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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1936

"Mid-year finds practically all major indicators pointing strongly upward," headlines the *Annalist*. The other important business publications are in accord with this view. And, coming as it does in the very midst of summer, when even in the best of times recessions from spring peaks almost inevitably set in, it is a great testimonial to the amazing strength and persistency of the recovery movement.

Governor Landon's speech of acceptance may be said to have inaugurated the campaign in earnest, and from now on things political will continue to sizzle.

Interesting aspect of the campaign is the contempt some unbiased and distinguished political commentators are displaying toward both party platforms. But platforms seem to play very little part in a campaign, aside from giving political spell-binders opportunity to "point with pride," or "view with alarm."

At the recent 12th annual session of the American Institute of Co-operation, farm co-op leaders and students discussed a wide range of problems relating to agriculture.

The Institute itself subscribed to no issues, but devoted itself to the dissemination of up-to-date information on marketing and procedures.

Questions discussed included the federal soil conservation program; foreign trade policies; transportation problems; marketing problems, etc. Almost everything that has a bearing, direct or indirect, on the farmer's welfare, came in for mention.

This is indicative of the splendid work of the co-ops in trying to better the farmer's lot, and in seeking to provide him with useful knowledge.

The national fire loss, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, is again on the rise. During the first five months of this year, it was some \$20,000,000 in excess of the loss experienced in the same period of 1935.

It is possible that part of the increased loss is due to the fact that property values are somewhat higher now than they were a year ago, and another part to increased industrial activity, which naturally increases fire hazards. Even so, America's fire loss is nothing short of a disgrace, and is a black monument to human carelessness, human ignorance, human indolence.

It cannot be too often repeated that at least eighty per cent of all fires, minor and great, are preventable.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT GIVES UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE

Commerce Department officials, who have been studying unemployment figures since 1933, estimate that about 9,550,000 persons are out of work.

Ernest G. Draper, acting commerce secretary, said the department's figures represent a "composite estimate" of unemployment and are based in part on statistics of other government agencies. For some time, the department has been considering the feasibility of a census of jobless.

The hitherto unpublished figures fixed unemployment in March, 1933, at 15,100,000. Draper said the peak was reached in that month.

By last April, the estimate had dropped to 9,900,000 and since then, Draper said, "it is reasonable to assume" that there has been a further reduction of 300,000 to 400,000.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor estimated recently that more than 11,000,000 persons were out of work, while an estimate in April by the National Industrial Conference Board, a statistical organization backed by corporations, placed the figure at 9,800,000.

The University of Maryland has just issued a new mimeographed publication "Selection and Care of the Dairy Calf" by John A. Conover. The leaflet can be secured free of charge by writing the University Extension Service at College Park.

MILK PRODUCERS FIGHTING FOR PRICE INCREASE

The Inter-State Milk Producers Review is leading the fight for an increase in milk prices for the producers, and in its August issue publishes the following:

Progress is being made in the efforts to get a price increase—but it is slow, too slow. July 16 passed with no increase, except for 12 cents in New Jersey which restored a previous reduction. That was the date for which the increase was originally asked. New Jersey prices of milk for cream have also been increased 35 cents since June.

No action has been taken by the Pennsylvania control board toward getting the increase—nor toward holding a public hearing, as required by law, for collecting facts about the need for an increase.

The AAA has been asked to come into the market and issue an order to cover the price to producers of milk entering interstate commerce.

This has not been done, presumably because they will not go into a market until they have full information about prices, price structure, buying plans, movement of milk, etc., and that they are also influenced by the probable relations with state control agencies. This might require some compromise between present Pennsylvania and New Jersey policies.

Work is now under way to get the information needed by the AAA.

Having failed to obtain satisfactory action from the Pennsylvania control board and with the drought sending feed prices sharply upward, Inter-State officials called in buyers of milk to discuss with them (1) the need for a substantial price increase, (2) the need for developing a uniform price plan which will insure producers in all states of the milk shed getting the same prices under the same conditions.

Results were unsatisfactory as the milk distributors were not in accord on how to base their prices nor on any plan for equalizing prices among states. Sentiment among them seemed to be unfavorable toward a price increase.

This attitude prevailed in spite of the widespread admission that production costs have gone up and that feed prices are expected to advance even beyond the increase noted recently. Protests were made that an early increase is due and that failure to grant it may make it unprofitable for farmers to maintain production, also that if production should drop because of lack of proper feed and care it will be impossible to regain normal production.

With a shortage of milk expected next fall and early winter, it is clear that a price increase is needed. It is the surest and most satisfactory way to stimulate production and thus reduce the seriousness of the shortage. It may possibly be a means of entirely avoiding a shortage.

It is clearly the duty of the control board to take immediate action toward getting a price increase as the producers are not getting cost of production and, therefore, the present orders discriminate against milk producers. The law and regulations specify that discrimination must not be shown.

The dealers are making a mistake in opposing the increase. The Pennsylvania Milk Control Board is making a mistake in not taking a more active part in efforts to get the increase. Ten thousand Pennsylvania farmers in the Philadelphia milk shed expect it, deserve it, DEMAND IT.

Stocks of wheat in Maryland mills and elevators on July 1 were estimated at 390,000 bushels, according to the Maryland Crop Reporting Service. This compares with 725,000 bushels on hand April 1; 1,300,000 bushels on January 1 this year; 1,200,000 bushels October 1; and 190,000 bushels July 1 last year.

Aviation stocks will go up when planes quit coming down too suddenly.

Don't bet with your wife unless you are prepared to pay, win or lose.

JEST A-WHITTIN' AN' A-THINKIN'

By PETE GETTYS

A State Farmer Section Feature

Country talk is as fresh and different from town talk as pure country air is from the murk and smoke you have to breathe in town. It comes straight from the soil, an' has a homely an' common flavor.

Maybe you "jest drop in to pass the time of day." You ask the man of the house how he is, an' he complains that he's only "fair to middlin'." he has a "tech of rheumatiz", "a little stiff in the joints" but so he can "be about with a stick," and the "ole woman is jest-to'able."

After these personal matters are settled, the talk gets around to the weather, crops, cattle, an' the family an' the neighbors. One of the neighbor's children is the "spittin' image" of his father, an' if another boy don't mind his ways "it will be the ruination of him." The neighbor's wife is "drove with work," an' "worn to a frazzle." "She ain't kept her looks," an' "pulls her hair back like a peeled onion," is "uglier'n a stump fence"—in fact, "that breed's run out" an' their place has gone to "rack an' ruin"; an' the woman about town is a "strumpet," an' "one of her brats is as freckled as a turkey egg."

Uncle Sam's Department of Agriculture tells us a grass-green milk bottle'll save a huge sum in keepin' milk sweet—an' it has been shown conclusively that green glass adds to the flavor, an' helps keep the original color of fruit juices; an' that red, orange, yellow an' green light affect favorably both the smell an' flavor of apple juices.

An' here's something for mothers to know: It's a proved fact that a child who'll hardly drink milk in a ordinary glass or cup may be induced to take his full quota if the milk is served in gay glasses of varied hues, with colored sippers.

Wonder why Poison Ivy is poison and Virginia Creeper ain't? Reckon it's like the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden? "Go ahead an' pick violets or anemones—but there's a little ole vine growin' around a stump over there in the hollow that if you touch you all are poisoned."

No, I don't guess it's that—maybe the poison is worth somethin' as a chemical, or has medicinal properties, but anyhow, certainly a part of the great scheme of things; an' if some pretty little plants are poisonous an' others aren't, we'll still be happy and whistle away, for there's lots of fun in this old world we live in, an' it's mighty hard to beat! 'Course you git a thorn with every rose, but shucks, ain't the roses sweet?

AUTOMOBILE CLUB DEFENDS ROADS COMMISSION

Action of the Maryland Roads Commission in putting "caution" before "speed" in construction of the new Philadelphia road is defended by the Keystone Automobile Club of Maryland, which, in a statement today, goes on record as opposing the laying of concrete paving on ground not thoroughly settled.

"The public investment in this road would be seriously jeopardized if the engineers put haste above sound engineering practice," said Garrison P. Knox, Manager of the Club. "As a motoring organization we naturally favor completion of this highway at the earliest possible moment, but we feel the job ought to be done right, and therefore we hope the Commission will disregard the cry of 'politics' and adhere to the program calculated to give the public full value for the money expended."

"Undue haste in construction of rigid paving on filled-in ground has spoiled many a highway in various parts of the country. Experience has taught engineers valuable lessons in this respect, and we feel the State Roads Commission is using very good judgment in waiting for the ground to settle."

The Club statement was called forth by criticism that "politics" was delaying the Philadelphia road.

The University of Maryland Experiment Station has just published a new bulletin on "Effect of Fertilizer Treatments of a Soil on the Quality and Yield of Tomatoes" by R. P. Thomas, Soil Technologist. The bulletin is number 386 and copies may be had free for the asking from the Experiment Station at College Park.

Subject matter covered in the publication includes the effect of fertilizer on yield; time of ripening; canning quality; sugar content; total solids and phosphorus content; acidity; solids in ripe tomatoes; and the effect of soil treatment on the nitrogen, phosphorus and potash content of the fruit.

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At Our Store, or See Your Dealer

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Elkton, Maryland

Goodbye, Mr. Gloom!

... We're a jolly bunch of renegades . . . our sole purpose in life is to give Old Man Gloom the gate and usher in Mr. Sunshine by way of a million laughs. Turn to the Funny Page in every issue and let us help dispel those troubles!

- No man can really live by bread alone. Yes, we admit he'll EXIST, but there will be heavy lines of care running down his face, he'll forget how to smile.
- Verily, we humans need a few hearty guffaws now and then to chase away those wrinkles of care and give our spirits a lift. That's why this newspaper runs a collection of laugh-provoking comic strips on the Funny Page. Amid the depressing news of floods and earthquakes, crime and war, economic troubles and a host of other maladjustments on the face of Mr. World, it's a pleasant relaxation to shut your eyes on the day's bad tidings.
- You can get a joyful lift in spirits from the comics. We invite our readers to take a big swallow of this bottled sunshine. Turn to the Funny Page right now and forget your troubles!
- Our comic characters are a versatile lot, as you'll notice by glancing down the accompanying panel. If you want to chuckle over real troubles, turn to C. M. Payne's strip "S'Matter Pop," and see what a whale of an order he has to keep these boys of his under control . . . Or glance at the adventures of the intellectual Adamson, as drawn by O. Jacobsson.
- Something that will truly draw tears—of laughter—are Gluyas Williams' mischievous but lovable youngsters, Junior and the Baby . . . Then there's "Finney of the Force," by Ted O'Loughlin, as comical and as true-to-life an Irishman as ever flipped a night stick . . . Life out in Cactus Center, as described in S. L. Huntley's "Mescal Ike," has its exciting moments when its rip-roaring citizens are on the loose . . . And when it comes to "The Featherheads," by Osborne, they speak for themselves. In fact, that's the best thing they do!
- Let these bearers of fun whittle your blues down to size. Toss trouble right out the window and get a new lease on life through the comic page—turn to it right now!

WPA EXPENDITURES IN STATE

A Works Progress Administration report issued Saturday said a total of \$32,111,685 had been spent in Maryland through June 30 this year out of the 1935 Emergency Relief Act appropriations for WPA projects, CCC camps and other work agencies.

Allocations by the President from the \$4,880,000,000 fund and warrants approved totaled \$53,770,695. Obligations incurred through June 30 were listed at \$49,761,836.

Presidential approvals for WPA expenditures alone totaled \$10,466,900, the report said.

Activities embraced in the ex-

penses included the WPA, CCC, soil conservation and other work under the Department of Agriculture, census work under the Department of Commerce, reclamation, Federal employment service, resettlement, army engineers' projects and others.

Employment on WPA projects in Maryland for the week ending June 27 was listed at 14,606 persons: CCC, 3,923, and other agencies, 9,672.

Average monthly earnings in Maryland of men workers under WPA in March this year totaled \$44.27, and women, \$45.42.

The WPA report also said that

three airport and airway projects in Maryland had been selected for operation through April this year with a total estimated cost of \$192,653.

ORPHANS' COURT

Accounts Passed—First and final account of George T. Heath, executor of Margaret J. Heath; first and final account of Mary Ella Steele, administratrix of Addie E. Steele; first and final account of George J. Pearce, executor of Emma H. Pearce; first and final account of M. Earle Davis, administrator of Lillie E. Davis.