

# Bulging Food Stockpiles Major U. S. Farm Problem

By GEORGE KITCHEN Canadian Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (CP) — This is the story behind the bulging stockpiles of surplus foods being held by the United States government, surpluses that threaten to undermine the price structure of world markets for agricultural products. Largely, it is a tale of too much of plenty, of an urge by American farmers to produce more and more food to cash in on government subsidies and price supports, a drive that has reached the point where U. S. farms are producing more than the country can use or export.

For the last 35 years, the farmer has been trying, in effect, to make two ears grow where only one grew before. He has succeeded, with such brilliant success that the government now finds itself holding a towering \$7,745,000,000 worth of surpluses and paying out approximately \$1,000,000 a day in storage costs alone.

## PROVED COSTLY

Put into bushels, pounds and barrels, the commodities assume these astronomical proportions: Wheat, 1,041,110,591 bushels; corn, 861,199,499 bushels; cheese, 362,433,936 pounds; butter, 211,430,174 pounds; dried milk, 222,199,351 pounds; cotton, 9,688,930 bales; tobacco, 1,009,090,043 pounds; rice, 15,385,307 hundredweight; barley, 44,590,229 bushels; oats, 43,377,685 bushels; grain sorghum, 34,470,667 hundredweight; wool, 149,486,471 pounds.

The surpluses have proved costly to the farmer as well as to the government. They are a major factor in a sharp decline in farm prices and farm income. Government experts estimate 1955 farm prices are down 25 per cent and farm income down 34 per cent from their all-time peaks in 1951.

Price supports were started in the 1930s as a means of insuring the farmer against disastrous price declines following bumper crops. For this insurance, the farmer would agree to acreage controls to cut down production. But, as the support programs continued and expanded, the farmer found ways to outwit the government by growing more on the reduced acreage.

## AIMED AT FAIR RETURN

The original support program was tied in tightly with the price and supply situation. Supports came into operation only when prices fell sharply and supplies exceeded demand. They were low and flexible, ranging from 52 to 75 per cent of called parity—a formula aimed at giving the farmer a fair return in relation to such costs as taxes, mortgage, interest, machinery, farm help and other items.

To discourage planting, the supports went down as the surpluses went up. To get the support, the farmer had to abide by acreage controls.

In 1942, to meet the wartime demand for food at home and abroad, congress abolished acreage controls and installed rigid supports

at 90 per cent of parity. The resulting surpluses moved rapidly during the war years.

## NEW FARM BILL

Through political bickering, these high supports remained in effect through the post-war years and, with no wartime market to eat them up, the surpluses began to accumulate in government warehouses. This year, Congress adopted a new farm bill introduced by Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson and provided for supports of 82.5 to 90 per cent for 1955 and 75 to 90 per cent for 1956.

To cut production, Benson imposed sharp acreage restrictions on wheat and cotton. But the weather outmarched him on wheat and the country produced another big crop. On cotton, the farmers brought their native ingenuity into play: They simply planted the cotton rows closer together, with the result the cotton harvest was almost 5,000,000 bales higher than the government had hoped.

Benson, blamed by the farm population for their declining income, claims his program of flexible supports will gradually reduce surpluses, bring supply and demand into balance and halt the price decline. Meantime, by giveaway, barter, auction and sale for local currencies, he is trying to unload the surplus products on world markets.

Many farm experts say Benson is wrong, that supports only stimulate surpluses and that the flexible program cannot reduce them without tighter controls.

## GIRL GUIDE NEWS

ST. JAMES BROWNIES  
St. James Brownies entertained their parents and friends to a delightful concert. The following is the program: Chorus, Winter Wonderland; Welcome, Nancy Hyndman; Chorus, Jolly Old St. Nicholas; Jane Larkin, Carol Lawson, Judith Murphy, Audrey Grant, Pamela Hennessy, Meredith Black.

Chorus, O Come All Ye Faithful, Hark the Herald Angels Sing; Play The Brownie Story—Father, Kit Lawson; Mother, Gladys Discon; Tommy, Heather Black; Owl, Linda Clark. Chorus—First Nowell, Silent Night.

The Brownies were then treated to bags of candy. Mrs. Dr. MacIntosh Brown and Mrs. Burnett Tawney Owl are doing a fine job with this pack, the spick and span uniforms, smiling faces and conduct of the Brownies certainly show the care and interest that is taken in them. The pianist for the occasion was Mrs. Hyndman.

## 15 PARKDALE BROWNIES

Well, here we are with Parkdale Brownies; another pleasant afternoon at Parkdale Hall for friends who were treated to a splendid concert. First there was an enrolment.

The following Brownies were enrolled by Mrs. Smith: Dianne Frizell, Mary Lea Brown, Sharon Hogan, Virginia Gallagher, Donna Costain, Linda Moore, Marilyn Wheat, Elaine Carver, Isobell Wheatley, Rhonda Myers.

Golden Bars were presented to Brenda Muttlow, Ann McDonald, Susan McEwen, Sylvia Murphy, Brenda Archer, Nancy Myers.

Those getting attendance prizes were Margaret Burns, D. McEwen, Sandra Johnston, B. Muttlow, Nancy Myers, Ann Bevan, Linda Duffy, Rhonda Myers, Patsy Cullen, Lynn Cullen.

The supper. The Brownies shared their friends present, sandwiches, cake, drinks, real good. After that the concert which was extremely good, the following is the program:

Chorus, Good King Wenceslas  
Brenda Lea, Susan Archer, Susan McEwen, Piano Solo—Sandra Johnston, Sandra Shaw, Phyllis Nicholson, Brenda Muttlow, Kathleen Stewart, Shirley Stewart, Dale Stewart, Linden Stewart, Fenton Stewart, Susan Nicholson, Anne Fraser, Sandra Llewellyn, Sandra Stewart, Fay Pearson, Clayton Bulphit, Norman Smith, Brent Campbell, Peggy MacLeod.

Vocal duet "White Christmas" by Joan Coffin and Jeanne MacLeod. Piano solo—"Mary's Pet Waltz" by David Mosher. Solo—Allan Coffin, "Jingle Bells." Solo—Joanne Ings. Drill—"Christmas" by Ings. Ings. Piano solo—"Myrna Beck Chorus—"Look Out The Window" and "Suzy Snowflake". Piano duet—Dianne and Peggy MacLeod.

Solos—"An Old Fashioned Christmas" and "Christmas in Killarney" by Florence MacDonald, Exercise—Wendy Johnston and Judy Dewar. Exercise with Christmas Candles—Audrey Kennedy, Judy Dewar, Ralph Moore, Eleanor Moore, Jean MacLeod. Solo—"Away In A Manger" by Terry Smith. Carols—"Silent Night" and "Away In A Manger." Chorus—"Santa Claus Is Coming To Town".

Mr. Fraser expressed thanks to all who had aided in training the children, especially Mrs. Horace Fraser, the pianists, Mrs. Eithan Stewart, Mrs. C.A. Shaw, Mrs. Duncan McIntyre and Mrs. Dr. Ings. Santa came in his best form, very agile, and gave gifts from the tree and treats to all children. The program closed with "The Queen".

## WELCOME MARTIN

OTTAWA (CP)—Some 40 persons braved 18 below zero weather Monday night to extend a warm welcome to the Rev. Martin on his return to the capital from the 1955 session of the United Nations General Assembly. The welcoming party was made up almost entirely of staff members of Mr. Martin's department. They sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" when the Rev. Martin stepped from the TCA plane.

A new Australian cobalt field in Queensland is estimated to contain 1,000,000 tons of ore.

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Chester Reynolds wish to express their sincere thanks to Drs. Bennett, Brown and Laidlaw for their service and to the many friends and neighbors for their acts of kindness, expressions of sympathy and floral tributes in their recent bereavement.

## COW HAS TRIPLETS

CARLETON PLACE, Ont. (CP)—A nine-year-old holstein has given birth to triplet calves—all thriving. Dr. A. A. Hana of Almonte, Ont., said the birth took place recently on the Sadler brothers' district farm. He arrived on the scene after two of the three calves had been born. A federal livestock authority said the birth of triplet calves is unusual.

## CARD OF THANKS

The widow and family of the late H. Leigh Ferguson extend their sincere thanks to Dr. H. E. Yeo, all those who sent floral tributes, cards and messages of sympathy, friends and neighbors who assisted in any way during their recent sad bereavement.

## TRIMMED BUSHES

Topiary—the art of trimming hedges and geometrical designs in height in the early 18th century.

and Fridays, and Bar Harbor at the same hour on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with lay over at Yarmouth over Sunday, according to an announcement by R. Hayes, vice-president and general manager for the Atlantic Region of the Canadian

## BLUENOSE TO OPERATE FROM 4th

National Railways, who are operators of the vessel for the Federal Department of Transport. The tentative schedules provide for the trip to be made in approximately seven and one half hours. Passengers and motor vehicles will be carried.

The MV "Bluenose" has capacity for 500 passengers and 150 motor vehicles and feeding facilities are provided by a cafeteria seating 123 people. There is no overnight accommodation for passengers but day cabins are provided.

## Christmas Concert At United Church

A happy evening was spent at St. David's Hall, Georgetown, on December 16th when the Children of St. David's Sunday School held their Christmas tree and program, before a capacity crowd. The Rev. W. A. Paterson acted as Chairman and Mrs. H. Larsen as organist. The programme was under the direction of the Sunday School teachers. Miss Janie Llewellyn, Mrs. H. Larsen, Mrs. A. H. Stewart and Miss Carol Walker. At the close of the programme Jolly Old St. Nicholas appeared and distributed gifts and treats to all present. Following is the programme:

Opening Choruses and scripture quotations by Junior Choir. Welcome Exercise—Aren't You Glad, by Marie MacDonald, Wendy Hartman and Doreen Llewellyn. Exercise—"Christmas thoughts from Little People" by the following members of the beginners class, Kenny Walker, Janet MacDonald, Lawrence Easton, Donald MacDonald, Brenda MacDonald, Douglas MacDonald and Billie Allen. Solo—"The Shepherd's had an Angel" by Nancy Hartman. Recitation "I'm Glad" by Velda Fraser.

Chorus—"For Tis Merry Christmas" by the following Explorer girls—Barbara Llewellyn, Nancy Hartman, Freda Allen, Donna Llewellyn, Linda Larsen, solo part taken by Linda Llewellyn. Exercise—"Our Christmas Card" by Chester Llewellyn and Earl MacDonald. Recitation—"Something Special" by Leslie Aitken.

Chorus—"This little light of mine, by beginners and primary classes. Chorus—"His Gift" by Jackie MacDonald. Solo—"When Jesus was Born" by Linda Larsen and Jean Llewellyn. Exercise—"Christmas Ahoy" by Bruce MacLean, Wayne Llewellyn, and David Hartman. Duet—"Christmas" by Barbara Llewellyn and Mary LeLachur. Exercise—"Christmas Symbols" by Billy Lavers, Linda Llewellyn, Nancy Hartman, John Allen, Donna Llewellyn and Freda Allen. Candle Light Exercise by Explorer boys. Duet—"Underneath A Starry Sky" by Marie Larsen and Ruth LeLachur. Exercise—"Christmas Questions" by Ruth LeLachur, Marie Larsen, Peggy Ann Aitken, Linda Larsen, Barbara Llewellyn and Mary LeLachur. Duet—"Bethlehem's Star" by Carol Walker and Jean LeLachur. Closing Chorus—"Xmas Wreaths" by Explorer girls. A.C.

## FRENCH LAND TROOPS

ALGIERS (AP)—Two French troops brought 1,400 French soldiers to Algeria Monday as French authorities reported upwards of 30 deaths in rebel ambushes and political assassinations. The troops joined some 320,000 soldiers now in French North Africa, the vast majority in Algeria.

## Annual Congregational

Of Wood Islands Presbyterian Church will be held in the Church, Monday, January 2nd at 1 P.M.



## No Fear Of Winter Floods On Britain's East Coast

LONDON (Reuters)—People living on the east coast of Britain are facing the winter season with confidence, knowing that the disastrous floods of January and February, 1953, are unlikely to be repeated.

In the 21 months since 300 died as a result of severe flooding at a time when high spring tides and heavy gales ravaged extensive areas from the Humber to Kent, more than 27,500,000 pounds has been spent on repairing, restoring and improving embankments, dikes and sea-walls.

Most of the improvements have been completed, though at one or two places work is not expected to finish until the end of this year or early 1956. But everywhere there is confidence that whatever the winter has in store, the east coast is more than ready for it.

At Felixstowe, where 28 persons died and 700 houses were damaged, the borough surveyor said that the new defences are finished, apart from one short stretch of sea-wall. "If we get no worse than 1953," he added, "and it would be difficult to imagine that we could, then we are confident there will be no serious effects."

The Essex river board, whose domain includes the north bank of the Thames estuary, has increased the height of sea-walls by an average of two feet, reinforced some of them with steel piles, and increased parapets on others.

## IN MEMORIAM

H. LEIGH FERGUSON  
A sudden gloom was cast over Bethel and surrounding communities, when it became known that Leigh Ferguson had passed peacefully away at his home in Bethel, at the close of the day, on Nov. 23, 1955 on the eve of his 78 birthday.

Although failing in health for the past three years, during which time he was tenderly and lovingly cared for by his devoted wife and family, his death came as a shock to his numerous friends and loved ones. The late Mr. Ferguson possessed a very kindly and friendly disposition, and enjoyed the company of old and young alike.

All were welcome to his home, and especially did he enjoy the visits of the clergymen and the company of all who visited him during his illness. He was a deep and abiding faith in his Lord and Master whom he loved and served and many were the hours he spent in searching the Scriptures and meditating on the word of God.

He was for many years an Elder in the Church of Scotland at Birch Hill, where while health permitted his place was seldom vacant. While his place in the Church and community will be hard to fill where he was ever willing to lend a helping hand it is in the home where he is most sorely missed. His passing closes the book on a family of ten.

The funeral which largely attended by friends and relatives, was held on Nov. 30 and was conducted by Rev. T. R. Goudge of Pownall United Church, assisted by Rev. C. E. Armstrong of Hazelbrook, who spoke words of comfort to the bereaved. Hymns sung were 23 Psalm and What A Friend We Have In Jesus. The floral tributes and the numerous messages of sympathy received by the family were silent tributes of the esteem in which the deceased was held.

Besides his sorrowing widow, nee Gertrude Sealey, he leaves two daughters, Freda Mrs. John Clark, Lower Montague and Mary Mrs. Charles W. MacLennan at home, to mourn the loss of a kind and loving husband and father. The pallbearers were Russell Jenkins, Charles A. MacLennan, John S. Hopson, Norman Rankin, Everett Lund, Percy Lund. He was tenderly laid to rest in the family plot in Birch Hill Cemetery, there to await a glorious resurrection.

Funeral services will be held in the church cemetery beside his daughter, Gertrude. Committal services were by Father Gallant.

Many Masses, spiritual bouquets, and messages of sympathy were received from his many friends and relatives.

## PRIEST IS SLAIN

RANGOON, Burma (Reuters)—Roman Catholic authorities here confirmed Tuesday the reported murder of Rev. Eudoro Farronato, an Italian priest, after his abduction 10 days ago by Chinese Nationalist guerrillas. A church spokesman at the mission headquarters here said news of Father Farronato's death had been received in a telegram from the northeastern Shan states, where he was a parish priest.

Rev. J. A. MacDonald has sold her property and moved to St. Stewart to reside following the death of her husband some time ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Squires, have arrived from Hamilton, Ontario where they have been residing for the past two years. They will remain here for the winter at least. They inform us their home is here. Mrs. Squires was Marion Arnold, in single life and her parents reside here.

Mrs. William MacDonald received a phone call from her daughter Mabel, at 7:30 Christmas morning saying she had arrived in Toronto for the holidays, tired after a trip from here that took forty-eight hours. She also reports the weather stormy with lots of snow in the Queen City. Miss MacDonald is on the staff of Canada Packers in Charlottetown, and will be back after the holiday is over.

Among those missing from this vicinity for Christmas was Frank McCarthy who played the church organ for Christmas Masses for a score of years. Mr. McCarthy, has answered the final call.

Miss Teresa O'Brien, Charlottetown, is spending the holidays with her young friend Miss Joan Sinnott, Morell Rear.

Mrs. J. A. MacDonald has sold her property and moved to St. Stewart to reside following the death of her husband some time ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Drake, have left for Halifax, to spend the winter months. This fine old couple spent last winter in that city.

Mr. John R. O'Brien has arrived from Charlottetown for a brief holiday stay with his wife and family here.

The village Diner has been remodelled and redecorated and now presents a large wide front and more space for customers. The Diner is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Carol McAdam.

Mr. John L. Laybolt, has built a new section to his dwelling and store and now has much more room for his grocery business.

The 50th anniversary of the death of Herik Ibsen, famed Norwegian dramatist, is being commemorated at Oslo in May, 1956.

## FINAL TODAY

CLIMB ON THE GIRL WAGON IN GAY LAS VEGAS!  
IT'S LUSH - - - LAVISH - - - LYRICAL  
"THE GIRL RUSH"  
SHOWS 3 - 5 - 7 - 9

## COMING THUR. - FRI. - SAT.

THE CHALLENGED AN OUTLAW SOLDIER'S WARRIORS KINGDOM!  
"BLACK HORSE CANYON"  
Technicolor  
"JOEL MCCREA MARI BLANCHARD"  
EXTRA! COMEDY and GHOST RIDERS Serial  
CAPITOL

## Mayfair Theatre

MURRAY RIVER, DECEMBER 29 - 30 - 31  
Thursday and Friday 8 P.M.  
Saturday 2:30 - 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

## "A Man Called Peter"

In Color — CinemaScope & 4-Track Stereophonic Sound  
Starring RICHARD TODD and JEAN PETERS  
"Your Heart will sing with you at this warm wonderful story"  
NO BETTER SHOW MADE — DO NOT MISS IT!  
(Please Note: Children's Show 2:30 P.M. Saturday only 15 cents)

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