LOOKING AHEAD

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GOOD TOOLS

Men used to harvest wheat with a thing called a cradle. A cradle is a museum piece now, most able-bodied farmers never saw one. It is a scythe blade like Father Time carries with a wooden frame attached to catch the straws as they fall, so the workmen can lay them straight for binding. Even I can remember seeing farmers cradle patches too small for easier mowing a reaper.

Swinging a cradle is hard work. There is almost none of it done these days. But farmers didn't quit using the device for that reason. They still find plenty of hard work to do. The cradle was cast aside because it was inefficient, extravagant. It used to take the profit out of a wheat crop to pay enough men $1 a day to harvest it. But Mr. McCormick's reaper changed all that.

Mechanized Farming

Some people complained for a while about farm machinery putting men out of work but that's not what happened. No machine can do a man's work. Machines serve men, help them earn more by helping them do a bigger day's work. Today one farmer with good tools produces as much as 20 farmers did 100 years ago. In those days two-thirds of America's labor worked on farms; now only 16 per cent, and these men only produce.

Machinery, American inventiveness, helps working people. There is no business about it. No straight-thinking person needs any high-brow economist to help him read these three simple facts: (1) In the long run, people get paid for what they produce. (2) With good tools, which call for investment, they can produce more. (3) Investments in machinery raise the workers' wages.

Men vs. Machines

It's a fact that employers who work men on purely mechanical jobs are always faced with a three-cornered problem — men, money and machinery. They can hire a man's body for wages or buy machines that will do the same work without getting tired. If interest and depreciation for the machine is less per year than the man's wages, the employer is likely to buy the machine.

Being replaced by a machine may strike some satisfied laborer's pride but he is soon benefitted by learning to operate cold steel rather than compete with it. This is the very first lesson, the A-B-C of American prosperity built on intelligent work; volume production, low in cost and good. No-body manage to accomplish where else on earth can the man who swings a sledge enjoy his sons an automobile and bathtub.

What Volume Does

Wages for men are figured by the hour; depreciation on machines by the year. The result is interesting. "Going automatic" was universal in the Nineteen Twenties and produced many a prosperous business. Then came the depression and hard times. Many a business was forced to shut off another day, how to operate on less than a full day's work was over and the children had to help. Father and Mother had to labor faithfully in all the unremembered years before they finally saw them prosperous, grandparents and great-grandparents, be kept up this good work. The old fellow, in his very old days, used to tell stories about some important news, like the Russo-Japanese War, by saying "Why, it was a-heading to be another eight years from that point on. Though he replied on his own judgment and was astonishingly "right" good for one who had never done the equal of a sixth grade education. How thought all those years Aunt Dicie managed to make time to keep "Hoppy" in shoes and clothes, refereed to end of the months when I remember my childhood.

Telephone Lines to the Front

As battles roll on to victory and vast new areas are conquered, the need for tremendous amounts of telephone equipment becomes more and more urgent.

Since the start of the war the huge telephone manufacturing plants of the Bell System have been concentrating on the manufacture of telephone equipment for war use exclusively, to insure that there shall be no shortages of telephone equipment on the war fronts.

Just before war started, the Southern Bell Company completed a large program of expansion of central office and outside plant facilities. This enabled us to continue instaaling telephones after the manufacture of telephone equipment for civilian use had stopped.

Now, however, the normal reserves of switchboards, wire, cables and instruments have been used up, and we have many people on our waiting lists for service. But war's needs must come first, so for some time we at home shall continue to make the most and the best use of what we now have.

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SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Chaplain and Boys Used Captured Rations

Left to right, Sergt. Edward J. Eye of New Albany, Ind.; Capt. Tom P. Senff, Mt. Sterling, Ky.; and Chaplain L. A. Dickson of Waco, Texas, prepare snack of captured Jap rice to supplement their own rations. They ingeniously use a steel helmet in lieu of a cooking-pan.

TIDBITS of Kentucky Folklore

By Dr. Gordon Wilson
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Twenty-Four Hours A Day

How did old-timers find so much time to do things? Even if they did get up before daybreak and went to bed with the chickens, how did they get so much done? Was it because they had more hours in the day? Or was it because they were more intelligent and used more time? Or was it because they were more industrious?

Perhaps it was because they had more time for visiting. Visiting was a favorite pastime. Neighbors dropped in on each other frequently. Sometimes they came for a meal, sometimes for a night, sometimes for a week. Sometimes they came to help with a piece of work, sometimes to help with a quilting, sometimes to help with a corn shucking. Sometimes they came to help with a log rolling, sometimes to help with a house raising. Sometimes they came to help with a wood cutting, sometimes to help with a log rolling. Sometimes they came