

Special Article

Revolution in Farming Methods Threatens Social Stability of Agriculture

By HUGO S. SIMS
American agriculture, according to some experts in Washington, is facing a revolution which threatens to be as far-reaching as the industrial revolution which completely altered the economy of production in the last half-century.

Already three congressional committees are studying the fundamental economic conditions which are transforming agriculture. They include:

Nation-Wide Problem
(1) A Senate Labor Sub-Committee, headed by Senator LaFollette, which has already instituted hearings on the farm-labor problem. Preliminary inquiry as to the migratory farm-labor situation in California convinced the committee that the problem was "not an isolated one."

(2) The House of Representatives unanimously appropriated \$25,000 to enable a five-man committee to study the migrant worker problem in all states and recommend subsequent legislation.

(3) The Temporary National Economic Committee has heard testimony that technological advances are creating unemployment in the farming industry, that the trend is continuing and that the whole American farm way-of-life is involved in the increasing use of farm machinery.

A Threat to 32,000,000 People

The LaFollette sub-committee admits that investigation of the California situation caused it to alter its whole base of attack on the problem, which is "national in scope and centers around the use of labor-saving machinery and large-scale operations which threaten to displace increasing numbers of the 2,000,000-odd farm tenants and 800,000 share-croppers in the great wheat, corn and cotton belts.

Louis H. Bean, of the Department of Agriculture recently told the Temporary National Economic Committee that in 1939, the 32,000,000 persons living on farms were able to supply the needs of fifty to seventy per cent more urban dwellers than the same number of farm people supplied thirty years before. Of the farm population, he said, a larger proportion are unemployed, under-employed or economically under-efficient than was the case thirty years ago.

Machinery Replaces Man and Beast
Mr. Bean pointed out that increased farm productivity per unit

of labor is due to a number of factors, including the use of machinery, improvement in livestock breeds, farming practices, crop needs and labor efficiency. Other witnesses stressed the effect of tractors, which have cut labor requirements and greatly reduced the use of horses and mules.

Sherman F. Johnson pointed out that the horse and mule population of the country has declined from 25,000,000 in 1920 to 15,000,000 in 1939. Naturally, decrease in livestock means decreasing consumption of feeds raised on the farms. Tractors, it is unnecessary to point out, do not consume farm products.

Mechanization is Widespread

Paul Taylor, economist at the University of California, stressed the gigantic change which has come about through the introduction of machinery as the agent of agriculture. Mechanization was expected when a mechanical cotton-picker was perfected, but it did not wait for the new invention. The utility tractor and its auxiliary machinery has already developed large-scale mechanized farms in nearly twenty states.

Professor Taylor discussed various sections of the country where mechanization is leading to large-scale farming. He summarizes the situation as follows:

Western Cotton Belt: Landlords replacing tenants with tractors and hired labor over large areas; small farmers may go next; machinery has increased the amount of crop land that can be handled by a farm family from one hundred to approximately four hundred and fifty acres.

Plantation Cotton Land: Heavy displacement of share-croppers noted, being replaced by machinery, and wage laborers "being swept from plantations." Displaced Negroes flock to surrounding towns.

Wheat Belt: Combine harvester and tractor are displacing farmers who "manufacture" wheat. Some states report displacements of more than two-thirds of these workers.

Corn Belt: Undergoing rapid mechanization, with consequent displacement of laborers, expansion of farms, wage laborers replacing tenants and small farmers being crowded out.

The same trend is noted in the fruit and vegetable industry where mechanization and economic development has, at times produced "bitter strife."

Farm Migrants Everywhere
Professor Taylor expressed the fear that unless something is done about the problem, there will be such unrest as to threaten our democracy.

The LaFollette committee said that the "nomadic farm migrant" is a problem in at least fifteen states, besides California, and is not confined to one region as popularly sup-

posed. The committee believes that the nation faces the necessity of restating its national ideals in regard to the place of agricultural workers in society.

Farmville Retail Lumber Yard

Manufacturers and Retailers of Rough and Dressed Lumber.

A complete line of rough and dressed lumber, moldings and building material are carried in abundance by this well known and popular establishment, which is owned and operated by Mr. George E. Creekmur, a prominent lumberman of Farmville, who managed the Farmville-Woodward wholesale plant here for four years. Mr. Creekmur has been engaged in the lumber business for over forty years, being connected with large concerns in Arkansas and Missouri before coming to Farmville. His place of business is located near the Norfolk Southern Station, and carries a complete stock at all times, and can supply your every need on a moments notice. Patronize home industry, make your home section a prosperous one by buying from "Homefolks" and keeping home money in circulation in your community. Forty years experience as a lumberman qualifies Mr. Creekmur to serve the public efficiently, with the best grade material, and always at reasonable prices. Buy your lumber and building material from this progressive concern, who appreciates your patronage, whether you buy one plank or a carload.

SQUALUS RECOMMISSIONED

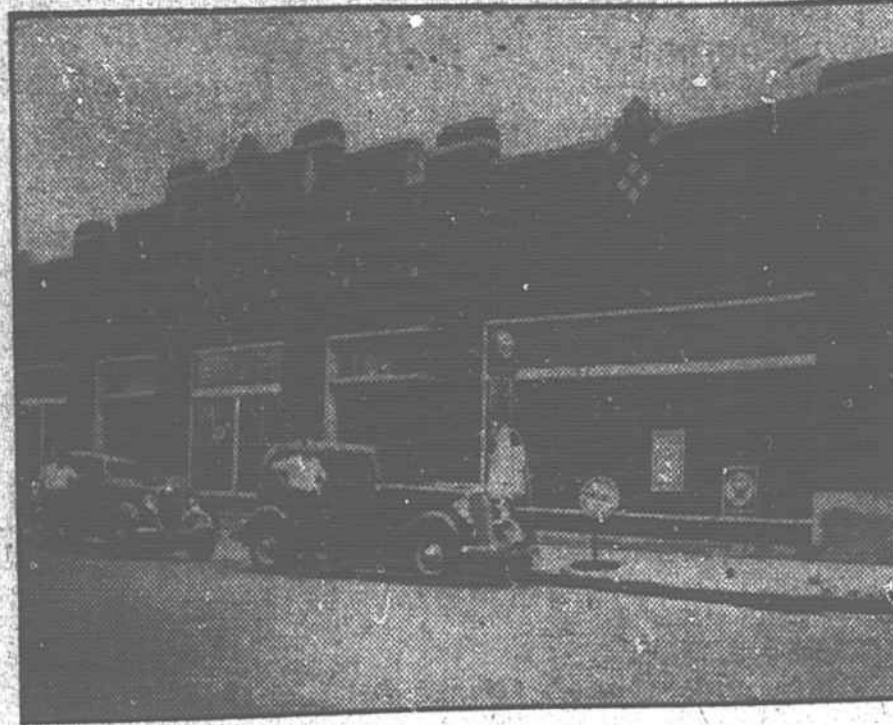
Portsmouth, N. H.—Just a week and a day short of the anniversary of its sinking off the coast of New Hampshire, with a loss of 26 lives, the submarine Squalus, formerly known as the Squalus, was put in commission. Twelve former members of the Squalus crew are included in the present crew.

ANGRY WAITER KILLS 3

Martins Ferry, Ohio.—Refused a small loan by his employer, William Sevastis, 53-year-old restaurant waiter, went berserk and turned a pistol on the proprietor of the restaurant and customers and fatally wounded three men, seriously wounding two others.

EXCHANGE MATES

Los Angeles.—Following divorce suits in which two husbands charged the other had stolen his wife's affections and the wives similarly accused each other, the two couples exchanged mates. William Ingels married Mrs. Isabella Farmer and Francis C. Farmer married Catherine Ingels.



HOME OF POLLARD AUTO COMPANY

Conference Is Held Weed Amendment

Growers Hold Meet with Congressmen; Amendments Adopted By Delegation

The conference called by Congressman Harold D. Cooley between Senators and Congressmen from tobacco growing states and growers from the various tobacco states proved to be a very harmonious affair. More than 100 growers representing various organizations were present from Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Prior to the conference in the afternoon with Congressmen, farmers met in the Department of Agriculture at 10 a. m. with J. B. Hutson, assistant administrator of the AAA and J. E. Thigpen, chief of the tobacco section and elected J. E. Winslow, president of the N. C. Farm Bureau, as chairman of the meeting, for the purpose of going over the proposed tobacco amendments in detail.

W. E. Fenner, president of the East Carolina Warehouse association, was called on to read all the amendments to the group, after which each amendment was discussed in detail. Some few minor changes were made in the amendments. The principal change was to the effect that the ballot should provide for farmers voting whether or not they favored marketing quotas and provided a ballot as to whether or not they favored three year control. In the original draft it only provided for them voting on more than one year, not to exceed three years. This was requested on the part of the growers in order to simplify the ballot. All of the amendments, including the changes, were unanimously adopted by the growers in the morning and presented to the afternoon joint session of Senators, Congressmen and farmers.

Harold D. Cooley, a member of the House Agricultural Committee, presided over the afternoon session and called on J. B. Hutson and J. E. Thigpen to explain the final drafts of the tobacco amendments.

Following these explanations J. E. Winslow was called on to discuss the amendments in general. He explained to the Senators and Congressmen present that the amendments as presented by Mr. Hutson had been unanimously adopted by the farmers present, as representing not only the views of those present but the views of those back home, stating that if they were not satisfied that the amendments represented the desires of the majority of the growers that they would be glad to present to them petitions from the growers if they desired. Mr. Cooley and other Congressmen assured Mr. Winslow that with the information he had given them coupled with the information on hand, was sufficient evidence of the wishes of growers in general.

KNITTING NEEDLE KILLS WOMAN

Watertown, N. Y.—When Mrs. Matie Switzer, 63, tripped as she was leaving the home of her employer, her knitting needle, carried in a bag, pierced her chest and heart. She died three hours later.



MIZELLE ELECTRIC CO.

H. Mozingo, J. C. Sawyer, and G. M. Holden, in the sales division—L. A. Flowers has charge of the repair department, G. R. Smith is stock clerk and H. O. Gardner is bookkeeper. Trade at home, with your home Auto Dealers and keep Farmville money in circulation in this community.

Religion, as we understand it, involves a way of life.

Happy Birthday To The Farmville Enterprise On Their THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

JAP TRADE

In 1939, Japan bought American goods to the value of \$251,000,000 and sold to the United States goods valued at \$167,000,000. The sharp rise in the value of Japanese raw silk enabled Japan to reduce the excess of imports over exports with the United States from \$140,000,000 in 1938 to \$94,000,000 in 1939.

OUR BEST WISHES For A HAPPY BIRTHDAY To The FARMVILLE ENTERPRISE

"Watch The FORDS Go By! . . ."

Drive! and Own . . . A New Ford V-8 The Best Buy in the Low-priced Field!

SEE THE 1940 MODELS IN FORD V-EIGHTS AND MERCURYS

WE HAVE MANY MODELS IN THESE BEAUTIFUL CARS ON DISPLAY IN OUR SHOW ROOMS . . . A FREE DEMONSTRATION AT ANY TIME!

See Our Used Cars!

We Have Many Exceptional Good Buys in Late Model Cars At VERY MODERATE PRICES . . .

—TERMS TO SUIT YOUR CONVENIENCE—

Pollard Auto Co.

FARMVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO . . . THE FARMVILLE ENTERPRISE ON THEIR THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY!



Protect Your Farm!

Millions of dollars are paid every year to farmers for Hail Damage!

We Urge You To Insure from Planting To Harvest . . .

Come to See Us . . . Let's Talk It Over! [Service Beyond The Contract]

J. W. JOYNER, Manager

Pitt Co. Insurance Agency

FARMVILLE, N. C.

WE CONGRATULATE THE FARMVILLE ENTERPRISE On Their Completion of 30 Years as SUCCESSFUL PUBLISHERS

Manufacturers and Retailers of . . .

Rough and Dressed Lumber

MOLDINGS and BUILDING MATERIALS

FARMVILLE RETAIL LUMBER YARD

GEORGE E. CREEKMUR, Proprietor