

THE WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Oct. 12.—As the details of the administration's proposed farm program for 1938 are learned, something like a complete picture begins to emerge. It is a picture which shows, for the first time in American history, the great majority of the farmers banded together as a single economic unit.

That is the clear purpose which the Administration has in mind. The manner in which farmers are being organized for participation in the new AAA activities speaks a new relationship for farmers among themselves, with the Government, and in their relation to the nation as a whole.

Under the 1938 Agricultural Conservation program now being perfected, inducement will be held out for more farmers to participate than at any previous time. Every farmer who participates will automatically become a member of his "County Agricultural

Conservation Association." These county associations will be tied together through state, regional and National set-ups.

Farmers United As Never Before
This is calculated to create a farmer unity which goes far beyond anything which has ever been attempted in a democracy. If carried through, it will go much farther toward bringing about a community of interest among all farmers, of all sections, than any of the existing farm organizations ever dreamed of doing. It will tend to a solidarity exceeding that of any labor organization. It will, in effect, create an agrarian democracy inside of the national democracy, able to swing Presidential elections and dictate national policies, once the farmers are all brought into line.

There is difference of opinion in Washington as to whether, through this tie-up, the Federal Government will control the farmers or the farmers will control the Federal Government, so far as agriculture is concerned. Spokesmen for the farmers who have been participating in the conferences here speak confidently of the new plan as "our program." Certainly a great deal of political power will flow through the lines it is planned to set up, but it may flow in both directions. Certainly nobody can safely say that anybody controls that power now, nor is it likely that the power which the plan will confer upon farmers as a whole will die with the passing of any person or any political party. The participating farmers represent divergent political and other beliefs. But in meeting together, and working together towards a common goal, they are becoming joined together through their "pocket nerves" in such a way as

to make them feel their power and want to retain it.

New National Farm Set-up
The farmers themselves help to formulate and administer their program. They also help to meet the costs. First, the program has been worked out by the AAA officials in Washington in consultation with state Conservation representatives, named by the farmers of their districts. Next, the program is applied by county committees of farmers, chosen by the farmers themselves, guided by the National, regional and state programs, have the power to say how the program shall be applied to any individual farmer, and to determine the extent of compliance by any individual farmer. The extent of each farmer's compliance determines the size of his benefit payments. If he is not satisfied, he may appeal to the state committee, and from the committee, if still unsatisfied, he may go to the regional director, whose decision is final.

Not the least important part of the whole plan is the regional set-up, made by the President several years ago, that the United States was too large and its regions too diverse in interests, to be administered from Washington alone, while the state units are not set up on any economic plan. He suggested that the nation should be divided into a number of administrative regions, each with its sub-White House, as it were, with the elimination of state lines as far as possible. A similar thought prevails in the plan for "seven T. V. A.'s," for the administration of the national power program. It is understood here that the administrative regions provided for in the new farm plan coincide with those which the President believes should be established in the power matter and in other administrative plans.

Money Is the Motive

The motives for farmer participation in the new plan are clear enough. First, there are the benefit payments for soil conservation, which is a term which can be stretched to cover many kinds of regulation of production. These benefits run to \$200 or \$300 a year for a quarter-section farm. A second reason for farmer participation is the expectation, if not the guarantee, of better prices for farm products. And a third reason is the conservation of the soil of his farm.

The program is to be justified to the public as a promising continuing and adequate supply, at fair and stable prices, of food for everybody, tobacco and fibers for industry, while at the same time conserving the nation's most precious resource, the soil, and making the farmers more contented and more profitable as customers for the products of industry.

While the funds for benefit ADD THIS WEEK IN WASH. payments are to come out of the Congressional appropriations under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, up to five hundred million dollars a year, the costs of local administration of the organization set-up will be pro-rated among the participating farmers.

Observers who accompanied the President on his western trip are in agreement in reporting the farmers and the population generally of that Northwest as grateful for Government funds already distributed among them, and eager to get more.

ROCKFORD

Tobacco curing in this section has practically been completed. So far, very little has been marketed.

Mr. Preston Vestal, who has been a patient in Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, has returned to his home. His condition is considerably improved.

Miss Fannye Layne is in Elkin where she has accepted temporary employment.

Mrs. Spencer Coe is still a patient in Baptist Hospital.

Miss Pearl Bryant is a student at Glade Valley. One or two other students from this section are making plans to enter the same school.

Mrs. Theodore Robinson, formerly a resident of Rockford and now living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Houck and family, Mrs. John D. Holcomb and Mrs. Lee Mackie were Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Graham. Mrs. Robinson is now a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb, in Yadkinville.

Friends of Mrs. Ira Tuttle, formerly Miss Bess Hamlin, will regret to know that she has been quite sick in Rex Hospital, Raleigh. Her condition is greatly improved, following a surgical operation. Rockford was Mrs. Tuttle's girlhood home.

HELP HIM OUT

When the canary refuses to take a bath, try sprinkling a little clean sand in the bottom of the tub before filling it with water. The slippery bottom of the dish is frequently the reason for the bird's hesitancy about bathing.

—Mrs. C. S., Ohio.

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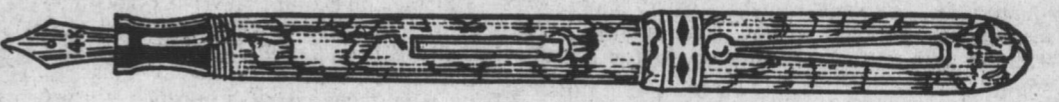
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