

CHOKED BY 'SKIPPING ROPE'
Chicago — Cathie Ann Mulhall, 5, was strangled on her skipping rope when she fell from a neighbor's board fence on which she was attempting to do a tight-rope act. Her father, Gerald, found her hanging from a length of clothesline attached to a telephone pole.

Board Wants New Ways to Use Farm Products

Development of new uses for farm products by industry was suggested as a way to solution of problems of surpluses in agriculture in an interim report to Congress issued Friday by the president's bi-partisan Commission on Increased Industrial Use of Agricultural Products. The Commission's recommendations visualize a greatly expanded research program in agricultural products utilization.

The proposed program, if the recommendation were to be adopted by the Congress, would be administered by a bi-partisan, Agricultural Research and Industrial Board of five members. Of the members, four would be appointed by the President and one by Secretary of Agriculture. An alternative plan recommended by the Commission for consideration if the Congress should choose to place the responsibility for carrying but the expanded research within the U. S. Department of Agriculture, would include an Agricultural and research Industrial Board headed by a director with the rank of assistant Secretary of Agriculture in charge of research and education.

The Commission recommended that 15 per cent of the annual gross receipts from customs revenues be used to finance the expanded utilization research work. This would be an addition to the 30 per cent of custom revenues already set aside to be used under direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. The funds available for research under this provision

Shift from Bushel to Hundredweight In Grain Sales Being Studied

Although it is generally agreed that substantial and permanent benefits would accrue to farmers and the grain industry through a shift from the bushel to the hundredweight in measuring grains, there would be a number of problems and extra work during the change-over period, a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows.

The report on this study, just issued, presents views of representatives of farm organizations, elevator men, grain dealers, bankers, governmental statistical workers, and other interested groups. The proposed change has been dis-

could be carried forward in amount no to exceed a total of \$150,000,000.

Under the plan for an independent Agricultural Research and Industrial Board recommended by the Commission, no research would be conducted by the Board itself but it would cooperate with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and other groups or individuals who conduct research in this field. The board would direct "a comprehensive program for research, process development pilot scale tests, market study, trial commercialization, and educational work . . . to advance the greater utilization of farm products and the development of new crops."

The Commission pointed out that synthetics have made great inroads on agriculture in fields that only a few years were regarded as natural monopolies of certain crops. The report said that manufacturing industry devotes an average of 3 per cent of its gross annual income to research and development. If agriculture did the same, its outlay for research and development would amount to \$900 million yearly.

It is estimated in the report that total expenditures for agricultural research in the United States does not exceed \$375 million a year, of which about \$190 million come from Federal and State governments -- the rest from private and industrial sources.

For the current fiscal year, Federal funds for utilization research amount to \$16,145,000. In one of its recommendations, the Commission proposed that this amount to \$16,145,000. In one of its recommendations, the Commission proposed that this amount should at least be trebled.

New crops -- as one means of preventing surpluses -- received special emphasis in the report with the recommendation that funds be increased sizably for new crops research. The Commission suggested incentives to bridge the gap between research and established uses of crops. Inducements to growers might take several forms -- price supports, price incentives, or acreage payments.

The Commission also recommended that the administrators of the research program on new uses and new crops be allowed to contract for development of research results into trial commercial scale operations, to hasten and enlarge market outlets. Other suggested incentives were tax amortizations and preferential prices for buying materials to be processed.

The shortage of trained scientific brain-power prompted the Commission to recommend a wider use of research grants, fellowships, and scholarships to help increase the supply of trained scientists.

The Commission, appointed by President Eisenhower, was charged by Congress to develop legislative and other recommendations designed to bring about wider industrial use of farm goods. It held its first meeting August 22, 1956.

Members of the Commission are J. Leroy Welsh, Omaha, Neb., (chairman); Karl D. Butler, Ithaca, N. Y.; George Henry Coppers, Englewood, N. J.; Charles R. Sayre, Scott, Miss., and Frank J. Welch, Lexington, Ky.

Wheeler McMillen, Philadelphia, Pa., is the Commission's executive director.

Nitrate Implicated In Livestock Poisoning

Excessive nitrate content of certain plants used to graze livestock is an increasingly important cause of poisoning in farm animals, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Forage plants such as oats, sorghums, corn and certain weeds have long been recognized as a cause of some livestock losses, the Association said, because of nitrate concentration in the plant during adverse growing conditions such as drought.

Symptoms of nitrate poisoning vary from abortion and decreased production to severe intoxications that can end quickly in death. Severity of symptoms depends upon the amount of nitrate in the ration as well as the quality of the entire ration, veterinary authorities said.

To prevent losses, the AVMA suggested that a chemical analyses be made in plants in drought areas suspected of excessive nitrate content.

At the first sign of variation from the animal's normal behavior, a veterinarian should be called to determine the exact cause and recommend corrective procedures or treatment before losses occur.

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cussed for years in the grain trade, but thus far no definite and general action has been taken.

Those questioned emphasized two major advantages of the change: (1) conversions of quantities of grain from bushels to pounds and vice versa, now necessary in much of trading, would be largely eliminated, saving much work and avoiding errors in computations; and (2) comparisons of prices and feeding values of grains would be much easier on the 100-pound basis, in contrast to present comparisons in bushels of differing weights.

Principal disadvantages mentioned included: (1) The required adjustment in thinking among farmers and in the grain trade, from bushels to hundredweight; (2) necessary changes in legislation; (3) changes in forms and office procedures; (4) revisions of historical data; (5) changes in trading practices.

There was general agreement that the advantages would be lasting, while the disadvantages would disappear after a period of adjustment. It also was believed generally that at least a year of advance notice of any such change should be given.

COP NO PLUMBER

Baltimore, Md. — Lt. Frank Weber, of the Baltimore county police, has decided to stick to his job of being a cop and let someone else fix his plumbing. Attempting to fix a leaking faucet on an overhead water tank at his home recently, Weber yanked on the faucet with a wrench. The 30-gallon tank broke loose from the ceiling, hit him on the head, scraped his face and knocked him down. Taken to the hospital, eight stitches were required to close the gash in his head. A plumber was called to fix the leak.

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