

IN WASHINGTON
WHAT IS TAKING PLACE BY

As Thanksgiving Day has become an occasion for thanks for individual benefits and blessings, Independence Day has become a time for stock-taking of national gains and losses. Keeping in mind that it was the men from the farms who turned back the redcoats and gave America its freedom, it seems proper now to consider the status of the farmer today in our country's march of progress. And to do so clearly shows that while the economic position of farmers generally has been considerably improved, the men and women who till the soil have not shared equally in the general advances of our people.

This is becoming more and more evident to the members of Congress concerned with the welfare of rural America and is certain to mean a general speeding-up of legislation designed to help the farmer. Pending farm-tenancy legislation is a case in point. Other important measures may be expected to have more attention in the months ahead.

Striking figures with reference to the general farm situation were recently submitted to Congress and are worthy of the attention of those concerned with the farm problem. To quote:

"The movement of population from the farm to the city indicates the decreasing attractiveness of farm life. In the last 25 years, while the Nation's population grew nearly 40 per cent and while the per cent of the national land area included in farms rose from 46.2 per cent to 55.4 per cent, the farm population actually declined. In 1910 it was estimated at slightly more than 32,000,000. In 1929 it had fallen to 30,257,000. In spite of the distress in the cities during the depression, the farm population in 1935 was only 31,800,000—more than 200,000 less than the estimate in 1910. This decline took place in spite of the fact that the annual excess of births over deaths on the farm is from 400,000 to 500,000 a year. According to the Bureau of Agriculture Economics, there was a net migration of 6,296,000 persons from the farm to the city between 1920 and 1929.

"Although during the depression many families went back to the land in an effort to raise at least their own subsistence, the exodus from the farm continued from 1930 to 1935 to such an extent that 984,000 more people left the farm than went to it. The existence of abandoned farms and the general shortage of labor on farms in cultivation are witness to the fact that although the improvement of farm machinery may have diminished the need for manpower it is not primarily responsible for this migration.

"The difficulty of success in farming in recent years has been primarily responsible. From 1850 to 1929 the average value per acre of farm land and buildings steadily increased. Thereafter, however, it declined precipitously. In 1910 it was \$39.60 per acre. In 1920, after the wartime boom, it was \$69.38. By 1925 it had fallen to \$53.52, and by 1930 to \$48.52. In 1935 it was \$31.16—appreciably less than in 1910. Not only was the value per acre less but the total value of farm land and buildings in 1935 was \$32,858,000,000 as compared with \$34,801,000,000 in 1910. This decrease in the total value of farm property took place in spite of the fact that during this period the proportion of the total national land area devoted to farming increased by 9.2 per cent. So far as the Commission is aware, no other major national economic activity operates today with a smaller capital than in 1910.

"Not only has the capital devoted to farming been partly eaten away but the farmer owns an ever-smaller share of that capital. In 1900, 23.2 per cent of the total farm acreage was operated by tenants. In 1925, the figure had risen to 28.6 per cent and in 1935 to 31.9 per cent. The number of farm tenants grew by more than 200,000 between 1930 and 1935 and stood at 2,865,000 on the latter date."

Tomato fruit worms have destroyed about half of what appeared to be a large crop of tomatoes in Wayne County, reported A. S. Knowles, assistant farm agent.

WHAT'S WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question No. 5: My husband just died. He was a baker. He was 45 years old. His employer deducted social security taxes from his wages. Do I have anything coming to me under the law?

Answer No. 5: From the information you give it would seem you have. The Social Security Board has prepared simple claims forms to be filed by widows who believe they have a claim for a lump-sum payment under the Social Security Act. If you will call at the Social Security Board office in Raleigh every assistance will be given you in filing your claim.

Question No. 6: I am a college student and intend to take a position with a bath house company as a life guard at a summer resort during vacation. Do I come under the Social Security law?

Answer No. 6: You do. You should apply for a Social Security Account Number and give the number—but, keep your card—to your employer. The wages you earn this summer will go to your credit on your wage record kept by the Social Security Board and count toward future benefits.

Question No. 7: I am a carpenter, 64 years old, and I want to know what I will get out of the Social Security Act?

Answer No. 7: It is assumed you mean to ask whether you will receive any money under the old-age benefits provisions of the law. You will receive, when you reach 65, and file a claim, a lump-sum payment amounting to 3 1/2 per cent of your wages, up to \$3,000 a year from one employer, after December 31, 1936, and prior to the time you become 65.

Question No. 8: I am resident manager of an apartment house. I receive no money but I get the use of an apartment, rent free. Do I come under the Social Security law and does the apartment house owner have to pay taxes for me?

Answer No. 8: You are an employed person within the meaning and scope of the Social Security Act. You must apply for a Social Security Account Number, on Form SS-5, which can be obtained from your nearest post office or from the Social Security Board office in Raleigh. The Treasury Department has ruled that the rental value of an apartment comprises wages. Within the meaning of the Act, in such cases as yours, your employer is responsible for collecting one per cent of your wages and paying it to the Collector of Internal Revenue. He must also pay, as your employer, one per cent of the amount of your wages under the tax provisions of Title VIII of the Act.

Question No. 9: I have been working for the R & W Grocery Company and my Social Security Number is 469-08-3643. I am going to work for another company. Do I have to get another number?

Answer No. 9: No. Keep your account number card but give your account number to your new employer. The same number is good no matter how many persons you work for.

Question No. 10: My employer says the Social Security Board requires him to report my religion and what union I belong to. Is that right?

Answer No. 10: No. The Social Security Board has warned employers against circulating such unauthorized questionnaires among their employees. If you will write or telephone the name of your employer to the Social Security Board office in Raleigh, an effort will be made to correct your employer's misunderstanding.

Question No. 11: My employer says he has to keep my Social Security account number card. Can he do that?

Answer No. 11: No. An employer may not keep the account card of an employee. He must give it to the employee, although the employer must keep a record of the number so he can make the reports required of him by the United States Treasury.

Question No. 12: I am a nurse employed in a dentist's office, but he says he does not come under the Social Security law and I do not have to have a security account card. Is that so?

Answer No. 12: No. A dentist, engaged in private practice of his profession is an employer, within the scope of the Social Security Act, when he employs a nurse, or anyone else for any work in the course of his business. He must get an employer's identification number. For this he should get Form SS-4 from the nearest post office or Social Security Board Field Office and file it immediately. You should file immediately for an employee's account number, using Form SS-5, which you can get from your post office or your nearest Social

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Security Board Field office. Make your number known to your employer.

Question No. 13: Does the Social Security law apply to persons under 21 years of age who are employed in covered occupations?

Answer No. 13: Yes. Question No. 14: I am just opening up a new business. Do I have to apply for an employer's identification number?

Answer No. 14: Yes. Question No. 15: I have just received my copy of Form SS-2a. I have several employees who do not have account numbers. What am I required to do?

Answer No. 15: First, ask each employee if he ever has filed an application for an account number. Any employee who has not applied for a number—using Form SS-5—should do so at once. Application form can be got from your post office or nearest Social Security Board Field Office. Second, employees who have applied, but have not received a number, should file again—using Form SS-5, paying particular attention to question 14 on that form. When they get their numbers they should make them known to you so that you can make your informational returns to the Treasury.

Question No. 16: I am the president of a company which promotes entertainment for church bazaars and other organizations during the summer months. In setting up the paraphernalia we employ local labor on an hourly basis. Some employees only work two or three hours. Do we have to deduct taxes from their wages and file returns for these temporary employees?

Answer No. 16: You do. The application of the Social Security Act and the liability of the employer to deduct and pay taxes under its provisions does not in any way depend on the length of time a worker is employed nor how little he may be paid.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

by REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

God Provides a Leader. Lesson for July 11th Exodus 3:1-12.

Golden Text: Exodus 3:10. Moses is one of the towering giants of the Biblical story. In a sense he was the nation's founder. How versatile he was! We revere him not simply as the nation's deliverer, but also as its law-giver, judge, ruler and prophet.

Who can forget the loving solicitude of his mother? To save him from the destroyer she hid him three months, and then placed him in an ark of bulrushes where he was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter and adopted into the royal court.

But he did not forget his people. In his zeal for their welfare he quarreled with and murdered an Egyptian, and so had to flee into the wilderness of Midian. There he lived a secure, happy life. But God called him from his domestic quiet to heroic service. Our lesson, the spectacular story of the burning bush, furnishes the key to the career of Moses. "When the great idea came," says George A. Gordon, "it took him and turned him from a local character into a world character." Note his reluctance and objections. We do not love him the less for his hesitation. He knew what was in store for him.

And how bravely he met the crucial tests that awaited him! Scorned by Pharaoh, blamed by his own people, apparently deserted by God Himself, he seemed doomed to hopeless defeat. No wonder he lost his patience. But how magnificently he persevered to the end of that long and troubled wilderness pilgrimage! His strength was as granite. And at last he brought his people to their desired haven, the Promised Land which he himself, through the irony of fate, was not permitted to enter. The most moving scene in that little Negro play of the Bible, "The Green Pastures," is



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STUDY STRANGE DREAMS

Read how the curiosity of scientists has been aroused by weird performances of girls in jungle temples. One of many fascinating illustrated stories in the American Weekly (issue of July 11). The magazine is distributed regularly with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN. 7-9-11

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