

Fights Farm Price Support Programme With Shot Gun

By GEORGE KITCHEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer
WASHINGTON (CP)—A 55-year-old Pennsylvania wheat farmer tucked a double-barrelled shotgun under her arm recently and challenged the United States government on one of the key provisions of its farm price-support program.

Miss Elsie Mumma, who farms land pioneered by her ancestors in 1824, threatened personal violence on government representatives who tried to enter her land to measure the number of acres planted to wheat. They suspected she had over-planted.

The case, now before the courts, involves the U.S. wheat quota system, which the spinster-farmer called "ungodly" but which the United States Supreme Court several times has ruled to be valid and within the competence of the administration.

MUST OBSERVE LIMIT

Under the law, acreage allotments are required for six basic crops — wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco, peanuts and rice—except in times of emergency, such as war, when the secretary of agriculture may proclaim them null and void.

To obtain government price supports, a farmer must stay within his acreage allotment. If he exceeds it all he loses is price support. This means he must sell his crop on the open, unsupported market for whatever it will bring.

But, in times of really big surpluses, the government can enforce its acreage allotments as matter of law by imposing marketing quotas. These have real teeth, with heavy penalties, and are the basic point at issue in the Mumma case.

When the total supply of one of five basic commodities—corn is exempted—reaches a point 35 per cent above "normal" supply, the secretary of agriculture is required by law to proclaim marketing quotas. This is what Secretary Ezra Benson did last spring, when he determined that the July 1 carryover of wheat would be an excess of 1,000,000,000 bushels—more than the U.S. needed for consumption, plus foreseeable exports, for two full years.

ASSURED HIGHER MINIMUM

To go into effect, these quotas must be approved by two-thirds of all eligible wheat growers in 36 states listed as "commercial wheat areas." The quotas, providing for only 55,000,000 acres of wheat this year against 78,000,000 in 1954, were approved in a referendum in June.

By accepting the quotas, farmers obtained the government's guarantee that they would receive at least \$1.81 a bushel for their wheat. Had they rejected quotas, price supports would have dropped to \$1.19 a bushel.

The marketing quotas, based on an average yield of 20 bushels to the acre, are binding on every wheat farmer in the 36 commercial states, whether or not he wants them. When acreage allotments alone are in effect, the only penalty for over-planting is loss of price support. When quotas are in effect, the offending farmer also is subject to a penalty of 90 cents a bushel.

This penalty applies only to wheat produced on excess acres. The government sends the farmer

government moves to collect the penalty just as it does to collect back taxes.

MUST SHOW CARD

Until an over-planted farmer pays his penalty, he cannot sell his wheat to anyone. This is enforced through a "marketing card" issued only to those who have complied with regulations. A wheat buyer always demands to see a seller's card. If he buys from a farmer without a card, the buyer becomes liable for the farmer's penalty.

The government holds that farmers like Miss Mumma, who don't like price supports and who over-plant, can break the wheat market and wreck the cooperative effort of hundreds of thousands of farmers who support the government program.

Miss Mumma had an answer for the government men who tried to estimate her production. "If they set foot on my land again," she declared, "I'll shoot them, so help me."

St. Louis

Sympathy is being extended to the wife and family of Peter Gaven whose death occurred recently at the Western Western Hospital, Alberton at the age of 78.

Mrs. Maurice Myers is a patient in the Western Hospital, Alberton.

Mrs. Freeman Blanchard has returned to her home in Summerside after spending some time at the home of her daughter-in-law Mrs. Benny Blanchard and family in St. Louis.

Mr. John P. Gaudet has left by car for Lawrence, Mass., where he plans to spend part of the winter with members of his family.

Mr. Peter Allan of Lawrence, Mass., is a visitor at the home of his brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Allan, St. Louis.

Mr. Edlo Albert has left for Gagetown, N. B., where he plans to remain for some time.

Congratulations are being extended to Mr. and Mrs. Havin Laviolette in their recent marriage in the immaculate Conception Church Palmer Road. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alphy Gaudet of St. Louis while the groom is the son of the late Lois Laviolette and Mrs. Laviolette of St. Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. Aubin Bernard of Toronto, Ontario were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Arsenault of St. Louis. CR

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Adenauer Under Strong Pressure To Modify West Germany Pact With West

PRINCETON, N. J. — The joint meeting of the auxiliaries of the W. M. S. of Princetown United Church was held on Friday evening Sept. 24 at the summer home of Mrs. Ernest Ramsay in Hamilton.

Malpeque and Baltic members had charge of the worship service with Mrs. G. W. Ramsay leader and Mrs. Frank Bearis, Mrs. Gerald Lockhart and Mrs. Kenneth Owen reading Scripture passages. Mrs. Miller led in prayer. The worship service closed with a hymn.

The new study books, "No Vanishing Race" and "Coming Our Way" were introduced by Mrs. Miller. These deal with the Canadian Indians and the New Canadians in Canada.

The three societies held separate business meetings. A vote of thanks was extended Mrs. Ramsay and to the Hamilton members for serving lunch. Meeting closed with a hymn and the Mizpah benediction.

Takes WAC Course

WAC CENTER, Fort McClellan, Ala. — Private Bessie A. Mac Kenzie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Donald MacKenzie, Mount Stewart, Prince Edward Island, Canada, recently completed the Clerical Procedures and Typing Course at The Women's Army Corps Center, Fort McClellan, Alabama. A graduate of Dorchester High School, Dorchester, Mass., Private MacKenzie enlisted in the WAC in April. She has been transferred to Fort Myers, Va. for duty as a clerk-typist.

The Clerical Procedures and Typing course is unusual in that the women may be graduated when they have attained the proficiency necessary for assignment. They are not required to attend the maximum limit of the course to graduate if they do not need the training.

BONN, (AP)—Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is coming under strong homefront pressure to modify West Germany's alliance with the Western powers in a move to get Russia to agree to German unification.

The leader of his own coalition ally, the strong Free Democratic Party, has just joined the growing chorus of criticism directed at the Paris rearmament treaties.

FDP chairman Thomas Dehler joined Adenauer and his supporters this week with a declaration that "reunification on the basis of the Paris treaties is impossible."

Dehler said these treaties "must not bind Germany indefinitely so that the question will be shelved for a long time to come." He urged direct negotiations between Moscow and Bonn to end the division of Germany.

Dehler's declaration created a political sensation in Bonn and touched off speculation of an open break in Adenauer's coalition on foreign policy issues.


It came only three days after Adenauer had solemnly pledged before Parliament that his government "will not admit the slightest doubt as to our loyalty to the treaties." He said they "offer the prospect of peace for the world and national unity in freedom to Germany."

Dehler thus assigned the core of Adenauer's foreign policy and placed himself close to the position of the opposition Socialists, who bitterly oppose West German rearmament under the Paris Pacts.

This mounting agitation against the treaties that took West Germany into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Western European Union only last spring reflect the conviction of many German political leaders that Moscow never will agree to German unification on Western terms.

They are therefore searching for some formula to induce the Russians to loosen their hold on East Germany's 18,000,000 people.

... my secret recipe?

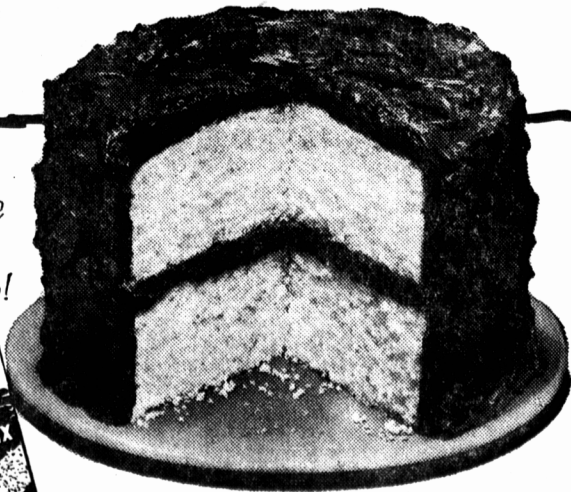


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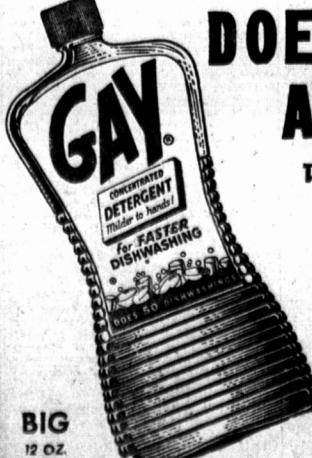
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