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'WHAT GOES UP—'

Land Prices Soar

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Is speculative ownership of land becoming the "No. 1 Enemy" of future farm prosperity? Are land prices due to tumble as they did after World War I? Will the cost of land go so high that the farmer cannot make a profit? These are questions that are being asked from California to Maine.

Land prices have already soared 71 per cent above the 1935-39 averages. They are approaching the boom levels that followed World War I. Many bankers are frankly worried lest the crash and deflation of the early 1920s be repeated.

Government figures show farm land prices during World War II more than doubled in Indiana, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Colorado and Wyoming.

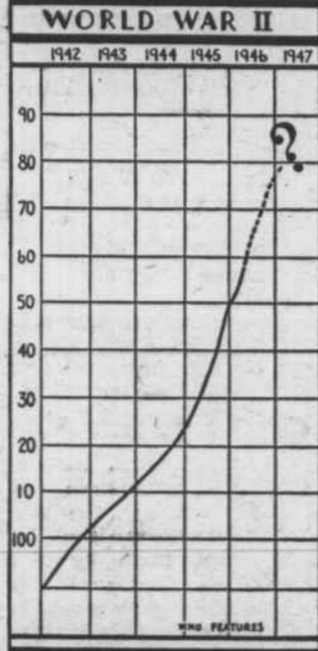
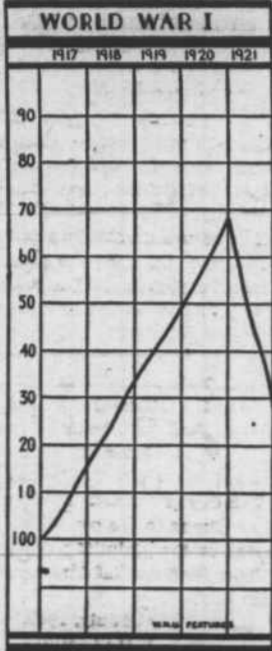
Increase of more than 90 per cent have been recorded in Ohio, Michigan, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas and Montana. For the country as a whole, farm real estate values have jumped 13 per cent in the past year.

From the beginning of World War I to the inflation peak in 1920, land prices jumped 70 per cent. Prices at the start of World War II were lower than in 1914, but the increase this time is already 71 per cent, although the actual prices are not yet at the 1920 peak.

Higher Land, Less Profit. Farm sales are continuing at the high level they attained during 1945. The number of farms resold after a limited period of ownership has increased, indicating speculation.

Farmers who have a "yen" to acquire additional acreage, says a statement by the Middle West Soil Improvement committee, should bear in mind that the higher the cost of land goes, the harder it is to show a profit, even at present prices received for crops.

"With sons home from the war



LAND PRICES . . . Went up during and after World War I—and then came tumbling down. Prices have not gone as high in World War II as before, but they are soaring. These charts show same trend as in 1914 to 1920.

and with more and better farm machinery in immediate prospect, many farmers figure it would be a profitable move to work much more land than heretofore," the statement points out. "If they will remember the bitter aftermath of World War I's land boom, when food prices were even higher than they are today, they will see the hazards of such a move.

"Sooner or later the present world food emergency will be solved and the mammoth demand for American food products will end. Then American farmers will have to compete in world markets. The only way they can do this successfully is to produce crops at a lower cost per unit. In such a program, the steady use of fertilizer containing nitrogen,

phosphorus and potash will be a major factor. More bushels per acre can, and will, mean more food from less land.

Increase Yields, Not Acres. "The wise farmer will be the one who does not buy more land, but who increases the crop-yielding capacity of his present acreage by soil improvement measures. He will study the most practical uses of plant food. He will consult agronomists at state college and agricultural stations for the most effective methods of fertilizer application, the analyses best suited to his particular soil and crop conditions and the quantities to use."

This advice to farmers to improve their present holdings rather than to acquire greater acreage, was corroborated by the committee on farm land prices of the American Bankers association which urged member banks to admonish would-be farm buyers "go slow" to discourage borrowing to speculate in farm lands, and to tell veterans of "the hazards inherent in excessive land prices."

"Country bankers," a committee spokesman said, "are fully cognizant of the dangers inherent in the present farm land price situation. They are urging farm owners now to reduce their debt and to plan savings for farm improvement during these years of high income, because when conditions return to normal and American agriculture is in competition with other countries for world markets, it is probable that farm earnings will not support prices at current levels."

INFANTILE PARALYSIS

No Community Is Safe From Polio Epidemic

Areas that have been free of infantile paralysis outbreaks for a number of years may be more vulnerable to the disease than those with recent epidemic experience, Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general of the U. S. public health service, recently stated.

Discussing "cycles of epidemics" in the June issue of *Hospitals* magazine, official publication of the American Hospital Association, Dr. Parran said such theorizing had no scientific basis but was founded on presumptive evidence, adding:

"Many observers have theorized that as an epidemic spreads throughout the community, it reduces the number of susceptible individuals to a point where the epidemic can no longer maintain itself. Until a new group of potential victims grow up, which may be from four to six years, that community should be less vulnerable to attack."

Dr. Parran said there was danger in "relying too strongly on this theory" since recently exposed areas may be "lulled into a feeling of false security" while localities which have been free of the disease for several years "may become unduly alarmed."

"The safest procedure by far," he advised, "is for all communities to prepare for epidemics."

Dr. Parran's article in the AHA magazine was one of 10 on infantile paralysis timed to reach more than 3,500 member hospitals throughout the country before onset of the polio epidemic season, usually ranging from late June to September.

The other articles provide information on methods of treatment, organization of community resources, the key position of the general hospital in the over-all care of poliomyelitis patients, and the role of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in financing polio treatment at general hospitals.

Dr. Parran said that all communities should inventory their facilities

for the treatment of polio, including hospitals which normally do not accept patients suffering with contagious diseases, and he added: "Such pre-epidemic planning is necessary if adequate care is to be given to all who contract the disease. Under the guidance of those officials charged with the community's health and with the substantial support of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and its local chapters, every community in the United States can be prepared to meet epidemics of poliomyelitis without fear or panic."

Woman Has Churned 10 Tons of Butter

EVERTON, MO. — Mrs. Gala O. Fletcher of Everton, by actual account kept in an old ledger, has churned 21,000 pounds of butter by hand in an old-fashioned brass-bound churn in her 78 years. She explains that she has been churning butter since she was four years old when she had to stand on a wooden box to grasp the dasher handle.

"It would be quite a lake if all the cream I have churned should flow into one pool," she said recently.

The churn she uses is a century old and she has worn out many a home-made dasher in it. She keeps the cream only a short time before she churns it so that the butter she makes will be sweet. After the butter is churned she places it in a large earthen crock which has been sunning for several hours. Then she starts working it with a circular movement, using a flat wooden paddle. That works the milk from the butter in about 10 minutes. She puts the butter away for several hours and then works it again to get out the last of the milk drops. The finished butter is a golden ball.

In order to have the best butter-milk, Mrs. Fletcher leaves flakes of butter floating in it. After 75 years' experience she believes she understands all phases of butter making.

Contentment among cows is as important to good butter as the right kind of feed, she believes.



Innocent Bystander:

The Cinemagicians: Fred MacMurray lights the fuse for a sure-fire-cracker christened "Smoky." The outdoor de luxe has Mother Nature as Fred's leading lady. . . . "The Searching Wind" went from footlights to kleig lights and remains a provocative humdinger. It digs beneath the surface of current issues and comes up with a dramatic gusher. Sylvia Sydney heads the trouper-dupers. . . . "Diary of a Chambermaid" is an adult boy-girl opus, highlighted by keen character studies and crisp dialogue that has plenty of spin on its phrases. Paulette Goddard keeps it twirling. . . . "The Hoodlum Saint" offers a sprightly meller gifted with Bill Powell's urbane pretending and Esther Williams' natural hipnotic gift.

The Press Box: Thomas B. Sherman in the St. Louis P-D spansks W. Lippmann and other tall-domed thinkers for using the annoying word combination "know-how." We don't like it either, know-how. . . . William S. Hart's passing received appropriate adieologies, one editorial concluding: "There will never be another Bill Hart. The background is faded and the type is dated, but the memory is still green and fresh."

Quotation Marksmanship: T. Fuller: If you'd have a hen lay, you must bear with her cackling. . . . Old Russian Adage: Wounds heal but harsh words stay in the heart and mind. . . . J. Baker: The guests were all having an uncocking good time. . . . J. Ellinson: He's always coming a phrase. . . . Ida James: I hope the atom test isn't the Biking of the End. . . . J. Gart: The British seem to be more interested in getting the Grand Muffi to Palestine than The Hundred Grand who belong there. . . . J. Cannon: Louis is a credit to his race. The human race, of course. . . . E. Cuneo: I would gladly change the orchids I don't. . . . G. J. Nathan: Men go to the theater to forget; women, to remember.

Jimmy Gardner, the play-producer, told this at Leone's the other night. During the war he was visited by a wealthy neighbor from Texas, an aging woman who had an overpowering yen for the perfect string of pearls. Gardner recommended Cartier's. . . . There she was served by a young clerk who mistook her unpossessing appearance for poverty and showed her the lowest-priced strings. . . . She demanded better ones until the store's stock was exhausted and only the vault remained. She insisted on going into it. . . . The clerk pulled out their finest pearls and showed them to her. It was just what she was looking for. She asked how much. . . . "The price," said the clerk haughtily, "is \$500,000." . . . "I'll take it," said the woman, opening her purse and extracting a half-million dollars in cash! . . . The clerk keeled over with a heart attack.

Norman Granz recently produced a jazz concert at Carnegie Hall. It sold out. . . . Norman was once engaged to a Southern society gal named Virginia. He was so in love with Virginia that he christened the theme song of the concert: "Love You Virginia Blues." . . . But, alas, Virginia, who never hung around back stage before, changed fellers—from Norman to a hot jazz man in the crew. . . . She returned his ring. . . . And now, sobelplus, as the curtain comes down on each concert an announcer introduces the newly titled theme song, to wit: "Drop Dead Virginia Blues."

Torrid temperatures turning the town into a stone and steel Sahara. . . . Flimsy gowns clinging to trim torsos—as though they loved them. . . . Weary salesmen scurrying into the foyers of Broadway's air-cooled movie places. . . . The silken rustle of luxury in swanky spots, where the ladies are chin-deep in ermine. . . . Sidewalk cafes in the Gramercy Park sector and in the 40s and 50s between 5th and the AoftheA. The most attractive is the one outside the St. Moritz Hotel. When the monster motors of the buses stop growling at 59th you can hear the tinkle of the Cafe de la Paix ice cubes.

The geyser of chatter and giggles in ice-cream places—the teenager's Stork Club. . . . The sweltering cablie who groans: "In this weather just breathing is hard work!" . . . Tenement youngsters using sea-bitten docks as their personal diving boards.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

New Republic Born on July 4 as Philippines Are Freed; OPA and Atomic Bomb Are Still Debated

Released by Western Newspaper Union. (EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



BOMB RESULT . . . Pictured is the heavy cruiser USS Pensacola with her superstructure damaged by the atomic bomb in Bikini lagoon.

WARSHIPS:

Safe From Atom?

Ships cannot be built with steel thick enough to protect their crews from the terrific lethal radiation of a close atomic explosion, Col. Stafford Warren, Bikini safety officer, has declared after an inspection. Some of the 73 target vessels remained dangerously radioactive even a week after the atomic bomb, he declared, after the ball-of-fire blast sank five, heavily damaged nine and affected 59 warships. Radiation released by the bomb was "terrific," Colonel Warren told newsmen.

Colonel Warren believes that if the target fleet had been manned, the blast would have rendered it helpless, since "many not killed by the blast would have been unable to carry on their duties because of illness from radiation," quoting Captain George Lyon also of the safety staff.

OPA ENDS:

Lid Is Off

When President Truman vetoed the OPA extension bill, declaring it was not a true "price-control" measure, the house of representatives passed a resolution extending OPA for a 30-day period. Then the senate balked. Result: No OPA.

The reaction was immediate in cattle, hogs, grain and dairy products. Prime cattle shot up to \$22 a hundred pounds on the Chicago market for an all-time high within hours. Two-dollar wheat was seen for the first time since 1925. Milk went up about 2 cents a quart. Women in Washington, D. C., reported butter at 94 cents a pound.

Many merchants all over the United States, however, pledged a hold-the-line policy. In a few cases, prices were lowered to "start healthy competition." But generally prices began moving up, despite President Truman's appeal to hold down inflation until a new price control bill could be passed by the congress.

In view of the situation, Senate Majority Leader Barkley warned that two or three weeks probably would be required to get even a temporary continuation resolution through the senate. The 20-day extension passed by the house will have passed before then. The majority leader told President Truman the senate would attempt to work out a permanent law instead of a temporary makeshift.

ATOM BOMB:

Results Are Argued

The wrath of the atomic bomb was unleashed, but goats kept on eating, palm trees waved their fronds, and birds still flew over Bikini lagoon. To many eye-witnesses the pyrotechnic display was colorful and gorgeous, to others the whole show was a dud. Arguments have already started and will continue for weeks and months, or even years. Is atomic energy so frightful as we supposed? Is the modern battle-wagon still mistress of the seas?

But five ships were sunk, 6 were wrecked, 25 were badly damaged, and possibly all the rest of 73 in the naval fleet bear scars. However, not a capital ship was sunk by the atomic blast, although havoc wrought by the bomb's might was evident on every hand. Fires raged aboard at least eight of the vessels, including one ship two miles from the target center. Vice Adm. William H. F.

Blundy, task force commander, says there is no reason to believe the day of the carrier and destroyer is done. So the navy isn't convinced that the atomic bomb has put it out of business.

PEACE:

Parley July 29

Vyacheslav M. Molotov, the Soviet foreign minister, finally agreed to a general peace conference, being privately persuaded by Secretary of State Byrnes to stop postponing the actual date. A general peace conference of 21 nations will be held in Paris beginning July 29.

Delegates of the invited powers will assemble in Paris to make peace as they made war. They will sit throughout the month of August to perfect the peace treaties with Italy, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Finland—all former Axis satellites.

STRIKES:

If Prices Rise

Even if inflation comes, workers must eat. That is the gist of labor unions' comment. "Employers failed to keep their word, and so did the government. We are no longer bound to keep our word not to strike."

Blaming the house and senate for not holding the line on prices, many labor leaders have indicated that if prices go up—and prices are going up—then demands for increases in wages will come. And if those demands aren't met there will be strikes.

HOBBS' BILL:

Restricts Labor

Although he signed the Hobbs bill, which applies heavy federal anti-racketeering penalties to labor unions, President Truman attempted to safeguard legitimate rights of organized labor by a simultaneous message to congress limiting the impact of the law. The message stated that the President signed the act only on the understanding, asserted by Attorney General Clark, that the law would not molest "the great legislative safeguards which the congress has established for the protection of labor in the exercise of its fundamental rights."

FOURTH OF JULY:

New Republic Born

A crowd of 100,000 packed the greensward of the historic Luneta in Manila on July 4 and faced the grandstand where 3,000 special guests and notables had gathered. Gen. Douglas MacArthur was there; so was Paul V. McNutt, now U. S. ambassador to a new republic. The occasion was the birth of a new republic, when the Philippine Islands, a territory of the United States, became the Republic of the Philippines. The first president of the new nation is Manuel Roxas, who paid a tribute to the United States.

"We are no longer protected by the mantle of American sovereignty," Roxas warned. "No longer can we look to America to shield us from our follies and excesses."

But in Washington, President Truman said: "The United States stands ready to assist the Philippines in every way possible during the years to come."

The Stars and Stripes, which have flown for nearly half a century over the Pacific island group, was hauled down. The silver-starred flag of the Republic of the Philippines was run up as church bells rang out. A new nation was born on July 4, 1946.

\$2.50 CURE:

Hyperthyroidism

It used to cost \$150 for a surgical operation to cure hyperthyroidism, but there is now a cure costing only \$2.50, contained in a drink of water. That is what Dr. Earle M. Chapman of the Massachusetts General hospital, Boston, told the American Medical association meeting in San Francisco recently.

The curative agent is a tiny pinch of radio-iodine, one of the atomic medicines. It is not new, having been used experimentally for years. But the new thing about it is that it has been accepted by doctors of medicine in place of the more expensive and more serious surgical process. Atomic ovens can produce the cyclotron product inexpensively and it should become plentiful shortly, said Dr. Chapman.

TAX RISE:

If Prices Soar

In Washington, John W. Snyder, secretary of the treasury, told a news conference that an increase in tax rates may be asked by the administration next year if there is sharp inflation in prices following the ending of OPA. The additional tax would be levied on individuals and corporations when congress meets after the first of next year. Mr. Snyder gave flat assurance, however, that the administration would propose no new tax levies during 1946.

The U. S. treasury, Mr. Snyder stated, had over 16 billion dollars cash balance, but has temporarily halted its program of retiring the public debt through cash redemption of maturing securities. To redeem these securities now would add to buying pressure. The treasury has taken this step, it was learned, as an anti-inflationary step.

Mr. Snyder clung to his promise, given upon taking office a few weeks ago, that he would "try hard" to balance the 1947 budget. But he added that "we're going to have pretty tough sledding" to achieve the goal because there have been "elements injected into the picture we weren't looking for."

SCRAP PLANES:

Sell for Less

Airplanes cost a lot of money when they are new, but when the government sells the scrap the price is down. For \$3,900,000 worth of scrap war planes the government received apparent high bids totaling \$6,582,156, or some three billion dollars less than cost.

Sale of these scrap planes will virtually clean out such government aircraft, except for another 13 million to 18 million pounds of aluminum scrap now in Hawaii to be sold in August.

The surplus bombers, fighters and other tactical ships sold for scrap are located at five air fields in the United States. The fields will be leased to buyers for \$1 per year while scrapping operations are in progress.

HOMES:

406,000 Started

Wilson W. Wyatt, national housing expediter, is confident that the 1946 goal of 1,200,000 housing units will be met. He has also reported that 406,000 dwelling units have been started so far this year, this figure representing approximately 34 per cent of the goal.

The housing expediter, in his first report to the nation on the housing program, said that "prices for new homes and rentals are still too high to fit the purses of many veterans." He called for the erection of more rental housing and promised that all construction will be carefully inspected to insure both good quality and fair prices.

He strongly implied that unless price controls are restored the veteran, more than anyone else, will be the victim of the housing situation.

CONGRESS:

Tribute to FDR

The late Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt was brave, steadfast and a man who "saw the facts and faced them," said John G. Winant, former ambassador to Great Britain, who spoke at the solemn service on July 1 when President Truman and members of the congress paid tribute to the departed leader's memory.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR's widow, attired severely in black, sat directly behind Mr. Truman. With her were Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy in World War I, her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt.

Winant concluded his tribute with these words:

"God give us heart and will to take this nation forward as he meant to take it to a new, more daring future, a new world of peace."