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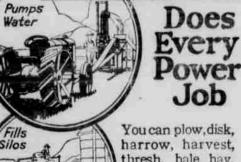
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Some Aspects of the Farmers' Problems

By BERNARD M. BARUCH

(Reprinted from Atlantic Monthly)

so long is we have missed, a ware political economy will aim at a ware degree of mational soil confictor and self-containment. Home fell when the feed supply was too far removed from the belly. Like her, we shall destroy our own agriculture and extend our sources of feed distantly and premit-ously, if we do het con to it that our farmers are well and fairly unid for their services. The farm gives the

adequate compensation. Hence, to or bitter and impoverish the farmer is t try up and contaminate the vital sources of the aution. The war showed convincingly how

dependent the nation is on the full productivity of the farms. Despite berculean efforts, agricultural produc-tion kept only a few weeks or menths. ahead of consumption, and that only by increasing the acreage of certain staple crops at the cost of reducing that of others. We ought not to for-get that lesson when we pouter an the farmer's problems. They are truly

It from the standpoint at yesterday. For a limited time we this is possiblely an one of fire and change and not deals. Because a filing always has been so no longer means that it is richrous, or always shall be so. More, perimps, than ever shall be so. More, permiss, than ever before, there is a wisespread feeding that all human relations can be im-proved by taking thought, and that it is not becoming for the reasoning and told in leave his destiny largely to chance and natural headence.

Prudent and orderly adjustment of reduction and distribution in accordance with consumption is recognited as wise management in every business as wise management in every business but that of farming. Yet, I venume to say, there is no other industry in which it is so important to the public—to the city-dweller—that production should be sure, steady, and increasing, and that distribution should be in proportion to the need. The unorganized farmers naturally not islandly and impulsively and in consequence, surfeit and dearth, accompanied by disconcerting price-variations barnes the consumer. One year pain barns the consumer One year path loss rot in the fields because of exces-production, and there is a scrucity of the things that have been displaced to make way for the expansion of the potate acreage; next year the punish ed farmers mass their fields on some

ed farmers mess their fields on some other crop, and potators cutor the class of luxuries; and so on.

Agriculture is the greatest and fun-damentally the most important of our American industries. The cities are but the branches of the tree of na-tional life, the roots of which go deep by into the band. We all thoursh or decline with the former. So, when we of the cities read of the present universal distress of the farmers, of a slump of six billion before in the farm value of their crops to a single year, of their inability to meet mortgages or to pay current tolls, and how, seeking relief from their Uis, they are planning to form poets, inaugurate formers' strikes, and beneated legislation abolishing grain exchanges, private cattle markets, and the like, we ought not hastily to brand them as account beretics and highwaymen, and burl at them the charge of being seekers of them the charge of being seekers of special privilege. Bather, we should ask if their trouble is not ours, and see what can be done to improve the situation. Purely from self-interest, if for no higher motive, we should help them. All of us want to get back permanently to "mornaley;" but is it reasonable to hope for that condition unless our greatest and most basic in dustry can be put on a sound and solid permanent foundation? The farmers permanent foundation? The farmers are not entitled to special privileges: but are they not right in demanding that they be placed on an equal fact-ing with the buyers of their products and with other industries?

Let us, then, consider some of the farmer's grievances, and see how far they are real. In doing so, we should remember that, while there have been,

Continued on Page Three

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