

A YEAR OF HOOVERISM.

(By Dr. L. M. Collett.) Now that a year of President Hoover's administration has elapsed it is proper for the American people to reckon up some of the outstanding results. It must be confessed they are not so rosy as the people were led to expect from the pre-election claims made by big business and the Captains of Industry. Even Mr. Schwab will allow that though he broke away from his lifelong fealty to the Democratic Party, succumbed to the influence of his money bags and advocated the election of Mr. Hoover on the ground that he would prove a business director of consummate ability and continue the prevailing prosperity of the nation. So said all the multi-millionaires. But how sadly have they been disillusioned. Suddenly out of a clear sky came the flash and roar of the most appalling and tremendous financial crash ever witnessed in the history of the world. The evaluation of securities has never been equalled, running into billions. Never such widespread ruin—never so many suicides from irreparable financial losses. But Mr. Hoover is a man of resource and to restore confidence he summoned a conference of famous financial doctors composed of the heads of the biggest corporations and he put to them this question, "How many millions can you pledge to spend on great works of utility and improvement?" and with one accord they came to the rescue and vociferated loud enough for the country to hear that they would pledge the companies of which they were financial managers to spend hundreds of millions—to be exact some four thousand and millions which has since been swollen to eight thousand millions. But where is this money to come from? Manifestly from the issue of fresh securities, from watering stock, or borrowing outright. The same vicious methods of financing which precipitated the late debacle which reduced to plain sense Mr. Hoover's questionnaire was simply "How much can you borrow? What credits can you command?" Is not this but an act of embezzlement on the part of the business world to lift itself by its own suspenders. Would it not be its own policy for an individual business man waterlogged with the weight of financial obligations to attempt to galvanize prosperity in a period of depression by extensive, fresh borrowings? Has any cure for financial crashes and consequent widespread business depression ever been devised other than that of Mr. Cleveland's "Work and Save." Mr. Hoover is such a commanding genius in the business management of the nation that he is going to reverse the inexorable laws of political economy and revive prosperity with the slogan "Borrow and Spend."

One year of Mr. Hoover and no nearer relief for the farmer. The much depended upon special session of Congress for the passage of a Tariff Bill calculated to rescue him from his sad plight, after seven months bickering owing to the in-conjunction and comprehension of considerable manufacturing relief endeavored in a deplorable fashion in a period of depression but does not seem to be making much headway. No one can foresee the outcome and it would surprise us if the bill should finally fail. Of one thing we Pennsylvanians may be assured, that the days of High Tariff are drawing to an end. The present producing capacity of this country because of its improved machinery and efficient workmen can supply all home consumption in seven months of operation. For the foreign markets must be obtained. But foreigners simply will not submit longer to the denial of reciprocity on the part of American manufacturers. They will not continue to throw their doors wide open to international trade while the United States has already taken reprisal on American automobile importation. Coming events cast their shadows before. But it is not so much foreign resentment that so much menaces High Tariff. It is the coalition of the Southern and Western Agricultural States which has already established a working bloc in the Senate and arrested every attempt to increase tariffs in the present session.

As for the attempt of the Hoover administration to bring financial relief to the farmer directly by shoveling out millions for the purpose of stabilizing and setting a fixed and remunerative price upon wheat by interfering artificially in the functioning of the Chicago Board of Trade is about the absurdest bit of economical quackery ever devised and deserves to always be reserved for it in the not distant future. Uncle Sam will get his fingers well burnt. No nation on earth is big enough to control the wheat market. To fix the price above the world's demand the United States must hold the bag while Canada, Australia, Argentina, India, Russia and all Europe liquidate to their own advantage. Already the collapse is asserting itself. When this pseudo-dictatorship was established, wheat was selling at \$1.34 a bushel. It is now \$1.08 a bushel. The average visible supply of the last ten years was 47,000,000 bushels. The present visible supply in the United States is 167,000,000. The avalanche is piling up and is growing more menacing. No nation attempting this method of relief has succeeded. The American bankers tried it in the loan of \$50,000,000 to the sugar planters of Cuba to bolster the sugar market. The government of Brazil advanced \$50,000,000 to purchase and hold the Coffee surplus for the planters of San Paolo. Both attempts were complete failures and the Sugar and Coffee markets have not even yet recovered

FARM NOTES.

—Agricultural outlook reports state that apparently the high point in the expansion of sheep numbers in the United States has been reached. A new annual record slaughter of sheep and lambs is expected within the next few years and it maintained at the high levels of the last three or four years.

—Depth of planting vegetable seeds depends on the seeds, soil, season, and seedbed preparation. In a clay soil the seedbed should be particularly well prepared to make shallow planting possible. As a general rule, small seeds like lettuce, onions, carrots, radish, and spinach are planted one-half to three-quarters of an inch deep, and large seeds like beans and corn are planted one to three inches deep.

—Of the 35 important diseases known to afflict livestock some where in the world, only 24 of them are known to be present in this country. Seventeen of these are being effectively controlled or are fast approaching what is hoped may be complete eradication, the rest of the 24 being under partial control or study.

—All grain and mash should be fed to the chicks in clean hoppers or troughs. This practice may reduce the spread of coccidiosis, round worms, tape worms, and other troubles which may be picked up by the chicks if their feed is scattered in dirty litter or on contaminated ground.

—Artistic table lamps can be made from jars and vases and the shades can be made to match the furnishings by any homemaker with a taste of such work.

—Recent findings have shown that the organism which causes blackhead in turkeys lives in the soil. Consequently if turkeys are raised on contaminated soil they can hardly escape the disease. The danger will to a large extent be averted if a three-year rotation is followed. Experimental findings have shown that the cecal worm found in chickens is a menace to the turkey. It is believed that if the young turkeys are affected with cecal worms the injury they do to the lining of the intestinal walls is sufficient to permit the entrance of blackhead organisms into the blood stream, thus infecting the bird with the incurable disease and the one most dreaded by turkey breeders. The remedy, therefore, is to keep the young turkeys on clean ground and entirely separate from chickens.

—Plans are now being made to start inspection of apiaries in various counties of the State to curb costly disease, the bureau of plant industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, announced.

This work is being done in accordance with the State Bee Law, effective since July 1, 1923, and enacted at the request of the beekeepers of the Commonwealth. This law specifically requires that bees be hived in modern movable frame hives which permit free inspection of each comb and other bee diseases. The cross comb and box hives so common in the past, are declared by the law to be a public nuisance and menace to the community.

Last year, over 19,000 colonies of bees were inspected by representatives of the State. In all cases where disease and unlawful hives were found last summer a second visit will be made, the work to start about May 1 this year. Beekeepers who are violating the law were informed of the fact and requested to transfer their bees into movable frame hives, and to notify the Bureau of Plant Industry at Harrisburg as soon as the work was done.

The Department has been liberal in giving time for beekeepers to comply with the law by placing their bees in modern hives. However, as a last recourse owners not complying with the requirements will be prosecuted. This must be done as a protection to other beekeepers in the community. Last year approximately 100 prosecutions were necessary in eight counties.

—The best method of eliminating bedbugs from a hen house is to thoroughly clean the entire house, getting out every little speck of both dust and straw. After this thoroughly cleaning, the walls and perches should be painted with carbolineum, and the rest of the house sprayed with a 20 per cent solution of soluble stock dip. If this application is done thoroughly, it will eliminate all of the live bugs, and probably will not affect the eggs. The second application is necessary.

—Good yields per animal are necessary to low cost production.

—Oats or rye, either one, are feed that can be used with fair success in feeding hogs.

—Nothing but pure bred sires are now being used by 17,345 live stock owners in the United States.

—Dehorning calves should be done when a few days old, or as soon as the horns can be felt under the skin.

A foal makes more than half of its entire growth during the first year. If stunted during this time, it will never fully recover. Good bone and muscle are of prime importance with the horse and feeds which tend to produce these should be chosen.

—Barley is a good hog feed. It is trifle bulky for the best results for fattening purposes when fed alone. When used on a 50-50 basis with corn and a 5 per cent tankage ration, good results have been obtained with barley as a pork producer.

AMERICAN CHANGE THEIR EATING HABITS.

In ten years the eating habits of the American people have undergone a radical change.

We are eating more fruit, more green vegetables, more poultry, more milk and butter. We are eating less beef, less wheat, less corn, less meat generally.

The only kind of meat in which there has been an increase in domestic consumption is pork, and that increase is mainly in the form of ham.

Figures compiled by the Bureau of Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, which reveal those facts, throw an interesting side-light on the change which is going on in American life.

Not so many years ago the great majority of Americans were engaged in heavy manual labor. Their work called for large meals of heavy food. Now a large and growing proportion of factory workers and other laborers are machine tenders, their work calling for comparatively slight muscular exertion. The workman's dinnerpail is no longer the institution which it once was. In the larger cities and even in smaller communities the quick lunch counter with ham sandwiches and cheese sandwiches as its principal staples, is far more popular with the average young mechanic.

That is one reason why we are changing from a nation of heavy eaters to a nation of moderate eaters.

Another is the general desire to avoid fat. So much has been said in print and otherwise about the physical danger of overweight that even those who care little about how they look are deliberately avoiding the fattening foods. And as for girls—well, it is hardly necessary to point out that they can't keep those boyish figures and eat the old-fashioned three square meals a day.

Lettuce is one item of food which has gained in popularity. Between 1920 and 1929 our national consumption of lettuce was multiplied by four from 13,000 carloads in 1920 to over 53,000 carloads in 1929. And that indicates another reason for the change in our eating habits. Lettuce is one of the chief sources of the health-preserving vitamins, unheard of by the public ten years ago, now generally understood to be essential to the health of everybody who does not spend most of his or her time out doors.

For the same reason, in 1929 we ate more than three times as much celery, more than six times as many carloads of carrots. These vegetables stand high in the list of foods containing a high percentage of vitamins. And we are eating about twice as much grapefruit, cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes and turnips as we did ten years ago.

In 1917 we consumed about 42 gallons of milk per individual. In 1928 this had increased to 56 gallons. In the same period we increased our butter consumption by three pounds per head of our use of cheese by two and one-half pounds. That much of this increased use of dairy products can be traced to the "eat less meat" campaigns is hardly to be doubted, especially when we compare the figures showing the falling off in the use of meat.

In 1920 the average American ate 63 pounds of beef in the course of the year. In 1929 this had fallen off to a shade over 51 pounds. In the same period we reduced our average consumption of veal from about 7 and one-half pounds to about 6 and three-fourth pounds. We continued to eat about the same average amount of lamb and mutton, but our consumption of pork has up in those nine years from an average of 60 pounds to almost 74 pounds. Of all kinds of meat, we are eating almost 25 per cent less than we did twenty years ago.

We have cut down on bread—wheat bread and corn bread both—as the statistics of flour and corn meal shipments show. The falling off here in twenty years is nearly 40 per cent.

Out of figures like these we obtain not only an index of the changing tastes and habit of the nation, but information of the greatest value to the forward looking producers of and dealers in foodstuffs.

It seems to be apparent to wheat-growers, for example, that their market is getting smaller. That should make many farmers consider trying to reduce the cost of production, cut down wheat acreage, turn part of the wheat land into some other crop which promises a better market.

The grower of corn is not affected as is the wheat farmer, for an increasing amount of corn is being converted into pork probably about compensating for the falling off of human consumption of corn bread. There is every indication that the trend in food preference will continue about as it is going now. That means there is an excellent opportunity for the fruit and vegetable grower. Already fruits and vegetables total a larger value in annual production than any other money crop except corn. To the Western farmer accustomed to a single crop on large acreage, such as corn or wheat, or the Southern farmer whose sole staple has been cotton, such crops as celery, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, strawberries and other small fruits seem like kitchen garden stuff, not worth while bothering with. But the experience of specialists in such crops has been

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