significance in the expulsion of feudalism from rural life.

This election is a chance which has been obtained and it is inconceivable that by means of this chance the democratization of the agricultural associations and rural life will be easily achieved. A successful democratization of the rural community depends on the self-consciousness of the masses of the farmers and to what extent they are able to utilize the given opportunity.

The rural community is now confronted by various new subjects, such as the farm land release, the payment of rentals in money instead of kind and food administration by the farmers. It seems that the rural community is rapidly heading for democracy pressed on by the farmers' associations and the farmers committees. However, if we make a more detailed examination of this subject we will notice that the feudal system is very deeply rooted in rural life and therefore, it could not be removed overnight. As a matter of fact the landlords seem to be reinstated in the rural community by the new farmland reform law, and a similar character seems to have penetrated the minds of the yeoman and tenants. Furthermore the commercial farmers who enjoy inflationary prosperity seem to want to play a great role as representatives of the old reactionary forces.

The prerequisite for counteracting such complicated movements and for the establishment of an agency for productive farmers by reorganizing the agriculture associations is, first of all, to shake all the farmers free from such ideas. It is said that in towns and villages, where farmers' associations and committees already have been established, the old agriculture associations are being seriously criticized and experience

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

has been gained in holding the attacks of the old guard in check to a certain extent. Therefore it is necessary that in other towns and villages drastic and resolute efforts are made.

Because the election agency, that is, the agricultural associations, are still under the influence of the old reactionary forces, there is some possibility that the complete enlightenment as to the significance of the coming election will be sabotaged. The farmers must be aware that they should watch the proceedings carefully, should obtain time to comment on the candidates, and should not decide on a candidate at the recommendation of certain high persons. It is essential to assert and fulfil the need to devise a system to demonstrate clearly the significance of the coming election. Going a step further, the various associations and agricultural organizations from towns and villages should take concerted action by forming alliances and demanding the leadership of a higher agency, and should carry out an enlightenment campaign. In other words, such activity will not only be a movement for democratizing agriculture associations, but should become a significant declaration in the coming political warfare.

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310.1

CONFIDENTIAL JP/TOK/PPB/2514

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CIS - GHQ - AFPAC
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8 February 1946

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COMMENT

OPINION: FARMERS' STATUS DOES NOT WARRANT HELP

"The "emancipation of the farmers" is something which even the farmers themselves had not thought about. This movement is to strenghten the foundation of agricultural Japan. However, are the farmers of today entitled to such good treatment?

"The conditions of the farmers as described in the directives date back about 20 years ago. Today it is quite a different thing. Radish are 2.50 yen, sweet potatoes 30 yen per kan, dried persimons, 40 yen per stick, and rice is priced at 45 yen per sho. Besides, people have to go out into the country to purchase these products. When they reach the country they are told to bring clothes in exchange for food. The farmers just sit and make thousands of yen by selling vegetables at high prices. They really have a dominant position in society today. The men who live on fixed salaries are really the slaves.

"General MacArthur's Headquarters, whose purpose is to stabilize society would surely punish the farmers if this avarice were made known.

"Before such disgrace comes to them I hope the farmers will awaken and stop black market dealings."

Examiner: WHO

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1518 DATE: 25 Feb 46

ECONOMIC SERIES: 352

310.1

ITEM 1 Democratic Rebirth or Disintegration; the Future of Agricultural Societies -- Magazine: The Economist (Semi-monthly) 1 Feb 46 issue. Translator: Echigo.

Summary:

During the agricultural panic of the early thirties, the adjustment and unification of agricultural associations was seriously advocated for the first time. The multiplicity of organizations then in existence, it was recognized, constituted a severe handicap to JAPAN's agricultural development. First, this top-heavy superstructure hindered the planned guidance of farming management; secondly, it entailed a heavy financial burden for farmers; thirdly, it inevitably resulted in a great loss in labor and materials; and finally; it weakened the control over prices of agricultural products. For these reasons, agricultural reformers sought to reduce and simplify these complex organizations by bringing them together into a single over-all agency. In reality, however, their efforts only resulted in the creation of the Central Agriculture and Forestry Council (CHUO-NORINKYO GIKAI), a sort of conciliatory organ for the various associations; and consequently the fundamental solution to the problem was not achieved.

Nevertheless, with the development of the so-called new structure movement in the fourth year of the CHINA incident, the theory about the unification of the agricultural association reasserted itself. And whether we liked it or not, the outbreak of World War II settled the long-pending question once and for all. The Agricultural Association law, issued under the date of 31 March, 1943, provided for a new system of agricultural association as follows: the National Agricultural Society (TEIKOKU-NOKAI), the Central Industrial Guild (SANGYO KUMIAI CHUOKAI), the National Animal Husbandry Society (TEIKOKU CHIKUSAN KAI), the National Sericultural Union (ZENKOKU YOZANGYO KUMIAI RENGO KAI), and the Central Tea Industry Council (CHAGYO KUMIAI CHUO KAI), among which the National Agricultural Society served as a nucleses, were united into the Central Agricultural Society (CHUO NOGYO KAI). The National Purchasing and Selling Association (ZENKOHAN-REN), reorganized into the National Agricultural Economic Society (ZENKOKU NOGYO KEIZAI KAI) and became the central economic body; and the Central Agricultural and Forestry Bank (NORIN CHUO GINKO), the reformed Central Industrial Guild Bank (SANGYO KUMIAI CHUO GINKO), - was added as the central financing organization. In this connection, it should be pointed out that the National Agricultural Economic Society was placed under the leadership of the Central Agricultural Society, in that the former was a member of the latter. In contrast to the tri-partite structure set up in the capital for the guidance of agricultural management, economic affairs and finance, all agricultural agencies in each prefecture, subprefecture, city, town and village were combined into a single institution.

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As the war progressed, the Central Agricultural Society and the National Agricultural Economic Society were amalgamated into the wartime Agricultural Corporation (SENJI NOGYO DAN), which, with the end of the war, because the National Agricultural Society (ZENKOKU NOGYO KAI). In the meantime, the Central Agriculture and Forestry Bank (NORIN CHUO KINKO) and the local Agricultural Society in each prefecture, subprefecture, city,town and village were left intact.

Lost Leadership of the Society.

The present situation is that the Agricultural Society has given up its chief function of guiding farmers in agricultural management, and has become little more than a commercial firm, but one earning as much from commissions as possible. To understand how this deterioration has come about, it is necessary to consider the "politics" and rivalries within the associations in some detail. It was inevitable, because of the multifacious elements involved, that many antagonisms would arise, and that the various groups would be constantly jockeying for power. The result of these maneuverings were that elements representing the old National Purchasing and Selling Association (ZENKO HANREN) ultimately gained the upper hand over the others. This happened in the following way:

The Central Agricultural Society, when newly established, was placed in control of the National Agricultural Economic Society. TOURA, Shoji and his satellites, representing the old National Agricultural Society,(TEIKOKU NOKAI) held the reigns of the Central Agricultural Society. However, when the National Agricultural Association was organized to replace the Wartime Agriculture Corporation, the influence of the National Purchasing and Selling Association, headed by KODAIRA, Kenichi, rose rapidly to prominence, and soon outweighed all the other influences.

It is permissible for the Agricultural society to undertake economic enterprises, to be sure; but its primary function, as always, must be to improve forming techniques and to provide guidance in farm management. Unfortunately, under present conditions, the society appears to be drifting away from its primary function. Already the Society has lost its position of leadership in the agricultural community. The plan for establishing "leading" farms recently made public by the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is evidence that the ministry no longer places much faith in the Agricultural Society. The most important problem facing the society, therefore, is how to regain its lost leadership.

Bureaucrats Influences in the Agricultural Society

Officials belonging to the Agricultural Society are prone to swagger. They belong to what is essentially a democratic organization, and yet they display all the offensive characteristics of officialdom. They are quite as capable of corruption as our Government officials are. -- What is even worse, the Society is cursed with an enormous bureaucratic structure. The National Agricultural Society alone contains more than 2,000 officials, most of whom are engaged in "red tape" activities of one kind or another. Furthermore, as the structure of the Agricultural Society has been enlarged, there is an indication that these officials have started to look our for their own interests rather than those of the farmers.

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

They are becoming a mere group of salaried men, isolated from the farmers whom they are supposed to assist. It is not too much to say that they are suffering from arteriosclerosis of body and soul. It is no wonder that farmers have turned their backs upon he society. It is, therefore, obviously beyond the capacity of the society to break the bottleneck which holds rice deliveries to a snails' pace. The enforcement of a measure which the government is expected to take in order to step up rice deliveries may be construed as expressing unmistakably its distrust of the Agricultural society.

Landlords Have a Firm Foothold in the Agricultural Society.

It is an obvious fact that the Agricultural Society gives its principal support to the interests of landlords. The important posts in the society almost without exception are filled by the mouthpieces of landlords. It is therefore not surprising that, in complicity with the powerful landlord influence in the Diet, the Agricultural Society and its predecessors should have used every means to prevent the realization of progressive agricultural policies. The desperate efforts which they made a short while ago to increase the maximum area per owner from 3 cho to 5 cho is an indication of the direction they intend to follow.

It is of interest to note that a vigorous campaign for the democratization of the Agricultural Society has recently been started by progressive elements in thesociety itself; in many quarters, however, it is felt that the Society should be abolished altogether. In any event, it is clear that the Agricultural Society must go through severe pangs of rebirth before it is re-established as a society which truly represents the interests of farmers.

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1544 DATE: 27 Feb 46

EDITORIAL SERIES: 503

ITEM 1 The Emergency Economic Measures and the Farmers' Status - Provincial Newspaper Hokkaido Shimbun (Sapporo) - 20 Feb 46. Translator: B. Ishibashi.

310.1

Full Translation:

The relationship between the recent emergency economic measures, adopted by the Government to tide over the crisis of inflation, and the farm-villages is very delicate. Generally speaking, it cannot be denied, that in the course of inflation, those who produce commodities, especially the farmers, are in a relatively more favorable position than others who do not. It is certainly so in a relative sense. If the present inflationary trends should become more vicious and fatal and the national economy should decline, the farm-villages would also be affected seriously. It will result in an extreme division between cities and farm-villages, and there will be food riots, or even quarrels among blood relations.

In the course of execution of these measures to check inflation, the farmers are in a favorable position. If currency should be brought under control as effectively as the Government hopes, by its coercive measures, as a result those who live in cities will have to undergo unusual hardships because of the restricted cost of living, at least until the price of foods is lowered, or food is rationed through regular channels. At the same time, the farmers can retain the necessary quantity of food. In addition, they can be in a favorable position as the owners of currency. However, this position may not be possible without some coercive measures concerning rice delivery by the Government. Such being the case, they are not capable of gaining so much as they have, up to now, by taking advantage of the progressing inflationary trends. In reality, they will be only a little better situated than non-agrarians.

This fact is apt to discourage the desire for production on the part of the farmers and will make them retain their produce all the more. This will inevitably bring unprecendented hardship to those who live in cities, and will endanger the administration of the measures themselves. Such being the case, the Government should take care of the farmers by appropriate steps such as to alleviate all possible undue burdens which may be imposed upon them by coercive measure for rice delivery and control of the cash in circulation. The position of the farmers, in relation to inflation, is thus very delicate. In the emergency economic measures to be taken by the Government, the position of the farmers is taken into consideration briefly, and in the main, this result is realized. Undoubtedly, some important questions such as the amount of new yen that the farmers will be allowed to keep, and the rice price, which should be a standard for the stabilized, well-balanced, new price, which tem, still remain to be settled. These questions demand an early decision.

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

At any rate, it can be said that the recent government emergency measures are very fitting, even if they did come too late and even if some points in the plan require further examination. Realizing the situation, the farmers should not be reluctant to co-operate with these measures. When we recognize that these measures, as a whole, have been set up on the basis that the food ration is to be increased, in some way, before long, we cannot but hope for full co-operation on the part of the farmers. In addition, the Government must never break its public pledges towards the farmers for it must enlist their positive and efficient co-operation with the measures.

There are not only those problems, which are left unsettled since the war, like securing the necessary commodities for the farmers and the adjustment of the compulsory allotment system, but also exposure of the concealed and hoarded goods and purge of certain organizations like the Farmers' Association or the Food Control Association, which have recently become targets of public discussion. The Government should muster its courage to solve all these problems. Unless it succeeds in solving them satisfactorily, it cannot win the support of the farmers in execution of its measures. Not only that, inflation impresses farmers differently now than during the war. During the war it was unavoidable and restraint was absolutely necessary in order to carry out the war. Then they held an earnest desire to co-operate in tiding over the national economic crisis, and even had the resolution to rise above their individual delicate conditions, if necessary. Now that the war is over we are experiencing the aftermath of defeat. Eventually, inflation will lead to collapse of the national economy and the farmers will not escape the hardships. However, because of their relatively favorable position, they may be able, obstinately to confine their interests only to their own lives.

In addition, they well know that the ultimate solution of the various post-war problems cannot be expected unless those fundamental measures like radical disposal of the national bonds, and suspension of the indemnifications to the munitions factories are solved. To appeal to them for co-operation, setting aside those fundamental measures will merely create resentment on the part of the farmers. Such being the case, if the Government wishes to gain their effective co-operation with a view to effecting emergency measures satisfactorily, it must advance some steps further to establish more complete measures. The Government which will be capable to relieving JAPAN from a possible collapse of its national economy must be a powerful and impartial one.

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1528 DATE: 26 Feb 46

ECONOMIC SERIES:

355

ITEM 1 Comments on Current Agriculture by TSUCHIYA, Kiyoshi - Magazine: Nogyo Asahi (Monthly) - Jan 46 Issue. Translator: Mr. E. Hoshikawa, T/4 R. Shiiya.

310.1

Summary:

Essentials of Farm Land Reform

The Farm Land Readjustment Bill passed the 89th special session of the Diet with partial amendment and on 7 January 1946 the Farm Land Investigation Society decided to enforce many necessary measures. The amendments passed in the Diet were:

(1) To permit the tenant to pay his farm rent in kind instead of cash with the approval of the land owner.

(2) To increase the Farm Land Committee by three more members.

Concerning the first amendment, some controversy arose over the fact that land owners might force their tenants to pay their rent in kind although the amendment calls for such payment only on the initiative of the tenants. The standard estimated value of farm land is 40 times the rental value of paddy fields and 48 times the rental value of other fields. These values remain as originally proposed in the bill. However, the compensation to be received by the land owner from the Government was increased to 220 yen per tan for dry fields and 130 yen per tan for paddy fields. This is an increase of 70 and 40 yen respectively over previous compensation figures. The people are not directly affected by this measure. Cash rental payments, when made instead of crop rental payments, are to be 75 yen per koku instead of 55 yen. This increased burden on the tenants indicates some remaining influence of the land owner in the Diet.

The original bill as drafted by the Agriculture and Forestry Departmer fixed the average area to be left in the hands of the land owner at 3.6 cho, but the bill as amended raised the average area to 5 cho. This 5 cho figure is the average for the entire country for it varies from 2 to 3 cho in KANSAI to 10 cho in HOKKAIDO. Five cho was decided upon as the average area reserved for the land owner and 3.6 cho as the minimum reserve area. The largest reserved area is in HOKKAIDO where it is 10 cho; the smallest is 3.6 cho as in OSAKA, HYOGO, NARA, WAKAYAMA, TAKUSHIMA, and KAGAWA prefectures; those prefectures with an average 4.5 cho or more are AOMORI, IWATE, MIYAGI, AKITA, YAMAGATA, FUKUSHIMA, IBARAGI, TOCHIGI, SAITAMA, CHIBA NIIGATA, and MIYAZAKI.

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Since the inaugural of farm land reform, land owners persisted in holding on to their land as much as possible by turning their excess lands over to their relatives. This resulted in the disastrous plight of the farm tenants through the loss of cultivated areas. Dispite such resistance on the part of the land owners, great steps toward farm land reform must be advanced to check such movements on the part of the land owners and to speed the democratization of JAPAN's economy.

General Election and the Rural Districts

On 4 January 1946 SCAP issued its purge directive and ordered the dissolution of right wing elements throughout the country. All of this should have been done by the SHIDEHARA Cabinet with the support of the people, but the people were unconcerned and were ignorant of the pertinent facts. Political education has been centered around the large cities and towns in the past but it must be introduced into the rural districts also. The rural districts comprise 40 per cent of the total population of JAPAN and they will therefore play an important role in the coming general election.

Delivery and Starvation

The amount of rice delivered to the Government as of 20 Dec 45 was only 4,075,000 koku which is only 15 % of the total estimated amount expected according to the quota system. This is very unsatisfactory since large cities in HOKKAIDO and the cities of TOKYO, KYOTO, OSAKA, NAGOYA, etc., are faced with a serious rice shortage. This is undoubtedly due to the complaints of the farmers against the Government policy on agricultural control.

In order to relieve this situation and encourage the farmers to deliver rice to the Government the following two measures have been suggested: (1) Exchange of rice delivered to the Government for much needed fertilizer and (2) permission to the farmers to retain part of their rice crop for trade with urban merchants. Negotiations for the importation of rice are proceeding so slowly that they will provide no help for the present food crisis. The lifting of controls on perishables resulted in the unexpected rise in prices and no doubt the responsibility for this lies in the Government's neglect in controlling prices. In order to cope with the food problem, co-operation between urban and the rural people is absolutely necessary. The Social Democratic Part, and the Communist Party are now expressing their views on this matter and it will undoubtedly become a great political issue.

Uncertainty of the Fertilizer Situation

Fertilizer is the most important material needed to increase agricultural production, but what are the prospects for its increase? There are 14 ammonium sulphate plants in JAPAN and they are expected to reach a production figure of 1,100,000 to 1,300,000 tons per year by 1948 after air-raid damages are repaired. After the reconversion of all methanol plants an annual production of 300,000 to 400,000 tons of ammonium sulphate and the same amount of nitro-lime is expected from them. By April the production of ammonium sulfate in JAPAN will reach 155,000 tons and nitro-lime 97,000 tons. In 1946 an overall production of 690,000 tons of ammonium sulfate is planned and in 1948 2,000,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer should be produced. To accomplish this program, the main requisite is the supply and security of coal and pipes because coke is a vital raw material in the manufacture of ammonium sulphate. The abolition of government compensation to the fertilizer industry and the banks' hesitation to loan money

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

to the industry play large part in retarding fertilizer production. Thus the necessity for state management of the fertilizer industry is quite obvious.

Once the fertilizer supply is guaranteed to the farmers the remaining problem of agricultural production will be easily solved. The increase of food production in 1946 is one of the most important problems facing the future of JAPAN.

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ITEM 2 Democratization of Farmers' Union by KONDO, Yasuo - Magazine: Nogyo Asahi (monthly) - Feb Issue. Translator: Mr. Iwasaki - T/4 Tokirio.

310.1

Summary:

Agricultural Organizations of the past which were governed by feudalistic influences and inefficient bureaucrats will be compelled to reform completely and reorganize in conjunction with the current democratization of Japanese economic and political life. The War-time Agricultural Association, formed and enforced by the government, controlled every phase of agricultural life, and was used as a subterfuge to exploit the farmers, forcing them to deliver their harvest without due monetary consideration for their long hours of labor put into the raising of agricultural products. As a result, the farmers lost faith and confidence in government sponsored activities and as evidenced in the present food shortage, they have defied the government's delivery program. Therefore, it is essential that agricultural associations be freed from government ties by transferring the control of production and delivery of agricultural products from the government to local agricultural associations. These should be reorganized as farmer's unions which will determine such matters as fair rice delivery quotas based on the actual productive capacity of each farm with due consideration to the farmer's voice on his own agricultural affairs, thus eliminating bureaucratic and feudalistic influences. Then, by merging the various local unions on a national scale, better financial conditions and other benefits for the farmers can be well realized.

However, to execute this program, a tremendous responsibility will be in the hands of the union officials to enlighten the farmers along modern agricultural lines in order to boost their production.

Some of the modern methods which should be taught are well planned crop rotation and the use of sprays and other chemicals against various worms and insects which are raising havoc with the farmers' crops. Since farming plays an important role in our daily lives, farmers should give their utmost cooperation to the unions in producing and delivering their products to the consumer, and they must realize that only through their sincere efforts can the food shortage be alleviated and the black market and hoarding of foodstuff be combatted.

Of course, in wartime, the drop in agricultural products was due to many causes, one of them being the lack of commercial fertilizer and farming implements for agricultural use. Therefore, now that military demands need not be considered, these various industries should cooperate with the farmers' unions, making sure that the farmers' respective needs are fulfilled, which in turn will inspire the farmers to raise their crop production to its maximum level.

Undoubtedly, the recent revision of the Agricultural Land Adjustment Law which enables tenants to pay their rent in cash instead of in kind will aid the tenants unmeasurably in their future farming activities. Only after these problems and their solutions are ironed out by the farmers with capable assistance of competent union administrators can we expect an adequate solution to our current food shortage.

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ITEM 2 The way towards Accomplishing a Planned Food Production - Provincial Newspaper Niigata Nippo (Niigata) - 23 Feb 46. Translator: S. Ota.

310.1

Full Translation:

Recently the staple food production plan for this year was disclosed in our prefecture. As can be seen at a glance, this plan aims at the cultivation of any crops that will fill the stomach. This is natural, since we are now confronted by a food crisis. Once we thought that "food means rice" but now we must change our ideas. Let us produce sweet potatoes, miscellaneous grains, and so on! The plan has its significance as a start in this direction.

The goal of rice production for this year is set at 3,430,000 Koku, which is less by 820,000 Koku than that of last year, namely, 4,250,000 Koku. However, compared with the real rice crop of last year which is estimated at 2,710,000 Koku, the goal for this year is 720,000 Koku more. Further, the goal is only 20,000 Koku lower than the average rice crop for the years from 1941 to 1945. Hence, we are apt to be optimistic concerning the attainment of the goal. However, since most of the adverse conditions for rice crops still remain at present, great efforts will be needed for the farmers to reach this objective. Some say that the rice crops of last fall in fact far exceed 2,700,000 Koku, as demonstrated by large quantities of rice in black-markets or reserved for exchange for other commodities. According to them, the goal decided at this time will be very easy to reach.

However, it seems that the prefectural authorities decided on this moderate figure, for they had to take into consideration the allotments of rice delivery from the farmers. They refrained from making a mere paper plan or wishful thinking. Hence, from a certain point of view, it may be said that the goal disclosed at this time indicates the minimum to be guaranteed, whereas the past goal showed the maximum figure possible. However, will this "minimum" figure be realized with ease?

At present only labor is sufficiently available in farming. The situation concerning fertilizer, farm implements and techniques, etc. has not yet been improved since the end of war. Despite the encouragement of the Agriculture Ministry, the production of fertilizer has not yet made any progress, thus commercial fertilizer will scarcely be available in this year. The night-soil, which is to make up for the shortage of commercial fertilizer, has hardly been produced because of the decline of the spirit of the people following the defeat.

Unless the farmers make efforts hereafter to increase the production of night-soil, the farms will not recover from their extreme barenoss. crop year.

However, confident farmers say that a rice crop of 1.99 koku per tan (which is aimed at in the present plan) does not do justice to farmers. In their opinions, real farmers should get 2.2 or 2.3 koku per tan. However, since there are many inexperienced farmers, it will be necessar to raise the level of agricultural technique considerably in order to reach this figure. From this point of view, we expect much from the technical instruction farms which are to be established at several places in the prefecture. If the "amateur" farmers are left as they are, it is probable that they will spoil the farms. They must be instructed on how to cooperate with others in farming, as well as in the technique of cultivation, sowing, spreading fertilizer, and so forth.

Further, crops suffer very much from floods or droughts every year in our prefecture. Crops will be considerably increased if we can protect them from these disasters. For this sake, we must take some large-scale measures for the control of water. After all, agriculture depends upon the weather. Nevertheless, the way to success is open if we make every effort possible. This does not mean that we demand efforts only from the farmers. If we desire to get successful results in agricultural production, we must establish conditions and circumstances which will enable the farmers to work willingly in politics, economics, industry, education, etc.

The trend of city dwellers idling while farmers are compelled to work hard must be abolished. Everyone must be prepared to co-operate in his own business to accomplish the difficult task of increasing food production. We must forsake such mistaken ideas that only the farmers are responsible for the achievement of the planned goal.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Establishment of A New Village at the Foot of Mt. AKAGI By [illegible] Den. -- Magazine: Hikari (Monthly) Feb. 46 Issue -- Translators: T/3 Amano, Hasegawa.

310.1

Summary:

Recently I visited my friend, Mr. SAITO, Junei at his new village at the foot of Mt. AKAGI. Since June of last year, Mr. SAITO has been cultivating, with the help of prisoners, the table land at the foot of Mt. AKAGI. The prisoners at this village inmates of the MAEBASHI Prison, who, in an agreement with Mr. SAITO and Mr. KOBU[illegible], Akira, the warden have been allowed to serve their term by working in the village.

As I approached the village I was surprised at the fine road which leads into this mountain village. This road was also built by Mr. SAITO and his prisoners. On the left side of the road I noticed a flourishing field of wheat and a fine green vegetable garden.

Shortly the main road comes to an end and a quiet village appears in the bosom of the hills. The village is composed of dormitories, cook-house, bath house, farm implement warehouse and a headquarters building. These structures are permanent buildings. In the pine forest which surrounds the village there are pens in which are kept 13 cows and 20 pigs. Walking up along a gentle slope, once comes upon a vast stretch of land which has already been cultivated by the prisoners. Because of the heavy snow, cultivation becomes impossible in the winter season so the prisoners work inside; they also receive lectures on cultivation, agriculture and farm management.

I asked Mr. SAITO what type of farm village he hopes to establish. His idea is to have these prisoners stay at this village as long as they wish. Moreover, he hopes that the ex-servise men, unemployed, and repatriates will join him in developing this new village. The farm land of this village is estimated at 3,000 cho-bu. Assuming that each family is given 2 chobu, 1,500 families could live here and start a sizeable village. Since this village is 400 metres above sea level, it would be impossible to grow rice, but it will be possible to grow wheat, barley, corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and various types of cereals. Moreover, it is hoped that a flour mill, a confectionary, a creamery, a cannery, a bakery and a farm implement factory can be built in time to come. In this village rice is not a staple food; most of the nourishment comes from milk, fish, meat and grains. Furthermore, the village plans to build several big hotels and dance halls in MAEBASHI and KIRIU. In these hotels and dance halls, many of the goods produced in the village will be sold to the visitors. Eventually, the people will engage not only in agriculture but also in industry and commerce. This is entirely different from the usual work of farm villages of the past. Mr. SAITO's plans for the future of his village are great, but they are not merely visionary. In order to carry out his plans, he has already established with his 6 colleagues an "Agriculture and Forestry Development Association" (NORIN KAIHATSU KYOKAI) which will manage all the affairs of the village.

There is a great deal of land available for cultivation at the foot of Mt. AKAGI; thus far, however, no one but SAITO, Junei, has had the courage and the ability to carry out such a project.

ITEM 2 The Agricultural Association Should Be Thoroughly Democratized - Provincial Newspaper Too Nippo (Aomori) - 24 Feb 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

310.1

Summary:

To enforce the Land Reform Law, the reorganization of the Agricultural Association, which is to take charge of conducting the agricultural reform, is inevitable. From the view-point of the thorough democratization of the association, parasitic landowners should be excluded from membership, and all the laboring farmers, regardless of age and sex, should be members. The landowners especially those who dislike the work of land improvement must be boycotted. Not only the staffs, but also the common members of the association should be changed in order to carry through the work of democratization of the land system.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 6 Election of the Head of the Agricultural Society in View - Provincial Newspaper Kochi Shimbun (Kochi) - 28 Feb 46. Translator: K. Hirata.

310.1

Summary:

Hitherto, an agricultural society was a semi-governmental organ. But the new election of the head is to be carried out in a democratic way. At present, the food problem is the gravest concern to the whole nation, but why does the nation not take much interest in the elections?

On 21 February the TAKASU Agricultural Society took the initiative in the election of officers, but the record, however, was so poor that there were only 72 actual voters out of a total of 480. It is entirely contrary to our expectations. Under these conditions the agricultural society will remain far from a democratic organization. We should exert greater efforts, by electing new leaders, to establish an agricultural JAPAN along the lines of democracy. This is the only way to solve the stringent problem concerning food which JAPAN confronts.

ITEM 3 Further Agricultural Reform Plans Are Under Way - Asahi Shimbun - 5 Mar 46. Translator: R. Aoki.

310.1

Summary:

By virtue of the Land Adjustment Act which passed the last session of the Diet, a land reform of historic import has been under way since the beginning of this month. In view of the increasing importance of agriculture, however, the Government is now planning a further reform of the nation's agricultural economy. According to an informed source, the new reform will be directed toward the following aims: (1) a second and further land reform, (2) a fundamental reorganization of local agricultural association, (3) the expansion of agricultural extension services, and (4) the enlargement of crop insurances.

According to the present Land Adjustment Act, only farms of five CHO or more in average are to be distributed to tenants, although some differentials by prefectures were allowed. As a result, out of the total tenant acreage of 2,540,000 CHO only 950,000 CHO are to be affected, and there are many districts that are not affected at all by the present Land Adjustment Act. Dissatisfied with such halfway measures of the present act, the Government is now to lower the limit of land to be subjected to distribution to its original figure of three CHO, and thus the land to be distributed will be 2,000,000 CHO instead of 950,000 CHO. New measures safeguarding tenancy rights will also be added.

The last act in question included an innovation concerning local agricultural associations, which handle affairs of land distribution and other matters of relative importance, by making the offices elective in place of the former system of government nomination. The new plan is to push the reform of these institutions still further, in that the associations will be made cooperatives, involving a fundamental reorganization of the system.

As to the expansion of the agricultural extension services, the agricultural experimental stations will be increased to some 20 or 40 in each prefecture and at the same time will be made real guides and consultants for the benefit of local farmers. At present, there is but one experimental station, with or without one or two branch stations in each prefecture, and these stations are involved in rather academic work.

Finally, as the logical outcome of the enlargement of land reform, the problem of crop insurance must be considered. In the past, when some unexpected calamity occurred, the farmers could resort to the protection of landlords, requesting a reduction or exemption of rents. Now the present tenants are to become independent small farmers, with no place to go to appeal for benevolence in case of such a disaster. With this development in view, and in order to make the agricultural reform a well-rounded one, the Government is planning to enlarge the present rather makeshift system of crop insurance to one which will afford real benefits to the farmer in time of need.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

310.1

ITEM 1 Is the Plan for the Increase in Production Practicable? - Provincial Newspaper Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 23 Feb 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

Summary:

The plan for the increase in food production in this prefecture calls for 2,507,000 koku of food converted into rice. This figure of the anticipated amount of food can be regarded as reasonable. To secure the expected the above amount, full preparation must be made for the production and distribution of fertilizer and other necessary materials. The said plan also includes a series of measures for the utilization of scientific methods of agriculture and aims to make the increase of production more effective. Despite the fine contents of the plan, however, public opinion is against it for the reason that the plan is not workable in view of the present level of commodity prices. We want, nevertheless, the plan to succeed by means of heavy Government subsidies.

ITEM 4 What Lurks Behind the Agrarian Bill -- Provincial Newspaper KYOTO Shimbun (KYOTO) - 28 Feb 46. Translator: Y. Ebiike.

Summary:

In spite of the outwardly democratic projects of the Governmental Agrarian Reform Bill which permits the establishment of peasant proprietors, and allows farm-rent to be paid in money etc., we can clearly find a strong intention on the part of the Government to minimize the reform and to preserve the old established power and position. If not, the Government, must make plans for increasing production, such as re-adjustment of rice-fields, cultivation by tractor etc. Also the democratization of the Agricultural Association should be speeded up. The money which landlords get by selling their rice-fields to their tenants should be spent for the purpose of the betterment of agricultural villages. The Government and politicians have hitherto no courage to enforce thoroughly effective policies. Hence parallel to economic democratization: political democratization by establishing a democratic farmers' committee is the most urgent and important problem.

310.1

ITEM 4 The Farmers' Union - Provincial Newspaper Kobe Shimbun (Kobe) - 3 Mar 46. Translator: Y. Ebiike.

310.1

Summary:

Whether a newly-revived JAPAN is to emerge as a cultural country, or an industrial one, depends on an increase in food production. In this regard, the Government must enforce commodity price policies on the basis of the price of rice, and also, must control prices of fertilizer, agricultural utensils, and daily necessities. In addition, agrarian villages must develop more arable land and make an adjustment between manual labor and mechanization.

However, as long as the Government remains as incompetent as it is now, there is nothing left for the farmers to do except to form a union in order to attain the democratization of agrarian villages and to solve the food problem. We understand that the JAPAN Farmers' Union, organized 9 February, is entrusted with this mission. We hope the movement will develop soundly by the forces springing up from beneath, overcoming the many feudalistic fetters.

ITEM 3 The Election of an Agrarian Association - Provincial Newspaper Kahoku Shimbun (SENDAI) - 6 March 1946. Translator: K. Hirata.

310.1

Summary:

The necessity of democratizing agrarian associations is being voiced in all quarters. Can we achieve this aim by public election of its leading members? The largest role played by an agrarian association is the carrying out of agricultural policies in behalf of the Government. Therefore, the association is the Government, at least to the farmers.

It is necessary therefore, to change the Government's policies along the lines of democracy, in order to democratize farming districts. That is to say, it is necessary to establish a democratic government. Accordingly it is to be concluded that the democratization of an agrarian association is closely related to the forthcoming general election.

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ITEM 5 The JAPAN Farmers' Association Will Hold Its Inauguration Meeting on 9 February.- Mainichi Shimbun - 7 Feb 46. Translator: R. Ochiai

310.1

Full Translation:

The JAPAN Farmers Association will hold its inauguration meeting at the Japanese Red Cross auditorium on 9 February. Since it was dissolved in the spring of 1938, its activities have been carried on by the land reformation organization, with SUNAGA, HIRANO, NAKAMURA, and NOMIZO as its leaders. However, this was again ordered dissolved when the TOJO cabinet took office in April 1942.

The political activity of this newly organized Farmers Association will will be worth noticing, because it may become a powerful supporter of the Social Democratic Party, since most of its members come from this party. In opposition to this, the Communist Party is also establishing a farmers' conference in every district. Therefore a serious division will probably arise between the two parties. There is a feeling of unrest as to what the union movement will become in the future.

Concerning this problem, the Communists stated that the party's attitude was that "it would like to establish a farmers' organization without relying on one special party", and the leaders of the Associati do not seem to object. The farmers union advocated by KURODA, will be discussed at the inauguration meeting. It created a sensation in the provinces, though it was ignored at headquarters. The meeting will consider the proposed reformation of the land system, the food problem, democratization of farm-villages and all sorts of democrati questions. The Farmers Association laws and a common front are sure to be the main points that will be discussed at the meeting.

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1695 DATE: 7 Mar 46

ECONOMIC SERIES: 399

ITEM 1 Attempt Started To Harvest Two Crops A Year To Increase Food Supply - Provincial Newspaper Huga Nichinichi Shimbun (Miyazaki) - 28 Feb 46. Translator: T. Ukai.

310.1

Summary:

More and more farmers are trying to overcome the current food situation by endeavoring to raise two rice crops a year in paddy fields and upland rice fields. This proposed method offered on their own account is laudable in its motive and deserves our sincere gratitude. The two-harvests method is actually being tried in MIYAGI-Ken. Furthermore it was accepted and is being carried out on a large scale in the prefectures of FUKUOKA and KOCHI. But the authorities here are rather reluctant to accept the method and are pessmistic. The following is the opinions expressed by two contradictory parties. Supporters, who have tried the method: - "We expect to harvest the first crops by seeding the upland rice plants in hot-beds, as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in TOHOKU regions, where often bad results are produced by low temperature in March. Then after letting them grow for 35 to 40 days and replanting them in April, we shall finally harvest the crops by the middle of July. With there crops we could provide pretty well for the food crisis expected in July or August. Then we go over to next seeding. Though it is rather difficult currently to get rice seeds, if possible, we would like to get the so-called "KINJO NISHIKI" seeds and hope we can harvest a good crop. We are not unaware of the possibility of the appearance of the MEI-CHU, one of the most dreadful vermins to rice plants, yet, we have decided to follow the method, doing the best we can. The crops will probably be a little smaller, but the total amount of the crops collected twice a year will prove far greater." Agricultural Section of the Prefectural Office: - "We hope that the practice will succeed, especially if precautions are taken against the "MEI-CHU", which attack rice plants. We fear lest this kind of vermin may damage wholly the expected crops, while, so far as we know, there is no reliable method for stamping it out. From this consideration, we cannot help disagreeing with those who would prove the method to be really productive. The "MEI-CHU" begins breeding in the first ten days of May and especially affects the growth of rice plants in paddy fields. This is the reason why farmers put off the seeding of rice plants until late summer. Of course, we have no right to compel or persuade them to give up the plan, but feel it right to remark that in the application of this method, extreme care should be taken that the harm done by these insects does not affect others. We would prefer their endevoring to harvest a good crops of rice by the usual method of harvesting once a year, availing themselves of ample distribution of labor resources improved very much since the end of the war, and thus recover our old fame lost by inferior and smaller rice production rate per tan than in other prefectures."

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

310.1

ITEM 2 The Future of Agriculture - Part 2 of Series by TOKUDA, Kyuichi - Mainichi Shimbun - 5 March 46. Translator: T. Kitagawa.

Full Translation:

In the roughly explained River TONE plan, merely an example, we see that considerable good can be expected not only for famers, but for workers and towns people as well. If this plan is applied to all the rivers and plains in the country, the plenty never dreamed of before will come out of poverty.

The present shortage of fertilizer will shortly be solved by the electrical power generated in the aforementioned way. Current will be more even and more powerful than it is by damming the water when it is plentiful. Furtherance of transportation facilities by the creation of canals and electric power will make it possible to use kitchen waste as fertilizer. It is not worthy that the utilization of this waste will encourage breeding of livestock.

of very small demand for livestock as staple food are of a low standard of living. We should live on flour instead of rice to economize the cost of production which will naturally raise the demand for butter, milk, or fresh meat. Wheat is preferable to rice as a staple food, for the farmer is more adaptable for scientific production on a large scale. The grounds from base to half way up Mount FUJI has served for no other purpose than pleasure trips. We can name endless examples like this all over the country, especially in HOKKAIDO.

Under the present feudalistically isolated agricultural structure, it is a remote possibility to raise either productivity or the standard of living. Farm-houses as isolated units are accessible neither to moving pictures, drama, news paper nor magazines. Their isolated life prevents farmers from meeting which in turn renders their political and social progress impossible. Their enlightenment is only possible through drastic mechanization of agriculture. Around a mechanized central power station supplied with sufficient current, work houses and machine plants will be established. Wide road-nets and electric cars will connect scattered farms. Farmers will enjoy cultural life in a gigantic ferro-concrete building.

We will eagerly look forward to technicians' help in urging our program forward. Meteorology, oceanography, electrology, civil engineering, chemistry, medical science and physics will be mobilized. Production of large machines as well as delicate machines will be required. Only through scientists' co-operation is the establishment of a democratic country possible.

The Government under the Emperor System composed of large capitalists and an influential landed class will not strive to fulfill this plan because it is against their interests. Here arises our desire for a republic for the benefit of workers, farmers, repatriated ex-service men, repatriated civilians and salaried men. The said program will be able to get started if a republic is established. The nation's administration of food, workers participation in industrial management, etc. are the first steps in the materialization of our plan. Workers as well as other people should vote for the party which is advocating the elimination of obsolete powers and constructing a democratic Government. The nation should cease to adhere to the rotten Progressive Party in pursuance of personal profit.

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

Extermination of vermin in farm land is effectively performed by the use of "insects alluring light". Electric current here again will be great help in stimulating the program. Airplanes may also be used for the purpose.

By proper selection of seed by farmers with the Government's technical help, advancing germination and a most effective rotation of crop will be realized.

Vast expansion of plains and woodlands owned by the rich, and left idle because it does not pay to charge their present status, will be turned to advantage by cultivating them with machine power. Timber, charcoal, and gas thus made available will put an end to our fuel shortage. A more efficient use of water will also will be attained.

The primitive stage of agriculture prevailing in the tablelands or in cold districts is attributable to the feudalistic manner of cultivation, agriculturists having no interest in breeding livestock and the absence or very small demand for livestock as staple food due to a low standard of living. We should live on flour instead of rice to economize the cost of production which will naturally raise the demand for butter, milk, or fresh meat. Wheat is preferable to rice as a staple food, for the farmer is more adaptable for scientific production on a large scale. The grounds from base to half way up Mount FUJI has served for no other purpose than pleasure trips. We can name endless examples like this all over the country, especially in HOKKAIDO.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

310.1

ITEM 3 The Allotment of Acreage for Rice Planting Decided on. A Total Increase of 11,000 Chobu. The Croo Goal is to be 57,300,000 Koku - The Mainichi (TOKYO) - 5 Mar 46. Translator: T. Ukai.

Full Translation:

The progress in delivering rice harvested in 1945 is very slow. It attained only 49 % of the program by the 20th of February and if it is not improved, the food situation will be critical by about June. In order to carry over during the non-harvesting season of essential cereals the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry intends not only to ask the Allied Forces for food imports but also to exercise great care in the growing of rice. The latest ministrial conference decided on the acreage for rice planting, ways of distributing fertilizers, and gave instructions to local bureaus.

The allotment program of acreage is based on the general planting program, and includes the preparation of 2,820,772 chobu for paddy field 71,433 chobu for upland rice planting. This means an increase of 11,000 chobu over last year with a scheduled crop of 57,300,000 koku expected. It is based on the other hand on the amount of average cr in the past five years from 1936 to 1940, excepting both highest and lowest figures of the harvest.

Though in prewar times, 7 Kamme of chemical fertilizers, converted i to ammonium sulphate, per Tan, could yield 59,850,000 Koku of rice, this year, their lesser distribution will result in crops smaller by 6,990,000 Koku. However, if we estimate an increase of 1,100,000 K by improving rice species and 3,110,000 Koku by improving arable lands, and 90,000 Koku by cultivating lands, we can arrive at the to production goal above mentioned.

The distribution plan of chemical fertilizers is 2 Kamme of ammonium sulphate per Tan, and the authorities intend to insure fertilizer production. Want of labor during the war with its qualitative deterioration often meant missing the best time for planting, and the lack of care in growing resulted in lesser crops. In order to etadicated th tendencies, efforts will be made to insure timely planting, re-planti weeding and manuring. In addition labor concentration, and the indoctrination of every farm-village with knowledge of agricultural technique with the final objective of increased production in mind will made.

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ECONOMIC SERIES: 395 (Continued)

ITEM 3 (Continued)

Acreages allotted to respective prefecture for rice planting are as follows:

Acreage Allotted to Paddy Fields and Fields for Upland Rice-Plants

	Paddy Fields Cho	Fields for Upland Rice-Plants Cho	Total Cho
HOKKAIDO	150,307		150,307
AOMORI	65,837		65,837
IWATE	60,114	61	60,175
MIYAGI	96,883	94	96,977
AKITA	104,075	60	104,135
YAMAGATA	92,176	49	92,225
FUKUSHIMA	101,106	425	101,531
IBARAGI	92,177	15,000	107,177
TOCHIGI	72,636	6,000	78,636
GUMMA	32,693	7,319	40,012
SAITAMA	63,665	4,485	68,150
CHIBA	97,708	7,100	104,808
TOKYO	5,500	2,326	7,826
KANAGAWA	16,092	4,508	20,600
NIIGATA	171,057	229	171,286
TOYAMA	70,942	6	70,948
ISHIKAWA	48,510	20	48,530
FUKUI	45,938	15	45,953
YAMANASHI	16,852	450	17,302
NAGANO	68,433	295	68,728
GIFU	60,456	337	60,793
SHIZUOKA	53,461	1,880	55,341
AICHI	81,867	482	82,349
MIE	64,608	70	64,678
SHIGA	60,525	2	60,527
KYOTO	35,523	6	35,529
OSAKA	30,497	27	30,524
HYOGO	86,348	14	86,362
NARA	26,896	37	26,933
WAKAYAMA	27,531	15	27,546
TOTTORI	30,572	86	30,658
SHIMANE	47,188	29	47,217
OKAYAMA	80,422	251	80,673
HIROSHIMA	62,379	20	62,399
YAMAGUCHI	63,315	267	63,582
TOKUSHIMA	28,025	470	28,495
KAGAWA	35,072	13	35,085
EHIME	38,720	114	38,834
KOCHI	37,236	16	37,252
FUKUOKA	95,395	135	95,530
SAGA	50,589	2	50,591
NAGASAKI	28,585	45	28,630
KUMAMOTO	72,327	2,716	75,043
OITA	50,858	457	51,315
MIYAZAKI	44,540	3,500	48,040
KAGOSHIMA	61,196	12,000	73,196
OKINAWA	-	-	-
Total	2,820,772	71,433	2,892,205

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1738 DATE: 10 Mar 46

EDITORIAL SERIES: 567

ITEM 1 Put Yourself in the Place of the Farmers - Provincial Newspaper Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 1 Mar 46. Translator: I. Hotta.

Full Translation:

Since it is hopeless to expect that the food shortage in our country will be solved within three or four years, control over the food administration will never be abolished whether the people, themselves, distribute the foodstuffs or the Government control remains as at present. If a democratic government is established or a socialistic economy is realized by rapid progress, economy will be rendered systematic under the new regime.

It cannot be imagined that the food problem alone will be excluded from general discussions, in such a case. We can not expect that foodstuffs will be so sufficiently produced that they can meet the demands of the consumers. In such circumstances, restrictions upon the farmers can not be removed.

310.1

The only thing differing from the existing system, will be that the farmers, themselves will begin to offer their produce from the idea of social solidarity rather than have foods they produce extorted from them. As the foundation that will effectually regulate demand and supply, and quickly organize the delivery of foods by farmers, democratization of the farmers should be carried out as quickly as possible.

We have already pointed out that the democratization of the agricultural associations is aiming at the coming election of the officers of the associations. Of course, we do not think that the most effective way to democratize the farming districts is to establish the present agricultural association as the foundation of the new co-operative society in the farming districts. We do not deny that some of the agricultural associations are entirely unworthy of remaining as they are. On the other hand, however, we must not overlook the fact that some of them are suitable to remain just as they are.

The agricultural association, which was born as a reactionary deformed child, grew more so, oppressed by the current of the times. In the delivery of foods, it acted on behalf of the Government from beginning to end. The staff of the association always aimed at an increase in the quantity of collected foods and never put themselves in the place of the farmers whose problem was the delivery of their produce. This fact can not be overlooked as a necessary consequence of its organization and system. Pressed with business, most of which was quite meaning less, the staff of the association seemed to have no chance to reflect upon what they were doing during the war. At the same time, they were unwilling to reflect.

The authorities actually surveyed the amount of cultivation last year in order to make fair industrial plans, backing the food administration

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

EDITORIAL SERIES: 567 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

by the Government. Looking upon this from the standpoint of the farmers it means the guarantee of farmers' rights, respecting their production, and the delivery of foodstuffs. However, the quotas of the quantity that farmers are to deliver tells us that the agricultural association takes the uncultivated land into account, also. We know that the association alone is not necessarily responsible for it.

However, be it the agricultural association or the authorities of a town or a village, they do not think that an accurate survey of the extent of cultivation will quarantee the right of the farmers. They are indeed irresponsible, but they should bear a greater part of responsibility for having led the Government to exercise its authority regardless of whether the conventional quota system was fair or not. The farming district itself helped to exercise the authority of the Government.

So far as the agricultural association is as irresponsible as the abovementioned example shows us, it is really hopeless to democratize the farming district through the agricultural associations. The democratization of the farming districts does not necessarily mean only a systematic or constructive reform. Theory alone cannot reform the organization of the farming district, in which everything is on a practical basis. Now that the whole plan of food production is going to be put into practice, both the agricultural associations and the authorities of towns and villages are required to be more responsible for what they do.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Public Management after Harvesting - Asahi Shimbun - 3 Mar 46.
Translator: M. Kato.

310.1

Full Translation:

On what standard has Agriculture and Forestry Minister SOEJIMA raised the official price of rice that is purchased from the farmers? Presumably he has committed at least three mistakes.

- 2 -

price of rice but in actuality he [illegible]
between the prices of commodities and the production cost which as the chief factor in deciding the adequate price of rice.

(c) Aside from the propriety of the price of rice the raise will in two ways run counter to the anti-inflation policy of the present Government.

Firstly, if money can solve this problem, Mr. SOEJIMA may well raise its price to the black market price of 2,000 yen per koku since this price has now proved to be almost an official price. Only 75 per cent or 1,500 yen inflation profit tax should be imposed. The revenue from this tax can be employed as an adjustment fund for the consumer's price.

Secondly, if it is necessary to establish now the adequate price of rice, the new price can be more properly decided by investigation into the production cost of rice last autumn now that the price index has lost its authority.

Thirdly, we need not dwell on the relation between the price level and inflation.

Of late frequent announcements have been made by the Government which include the raising of railway fares and new official prices of MISO and SHOYU, higher by 20 or 30 per cent. Thus the Government seems to be utterly irresponsible in regard to the price problem.

I, as a farmer, declare that the major problem is to awaken a sense of rightousness in the farmer. The government authorities, including of course Mr. SOEJIMA, have heretofore been so arrogant and unkind to the rural communities that they have had few opportunities to talk with them. They should be more frank and sincere in speaking to the farmers through the press or radio.

To be sure, a section of the farming communities are so greedy as to be intent upon profiteering by black market dealings. However, the majority of them are easy-going enough to be lured into such dealings on account of the shortage of foodstuffs.

Another urgent need at present is the disclosure of all unidentified or hoarded foodstuffs throughout the country. More than this, the food situation in general should be clarified by the Government. In other words, the condition of supply and demand and the expected imports this year should be made public.

Lastly, the delivery of rice to the state should be preceded by the common management of the rice by the people of the farming villages. The staff of this organization may be farmers who are known as able and trustworthy, the agricultural technical experts of that district or leaders, and the managing staff of the Agricultural Association. These members should form a managing section, the chief role of which would be played by the technical experts. The function of this organization should be overall control of the crops. The organization should have no particular control over sowing the seed and cultivation but should exercise a general supervision, allowing each farmer to employ his ability and experience freely.

- 3 -

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 537 (Continued)

ITEM 2 (Continued)

(a) Mr. SOEJIMA seems to take an easy-going attitude that money will solve this problem.

(b) Mr. SOEJIMA appears to be fully considerate of the adequate price of rice but in actuality he had no conception of the relation between the prices of commodities and the production cost which is the chief factor in deciding the adequate price of rice.

(c) Aside from the propriety of the price of rice the raise will in two ways run counter to the anti-inflation policy of the present Government.

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 537 (Continued)

ITEM 2 (Continued)

The crops of the farming community will be placed under the common control and management of that community. That included reaping and the overall disposition which succeeds reaping. For this purpose a suitable place, generally a temple or shrine or a big farmer's residence, might be chosen for this operation. The disposition of the farming products could be carried out so that each farmer's products are separated from the others, and so that the exact amount of each farmer's product is clear. The decision will be made on the spot with regard to the division of the rice to be delivered and the rice for the farmer's own consumption. The producer will carry home the amount he needs, which is fixed by regulation, together with some broken rice naturally produced in the course of the disposal, and, in addition, straw and rice husks.

Furthermore, on this occasion the official price of rice should be revised so that the revision may be justified by the farmers. According to the investigation in SAITAMA Ken the adequate price of rice should be about 600 yen per koku.

In conclusion, the percentage system does not adequately allot the amount of rice to be delivered. Inasmuch as circumstances in farming communities vary, in one village they may depend chiefly upon cultivation of rice in the rice fields, while in another village they may depend chiefly on the products of the fields or vegetables and potatoes. A delivery of 70 or 80 per cent by the villagers who depend chiefly on rice is more than 100 per cent of those who obtain their products chiefly from their farms. Consideration should also be taken of this point. (by SUGA, Kenkichi, a farmer, SAITAMA-Ken)

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ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1590 DATE 1 Mar 46

ECONOMIC SERIES 371

ITEM 1 Agricultural Expert Suggests Classification of Fields as Basic Measure for Increased Agrarian Production and Delivery System to the Government - Provincial Newspaper Nagasaki Shimbun (Nagasaki) 24 Feb 46. Translator: T. Ukai.

310.1

Summary:

The unsatisfactory progress of rice delivery to the Government has been much discussed but no practical suggestions have been forthcoming to meet the problem. However, a provincial agricultural expert made a suggestion recently that attracted the attention of the authorities. The idea was put forward in a meeting held in SHIMABARA, when Governor SUGIYAMA went to inspect the city for the first time. It was proposed by Mr. NAKAJIMA, an expert official in the local office of the Agricultural Association of MINAMITAKA, and himself an experienced farmer, who has long been a local agricultural leader and been studying ways and means of solving the present foodstuff difficulties.

The suggestion can be given, in substance, as follows: One of the chief causes that have brought about such a poor progress of rice delivery and reluctance to deliver rice to the Government is the fact that the assigned delivery rate has been based only upon the crops to be yielded, without reference to the quality of fields themselves. Paddy fields should be classified in detail, for example, in 30 classes as the suggestor explains, namely: (See chart)

	Class			
I. (A) Superior Rice Fields	1	one tan yields	3.6	koku of rice
	2	"	3.5	"
	3	"	3.4	"
	4	"	3.3	"
	5	"	3.2	"
	6	"	3.1	"
	7	"	3.0	"
	8	"	2.9	"
	9	"	2.8	"
	10	"	2.7	"
(B) Medium Rice Fields	11	"	2.6	"
	12	"	2.5	"
	13	"	2.4	"
	14	"	2.3	"
	15	"	2.2	"
	16	"	2.1	"
	17	"	2.0	"
	18	"	1.9	"
	19	"	1.8	"
	20	"	1.7	"

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ECONOMIC SERIES: 371 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

	Class			
(C) Inferior Rice Fields	21	one tan yields	1.6	koku of rice.
	22	"	1.5	"
	23	"	1.4	"
	24	"	1.3	"
	25	"	1.2	"
	26	"	1.1	"
	27	"	1.0	"
	28	"	0.9	"
	29	"	0.8	"
	30	"	0.7	"
			0.6	koku (and less) of rice.

Wheat and potato fields, he says, should be divided into 15 classes namely: (See chart)

	Class			
II. (A) Wheat fields, superior	1	one tan yields	3.4	koku of wheat.
	2	"	3.2	"
	3	"	3.0	"
	4	"	2.8	"
	5	"	2.6	"
(B) Wheat fields, medium	6	"	2.4	"
	7	"	2.2	"
	8	"	2.0	"
	9	"	1.8	"
	10	"	1.6	"
(C) Wheat fields, inferior	11	"	1.4	"
	12	"	1.2	"
	13	"	1.0	"
	14	"	0.8	"
	15	"	0.6	koku of wheat and lesser.

	Class			
III. (A) Potato fields, superior	1	one tan yields	800	kamme of potato
	2	"	750	"
	3	"	700	"
	4	"	650	"
	5	"	600	"
(B) Potato fields, medium	6	"	550	"
	7	"	500	"
	8	"	450	"
	9	"	400	"
	10	"	450-350	kamme "
(C) Potato fields, inferior	11	"	300	kamme of potato
	12	"	250	"
	13	"	200	"
	14	"	150	"
	15	"	lesser than 150	kamme

In this way, fields are to be classified according to their respective productive capacity, which is decided according to the average crops per tan, obtained in past harvest. Complaints often expressed by the farmers of inadequate allotment of delivery rate to the Government, will be removed, and will really result, not only in the bright progres of delivery, but also in strengthening the farmers' will for food production. The yields, by which a farmer could exceed the quota of delivery allotted by the Government, are naturally committed to his own free disposal, and when some irresistible natural force checks the yield, so the quota is readjusted by the Government.

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Yonezawa Hoshi Shimbun 5 March 46

Abuse of Official Authority

310.1

While the general public is suffering from the grim realities of life, such as the lack of commodities and the exceedingly high prices, there are people who, on the other hand, are leading lives of luxury beyond common sense. This is very strange, for these people are not directors or high-ranking officials of big firms, but are members of Agriculture Associations. These officials have met the farmers with a solemn statement on compulsory delivery. Of course, the farmers are not afraid of the officials. It is their duty to give those things they possess to those who have nothing. In the firm desire to render creditable service to the re-establishment of JAPAN, the farmers delivered anymously. However, rice and potatoes, offered by the farmers at the sacrifice of reducing their own food supply, were sent along black-market routes by the members of the Agriculture Associations. The latter then fixed the accounts and stated that the farmers delivered only such and such percent of the allotted amount, the rice offered from the hearts of the plain farmers is being turned into foods, wines or money for motor-trips to spas. The quantities are not small, for these officials are concealing large amounts of goods. They are hardly able to spend or sell in the black-market all the commodities obtained through this deceit.

The goods to be distributed are put aside and the distributed amounts are only small percentages carried out merely for form's sake. They tell us majestically: "If we cannot sell everything, we will distribute what is left," which amages us. Such being the actual state, even the chiefs of neighborhood associations have begun to abuse their positions. Only half of a soap cake was distributed instead of a whole cake. They distribute cigaretts by putting only 17 into a package. The heads of a match-sticks have almost dropped off, and the distribution, which was really not very much, is decreasing. Such unfairness is not common only to our village.

The world will perhaps become more pleasant if such criminals are al punished than if the less significant burglars or black-market dealers are caught. These elements should be dragged into the coal mines buried in the mountains. After 10 years of hard labor their natures may perhaps be changed.

(Letter from HITOMI, Shiro).

ITEM 4 Production of Agricultural Implements To Be Awarded To Farmers Going Well - Tokyo Shimbun - 2 Mar 46. Translator: H. Shindo.

310.1

Full Translation:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry announced recently that farming implements will be awarded to farmers for the promotion of rice delivery. In response to the announcement, the Ministry has placed orders at 97 factories - hoes from 37 factories, sickles from 27, weeders from 16, and thrashing-machines from 17 - to set these goods in production.

At first the question of additional food ration to the laborers employed in the 97 factories, and the shortage of fuel and materials threw a dark shadow on production. However, by the good offices of MacARTHUR's Headquarters, the materials problem found its own solution in permission to use special items. Production, therefore, is now going well.

Farming implements produced and delivered to each prefectural agriculture association during February are as follows:

	Produced and Delivered	Schedule
Hoes	237,000	1,000,000
Sickles	1,388,000	3,200,000
Weeders	15,300	100,000
Thrashing-Machines	3,200	6,000

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ITEM 3 Agricultural Co-operative Societies to be Established - Nairichi Shimbun - 13 Mar 46. Translator: Akabane, Y.

310.1

Full Translation:

The Government has decided to introduce a bill, before the special session of the Diet, for the enactment of an agricultural co-operative society law. Necessary preparations have been made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which has jurisdiction over the subject. The outline relating to the organization and functions of the society is now expected to be submitted for discussion to a cabinet meeting before long. The contemplated agri-

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

cultural co-operative society will be an autonomous organization of farmers actually engaged in cultivation. It also aims at preventing those farmers, who have barely succeeded in becoming yeomanry, from falling again into the state of minor farmers, and simultaneously giving advice in agricultural techniques. Thus it is intended to do its best for the improvement of the structure of the farming villages.

The following are the points particularly worthy of note in the current plan, which is placing stress on co-operation among various phases of agricultural production:

1. The organization has, as its basis, the village or community under the jurisdiction of town and village.

2. Special agricultural co-operative societies should be formed by fruit growers, tea cultivators, and other manufacturers of agrarian products.

3. The readjustment of arable land, and the planning of production and delivery of agricultural products will be conducted as speedily as possible.

4. Productive power will be increased through the control of land and agricultural implements, co-operative work and management.

5. The lending of business funds, acceptance of deposits, joint sale of agricultural products, the joint purchase of necessary materials and other economic actions will be realized.

6. Introduction of agricultural factories and village amusements: The existing agricultural associations are to be reorganized fundamentally, since they have accomplished their mission.

Organization of Agricultural Co-operative Societies

1. The existing agricultural associations are each allocated to a city, town or village as the unit for their lowest activities, but the new co-operative society is to be organized democratically, only by those who really operate or engage in agriculture.

2. Agricultural Co-operative Societies for cities, towns and villages: These societies have, under their respective jurisdictions, each city, town or village and include all the agricultural societies within their respective jurisdictions.

3. Agricultural Co-operative Society for prefectures: Each of these is to be organized by the city, town and village Agricultural Co-operative Society, within each prefecture, over which it has jurisdiction.

4. Special Agricultural Co-operative Societies: Each of these societies is to be organized, with each city, town or village as its unit, by fruit growers, horticulturists, stock farmers, packers of such products as oranges and pears, manufacturers of agricultural products, other persons having close and inseparable connection with agricultural management.

5. League of all Japan Agricultural Co-operative Societies: This is to be organized as one body, to include all the Prefectural Agricultural Co-operative Societies and Special Agricultural Co-operative Societies.

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Operation and Function

1. Practical Agricultural Society: It is a co-operative body for agricultural production in the village or community where it exists, and takes charge of the planning and execution of the re-adjustment of arable land, production of agricultural products, and their delivery. It will also execute in time the seeding, dressing and weeding, and endeavor to promote the roductive power through the extermination of vermin.

2. Agricultural Co-operative Society for city, town or village: Its functions are: the planning for land re-adjustment, planning and execution of agricultural production and delivery allotments fair distribution of ferilizer, agricultural medicines, and other productive materials.

3. Agricultural Co-operative Society for prefectures: Its functions are: the control and guidance of the Agricultural Co-operative Societies within its jurisdiction, fair distibution of productive materials, such as fertilizers, agricultural medicines, implements, within the prefecture, allotment and execution of production and delivery of products, the management of model farms, necessary research for agricultural management, lending of funds, sales and purchases, and other monetary transactions.

4. Special Agricultural Society: Its functions are: the improvement of namufacturers' techniques for agricultural canned goods, establishment of joint work projects, sale of special agricultural products, joint purchase of productive materials, and the guidance and supervision of manufacturers.

5. League of all Japan Agricultural Co-operative Societies is responsible for the guidance and supervision of all the co-operative societies throughout the country, various studies and researches, allotment of production and delivery of agricultural products throughout the country, monetary business such as credits, purchases, and sales, management of model farms, guidance of agricultural techniques, and planning of cultural equipment in farming villages.

Factories and Amusements

1. Several factories will be established in each city, town and village, and urgent repairs will be effected on threshing machines and other agricultural implements; watches and clocks, radio sets, etc.

2. Regular meeting hall for village and community: Culture in farming villages will be encouraged by installing radio sets in public halls and other places, and through instituting circulation libraries, circulation representation of cultural movie pictures, and other amusements.

Guiding Principles

In view of the autonomous structure of farmers engaging in cultivation, the joining of the societies will not be compulsory, as is the case with the existing agricultural associations, but will be left to the free will of farmers; the office holders and staffs will be selected by election.

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1792 DATE: 13 Mar 46

ECONOMIC SERIES: 421

ITEM 1 Bitter and Prosperous life of Minor landlords and Peasant Proprieters Respectively -- Provincial Newspaper Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) 4 Mar 46. Translator: T. Ukai.

310.1

Summary:

The time has passed when one can afford to be content with such phrases as "the war is ended", or "they have won". The days are proving more serious and critical. Country villages, which had long been under the influence of feudalism, cannot escape the present trend. Can farmers remain secluded and still subsist, as many urban inhabitants would accept as probable? It is indeed difficult, under such circumstances, to balance one's economic life. However, a few interviews we had in one of the rich rice producing villages of ISA-Gun, KAGOSHIMA, supply us with certain explanations of current conditions.

There are many classes of farmers, which we have managed to classify roughly into four categories, namely, tenant farmers, peasant proprietors, minor and major landlords. We have tried to illustrate the following four examples of economic life in villages corresponding to each class:

A. Tenant farmers: The family consists of six members, possessing nine tan of paddy field and six tan of ordinary farmland, with a total yearly yield of 31 bales of cereal, 20 bales of which are to be delivered either to the Goverrment or to the landlord as rent. The yearly total income is 870 yen. Crops of wheat and other cereals cannot be cashed as they are made into bean paste, or soy, for their own use. However, other sources of income are sometimes available. Houschold expenses will be met if they do not exceed the sum of 1,000 yen. But is it possible? Can it be managed without a deficit? Definitely not! A farmer sold a cow at 1500 yen the other day which cost 400 yen shortly after the war ended; he also marketed sweet potatoes, selling them at three yen per momme.

B. A peasant proprietor: The family consists of five members, possessing 1.5 cho of arable land. The paddy fields have a yearly yield of about 13 koku of rice, the price of which is estimated at 1,950 yen. Wheile other fields yield sweet potatoes, the price of which is estimated at 300 yen, the total yearly income is 2,200 yen. In the village they are considered as belonging to the middle class, and their oldest son attend college. They can cover household expenses, but only by utilizing their cattle. They can supply their own fertilizers. However, they could not maintain a livelihood in the city.

C. A minor landlord: He has been a middle school teacher in KAGOSHIMA, possessing 1.9 cho of paddy field and 5 tan of ordinary farmland. His yearly income is 550 yen, whereas monthly household expenditures are about 50 yen. Of course, he finds it difficult to make both ends meet, though he does supply himself and other family members with some necessities. He requires an additional 20 yen

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ECONOMIC SERIES: 421 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

per month to meet the school expenses of his children. He turned to using allowances of which nothing now remains. He means to have all arable land possessions returned by his tenant farmers in the coming year.

D. A major landlord: He possesses 15 cho of paddy field and 4 cho of ordinary farmland; his yearly income is more than 10,000 yen. Household expenditures can be easily met. The rich life he knew before will not be possible after the new agrarian system and emergency economic measures are introduced. This tendency is further strengthened by the general staple food shortage. He means to insure a rice supply for his own family at any price. This class of farmers allow themselves no peace of mind, considering the problem of their lands and assets.

As is quite evident, the most stabilized class in the village is that of the peasant proprietors. This is clearly illustrated by the fact that most of their sons and daughters attend higher educational institutions. The most burdened class is the minor landlord. The absentee landlords are returning to the farm villages in increasing numbers, being pressed by the food shortage and difficulties of obtaining work in the city. But they lack actual farming experience and are leading a hard life.

Although the tenant farmer can avoid exchanging his daughter for fertilizer, as had actually been the case in 1930 and 1931, he cannot sustain his life without turning to the black market price of potatoes. He can lead a life of normal comfort only by selling vegetables and cereals on the black market.

What will become of this class of farmers if major and minor landlords have their possessions returned forcibly? Here might lie the reason for the introduction of the new agrarian system, and we say that the present state of affairs in the country villages does not involve an easy life, as is generally supposed.

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ITEM 2 The Government Plans To Form New Agricultural Association On Democratic Principle - Mainichi Shimbun - 13 Mar 46. Translator: S. Kinoshita.

310.1

Summary:

Aiming to promote agricultural productivity by reorganizing the existing feudalistic agrarian system into a democratic one, the Government is planning to develope agricultural cooperative organizations as autonomous bodies of all farmers throughout the country. A draft bill relative to the new cooperative agricultural association will be submitted to the coming Diet session. An outline of the method of organization and functions of the associations worked out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will be presented to the regular Cabinet meeting soon.

The object of the new co-operative associations is to free all farming people from all kinds of feudalistic yokes; to elevate their economic and cultural standard, and to stabilize their living status; thereby, preventing the newly arisen small landed farmers from sinking again into the miserable status of tenant farmers.

The structure of the new associations now under contemplation is outlined as follows:

1) Farming Operation Association (NOJI JIKKO KUMIAI)

This is a communal association formed in units by the farming people living in subdivisions of villages, towns and cities.

2) Agricultural Cooperative Association (NOGYO KYODO KUMIAI) of City, town or Village.

[redacted] the same time, function as a financing agent of the farming people. Also they will handle matters relative to joint purchase, the use of big agricultural implements and joint sale of agricultural products.

Guidance and coordination of city, town and village cooperative associations is the responsibility of the prefectural agricultural cooperative association. In addition to the matters relative to equitable distribution of production materials, implements, production and shipments of products, and the establishment of a model farmland and plantation, it handles financing of farming funds. The special agriculture cooperative association's main duty is to guide and encourage processing industries for agricultural products.

The National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations is to function as a superstructure of all agricultural cooperative associations. Study of agricultural techniques and development of the culture of farming village will be made by the federation.

The Government is contemplating establishing repair shops for agricultural implements, watches, radios, bicycles, and the like in every town and village. Establishment of processing plants is also being contemplated.

Farmers are not forced to join the association. They can join at their own will. All the officials of the association will be appointed by means of election by the members. The existing agricultural association will be replaced by the new association.

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

This is formed by the farming operation associations and to be established in every individual city, town and village.

3) Prefectural Agricultural Cooperative Association.

This is to be established in every individual prefecture by all the agricultural cooperative associations existing within the prefectures.

4) Special Agricultural Cooperative Association.

This is to be formed by those who are engaged in industry and business in close connection with farming, and will be established in every single city, town and village.

5) National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations.

This will function as a superstructure of all the agricultural cooperative associations throughout the country, including special agricultural cooperative associations.

The farming operation associations are to handle all matters relative to adjustment of farm land, planning of production, delivery of agricultural products, equitable distribution of production materials, custody of agricultural implements, and other joint farming operations necessary for increased production.

The agricultural cooperative associations of cities, towns and villages are to guide and aid the farming operation associations, at the same time, function as a financing agent of the farming people. Also they will handle matters relative to joint purchase, the use of big agricultural implements and joint sale of agricultural products.

Guidance and coordination of city, town and village cooperative associations is the responsibility of the prefectural agricultural cooperative association. In addition to the matters relative to equitable distribution of production materials, implements, production and shipments of products, and the establishment of a model farmland and plantation, it handles financing of farming funds. The special agriculture cooperative association's main duty is to guide and encourage processing industries for agricultural products.

The National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations is to function as a superstructure of all agricultural cooperative associations. Study of agricultural techniques and development of the culture of farming village will be made by the federation.

The Government is contemplating establishing repair shops for agricultural implements, watches, radios, bicycles, and the like in every town and village. Establishment of processing plants is also being contemplated.

Farmers are not forced to join the association. They can join at their own will. All the officials of the association will be appointed by means of election by the members. The existing agricultural association will be replaced by the new association.

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UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
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Press Release:

10:30
15 March 1946

JAPANESE RICE FARMERS PLAN TO "RAISE" 8,000,000 POUNDS OF FISH

Fish and rice, eaten together as backbone of the Japanese diet, will be harvested together this fall according to a Japanese government plan which calls for "triple cropping" of 35,000 acres of fish-rice farms, SCAP officials disclosed today.

310.1

Under the plan, 8,000,000 pounds of fish in excess of the Japanese fisherman's normal take will be realized by the "rearing" of one crop of carp with every two crops of rice, according to Lt. Col. R.H. Fiedler, head of the Fisheries Division of the Natural Resources Section of SCAP.

The plan calls for the carp spawn to be distributed free to farmers of the inland area to be deposited in a fresh-weed base on the rice acreage after the latter has been flooded. Carefully nurtured and protected thereafter, the baby carp after a month's time will measure two inches, according to Col. Fiedler, and will eventually reach a length of four to six inches, or, if kept one or two years, a whole foot in length.

Backed by the Japanese government, the plan calls for the appropriation of ¥780,000 to finance fish-rice cropping in the Tochigi, Gumma, Saitama, Nara, Yamahashi, Nagano, Gifu, and Shiga prefectures, with the Japanese government providing half of the necessary funds and a like sum supplied by the prefectures.

The carp are unable to escape from the rice fields, according to Col. Fiedler, because of the smallness of the average rice farm and the Japanese irrigation system which enables the fish to be easily trapped at the irrigation gate any time the field is drained.

Fish farming has been carried on for more than 60 years on a small private scale and was slightly expanded during the war. The carp spawn for the project are obtained from prefectural culture ponds.

"The project," Col. Fiedler said, "is one that should go far to answer the diet needs of the Japanese in the inland areas. Given encouragement and the means, there is no reason why the Japanese farmer should not also qualify as a successful fisherman." MAR 15 1946

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SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1948 DATE: 21 Mar 46

455

310.1

ECONOMIC SERIES:

ITEM 1 Analysis of Inflation in the Farm Villages by SUGITA, Yotaro
Magazine: ECONOMIST (semi-monthly) - 1 Mar 46 Issue
Translator: T/3 Amano and Hasegawa.

Summary:

Since the surrender, agriculture has come to occupy an increasingly important position in our national economy. In studying various means to combat the present inflation, therefore, it is necessary that we analyze very carefully the actual condition of our agricultural economy. Generally speaking, during the war, the farmer's income was obtained in the following manner: (1) By selling agriculture products; (2) By using agricultural productive elements for other purposes; (3) By leasing houses and lots in farm villages; (4) By transferring funds from agricultural enterprises to non-agricultural enterprises;

During the war, the income derived from the sale of agricultural products increased, where as the amount of money spent for purchasing fertilizers and agricultural equipment decreased. The income from the sale of agricultural products were estimated at 3,513,000,000 yen in 1936 and 8,246,000,000 yen in 1944. On the other hand, the productive power of the farm villages decreased, and the supply of agricultural products were destined to be reduced. Thus, the increased income in farm villages was mainly due to the skyrocketing of prices of agricultural products. The prices of agricultural products needed as raw materials by industry were just to rise to a new level; then the prices of sup lementary foods reached a new high; and finally the prices of staple foods such as rice, sweet potatoes, and cereals became all but prohibitive. When the war began, the government established a strict control over the distribution and price of staple and supplementary foods; as the black market expanded, however, the government's control became ineffective, and the income of the farmers enormously increased.

It is a well-known fact that JAPAN's intensive type of agriculture consumes fertilizer in large quantities. In other words, farmers have in the past spent a large portion of their income for fertilizer. With the outbreak of the war, however, the fertilizer and agricultural equipment industries were naturally converted into war munitions industries, and consequently the flow of funds from agricultural to non-agricultural enterprises gradually decreased. It is roughly estimated that this outflow of funds from farm villages amounted to 1,309,000,000 yen in 1936 and to 1,056,000,000 yen in 1944.

The use of agricultural productive elements for non-agricultural purposes brought a sizeable income to the farm villages. The agricultural productive elements include laborers, farm land and agricultural equipments. The farm villages of our country have always provided a surplus of labor power for industry. During the war, the munitions industries were more than able to absorb all this surplus labor power. Thus, a great many farmers left their homes to work in the munitions factories in the cities. Those who left their homes sent a part of what they earned to their families living in the farm villages. In this manner, the farmers brought a large income to their villages. This income, which was estimated at 3,568,000,000

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ECONOMIC SERIES: 455 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

yens in 1936, increased to 14,416,000,000 yens in 1944. During the war, the income from leasing farm lands to the government for airports and for munitions factories was estimated at 800,000,000 yen. The income from the leasing of agricultural equipment was negligible. The income from investments and from the leasing of houses and lots in the villages increased during the war; but compared to other sources, the increase in income from these sources was unimportant.

Thus, JAPAN is agricultural economy was favored with a sharp increase in income, but the supply of agricultural products to the non-agricultural economy decreased. In other words, the supply of productive equipment from non-agricultural economy decreased: and as a result, the supply of agricultural products to the non-agricultural economy also decreased. However, the leasing of productive elements, i.e. laborers from the agricultural economy to the non-agricultural economy substantially increased. As the war progressed, most of the young men in the farm villages left to work in the munitions factories, leaving only the women, children, and old men to do the work in the farms. As a result, agricultural productive power decreased. The expansion of the munitions industries was only achieved at the expense of this agricultural productive power. In order to improve this condition in agricultural production during the war, the government attempted to establish appropriate counter measures; the attempt was unsuccessful however, the fundamental principles of the Agrarian Reform were not carried out. Thus during the war, the farm villages supplied not only food, but they also had to supply young and healthy farmers to serve in the army or to work in the munitions industries. In other words, the villages became a source of labor instead of a source of foods. Therefore, agricultural economy lost its productive power and at the same time gained a supply of almost valueless bank notes totalling hundreds of millions of yen for their pains.

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1946 DATE: 21 Mar 46

EDITORIAL SERIES: 637

ITEM 1 Three Letters on Agrarian Migration - Asahi Shimbun - 19 Mar 46.
Translator: Y. Ebike.

310.1

Full Translation:

(1) The Return of My Friend. Having lost my job and home, I went to MIYAGI-KEN with my comrades, to become a member of the Agrarian Migration. But I came back of TOKYO, alone, several months ago. One of my comrades, has returned recently also. I gave it up because the guld between the plan and the actual reality was very wide. One cannot clear land with a single sickle. Because an officer was not present on the first day of immigration, the land had not been allotted, lodgings had not been prepared, and the natives looked at us with hostile eyes. Unable to camp in the mountainous district, I took the last train, on the day of my arrival, and came back to TOKYO, trying to restrain tears of regret.

My comrades, who remained on the spot, were faced with the task of reclaiming virgin soil. To carry out their original intention, the commuted every day from their lodgings some 20 miles away, and not until the end of the year could they build houses and send for their families. Eating gruel instead of ordinary meal, using oil for lights, and net taking baths comprised their life for several months. They could not get any tools for reclaiming the land or food (except rice gruel which was distributed at official prices) except at black-marcket prices. Fertilizer and seeds were not distributed . Potato tubes cost more than 30 yen per KAN. One TAN requires 30 KAN; so that it costs almost 1 000 yen to set out potato tubes in one TAN. Any returned friend complains that he spent about 10,000 yen, which he had saved, and now cannot even buy staple food, to say nothing of side dishes.

Does the Government really think that the task of deforestation could be expected to progress smoothly just be calculating virgin soil on the map, and by fostering agrarian immigration into that area? (TOKYO, ADACHI, Ktsuyoshi, President of a Neighbors' Association)

(2) Let's Face Reality.

In these days when every level of society takes a serious view of the food problem, the loud complaints of the authorities do nothing except excite the masses needlessly. The truth of the matter is that the allotment of the compulsory supply of rice lacks fairness. To illustrate I must distinguish between rich farmers and poor farmers, because no one comes under the governmental category of "landlord".

I mean by "rich farmers" those who have tenants which farm one or two TAN of fields. These rich farmers report a decrease in crops under the pretext of being unable to plant. Owing to this, there are 20

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

CHOBU of unarable lands in our village, but to tell the truth, arable lands increased by 20 CHOBU. These rich farmers can plan aopoly to their own advantage because they have much land. On the other hand, poor farmers cannot practice such legal, but convenient methods of supply, unless they compromise with their landlords.

The consequence is that the rich can have surplus rice even after reserving enough rice for their own consumption, while the poor cannot fulfill their duty, unless they supply 40 or 50 per cent from the rice reserved for their own use.

War sufferers have a hard time developing waste land, hitherto regarded as barren. They have come to a land with poor climate and poor communications, and are like a drowning men clutching at a straw. If private lands are released, woodlands capable of deforestation are reclaimed, and the lands now under deforestation would remain as woodlands instead, agrarian production will increase immediately. (FUKUSHIMA, YOSHINARI, Tsugio, Returned Farmer)

(3) A Word from a Farm Applicant.

I have been making efforts to obtain about one CHOBU of land, with the view of engaging in farming they have been in vain. At first I intended to buy a farm but they were too high-priced to purchase. Next I made an application for agrarian immigration, and presented myself to a few provincial offices and the Reclaiming Cooperation office, but the answers were always. "There are too many applicants. We have no land planned for the next clearing, so there is no way of knowing whether colonization will be realized in six months or a year. The villagers are not inclined to welcome strangers, and those who have already colonized are chiefly the inhabitants of neighboring districts of the reclaimed land."

Then, as the third method, I looked for privately owned land, but was told: "There is a lot of private land suitable for clutivation even in TOKYO-TO, but it is a miracle if you can purchase it at a reasonable price." Such being the case, I think perhaps only a few city inhabitants have succeeded in colonization by governmental measures alone.

For the benefit of city dwellers, the following measures should be instituted instead of group immigration. Reclaimed lands of private ownership, and those lands suitable for reclaiming, but not included in the official reclaiming plan, should be released for the use of migrants from the city. The migrants should be aided in purchase of these lands at reasonable prices, and thus, be given a chance of individual colonization. After they are settled, they can enjoy the positive guiance and assistance of the Agricultural Association of their village.

One can never immigrate without dwellings, yet having decided to reclaim lands to increase food production, even if we were living in a house made of wood and with a thatched roof, we cannot get land, the most important factor of all. (KANAGAWA, IWATA, Toshio, Unemployed and War-Sufferer)

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1908 DATE: 18 Mar 46

POLITICAL SERIES: 486

ITEM 1 Democracy in the Rural Community - Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 1 Mar 46. Translator: H. Naoji.

310.1

Summary:

1. Some defects in the democratization of rural communities of this country in the past:

It seems that the rural community is quite backward as regards the democratization of this country. Since the MEIJI Restoration, the Japanese people have never gained spiritual emancipation like the religious revolution or the renaissance of the western world, so they were never mature enough to realize their real status and their own worth; this is the spiritual basis of democracy. The emancipation of farmers in the day of the MEIJI Restoration was only half completed in comparison with that of EUROPE. Tenant-farmers paid as much as half the sum of their harvest to their landlords, instead of to feudal lords (DAIMYO), although the system of feudal lords was abolished at that time. On the other hand, these landlords deposited a large part of this money in banks, or invested it in stocks or public loans, instead of making use of it for the improvement of agriculture. In consequence, agriculture has made little progress in spite of the development of other modern enterprises. The reason why the tenant fee has never been lowered is the competitive spirit of each tenant farmer for procuring farm land, as a result of the large or excessive number of farmers who were unable to engage in the various industries, which were never so large as to absorb the entire number. Indeed, in most cases, the tenant farmers could pay such a high tenant fee, but most tenant farmers, tenants, and yeomen who had limited farm land formed a group of petty farmers. In this way, there occurred a condition of disparity between labor and production. The causes of these conditions are the importance of industry and the limitation on possession of farm lands. In this connection, we should not overlook the fact that only 16 per cent of the land of this country is being used for tilled land.

2. The way for democratizing the rural community in the future:

The best way for democratization of the rural community is that farmers should secure positions as independent managers. Then, they should further advance in order to be able to form farmers' unions. But for the fact that there are independent managers, they would be unable to advance towards political and co-operative ideology. They will have to go through many stages to establish democracy in their domain. The first step seems to be the establishment of farming rights and its management by farmers' organizations. It appears that the relation between the independent farmers and their co-operative organizations will offer a fundamental theme for the democratization of rural communities in the future.

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PRESS TRANSLATIONS

No. 1904 DATE: 18 Mar 46

EDITORIAL SERIES: 621

ITEM 1 Starting Point for the Settlement of Agricultural Problems - Jiji Shimpo - 15 Mar 46. Translator: Sato, Eijiro.

310.1

Full Translation:

At present there are many problems pending in the agricultural villages, which we must settle. These include fundamental problems, such as the release of agricultural lands, the abolition of feudalism in the agricultural villages, and the increase of population. There are also the pressing problems, of rice delivery; the securing of manure for barley, the democratization of the agricultural associations; the question of price and distribution of the necessities of life; the production of farming tools; the problems of exchange of arable lands and reclamation of waste land; the cash payment of farm rent; the establishment of the right to farm; the organization of farmers' union; the securing of seeds for the Spring sowing; and the supplying of provisions and fuel to evacuated people.

Those problems are now unsettled or only partially so. Moreover, the farmers are inconvenienced by and feel uneasy about the clumsiness of the authorities in the new management of monetary circulation, the complexity of the proceedings regarding private property, and the lack of knowledge of the terminal agencies. The farmers are also disturbed by the pressure for rice delivery and the more stringent enforcement of economic policies regarding agricultural villages. In addition, there are many candidates for the Diet, who are confusing the villagers with irresponsible, agitating speeches, presenting an exaggerated idea of the crisis. The problems in the agricultural villages have now become very serious indeed; since the farming season is drawing nearer and nearer for the anxious farmers.

Those problems are closely allied to each other, although they seem to be of various kinds. There is one problem appearing in various forms, which has the same root and connecting branches. For example, let us take the re-election of directors of the agricultural associations. If a just election is carried out by conscientious farmers, sweeping away the associations' bureaucratic, feudalistic, ideas of landownership, it will have a far-reaching influence: If the associations make a fresh start as democratic organizations, and are willing to investigate both the farmers' position and the needs of the people, it will be quite profitable. The distribution of the farmers' necessities of life will continue, and the increase of rice delivery will be spurred to such an extent that the farmers will consent to the allotment of rice delivery. Accordingly, if the relation of demand and supply of previsions takes a favorable turn, and production of fertilizer and farming tools begin to increase, the power of agricultural production will be grown; and this favourable turn will allow the agricultural villages to regain stability.

Those problems can be minimized by, first, the settlement of the pressing problem of rice delivery or our settlement of the land question. Of course, it is important, at any time, that we start with the most important and urgent problems.

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 6. ntinued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

It is not an exaggeration to say that the difficulty or simplicity of the settlement lies in the fact that the general problems of the agricultural villages are all interconnected. Therefore, trying to settle each problem separately usually ends in an unsatisfactory solution, even though it may be seemingly effective. It is possible, to settle many pending problems, simultaneously. If this is to be done, what measures should we take? In first, I believe that we should create such an atmosphere that everyone will do his utmost to dispose of the problems, and discard the present attitude of conservatism and passivism. It is true, indeed, that the prospects of the settlement are not good; for, in the agricultural villages, the landlords, semi-landlords, landed-farmers, landed-tenants and pure tenants now stand in mutual opposition to each others interests. And the negative attitude of the concerned parties forms obstruction to the settlement of the problem. Now, we hope that they all will consider the general problem as their own problem, directly connected with their own interests. If one question can be solved in this way, the whole group of problems will be settled one after another, as they all spring from the same root. The agricultural villages will, I believe, be able to deal with their gravest problems in this way.

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ITEM 4 Discouraging Progress of the "Emergency Cultivation Program" - Only 30% Finished - Yomiuri Hochi - 19 Mar 46. Translator: T. Ukai.

310.1

Full Translation:

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The "emergency cultivation" program decided on by the Cabinet last September as a means to relieve the unemployed and the repatriates after the war, was the object of attention by various circles. The program's result, since then, was revealed recently. The program involved the cultivation of 1,550,000 chobu of land in five years.

chobu & ordinary fields: 31,317 chobu) Also the number of [illegible] did not number more than 30% of the goal at the end of January 1946. The production rate of such articles as tractors, indispensable fix cultivation, remained law with 70 new tractors, or only the production goal, we have been compelled to utilize to the utmost the 1,000 tractors that were on hand. Thus, the cultivation and settlement program, claimed to be the essential requisite in reconstructing JAPAN, has proved to be another failure and has betrayed again that traditional impracticality of the officials.

According to the views expressed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, its completion by the end of March is hardly possible, though it will be almost finished by the end of May. There is a note of pessinism in the allusion to the presence of a large number of practical problems which have to be faced supplying of foodstuff before the first harvest season, the acquisition of cultivating implements and machines, housing, fertilizers, seeds, etc., which are necessary in the labor stage of cultivation.

Following are the figures concerning the emergency cultivation program now in progress:

Emergency Cultivation Program
Now in Progress
finished by the end of Feb.1946

Groups of Large Lands

	Paddy field	Ordinary field	Total	Acreage allotted	Percentage
TOHOKU	2	1,249	1,251	5,400	23%
KANTO & SHINETSU	48	4,142	4,190	9,308	45"
TOKAI & HOKURIKU	53	1,638	1,691	5,142	33"
KINKI	0	728	728	1,728	42"
CHUGOKU	10	301	311	2,340	13"
SHIKOKU	29	437	466	558	82"
KYUSHU	182	1,901	2,083	4,539	42"
Total	324	10,396	10,720	29,915	37"

Groups of Smaller Lands

	Paddy field	Ordinary field	Total	Acreage allotted	Percentage
TOHOKU	225	8,530	8,755	17,300	51%
KANTO & SHINETSU	305	8,150	8,459	28,300	30"
TOKAI & HOKURIKU	120	3,373	3,493	11,600	10"
KINKI	33	2,902	2,935	8,240	36"
CHUGOKU	102	2,129	2,231	9,800	23"
SHIKOKU	89	1,223	1,312	4,140	32"
KYUSHU	308	5,010	5,218	17,389	31"
Total	1,186	31,317	32,503	96,769	34"

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ITEM 4 (Continued)

In the first year (from October 1945 to the end of March 1946) groups of large lands amounting to 29,015 chobu, and smaller lands amounting to 96,769 chobu were to be cultivated. Now it turns out that the former was cultivated to the extent of 37% of the goal or 10,720 chobu (paddy fields: 324 chobu & ordinary fields: 10,396 chobu) and the latter to the extent of 34% of the goal or 32,503 chobu. (paddy fields: 1,186 chobu & ordinary fields: 31,317 chobu) Also the number of settlers did not number more than 30% of the goal at the end of January 1946. The production rate of such articles as tractors, indispensable fix cultivation, remained law with 70 new tractors, or only the production goal, we have been compelled to utilize to the utmost the 1,000 tractors that were on hand. Thus, the cultivation and settlement program, claimed to be the essential requisite in reconstructing JAPAN, has proved to be another failure and has betrayed again that traditional impracticality of the officials.

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DISTRIBUTION: "X"

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ITEM 6 The Secret Behind the Election of the Leading Members of an Agrarian Association - Provincial Newspaper Kobe Shimbun (Kobe) - 5 Mar 46. Translator: K. Hirata.

3/0.1

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Summary:

In accordance with the revision of the Agrarian Body Law, some 380 agrarian associations of our prefecture are going to hold a public election of their respective leading members, starting today (5 March). The results of the election deserve our keenest attention. To our regret, there prevails, at present, an evil tendency in the farming districts of our prefecture to the effect that those who are anxious to reform the present agrarian association are treated as if they were heretics. Our farmers should not forget that they would miss a good chance to democratize the feudal farming communities if they should fail in a "surgical operation" at this election.

ITEM 5 Be Creative in Developing the Agricultural Village - Provincial Newspaper Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 4 Mar 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

3/0.1

Summary:

JAPAN is now in a situation of utmost adversity. It can say that the revival of JAPAN depends on the sufficiency of the supply of food. Fortunately, our country is endowed with arable lands, sufficient to feed the entire population and the revival of our country appears hopeful, if the people are willing to do their best in reconstructing the agricultural economy, with the aid of the Government. It must be noted however tht the development of agriculture cannot be attained by commercialism as it was in former days; and the co-operative type of enterprise should be adopted to manage all affairs. It is also necessary for the stabilization of the farmers' livelihood that comprehensive methods be introduced into farming management. To realize these ends, creative power is required on the part of farmers and the authorities.

ITEM 3 Progress of the Fourth Land Development Measure - Yomiuri Shimbun - 19 Mar 46. Translator: S. Iwata.

3/0.1

The progress of the fourth land development measure, as of 28 February, affecting the increase of foods production in 1946, was announced on 18 March by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Only 29 per cent of this measures quota of 836,939 chobu has been realized. The plan includes underdrainage work, earth replacement work, re-adjustment of rice-fields minor underdrainage work. Also 39 per cent of the farm road quota of 1,774,860 Ken will be completed by the end of May 1946 as scheduled, in view of the improvement of the weather and the increasing agricultural production. The progress of the farm road work is much more than the 33 per cent completed by 27 February 1945 under the third land development plan. The following shows the local progress of the fourth land development plan, as of 28 February, 1946. (In chobu).

Area	Under-drainning	Small Under-drainning	Earth re-placement	Re-adjustment of rice fields	Farm road (in Ken)
North-eastern HONSHU	11,161 33%	108,041 35%	54,453 35%	4,850 30%	171,000 42%
KANTO, SHINETSU	8,737 18%	28,284 25%	48,171 25%	6,478 33%	320,560 27%
TOKAI, HOKURIKU	5,860 13%	81,560 36%	30,920 26%	4,660 31%	248,300 55%
KINKI	4,330 23%	62,052 26%	21,369 34%	935 7%	284,000 36%
CHUGOKU	3,770 17%	42,209 16%	19,039 18%	450 11%	239,000 14%
SHIKOKU	1,721 32%	40,466 15%	12,091 27%	343 33%	121,000 22%
KYUSHU	4,197 25%	110,088 34%	32,981 27%	3,538 15%	401,000 38%
Total	39,776 23%	556,885 29%	229,024 28%	21,254 27%	1,774,860 39%

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ITEM 2 A Bill for Agricultural Reform - Mainichi Shimbun - 16 Mar 46.
Translator: T. Kitagawa.

310.1

Summary:

In accordance with the SCAP memorandum, issued 9 December 1945, to the Japanese Government through the liaison office, an Agricultural Reform Bill was submitted to SCAP on 15 March 1946, the gist of which is contained in the following paragraphs.

1) Consideration will be paid to a reduction in the maximum acreage to be owned by each individual landowner.

2) Improvement of present agricultural associations and establishment of co-operative associations.

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3) Popularization of agricultural techniques.

A note worthy point of the revision is that the present maximum ownership of five cho of land is to be lowered to three cho, this not for an individual, but for a family unit. It states further that it will make a careful study to decide whether or not absentee land ownership should be allowed. Moreover, the bill states that the Government will make efforts to create and encourage independent farmers, and will guarantee their right of cultivation. However there is much to be studied in the bill concerning the rights of land ownership and other rights closely connected with famers interests. These intend to be the means to efficient utilization of land.

Agricultural co-operative associations, (NOGYO KYODO KUMIAI), **agricultural executive associations and town,** (NOGYO JIKKO KUMIAI) agricultural associations, (SHICHO-SON NOGYO KUMIAI), will be established. These will take charge of the administration and improvement of the land, and cattle breeding. Common work shops will be promoted by enterprising groups in the town to aid the small farmer. Fraternal societies in charge of agricultural assurance affairs will be created. A partial payment of insurance premiums, which will be raised before long, will be made from the national budget.

The bill is criticized as being too mild, although it intends to emancipate the farmers it is not progressive at all, and is quite similar to the Revised Agricultural Adjustment law. We should keep our eyes open to the fact that small and medium size land owners are exploiting tenants through high feudalistic tenant fees. Their land must be released.

The MAINICHI further criticizes the bill, pointing out that the idea of co-operation is not clarified in relation to the creation of co-operative associations. Considering the future agrarian over population problem which is certain to arise, we cannot make rash conclusions as to the best type of agrarian administration. Farmers, however, should be united in effecting efficient production, without adhering to negligible parcels of land. Only thru a firmly established foundation of the agrarian system can the fraternity society as well as improvement in agrarian technique progress without friction. Emancipation of farmers and reorganization of the agrarian system require active and resolute measures which have been deferred so long.