



Farms in America Are Washing Away

Over 100,000 Acres of Farm Land Made Poor During 1932

Crops and their prices, the devastation wrought by drought, etc., engross readers of agricultural items, yet we rarely hear of the most destructive force in the great farm areas and that is the fact that the farms themselves are often slipping away.

Washed down by water and even blown off by winds, the fertile soil is being stripped, leaving the infertile sub-soil, not good for cultivation.

A national survey in the United States of these conditions has just begun. Says H. H. Bennett, writing of them in the New York Times:

"In America last year 3,000,000,000 tons of soil washed out of fields and overgrazed pastures. Fully 100,000 acres of farm land were made hopelessly poor. Under normal price conditions this would have cost our farmers \$400,000,000."

"Our original wealth in soil has served to prevent any general realization that all land is not permanently fixed. Unrestrained soil erosion is rapidly building a new empire of worn-out land in America—land stripped of its rich surface layer down to poor subsoil, and land gullied beyond the possibility of practical reclamation.

"Three-fourths of the agricultural area of the nation is sloping enough to invite ruinous cutting away. Already more than 100,000 acres of the 350,000,000 in cultivation have lost all or most of the original top-soil.

"Bedrock has been reached in countless places and deep gullies have torn sunder millions of dollars worth. All this has been abandoned; yet, all of it could have been saved.

"Probably no other nation or race has permitted such rapid depletion of large areas of its agricultural lands. We have looked upon our vast domain of agricultural land as limitless and capable of enduring forever. What are the menacing aspects of this evil erosion?

"The area of the more favorable soils is steadily diminishing. Acreage yields are declining. Cultivation is more difficult and costly. Water flows across the impervious clay exposed by the stripping of the mellow, absorptive topsoil more rapidly to augment floods.

"Stream channels are silting up and overflows are becoming more frequent and destructive. Vast areas of extraordinary original productivity are being covered with infertile sand and gravel."

Our best estimate, Mr. Bennett tells us, indicate that erosion steals twenty-one times as much plant food as the crops take off the land. And it is by no means restricted to the action of rain-water. In the drier parts of the country erosion by wind is frequently even more destructive.

League to Rule Port of Leticia For One Year

American Heads Commission for Area Claimed by Both Colombia and Peru

Manaos, Brazil.—The dispute between Colombia and Peru over possession of Port Leticia on the Amazon River has entered its final phase with the installation at the port of a League of Nations Commission which will govern the area pending completion of direct negotiations between the two countries.

Thus, the League's first direct intervention in a New World quarrel has resulted successfully, at least so far as regards Colombia and Peru to cease hostilities which for a time threatened to involve two neighboring republics of Brazil and Ecuador in the conflict.

United States Officer Heads Group. The League commission, composed of representatives of two non-member countries, the United States and Brazil and Peru, will govern the port and corridor of Leticia for one year. The commissioners, Colonel Arthur W. Brown, of the United States Army, president; Captain Albert Delemost Basto, commander of the Brazilian squadron on the upper Amazon River, and Captain Francisco Iglesias, the Spanish aviator, are to select an international armed force to assist them in maintaining order in the disputed area which forms a rectangle about 100 by 30 miles, lying between the Amazon and the Putumayo Rivers.

Colombia, with about 5,000 soldiers and a large number of civilian laborers already concentrated along her southern frontier, plans to encourage colonization of the tropical lands about Port Leticia. The original project to develop the southern area, contemplated at the time Colombia formally took over Port Leticia from Peru by virtue of the Salomon-Lorenzo treaty of 1932, was interrupted by the occupation of the port last September by 300 Peruvian irregulars and the subsequent refusal of the Peruvian Government to relinquish the seized territory.

Road Building to Be Pushed. Military roads hurriedly constructed from Central Colombia to the banks of the Putumayo River to facilitate troop movement are now to be employed for the transport of colonists and later for the handling of their crops. The civilian laborers who worked on the roads are to be encouraged to remain in the Amazon Valley by grants of land by the Colombian Government. Work will be pushed to completion on those roads in an unfinished state at the time Colombia and Peru agreed to suspend hostilities.

Leticia offers Colombia her only port on the Amazon River at a point accessible to steamers of fairly heavy draught. The impossibility of shipping produce from the southern area out of the country except through Peruvian or Brazilian territory has prevented exploitation in the agricultural industry. In the future agriculturists, particularly cattle raisers, will be afforded the opportunity of sending their products to the mountain cities in north central Colombia or of exporting them down the Amazon to Brazil or abroad.

Spanish Olive Producers Predict Surplus of Oil

Madrid.—There will be a large olive oil surplus in Spain this year, predict olive growers. The olive crop will be one of the largest in history, they say. Statistics show more than 71,530 square miles of Spanish soil are covered with olive orchards. The oil, according to Department of Agriculture figures, will be in excess of 1,000,000 tons.

This compares with the 1929 production of 209,437 tons and the 1930 production of 227,518 tons. Decreases in exports are worrying the growers most. The domestic consumption is hardly more than a quarter of a million tons. The other expected 750,000 tons will be four times the quantity the growers have any hope of exporting this year at the price they must get to show a profit.

The cost of production has gone up despite the fact that 1933 has been ideal climatically. To harvesting and marketing difficulties, due to strikes and acts of sabotage, are attributed this complication.

Bulky Comedian Of Films Dies

Was Victim of Heart Attack Following Celebration of His First Wedding Anniversary

New York.—Roscoe (Fatty) Arbuckle, bulky comedian of the films, died recently of a heart attack that followed a celebration of his first wedding anniversary of his third marriage. He was 45 years old.

The actor, who had been attempting a "comeback" from the blight that fell on his career as the result of the mysterious death of an actress during a gay party in 1921, died in his sleep in his suite in a midtown hotel.

Arbuckle had just completed a picture, "Tamalo," at a Long Island studio. It was one of six he had recently done for Warner Brothers. On the night of his death he went with his wife to the apartment of William Lahiff, restaurant proprietor, where a party was given in honor of the Arbuckle anniversary.

After the party Arbuckle retired, apparently in fairly good health, despite recent attacks of a heart ailment. A few minutes later, however, his wife called on him, received no answer and then discovered that he was dead.

Arbuckle became known to millions the world over in the palmy days of pie-tossing comedy.

Britain's Suicides Up, Murders Show Decrease

London.—Criminal statistics made public by the Home Office show that robbery with violence is increasing in England and that London's share of the crime is by far the largest of any city in the country.

The Home Office figures show increases also in prevalence of fraud and suicide, while murder and manslaughter cases continue to decrease. Ranks of professional burglars in the United Kingdom appear to be dwindling. The statistics show that 64 per cent. of all breaking-and-entering offences were of trivial varieties attributed largely to young persons.

Convictions for drunkenness were 46,846 last year, compared with a yearly average of 95,000.

Italy Expands Power of Vast Guild System

"Corporations of Category" Added to Groups in Control of Economic Life

Rome.—Italy's famous guild system, or corporate state, after seven years of operation, has just been rounded out by the creation of what is known as "corporations of category." These are corporate groups of various categories of industry, commerce and agriculture. They include representatives of both employers and employees.

Hitherto the guild system has been built on the following basis: 1. Syndicates, consisting of groups either of employers or employed in various groups of endeavor divided geographically according to provinces.

2. Federations, consisting of all the syndicates in a certain branch of endeavor, such as the metallurgical industry.

3. The National Council of Corporations, the supervising body of the guild system.

4. The Ministry of Corporations, headed by Benito Mussolini, which is the governmental directing body.

The "corporations of category" seem to fit in between the federations and the National Council. They assume some of the duties hitherto performed by the Ministry of Corporations.

The chief importance of this development may therefore be said to be: The government passes on to the organizations of employers and employees themselves some of the functions it previously arrogated to itself. Chief among these is the settlement of labor disputes. The tasks of the corporations of category are announced as four:

(1) Advisory—Various ministries may call on them for an opinion on any matter coming within their competence.

(2) Conciliatory—They settle by consent collective labor disputes in their own category, a task hitherto discharged by the Ministry of Corporations.

(3) Judicial—If the parties to a labor dispute agree to refer to the corporation rather than to the labor court, its award will have executive force.

(4) Regulatory—The corporation can regulate collective economic relations with corporations in other categories.

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Queen Attends Performance at Covent Garden

Ballet Given in Honor of World Economic Conference—Opera House Blazes with Jewels

London.—The most novel adornment seen recently at Covent Garden, when the famous Opera House blazed with jewels, orders and decorations as in pre-war days, was provided by a young foreigner. On top of ordinary evening dress he wore an opera cloak of pale blue silk.

The occasion was a ballet given in honor of the world economic conference by the Camargo Society, leading organization in London cultivating the newer school of the ballet.

Her Majesty wore a gown of emerald green, with a tiara of diamonds, and the Duchess of York a rose pink gown with a spray of roses at the shoulder.

Boxes were occupied by conference delegates from France, Japan, Poland, Chile, China and Greece, while the rest of the world's representatives were seated in the stalls.

Among the star performers was Lopokova, wife of Prof. J. Maynard Keynes, the author of "The Economic Consequences of the Peace."

English Girl Goes to Australia to Marry

Five years ago J. Thwaites left Cumberland, England, to find out if an Australian farm would make a suitable home for his bride.

Early this year Miss Gladys Trobe, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, received a letter telling her to sail.

When her ship, the Hobson's Bay, reached Melbourne, he was waiting on the quay for her and they were married shortly afterwards.

Classified Advertising

GOVERNMENT APPROVED CHOICES. SALE OF GOVERNMENT APPROVED CHOICES. While they last. Leghorn 50c, Barred Rocks 60c. One week old chicks one cent more. J. G. Tweedie, Fergus, Ont.

Archbishop of Canterbury Gives Christening Party. London.—His Grace Most Rev. Cosmo Gordon Lang, the bachelor Archbishop of Canterbury, holds a christening party next week when he baptizes the baby daughter of Antony and Mrs. Acton in the chapel of Lambeth Palace, where the parents were married a year ago.

Returns Aid Received. Haslingden, Eng. — Haslingden guardians committee have received a letter from a former relief recipient stating that he has returned to work and wishes to repay the money he was granted. He has received some cash from the sale of an insurance policy, and in the circumstances he asked if he could give back what he had received in relief.

Hitler "Life" Shortest in Reichstag Directory. Berlin.—Germany's new congressional directory, the "Reichstageshandbuch," contains the first autobiography of Chancellor Adolf Hitler as a Nazi Deputy.

Sir Eric Drummond Gives Up League Keys. Geneva, Switzerland.—In the presence of the entire secretariat, Sir Eric Drummond turned over the keys of the League of Nations to Joseph Avenol of France, the new Secretary-General.

Fragile Cigarette Tax Stamp Made in Texas to Stop Reuse. Austin, Tex.—Texas has moved to stop loss of revenue through reuse of cigarette tax stamps by making the stickers tiny and fragile. The new stamps, not quite as large as a dime, are printed on specially treated paper which "crumbles" when an effort is made to remove it from a package.

Social Consciousness Is Y.W.C.A.'s New Slogan. New York.—The philosophy of the Young Women's Christian Association was reported in a Columbia University survey to have changed from one of religious dominance to that of social consciousness. The survey was made by Dr. Grace H. Wilson, research graduate of teachers college at Columbia.

Weak Women. Take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Have you ever felt that you were too weak to do anything... that you did not have the strength to do your work? Women who are weak and run-down should take a tonic such as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Headaches and backaches that are the result of a slow, run-down condition often yield to this marvelous medicine.



This summer Colonel Lindbergh and party intend to survey the far north, visiting Greenland and possibly Iceland. He is shown with the aerolane just after the nonstop voyage in June.

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