

Washington Farm News

OUTLAND INDICATES AN IMPROVED DEMAND FOR MOST FARM PRODUCTS THIS SUMMER.

The outlook is for some improvement by summer in the economic conditions affecting the demand for farm products, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports in its monthly analysis of the demand and price situation.

Conditions continued their downward trend in March, but the weakness was much less pronounced than in January or February. The decline of industrial production in March was less than half that of either January or February, and weekly data indicate that by April approximate stability had been reached.

As is usual, the decline in consumer purchasing power has lagged behind the decline in productive activity and has been much more moderate. The demand for some farm products, such as meat, fruits, and butter seems to have been affected to some extent by the recession in business, although the various commodities show mixed tendencies in this regard. Consumer income probably will decline more before turning about.

Foreign trade statistics disclose a wide range of effects of the war in Europe on exports of domestic farm products. For some of the major export commodities, such as tobacco, fruits and lard, the effects have been decidedly unfavorable, and several of the minor ones will be similarly affected by added import restrictions by the belligerents. The latter include canned fruits and vegetables, the exports of a number of which were up substantially during the first six months of the war. Elimination of Denmark as a source of food supplies for the Allies may eventually improve the United States export market for pork and evaporated milk.

The level of wholesale prices of commodities in general continues relatively stable. Although the more sensitive commodity prices weakened from round mid-March into April spread of the war into Scandinavia was followed by some recovery. Additional strength in wholesale prices is expected to accompany the better industrial situation in prospect in the United States for coming months.

The general average of prices received by farmers was about the same in mid-April as in March. Declines were indicated for meat animal, livestock product, and truck crop prices. Increases were indicated in prices of grains, fruit and miscellaneous items. Changes in cotton and poultry product prices were small. The index of prices paid by farmers probably was again unchanged at 122 per cent. of the pre-World War average for the eighth consecutive month.

Cash income from sales of farm products increased less than seasonally from February to March, but remain above cash income for the same period of last year. Government payments to farmers were lower this March than last, and this reduction may have offset the increase in income from sales as compared with a year ago. Income from sales is expected to make about the usual decline from March to April. Government payments will continue below those of a year earlier for several months.

STATE COLLEGE ANSWERS TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS

QUESTION: What are the requirements to participate in the AAA garden benefits?

ANSWER: The garden shall consist of not less than one-tenth of an acre for each person in the family and all should be planted as one unit. However, not more than one acre will be required for any one family. On this plot, a minimum of ten different kinds of vegetables must be produced during the year. In addition to the acreage and vegetables produced, the garden must be adequately protected from poultry and livestock. It is recommended that three or more kinds of vegetables be grown in each month for at least eight months and that not more than one-fourth of the garden be planted to any one vegetable at any one time.

QUESTION: How much milk may be substituted for other ingredients in poultry feeds?

ANSWER: Skim milk, clabber, or buttermilk may be substituted for all dried milk products, one-half of the fish meal, and one-half of the meat meal recommended for the poultry ration. When the substitution is made for these amounts, three gallons of the skim milk or other products should be fed per day to each 100 hens. The success of these substitutions will depend upon the regularity with which the milk is fed. Unless there is an ample supply available at all times no substitutions should be made.

QUESTION: Would you advise destroying the tobacco plant beds after they have been used?

ANSWER: Absolutely. The bed should be plowed up immediately after the plants are pulled and all remaining plants killed. Thousands of insect pests breed upon the plants that are allowed to grow and these spread to the plants in the field. The beds should be planted to sweet potatoes or other garden vegetable or sown with soybeans. This will aid in the control of insects as well as provide an additional crop on the land.

Cold Weather 'Nips' Ornamental Plants

Boxwood, peonies, ivy and other ornamental plants suffered greatly from the severe winter just past, and more particularly from the "cold snaps" during the early spring, says Howard R. Garriss, assistant Extension plant pathologist of N. C. State College. He reports that more than 100 specimens of box plants suffering from cold injury have been received for diagnosis by the college plant disease laboratory.

"The cold damage was especially evident in the piedmont section," Garriss declared. "In most cases the killing out of plants took place where box bushes were weakened and suffering the effects of the drought last summer, or from other conditions." The specialist said that fortunately only the young tender shoots stimulated into new growth during the short warm periods were the greatest sufferers from sudden drops in temperature. Where only young shoots are killed, the plants should soon recover with continued warm weather.

Where only twigs have been killed, the plant pathologist recommends that these be pruned out and the bushes be sprayed thoroughly with a 4-4-50 Bordeaux mixture every two weeks until continued hot weather prevails. The reason for pruning out the dead wood, he explained, is to

prevent parasites from living over and probably infesting the healthy wood. If diseases are present, the spray will tend to prevent their spread.

Plants heretofore healthy and vigorous, but weakened by the cold weather, will be more subject to disease and they should be sprayed regularly during the current season.

Looking at Washington (Continued from page one)

dent," say the authors, "of the menace to this country of a world dominated by triumphant dictatorships."

The two newspaper men outline the foreign policy of the United States as follows: (1) the advocacy of disarmament and the development of trade in order that the world may return to common sense; (2) recognition of the rights of neutrals in the modern war and particularly in the settlement that follows; (3) a willingness consider economic commitments to stabilize world economy, but without any political obligations; (4) and to democracies by "methods short of war" because dictatorships will not support disarmament and a return to normal trade practices; (5) a determination that no American troops will be sent abroad.

These "revelations" seem to be nothing but ordinary deductions, based upon the attitude taken by the Administration in world events. The first three items are fairly obvious. No definition of "methods short of war" has yet been attempted and it is very probable that this phase will remain somewhat elastic in order to meet any conditions which may arise. Moreover, there is little idea anywhere in the United States that American troops will be sent to Europe under any circumstances. It is generally believed that much greater assistance could be rendered the Allies, if necessary, by supplies and extensions of credit.

While the attention of the people of the United States is concentrated on the war in Europe, officials of the State Department are not overlooking the stalemated Sino-Japanese War, now dragging into its third year and engaging some 600,000,000 people. There are indications that Germany and Great Britain are waging a diplomatic battle to secure Japanese support.

The United States is also interested in the probable fate of the Netherlands East Indies colonies, in the shipment of American supplies to Vladivostok, which the British allege are interfering with their enforcement of the blockade against Germany, the question of immigration raised by Japan in regard to the proposed Philippine law limiting immigration from any country to 500 persons annually and discussions involving the Navy plans which were brought into the international picture by the recent assertions of Rear-Admiral Tausig that world events might force the United States "into eventual war with Japan."

The apparent disposition of officials is not to force the issue in the Far East, but it is realized that the Japanese may take the initiative, especially if the British and French seem to be hard-pressed in Europe. What the United States will do in the event that the Japanese seize the Dutch Indies is problematical. Certainly, officials in this country would prefer for the Far Eastern situation to remain in abeyance until the war in Europe is concluded. In the event of an Allied victory, it is assumed that the United States, Great Britain and France, acting together, will have no trouble whatever in restraining Japanese aggression.

In this connection, T. A. Brisson, in a special report to the Institute of Pacific Relations, expresses the belief that the European War may extend to Eastern Asia if the United States compromises with Japanese aggression. His position is that the Allies, hard-pressed in Europe, may be compelled to make some kind of arrangement with Japanese militarists in order to prevent hostile action against them in the Far East. In reviewing the American policy in that section of the world, the author points out that the term, "equality of opportunity," "the Open Door," and "the territorial integrity of China" sum

up the official attitude of the American government since 1899. While the American government has not resorted to force to uphold these policies, it has never surrendered them. Mr. Brisson believes that this country should continue to maintain the sanctity of treaties and to use its influence through economic pressure, if necessary, to force Japan to relinquish claims to which it has no right.

THE ANSWERS

1. About one-fourth.
2. 15,000,000.
3. Published figures are guess-work.
4. Scheduled in Finland but recently cancelled.
5. This is a name, derisively applied to the special senate committee to investigate campaign funds in senatorial contests.
6. Maurice Gustave Gamelin, French general.
7. In 1914.
8. In October, 1938, at Kingston, Ontario.
9. Yes; he paid \$1,174,000.
10. Germany in 1915 in violation of treaties but alleging it was to forestall Allied use of gas.

PHOSPHATE

Price Dillard, a farmer of Willets, N. C., told J. F. Giles, assistant farm agent in Jackson county, that the application of phosphate to part of his pasture in the spring of 1939 made it available for grazing this year two weeks earlier than other pasture.

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