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**Farm Bureau Official Compares
American And Indian Agriculture**

'Despite hunger and illiteracy, the farmer of India is more intelligent than the American farmer'

Such a statement greatly surprised a group of Pennsylvania's leading farmers recently at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Cooperative Association in Harrisburg.

But the declaration came straight from another farmer.

George Steele, a successful farmer, expressed this firm opinion following a person-to-person type exchange tour through India.

'If farmers of the United States had to work on the land in India with the tools, varieties and methods used there, we would fail miserably,'

Steele president of the Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau Co-operative Association told the dinner meeting. We could not even feed ourselves let alone produce a commercial crop

'The mere fact that the Indian farmer survives is an accomplishment in itself'

Steele and his wife recently concluded an educational tour of India. Eight farm couples made the tour under the direction of Farmers and World Affairs, Inc. Philadelphia, a non-profit goodwill organization sponsored by the three major farm organizations in the United States - National Grange, National Farmers Union and American Farm Bureau Federation.

'Even before our trip started said Steele, we were told, For a while you will only look at India but finally you will be able to see India. This advice seemed strange and paradoxical.

Now we can understand the wisdom of the statement. For some time after our arrival we merely looked at India and her culture and compared it with our own. But finally we started to see India

through the eyes of her people and we started to understand more fully the reasons behind many of the things she does.

If the statement suggested a paradox," Steele continued, it was entirely correct for many times we did not even believe what we saw.

He explained that centuries of tradition and habit are side by side with technology and research. The ancient bullock cart delivers a modern radio while a new compact Indian automobile screeches to a halt as a sacred Hindu cow placidly crosses the street. The Indian businessman in Western clothes shares the sidewalk with the destitute beggar and the Indian housewife in her beautiful silk sari. Feast and famine, riches and poverty, beauty and blith are all blended before your eyes to create a picture interesting to observe but difficult to describe.

In viewing the problems of India Steele said the answers must be divided by her limited land factor — about one-fifth that of the United States — and multiplied by her population — two and a half times that of the United States.

Eighty-five percent of her people live and work on her agricultural lands and illiteracy is the rule rather than the exception' the Pennsylvania farmer noted. 'But mechanization is not the immediate answer. If agriculture there were to be mechanized quickly thousands of people would be out of work and India does not have the necessary industry to absorb these people.

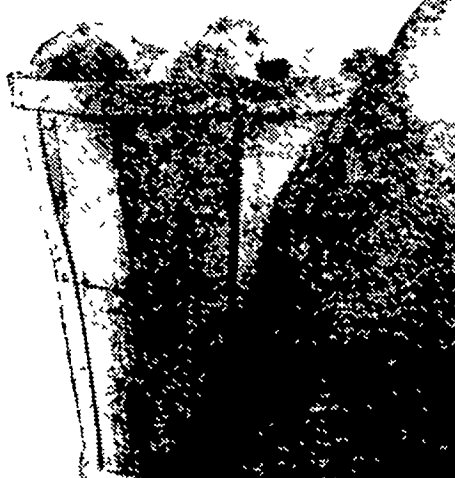
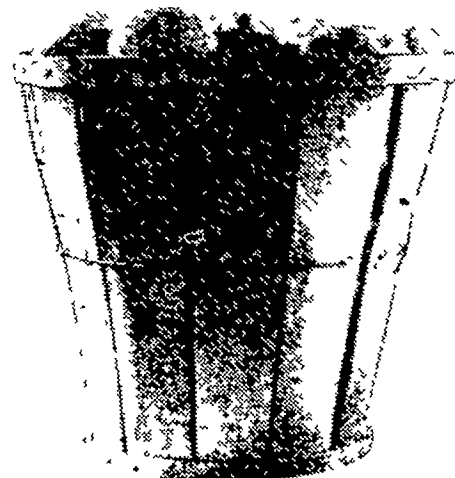
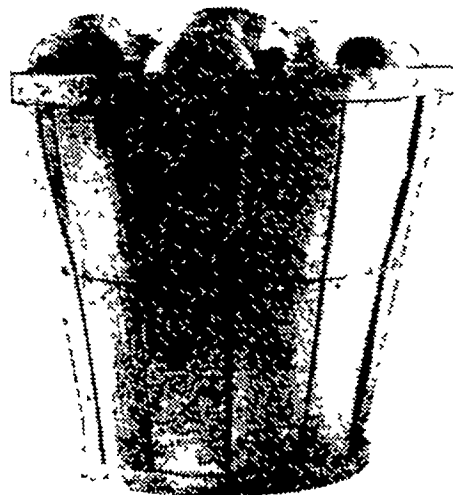
Despite these overwhelming odds, progress is being made. Research and experimentation are finding new methods and crops for her farmers. Schools and colleges are training her young people and travel abroad is giving many of them a look at other cultures. Capital and know how from the United States and many other countries are developing her industry.

Steele said he believes the real surge of progress will come with the new generation for the young people of today will lead tomorrow's India.

The dairyman referred to India as a "developing country," one that will progress with the youth of today because they are getting schooling and technical training.

In years to come said Steele we will see India move forward as a great democracy as the youth lead the rest.

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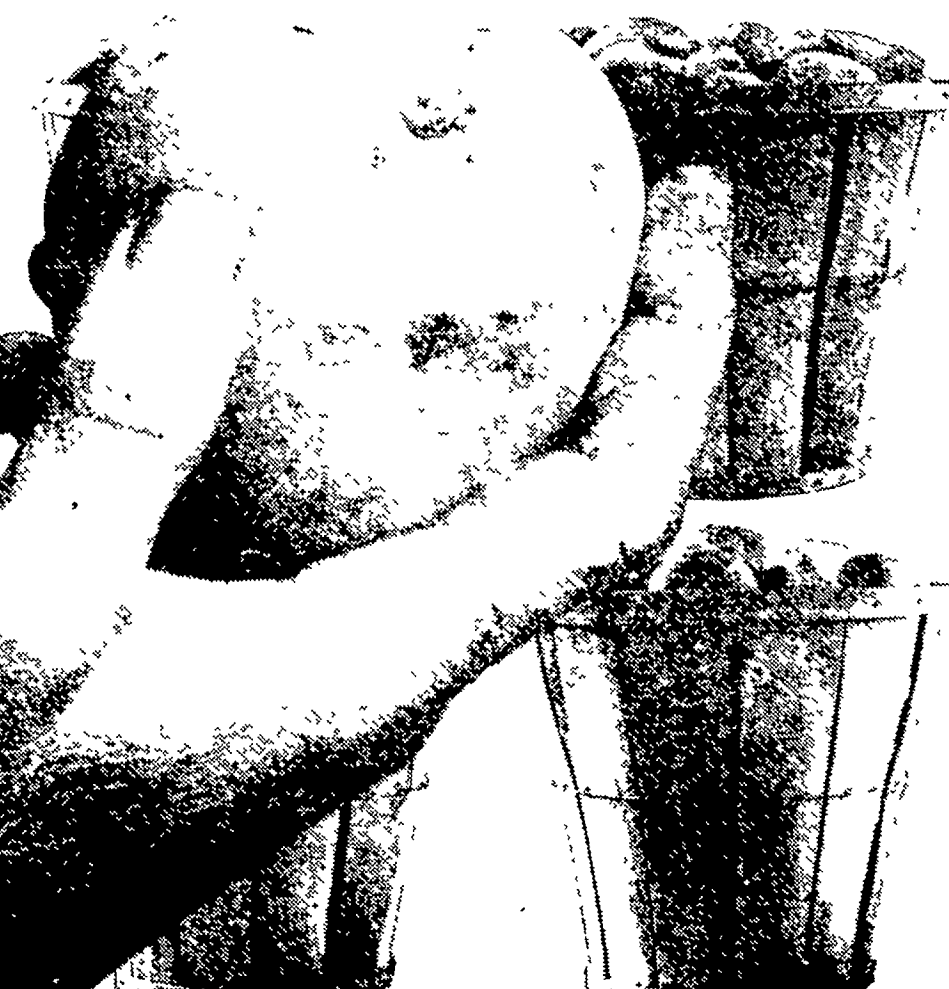
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