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Freitag, den 27. Januar, 1922.

Potsdam.

Der tiefe Schnee der am letzten Freitag fiel, kam rechtzeitig um der Weizenfaat eine schützende Decke zu liefern, zumal bei dem kalten Wetter das am Sonntag einsetzte. Auch hat der Schnee wieder die Längst in den Ruhestand verfertigen Schlitten wieder zum Vorschein gebracht und anstatt das unschöne Gelfgebrüll der Automobile, hört man jetzt lieblich-

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George Sohns



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es Schellengeläute.

Sam Deppe und Geo. Lang jr. begaben sich letzten Montag nach St. Louis um eine große Anzahl Pelze, die sie hier gefammelt hatten, auf den dortigen Pelzmarkt zu bringen.

Otto Klossner war am Samstag bei Adolph, Mo., in Geschäften, sowie um seinem Freunde, Oscar Liebow, einen Besuch abzustatten.

Fred Schwinke sen. hat infolge eines weichen Fußes seit einigen Tagen Stubenarrest.

Fred Doelle u. Familie, von Morrison, befanden sich letzten Sonntag hier auf Besuch bei Oscar Bracht u. Familie.

Ed. Kormann und Frl. Meta Kachur waren am Montag in Herrmann.

Anzeigen im Volksblatt bringen Erfolg.



No. Pacific Zeitabelle.

Westlich gehende Züge:

Nr.	Zeit
13 Personenzug	Nachts 12:27
37 Lok. Personenzug	vorn. 10:13
11 Personenzug	vorn. 11:10
98 Lok. Frachtzug	Dienstag, Donnerstag u. Samstag vorn. 9:50

Ostlich gehende Züge:

14 Lok. Personenzug	morgens 4:20
16 Personenzug	nachts 3:01
38 Lok. Personenzug	nachts 3:46
92 Lok. Frachtzug	Montag, Mittwoch u. Freitag vorn. 11:42

Some Aspects of the Farmers' Problems

By BERNARD M. BARUCH

(Reprinted from Atlantic Monthly)

The whole rural world is in a ferment of unrest, and there is an unparalleled volume and intensity of determined, if not angry, protest, and an ominous swarming of occupational conferences, interest groupings, political movements and propaganda. Such a turmoil cannot but arrest our attention. Indeed, it demands our careful study and examination. It is not likely that six million aloof and ruggedly independent men have come together and banded themselves into active unions, societies, farm bureaus, and so forth, for no sufficient cause.

Investigation of the subject conclusively proves that, while there is much overstatement of grievances and misconception of remedies, the farmers are right in complaining of wrongs long endured, and right in holding that it is feasible to relieve their ills with benefit to the rest of the community. This being the case of an industry that contributes, in the raw material form alone, about one-third of the national annual wealth production and is the means of livelihood of about 49 per cent of the population, it is obvious that the subject is one of grave concern. Not only do the farmers make up one-half of the nation, but the well-being of the other half depends upon them.

So long as we have nations, a wise political economy will aim at a large degree of national self-sufficiency and self-containment. Rome fell when the food supply was too far removed from the belly. Like her, we shall destroy our own agriculture and extend our sources of food distantly and precariously, if we do not see to it that our farmers are well and fairly paid for their services. The farm gives the nation men as well as food. Cities derive their vitality and are forever renewed from the country, but an impoverished countryside exports intelligence and retains unintelligence. Only the lower grades of mentality and character will remain on, or seek, the farm, unless agriculture is capable of being pursued with contentment and adequate compensation. Hence, to embitter and impoverish the farmer is to dry up and contaminate the vital sources of the nation.

The war showed convincingly how dependent the nation is on the full productivity of the farms. Despite herculean efforts, agricultural production kept only a few weeks or months ahead of consumption, and that only by increasing the acreage of certain staple crops at the cost of reducing that of others. We ought not to forget that lesson when we ponder on the farmer's problems. They are truly common problems, and there should be no attempt to deal with them as if they were purely selfish demands of a clear-cut group, antagonistic to the rest of the community. Rather should we consider agriculture in the light of broad national policy, just as we consider oil, coal, steel, dye stuffs, and so forth, as sinews of national strength. Our growing population and a higher standard of living demand increasing food supplies, and more wool, cotton, hides, and the rest. With the disappearance of free or cheap fertile land, additional acreage and increased yields can come only from costly effort. This we need not expect from an impoverished or un-

happy rural population. It will not do to take a narrow view of the rural discontent, or to appraise it from the standpoint of yesterday. This is peculiarly an age of flux and change and new deals. Because a thing always has been so no longer means that it is righteous, or always shall be so. More, perhaps, than ever before, there is a widespread feeling that all human relations can be improved by taking thought, and that it is not becoming for the reasoning animal to leave his destiny largely to chance and natural impulse.

Precident and orderly adjustment of production and distribution in accordance with consumption is recognized as wise management in every business but that of farming. Yet, I venture to say, there is no other industry in which it is so important to the public—the city-dweller—that production should be sure, steady, and increasing, and that distribution should be in proportion to the need. The unorganized farmers naturally act blindly and impulsively and, in consequence, surfeit and dearth, accompanied by disconcerting price-variations, harass the consumer. One year potatoes rot in the fields because of excess production, and there is a scarcity of the things that have been displaced to make way for the expansion of the potato acreage; next year the punisher farmers mass their fields on some other crop, and potatoes enter the class of luxuries; and so on.

Agriculture is the greatest and fundamentally the most important of our American industries. The cities are but the branches of the tree of national life, the roots of which go deeply into the land. We all flourish or decline with the farmer. So, when we of the cities read of the present universal distress of the farmers, of a slump of six billion dollars in the farm value of their crops in a single year, of their inability to meet mortgages or to pay current bills, and how, seeking relief from their ills, they are planning to form pools, inaugurate farmers' strikes, and demand legislation abolishing grain exchanges, private cattle markets, and the like, we ought not hastily to brand them as economic heretics and highwaymen, and hurl at them the charge of being seekers of special privilege. Rather, we should ask if their trouble is not ours, and see what can be done to improve the situation. Purely from self-interest, if for no higher motive, we should help them. All of us want to get back permanently to "normalcy"; but is it reasonable to hope for that condition unless our greatest and most basic industry can be put on a sound and solid permanent foundation? The farmers are not entitled to special privileges; but are they not right in demanding that they be placed on an equal footing with the buyers of their products and with other industries?

Let us, then, consider some of the farmer's grievances, and see how far they are real. In doing so, we should remember that, while there have been, and still are, instances of purposeful abuse, the subject should not be approached with any general imputation to existing distributive agencies of deliberately intentional oppression, but rather with the conception that the marketing of farm products has not been modernized.

An ancient evil, and a persistent one, is the undergrading of farm products, with the result that what the farmers sell as of one quality is resold as of a higher. That this sort of chicanery should persist on any important scale in these days of business integrity would seem almost incredible, but there is much evidence that it does so persist. Even as I write, the newspapers announce the suspension of several firms from the New York Produce Exchange for exporting to Germany as No. 2 wheat a whole shipload of grossly inferior wheat mixed with oats, chaff and the like.

Another evil is that of inaccurate weighing of farm products, which, it is charged, is sometimes a matter of dishonest intention and sometimes of protective policy on the part of the local buyer, who fears that he may "weigh out" more than he "weighs in."

A greater grievance is that at present the field farmer has little or no control over the time and conditions of marketing his products, with the result that he is often underpaid for his products and usually overcharged for marketing service. The difference between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays often exceeds all possibility of justification. To cite a single illustration. Last year, according to figures attested by the railways and the growers, Georgia watermelon-raisers received on the average 75 cents for a melon, the railroads got 125 cents for carrying it to Baltimore and the consumer paid one dollar, leaving 25 cents for the service of marketing and its risks, as against 20.2 cents for growing and transporting. The hard annals of

MODERN DAY MIRACLES

Famous Scientists Declare that Tremendous Advancements of the Future Will Come From the Chemical Laboratory

(Told in Eight Sketches)
By JOHN RAYMOND

**No. VIII
LOOKING FORWARD**

Mankind, after passing through the stone age, the bronze age and the varying phases of civilization now faces the dawn of a new era. Thomas Edison, in a recent interview, declared that we have entered into the Age of Chemistry and the remarkable achievements of laboratory workers serve to substantiate this statement.

It is difficult to prophesy how great will be the contribution of chemists to our present civilization, but so much has been accomplished and so great is the expectancy that it is evident why thoughtful men are insisting that the public should be awakened to a full knowledge of the significance of the science of its national life. The synthetic chemist has been able to produce practically all necessary war materials and thousands of articles invaluable in peace times, mostly from coal tar, but it has only touched the fringe of its ultimate development. Synthetic foods and substances so readily as to make war impossible may be expected from the researchers.

Edwin E. Slosson, in his splendid book, "Creative Chemistry," quotes one of the greatest French chemists, Berthelot, as follows: "The problem of food is a chemical problem. The day will come when each person will carry for his nourishment his little nitrogenous, his part of fatty butter, his package of starch or sugar, his vial of aromatic spices, suited to his personal taste; all manufactured economically and in unlimited quantities; all independent of irregular seasons and all free from pathogenic microbes, the origin of epidemics and the enemies of human life. On that day chemistry will have accomplished world-wide revolution that cannot be

estimated. There will no longer be hills covered with vineyards and fields with cattle. Man will gain in gentleness because he will cease to live by carnage and destruction of living creatures. The earth will be covered with grass, flowers and woods and in it the human race will dwell in the abundance and joy of the legendary age of gold.

So much for peace. Now consider the prophecy of General Debeney, of the French army:

"Colorless, odorless gases will be discovered that can be condensed into infinitely small compass and solidified into tablets and pills. Already we know something of what the effect of these things will be. Scatter the contents of a few small boxes on the ground and a dense, smoky mist will arise, a deadly fog fatal to everything living within its area. Broad belts of territory may be poisoned for weeks at a time by a few drops of gases poured out here and there a few drops at a time. Against the attacks of airships barrages of gases which will bring instant death to the pilot will be launched. The air will be filled with ambushes and snares. On land air-tight gas tanks will be used in front of the infantry detecting hidden gases and deluging the ground with an antagonistic liquid."

Organic chemical factories, dye plants and others, are truly arsenals in disguise. The will of man can silently convert these peaceful factories, where research is constantly going on, into gigantic bulwarks of national defense because of the deadly instruments of war they are able to produce.



(Released by the Institute of American Business, New York)

farm-life are replete with such commentaries on the crudeness of present practices.

Nature prescribes that the farmer's "goods" must be finished within two or three months of the year, while financial and storage limitations generally compel him to sell them at the same time. As a rule, other industries are in a continuous process of finishing goods for the markets; they distribute as they produce, and they can curtail production without too great injury to themselves or the community; but if the farmer restricts his output, it is with disastrous consequences, both to himself and to the community.

The average farmer is busy with production for the major part of the year, and has nothing to sell. The bulk of his output comes on the market at once. Because of lack of storage facilities and of financial support, the farmer cannot carry his goods through the year and dispose of them as they are currently needed. In the great majority of cases, farmers have to entrust storage—in warehouses and elevators—and the financial carrying of their products to others.

Farm products are generally marketed at a time when there is a congestion of both transportation and finance—when cars and money are scarce. The outcome, in many instances, is that the farmers not only sell under pressure, and therefore at a disadvantage, but are compelled to take further reductions in net returns, in order to meet the charges for the service of storing, transporting, financing, and ultimate marketing—which charges they claim, are often excessive, bear heavily on both consumer and producer, and are under the control of those performing the services. It is true that they are relieved of the risks of a changing market by selling at once; but they are quite willing to take the unfavorable chance if the favorable one also is theirs and they can retain for themselves a part of the service charges that are uniform, in good years and bad, with high prices and low.

While, in the main, the farmer must sell, regardless of market conditions, at the time of the maturity of crops, he cannot suspend production in toto. He must go on producing if he is to go on living, and if the world is to exist. The most he can do is to curtail production a little or alter its form, and that—because he is in the dark as to the probable demand for his goods—may be only to jump from the frying pan into the fire, taking the consumer with him.

Even the dairy farmers, whose output is not seasonal, complain that they find themselves at a disadvantage in the marketing of their productions, especially raw milk, because of the high costs of distribution, which they must ultimately bear.

(To be continued)

Vorichtig. — Wie sieht Du eigentlich mit Deiner Schwiiegermutter? O. telephonisch ausgezeichnet! Käser laß ich sie mir freilich nicht kommen!

Wie die Chinesen ihren Tee kochen.

Da der Chinese weder im Hause noch in Gesellschaft ohne seinen geliebten Tee sein kann und doch nicht überall sofort alle Zutaten zu seiner Bereitung zur Verfügung haben, so führt er stets ein Tee-Gesetz aus Ton, oder wenn er reich, aus Gold bei sich, ebenso einen Vorrat voll Teeblätter, und nun bedarf es nur einer Kleinigkeit kochenden Wassers, um sich seinen Liebreichsel selbst bereiten zu können. Wie würde er sich dabei eines Wassers bedienen, welches schon längere Zeit am Feuer gestanden hat, sondern er nimmt zu jedem Aufguss frisches, klares, lebendes Wasser, wie er es nennt, bringt es schnell zum Sieden, brüht über das Tee-Gesetz, läßt dieses köcheln 5 Minuten ausziehen und zieht es dann schnell aus der Hitze, die er ohne Zucker trinkt. Der Teetopf, welchen er im Hause zum Bereiten seines Lieblingsgetränkes benützt, wird niemals ausgewaschen, sondern nimmt für ihn an Wert zu, je dunkler und dichter der braune Niederdruck und Anlag in seinen Innern wird. Der einfache Mann verwendet hauptsächlich irdene und Porzellantöpfe zum Teebereiten, nur der reiche Chinese prüft gern mit Silbernen und goldenen Teekannen, zu denen sich neuerdings auch Aluminumkannen gesellen.

Bei besonders feierlichen Gelegenheiten aber wird der Tee fein gepulvert, mit Bambusstäben im kochend überbrühten Wasser gerührt und nun ohne Zucker in seinen Innern aus dem Teetopf in einen kleinen Schalenraum aufbewahrt, wodurch sie vor dem Aufweiches geschützt sind.

— Abonniert auf das Volksblatt.

Frank H. Neumann

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