

THE MEAT PROBLEM

Rapid Decrease of the World's Herds Due to War Causes a Vast Opportunity to the American Farmer and Stockman.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator, has made the following statement:

I wish to review the question of the problem of food animals, both in Europe and in the United States. It may say at once that I regard it with even more concern than the bread question.

Why the World's Herds are Decreasing

The general policy of European nations is to reduce these herds by slaughter of their animals to an extent far beyond their annual production. It is obvious that the number of the herds which it is necessary to support by imported fodder requires shipping for their support far in excess of the tonnage that would be required to import equal amounts of animal products. Furthermore, the production of fodder grains in Europe displaced to a considerable extent their possible production of bread grains. Beyond this, the diversion of millions of men from production to war and the decrease in fertilizers all contribute to a reduction in production of animal foods.

The following indicates the most recent survey of this situation:

Table with columns for Livestock (Dogs, western allies, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs) and Decrease in other countries, including details on cattle, sheep, and hogs.

Europe's Animal Shortage Even More Serious

This encroachment into the herd, for reasons stated, will go on with increasing velocity as long as the war lasts. Prior to the war our western allies have always imported considerable amount of animal products. Some persons might assume that this encroachment upon the herd would satisfy the total imports. Such is not the case. It becomes a modification of both factors. For instance, European herds have always relied, to a considerable degree, upon the United States for pork products, and if they slaughtered the larger portion of their hogs they could still not supply their demands for fats. More especially is this true because the imports of fat products of one kind or another from the neutral countries surrounding Germany to the allies are constantly diminishing from one political reason after another.

In the matter of beef, it appears to me that the allies can, by sufficient encroachment into the herd, support themselves without any consequential expansion of imports from the United States during the period that the slaughter is carried on, but there are limits to even this. Europe, so far as it is able, must preserve its milk herd, for the vital existence of a nation depends upon its supply of fresh milk. In any event, the large amount of roughage in every country makes this possible to some degree without the use of concentrates. So on the beef side it is impossible and undesirable to slaughter to an extent that encroaches upon the milk herd for when that point is reached a further supplies of beef must be imported.

It is useless to slaughter beef in such an emergency under, say, 2 years of age, and the encroachment into the cattle herds of one ally is limited practically to the killing of mostly male animals above 2 years of age and of the useless milk animals. If the war continues long enough this point of slaughter will be reached amongst other; and the time will come when we will be called upon to find large quantities of beef before the war is over, although for the next few months the demands for beef may not be so heavy upon us.

Hog Problem is Gravest

The pork problem is one of the deepest concern, but as our hogs lend themselves to rapid increase, it is a matter for hope of rapid solution. Table 2 presents statistics that are illuminating as to our hog supplies. Three-year pre-war average: Hog population Jan. 1, 61,600,000; number of hogs slaughtered, 52,204,600; Per cent of hogs slaughtered, 85; Average live weight in pounds, 219.2; Exports of pork products in pounds, 922,885,000; domestic consumption in terms of pounds of pork products per capita, 72.08.

Fiscal year 1916-17: Hog population January 1, 67,450,000; number hogs slaughtered, 64,798,000; Per cent of hogs slaughtered, 96.1; Average live weight in pounds, 211.26; Exports of pork products in pounds, 1,501,271,000; Domestic consumption in terms of pounds of pork products per capita, 73.72.

If table 2 be insufficient evidence, a mere glance at the prices of pork products today is proof that we are slaughtering, consuming at home, and exporting more pork products than we are producing. It is interesting to note that we have increased our pork consumption despite high prices.

Two Ways to Solve Hog Problems

If we are to maintain our supplies in the allies, we have only one of two courses; or a combination of both: First, we must reduce our consumption of pork products to the prewar normal or better; and, second, we must increase our production. If we discontinue exports, we will move the German line from France to the Atlantic seaboard.

Pork products have an influence in this present world situation wider than one would ordinarily attribute to them. The human body must have a certain amount of daily intake of fat. Whether this fat is by means of dairy products, by vegetable oil, or by pork products becomes a secondary question in time of complete national stress, because pork products to some degree will substitute for the other fats.

America Has Enormous Feed Crop in Hand

Due to the blessing of the Almighty and the energy of our farmers we have secured one of the largest corn crops in our history. We also have abundant crops of oats, barley, hair corn, soy beans, velvet beans, cottonseed and peanut meal, and we will have a larger supply of mill feed than normal. Not all of these are hog feed, but they will enter the general feeding question by adding to the general pool of feed.

If we aggregate all of the feeding stuffs, and if we subtract the amount of fodder grains which we can expect to export in view of the present shipping outlook, we will find one astounding fact which should give American farmers pause: We have today somewhere near the equivalent of 1,000,000,000 bushels of feeds more than last year. This is an increase of nearly 25 per cent.—for which we have no corresponding number of animals to feed unless we begin to increase them at once. In other words, as our animals have not kept pace with our increase in concentrates, we have much more feed this year than we have animals to eat it. Therefore, if farmers are to find markets for feed, it must be to a great extent through an increase in animals.

The monetary interpretation of this situation must be that we will have a low range of prices for feeding stuffs and, in view of the European situation and our own shortage in hogs, we will have a high average price for pork products. Therefore, it must be to the vital advantage of every farmer to raise hogs.

Start a "Keep-a-Pig" Movement

This situation is one that can be partly solved by our suburban population. If every suburbanite took to his care a pig and fed it on the household garbage, he would increase our fat supply and do so without call upon our general feeding stuffs. In Germany 4,000,000 hogs are supported by these means. We need a "Keep-a-Pig" movement in this country—and a properly cared for pig is no more insanitary than a dog. Such a movement would necessarily require some changes in village and urban ordinances; but the national welfare would be warrant ample for such a course of action.

Our Diminishing Wool Clip

Some of the other animal questions I might touch on briefly as well, although the same line of argument applies all along. Suppose we take the case of sheep. Our sheep have been diminishing steadily since the war began. We produced in 1916 only 35 per cent. of the wool that we used. In providing uniforms for millions and millions of men the world is using more wool than ever before in its history. We have never seen such a price of wool as it exists today. There is practically famine in wool at the present moment. There is every reason in outlook and in profit for the increase of our sheep.

Now, what I have said relates mainly to the immediate prospect and our immediate necessities. We may summarize that we need to increase every type of our principal food animals—our cattle, our hogs, and our sheep. Live Stock Increase a Sound National Policy.

If we take the long view of the world's agriculture after peace we must assume that Europe, with her herds and flocks greatly diminished and the necessity to allow the herd to recuperate, will demand during this period of recuperation the importation of animal products upon an even larger scale than during the period of the war. During the war period some measure of supply will be obtained by slaughtering the herds, but this is burning the candle at both ends.

It must be obvious that after peace,

with diminished animal herds, Europe will have less use for fodder grains; that she will have a larger acreage available for planting bread grains, and that instead of so largely importing bread grains, as has been her habit prior to the war, she will import less. Our American farmers would be wise, therefore, to realize that for a considerable period after the war there will be a very poor export market for American bread grains, whereas there will be a wide demand for animal products. Consequently, if the animals be increased there will be a large demand for fodder grains within our own country. In other words, the outlook of our farmers needs to be turned toward animals and their food grains, not only now but for many years after the war.

Food Administration Will Aid Hog Men

I realize that under certain conditions a lack of confidence in the stability of market prices may act as a deterrent, and, further, that this may sometimes come from a failure to glimpse an opportunity before one: I therefore wish to make this positive statement that so far as the United States Food Administration is able, through its influence on the purchase of pork and its products for exportation, it will do all within its power to see that prices of pork are maintained in a ratio to feed prices that will cover not only costs of production but proper remuneration to the producer.

By a system of license control of manufacturers and distributors the Food Administration will further help the producer. This system will tend toward the abolition of speculation, the punishment of profiteering and the assurance that the consumer receives the product at a fair ratio of the producer's price, and that, vice versa, the producer receives a fair interpretation of the consumer's payment. All of these measures, I believe, offer a new hope for agriculture.

The Rat Plague

The rat population of the United States is estimated by a competent authority to be almost twice as great as the human population. Its demands are so insistent and voracious as to consume approximately the entire economic output of two hundred thousand men. Unless the people of the United States rouse themselves and take vigorous measures, the rat population will increase in even greater ratio and will have an increasingly larger number of men working to support it. The thought of such an army of human beings toiling for the benefit of rats is revolting!

There is almost nothing of value to man that a rat will not destroy. Moreover, so long as rats exist in large numbers the bubonic plague is ever imminent, and they must at least bear the suspicion of being active disseminators of diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlet fever and infantile paralysis.

The idea that keeping a cat will keep away rats is delusive. A cat will occasionally catch a rat, but rat fecundity and rat cleverness will baffle the efforts of the best ratter that ever lived. Trapping, poisoning, fumigating, rat-proofing—all the known methods of destroying the vermin will have to be employed more liberally than they now are if a serious menace to health and property is to be abated. Anyone on whose premises there are rats should write to the Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, for a bulletin telling how to destroy the pest.—Youth's Companion.

Germany's Net Loss

Washington, Oct. 30.—Germany lost 6,000,000 men in three years of war, according to the declaration made in the Reichstag by the independent Socialist Ledbour. A report of his speech reaching Washington through Switzerland, states that, contemplating the prospects of a fourth winter campaign, the Socialist leader said: "Evidently, gentlemen, you have not an exact conception of what war means. We have had 1,500,000 dead; 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 wounded, of whom 500,000 are crippled for life, and 2,000,000 invalidated. That makes 6,000,000 men lost during three years."

It is stated that official information confirmatory of these figures has been in possession of American officials for some time.

The Civic League has decided to sew at Red Cross headquarters every Thursday, both morning and afternoon, and it is hoped that the members will come out to help in this. With four machines in the room, there will be work for many, putting on buttons, making button-holes and other hand-work for those who do not care to use the machines. The president or her chairman will be in charge every Thursday after ten a. m. and she asks for the cooperation of the members in this good work. The State chairman has written to ask that we make South Carolina the banner State in Red Cross work.

AMERICANS TAKE GERMAN PRISONER

First Captive of War Dies From Wounds

With the American Army in France, Oct. 29 (By the Associated Press).—The first German prisoner of war taken by the American expeditionary forces died today in an American field hospital, having been shot when he encountered an American patrol in No Man's Land in front of the American trenches.

He with another German was discovered Saturday night by the patrol and was called upon to halt. The German ran; the patrol fired and one of the enemy was hit. The prisoner was treated at a dressing station and removed to a field hospital where the combined efforts of several surgeons failed to save his life.

The prisoner was a mail carrier and letters of some value were found on him. He explained his presence near the American trenches, saying he had lost his way in the dark. He declared that the German soldiers did not know that Americans were on the front or in France, the officers telling them nothing.

OUR ENEMIES

What We are Fighting Against

(By Newell Dwight Hillis.) Jesus made his choice between His convictions and physical death. Mankind survived His crucifixion, but the race could not have survived a big moral compromise to save His life. Today mankind can survive the loss of this generation of boys, American, French and British, but one thing society cannot survive, namely, a compromise with German lawlessness, German cruelty and German crime. Today in many cities and continents men are wondering how the German spies and secret agents manage to keep proposals for peace in the newspapers, at public meetings and before the people. Short of ammunition, short of food, alarmed by the breaking of the morale of her soldiers, the German war party begins to fear a revolt against its leadership. In the hope of saving her plunder Germany is now using every conceivable influence to force a peace proposition upon the allies.

During the first three years, each week brought its own revelation of German preparation for war, through the sinking of hospital ships, the looting of cities, the murder of all the inhabitants of villages, the treachery by her ambassadors of every great capital. Having ended the war epoch, Germany is now preparing for peace, and once more she is using gold, bribes, lies and treachery to gain the desired end.

We have the news from Rome of a public official who has fled, having been a secret agent of Germany, spending millions in bribing men of influence. Then came the shock incident to the revelations of Bolo Pasha, with the fifty millions sent to this country for seducing Americans from their loyalty. And now a shock is due to the discovery that last November pro-Germans began to join all the American peace societies, to control the nominations, and the officers to be elected for January.

A full expose of those machinations would make one of the most startling, dramatic and venal of all the subtle and seductive schemes for peace conceived by diplomatic tricksters. As never before, Satan is now transformed into an angel of light, that the soul of man may be betrayed and debauched. For thoughtful men who have weighed the issues, there is something startling about the enormous gains Germany would make by securing an immediate peace.

Germany has missed the goal she desired, namely, the conquest of a kingdom from Hamburg on the North Sea to the Persian Gulf, and two hundred and fifty millions of people. By withdrawing from Belgium and France and then closing the incident, Germany would leave France, Great Britain and their allies broken by invasion, and saddled with ninety billions of debts. The rich fields east of the River Rhine have not been invaded.

Belgian steel mines, iron foundries and cotton mills, sugar factories, have all been looted of machinery and then burned, but Germany's factories are intact. France's farms, barns, granaries and vineyards have been destroyed, but not Germany's. To rebuild the ships that England has lost would mean the labor of half a generation. Not in fifty years will Belgium, and France, Poland and Serbia recover their former prosperity. But while these lands, ruined by German cruelty, are being rebuilt, Germany, having lost nothing by invasion, will put her billions upon a new army, and then strike a second time, and complete a victory but half won. The cessation of this war, therefore, at Germany's request, and the acceptance of a German peace, means an abject capitulation to Berlin.

TIDAL NEWS NOTES

Cotton Picking Almost Completed—Fine Corn Crops Harvested—Personal Mention

Tidal, Oct. 29.—The farmers are making good progress gathering crops and if the fair weather continues cotton picking will be about over in a week or so. Corn is turning out well this year. The pea and hay crops are not very good.

Mrs. Eula Sims died at the Toumey Hospital on Saturday morning and was buried at Providence church on Sunday at 12 noon. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Triplett, pastor and was very largely attended. She is survived by her husband, Mr. W. C. Sims and nine children, most of them are yet small. Mrs. Sims was, before her marriage, Miss Eula Hodge, daughter of Magistrate J. A. Hodge of Privateer district. The pallbearers were Messrs. Charley Browning, S. M. Hux, Jr., Guignard Ward, Archie Hudson, Marlon Bradham and W. M. Broadway.

Misses Aline and Elizabeth Hay, teachers of the Providence school, attended the State Fair Thursday and Friday.

Miss Bessie Hodge is spending some time at Woodruff, S. C.

Mr. J. W. Wheeler, formerly of this place, but now of Newberry, is on a visit to Mr. John McDaniel.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Cooper spent several days in Columbia visiting friends and attending the State Fair last week.

SITUATION IN ITALY

People of Nation Firm and Confident

Rome, Oct. 30.—General Cadorna's bulletins on the military situation in Northern Italy are causing the nation to realize that it is facing a severe trial but the press reflects a spirit of determination on the part of the people that the loss of the fruit of victory won in the past shall be but temporary.

The enemy's rapid gains of the past six days are regarded as having been due not so much to superior force as to the element of surprise. According to the Giornale d'Italia no decisive battle has yet been fought although one is expected to develop. Such a battle, it is predicted, will be on a large scale and involve wide movements in the open field in the old fashioned style.

The Italian retreat, according to The Messenger, is being accomplished in good order, with the artillery saved or destroyed and stores and magazines burned.

The Messenger also declares the Germans are making a mistake if they think to terrorize the Italians politically by this effort and "convert the country into another Russia."

Go to Sunday School Day

Next Sunday, November 4th, is International "Go-to-Sunday School Day," and the latest reports from the Sunday School fields indicate a probable attendance in the Sunday Schools of North America of at least sixteen million on that day. It is said that the average attendance under usual conditions is between ten and eleven million a Sunday, and a conservative estimate indicates from fifty to sixty per cent. average increase in attendance. All denominations are working together in this campaign, which covers North America. Local Sunday schools in our community are enthusiastic over the prospects and many Sunday Schools are expecting to double and more than double their usual attendance. Last year when the day was observed in South Carolina, it is conservatively estimated that there was an increase in attendance of 75,000. The goal for this year is 100,000 increase in Sunday School attendance. The slogan of the campaign: "Everybody invited, everybody welcome, everybody come," is to be seen and heard everywhere, and leaders of the Sunday schools are enthusiastic over the prospects.

Death

From The Daily Item, Oct. 30. Mrs. S. J. Pinckney died at 11 o'clock this morning at the home of her son-in-law, Maj. W. L. Lee, after an illness of several weeks, aged seventy-one years. Mrs. Pinckney is survived by three sons, Charles C. Fishburn, of Columbia; John B. Fishburn, of Cairo, Ill.; A. G. Fishburn of this city, and one daughter Mrs. W. L. Lee of this city.

Death of a Little Boy

Little Hiotte, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Hiotte A. Davis, died at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. W. J. Norris on Sumter street on October 28th.

Although only one year and three weeks of age he had entwined himself in the hearts of many who will be grieved to learn of his death.

Peanut stuffing for poultry has long been appreciated. Now it is recommended for pigs, applied either post or ante-mortem.—The State.

WEDDING ENTERTAINMENTS

Social Functions in Honor of Miss Aline Harby and Her Guests

On Tuesday afternoon Miss Hassie Parrott entertained at tea for the bride-elect, Miss Aline Harby, and her wedding guests. The house was very tastefully decorated in fall flowers of all the brilliant hues, and candles and electric lights sparkled everywhere.

About fifty guests came and went during the hour, and enjoyed the refreshments of tea, sandwiches, cakes and bon bons.

Those in the receiving line were, Miss Aline Harby, Mrs. Thomas Brent Moore, Mrs. H. W. Harby, Miss Miriam Morrison, Miss Hassie Parrott.

On Wednesday morning Mrs. Perry Moses, Jr. gave a charming affair for Miss Harby and her friends, at which the guests each hemmed cup towels for the bride to be, and then to show that the groom was not forgotten individual telegrams were written, to be sent him. The prize given for the most original of these, was won by Miss Parrott. Delicious refreshments were served at the luncheon hour, consisting of chicken aspic, hot rolls, tea and pastries. There was also a bride's cake, which contained a ring, a thimble and a dime. This was cut amidst much excitement and merriment as the prizes were drawn forth. Mrs. Moore getting the coin, Miss Parrott the thimble and Miss Ethel Green the ring.

Tonight there will be a rehearsal dance given at the residence of Mr. H. J. Harby in honor of the house guests who are: Mrs. Lucy P. Moore, of Washington, D. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brent Moore, Washington; Miss Lucie Moore, Washington; Miss Miriam Morrison, Concord, N. C.; Mr. Brown Wimberly, Macon, Ga.; Mrs. D. L. Lopez, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. John Lopez, U. S. N.

Married

From The Daily Item, Oct. 31.

Mr. H. W. Blake, formerly of Sumter, but now of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Miss Stella J. Williams, of Sumter were married by Rev. J. P. Marion at the Presbyterian church at 9 o'clock last night.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Blake left on the 9.30 train for New Orleans, where they will spend a week and will then go on to their future home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mr. Blake is well remembered in Sumter, having been one of the first three mail carriers appointed when Sumter was made a city delivery office. He has steadily risen in the postal service and is now postoffice inspector with headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Funeral of Mr. Merrimon

The funeral services of Mr. Raphael D. Merrimon were held on Monday, at 4 p. m., at the residence of his sister, Mrs. R. D. Epps, and the interment at the Sumter cemetery. Mr. Neill O'Donnell and the employees of the two O'Donnell stores acted as pallbearers. His sudden death was a great shock to his many friends. The symptoms were so masked that he had never even suspected the presence of the insidious disease that was sapping his life away. While at work on Thursday he was taken ill, went home, and was removed to the hospital. An operation revealed his hopeless condition, and after a brave fight against death, he passed away on Saturday night. Mr. Merrimon came to Sumter about five years ago from his home in Cokesbury, S. C. Since then, except for a short time, he has been employed by O'Donnell & Co., where he was a valued employe. By his friendly manner and many splendid qualities, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. His loss will be keenly felt by his relatives and numerous friends in Sumter and elsewhere.

He was unmarried, and is survived by the following sisters: Misses Lellia M. and Minnie L. Merrimon, and Mrs. R. D. Epps, of Sumter, and Mrs. L. W. Jones of Newberry, and Mrs. W. T. Cary, of Rutherford College, N. C.

Recommended by Doctor Cothran. Dr. T. E. Cothran is a well-known pharmacist of Alexis, Ala. And when he gets bilious or needs a purgative medicine, what do you suppose he does? Out of his big stock of liver medicine he selects and uses Granger Liver Regulator. He says "There is none better." That's a pretty strong endorsement, don't you think, from a man who knows all about the merits of the different medicines on the market? Granger Liver Regulator is purely vegetable, does not gripe nor irritate the delicate lining of the stomach and bowels and always gives quick and pleasant results. It is the best system purifier known. Your druggist can supply you—25c for large box. Accept no substitute.