A Plan to Protect Agriculture After This War

For years the tragic results of the expansion of food-producing acreage during World War I has haunted American agriculture. Every farmer, as a matter of patriotism, interrupted his rotation of crops to produce food and fibre food for our armies and our Allies. Now again in World War II, to feed our soldiers and our Allies and to serve the special demands of war industry, we are distorting our normal production as a matter of patriotic service.

It seems plain that by the end of this war American farms will have created a tremendous surplus production power which ordinary peacetime requirements will not absorb. By the end of 1942 our overall average increase production over the average for the last 10 years will be more than 25 per cent. How then can American agriculture sidestep a post-war farm calamity even worse than that following World War I?

Experiments in Rubber and Other Products.

Our Government is now experimenting with domestic sources for rubber. Some sixty thousand acres are devoted to the production of guayule and its possibilities as a source of domestic rubber. Emergency plants for the production of thousands of tons of synthetic rubber from oil and alcohol are now springing into production.

We have learned how to make paper from slash pine and straws from potatoes. We are learning how to raise medicinal herbs which we formerly imported.

Denied the use of kapok which we imported from the East Indies and used in life preservers, we have discovered that the floss from milkweed makes better life preservers than kapok ever did. Factories have been built and several thousand acres are now devoted to raising milkweed intensively.

Already we are producing long oil successfully. Thousands of acres will be needed before we can supply even our present domestic market.

Luckily, we have at hand the 20-year Farm Chemurgic Council, an organization of research chemists from our several industries who compare notes and gain new enthusiasm in the research for new uses of old crops and new crops which can be cultivated in America. Our government has established regional research laboratories.

More than fifteen thousand different kinds of plants grow in the natural state in the United States. We use less than three hundred of these plants. Farm chemurgy will not be complete, nor the post-war problem of agriculture solved until every plant is re-examined in the light of modern science and made to serve its part in contributing to the comfort, happiness and security of our America of the future.

A Plan That Deserves Support.

The United States Senate is considering a plan which will require the use of 20 per cent of war profits during the war for the purchase of Recovery Bonds by each company in order to have available the necessary cash to quickly change their business and industrial plants back to peace-time activities at the close of the war and to adjust the employment of these normal number of factory workers.

This percentage of war profits could also be used in a broad plan of research by industrial chemists to develop new uses for products of the farm by our domestic industry. If our industry has the knowledge and the money in hand to convert with all-out war effort to peacetime production, maintain employment and launch the new products discovered by science, we have a reasonable chance to absorb our farm surplus even in the post-war period.

Depression hit our rural areas longer and harder than our industrial areas. Our hope for the security, happiness and prosperity of Rural America is at stake. If we can develop this practical plan for taking care of our surplus in the after war period, we can go forward unafraid in an all-out production effort for the winning of this war and in providing the food necessary for starving people in the after war period. We will know that we have provided an ever-expanding America with new crops and new uses. Worth thinking about.

Agriculture and Labor

"Agriculture has excellent reasons to take concern for the welfare of labor," says Wheeler McMillen. "The situation after the war is over will be of particular importance to farmers. Men earning good wages full time are much better customers than men without jobs. Men steadily employed under satisfactory conditions are far less likely than men without work to become the prey of men who agitate for strange kinds of government. Agriculture ought not, therefore, to develop hostility toward labor and toward labor organizations as such. A wiser course would be to try to use agriculture's influence for correction of those abuses which do no good either to laborers, farmers or the nation."

America's Real Stimulant

"In the United States, every man's value is determined by his activity, and every man is given the opportunity to develop his abilities. An American's real stimulant and pride consist in being a self-made man, in fighting, and in winning the fight."—Javier Prado.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—

THE MERCURY'S PAGE FOR THE FARMER

WITH THE County Agent

M. P. NICHOLS

HARLEY AND WHEAT GOOD WINTER COVERS

An article prece-ding this one was on the loss of Crimson Clover and Winter Oats as two good winter cover crops that were lost winter and need to be pointed early in the fall. The article following this will be on Vetch and Rye as two good winter covers" that might be planted with Vetch. This article is to compare Harley with Rye and wheat and to point out the advantages of these cereal crops as a winter cover.

Both barley and wheat produce good grain crops. Besides being as a common feed are splendid substitutes for corn up to 50 per cent in a balanced ration for livestock. The Nicholas County is not as well adapted to extensive production of these crops primarily as winter covers.

Barley, formerly considered a non-hardy winter hardy, has taken a new place since Kenneth Scott developed a 2-row barley that has been developed by our State college. Farmers everywhere in the Bluegrass Bourbon county, where the largest acreage is grown, think it is as winter hardy as wheat although barley is not adapted to very thin growths most of our fields in Nicholas county are rich to grow an excellent crop. It is a very good winter cover and furnishes some pasture. A suitable pasture and a good practice of the Nicholas County farmers except Ky. No 1 and 2 should be sown and that this variety is the grain of this bushel per acre.

Wheat is one old standard cover crop used when no one else is used. Wheat is more dependable than barley and should be brought about by the time it is needed to furnish the cover crop. It is a very good winter pasture and a good practice of the use of it. Kentucky No. 1 and 2 are the best varieties to sow. Wheat