Answer Took Wind Out of His Sails

The late Duke of Buccleuch, when Lord Dalkeith, sat in the house of commons for several years. Once, while canvassing his constituency, he met an old farmer and solicited his vote.

The farmer did not know the noble candidate.

"But you know his father, the duke?" said a helper.

"Aye, I know the duke—he's a gran' mor," said the farmer.

"Then you'll surely vote for his son."

"I'm no sure of that," said the farmer. "It's no every coo that has a cauff like hersel'."—London Tit-Bits.

Tree Executioner

Standing knee deep in decayed wood chips, a man in armor was recently discovered inside a hollow oak. Beside him rested a sword, which crumbled almost to dust on exposure to daylight; his bones betrayed the same powder-like fragility, and his coat of mail resembled in the observer's eyes "rusty, red tissue paper." Obviously, in his anxiety to hide from his enemies this centuries-old soldier in scuttling into a tree had overlooked the means of getting out. The oak, holding him prisoner, had starved him to death.

No Use to Turn Aside

For all of us the road has to be walked every step and the uttermost farthing paid. he gate will open wide to wclcome us; but it will not come to meet us. Neither is it any use to turn aside, it only makes the road longer and so much harder.—George Macdonald.

PE: WHAT'S THE BEST RECIPE FOR SUCCESSFUL HOME CANNING? HERE IT IS...

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. . menace to Health!

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DO you suffer burning, scanty or too frequent urination; backache, headache, dizziness, loss of energy, leg pains, swellings and puffiness under the eyes? Are you tired, nervous—feel all unstrung and don't know what is wrong?

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Use Doan's Pills. Doan's are for the kidneys only. They are recommended the world over. You can get the genuine, time-tested Doan's at any drug store.

DOAN'S PILLS

NEW DROUTH MAY RIVAL THAT OF '34

Rainfall Far Short of Former Dry Periods; Dakotas Hardest Hit; Federal Government Acts to Prevent Disaster.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

ONCE again the plains of the West are thirsting in a major drouth that may surpass in destruction, desolation and despair even the record drouth of the spring of 1934. Rainfall has been far less in some states this spring than in 1934, although this year there has been an absence of the sweltering heat which accompanied the earlier drouth.

Worst conditions have been in the western part of the Dakotas, eastern Montana and Wyoming; in a somewhat smaller area where the corners of Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma meet; another area of about the same size in southeastern Missouri, and over a vast region of the Southeast, including generous slices of Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Over the remainder of the states between the Alleghenies and the Rockies, except for some areas about the Great Lakes and in New England, poor pasture conditions exist.

The result has been to throw thousands of farm families on the relief rolls; to cause more thousands to move out of the drouth regions into other states; to drive prices of food higher and higher, with dollar wheat once more returned to Chicago and other markets, and to spur the federal government to swift operation of remedial agencies.

Drouth Talk Displaces Politics

There is little talk of anything else but the drouth in the stricken plains; the speculation as to the chances of rain overshadow even the argumentative possibilities of politics in one of the most colorful and interesting political campaigns of the nation's history. The barometer and the thermometers are under even closer scrutiny than primary returns and stray votes.

Prayers for rain by the farmers of the Northwest have been largely in vain, with clear, unclouded skies still looking down over the parched grazing lands. Crops are suffering from the effects of the dust blown upon them, while live stock are hungry from lack of feed, which has been likewise damaged by the silt.

There has been some little rain in the Southwest, indeed heavy rainstorms the last week in June in Texas were so severe that 26 persons were drowned in the flood which resulted. Dozens of homes were swept away along the banks of Big Sandy creek near San Antonio. The Southwest benefited little from slight precipitation during May.

The Dakotas probably have been the hardest hit. The governors of both states, as well as Senator Nye of North Dakota, regarded their situation as serious enough to warrant their making a personal visit upon the President of the United States, to make a plea for money to feed live stock and bring relief to distressed farming people. The government has undertaken to render what assistance it can; cattle will be moved out of the drouth lands into better pasture, but there will be no wholesale slaughter as there was last year. During the month of June some of the Dakota grazing land in the worst areas received only about an inch of rainfall, where 3.2 inches is normal.

Cost Is $250,000,000.

From April 1 to June 24 during the "big dry" of 1936, North Dakota had only 2.06 inches of rainfall; during even the record drouth of 1934 these three months saw 3.83 inches of rain. South Dakota fared some better, getting 4.31 inches, as compared to 4.54 in 1934. In Montana 3.17 inches of rain fell, as compared with 4.15 in 1934. Texas' rainfall during the spring months was only 7 per cent of normal.

By July 1 this year's drouth, it was estimated, had cost a damage of 250 million dollars. In the Northwest alone, 100,000 farm families were forced to seek subsistence aid from the government.

In Washington a drouth emergency committee was set up under J. W. Tapp, to make arrangements for the purchase and processing of a million head of cattle, which would perish if the drouth continued, although it was predicted that there would be some rain within a few days.

A survey of conditions in the drouth area, compiled by Harry L. Hopkins and the WPA revealed that hundreds of family heads would have to be transferred to the relief rolls immediately. Their cattle had been sold and in most cases they had already piled up what Mr. Hopkins called "mountains of debt."

Reporting about results of the dry spring of 1934 and other drouth periods, Hopkins said during the six months before last December 15, more than 32,000 persons had been forced to leave their homes in the "dust bowl" and migrate to California.

Third Drouth in Six Years

"Most of the Great Plains area faces its third major drouth in six years," said Hopkins. Some of the regions, particularly those in the central and western Dakotas, have had low crop yields since 1930. In practically all of the areas, the severe drouth of 1934 intensified the distressing rural economic conditions which have been accumulating over a period of years.

"The extent of wind erosion and crop damages has varied widely in different sections of the stricken area; a few sections, favored with normal rainfall over a long period, have escaped soil and crop ravages altogether. This is true of sections of the Red River valley in North Dakota, part of southeastern South Dakota and to some extent southeastern Nebraska."

In other regions, such as the north Texas plains, he said, wind erosion has damaged as much as 95 per cent of the land. Some of the land is damaged so badly that it is doubtful whether it will ever be able to support crops in the future. Hopkins declared that much of the crop land in sandy loam areas should be converted into permanent grass land.

Drastic reductions in the herds of cattle in some of the states have resulted from reduction of pasture land by three-fourths. In the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming, officials estimated that 100,000 families would have to be added to the relief rolls. It was planned to carry the work relief program until December 1 and as far beyond that date as the weather would permit, at an average wage of $44 a month. Compensation for use of farmers' teams would bring the average to about $60 a month.

Three Government Programs.

Officials of the federal government say to the farmers that the Great Plains can be prevented from becoming a desert if proper precautions are taken. Science has not yet devised a way to make it rain, but the government now has under way a program of three divisions to provide for the storage of what moisture exists and to prevent soil erosion.

First of the three divisions is the soil conservation program. This does not refer to the entire substitute AAA program, but only to that part of it which actually is soil conservation proper. This means the work and the educational program undertaken by the soil erosion service of the Department of Agriculture.

Attempts are being made to restore vegetation on thousands of acres of plowed fields, on the theory that such vegetation will combat erosion and conserve moisture. Nine contour furrowing demonstration stations have been set up in the West. This furrowing consists of the development of small terraces with closed ends. These are supposed to conserve the rain.

In many regions the CCC is assisting the soil conservation service in the undertaking. It is believed that if the farmers can be taught to put vegetation on part of their land and to furrow correctly, the campaign will be successful in eliminating most drouth disasters.

To make possible the storage of water for use in times of drouth, the reclamation service of the Department of the Interior has under way a series of dam and irrigation projects in the western states. Some lesser projects of this nature have been on the WPA schedule.

These projects are of ambitious scope and wide range. At the top of the list are such enormous and expensive ones as the giant Fort Peck and Grand Coulee dams, and at the bottom are numerous small streams which have been dammed at comparatively lower costs, although their costs have been attacked from time to time in many cases as wasteful "boondoggling." Officials believe that eventually water from the reservoirs behind the large dams will make possible the use of much land that is now unproductive, and that the smaller dams will help in relieving the situation generally.

Resettlement Program.

In a third division of the program, the resettlement administration, under Professor Tugwell, has under way a $10,000,000 schedule of purchase of submarginal lands to convert them into pasture in combating drouths. Under this plan, it is proposed to buy 1,282,522 acres of the submarginal land at $2 an acre; it has already made some little progress. The program is divided into two parts, one of which involves six projects in the Plains states, embracing 415,000 acres. The other part includes the purchase of 867,522 acres of Indian grazing land on the Rio Grande watershed of New Mexico.

The conception of the resettlement program includes the moving of 650 families to better land at a cost of $3,300,000—that's $5,076 a family. It also comprises $2,645,000 for the purchase of land, and $300,000 for antierosion work and the development of plains land.

There was a fourth division of the federal government's battle against the drouth menace, the $75,000,000 shelter-belt program, but this program has been dropped, due largely to opposition which labeled it impractical. Approximately $3,000,000 had already been spent.

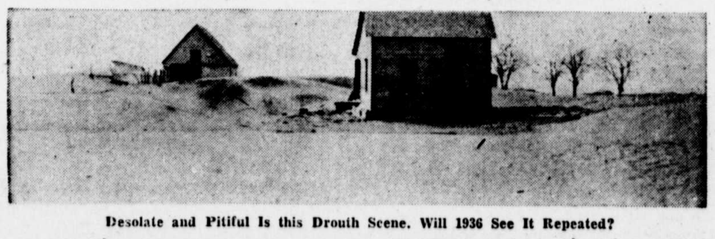
The idea was to plant a belt of trees 100 miles wide and more than 1,000 miles long, stretching from the Canadian border across the Great Plains to Texas. Its proponents contended that such a shelter belt would break the erosion-causing winds and conserve some of the moisture. The weather bureau says that it would have no effect on rainfall itself. However, congress refused to appropriate the funds needed for the project, and Comptroller General McCarl, recently retired, ruled that the President could not use $15,000,000 of drouth relief funds for the purpose. McCarl did, under protest, permit the use of a smaller sum.

Some shelter-belt strips, along a 1,300 mile line, have been planted. Such a strip consists of a narrow row of trees up to a half mile long.

© Western Newspaper Union.

What 1934 Drouth Did to Once Rich Grazing Lands.

Masks like these were not uncommon in the Southwest during the dust storms which followed the long dry spell of 1935.



Desolate and Pitiful Is this Drouth Scene. Will 1936 See It Repeated?

Winds Cause Uniform Climate

Winds, when not opposed by mountain barriers, tend to cause uniformity of climate, over extensive areas. They largely determine rainfall, therefore controlling distribution of life.

In Southern California

Oil Derricks Form Background for Tomato Patch.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

TALK with priests at the old missions and they will tell you that pioneer padres trained Indians to do the first irrigation work in Southern California. Some of their old ditches still exist.

You can tell by where these missions stand what good judges of land the priests were. They never built a church on poor soil.

Local farming owes these padres a great debt. They not only brought the first cattle and horses, but they experimented with seeds to see what would grow best in California.

They planted the first oranges and grapes. Lemons, figs, and olives they brought, too, and wheat, destined to become a tremendous crop.

Almost feudal in aspect were these mission farms. Indians were trained as farmers, cowboys, carpenters, saddle makers, and weavers. They made things not only for the use of priests and themselves, but for Spanish soldiers as well.

Cattle became the mainstay of life, with beef the chief food; hides made leather for saddles, harness, and shoes, and even served as money. Early sea traders from New England called them "California bank notes."

Sheep, too, were raised; and Indians made blankets and cloth for suits from the wool. They raised some hogs also, mostly for lard to make soap.

Missions served as stock farms from which private owners could borrow enough breeding animals to build up their own herds. Horses of a tough, speedy type, with a strain of Arabian from those brought to Mexico by conquistadores, thrived there, multiplying so fast that in time wild herds became a nuisance. Men used to drive them into the sea to drown them.

Cattle often ran wild over the open range. In self-defense travelers sometimes had to shoot savage bulls. At slaughtering time, vaqueros rode down the thundering herds, slew what they wanted, and left carcasses to be skinned by butchers who followed. Melted tallow was packed in hides and transported to sailing vessels along the coast. This trade dwindled after gold was found.

"The inflowing of population made an end to the great droves of cattle," wrote Dana in 1859, on his second trip to California.

Old Ranches Cut Up.

Today this once huge industry, which kept the shoe and leather trades of New England supplied, is a dim tradition. In museums you see old oxcarts and horse gear, massive hand-made furniture and pioneer weapons.

Santa Barbara stages a fiesta each season, in which modern beaux and belles dress in pioneer Spanish costumes, ride horses with Spanish saddles, sing Spanish ballads, and dance fandangos to early Spanish music.

But the modern spectacle is more splendid than the original hard, frugal life of toil ever was.

Practically all old ranches are cut up now. One or two, like the Santa Margarita and the Tejon, remain; but overseers make their rounds in motor cars. In fields where grunting oxen once pulled wooden plows, you hear now the staccato voice of gas tractors.

Among long-tailed, squawking macaws and tinkling bells in the Mission Inn garden at Riverside stands an old, old orange tree. It is one of two navel seedlings sent here from Brazil, by way of Washington, in 1873. Both lived and are ancestors now of countless trees whose fruit reaches not only the most obscure nooks of the United States, but goes to forty-odd ports overseas, even into Alaska by dog-sled delivery.

What a colossal feat of distribution!

Think of 100,000 carloads a year, cars riding an average of 2,600 miles each. Fantastically, you visualize this endless orange flight as a universe of tiny yellow planets flying forever out of California and into space! Orange picking never stops. Navels move from December to May and Valencias the rest of the year. With oranges go lemons and grapefruit, picked, packed and shipped from some part of California every day in the year. Europe alone takes upward of a million boxes, and Canadians drink orange juice even as we do.

To move and sell such incredible cargoes, more than 13,000 growers form the Fruit Exchange. Their salesmen are posted in 59 central markets, here and abroad. Their brand stamped on fruit is known around the world. They even own their own timber lands and sawmills, where millions of crates are made for packing fruit. By-products, like orange and lemon oils, citric acid and citrus pectin, are made and sold by this organization.

Ships that carry its fruit abroad are vast floating refrigerators, for they must pass through the Panama canal and other tropic waters.

Frost is fought with oil-burning orchard heaters, while millions are spent on sprays and fumigation.

Value of Co-operation.

Individual growers, competing, could not have obtained such methodical, world-wide distribution of oranges now graded, inspected, and sold by the Exchange. It is conspicuous among all man's co-operative efforts. Common interests unite its members, both in business and social affairs.

One visit to an annual orange festival, with all its music, drama, pageantry, and carnival spirit, shows what a role this fruit plays in California life.

More than any other one force, it was the lure of life in a sunny California orange grove which started easterners migrating here in the 1880's—and it still brings them.

From its trees, since the Exchange started its records in 1894, have been picked and sold nearly $2,000,000,000 worth of citrus fruit—or more than the value of all gold mined since its discovery in 1848!

The Bible story of the miraculous gourd vine that grew in one day to make shade for Jonah is hardly more astonishing than the rise of the western vegetable trade. It is an exciting page in the annals of our national farm life. New food habits, the call for more green things, is one cause. Advent of the iced car, overcoming California's former disadvantage of remoteness from eastern markets, is another.

Due to geographic barriers, as late as 1900 this trade was a mere trickle. Now, with refrigeration, standard packing, and advertising, more than 100,000 carloads of garden truck, largely grown in California, ride east every year.

Fly over our Southwest in winter and see the miles of empty yellow cars parked on every available switch and sidetrack as far east as New Mexico. Railroads assemble them there, ready for the seasonal rush of lettuce, peas, cantaloupes, cauliflower, celery, and other fruits and vegetables—enough cars to have moved all the American soldiers who took part in the World war!

Busy Imperial Valley.

Imperial valley, that below-the-sea "Hothouse of America" once called the Salton Sink, grows more cantaloupes, honeydews, and casabas than any area its size in the world. Its large-scale operations are indeed "industrialized farming."

Terrific heat, dust, and the frantic picking, packing, loading, and icing of more than 6,000,000 crates of melons in a few weeks turn this valley, from May to June, into an inferno of nervous haste.

Only Mexicans and Japanese seem able to work in the sun-scorched fields; some say that only they can tell just when a melon should be picked, or when a mule will surely drop from being overheated if driven another rod. Yet 60,000 residents endure this climate!

Frost-free regions along the San Diego coast send their share of tomatoes, celery, and other green foods. Los Angeles county was the pioneer garden spot; there first grew that lettuce now called "iceberg head," an Italian strain introduced through Vilmorin, famous seedsman of Paris.

Something grows in some garden there the year around. Even Nature can be fooled in this high-speed gardening. The artichoke, for example, normally fruits in summer, in the fog-infested coastal valleys. But the growers, by cutting back the plants in June, force them to bud in winter!

Despite its amazing volume, this trade has its problems, one of which is to make a profit. "Some new, puzzling trouble is always coming up," said a grower. "One of them is how to lick the bugs . . . they never lose."

Electricity for Everything.

You marvel at miles of power lines carried on steel towers. Hardly a country home is without electricity. Farmers throw a switch and machines cook food, heat water, milk cows, sterilize milk, and separate the cream. Electric power hatches eggs and warms the coops. Long, dry summers call for much pumping, and electric irrigation pumps run almost continuously from April to September.

Walnuts, formerly dried in the sun, are dehydrated now by electricity. To make seeds germinate faster, cables laid in the soil are heated by this power.

With electricity oranges are colored and precooled for shipment.

Motors hum in myriad industries. In busy oil fields, shops, and harbor sheds, bright lights turn night into day. With electricity men drill for oil, pump it when natural flow subsides, and refine it. The same source heats enormous furnaces and annealing ovens.

In California electricity spurred imagination long before the rest of the world appreciated its versatility The reason is that California, when most of the present electric systems started in the 1890's, had no native fuel except wood. Coal, transported from far places, was costly; but in the mountains was abundant water power. The market for electric light was small in pioneer times and few industries had then started; but the farmer was there, and entrepreneurs taught him to use power for irrigation as early as 1893. Now power lines cover the state's map like a web.

First Political Convention

The Federalist party held the first United States political convention in New York in 1812.

Luxurious Peacock Motif

The Peacock's regal beauty—worthy of your finest linens—inspired this beautiful design, and is sure to inspire you with the desire to embroider his splendid image in cross stitch. You can, you know, for the pattern's a very easy one, despite its rich effect. Wool, silk or cotton floss in realistic bluish-greens and warm browns, or one color only if you prefer, will make a handsome scarf, pillow, chair set or refreshment cloth.

Pattern 1164 comes to you with a transfer pattern of two peacocks 12 1-4 by 14 1-2 inches and four motifs 3 1-2 by 3 1-2 inches; color suggestions: Material requirements; illustrations of all stitches needed.

Send 15 cents in coins or stamps (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle, Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth ave., New York, N. Y. Write plainly pattern number, your name and address.

The Expensive Kicker

Cheerfulness promotes prosperity, creates harmony, increases efficiency. Cheerfulness is the antithesis of the dumps, the blues and of the swan song: "What's the use of anything? Nothing at all." The funeral-faced man, the chronic grouch, the kicker, the knocker and the always-on-the-other-side, the good-for-nothing, may be on your pay roll, but, take it from me, he is the most expensive person on the premises.

Turning Point

Squire to Villager—So you're married, Tom?

Tom—Well, zur, I tuk a fancy to she 'cause of 'er looks; 'er's purty like. When I heerd she was doin' steady washin' for seven families, then and there I surrendered, zur.

His Proxy

"Who's the girl I saw you saying good-by to just now?"

"Erthe sister of an old friend of mine."

"Any reason why you should kiss her?"

"Yes. I'm awfully fond of him."

CONDESCENDING COOK

Mrs. Hatch: Did the cook leave?

Mrs. Smith: No; she didn't take the trouble to leave. She simply notified us by telephone that she was going to stay away.

Worth a Battle

Magistrate—For two years you two men fished together peaceably, and yet you had to fight over this fish.

Prisoner—You see, sir, it was the first one we ever caught!

Yes, Tell Us

He—My father weighed only four pounds when he was born.

She—Mercy me! Did he live

Desperate Measure

She—The doctor has forbidden me to cook.

He—Why, are you ill?

She—No, my husband is.

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