Emergency Crop Loan Bureau Plays Santa For Shoremen

"The director of the emergency crop and feed loan section of the Farm Credit Administration announced today that emergency loans for 1940 have been made available in those areas where farming conditions on the Eastern Shore are seriously affected by drought or flood this year."

This announcement, issued several days ago from the Baltimore branch office of the United States Farm Credit Administration, means to hard-up farmers of Maryland, most of them on the Eastern Shore, that there still is a Santa Claus.

Salisbury, not the North Pole, is viewed as his headquarters. In his bag, they hope, are checks totaling about $100,000. Last year he stuffed their Christmas stockings with $67,000.

C. Ray Hare, field superintendent of the Emergency Crop Loan Bureau, is the 200-pound up-to-date Santa Claus. His job is to lend truck farmers a harvest of dollar bills when all other credit sources have failed and when the alternative is share-cropping or the relief rolls.

And the greater number of these loans are repaid, seventy per cent. of them on the Eastern Shore and ninety per cent. taking the State as a whole.

The Weather Bureau reported no floods or droughts on the Shore this summer. But farmers budgets showed that cantaloupes brought 30 cents a crate, of which 27 cents went to buy the crate, and 3 cents to the farmer. This despite the fact that cantaloupes in Baltimore city markets cost two for a quarter.

Sweet potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, peas and beans brought similar returns.

That is why marginal vegetable growers lack cash to buy fertilizer for next year's crop. That is why their wives can't order new muslin curtains for the kitchen windows. And why banks refuse to extend credit to them.

And that is why the Emergency Crop Loan Bureau decided the emergency was again real, though chronic, and Santa Claus Hare, driving a coupe instead of a reindeer, went into action.

One result of his previous loans has been that for the past five years there has been an increase in tenant farming on the Eastern Shore.

Squeezed behind a big desk in a little office on the second floor of the Salisbury Postoffice, Mr. Hare early this week was busy taking applications, collecting payments on old debts and dispensing advice. Usually his blue eyes held a Christmas Eve twinkle, and his cigar, as much a part of him as his necktie, was tilted at an optimistic angle.

"Now that's all right, Jim," he said to a farmer making a $4 payment on a two-year-old loan. "I know you haven't paid the doctor for some medicine he gave you last week. You settle with him first."

Next came a woman, her shoulders bent from thirty years of hoeing potatoes. She laid on the office desk twenty $1 bills.

"I got to fretting about the money we owed you, so this week my man slaughtered a hog and here it is."

Occasionally the field superintendent's eyes do not twinkle and his face looks as hard as his fists. This is when Hare, who aided by the county agents, knows his debtors inside out, learns that some have chiseled. If one of them buys a car instead of seed for next year's planting, he is summoned to the office.

The Government lends money at four per cent., taking a mortgage on the coming crop. The money legally can be spent on seed, fertilizer and on gas and oil for the tractor, but not for the automobile. It can be spent for a pair of overalls, but not for a Sunday suit. When chiseling occurs, no more credit is granted.

WHITE CHRISTMAS HERE HELD UNLIKELY

If it's a white Christmas it will probably be whitewash — if the present weather setup persists.

John R. Weeks, chief of the Weather Bureau's office, said that throughout the country there is no snow or really severe winter weather that might beat Santa Claus to Maryland.

Temperatures in general are above normal and there is an unusual lack of precipitation, Mr. Weeks continued.

The daily forecast, however, is for a reaction toward more seasonable conditions. It said the weather later this week will be somewhat colder.

For the interim the forecast is for mostly cloudy skies, with occasional light rain and warmer temperatures tonight, and for continued cloudiness preceded by rain, tomorrow.

Tonight's lowest reading is expected to be about 40 degrees, said Mr. Weeks.

The House Of Hazards

--by Mac Arthur



Today And Tomorrow

Continued from page one

Finnish discus throwers, javelin throwers and participants in other sports figuring often as winners against the athletes of the whole world.

* * *

Manufacturers of linoleum advocate for cleaning it, hot soft soap suds, applied with a soft cloth. Rinse with clear water and dry as thoroughly as possible by rubbing with a cloth or mop squeezed out of clear water. Never use a scouring powder on linoleum, as it roughens up the surface, making it hold the dust and dirt more readily.

* * *

Wash and peel six medium sized potatoes. Cut in four equal parts. Place in a shallow tin, greased, and bake one-half to three-quarters of an hour in a hot oven. Pour over some meat gravy, and serve alone or around the meat on a hot platter.

* * *

The lean of fresh pork from a good young carcass is a grayish white turning to a delicate rose color in the older animal; firm and velvety in texture and fine, smooth grained. It should appear juicy but not wet or watery. The lean should be well marbled and covered with a white, smooth, firm fat, free from fibers. The fore quarters or shoulder cuts of pork are delicately juicy and offer many splendid pieces for a tempting, economical dinner.

Finland had high hopes of getting the Olympic games for 1940, which had been scheduled for Japan. Japan is out, and now it looks as if Finland might be out, unless the rest of the world comes to her rescue and succeeds in driving the Russians out of the country. The World War of 1914-18 caused the cancellation of the Olympic games for 1916. It looks now as if the present war might make it necessary to drop another four-year sporting event.

HONOR . . . . . courage

Finland has endeared itself to America because it is the only European nation which has paid its regular instalments on the money our Government lent for war and rehabilitation purposes. The Finns borrowed no money from us for war, but after the war we supplied them with about 44 million dollars worth of food. They paid 36 millions in cash and gave us notes for the remaining eight million.

There is talk in Washington of either cancelling the remaining Finnish debt, or in some other way showing our national sympathy for them, as England, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and other nations are doing. The Finns' high sense of honor has won them the respect of the whole world.

Not since the invasion of Belgium by the Germans in 1914 has a small nation's plight aroused such a universal wave of genuine sympathy. And, like the Belgians, the Finns have proved their courage and their fighting qualities in resisting the invaders.

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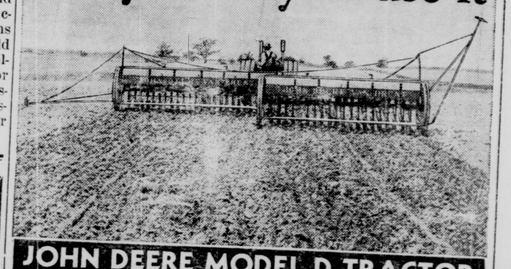
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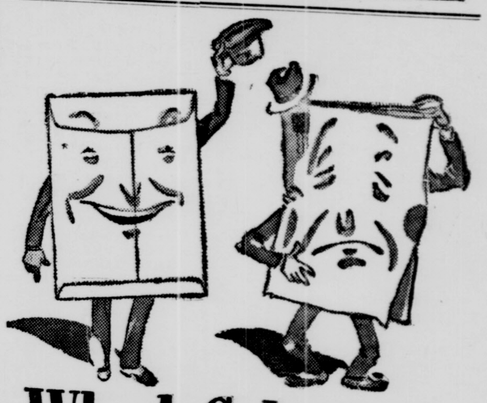


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