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## Washington Digest Little Evidence Seen of Farm Land Speculation

Rural America Seen as Bulwark Against Post-War Depression; 'Nervous Gentlemen' Admit **Possibilities of Speculative Wave.** 

#### **By BAUKHAGE** News Analyst and Com

money against Iowa farm land as low as 2½ per cent. Speculation in

livestock is going on in some places. But there is no trend now toward the

"And," says Mr. Wilson, "if the tremendous gains in the farm in-debtedness situation can be held, the

capacity of the great agricultural areas of the nation to absorb the flood of products that will come to

all markets after the war will be

The financial fate of post-war America is pretty much in the hands of the farmers. Let's hope he won't let it (and his spare cash) slip

wild buying of World War I.

tremendous."

through his fingers.

Two-Way Attack

On 'Beveridge Plan'

the middle-of-the-roaders.

But do not think that all the op-

position came from one direction.

The first adventure of the new social

security program was, in reality, very much like the "Charge of the Light Brigade" for there were "can-nons to right of them" and also "cannons to left of them" which vol-

leyed and thundered. As I said, the offensive from the right was taken

for granted. But the attack of the

left wing, while not as vocal, seems

to be just as vehement. There is

proof in a press release which prob-ably was released by very few pa-pers. It comes from the "People's Lobby" in Washington, an institution which believes in "public ownership of natural resources, basic industries

and essential processing and distrib

But the "People's Lobby" thinks

the President's plan is nowhere near

socialistic enough. In fact, it is just

"another trick . . . to try to lull the

people into a sense of false security

while economic royalists continue,

The other day, I heard on a radio

broadcast the statement that Wash-

have so many squares and circles

and other geometric figures-Dupont

circle that I pass every day, Lafay ette square with its historic memo-

ries (not to mention its squirrels)

where I spend my extra seconds; the

Octagon house, built by a wealthy friend of George Washington, where

the early 1800s, now preserved by the American Institute of Architects

which bought it to preserve its state-

ly beauty as well as to house their

One was a slim man in eyeglasses.

His nose was a loop, his smooth hair was looped back over his forehead. His gestures were looped, the back of the wrist bent and higher than

his fingertips as he dangled his ciga-

rette-I could only think of the paws

of a lackadaisical pup begging for

His partner was Mr. Bulge. The

bulge began below the wrinkle in his vest and it was the only thing that

kept him far enough away from the

table to save his bulging nose from the table to save his bulging nose from inhaling. His hands bulged like the padded arms of an overstuffed chair in a hotel lobby. His cheeks were

pink and bulging hams. Washington is learning new les-

society was lavishly entertained

ington was a geometric city.

utive agencies.

people."

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

If you see a cheerful glow along the horizon of rural America these evenings, you'll know what it is-not a prairie fire or the neighbor's barn, but the happy light of burning mortgages. The farmers of America have had

their lesson. They aren't throwing their money around this time. They are paying their debts. They are becoming the solid citizens of the nation. They are building a bulwark against a post-war depression that can save the nation financially, unless

Right now, the financial health of rural America is better than it has been in many a long decade. But certain nervous gentlemen are beginning to worry. Will the farmer keep to the straight and narrow or will he be tempted to put down an option on distant hills which are beginning to turn an alluring green?

Listen to what one of those cau-tious gentlemen in Washington, Frank Wilson of the department of commerce, has to say. Why, you may ask, does the department of commerce, whose job it is to look after the welfare of the city man, worry about the farmer? Well, when the farmer goes broke, the city man closes up shop. But, a word from Mr. Wilson:

"While the level of farm values throughout most parts of the Middle West has increased 10 to 15 per cent in the last year, and the transfer of farm properties has been greatly accelerated, there is, as yet, no evidence of the recurrence of the destructive speculation in farm lands which followed the First World

So far so good. But here is Mr. Wilson's postscript:

"Farm lending authorities throughout that area, however, admit that conditions are in the making from which a speculative wave might result unless price control measures can be effective in holding farm prices at or only moderately above present levels."

#### Mortgage Survey

The department of commerce made a survey of the farm mortgage situation in 19 states where the bulk of the food production for war is being made.

The federal land banks and the Farm Credit administration which has been watching this situation like through ownership, to dictate the standards of living of the American a hawk has plenty of data. One out of every ten-or more than 100,000 -farmer-borrowers from the 12 fed-Washingtoneral land banks and land bank com **Geometric City** missioner repaid his loan in full in

1942 In the 19 states the department of commerce studied, according to the 1940 census, there were more than three million farms, more than half of all the farms in the country. Their total value is well over half the total value of farm lands in the country.

The survey of this territory, just made public, shows that in 1940, '41 and '42, indebtedness of farmers to the Farm Credit administration dropp ed a quarter of a billion dol-This includes the drouth area in Kansas, one of the states hit hardest by the drouth, 10,000 farmers got



ELMER TWITCHELL AND THE VICTORY GARDEN Elmer Twitchell issued a commu

nique today announcing that he has launched his spring Victory Garden drive again. "I never won a victory over it yet," he said sadly, "but I am going to try once more " am going to try once more

. . . "I can't give you much time," he told reporters, "I'm going over the whole situation to check up on gains as new foreign markets are opened or the United States begins to help feed a starving world. and losses in my campaigns so far, find out where I am, consolidate my forces and decide on my 1943 In some places, there is evidence tactics. of the tendency toward speculation now. Lenders in Iowa are offering

"What's your tactical position?" a reporter asked. "I'm not positive," he replied.

"This is only my second summer in the field. Last summer it was touch and go most of the way, with a pret-ty serious defeat at the finish. I

held my own until August when over-whelming forces just about ruined me." "Are you more confident of vic-tory this season?"

"I am stronger than I was a year ago. I've trained hard all winter. I've got some new weapons and I have the will to win."

"Do you intend to wage a defense or offensive war?" "I found out last summer that you can't get anywhere with a Victory Garden on the defensive. Those damned bugs love it if you stay on the defensive. That's right up their

When the administration's "Bev-eridge plan" for increased social sealley." "Don't forget," Elmer resumed, curity and post-war adjustment was made public, congress proceeded to

"that all these garden pests and blights were in a much better posimake it plain that they intended to pigeon-hole it. The general imprestion than I was when the fight start-ed. They had been doing nothing sion was that it was laid away be-cause it was too "socialistic" to suit else but waging an all-out war for years. I was green at it." the right wingers or even some of "Was it the element of surprise

that bothered you?" he was asked. "Not so much surprise as the power and determination of the enemy,' he replied. "And of course their reserves are inexhaustible. I'd lick em and think I had wiped out the last bug, and up would come an-other battalion of 'em. That sort of thing gets pretty discouraging." "Who do you think was your toughest foe?" a reporter asked.

toughest foe?" a reporter asked. "I thought General Aphis was tough early in the season but later the Mexican Bean Beetle proved harder to beat. His armored attack on bean vines is terrific. Then came the Japanese Beetle. He used heavy and is strictly a suicide tanks fighter." . . .

Elmer seemed depressed just reviewing last year's garden cam-

paign. "I threw them all back up to midsummer, but then General Cutworm attacked in force, using blitz methods. He was supported by waves of corn borers, potato bugs and snails." "How about your chemical war-

fare?" he was asked. "Oh, I gave 'em all I had, but they had too many fresh shock troops to throw in. But do you know what really broke down my morale

last season?" "No.' "The neighbors' chickens," concluded Elmer. "That was what got me. I thought they were neutral. They were Fifth Columnists!"

Add similes: As funny as New York talking about crime waves in other cities.

Ima Dodo thinks that the new Tracy-Hepburn film, "Keeper of the Flame," is a heart-stirring drama of the winter struggle with



### The Congressional Jokes:

It has been reported that House legislative leaders intend to pick a few nimble - witted Congressional sharpshooters, who would be in constant attendance during sessions-to make clay-pigeons of those who try to spread smears across the Cong. Record. It's about time. We hope their rapier-retorts will help enliven proceedings. Congressional history is crowded with swift repartee-hee-ing. Like some petty humans today, a small-time politico was once trying to make a name for himself by picking on an important American-who happened to be a Senator. The human mosquito annoyed the Senator for months, who finally slapped him into oblivion with this story: "A skunk once challenged a lion to a fight. The lion declined. When the skunk asked loudly if he was afraid, the lion said: 'Very much so. For you would only gain fame by having the honor to fight with a lion, while everyone who met me for a month would know that I had been in company with a skunk!

A lawmaker with a sensayuma once told this about himself. He sent a constituent a Cong. Record with a note stating that the Government prints and distributes speeches made by Congressmen without the slightest profit. The voter returned the note with this flip addition: "They are also read the same way!

Huey Long was called a demafilibuster. Hooey foamed at the mouth, daring his critic to define the word. Which his critic did. "A demagogue," he snapped, "is a man who can rock the boat himself and persuade everybody that there's a terrible storm at sea."

Here are some of the facts of life about Congress every citizen should know . . . Before times got too serious for such levity, a group of legislators organized a "Dema-orgues" Chub which met deily in the gogues" Club, which met daily in the House cloakroom. After a Representative made a particularly demagogic speech for home consumption, he was haled into the cloakroom, and compelled to make the speech he would like to have made. Then he was asked to repeat the club pledge: "Vote for all appropri-ations and against all taxes," and and inducted into full membership. The badge was a safety pin, worn under the coat lapel . . . Some fun, eh?

Then there's the one about the Congressman's wife who woke up in the middle of the night. "Jim," she never.'

This is one of the Congressional favorites . . . House Speaker Tom Reed had a barbed-wire tongue . . . One day one of the biggest bores in Congress got up, drooled out a lengthy diatribe and concluded by stating: "Mr. Speaker, I am like Henry Clay. I would rather be right than President!" Reed merely intoned: "Don't wor-

ry-you will never be either."

Rep. "Uncle Joe" Cannon loved to tell tall tales about his fishing. He once told a friend about a fish he caught. Trying to beat him to the punch, the chum asked: "About the size of a whale, wasn't it?" But the Congressman wasn't stoppeds "Heck, no," he replied, "I was baitin' with whales.' In 1914 the House of Representatives was evenly divided between both parties. The vote for House Speaker resulted in a tie. One independent Progressive could cast Cong. Thomas D. Schall, who was blind. He felt handicapped in not being able to judge rival candidates by seeing their faces. So he asked a newspaper man who had "an hon-est voice" for counsel. The reporter suggested that with a war going on the House Speaker should belong to the same party as the President. The blind Congressman took his suggestion-and Champ Clark be-came Speaker. In that position, Clark played one of the most vital roles in world affairs and turned the tide of history.



Kathleen Norris Says:

"Betty-Lou was not yet fourteen when she came home to breakfast one morning bedraggled and exhausted, having danced all night at the country club and various night clubs."

**By KATHLEEN NORRIS** 

T USED to be the boys who sowed the wild oats and the girls who stayed home," writes a heartbroken mother from a suburb near Toledo. "But in these days it seems to be the other way! My boys, now 24 and 20, both in the services, have been the comfort and pride of my life. Their sister, now 16, hås given her father and me infinite cause for anxiety and is now in real trouble.

"We live in a college town; Betty-Lou was not fourteen when she came in to breakfast one morning bedraggled and exhausted, having danced all night at the coun-try club and various night clubs. She had been drinking and was in a condition to horrify anyone who loved her: Only her father and I were home, and we did what we could. We reminded her, after she had had coffee, a bath and some hours of sleep, that hers is a comfortable, hospitable home, that we have always tried to give her every advantage, and that our hopes for her had been bitterly shaken by her be-havior. I was obliged to tell her that hereafter when she told me she wanted to stay with a school friend I would telephone that friend to check on the matter. But both Joe and I regarded this as the reckless-ness of a defiant child, and while we watched her carefully, we did not take this first outbreak too seriously. Now I know that it was by no means an isolated instance.

gentlest, most intelligent of parents find themselves with a child whose "That Christmas we took all the cold, hard, reckless nature is a comning she and a boy of 21 disap-peared; next morning, after a night

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON aased by Western Newspaper U. MENTAL AILMENTS There are ailments in which the patient recovers more rapidly in a spital than in the home and others in which the home surroundings are best suited for rapid recovery. This means

TO YOUR

in some cases that there is something about the change to hospital life from home life that begets contentment and relaxation, and in other cases the "naturalness" of the home life reduces feelings of fear, anxiety or misgivings Dr. Barton about outcome of ail

ments What about slight mental ail-

nents? At first thought it would seem that a patient suffering with mental depression, obsessions, anxiety, should recover more rapidly amid home surroundings. On second thought, however, the very nature of the home life with its deadly daily routine, quiet or noisy, the overanxiety family about the patient or on of the the other hand the feeling that there is nothing wrong with him (or her) and that kindness would be a mistake, interferes with recovery.

Trying to prevent neighbors knowing or guessing that the patient is a "mental" case also puts a strain on family and patient.

Doctors D. M. Hamilton and J. H. Wall in the American Journal of Psychiatry report the results in the treatment of 100 patients in hospital instead of the home. Treatment was given at the Westchester divi-sion of the New York hospital.

As with the majority of this type of mental ailments most of these patients were above the average in intelligence, the majority had graduated from college and some were engaged in professions. The outstanding symptoms in the order in which they occurred were tenseness, depression, anxiety, obsessions and compulsions, hypochondriasis (per-sisting in believing he has ailments despite evidence that he has not), weakness and fear of insanity.

The hospital treatment consisted mainly of interviews with the patient and supervision of his daily

activities to fit his needs and abilities. The average length of hospital stay was 8½ months. A followup study, four to 14 years after this hospital treatment, showed 46 completely recovered, five much improved, 17 improved, making a to-tal of 68 of the 100 who had benefited by the treatment. These were not insane patients, but patients who were not properly balanced.

## Symptoms of

## **Angina** Pectoris

When a pain occurs in the region of the heart, it is only natural for the individual to fear heart dis-ease, because heart disease does cause pain in and near the heart region, especially under the breast hone

What is called angina pectoris-viselike gripping pain in the chest-This is a sad letter, and all the sadder to me because I know of no Sometimes the kindest, may or may not be a symptom of most intelligent of parents real or organic heart disease, but the patient should know what angina pectoris is and learn not to be afraid of "sudden death."

plete mystery and often completely inefficient parents have sons and In the Canadian Medical Associadaughters who are the greatest pride tion Journal, Prof. John A. Oille, and honor to them. I know of one Toronto, points out some of the outfine young lawyer, upright and in- standing characteristics of angina. telligent and successful, whose mother deserted him and ran off about one to 30 minutes, averaging with a lover, when he was only about one to 30 minutes, averaging about three minutes. The pain is three, and whose father then made continuous and is not a little stab continuous and is not a little stab a most unfortunate marriage, which ended in his being taken away from and goes for about 15 minutes. Pains the custody of his own people. And lasting for hours or days are too I know a brother and sister, both long for angina. married now, both parents, both un-Pains that have been coming daily usually fine persons, whose mother's for months or years are coming too life was an actual scandal, the chil- often for coronary thrombosis (corodren themselves having been nary occlusion) and are likely due to arthritis in joints of spine. to testify in a particularly unsavory "Angina is a 'wave' of pain and is never a shoot, a stab or a prick. And on the other hand there are Angina is always the same kind of many cases like that of Betty-Lou, pain in the same patient; that is, it a young girl with every advantage is never a sharp stab followed by a of background and cultivation, dull ache." who seems determined to ruin her In heart In heart disease, such as coronary own life and the happiness of those thrombosis, the pain may and often does come on while at rest or dur-Affection and patience are the ing sleep, whereas in angina the only cure, as far as her parents are concerned. They must go on loving her, forgiving her, trying to help actly what the patient is doing at And that awakening may not come until she has learned a bitter les-until she has learned a bitter les-Our town had a Betty-Lou when I the pain comes on only in 'walking' was a girl. A fluffy-headed little beauty named Bessy, who laughed at the prudishness and dullness of

children east to my mother's place, and there was a dance among the cousins to which I permitted Betty-Lou to go; she had her first formal evening dress and was much petted and praised. At the end of the eve-

IN VAIN REGRET The grief-stricken mother who writes this letter is faced with an alarming problem. Her young daughter, who has had all the

advantages of a good home and devoted parents, has grown wild, unreasonable and headstrong. Without a doubt she is doomed to the greatest misery, once her little "fling" is over, unless some-thing can be done to keep her from wasting her precious youth, then spending the rest of her hopeless life in vain regret.

In what way have we failed her? We are not church members, but Betty-Lou and her brothers went to Sunday School when they were small, and every lesson in honesty, integrity, self-control that the boys have had she has had, too. She must be a throw-back to some ancestor of whom we are ignorant, for both my husband's people and mine

have always been law-abiding, gen-tle, good men and women. Must I let this child go on until she does something that destroys her chances of happiness forever? How can I save her from herself? You must have handled cases as desperate as this one, and must be able to under-stand that, as far as we know, she

way. What shall we do?"

answer.

suit.

has no excuse for treating us this

Many Girls Ruin Own Lives.

the other girls' lives, and boasted

of her conquests when the rest of us were begging the virtuous mothers

of the nineties please to let us wear

corsets and put up our hair. Bessy

got into an escapade with a mar-ried man when she was 17, had a

out of debt and Kansas borrowers kept right on paying until they had deposited a million dollars in the "future payment fund" to anticipate labor installments. Similar statistics

Could be reeled off for other areas. One thing that has helped the debt payment is the inability to get into further debt-for automobiles and other commodities which just aren't for sale.

Will that memory fade? Will the farmer's money begin to burn a hole in his pocket? Will those green pas-tures just over the hill begin to lure him beyond his means?

As I said, the cautious folk in Washington are a little worried. These are some of the danger signals they see: A possible rise in values which

cannot be exactly predicted or ex-plained. But which is always a pos-sibility, if not now, after the war. Then there will be an accumulation of cash; there will be a lot of war bonds in the safe deposit box or in the old sock. There will be a lot of sky young sons returning from the whom fathers will want to buy farms, there will be perhaps an increased demand for farm products sons in human geometry

offices; the sprawling Pentagon building of the army, "a city with a roof over it."

Larry Singer thinks some con-With this in mind, I was suddenly gressmen who turned down the impressed with the new patterns im-Ruml plan thought they were voting against Rommel. posed on Washington since the war, the human figures, two of which I watched over my lunch in a restau-rant the other day. At the next table were, not circles nor squares but human loops and bulges.

We

R. Roelofs Jr. wants to know if you remember away back when antipasto included a sardine? And when you could get a radio repaired?

Can You Remember-Away back when you could walk

right past a food display in a store window without looking?

"M. G." suggests as his own beverage plan: Free beer and pretzels from the cradle to the grave.

Hi-

Remember away back when the vall was "all meat and no wail was potatoes"?

W. B. FERIOLA.

E. Arcy nominates for the civilian "E Award" Onvald Killuff who after 30 years experimenting has evolved a method of baking an apple pie without seeds or bits of core in it.

"Hitler's mental trouble has passed the phase where it could only be recognized by specialists. It is now obvious to the layman."-Swiss dis-

Whaddaya mean by "now"!

A Guernsey heifer on a farm in Elms-wood, N. Y., suddenly stopped contented grazing, tore across the field and dove into a meinming pool. Such behavior is hard to explain. But we must remember that a cow can't get into the headlines today by mere-by doing the things mother used to do.

Contrary to popular belief, most Congressmen don't like to have the power of giving political jobs. Through bitter experience a Con-gressional maxim has evolved: "Every political appointment means one ingrate and a dozen enemies."

No column of legislative anecdotes would be complete without the classic about the tot who visited the House of Representatives with his father. The youngster pointed to a man standing on the dais and asked who he was . . . The father ex-plained he was the chaplain of the House . . . "Does he pray for the members?" the child asked with logical reasoning. The father informed: "No, my

son. When he sees the members sitting there—he prays for the coun-try!"

of horror for us, they were found at a Baltimore hotel; the boy asleep in a chair in the lobby, Betty-Lou and another girl, a girl they had picked up at some night club, asleep upstairs.

#### Exnelled From School.

"When we came back we tried boarding-school, but last November, in her third half-term there, she was quietly dropped for repeatedly breaking bounds and disappearing for hours at a time.

"This Christmas-time her behavior was so reckless that night after night her father and I lay awake waiting to hear her return from various entertainments, sometimes at two or three o'clock, and sometimes in a state that showed us she had been drinking. Threats are no use; we cannot seem to reach her soul or heart at all. Yet ours is a good home, and we have always tried to keep about her decent and developing influences. "Last night a young marine, 20

years old, called on my husband and me and said that he was 'willing' to marry our daughter if we wished it. Betty-Lou was at a movie with some young friends; we could only gather, from this young man's talk, that he felt obliged to make this suggestion. When Betty-Lou came in she denied everything, said that the boy was romancing, and that she wouldn't marry him under any circumstances. ' But his serious apologetic manner made a terrible impression on both Joe and myself. "Now, what are we to do? Here

bad scare and quieted down for stomach? awhile, married in haste at 19, was A.-You is this girl, not yet 17, who knows neither law nor affection, who is as hard as flint, and who is going to go contemporaries were blissfully con-her own way no matter what we do. sidering their first marital venture.

## QUESTION BOX

Q.-Is cancer contagious? A.-Fortunately cancer is not contagious; there is no need to worry. Q.-What are the symptoms and what is the treatment for a fallen

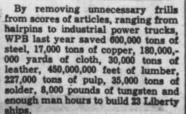
A .- Your best plan would be to divorced two years later, surrender-ing her little boy to his father, and married again at about the time her not only as to the position of the not only as to the position of the stomach, etc., but give other valua-ble information. A supporting belt helps most cases.

# patch.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

a sweet.

The personnel section of the Japa-ese ministry of commerce has prepared a set of "laws of etiquette" which is to be distributed to Japaficialdom throughout occupied uria. The "laws" cover such ils as "posture, attitude, salute, orific address and address to subrific address and address to sub-nates." The manner of one's seanor at meals and the manner instanting are detailed.



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