**AGRICULTURE . . . transportation**

The "farm problem" in the United States is as old as the nation itself. How to get their products to market and get a fair price for them has bothered the farmers of America for 150 years. And politics has always played a part.

The first farmers who settled the lands west of the Alleghenies found they could raise grain easily enough, but with no highways they couldn't ship it to market before it spoiled. They solved the problem by distilling it into whiskey, which would keep indefinitely and could be shipped on flatboats down the Susquehanna, the Potomac and the Ohio to seaports.

They were doing well until 1794, when politics stepped in. The new federal government imposed a tax of 25 cents a gallon on whiskey, not so much for revenue as because Alexander Hamilton wanted to show the people the power of the new nation. The farmers rose in rebellion. They tarred and feathered the tax collectors. President Washington sent a detachment of troops to preserve order. Nobody was killed, the ringleader of the insurrection escaped down the river to New Orleans, and that was the end of that farm problem.

MARGARINE . . . taxes

There's a farm problem today that has some resemblance to that of 1794. That is the multiplication of state taxes on oleomargarine. Many people use oleomargarine instead of butter because they like it; many more because it costs less. The dairy farmers naturally want to promote the use of butter. The producers of cottonseed oil, peanut oil and soybean oil, the chief fats used in making margarine, want their products used without restriction.

The federal government taxes all oleomargarine. Now nine states are taxing oleomargarine 15 cents a pound, three others tax it if it's made from oils and produced in their states, and several other states tax delites in margarine, up to as high as \$1,000 a year.

There's an insurrection brewing not only in the matter of margarine, but against the growing practice of states to set up barriers against trade with other states. The federal constitution forbids any state to impose tariffs on goods from other states. In late years many states have found ways to evade that by various tax methods. We have got where we are largely because we are the largest free trade area in the world. We're heading for trouble this way.

DISTRIBUTION . . . restricted

If there were any simple answer to the present-day farm problem there wouldn't be so many individuals and organizations trying to find it, nor so many politicians making capital out of ready-made solutions.

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"As long as this baby is at large, no actor is safe!"

FORTY LITTLE MOTHERS



New York, N. Y.—Eleven "Cinderellas" from all over the nation competed at the world's fair for the title of "New York World's Fair Cinderella." Chosen because of their beauty and the ability to fit a glass slipper, Miss Philadelphia (Mary Jaeger), front row, second from left, was selected. Miss Knoxville (Elizabeth Godfrey) is trying the glass slipper on the "Queen of Cinderellas."

Comfort from an "Immortal"

Oakdale, N. Y.—Little Jean, protege of the metaphysicians who claim that she will be immortal because sheltered from grief, illness, or other woes, seems unable to comfort two-year-old Prince John Von Starhemberg, son of the exiled Austrian prince.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in its program submitted to both national political conventions, seems to take as broad and sane a view of the complex problem as I have seen.

Its major point is that there are too many obstacles between the producer and consumer. It demands freedom of farm products from artificial restraints, such as interstate trade barriers and restrictions upon commercial marketing. One point in which I agree heartily is that certain stores and other mass distributors should not be penalized. I know that my farmer friends regard the food chains as their best cash customers, and that my wife and her friends buy by preference from the chain stores and super markets because they save money and get better quality.

I'm strong, too, for the Farm Bureau's opposition to taxes which fall heaviest on consumers, and for its demand for the restoration of international trade.

WAR . . . complicating

There's no doubt whatever that the present war, unless it ends sooner than I am afraid it will, is going to further complicate the American farm problem by shutting off export markets. Few people realize how much of our agriculture is dependent upon sales overseas. Cotton is one major export item which has been losing to foreign competition for a good many years. Tobacco is another.

I saw some figures the other day on the exports of soybeans from the United States last year. The total of this one commodity we shipped abroad was 827 million pounds, of which two-thirds went to the Netherlands. Now that great market is shut off. Many other farm commodities are in the same fix.

We need a number of agricultural products which we can't grow in this country. Rubber is one of them. Camphor is another. Fortunately American chemists have found how to make acceptable substitutes for those and other exotic products. But that doesn't help the American farmer much.

INDUSTRY . . . conversion

The ultimate answer to the farm problem, as I see it, will be the conversion of things grown on the land into things useful in industry. The farm problem, after all, is not one of raising sweet potatoes, or cattle, or watermelons or any other particular commodity. It is a problem of getting a living off the land. If that can be done without raising what nobody wants, but by raising something that can be used to make airplanes or whatever it is the world wants, the problem is solved.

The National Farm Chemurgic Council has been working along that line for several years. An amazing number of industrial uses have been found for farm products which only require the co-operation of the farmer to make them available. I have just seen a list of 72 industrial products made from corn alone, for example.

The Continental Divide runs through New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming and forms the boundary between Idaho and Montana.

Cinderella at the World's Fair**School Attendance
In State Increases**

The average daily attendance of North Carolina public schools reached an all-time high record of 791,

425 during the 1939-40 school year, Lloyd Griffin, secretary of the state school commission, said Saturday.

The total compared with the previous record of 796,927 last year.

High schools gained in average daily attendance from 175,802 last

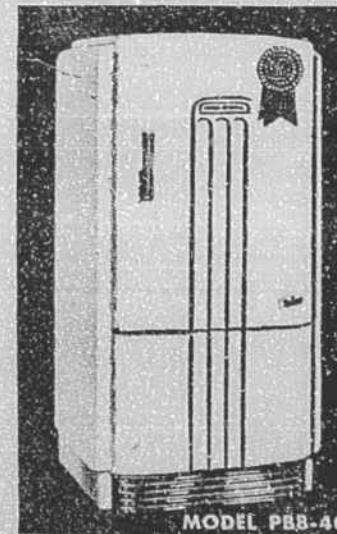
year to 183,606. The elementary schools, meanwhile, showed a sharp drop, from 615,125 last year to 607,819.

One reason for the elementary school drop, Griffin said, was that fewer babies were born during the depression.

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