Progress in Collection of Excess Profits on Wool Reported by Department Experts

Large Dealers Holding $533,000 Pending Income Tax Decision; Congress at Sea

The Department of Agriculture recently announced the results of a hearing in Washington, called by the Secretary of Agriculture, on matters pertaining to the valuation of handling of the 1919 wool clip. The hearing was granted in response, primarily, to numerous requests by Texas wool growers, but it developed into a consideration both of territory wool and fleece wool. Territory wool is produced west of the Missouri River and the eastern boundary of Texas and practically all of it in 1918 was shipped on a consignment basis to Government distributing centers. Fleece wool, produced east of that line, was largely purchased in small lots through a large number of country dealers. The points at issue in the hearing, therefore, were different for the two classes of wool.

The facts developed showed that nearly all of the questions at issue so far as the Texas growers are concerned can be handled only by the War Department, and arrangements are being made for adjudication by the proper authorities in that department . The complaint of the Texas growers, primarily, is that too large deductions for dirt and other impurities were made in valuing Texas wool and that, therefore, the growers received too little for their wool.

The questions that were presented relating to fleece wool come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, the wool division of the War Industries Board having been transferred to the Bureau of Markets of the Department of Agriculture by Executive order December 31, 1918.

Reports Collection of Excess Profits

The Bureau of Markets made a report, covering the period since the transfer, showing the work of securing sworn reports, auditing them, and collecting excess profits which will be returned to the growers. It was shown that, in addition to the 3600 country dealers to whom permits were issued by the War Industries Board, the Bureau of Markets has discovered about 800 country dealers who operated without permits.

The bureau has secured reports from all of the large central dealers and has nearly completed its audits. Many of these dealers, however, have been holding excess profits amounting to about $553,000 pending decision of the Treasury Department as to whether or not income tax will be collected on these sums. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue ruled, on April 9, that payment of income tax on excess profits on 1918 wool will not be insisted on where payment is made to the Bureau of Markets according to the regulations governing the 1918 clip.

The report showed a total of over $1,000,000 in excess profits to be collected and distributed to growers. This showing is on the face of reports submitted by the dealers themselves, so the Bureau of Markets has not audited the books of the dealers.

Government Officials at Conference

In addition to the Secretary of Agriculture, officials of the Bureau of Markets and representatives of the wool growers, there were in attendance at the hearing Bernard M. Baruch, former chairman of the War Industries Board; Lewis Penwell, former chief of the wool section; Judge Edwin B. Parker, a former member of the board; Charles J. Nichols, formerly wool administrator for the War Department; representatives of the Quartermaster General's office; and a number of Members of Congress. All of these exhibited the keenest interest in the collection of excess wool profits and pledged full support to the Department of Agriculture in enforcing the regulations. Members of Congress requested the department to advise them as to any further legislation that may be necessary to accomplish this end. Secretary Meredith spoke of Agriculture to press the work of collecting and distributing excess profits as vigorously as possible with the limited funds and personnel available.

The point was brought out that it is not necessary at this time for individual wool growers to file claims for refunds of excess profits.

GROWING BULBS IN GRAVEL

Many of the beautiful spring flowering bulbs may be grown in artistic flower jars containing only water and clean white pebbles that will prove attractive to the most fastidious. We have all seen this method employed for the Chinese lilies, but few people realize that it may be also employed to good advantage for other bulbs.

Many bulbs may be grown from the first in the pebbles, but there are better results from starting them in the usual way in soil in boxes or flower pots and then transferring them to the pebbles when they show their buds. To do this it is only necessary to carefully wash the roots free from soil and bury them in the pebbles, taking care to break them as little as possible. The florists now offer through the winter "started bulbs" in pots that hold about a dozen plants. These are ideal for such transfers and save the trouble of growing the bulbs from the beginning.

In choosing the bowls and jars for the bulbs there is splendid opportunity for artistic effect. Preferably they should be beautiful in form and simple in outline, subdued and harmonious in coloring and with little decorations. In general they should be low and broad, and they should certainly be watertight so that they can be placed safely upon shelf or table.

The pebbles can be found at the seaside or in the gravel banks as well as in the Japanese and aquarium shops. They are most attractive when mostly white, and the stones should not measure more than half an inch in diameter, most of them being about half that size. Two or three quarts will be an ample supply, as the pebbles are readily washed out to be used over and over again.

Of course, the Chinese lily narcissus is the standard bulb to grow entirely in pebbles. Remove the outer brown coats of the bulbs and make three or four vertical cuts in the outer scales to give freedom of growth for leaves and flower stalks. Then bury the bulbs in the pepples nearly to their tops if the bowl is deep enough or set them on top if the bowl is shallow. In either case keep them in the light in a cool, uniform temperature, especially for the first three weeks.

By far the most satisfactory way to grow the paper white narcissus is in pebbles. Bury the bulbs well in the little stones so that the tops show.

Scientifc Feat of Fitting the Feet

As the season advances one notes an increasing number of French shoes, especially in the evening, when very elaborate ones are worn with high straps over the instep and anklets of the material of which the slippers are made. Also seen are a few evening shoes of black and gold or white and gold brocade, with the top formed entirely of straps and reaching well above the ankle. Many patent leather shoes are also worn with light colored hosiery, most of them tying or buttoning over the instep with one, two or three straps or a bow of grosgrain ribbon. Also seen are patent leather pumps, especially with the dark colored clothes.

There have been two styles of shoes that are in strong demand and merchants have not been able to keep up with the orders. One is the white buck sports shoe for women, trimmed with black patent leather, and the other is fine with white kid Oxford ties with baby French heels.

A French Fancy

Next in popularity to white pumps and shoes comes those of gray suede and there continues to be a strong demand for them. Few women have taken to adopting the French idea of flesh-colored hose, which, at a distance, look as though the wearer had none on. However, a few extremists wear them with bronze kid slippers or black patent leather pumps, and the effect is somewhat startling. There is a pinkish taupe shade which is a little less conspicuous, worn by some women who like to be smart and at the same time conservative.

Washable kid leads in pumps and slippers for dancing wear, and following these one sees some canvas, but these are less desirable than kid, as they do not stretch so readily.

Suedes are for the greater part in grays and taupes. A few bronze slippers, usually heavily beaded, are seen, and satin slippers in evening shades with elaborate rhinestone buckles, are favored for general evening wear, with gold and silver metal brocades running a close second. The metal cloths tarnish very quickly and require constant attention in some atmospheres.

Shall Women in India Read?

A Christian presiding over a meeting of a Mohammedan club at a lecture by a Hindu professor on "Education for Women," was the unique position of a Young Men's Christian Association Secretary at Poona, India, recently. At the time of the lecture there were before the city council three propositions regarding education, compulsory education for boys and girls, compulsory education for boys and compulsory education for girls. A parade of 2000 girls and women marched through the city to the council hall to petition the council to act fairly on this question of education for women. It is to be hoped that the council was wise enough to read the signs of the time, and the next mail will bring the good news that in Poona at least the Indian woman has come into her own.

Bamboo is a Dual Service Plant

Nebuchadnezzar has attracted some centuries of curiosity as a grazing human but he deserves no credit for the unique quality o hfis exploit. The Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, asserts that the natives of the Far East were eating grass in the form of edible bamboo sprouts long before the scion of Babylon royalty adopted the diet. And now the tender sprouts of bamboo prepared for the table in the same manner as asparagus, is declared to be a delicious spring vegetable for American tables.

It probably is news to most Americans to learn that there are several bamboo plantations of undoubted value already established in Georgia and Louisiana. Bamboo, according to scientists, is not a tree, but a giant grass. It grows like asparagus, the new plants forming from the original roots. The bamboo sprout shoots up at the incredible rate of a foot a day, and when mature has a stem 4 inches in diameter and 50 feet high. It requires no cultivation. The grown timber has an infinite number of industrial uses owing to the light composition of the wood and its long, tough fibers. It can be used for barrel hoops, ladders, trellises, etc.

It is a valuable crop. In 1912 the leading japanese growers estimated an annual profit of $50 an acre from the sale of edible sprouts and grow timber. Present conditions would warrant a much larger profit. An acre of bamboo will produce about 1000 edible shoots each spring and will continue the production for 40 or 50 years without being renewed.

More general introduction is urged for the South Atlantic, Gulf, and Southern Pacific States where conditions for bamboo culture are favorable.

A. E. F. Bridges for National Forests

As the Germans retreated their last effort was always directed at the destruction of the bridges behind them. The United States Army engineers prepared for this and were supplied with what is known as "fabricated material"—steel girders and trusses all drilled at the factory and ready to be set up across the Aisne or the Marne, or whatever river it happened to be so that the Yank could cross and again close with his foes.

The end of the war came too soon to make it necessary to use all this bridge material, and the Bureau of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture, has its engineers on the problem of adapting the surplus for use in the forest reserves and national parks.

"Fabricated material" means that the parts are ready drilled for connection. This steelwork is, in short, easily handled sections—no part weighs over 2856 pounds—and it probably will lend itself as easily to the uses of the summer vacationist as to the hobnailed tramp of an armed infantryman moving at double-quick.

Besides 168 spans of drilled material, there is at Camp Humphreys, Va., about 900 tons of unfabricated stuff. This will be examined by experts and most of it will be used in the national forests. A rough estimate places the value of this surplus material at about $300,000.

Migratory Bird Treaty

A decision of widespread interest to sportsmen and others affecting the protection of migratory birds was rendered by the United States Supreme Court on April 19th, when it sustained the constitutionality of the migratory bird treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds and the act of Congress to give it effect. This law is administered by the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture.

In March, 1919, the State of Missouri filed suit in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri against Ray P. Holland, a United States game warden, for the purpose of securing a restraining order prohibiting federal wardens from enforcing the migratory bird treaty act in the State. The validity of the treaty and the act was upheld in an opinion rendered by Judge Arba S. Valkenburgh, of the Western district of Missouri on July 2, 1919. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, which has affirmed the opinion of the lower court.

"Did you tell that little bounder that a handsome face like his should appear on the screen?"

"Not exactly. I told him it should be screened."

The Furrow

News and Views About the Farm

Always breed from matured stock. Full development is essential. A 4-year-old male of desirable qualifications, in robust health, is better able to head a breeding pen than an immature or under-sized young bird.

A male's value is really two-fold; he must produce fertile eggs, and he must transmit his own desirable qualities to those eggs. The latter capacity is sometimes lacking because of an impaired constitutional vigor.

A reduced vitality can come from a number of causes. In single flocks it frequently transpires that the male is too gallant, too attentive to his flock to respect food. It is not uncommon for such a male to become half-starved, in which case it becomes necessary to retire the bird for a week or so to restore his vitality. Give him a pen by himself with plenty of feed.

When an incubator is not in use the lamp should be removed, emptied, draped in paper to exclude dust, and stored in a clean place. This is of greater importance than the novice may imagine. If the lamp is kept in the heater, and it is almost sure to contain some oil, this oil will creep up and soak into the jacket which surrounds the heater. Later, when the incubator is started, this oil-soaked heater will throw off a nasty smoke, and probably frighten the inexperienced operator.

Nothing to Fear from Fire

The smoking will exhaust itself in time, of course, but it is very disagreeable. If the lamp has stood in the heater since last season, it may take a day for the oil to be dried out by keeping the lamp burning sufficiently to warm parts of the heater. There is little to be feared from fire.

When the incubator lamp smokes and it is not turned up too high, it is because of insufficient draught at the burner. Perhaps the perforated brass screen, which is intended to supply fresh aid to the flame, is choked with dust or grease. Be sure to keep this screen clean. Brush it daily with the same care that you will give to filling the lamp. And never allow any accumulation of soot or oil on the tank. Incubators are simple to operate, but they must be attended regularly and carefully.

Lamps that burn with a fish-tail flame are likely to smoke. Such a flame is caused by projecting corners of the wick. Trim these corners with a pair of scissors and there will be a nicely rounded flame that will insure the greatest heat without risk of smoking.

In filling the incubator lamp, always allow room for the expansion of the fuel; keep the oil at least one-quarter inch from the top of the tank. If this precaution is not observed, as the oil is warmed it will expand and overflow the tank, making a mess of things.

Provide for Escape of Gas

See that the gas escape from the lamp bowl is clear. As a general thing, this escape is simply a small hole punched in the filled cap. Due to the act that incubator lamps burn continuously, the oil is warmed which causes the formation of gas. There is no danger from the gas, provided it is not put under pressure. The hole in the filler cap allows the gradual escape of any gas in a harmless manner. If the manufacturer has failed to put a hole in the filler cap or provided other means for the escape of gas, the purchaser should do so.

Variations of a degree or two in the running of an incubator have no effect upon a hatch, provided these variations are not sustained for long periods. If, however, a variation of one degree, or even a half degree, is maintained for the entire hatching period of 21 days, the change in the number of heat units received by the eggs is quite considerable, and disaster is almost certain to follow. This brings us to the very important question of the accuracy of the thermometer.

Because a thermometer is new, or bears no trace of mechanical injury, is no assurance as to its accuracy. It is possible for a thermometer to register correctly when it leaves the factory, and in a year's time be a degree or a fraction of a degree off. Glass changes—undergoes structural changes—much the same as wood contracts, and the seasoning process alters, or is likely to alter, the register of the mercury.

Obviously, to be sure of a thermometer, it should be tested each year at the beginning of the hatching season. Any optical store will certify a thermometer for a small charge, and with this certified thermometer you can test any number of others. Or you can buy a certified clinical thermometer and do all your own testing.

To test a thermometer is nothing more than comparing it with an instrument of known accuracy, with warm water as medium. Place the instrument in luke warm water, being careful to observe that both are immersed under precisely the same conditions.

When hatching eggs are first placed in an incubator, though the temperature of the egg chamber may have registered normally, the heat will fall instantly. In fact, the thermometer will probably fall so low as not to be read at all. Do not be alarmed; this is to be expected. It is due to the coolness of the eggs. They have had a temperature of 55 degrees, and if there are several hundred of them in the one chamber, it will take 12 hours or more for the incubator to warm them to the correct temperature.

Safety First

All matches are dangerous from a fire standpoint.

Smoking or striking matches in barns or stables should never be allowed.

Pouring gasoline or kerosene on a smoldering fire endangers life, limb, and property.

Open-flame lights should not be used in a garage or building containing a gasoline engine or gasoline in storage.

Never test for gas leaks with a burning match.

Every open fire should be watched until it is out.

Fire attracts children; children cause many fires.

All oily rags should be kept in a metal container with an air-tight metal cover.

The floor beneath should have metal covering.

Fire hazard should be considered in locating new buildings.

Woodwork should not come in contact with any chimneys.

CENSORSHIP OF THE HEART

Month after month of daily, personal intercourse between the boys of the A. E. F. and the gallant Salvation Army lassies who served them in France, with not a single romance resulting—this is a record unique among the annals of welfare organizations. For practically every other band of workers who went overseas—the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, and many others—counted as a result numberless engagements and marriages between its members and the khaki-clad heroes whom they want to aid. But the Salvation Army alone stands out from all the rest as the one organization whose girls came home just as they had gone—wholehearted and fancy free. And the reason is not hard to find.

For one of the strictest regulations of Salvation Army life is one which requires a pledge from every member that he will never marry anyone who will take him outside of the Army. And this, of course, applies to women as well as to men.

In the case of officers particularly, or candidates for officership, the rules, while rather unusual, are at the same time very interesting. Such question as, "Are you courting? If not, do you pledge yourself to do nothing of the kind while you are a candidate for a commission, during training and for at least twelve months after your appointment as a field officer?" must be satisfactorily answered before the applicant is accepted and allowed to enter one of the training schools for officers.

And, although they may seem rather personal in character, the results achieved by the questions and the honest answers given them have proved many times over that they are a wise procedure. For it is a well-known fact that matrimonial troubles among the members of the Salvation Army are very few and far between, and it is to this personal questionnaire which every applicant is required to fill out, that Army officials attribute the peaceful martial relations that prevail.

"Our regulations as to engagements and marriages have proved the salvation of many a young person", declared Captain Violet McAllister recently, in discussing the matter. Captain McAllister, who, with her sister, Lieutenant Alice McAllister, spent eighteen months in France with A. E. F., is one of the outstanding figures among the younger officers of the Army in Philadelphia.

"It often happens", she continued, "that boys and girls who are attracted to each other mistake this natural attraction for lasting affection, and thoughtlessly plunge into matrimony, with frequently tragic results. But every officer or candidate for officership in our organization who contemplates marriage must first secure the consent of Headquarters to his or her engagement, and then wait a prescribed length of time before marrying. This makes it a step that cannot be taken without serious thought and preparation, giving the persons involved plenty of time in which to become thoroughly acquainted and make up their minds as to the future. We have found it to be an admirable provision, and our marriages nearly always turn out happily."

Besides the pledge to ignore all matters of the heart while in training for a commission, and for at least a year after his or her appointment, every candidate is made fully to understand and abide by the fact that he or she will probably not be allowed to marry for two years after becoming an officer. This regulation, however, is waived in the case of persons who were engaged before applying for a commission. No young man, however, is ever granted permission to marry before he is twenty-two years of age, unless required by Headquarters for special service in which a married man would be more acceptable than a single one.

Headquarters, of course, reserve the right to pass upon the suitability of the chosen man or woman, stipulating always, in the case of an officer who wishes to marry a soldier, that the latter might be willing to enter training also to become an officer, and serve six months after commissioning before marrying. The couple may become engaged, however, while the one is only a soldier, as long as he or she is eligible for an officership.

How About It?

First Scout—Why do the ships use knots instead of miles?

Second Scout—I suppose they want to keep the ocean tied.—Boys' Life.

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