

IN WASHINGTON
WHAT
IS
TAKING
PLACE
BY
Prof. R. R. Roper
UNITED STATES SENATOR

The intense congressional interest in the President's plan, sit-down strikes and other problems of national concern, do not overshadow the fact that before the end of the present term, members of congress must make a highly important decision. That decision is whether Federal Government expenditures shall be decreased or whether they shall be maintained at present or even higher levels and new taxes levied to provide the necessary funds.

Before this article appears, or shortly thereafter, a relief message is expected from the President which will undoubtedly clarify the budget and tax outlook. A strong pressure is being exerted for curtailment of relief expenditures. Equally strong sentiment favors expanding relief, and there is no small amount of pressure for curtailment of federal expenditure in all lines. There is virtually no sentiment for new taxes.

The present indications are that the President will fix relief funds at the lowest possible amount consistent with the widespread national needs. Thus, if the amount recommended by the President is increased, it will be due to the pressure exerted upon members of Congress by their constituents. In other words, the choice of whether the government expenses shall be lowered or taxes increased is with the American people.

Under the pressure of relief demands, it is an open secret that behind the scenes consideration is being given as to how new taxes may be raised, should they be necessary. In some circles there is even the suggestion of a general sales tax, which has been bitterly opposed in the past. In other circles there are suggestions for higher excise taxes. But all members of congress have clearly evidenced their desire to do everything possible to make new taxes unnecessary.

President Roosevelt has expressed the hope that there will be no new taxes levied. Nevertheless, relief needs continue heavy and attention must be given to farm tenancy and housing legislation. As I have said, tax legislation seems imminent, and new sources of revenue are being studied.

Excise taxes now in effect, including the federal gasoline tax, and a score of other levies, are scheduled to expire in June. Recommendations have already been made that they be re-enacted for another temporary period, despite

the admitted unfairness of some of these taxes. However, more optimistic members of the national legislature cling to the hope of some way being found to bring down the expenditures and break the log-jam of legislation without raising the already heavy tax burden now imposed on our citizens.

But with it all, the fact remains that if our citizens generally demand large relief funds and other federal funds for new projects, they must be prepared to pay the bill.

Thus, the expenditure and tax situation in congress is of serious concern. This is true despite the fact that many thoughtful persons are beginning to realize that governments as individuals must find means of livelihood within the income. Any other course brings a situation that may be postponed indefinitely by heavy borrowings and other federal financing but one which cannot be fully corrected until federal expenditures are no greater than the taxes collected.

The President's anticipated relief measure will, of course, be an indication of the future on relief and taxes. When it is made public, it should be studied by every person concerned with the national welfare. And individuals can do much by frankly facing the situation and realizing that the time has come when, with recovery here and greater improvement ahead, the federal government is to economize as individuals must do to place their affairs on sound fiscal basis. It is obvious that every possible means will be utilized to prevent wholesale tax legislation being thrown into the already muddled Congressional situation.

Whether this effort will be successful will depend largely on the developments in the next 30 days.

DIVERSIFIED FARMING
1927 — 1937

A writer in the office of the Administrator, Resettlement Administration, Land Utilization Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Land Planning Publication No. 17, March, 1937, entitled "Recent Trend Toward Diversified Farming in Southern Cotton Areas," has dug up an interesting old editorial on the subject of agricultural diversification.

I am quoting liberally from the publication referred to, and am using the editorial in full, for the subject should be one of lively interest to cash crop farmers.

"Diversification of crops and greater emphasis on livestock production has long been urged as a means of raising the living standards of the small farm operators in Southern Cotton Areas where cash crops are practically the only source of farm income. Diversification in farming practices may be considered as having further significance in maintaining soil productivity.

The dependence of the South on cotton production follows in this history of the cash crop economy of the region. A summary of existing problems and a plea for a change in the agricultural pro-

gram which appeared in the Georgia Courier was a hundred years ago gives us a vivid picture of conditions of that period and to show present current attitudes that it is quite safe to serve the double purpose of describing characteristics of the Old South and to suggest the importance of diversification in Southern agriculture.

"That we have cultivated cotton, cotton, and bought everything else, has long been our ap-probrium. It is time we should be roused by some means or other to see, that such a course of conduct will inevitably terminate in our ultimate poverty and ruin. . . Let us go more on provision crops and less on cotton because we have had everything about us poor and impoverished long enough. . . If we have followed a ruinous policy, and bought all the articles of subsistence instead of raising them, who is to blame? For what have we not looked to our Northern friends? From them (the term "diversification" is here used in its broadest sense to denote inclusion of food crops for cash income). We get not only our clothes, carriages, saddles, hats, shoes, flour, potatoes, but even our onions and horn buttons. . . Let us change our policy. . . Let our farmers make and wear their homespun—raise their own hogs, cattle, and horses, and let those who have capital and enterprise, manufacture on a more extensive scale. There is nothing to prevent us from doing it. We have good land, unlimited water power, capital in plenty, and a patriotism which is running over in some places.

Editorial, June 21, 1927: Ulrich B. Phillips, Documentary History of American Industrial Society. During recent years several factors have been undermining in the South's historical dependence upon cotton growing. Between 1930 and 1935 cotton cultivation on many of the formerly strictly cash crop farms was supplemented by the cultivation of subsistence crops. The shifts in cropping, which have come about during the depression years may not be interpreted as indices of permanent change, but in reflecting trends of a depression period, they may serve as guiding posts in the determination of Federal agricultural policies not only in acute periods of distress but in long range planning for the adjustment of the agricultural and human resource of the South."

Agricultural diversification has been written about and talked about for centuries, but we still have too little of it in the South, and Southern agriculture will never attain independence until well balanced farm programs are adopted. On many farms the substitution of legumes, cereals, potatoes, and other truck crops and the grazing of cattle and swine on the acreage released from cotton production have served to provide for

TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED BY STATE COLLEGE

QUESTION: Is it profitable to force the growth of truck crops with applications of nitrogen?

ANSWER: As the quality of succulent vegetables depends upon rapid growth it is often necessary to make side applications of some quickly available nitrogen to maintain this growth. The time to apply will depend upon the vigor and maturity of the crop and upon seasonal conditions and the grower must use his own judgment in determining when to apply the side dressing. In making the application, care must be taken not to let the material come in contact with the plants as this may result in damage.

QUESTION: What causes my hens to lay so many thin shelled eggs and how can I remedy this condition?

In all probability your hens have passed their peak of production and are now going out of

lay. There is a tendency for this decline in egg production as the shells become thin and will increase many and more as the birds reach the non-productive stage. There is nothing that can be done to remedy the condition providing, of course, that the birds have a balanced ration before them at all times.

QUESTION: How soon can I turn my cattle into a new permanent pasture?

ANSWER: This depends upon the growth of grasses and soil condition, but if the pasture was seeded to a good mixture and the soil is not too wet cattle may be turned in about the first of May. Grasses grow only when the land is exposed to the sunlight and it is best to delay the grazing a few weeks if the grass blades are not sufficient to insure active growth. Under normal conditions, however, it is safe to turn the cattle in the pasture on or about May 1.

many families who had previously been dependent upon a cash income for the purchase of food supplies. The diversification of crop on a small farm of the South tends toward subsistence farming since the size of the farms and farming techniques limits the farming operations which supplement cotton and other cash crop cultivation.

Walnuts Turn A Waste Into Profit

Black walnut trees, a good source of cash income, can be grown in fence corners, along ditch and stream banks, and other so-called "waste places" about the farm.

An average North Carolina farm could easily have 50 or more black walnut trees, said R. W. Graeber, extension forester at State College.

The nuts from the trees can be harvested annually, and where a sufficient number of trees are produced, a few can be cut from time to time for timber.

There is a big demand for black walnut lumber, Graeber pointed out, and high prices are paid for trees in good condition.

The income from the nuts is a helpful addition to the regular cash income of the farm. Figuring the nuts from one tree at \$2.50 a year, a crop of 50 trees would produce an annual income of \$125 from the sale of nuts alone.

Some farmers do much better than that, Graeber added. James Candler, of Yadkin County, got \$29.85 for the nuts from seven trees last year—an average of \$4.28 per tree.

Candler gathered 18 bushels of nuts from the trees and cracked 93.5 pounds of kernels which sold wholesale at 30 cents a pound.

"This may not appear to be a large sum, but remember it came from a bare handful of trees growing on odd spots around the farm," Graeber commented.

Four H club members in Yadkin County who use nut-cracking machines, he added, find that the machine greatly reduces the amount of work required to get the kernels out of the nuts, and they are making "big sums of money."

Every landowner in the Cape Fear Community of Berry County is encouraged to promote the building of the new steel electric line from Statesville to the Deep River

A Bird In The Bush may be Best

A bird in the hand may be worth two in the bush, but if there are not enough "bushes" to provide cover and food for wild life, "we may not have any birds or other game in the bush," said H. J. Bush, biologist of the Soil Conservation Service.

Birds have rightfully been called "friends of the farmer". Birds ask little in return for the services they render, Bush said, yet they can be of considerable assistance in producing healthy clean crops, free from insects and noxious weeds.

At practically no cost, and by devoting a small amount of his time to wildlife assistance, Bush pointed out, the farmer can make avenues for wildlife on fields now idle and severely eroded.

Lespedeza provides good food and cover for quail. In cutting lespedeza, Bush recommends that a small strip be left along the side of the field or, if possible, several stripes throughout a large field.

The farmer may disk up a broken sedge field or any abandoned land, giving suitable wild plants a chance to grow. By allowing wild shrubs to grow along fence rows, field borders, and in pastures, the farmer is furnishing a permanent home for birds, Bush continued.

The farmer will receive three-fold dividends from his investment, since birds destroy harmful insects and certain noxious weeds; they are a source of pleasure in hunting and may provide a source of income for the farmer who leases hunting rights; and they afford personal pleasure from growing a good crop of birds.

With the exception of a relatively few game preserves, wildlife is confined to farm lands and depends on them for food, shelter and nesting sites.

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