Washington Digest

Farmers Face New Problems As Use of Machines Increases

Technological Advances Change Life on U. S. Farms; Greek Nation Completely Unified in Crisis; Government Buys More Land.

By BAUKHAGE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

What's next? With the frost on the pumpkin, fodder in the shock, the world settling down to a hard winter and a long war, those of us who aren't in the first draft or just elected to office have a chance to look two ways from Christmas.

The industrial tail is about to wag the agricultural dog again the experts tell us, surplus labor is about to be syphoned off the farm which is fine for the man who has too many mouths to feed and too few acres to divide up, but not so good for the farmer who needs a few extra hands. However, if you do turn around and look back 35 years just to take your mind off present troubles you can see some interesting sights which have just been set up in sharp perspective by the interbureau committee of the department of agriculture.

In that short span for a man or a mule, 35 years, 10,000,000 mules and horses and thousands of men have been pushed off the farm by the machine. And, according to the prognosticators in Washington, a million and a half more mules and horses will be replaced by tractors in the next 10 years, and more than 8,000,000 acres of land now used to raise feed for work stock will be put to other uses.

Farmer Has Long Utilized Machines

We've been hearing a lot about man versus the machine, especially since the smash of 1929 that made unemployment the big issue, and again since the smash of 1940 when the Nazis with their tanks and motorized equipment went through France like a plow through loam. But the farmer had been getting machine conscious long before that. Especially since the little jack-of-all trades tractor appeared on the field, replacing the cumbersome earlier models.

Along with the tractor came a lot more "technological developments" including not only farm machinery like the combine and the corn-picker but other scientific advances such as testing and breeding and feeding of animals and plants, soil conservation, disease prevention and other things. This technology has hurt as well as helped. Besides the thousands of men who have lost their jobs on farms as well as in factories, prices have been affected and the whole social life on the farm has changed.

"It is not that these scientific advances are to be blamed" for the difficulties which have arisen, the Washington experts say, but "the troubles, if any, arise from the inequality of adjustments and responses in agriculture and industry to such advances."

Just what the advantages and disadvantages are that lie ahead is told in detail in a 224-page book, printed by the government and called "Technology on the Farm."

One thing that interested me particularly in this interesting book, aside from its excellent and detailed information, was an editorial opinion it expressed on the way the use of machines has changed farming for a living to farming for cash. There's a difference.

Of course when you have to buy a lot of machinery you need hard money but there are disadvantages in simply raising products with the one purpose of turning them into money.

Increased Investment Reduces Security

First, it reduces security. If you raise your own food you need never starve in a panic.

Then there is health:

A family with a low income and plenty of food growing right on the place is more likely to get a continuously healthful diet than one which has to buy what it eats.

Raising one's own food helps divide up responsibility for the family welfare because young children and old folks can tend a garden or feed the chickens. If the eggs and vegetables and milk are purchased, the children's interests are removed from the interests of their parents and older brothers and sisters. Furthermore, a child who helps raise its own food also gets what a city child doesn't get—a chance to learn through doing.

Another disadvantage of farming for money only, with the greater use of machines, is that it makes it harder to own a farm. The money goes into perishable things instead of into the solid title to land. The farmer tends to become a renter and if times are bad and a renter can't pay his rent he loses everything.

This is just one of the farm problems that the farmer can think over during the long winter evenings. Like many other good things machinery can be too much of a good thing. Alexander Pope's advice still stands:

"Be not the first by whom the new is tried
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

* * *

Greek People Wholly United

The war came close to me again the other day when I stepped on the soil of another belligerent. It was shortly after the Italians had crossed the border from Albania, and the Greeks had met this new invasion from the west as they met the Persian invasion from the east 450 years before.

I say I stepped on foreign soil because the embassies and legations of a foreign power are considered a part of the territory of that power no matter where they are located. The house which is a peaceful piece of Greece looks over Sheridan circle on Massachusetts avenue in the capital. It is really just a big private residence made into a legation where the minister, a cheerful little man with a long name, Cimon Diamantopoulos, lives and carries on the business of his country.

As I sat in the attractive cubbyhole that is his study, pouring over a map of the country he knows so well, I had a strange feeling. The walls with their artistic etchings of classic beauty seemed to fade away and I could see those tortuous passes of the ancient Pindus mountains. Mule-drawn artillery were struggling through the snow-drifts, the fierce Greek mountaineers with their kilts and tufted shoes on one side, the plumed Bersaglieri equally fierce Evzones mountain fighters on the other. I could see the attack in the blinding blizzard, the clash on the narrow roadway hardly wide enough for small motor lorries to pass, and then men and mules plunging down into the bottomless abyss.

The minister looked up. "Greece has never been as united as it is today," he said.

When the Persian hordes came to Marathon it was because their ruler hated the democratic spirit which he feared would spread to his own slave states.

History repeats.

* * *

Winter Comes To Washington

Washington in the autumn moves from a bright water-color to a soft-pastel, and then the foliage fades to a dark oil painting of rich browns. At last comes the steel engraving of winter.

We are now between the oil painting and the steel engraving. The burning yellow of the Gingkoes (the maiden-hair tree, some call it) have laid their last golden carpet on the west side of Lafayette square, that historic quadrangle of green opposite the White House.

A few sturdy oaks cling to their rich, saddle-leather brown. The Gingkoes are now bare. There are many of these attractive trees in Washington. They love cities, sharing the fumes of gas and smoke with the rest of us and flourishing on it.

I have a leaf from one planted in the city of Weimar by the poet Goethe. His city of study and reflection—the city that gave birth to the ill-fated German Republic after the last war.

That tree I hope still blooms. It does unless the Nazis have uprooted its beauty because it is non-Aryan. Nature knows no politics, and laughs at our fickle changes. The Gingkoes will bloom long after our civilization is forgotten.

* * *

History repeats but it also reverses itself. Once the American settlers were given or could buy government land. Now Uncle Sam buys 500,000 acres from his citizens.

As part of the defense program the war department through the soil conservation service has purchased great tracts for the Seventh corps army training center in Iowa; a new aircraft firing center near Hinesville, Ga.; and lands for expansion of Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Devans, Massachusetts; and Fort Bliss, Texas.

* * *

From now on you'll be able to SEE American history.

In the National Archives in Washington there is the greatest collection of moving pictures of American events that exists. In a series, "See America First," you can see history (some re-made, of course) relating to Colonial days down to 1934. The later ones are news reels and among them is the only official picture in existence showing the celebration of the transfer of the Virgin islands.

FARM MACHINERY

Life on American farms is being changed by technological advances, Baukhage reports. He finds that the trend toward growing products primarily for sale instead of home consumption raises many new problems. The Greek ambassador in Washington told Baukhage that his people are now more united than ever. As a part of the defense program, the war department is purchasing great tracts of land, he reveals.

Kathleen Norris Says:

Smugness in a Husband Is Hard to Bear

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

When I was about 18 we used to go up to a little cabin in the mountains, we girls cooking the dinner, and all of us taking tramps, swimming, and having fun. Mabel and Bud were lovers and Chester and I, very much in love, were not long in following suit.

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

SMUGNESS is a terrible thing, in husband or wife. It is one of those marital faults that are much more trying, in the daily encounter of matrimony, than much more serious failings. Smugness is disagreeable in anyone, but when a wife knows that it is always lying in wait for her, and when she also knows that there is some justification for the holier-than-thou attitude in her spouse, then her path is hard indeed.

Ruth, whose letter reaches me this week, is suffering from the smugness of the man she married some ten years ago, and I don't know that there's any cure for it. For it is the very essence of smugness that it rises above correction and criticism and only feels sorry for the person stupid enough to find fault with perfection.

This is a part of Ruth's letter:

"Dear Mrs. Norris: My father was a factory hand and my mother kept boarders. After three years of high school I went into a box factory, helping to support three small half-brothers. My father had died and my mother married again. When I was about 18 I had a girl chum named Mabel, and her brother and her sweetheart and I used to go around together for two years. Chester, the brother, was a fascinating sort of fellow; we used to go up to a little cabin in the mountains, we girls cooking the dinner, and all of us taking tramps, swimming, and having fun. Mabel and Bud were lovers and Chester and I, very much in love, were not long in following suit.

Enters College at 28.

"After about a year of this he went away, and a fall invalided my mother, who lingered completely helpless for seven years. I took over the boarding-house, and was presently offered a hotel in town, to which we all moved. At 28, when my brothers were pretty well launched, an aunt of theirs left us some money to complete our educations, and I was delighted to take coaching, and to enter college with girls 10 years younger.

"This was a happy time for me. I met my husband, who was, and is, a professor of English, and the year we were married I sold three short stories—for very small sums, but it was a great thrill to me. Of late years I have had little time to write, as we have three children and I do all my own work, but I have always hoped that the time would come when I could go on.

"Some months ago I noticed a change in Phil, my husband, that I could not understand. He is 13 years older than I, which makes him 51. He grew excitable, moody, explosive, silent. He has always been a serene man, a church-goer, idealistic and really faultless. His devotion to the children is remarkable, and he has always seen that they help me as much as small children can.

Husband's Suspicions Aroused.

"One day I had a call from Chester's brother, who as a young boy had sometimes been with us on our expeditions. I had not heard of any of them for years and believe me he was an unwelcome reminder of what I would have been glad to forget. He said that he was worried because he had met my husband and made some reference to me, as a girl. He said that he had had no idea that I had left the box factory days behind me and was married to Phil, and that he was afraid he had spoken in a way that roused my husband's suspicions. The conversation was perfectly insufferable to me, and I was glad to see the last of this odious boy.

"This explained the change in my husband, and wisely or unwisely, when he burst out one day with questions I told him the whole truth. It stunned him, and he left me without comment. For days he hardly spoke, and then one evening with the greatest kindness and gentleness he told me that he had talked the matter over with our minister, and that affairs at home must go on just as they were; for his sake, the children's, mine, and that of society, he had finally decided against divorce.

Cast in Humiliating Role.

"I knew that in a few days the stiffness would wear off the situation, so I accepted this decision. The alternative of losing my children was too terrible. And presently everything was going along just as before, except for moments when Philip saw fit to take the attitude of a mentor, and ask me what I had been doing, to whom my letters were addressed. It was stupid and humiliating to me, but I thought it would wear off.

"But even now there are occasional reminders that I am a sinner and must be guided. Philip wishes I would cultivate the lovely Mrs. Brown, who has always been such a dignified, discreet woman. Last night when I was working with the typewriter he asked what I was doing. I said writing the story of a girl's struggle to better herself. A faint smile came over his face and he said 'I don't know that I'd make it TOO biographical.'

"How long should I bear this sort of thing? In actual campus popularity I've long ago outstripped Philip. I am president of two clubs; people love my Sunday garden lunches; my children are wonderful. Am I to go on forever being made ashamed?"

Rise Above Handicap.

The answer, Ruth, is that the fault lies with Philip, and apparently there's no reaching him. He will continue with this small-boy smugness to the end. Even if he committed a fault far more serious than yours he would go right on feeling that you were the sinner, and that he was fully justified in whatever he did.

But don't despair. You have great consolations. The cultural atmosphere, the dramatics and discussions and opportunities of a campus are real advantages, and the mothering of three lovely children a great privilege. Beside that, you show a genuine gift for writing, and if someday you write the college stories, or the college novel for which all the publishers and magazines are waiting, you will be able to ignore Philip's miserable little taunts. There is an old saying that the sins of youth are the masters of age. But there are other sayings, too, and other truths, about what we gain through the humiliation, the bitter lesson of having sinned, and sometimes the woman who rises above such a handicap is actually wiser and stronger in the end than the self-righteous woman who never knew temptation.

SMUGNESS

The "holier than thou" attitude adopted by some husbands or wives can make married life almost unbearable. Kathleen Norris is approached by a woman whose loving husband adopted a smug attitude when he learned of a minor love affair she had had when a young girl. Miss Norris states that unfortunately there is no solution to this problem; her only hope is to develop other interests.

Patterns
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TWO of the most useful aprons in the world are yours in this one simple pattern (No. 1993-B). One is the all-protective type that you rely on to keep your dresses clean while preparing supper. The other is the more or less decorative little tie-around that you wear when serving afternoon tea. Notice the special virtues of the coverall. It protects the top as well as the skirt of your dress; it goes over your head and ties in a jiffy. It's so cut that it can't slip from your shoulders.

Just leave off the bib part of the coverall, and you have the high-cut, saucy little tie-around. Batiste, gingham, linen, percale and seersucker are pretty apron materials.

* * *

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1993-B is designed for sizes 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44. Size 34 requires, for #1, 2¼ yards of 35-inch material without nap and 6 yards rickrack; 1¾ yards for #2, and 3¾ yards trimming. Send order to:

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Protect the mattress from tearing and from dust by a muslin mattress cover, and by placing a mattress pad between the spring and the mattress.

* * *

If cream is too thin to whip, try adding the unbeaten white of an egg.

* * *

Baking soda is one of the best known agents for cleaning glassware.

* * *

Mud stains leather and therefore should be removed from shoes as promptly as possible.

* * *

By boiling old mason jar lids in a gallon of water to which has been added a cup of vinegar you can remove that ancient appearance.

* * *

To clean a soapstone sink wash with ammonia and let stand for 12 hours. Then rub over with linseed oil and your sink will be lovely and bright. If grease accumulates again, rub over with a strong ammonia solution.

* * *

Use a clean sheet of wrapping paper to roll pies and pastry on. It saves a lot of cleaning up later.

* * *

Painting the top and bottom cellar steps white may save many falls.

* * *

To brighten aluminum utensils that have been darkened by water, fill with water containing one or two teaspoons of cream of tartar for each quart of water used, and boil until pan is brightened.

Ask Me Another
A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Is it incorrect to refer to our flag as the "American" flag?
2. Is the Diesel engine a comparatively new invention?
3. What common name is given to thea Sinensis?
4. When does a newly elected President take office?
5. A man dressed sans souci would be dressed how?
6. What is verdigris?

The Answers

1. According to the United States Flag association, it is not. However the official title is the "Flag of the United States."
2. No. It was invented by Dr. Rudolph Diesel of Munich, Germany, and put in operation in 1898.
3. Tea.
4. January 20.
5. Carelessly.
6. Green rust on copper.

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Read These Important Facts!

Quivering nerves can make you old, haggard, cranky—can make your life a nightmare of jealousy, self pity and "the blues."

Often such nervousness is due to female functional disorders. So take famous Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to help calm unstrung nerves and lessen functional "irregularities." For over 60 years relief-giving Pinkham's Compound has helped tens of thousands of grandmothers, mothers and daughters "in time of need." *Try it!*

Dominion Over Self

You can never have a greater or a less dominion than that over yourself.—Da Vinci.

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UPSET STOMACH, SLUGGISH FEELING, COATED TONGUE, AND HEAD THAT'S REELING. NOW'S THE TIME TO LOSE THIS GRIEF RED CLOUD BERRIES GIVE QUICK RELIEF

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RED CLOUD BERRIES

ALL VEGETABLE LAXATIVE PREPARATION

Deserving Well

Who deserves well, needs not another's praise.—Heath.

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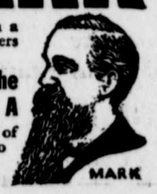
...don't cough! Get pleasant relief from a cough due to a cold with Smith Brothers Cough Drops—Black or Menthol—5¢.

Smith Bros. Cough Drops are the only drops containing VITAMIN A

Vitamin A (Carotene) raises the resistance of mucous membranes of nose and throat to cold infections, when lack of resistance is due to Vitamin A deficiency.



TRADE MARK

YOU ARE AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON

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As a matter of cold fact you are. You hold the destiny of his business in your hands. He knows it. He shows it. And you benefit by good service, by courteous treatment, by good value—and by lower prices.