

Let's Face Facts

Steadier Farm Incomes Throughout the World Proposed in New Plan
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While American industry is strengthening its position in world trade through promotion of international cartels, it might be a good idea for farmers to take a look at the world agricultural situation to discover how their interests are involved.

First, however, if there is any doubt about the future of world cartels, think back to the days in the early 1890s when liberals and progressives were shouting against the "trusts"—those great industrial and banking combinations that bossed congress and legislatures, and generally showed a "public be damned" attitude toward consumers.

In 1910, the industrial commission, the first congressional body to investigate monopolies, held that great combinations of industry were here to stay, and that it would be inadvisable to "bust" them. Control in the public interest was recommended. There may be some question as to how effective social controls have been, but the great combinations are still here.

We have reached a similar point now in relation to international cartels. We are not going to break them up, no matter how much our liberals may desire it. In fact, we are going to assist in the organization of cartels, possibly before the war ends.

Farmers Must Decide

Obviously, it is time for farmers to begin to think internationally in respect to agriculture, for if they don't, the food processors will do their thinking for them. Let us take a brief look at the wheat market, for that is still the chief farm product in international trade.

Lee Marshall, WFA director of distribution, on a recent visit to Kansas boasted that on July 1 we would enter the crop year with a carry-over of about 500,000,000 bushels of wheat compared with about 40,000,000 bushels on July 1, 1919, during the last year of World War I. But what happened after the last war? Almost every nation during the war increased its wheat acreage, and after the war surpluses began to pile up year after year until the price of wheat was so low, no wheat farmer could operate profitably. We may dispose of this surplus to a hungry Europe, but world wheat productive capacity is today far beyond world economic power to purchase.

Now we are seeking security of farm income. If there is a world surplus of wheat after the war, as there is very likely to be after a few years of rebuilding, it will require a lot more than passing a few laws to keep wheat at parity. Depression for wheat farmers would be like an infection which recognized no national boundaries.

Insurance Fund

So the idea has been advanced, that an international insurance fund be set up to protect agricultural income throughout the world from the extremes of the economic cycle. This fund would perform three extremely important functions:

1. It would obtain from participating countries periodic reports on production, inventories, current marketings and probable demand for agricultural commodities which enter foreign trade in largest volumes. These data would make possible the determination of normal production, consumption, price levels and trends, and would form the basis for intelligent international and national planning in relation to the commodities covered;

2. The fund would stockpile agricultural commodities that are important in world trade when crops were good, and distribute these when crops were poor, thus creating more even flow of materials entering world trade. This would have a stabilizing influence to world commercial relations. And,

3. The fund would accumulate cash through assessments on national governments, when income was high, and distribute cash when income was low, thus helping to maintain more stable income and purchasing power for the great mass of producers of agricultural products throughout the world.

This idea has been worked out in some detail by Dr. Morris A. Copeland, chief of the munitions division, bureau of planning and statistics of the War Production board.

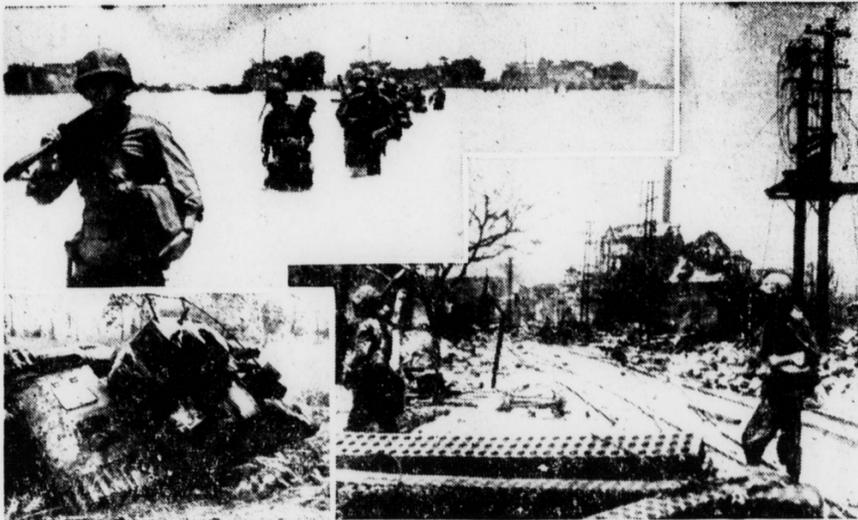
Probably by the time Dr. Copeland's plan has reached the diplomatic level it will be something altogether different. But until something like this is done, the danger of chaotic world agricultural conditions will be a distinct threat—not just to foreign farmers—but to every American farmer as well.

If, through his farm organizations, the American farmer should take an interest in international income stability, on a reasonably high level, he would be moving in the direction of self-protection.



Barrow Lyons

Japs Feel U. S. Might at Saipan



The army lands on Saipan beachhead to reinforce troops on newly acquired base as shown in upper right photo. Lower right shows Jap tank knocked out by leathernecks when they first landed at Saipan. The infantry does its part at Saipan. Left shows them surveying ruins of Jap sugar refinery wrecked by Yank aerial bombs before our troops landed.

Dewey and Bricker at Chicago



It's Dewey and Bricker and an impressive scene in the Chicago stadium as the Republican national convention delegates stamped when Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York accepted the presidential nomination. Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio proved just as popular with the delegates as he clasped hands with Dewey, following his acceptance of the vice presidency nomination.

Tornado Scatters Homes in East



Wash basins and dresser drawers form part of the general wreckage, when the tornado struck B avenue, Liberty borough, Pittsburgh. Houses were lifted completely from foundations and furnishings flung far and wide. List of dead and injured was reported at 151 dead and 1,100 injured in the worst disaster in Pennsylvania's history, since the Johnstown flood. Thousands were taken care of by Red Cross rushed to the scene.

Yanks Hunt Snipers



Taking care to keep well down out of harm's way, American soldiers take part in a sniper hunt somewhere in France. The soldier in the foreground pokes his helmet up over the edge of the ditch, hoping and asking for the sniper to take a shot so his position can be located. Snipers soon surrender when located.

Voted for MacArthur



Grant A. Ritter, a farmer from Beloit, Wis., pictured at his seat in Chicago stadium after he had cast one ballot for Gen. Douglas MacArthur for president. Governor Dewey received every other vote of the 1,057 cast.

Finnish Prisoners



Finnish officers and men taken prisoners on the Karelian Isthmus are shown being marched to prisoner of war enclosures. In the background are some of the fortifications of the Finnish defense zone.



FBI Items and G-Maneuvers

In the gangster film about Roger Touhy and his gang the producers lost a few good tricks which apparently the gov't agents didn't tell them about—after Touhy and his mob were recaptured. . . . Frisample: When the FBI went into the rooms of two of the gang—they didn't notice a match stuck at the top of the door. . . . To let the gang know if anyone entered during their absence. One mobster had started opening the door when he realized the planted match was gone. . . . So he started firing his revolver. . . . The agent came out shooting too, and two of Touhy's pals were hit by the marksman and went to heaven.

Then there's the episode in the butcher shop. . . . A uniformed chauffeur turns out to be one of the Touhy gangsters. He went to purchase meat in the neighborhood for Touhy (and the others) who didn't risk coming out of the house. . . . The butcher shop, however, was staffed by G-Men. . . . After a signal from one butcher a bike-rider G-Man tailed the chauffeur to the scene where Touhy was hiding. . . . But the confederate was not disguised as a chauffeur in the actual kidnap. . . . The movie people apparently didn't want to offend the devout by sticking to the facts. . . . The disguise worn by the gangster in the meat shop was that of a priest.

The average newspaper reader, recalling Touhy's mob, will think the snatched man is the rich Jake Barber, victim of that gang. . . . But in the film the producers purposely switched things to give the story more pep. . . . Jake Barber's real tortures cannot be screened or even written about—so vile were they. . . . So for the screen the authors and director borrowed several interesting items from the kidnappings of a wealthy youth named Rosenthal (in New York) and the Urschel snatch in the West. . . . All the kidnappers are now rusting and rotting in prison on sentences for life.

The most frightful moment in Director J. Edgar Hoover's entire life happened that terrible 5 in the morning—when the night was still black. . . . Hoover and some of the agents attacked the Touhy mob from the rear of the building—other FBI men covered the front. . . . Mr. Hoover, revolver in paw, climbed over the back fence and tread softly to the back door, where he let out the most piercing shriek ever heard anywhere in the whole world. . . . It seems that a poor, little, inoffensive, sleeping black cat was stepped on by the most famed of all G-Men, and it let out one screech, which the startled G-Man tried to out-holler.

FBI agents the other day were investigating a theft of gov't-owned cigarettes destined for overseas shipment. . . . The foreman, who had denied any knowledge of the theft, produced a package of cigarettes bearing a give-away gov't label. . . . The agent, who had mooched a cigarette with a definite purpose, forthwith arrested the foreman, who was charged with the crime.

One of the problems confronting the FBI these days is the apprehension of individuals obtaining money fraudulently under the Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act. Sixty-nine convictions have resulted during the first ten months of the 1944 fiscal year. An oddity in the FBI's files on this subject has to do with a Louisville, Ky., woman who, when questioned by FBI agents, offered to return fourteen \$50 checks she got illegally, but hadn't spent. She said she had kept all the checks except one, which the soldier himself cashed, and that she was most willing to return them to the Government.

The alertness of G-Men was demonstrated again the other day in Los Angeles. An agent spied a man on the street whom he recognized as a fugitive—a wanted notice had been issued a few days before. Although the suspect produced phony selective service cards, the G-Man was persistent and took his fingerprints, whereupon the fugitive admitted his identity as Walter Ray Carroll, wanted in Washington State in connection with a \$25,000 narcotics robbery.

Among the latest rackets discovered by the John Edgar Hoovers is that one used by some fortune-tellers to swindle gullible draft-dodgers. . . . The G-Whizzers nabbed one fortune-teller in Texas. . . . She got neat fees "for keeping men out of the army." . . . Her hocus-pocus, however, was not very effective. . . . Most of her suckers were inducted, anyhow. And she was inducted into a Federal hoosegow, where she can't predict her release.

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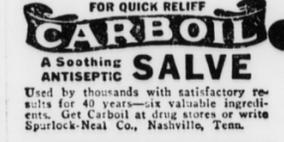
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WNU-7 22-44

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