(First of a Two-Part Series)

does not affect agricultura e. It is everybody's prob

You own outright more than \$2.5 billions worth of wheat, corn, cotton and other surplus farm products. You have outstanding loans on agricultural commodities totaling about the same amount. This figure is growing daily.

prevent the very situation we in the rehabilitation of Europe

program we had last year and for farm goods of all kinds.

on basic commodities through the 1954 crop year.

Nevertheless, farm price have declined steadily from the record peaks established under the impetus of the Korean was in February, 1951. During the 12 months immediately before a became Secretary of Agriculture, the farm price parity is the cited from 115 to 25 per cent. tio slid from 113 to 95 per c Since February of this year, prices have been more stable than in 1952, averaging about 93 per cent of parity.

This story of declining farm income and mounting agricultural surpluses is the best evidence that our present program is not functioning effectively.

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The losses which your government.

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The losses which your government sustained in disposing of just a small portion of your holdings during the first three months of this fiscal year amounted to \$47 millions.

But, you ask, don't we have a farm program designed to insure agricultural prosperity and prevent the very situation we find ourselves in today?

The answer is that we are operating under the same farm with new and heavy demands

for several previous years. Actually we have strengthened it in several important respects to production had been climbing

## obert Dawson Has

PAR MART (FIRING) — Christmas and New Year's hol-idays are to be spent in Koba, Japan, by the USS Los Angeles, Serving aboard the heavy ruler is Robert V. Dewson, intrician second class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Dawson of Route 4, Kinston, and husbs of the former Lois G. Kleiner of 511 E. Walnut St. Goldsboro

The Los Angeles rejoined the U. S. Seventh Fleet in early December for her third tour of duty in the Far East.

The visit to Japanese tourist and trade center is being made

since 1946. By 1952 this was exerting strong pressure in the market places. Our wheat exports dropped by one-third in a single year, cotton by even more. Not only had importing nations increased their own production, but they found that they could supply their reduced needs at lower prices from ex-porting countries which had no farm price support programs.

Just as many American consumers have turned from butter to less expensive spreads, so have other nations sought cheaper wheat, cotton and oth-

er products.

We have learned through some times bitter experience that when the farmer is in trouble, there is likely to be trouble ahead for everybody. This year, net farm income is expected to be nearly to billion. pected to be nearly \$1 billion less than it was in 1952. And in 1952 it was more than \$1 billion below the preceding year. While farm income has been dropping, our total national in-come has actually increased. This disparity cannot continue

in an economy such as ours When the farmer can't buy the products of industry, there are certain to be serious disloca-

How we got into this situation is not as important, at the moment, as what we propose to do about it. I have outlined here some of the major problems facing agriculture. In a subsequent article, I should like to discuss some of the possible

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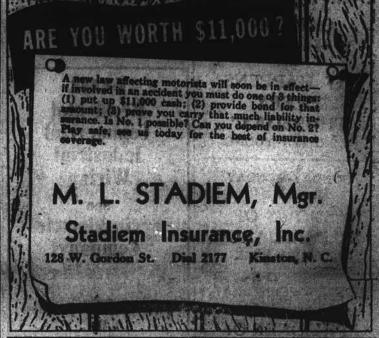
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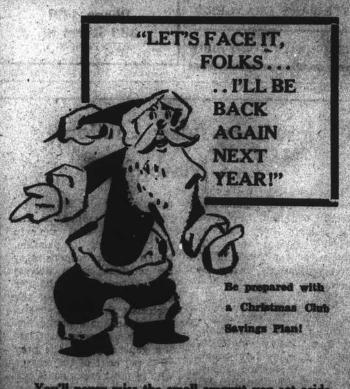
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