

AGRICULTURAL NEWS



WHAT WILL CONGRESS DO ABOUT MUSCLE SHOALS?

Polk County People Have Asked For Information Concerning Muscle Shoals Project And An Explanation Follows—Senator Capper of Kansas Gives His Views

Reading the limitations of the policy of the News... touching national... regular subscriber... when it had a local angle... to give him any obtainable information... regarding the action of Congress... to the disposal of Muscle Shoals.

In the first place there have been proposals submitted during the present session and all of them had opposition.

1 The Ford plan, which provided to sell part and lease the rest of the Muscle Shoals property to Henry Ford.

2 The Norris plan, which provided for Government operation.

3 The Underwood plan, which instructed the President to lease the plant to private operators.

4 The Jones plan, which created a commission to study the disposal of the property and report in a year.

Last session the House passed 1, the Ford plan and sent it to the Senate. The Senate failed to act on the bill before it adjourned last June. And before Congress opened again, Mr. Ford withdrew his offer—so it was obvious that the bill had to be amended. It was brought before the Senate, amended by substituting 2, the Norris plan. After a month's debate, the Senate amended the bill again by substituting 3, the Underwood plan.

Then in the course of two days debate the Senate proceeded to tie up the measure in knots during amending, dissecting and generally shooting the original plans full of holes.

First, the bill was amended by substituting 4 the Jones plan for the Underwood plan. Second, it was amended by substituting 2 the Norris plan for the Jones plan. Third, it was amended by substituting 3 the Underwood plan for the Norris plan. Then an attempt was made again to amend the bill by substituting 4 the Jones plan for the Underwood plan. This last attempt failed. Finally, the bill (composed of 3)—the Underwood plan—was passed by vote of 50 to 30.

Technically, the bill had now passed both Houses of Congress. But the Senate had made "amendments". The usual course of procedure when amendments are made is to hold a joint conference and compromise. But the Senate "amendments" constituted a complete change of the bill from 1 the Ford plan to 3 the Underwood plan. A compromise or a conference hardly seemed appropriate.

The House may recommit the bill to committee, in which case it is probable that no final action will be taken this session. At any rate it is a problem, with the fate of the bill depending on the decision of the House.

Arthur Capper, U. S. Senator from Kansas says: In the main, the proposal adopted by the Senate embodies the Ford offer with this important change—the Underwood plan limits any lease to a 50-year term. The Ford offer was contingent upon a 100-year lease.

Under the plan adopted, the lessee must produce at least 40,000 tons of nitrates each year to be utilized in the making of commercial fertilizers these to be sold at a price not in excess of 8 per cent above the cost of production.

The lessee is to pay the Government an annual rental of at least 4 per cent on the cost of No. 2 dam, generally known as the "Wilson Dam". This cost will approximate \$50,000,000.

The Government reserves the right of immediate recapture of the entire property for the manufacture of explosives and munitions in event of war. The Secretary of War with the consent of the president is authorized to negotiate a lease conforming with these terms.

If, by September 1, this year, no satisfactory lessee is found willing to undertake the operation of the property, the bill directs the Government to organize a corporation of its own for operating the same terms prescribed for private agencies.

The sole aim of the plan adopted is to produce nitrogen for fertilizer in peace, and for munitions in time of war.

The Shoals project was first undertaken by the Wilson administration. Concerned as to what might happen if German submarines cut off

KANSAS SENATOR BATTLES FOR RIGHTS OF FARMER



ARTHUR CAPPER

the supply of nitrates from South America, the Wilson administration conceived the project and set about its construction. Peace came before it was finished, and it is yet incomplete. As it stands, it has cost about \$90,000,000. When completed, in accordance with original plans, it will represent an investment of \$150,000,000 of public funds.

In addition to producing nitrogens the Norris plan contemplated an ambitious adventure. It would make the Shoals the nucleus of a vast hydro-electric super-power development, with which to experiment under Government direction and at Government charge in producing electrical energy for long-range transmission for industrial uses.

The Underwood plan contemplates no super-power development. It would utilize virtually all the power now available at the Shoals in making nitrates. It leaves the development of additional power subject to future action should the need arise.

War Department engineers plan to complete the big No. 2 dam and the giant power house in which the waters of the Tennessee River will be transmuted into "white coal" by mid-summer. When that is done all will be ready for the generators to begin turning and for the cyanide plant, built during the war, to begin the production of nitrates, late this year.

But before the machinery begins turning, the bill determining the fate of the big enterprise must run another legislative gamut. The adoption of the Underwood bill by the Senate is not the last word. The bill has to be approved by conferees representing both House and Senate. If the conferees approve, the bill has still to be accepted by the House. Should the conference alter it in any particular, the bill must again come before the House and Senate for approval.

Last session the House passed a bill accepting the Ford offer to take over and operate the Shoals. The House bill was rejected by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Norris bill reported to the Senate for passage. The session ended before the Senate acted, and between sessions Ford withdrew his offer and the House bill became a dead letter. Early in the present session the Underwood bill was presented to the Senate as a substitute for the Norris measure and finally prevailed.

So the fate of "the Niagara of the South" is yet to be decided. It may be that some compromise like the Jones plan will be adopted, the Jones proposal would have a commission review all pending bids and proposals, invite other bidders if advisable, draw a lease for the bidder making the most advantageous proposal and submit such lease to Congress for ratification next January.

KEEP HENS WORKING

When the winter day is considerably shortened artificial methods should be resorted to keep the hens from inactivity. If there isn't artificial light, ample window space should be provided. Scratch grain feed should be given as early as possible in the day and late in the afternoon.

RURAL MAIL SERVICE

Few institutions in the history of American progress can be credited with more salutary effect upon the march of that progress than the Rural Mail Service of the Post Office Department.

No other instrumentality has done more than the Rural Mail Service toward "bringing the city to the country," and relieving the prosaic existence of farm life, or has been as effective in establishing closer contact between the farmer and his markets. It has been the most important factor in making agriculture an exacting business instead of its one-time precarious classification which conveyed no broader meaning than "tilling the soil".

Twenty-nine years ago the farmer and his wife and children, led an existence of almost complete isolation, living upon widely scattered farms, some of them miles apart. They had comparatively little communication with their neighbors or the outside world, except that derived from weekly trips to the adjacent village. More often than not the farmer lost a full day's work and his crops were neglected in order to obtain expected mail at the village postoffice.

In those days the farmers' mail consisted largely of communications from relatives and friends. Today the daily mail includes, usually on the very date of publication, the metropolitan newspaper, containing market reports and agricultural news the weekly and monthly farm journal.

als and magazines, and business letters from the village merchant and the more pretentious establishment in the distant city. All of these are now brought to his door or to the box a few yards away.

The rural carrier is the farmer's post office and his agent. Through him he conducts transactions for the sale of live stock, grain, and other farm produce. From him he buys stamps and pays his bills by postal money order. In short, the letter carrier is the medium that has transformed the once secluded habitant of the rural district into a cosmopolitan citizen, conversant with current affairs and occupying a larger place in the destinies of a great nation.

THIS WOMEN MADE POULTRY PAY

A report made by Mrs. R. L. Lambeth of Lee county to Miss Gertrude V. Little home demonstration agent, shows that Mrs. Lambeth made a net profit of \$660.25 on her poultry flock during the nine months from February first to November first of last year. Mrs. Lambeth has a fine flock of Barred Rock poultry from which she has sold dressed hens, eggs and breeding birds. She has also won several prizes at the Lee County Fair and the Sandhill Fair.

During the nine months of last year, she sold 297 1/2 pounds of dressed poultry for \$165. Friers sold netted her \$135; breeding birds, \$34.46; poultry used at home, \$50; 69 dozen eggs used at home, \$31.05; eggs sold \$46.80; eggs for hatching

\$17.50; stock on hand, valued at \$3.18; brooder house, \$47.01; brooder \$18.60 and pullets and cockerels sold, \$16. This makes a total credit on the venture of \$879.84.

Mrs. Lambeth lists as debits, oil for brooder, \$6.98; cost of brooder, \$18.60; building brooder house, \$47.01 feed used, \$107.40 and baby chicks, \$39.50 making a total cost of \$219.59.

Her profit on the work, therefore would amount to \$660.25 in addition to the cash prizes received at fairs. Mrs. Lambeth states that her stock on hand on November first was eleven hens one male bird, 17 capons eight cockerels and 63 pullets.

According to Miss Little, this successful poultry grower has worked with the home agent and the poultry extension specialist, A. G. Oliver, for about five years. This was her first attempt in using the brooder but she had great success with it this year. Miss Little states that Mrs. Lambeth is rapidly becoming one of the well known poultry producers of North Carolina.

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MISS LOIS HOLDERBAUM HOME DEMONSTRATOR FOR POLK COUNTY

Miss Martha Creighton of Charlotte District Agent, in Columbus and Tryon To Assist in Work

Miss Martha Creighton, of Charlotte district Home Demonstration Agent of the State Agricultural Department visited Columbus and Tryon during the past week in behalf of the Cooperative Extension Work program of the Federal and State Departments.

Miss Creighton brought with her Miss Lois Holderbaum a graduate of the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas who has been selected to succeed Mrs. Padgett-Smith whose resignation recently became effective.

Miss Holderbaum who holds a degree as Bachelor of Science, is an exceedingly capable young lady of pleasing personality, well versed in the work which she will do in Polk county, and she states that she hopes to continue the program mapped out and partially executed by Mrs. Smith.

On Valentine's evening, Saturday, February 14th, at 8 p. m. the Mountain Industries Tea Room will be open for Bridge and Mah Jongg. Those wishing reservations kindly phone 118 at an early date. Special menu and cover charge per person 50 cents. 2-6 and 2-13 adv.

Presbyterian Church Service
REV. S. W. DENDY, Minister
Tryon; 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 11 a. m. 1st and 3rd Sundays at 7:30 p. m.

Columbus; 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11 a. m. 2nd and 4th Sundays at 7:30 p. m.

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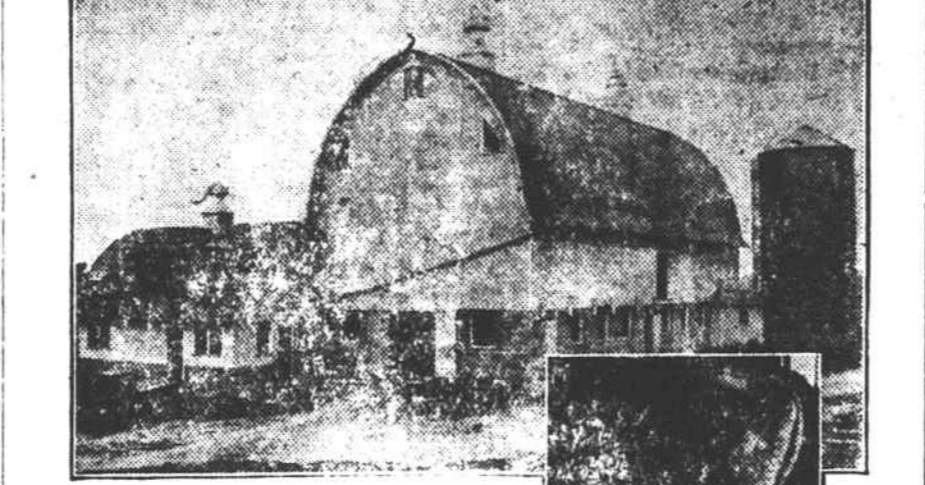
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Way of Large Fortunes
Many fortunes, like rivers, have a pure source, but grow muddy as they pour large.—J. Petit-Senn.

Giving the Dairy Cow a Square Deal

News Bureau of Animal Husbandry



A scene on a scientifically conducted milk-producing farm. (Inset.) Fifth quickly takes on lines of cows in extended stables.

There are now 25,375,000 dairy cattle in the United States. These, says a recent report, only about one-half are cared for in a manner to enable them to return a fair profit to their owners. Many a milk cow has been accused of being a "boarder" when the owner had only himself to blame. Unlike human beings, dairy cows never chirk intentionally, and frequent tests reveal that seemingly unimportant details in the care of milk cows have startling effects on milk production.

If you are considering drying up any of your milk herd, do you believe them to be "boarders"? Fill in the questionnaire below to your own satisfaction. If you can write YES as an answer to all of the questions, it is safe to assume that, if your cows are not diseased, they are getting a square deal and therefore ought to repay you generously.

Are you feeding them a properly balanced ration?
If not, or if you are not quite sure of what makes up a properly balanced ration for milk cows, get in touch with your county agent. It will pay you to do this.
Are the stables kept clean—especially during the months you keep your cows in?
Clean gutters, clean udders and lots of pure air are essential if the cow is to produce a clean, clean milk.
Do you keep the cows clean?
Filth adhering to flanks and udders takes money right out of your pocket. Impurities are absorbed into the system. That means more feed or less milk. Milk from a manure-caked cow is unclean and, on a strict interpretation, against the law. In just a few minutes, you can clip the udders, flanks and underlines of the cows. Thereafter, it is only a matter of seconds to wipe off all clinging foreign matter with a damp cloth. Farmers and dairymen who follow this practice say it increases milk flow and enriches the milk. And the cow is certainly more comfortable and contented.
Are you giving your cows a square deal?

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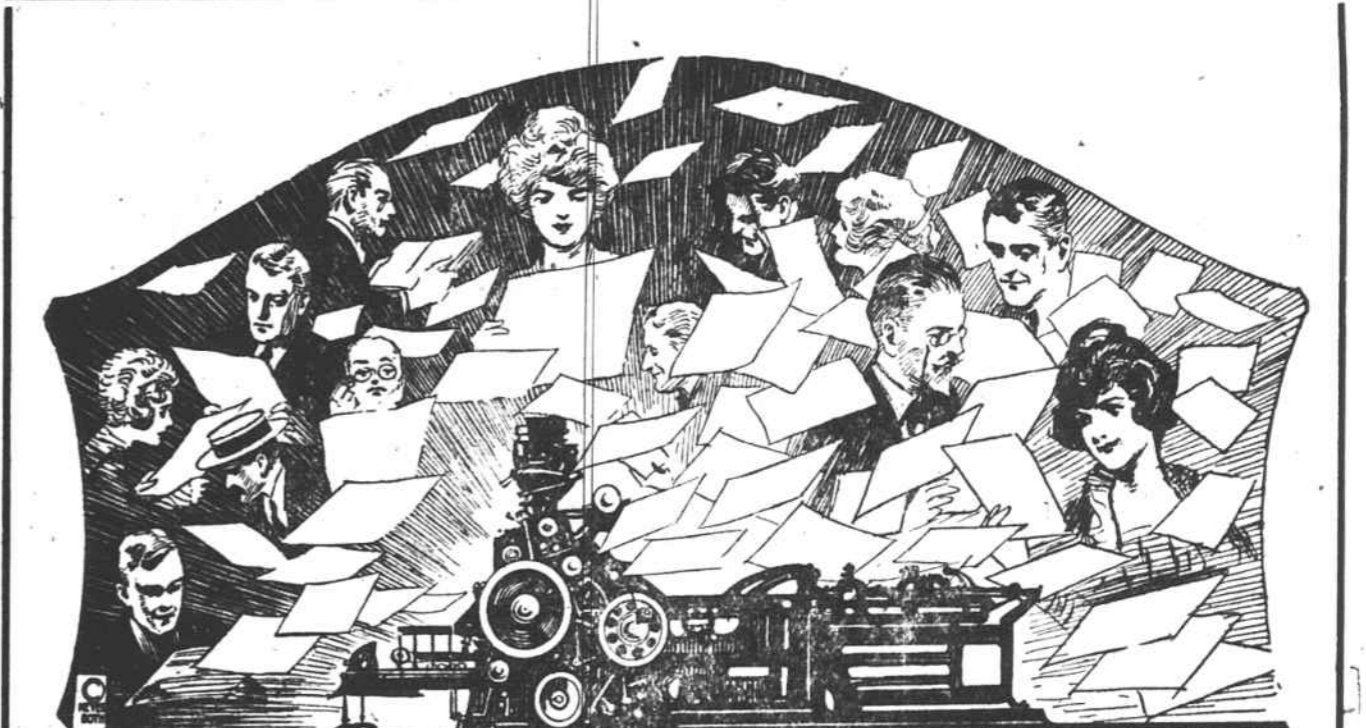
If your home burns and it is fully covered by insurance it helps materially in lightening the loss, for you are then able to rebuild.

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