


WHEN A VIRTUE BECOMES A VICE Frugality is a virtue that becomes a vice when
aches the point of striving to get something for little or nothing. Atrant cang of government itself. For tablished government services are sometimes distorted and expanded into costly caricatures of their original functions when too much is demanded of them. One good illustration is the postal service, a co stitutionally authorized function of the federal gov-
ernment. In 1912 it added rural package delivery to its ernment. In 1912 it added rural package delivery to its
services-parcel post. Parcel post was supposed to services-parcel post. Parcel post was supposed to
be self-sustaining. It never has been. According to an article by Paul L. Poirot in The Freeman, "The Post Office Department's reported deficit on fourth-class mail, which consists primarily of parcel post, averaged $\$ 134$ million a year from 1949 through 1953. The revenue collected from users of parcel post service covered
roughly three fourths of the costs charged against the roughly three fourths of the costs charged against the
service. Taxpayers made up the balance, the subsidy averaging about 13 cents on a parcel. and closely regulated competition, it was not surprising that the parcel post tail began to wag the rest of the postal system of all mail consisted of parcel post." In addition, this particular tax-subsidized commer-
cial service has imposed an impossible competitive hancial service has imposed an impossible competitive han-
dicap on heavly taxed, privately operated carriers. its report on "Business Enterprises," recommended its report on Business Enterprises, recommended do not cover all the costs of the parcel post services (in-
cluding indirect cost), seek a further increase of rates." IT PAYS TO PLEASE THE CUSTOMER Alfred D. Stedman of the St. Paul, Minnesota, Pioeditors. A recent column of his is of special significance, plies and dhe current pork situation with its heavy sup He quoted from a housewife who had written him pork products. This, she said, deterred her from buying pork, even though she had a strong liking for the meat.
She added, "When the farmers supply us housewives with good lean usable meat, we'll buy more pork." He wrote, "So there is word to the farmer from a source to heed...This is the housewife herself. And what is
the aim and end of the swine business if not to produce pork products of kind and quality most desired by the
consumer?"

## This is the effect of quick.acting nitrate nitrogen (right). The crop wass side.dressed with chilo per cent nitrodoc- nitrosen 10 . 1 left-no nitrote nitrogen side-dressing.



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Fortumitely, Mr. Stedman observed, real progress
in that direction is being made, even it the goil hasert yet been reached Hogs are being marketed at 1yghtet
weights, which means there is less fat Better prices
are being paid for the meat type hogs. The Ameriare being paid for the meat type hogs of the Amerr--
can Meat Institute a representative of the packers,
has brought about closer trimming of the fat on porki euts. To quote Mr. Stedman again, "Farmers have the
housewife's word that more of this progress is needed and will pay."

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multiplication to be had in any standard-production American automobile today.
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