MEN AND AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON

★ National Topics Interpreted by WILLIAM BRUCKART ★

Washington. — Many observers around Washington lately have noticed something of a change in President Roosevelt's attitude since the election which so overwhelmingly returned him to office. From most any standpoint you assume, you will note, I believe, a more critical attitude on the part of the President concerning the schemes advanced by his advisers. He is apparently examining the suggestions, the proposals and programs laid before him much more cautiously and carefully than was his record during the past three years.

Change in Roosevelt

It is yet too early to catalog this attitude as a change on Mr. Roosevelt's part but surely it is noticeable. If he continues it, it is all to the good for the country. If he continues it, it cannot fail to mean better administration, better legislation, sounder national policies. It necessarily must mean as well, that there will be fewer of the half-baked ideas, plans which the President had not considered fully, programs he had not thought through.

One of the important indicators of this changed attitude on the part of Mr. Roosevelt comes in the form of an announcement in which Mr. Roosevelt named a committee of outstanding agricultural authorities and citizens whose job is to prepare a long-term program for alleviation of the farm tenant problem, if not its complete eradication. Secretary Wallace will head this committee which is to report early in February and the appointment of Mr. Wallace to this job incidentally seems to assure his retention as head of the Department of Agriculture—and there had been some question whether he would remain.

Of course, the farm tenant problem long has been a cancerous growth on American agriculture. It has been spreading. Previously, I have reported in these columns how official figures disclosed an increasing number of farms operated by tenants and owned by absentee landlords. It has been a problem for some years and seems to be growing more acute. Hence, the President's move would seem to mean that the federal government is going to put its hand to the oar and try, at least, to do something about it.

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Now, it may mean that the federal government will create another billion dollar government - owned corporation or it may mean subsidies or any one of a number of other federal aids. I do not want to prejudge it, however, because certainly the President is to be commended in approaching the problem in a sensible way, namely, the creation of a committee to give the question a thoroughgoing analysis before legislation to alleviate the condition is proposed.

What It May Mean

That is what makes it so significant. A year or two or three ago, some braintruster sitting in a cobwebby office would have suddenly had a thought about the "renters" and other types of farm tenants; he would have felt very sorry for them and would have determined in his own mind that they must be made the beneficiaries of "the more abundant life" right quickly. He would have sought and obtained an appointment with the President; would have related the beautiful picture he had conceived in his own limited mentality and, in all probability, Mr. Roosevelt would have shouted, "fine, fine."

The next thing that would have happened would have been the drafting of a piece of legislation for submission to congress. It would have gone to Capitol Hill with the stamp of administration approval and all of the automatons of the house and senate who owed their positions to Roosevelt blessings, would have voted for it. It would have become law without serious debate and, as in most cases, without most of the representatives and senators having understood what it was all about. The results of such legislation are beginning to show and it is going to be necessary to remake a great deal of it. The trouble was that these theorists and impractical men never were able to see more than one narrow phase of the problem with which they were dealing and Mr. Roosevelt did not take the time to find out for himself what all of the factors were.

It is quite evident, therefore, that one thing the New Deal sadly needs is more co-ordination among its own people.

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I referred above to the necessity for co - ordination among governmental departments as to policies and that leads into the long-time need for actual reorganization of the physical structure known as the federal government. There are certain signs emerging from the seething now occurring, as is usual, in advance of a congressional session that indicate President Roosevelt may be making a definite move toward this much needed reorganization.

Changes Needed

It is highly important that it be done. I think everyone agrees with that statement. Mr. Roosevelt is in a position to do it. He is one of the few Presidents of recent years who has been in a position to do it. He is in that position because of the tremendous majority his party possesses in house and senate and I think it can be said unequivocably, if Mr. Roosevelt cannot do it or does not do it, it never will be done.

It goes without saying that there are scores of unnecessary agencies now in existence, most of them the children of the New Deal. There is overlapping; there is conflict of jurisdiction and there is a superabundance of ideas from every source that affect or influence operations of other agencies. It is a tangled skein and the untangling is going to be a difficult job. The whole setup is shot through with politics and politicians and to decapitate political patronage is a man-sized job. The job now may be made even worse in this regard by the fact that never in history have there been so many shades of opinion in congress. The natural result of this sort of thing is that the various groups of blocs insist on carrying out particular pet schemes and those pet schemes nearly always mean a new governmental bureau, commission or what have you.

As far as present conditions have developed, none can foretell exactly what Mr. Roosevelt has in mind concerning the new government structure. It goes without saying, of course, that the major departments, each headed by a cabinet officer, will constitute the basic framework of whatever co-ordination or consolidation Mr. Roosevelt eventually proposes. But it is outside of this framework where the real co-ordination is needed. It is among the countless alphabetical soup agencies that the pruning knife and the axe must be wielded with utter abandon. A lot of needless and, in many cases, irresponsible government policies are worked out here.

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Such co-ordination and consolidation as the President attempts, therefore, can accomplish a very great deal in the way of budgetary reforms and relief for the taxpayers if the job is undertaken seriously. Indeed, as the situation now shapes up, elimination of about 50 per cent of these so-called emergency agencies and complete eradication of their parasitic policies constitute an important approach to a balancing of the Treasury budget.

Relief for Taxpayers

Since this is a fact, it must be recognized that the proposed consolidation movement has obstacles outside of political patronage. Politicians enjoy spending money and when they see various of their pet bureaus or commissions going the way of all flesh, they naturally will be frightened and it will take all of the strength Mr. Roosevelt possesses to keep them in line when they realize that money is being taken out from under their very noses.

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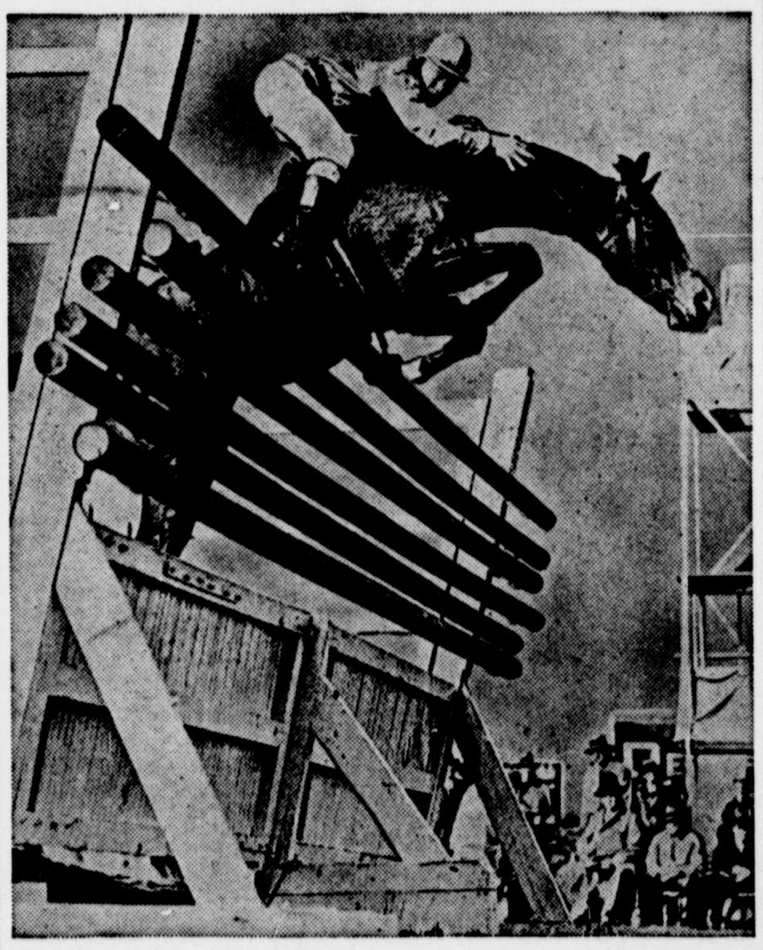
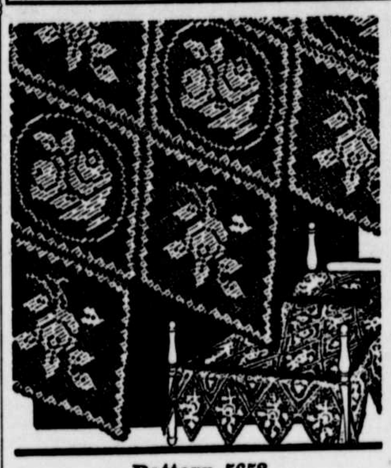
Ben Bolt Takes a Really High Jump



Ben Bolt, famous Australian high jumper, clears the bars at 6 feet 9 inches at the Adelaide Centenary Royal show to win the event and equal the record for the show.

Exclusive Crochet Model



Pattern 5658

A bedspread, indeed, to call forth "Oh's" and "Ah's" is this one, crocheted from humble string. See not one, but two charming patterns, one a basket, the other floral, are included in pattern 5658. One is as easy to learn as the other; when combined they make any number of useful linens—tea cloth, scarf, buffet set or pillow. In pattern 5658 you will find complete instructions for making the square shown; an illustration of it, of the stitches needed; material requirements.

To obtain this pattern send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle Household Arts Dept., 259 West Fourteenth St., New York, N. Y.

Be sure to write plainly your name, address and pattern number.

South Magnetic Pole

The South Magnetic pole has not yet been reached. The nearest approach was made by Ross February 16, 1841. The British expedition under Captain Scott on the Discovery, 1902-1904, reported the probable position of the Magnetic South pole to be 72 degrees 50 minutes S., 156 degrees 20 minutes E.

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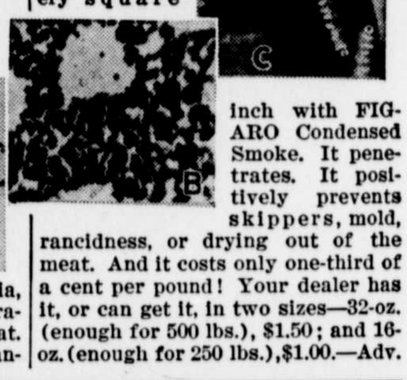
Bacteria Attacks Unprotected Areas of Meat--Expert Explains Way to be Sure Meats Will Keep Thru Summer

By S. Eugene Colgin

I have smoked more than two billion pounds of meat. On my father's farm 30 years ago I discovered what happened to meat during smoking in the old smokehouse. Fine drops of moisture appeared on the hams and sides. The smoke was "condensing" on them. This led to my discovery that smoke could be condensed, and simply "brushed on" the meat. What untold hours of backbreaking labor FIGARO Condensed Smoke has saved since then!

S. S. COLGIN, who discovered FIGARO

Years of research, since, have revealed what really causes meat to spoil. Note photograph "A." This is what the eye of the microscope sees when focused on that old enemy, green mold. Mold is a "fungus"; technically not a bacteria, but its action is similar. This parasite attacks the surface of the meat. Photo "B" shows the cause of rancidness, usually near the bone. It is a bacteria, shown here through the microscope's eye. And photo "C" shows that pest called the "skipper," which is in reality the larva of a fly. It lays its eggs on the meat, and at the first warm spell, they hatch.



There is only one known way to prevent all these troubles. That is thorough smoking. Of course everyone knows how uncertain the old smokehouse is. Other so-called smoking methods, or substitutes for smoking, are likewise risky. How can you tell whether or not the meat is thoroughly smoked? But if you want to be SURE your meat will come through the hot summer months sweet and wholesome and eatable, brush every square inch with FIGARO Condensed Smoke. It penetrates. It positively prevents skippers, mold, rancidness, or drying out of the meat. And it costs only one-third of a cent per pound! Your dealer has it, or can get it, in two sizes—32-oz. (enough for 500 lbs.), $1.50; and 16-oz. (enough for 250 lbs.), $1.00.—Adv.

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