

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

In the midst of political issues, continued red spy scare and loyalty probes, Washington dog days were enlivened this past week by a report to the President by Oscar R. Ewing, federal security administrator.

power resources in 186 pages—chock full of awesome and fearsome reading. It makes one wonder how the richest nation in the world can spend the billions it does spend on reclamation, on conservation of natural resources and spend so little in comparison on human needs and reclamation and conservation of human resources of the nation.

Here are some shocking facts gleaned from the report: Every year 325,000 people die whom we have the knowledge and skills to save; every year the nation loses 4,300,000 man-years of work through bad health; every year the nation loses \$27,000,000—that's billions of dollars—in national wealth through sickness and partial and total disability! a scant 20 per cent of the people are able to afford all the medical care they need; we need 37,000 more physicians, 20,000 more dentists, 125,000 more nurses; we need double the number of hospital beds we now have; 98,000 people died in accidents last year—10,400,000 were injured; medical treatment and lost wages totaled \$3,000,000,000—property damage and insurance added another \$3,400,000,000.

Despite this terrific loss federal, state and local expenditures on health programs last year totaled only \$1,962,000,000

and it cost private individuals another \$6,500,000,000. Conservation of our human resources should at least be as profitable as conservation of natural resources; more than 40 per cent of all counties in the country with population of over 15,000,000 have no hospital at all; in states where per capita income is lowest, death rate per thousand is highest; about 70,000,000 people or about 50 per cent of families have incomes under \$3,000 and cannot provide minimum medical care for those families; in 1945, 70 per cent of all farm families had cash incomes of less than \$2,000.

Care Urged in Cleaning Material Pointing out that drycleaning mishaps increase during fall and winter months when the activities of the housewife are more confined to the house, Miss Betty Matheson, home demonstration agent for the State College Extension Service, today urged homemakers to exercise care in using drycleaning materials.

Home drycleaning with flammable cleaning fluid she said, has disfigured or fatally injured many persons, and has burned houses to the ground or demolished them by explosion. She added that the National Safety Council recommends commercial drycleaning as less expensive, more effective, and much safer.

As an instance of how the human resources are being neglected, it is pointed out that the social security act as amended in 1946 sets a ceiling of \$11,000,000 on grants for maternal and child health services which could, if properly administered, probably save those 28,000 babies if the report of the nation reached the Rhode Island efficiency. The same congress, however, appropriated \$15,000,000, four million dollars more, to fight the hoof and mouth disease among cattle.

The report goes on further to say that "improvements of rural

health is one of the major requirements for raising the levels of national health" and that special recommendations in both manpower and hospital programs should be included with particular reference to rural districts.

"A prepayment plan will help to attract and keep doctors in rural areas. It will maintain hospitals and through guaranteeing income, build new ones where they are lacking. Voluntary groups of rural people can build their own hospitals and clinics, arrange to employ their own doctors and have the services paid out of the health insurance fund."

them into the house. Keep children away from dry-cleaning operations. Observe these simple precautions even in removing small spots from garments.

Three Million Acres Added to Pastures

"North Carolina farmers now have three million acres of land seeded to pastures and hay crops, but an additional one million acres could be seeded without reducing cash crops or forests," three State College agronomists declare in a new bulletin which has just been published.

The leaflet, entitled "Producing Pastures and Hay in North Carolina," is being distributed through fertilizer dealers and county farm agents. Free copies may also be obtained by writing the Agricultural Editor, State College, Raleigh, and asking for

Extension Circular No. 323. The months of August and September are recommended as the best time to seed pastures and alfalfa. Other points stressed are that a pasture mixture adapted to the land should be selected; permanent pastures should be supplemented with summer and winter grazing; and adequate amounts of fertilizer should be used.

Authors of the publication are Dr. W. W. Woodhouse, Jr., as-

sociate professor of agronomy; Dr. R. L. Lovvorn, professor of agronomy; and S. H. Dobson, extension agronomy specialist.

In 1946, North Carolina's rank among the 48 states was second in farm population, third in cash farm income from crops, 29th in cash farm income from livestock, and 13th in total cash farm income.

Livestock tends to stabilize farm income.

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