

President Talks to American Farmers

AFBF Supports AAA Program And Demands Extension Of Many Features

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, addressed the farmers of America at the opening session of the 17th Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago, on Monday, December 9th.

The American Farm Bureau's 17th Annual Convention continued through the 10th and 11th of December with the organization considering all matters generally affecting the welfare of agriculture and went on record with resolutions outlining the Federation's program for 1936.



E. A. O'Neal, Pres. American Farm Bureau Federation

In general, the organization strongly endorsed the Federal Administration's agricultural program and urged further extension of many features on this program.

M. L. Wilson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, for Federal Agencies, F. W. Peck, Cooperative Bank Commissioner of Farm Credit Administration; Chester C. Davis, Administrator, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, were representatives of the Administration addressing the Farm Bureau Convention at its various sessions.

Farm Bureau Defends AAA Processing Tax

Early in December, oral argument was heard by the United States Supreme Court in the famous Hoosac Mills case testing the constitutionality of the processing tax feature of the AAA.

A 116-page written brief was filed by the Hoosac Corporation attacking the process tax features of the act.

"Taxation without representation," "insidious effort," congress has abdicated," and "bureaucrats," were among the phrases denouncing the AAA, in the document filed by the company.

The Corporation brief asserted the amendments were a "fraud, in essence, upon the powers declared to congress by the people".

The filing of this brief was followed by a "friend of the court" brief filed by the American Farm Bureau Federation defending the processing taxes and holding them comparable to protective tariffs for industry.

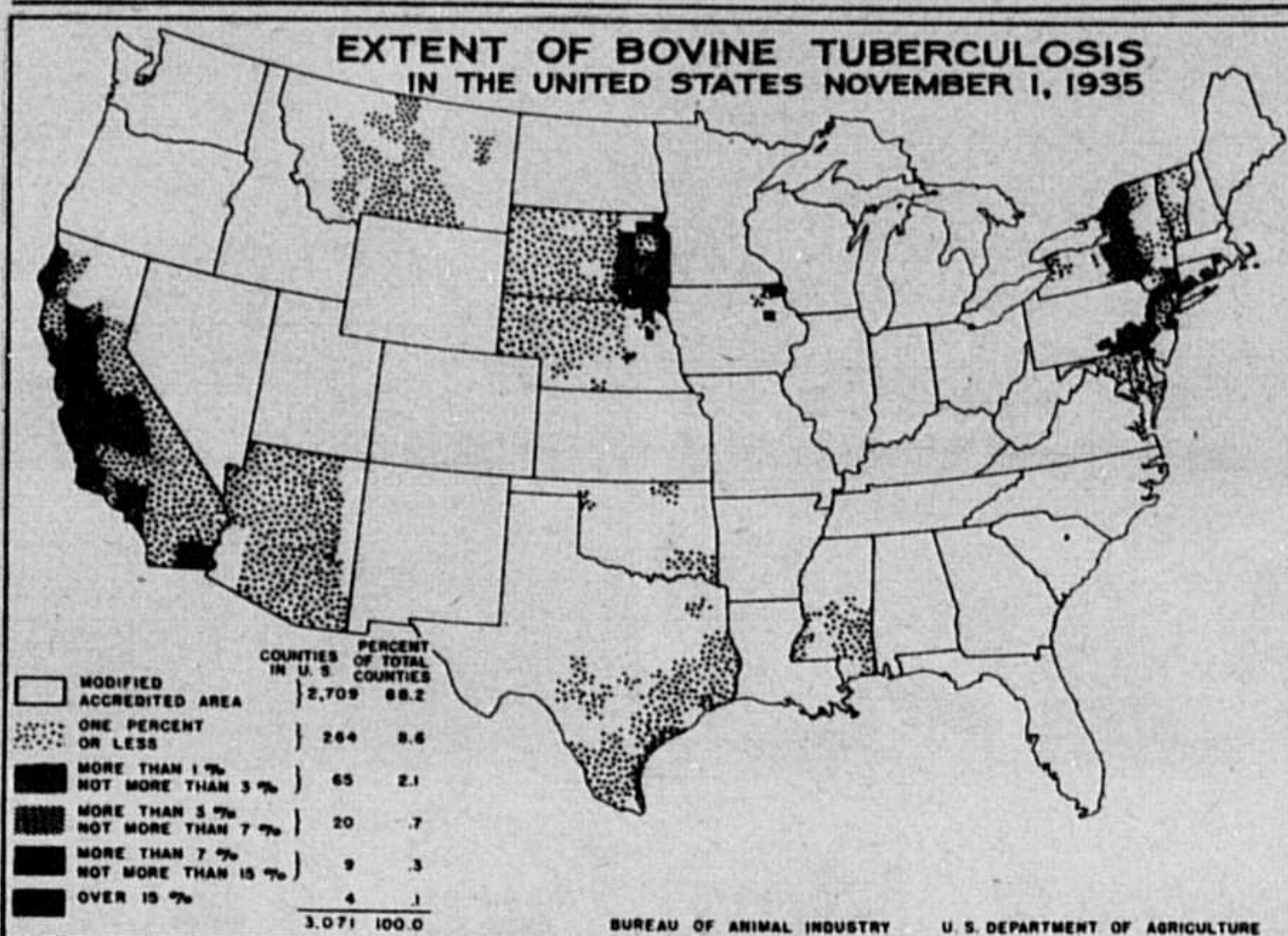
Farm Bureau lawyers maintained that the taxes are intended to provide for the general welfare, and asserted that the determination of congress as to what constitutes the general welfare "is one for which courts will rarely, if ever, substitute their own judgment."

Japanese Cotton Imports Alarm U. S. Planters

Continued increases in shipments of cotton cloth to the United States by Japan is causing considerable apprehension among both cotton planters and domestic textile interests.

In October of 1935, Japan sent seven times as much cotton cloth into the U. S. as in the corresponding month in

South Winning Bovine T. B. Fight



BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS Southeastern states generally rank high in the campaign for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis, according to recent reports of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

The states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky are all 100 per cent modified accredited area. Maryland is thirty-nine and one-tenth per cent accredited, and sixty-six and seven-tenths of the area in Delaware is accredited. Accredited areas are practically free from bovine tuberculosis (less than one-half of one per cent as shown by official tuberculin testing.)

Trade Agreement Meets With Both Support and Opposition

Throughout December, the Reciprocity Trade Agreement between the United States and Canada signed November 15, 1935, was a subject of considerable controversy among farm leaders and others interested in agriculture. Immediately on the heels of the signing of the pact, National Grange delegates at the 69th Annual Convention of that organization in Sacramento, California, went on record opposing the treaty as "certain to prove injurious to the growers of many American farm products."

Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, in a press statement felt that the agreement would benefit the "whole of agriculture."

Citrus growers in Florida anticipated an increased Canadian market to result from the treaty and felt that it balanced Florida losses from the

1934. And this comparison was roughly true for the first ten months of 1935.

Early in 1935 quiet efforts were started in the Department of State to persuade Japanese exporters to voluntarily limit their shipments to this country.

During the first ten months of 1935 the net gain in importations of cotton cloth from all countries was actually less than the increase in Japanese imports. This indicates that the Japanese gains have been made at the expense of other foreign supplies.

American cotton growers are particularly concerned with this situation since government figures show that Japanese consumption of American cotton fell off 100,000 bales last year. Japan is turning to India as a source of cotton. Total cotton consumption in Japan increased sharply last year, in spite of the large decrease in purchases of American cotton.

Grange Outlines National Policy

National Group Oppose Canada Trade Pact; Ask For AAA Amendments

In Sacramento, California, in November, the National Grange held its 69th Annual Session. Thirty-five states were represented in its voting body which deliberated for nine days on the varied needs of rural people.

Seventeen hundred members of the organization at Sacramento received the highest degree of the Grange. At the biennial election the organization endorsed National Master Louis J. Taber for another two-year term following his progressive leadership for the past 12 years.

The Grange represents 8,000 subordinate units with a dues paid membership of 800,000.

Outstanding actions taken by the Grange in their annual session included demands for amendment and simplification of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, better agricultural financing facilities, restriction of holding companies, extension of rural electrification, reduction in rural unemployment, rigid economy in Government and a balanced budget, and the elimination of political influences from the administration of farm organizations.

The Grange went on record opposing reciprocal trade practices or favored national treaties using industrial products to the disadvantage of agriculture and especially condemned the reciprocity treaty with Canada.

The Grange also opposed the Resettlement Program except "when carefully considered and guided by sound common sense." It also opposed reduction of present tariff rates on seed potatoes, hay and other farm staples.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a member of the Grange for a quarter century, sent a personal message of greeting to the Sacramento convention.

In regard to the AAA, the Grange asked that the act be amended to increase farm control and eliminate bureaucratic methods. It also asked that a reward be given farmers for growing crops for which there is a shortage, and for development of new crops; crop insurance for thrifty farmers to the extent of a return equal to seed and labor investment; prevention of crop signers from growing crops of which there is a surplus.

Permanent features of a definite agricultural program endorsed by the Grange looked to the development of cooperative marketing; diversion of agricultural products to industrial uses; a sound land use program with definite efforts to check soil erosion; reforestation, and the debenture method to open foreign markets.

Secretary Wallace, commenting on the Canadian pact said in part "there are a few farm groups which will fear their being held by the new agreement, but actually in these cases the tariff reductions are moderate, and in addition, there are quota restrictions of such a nature that imports from Canada cannot affect the American price structure by more than 1 percent. This small effect in my judgment will, as a rule, be more than offset by the increased payrolls of industries established along the northern border and in the northeastern states."

Under the agricultural concessions in the Canadian agreement, Canada reduces the duties applicable to the United States on a large number of fruits and vegetables, livestock products, poultry and eggs. The principal concessions made by the United States are in the form of duty reduction on cattle, cream and certified seed potatoes. In each of these cases, the duty reduction applied only to a special quantity of imports. Other Canadian agriculture products upon which duties were reduced included cheese, live and dressed poultry, horses, grass and other forage crop seeds, maple sugar, turnips, hay and certain fruits.

In a release for publication, the United States Department of Agriculture states "a large part of the decline in our agricultural exports to Canada from \$50,000,000 to \$15,000,000 in the past five years should be recovered in consequence of the Canadian trade agreement."



Louis J. Taber, Master, National Grange



Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture



George Peck

Farm Questions Face Assembly

State Grange Will Present Program Adopted At Annual Meeting

Many problems affecting Virginia farmers will be brought before the State General Assembly, just now convening for a 30-day session.

The tax on land will be a subject given early consideration. During November and December property owners held gatherings in various parts of the state preliminary to asking the General Assembly for Real Estate Tax Relief.

A. W. Mosby, Jr., the president of the Virginia Real Estate Association, points out that Real Estate in Virginia is forced to bear upwards of 80% of local government costs. Real Estate is assessed at \$1,180,000,000 and it is taxed to the extent of \$24,000,000. Other forms of taxable wealth are assessed at \$666,000,000 and are taxed to the extent of \$4,853,000. Real Estate as a whole represents slightly more than twice the taxable wealth of the Commonwealth and pays nearly five times this much in taxes.

The Virginia State Grange, at its annual meeting in October, developed a definite state legislative program which State Master Meade Ferguson states will be pressed energetically in this session of the General Assembly.

Outstanding in the Grange Legislative program is a demand for further support for "social service needful for the welfare of the people." In support of this demand, the Grange resolution says "as long as the people of the state can spend nearly \$22,000,000 on alcoholic beverages as they did last year—they are able without undue hardship to support the advanced social services."

A constitutional amendment to consolidate county boards of supervisors and school boards "to restore waning confidence in county government" is being sought by the Grange.

A portion of the Grange legislative program before the General Assembly is devoted to the fact that half of the rural white families and a quarter of a million negroes in Virginia, lack minimum education, income and living standards. It is urged that every possible effort be made to raise the standards of living and of education for these people.

The Grange seeks heavier personal income and gift taxes and a retail tax on luxuries as sources of additional revenue.

The Grange is also interested in furthering highway safety measures.

opportunity for further development in this line.

No section of the country, however vast its resources, can withstand a period of economic stress such as has been experienced during the last few years without serious effect upon virtually all of its economic structure. The manner in which the Del-Mar-Va area has withstood the period is the strongest kind of tribute to the fundamental soundness of its basic conditions, the undaunted character and resourcefulness of its people, and the inherent value of its possibilities for diversified agriculture. It is my confident belief that this section offers greater opportunities for development today than at any time in its distinguished history. It is up to our educational forces and our commercial agencies to capitalize upon the resources there available.



In recent years development of commercial flocks of turkeys has been an important phase in the extension of the Del-Mar-Va Poultry Industry.

Opportunities Abound on Del-Mar-Va Peninsula

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With the growth of metropolitan areas, the need for the products which can be grown so successfully on the peninsula has increased constantly until it can be said truly that this territory lies within 200 miles of fifteen million people. Perhaps the case with which agriculture may be pursued on the Eastern Shore, and the comparative ease with which a living may be derived from the waters that bathe its shores may be a reason why there has not been even more intensive development of the economic possibilities of the land. Producers who are adapting their cultural practices to market demands, both as to the crops produced and especially with respect to high quality, are being well rewarded in returns for their efforts in that direction.

For a number of years I have emphasized repeatedly the desirability of farmers in Maryland, and other states with similar location, devoting their efforts principally to production of products for human consumption. The reason for following that policy seems evident, in view of the millions of human beings in such close proximity who must be fed. The economic conditions existing on the Del-Mar-Va peninsula are especially adapted to following such a policy and at the same time offer greater promise in that line than most any section with which I am familiar.

The vast majority of products marketed from this area go directly into human consumption, or at least with a minimum of processing. It leads the State and area in both Irish and sweet potatoes, and in strawberry culture, watermelons, and particularly in canning crops. It has been for years a renowned canning center and canning crops furnish a source of cash return that is not always fully appreciated in considering the agricultural production of the area. It is only in comparatively recent years that systematic and determined efforts have been made to improve the quality of canned products in this section and the results of such efforts have proved of distinct value.

Among the developments of comparatively recent years is the growth of the

dairy industry, as I have mentioned, and a decided expansion in the production of poultry. An outstanding phase of the latter activity is the development of commercial flocks of turkeys. At present, it is not uncommon to find flocks of two thousand or more birds on a farm and the returns from their production have been an important factor during the last few years of economic stress. Both the dairy and poultry industries have provided regular and dependable cash income during periods when conditions with respect to some of the other products were less favorable.

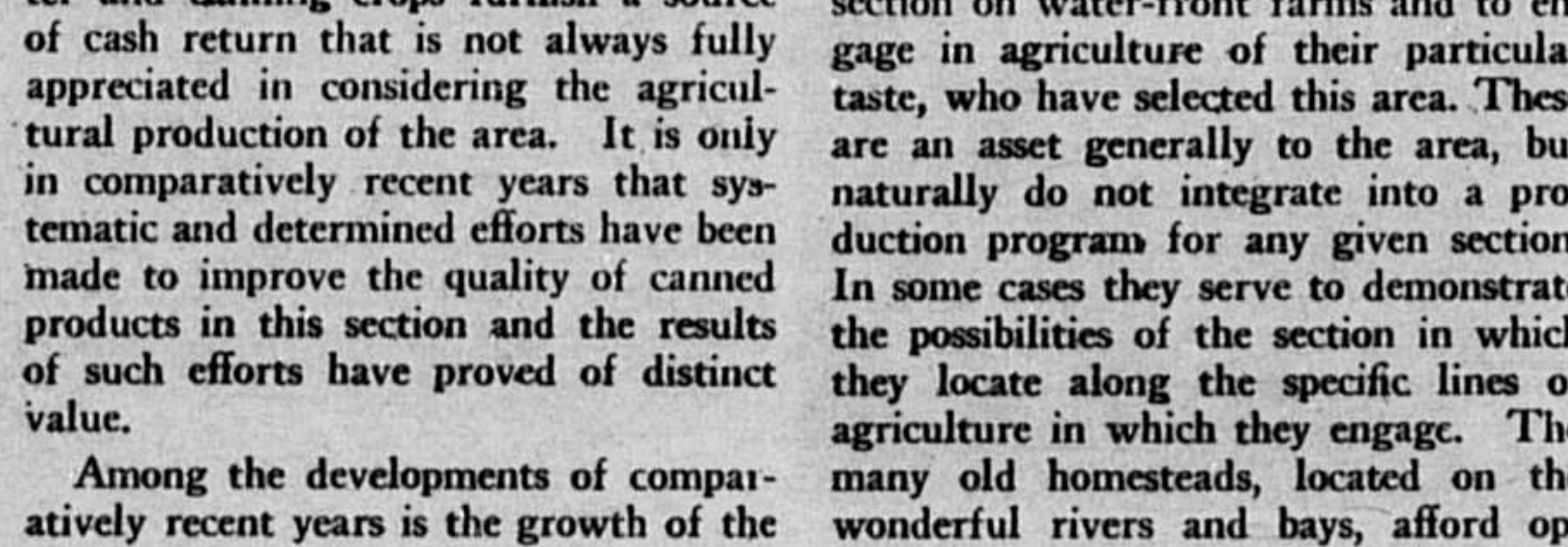
There is need for more intensive analysis of the Eastern Shore area, with a view to determining more definitely than has yet been done the particular crops and products to which the several sections are especially adapted. There is need also for better organization of growers for marketing their products, and particularly along the line of improving quality and adaptation to the demands. It has often been said that if the Del-Mar-Va area were situated in California, or some other far away section which presents even fifty per cent of its possibilities, we would be surprised at the use that would be made of it. Possibly its nearness to markets has permitted independent operation and has been somewhat of a drawback to more efficient organization for marketing purposes.

A development of comparatively recent years is of considerable significance in the economic and social life of the area. Certainly, it is evidence of the desirable conditions found there. I refer to the large number of so-called wealthy persons, seeking to locate in a desirable section on water-front farms and to engage in agriculture of their particular taste, who have selected this area. These are an asset generally to the area, but naturally do not integrate into a production program for any given section. In some cases they serve to demonstrate the possibilities of the section in which they locate along the specific lines of agriculture in which they engage. The many old homesteads, located on the wonderful rivers and bays, afford op-

portunity for further development in this line.

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William R. Shaffer, 18, Maurertown, Virginia, was elected president of the national organization of Future Farmers of America, at the annual meeting of the organization in Kansas City. "Bill" is a freshman at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, a member of Battery "K," V.P.I. He served as state president of the Future Farmers last year.

Marketing Study Urged

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ernment to help the farmer. Every one agrees that the farmer is entitled to every possible assistance in solving his problems; however, so far, he has been much in the position of the patient on whom the doctors performed many experimental operations and, after each one, exclaimed: "The operation was a success"; but the patient died.

For years, under each national administration, we have had a succession of governmental experiments with the farmer as the patient. On the one hand, we have paid him to curtail his production; on the other, we have spent large sums of money to tell him how to increase productivity.

In the final analysis, the farmer's income must be computed only in the articles of service which it will buy and it makes little difference whether he receives a dollar a bushel for his wheat and pays a dollar for a certain group of articles he must have; or, whether he receives two dollars a bushel for his wheat and must pay two dollars for the articles he must buy.

More of Consumer Dollar The problem, therefore, becomes one of finding a way to give the farmer more of the purchaser's dollar.

I cannot subscribe to the theory of overproduction of farm products; not while there are hungry people; not even while food is being burned and fruit crops rot on the trees. We read of milk being poured into sewers; but we read also of babies dying for want of milk.

The farm problem resolves itself into one of cheaper distribution. Americans will consume all that the farmers can produce if it be offered them at a price which they can afford to pay.

A few years ago, I was a member of a Senate Committee which made a rather hurried investigation of the price of bread and a few other food products.

That committee had approximately a month for its investigation and to prepare its recommendation. That recommendation was that a complete study be made by the Federal Trade Commission and others. That was four years ago. Only in the last few weeks has such work been undertaken and then in a manner which will probably take a long period of time to complete.

This new inquiry is proposed to settle the responsibility for mounting food prices, which the Department of Agriculture refuses to accept.

We have all the federal set-up necessary to make a practical study of the distribution of farm products; we need an aroused public sentiment to focus attention on this phase of the farmer's problem, to the end that it shall bring relief to him and to the man who consumes farm products.