

Today and Tomorrow by DON ROBINSON

DECENTRALIZATION . . . U. S.

Ever since the war ended I have heard a lot of talk about decentralization.

There are many industrial executives, government leaders, economists and social reformers who think that it is of vital importance to our nation's well-being to eliminate big cities.

Some are interested in decentralization from the viewpoint of happier, healthier living for more people.

Others feel that industry could produce goods more efficiently and more economically if factories were spread around the nation instead of concentrated in a few areas.

And still others, who are familiar with government problems, say that cities, when they become too big, cannot be governed properly or honestly.

Those are the broad aspects of decentralization. From the more personal angle, there seems to be a growing and more and more obvious desire among city people to get away from the crowds—to live where they can more fully express their individuality and have less of the feeling of being a small cog in a big machine.

Psychologists are fully supporting this new trend. They say that the city life is not normal—that the average human being is not mentally equipped to keep up with the pace, the nervous reaction and competitive strain which city life demands.

MAXIMUM 100,000

The ultimate goal of one group which is working on the problem of decentralization is to have no city in our country of over 100,000 population.

Although this would involve almost insurmountable changes in our present setup, it would not mean that as many people would be moved to new areas as it might seem.

For at the present time 71% of the people already live in cities or towns of under 100,000 population. According to the last census, 17% live in 14 cities of over 500,000 population, 6% live in 23 cities of from 250,000 to 500,000, and another 6% live in 55 cities of between 100,000 and 250,000 population.

Thus less than 100 cities are the target of the plans of the decentralizers, and most of them would be well-satisfied if they could somehow reach their first goal of breaking up those 14 cities of over 500,000.

There are two arguments which make this the logical time to begin such a movement: (1) increased use of airplanes for transportation reduces the need for industry to be concentrated around good harbors and giant railroad terminals; (2) if there ever is another war our industrial power could be destroyed overnight if it continues to be packed into small areas.

PROSPERITY rural

It is hard to imagine either New York or Chicago ever being reduced to a city of 100,000 population. But the decentralizers argue that no matter how great the difficulty might be, it would be better to work out a peaceful, orderly program for doing this now than to have them blown to pieces by some future enemy.

The atomic bomb will do more than any one thing to stimulate interest in the decentralization

Conservation Farming News

By T. R. GREENE

M. E. Reeves, of Laurel Springs, has built a phosphate spreader that he says is too simple to have patented, but spreads phosphate evenly and easily. The spreader is built of mowing machine wheels and axles with two by fours for agitators in a wooden box. Anyone interested in making a good spreader should go to Mr. Reeves' home and look his over.

Harvey Irwin, of Furches, sold one acre of poplar trees averaging about thirty-eight years old that cut approximately thirty thousand feet of lumber. Mr. Irwin is protecting about three more acres of young poplars.

E. G. Blevins, of Laurel Glenn community, is planning a strip crop rotation on his farm.

Luther Edwards, of Sparta, had his soil samples taken last week to see his lime and fertilizer needs. Mr. Edwards is planning to plant some eroded areas on his farm in white pines.

Charles Reeves, of the Elk Creek community, is planning to seed some alfalfa next summer. He is having his soil analyzed now so he may have it in the right condition when seeding time comes.

Stratford News

MRS. THELMA MABE Correspondent

Jesse Brown, of Texas, arrived here last week and spent two days at the home of Mrs. Brown's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Richardson. Mrs. Brown, who has been spending the last few months here with her parents, returned to Texas with her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Richardson spent the week end in Virginia visiting relatives. They spent Friday night at the home of his brother, William Richardson, at Galax and Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Edwards, at Hillsville.

Mrs. Mat Estep has been quite ill for a few days but is somewhat improved at present.

Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mabe and children, Edwin and Christine, visited Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Richardson, Laurel Springs, Sunday.

As for rural America—the blue prints of the program highlight a much more prosperous life for country people than they have at present. No longer, under the decentralization plan, would it be necessary for ambitious farm boys to go to distant cities to find industrial employment. They would have an industry near at home which could satisfy their non-farm interests. And, it is pointed out, an area which includes both farming and industry has more available income and is proportionately more prosperous. In addition, as farm products are used more and more in industry, it seems logical for factories to be moved closer to their source of supply.

We will all hear a lot about decentralization from now on. Naturally, it would take quite a few years for it to come about on a wide scale. But some morning, not too many years from now, we may look over a map of the United States and ask, "What happened to New York?"

Others who visited in the Richardson home Sunday, were: Mr. and Mrs. Hort Richardson, West Jefferson and Jimmy Roberts.

Philo Caudill spent a few days last week at his place at Absher, in Wilkes county.

Mrs. J. R. Watson, New Hope, spent Sunday night with her mother, Mat Estep, here.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Wiles and family have moved to Kelly Williams' place. They formerly lived at the "I. C. Reynolds place", which is now owned by Cary Edwards.

Mrs. Callie Taylor is spending

some time in Maryland, visiting her children, Mrs. Albert Irwin, Elmer Taylor, Mrs. Claude Critcher and their families.

Much fine natural fruit sugar, ideal for satisfying the sweet tooth and for making puddings, cakes and sweet spreads, goes to waste each fall when persimmons are allowed to fall and rot. The persimmon is one of the sweetest fruits grown in this country. Analyses show that it is nearly one-third sugar—second only to the date in sugar content. The fig has only half as much sugar and the

peach only one-fifth as much. Persimmons must be fully mature and ripe to lose their puckering quality. Unfortunately, the mistaken idea has persisted that persimmons are unfit to eat until they have been frosted. Actually, freezing is bad for persimmons. Many of the finest persimmons are lost each year because they ripen and fall before frost. Those not edible before frost are late varieties and not yet mature.

Europe faces critical food shortages. Food supplies produced there this year are a fifth below prewar, says the BAE.

By proper cultivation, spacing, and fertilization and through the use of hybrid seed, A. B. Craven of Richmond county increased his corn yield from 17.24 to 65.49 bushels per acre in the same field.

First Complete Pipe Factory of the South Sparta, N. C. D. & P. PIPE WORKS Pioneer Briar Block Factory Boone, N. C. We pay well for good ivy and laurel burls. You may well be proud of the reputation our fireproofed pipes are earning. Burls turned into pipes, not fireproofed, insure the recapture of the American market by foreign briar. By supplying us, you help yourself. Write or Phone Boone 194 We are and will keep buying all good ivy and laurel burls. D. & P. Pipe Works Write or Phone Sparta 15

Mrs. Dwight Baldwin Sparta, Rt. 1 Gets Last Week's Light White \$5 Bill When the Light White man called on her, he found her a user of Light White Flour. "I've never used any flour that I like better and will have no other flour now," Mrs. Baldwin said. YOU may be next to get a Light White \$5 Bill, if you have the evidence that your home uses Light White Flour. The Light White Flour Man is passing them out at the homes of users of Light White Flour. Get Light White Flour At Your Grocers Watch for the Name of next week's LUCKY LIGHT WHITE WINNER Distributed by Galax Mercantile Co.

Our Roots Are in This Land... THE EDITOR'S COLUMN The livestock-and-meat industry is like an endless chain. The meat travels in one direction; from livestock producer to meat packer, to retail dealer, to consumer. And coming back in the opposite direction is money; from the meat purchaser to the storekeeper, to the meat packer, to the man who grows the livestock. There must be motive power to keep that chain running, and that motive power is profit. It is profit that keeps ranchers and farmers producing livestock; profit keeps meat packers slaughtering, dressing and delivering meat to retailers; profit keeps retailers selling meat in their stores. We at Swift & Company well know that a continuing loss anywhere along the line would mean that all of us would suffer. Thus, it is clearly to our own advantage to operate our end of the livestock-and-meat industry so efficiently that the money the consumer pays for meat shall cover all costs plus a sufficient profit for retailers and livestock producers, as well as for ourselves. F.M. Simpson, Agricultural Research Department

Have you heard about the new improved lard? Swift & Company, after ten years of research and consumer tests, has developed a brand new product—Swift's Bland Lard. It has all the advantages of other high grade shortenings, plus the important qualities found only in lard. It will cause millions of American housewives to use more lard, and that's mighty important to hog producers. Any improvement in pork products which boosts consumer demand (such as a superior lard) will have a supporting effect on live hog prices, because the price paid for livestock is governed by what the meat packer can get for the meat and by-products. Swift & Company UNION STOCK YARDS CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

PIGS INHERIT ABILITY TO MAKE RAPID GAINS By J. C. GRIMES Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Pigs from certain families or blood lines consistently made faster and cheaper gains than pigs from other blood lines in a swine breeding experiment at the Alabama Experiment Station. The ability to consume large amounts of feed and to convert it into meat rapidly and efficiently was found to run in families. A strain of hogs which was selected for economy of gains reached a finished weight of 225 pounds in an average of 27 days less time than a strain that had not been selected for economy of gains. They also consumed an average of 34 pounds less feed to make 100 pounds of gain during the fattening period. The appetite of a pig was found to be a good index to his ability to make rapid and cheap gains. Swift & Company UNION STOCK YARDS CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

HE WHO GOBBLES LAST—GOBBLES BEST! CATTLEMAN ON HORSEBACK Next time you are at the Union Stock Yards in Chicago, if you see this big, jovial man sitting on a horse in the middle of a milling pen of cattle, that will be M. S. ("Si") Hughes, Swift's Head Cattle Buyer at Chicago. Way back in 1917, Si Hughes walked up to the Swift buyer in Kansas City and said, "Mister Stemm, I want a job." He got the job, and he's been with Swift ever since, except for a two-year army-hitch in World War I. Kansas City, St. Louis, Fort Worth, St. Joseph, Kansas City again, and finally Chicago—all added to his experience in judging the quality and yield percentages, grading, etc., of cattle. In 1943 he was made Head Cattle Buyer for Swift & Company at the Chicago Yards. He has a staff of experienced cattle buyers directly associated with him.

Appeal To The Farmers We need ivy and laurel stools to keep our plant in operation. Dig them now, while prices are at their peak. Competition from Europe may force prices down later. Buy Victory Bonds! Carolina Briar Corporation PHONE 127 West Jefferson, N. C.

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