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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT  
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16th District.

THE SIZE OF AGRICULTURE IN A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The problems of agriculture probably command a broader interest in Congress than many other problems because it is a diffused industry which touches virtually every district in the land with the exceptions of those which are located in the metropolitan centers. But there is another reason. It is the relation of agriculture to the general welfare of the country. Take as an example, the 16th Congressional District of Illinois. It embraces 6 counties: They are Putnam, Bureau, Marshall, Stark Peoria and Tazewell. These 6 counties produced about 25,000,000 bushels of corn from 517,000 acres in 1940; from 55,800 acres they produced 1,416,000 bushels of winter wheat; from 240,000 acres they produced 11,477,000 bushels of oats; from 119,900 acres, they produced 1,340,00 bushels of soybeans. (The soybean acreage includes both hay and beans.) In these six counties, more than 900,000 acres devoted to four basic crops produce commodities with a value of more than \$20,000,000. This income is spent in large part within the counties themselves for food and fencing, lumber and lip-stick, machinery and malted milk, clothing and cars and a thousand other things. The production of these articles and commodities is in turn translated into jobs. Truly, the agricultural interest of a single congressional district is an immense thing.

CLEANING UP THE RECORD.

To some, it may seem a bit strange that the rules of procedure and debate in both houses of Congress provide that members in the course of debate must not and cannot refer to members by name or make any remarks about the members as such. There is sound reason for this rule. Members of the House can often become provoked or angry about some statement by another member. The natural impulse is to take him to task for such a statement. This sometime culminates in harsh language. Similarly, House members often take umbrage over some action or remark in the Senate and against the impulse is to speak frankly and tartly, using the Senators name. But it must be remembered that all legislation is the product of action by both House and Senate and if the membership of the two bodies begin to abuse each other with personalities or if Congressmen and Senators heap abuse on their colleagues, Congress soon ceases to be a deliberative body. In the present Congress, there has been more violations of this rule than in any of the four preceding Congresses. This is in part due to the heat and fervor generated by talk of war and convoys. How much worse it would be if war actually did come. More temperate members in watching this trend saw danger in these unrestrained statements and called attention to the rule. Thus it was that in both House and Senate, action was taken to expunge from the Congressional Record a host of remarks which members had made about each other.

## COMPLEXITIES OF DEFENSE

A doughboy shooting an Army rifle, an artilleryman shooting a 75 millimeter field gun, a coast artilleryman shooting the huge 12, 14 or 16 inch guns all pay testimony to powder. It takes powder to make a projectile move thro the air. Hence we must have powder and lots of it. It requires a large and diversified factory in which to manufacture powder in quantities. One such was built at Charlestown, Indiana and will cost \$8 million dollars. Consider for a moment what this one plant includes. The plant is sprawled over 5500 acres encircled with a wire fence which is 13 miles long. When completed, this plant will have 571 buildings equipped with 110,000 feet of water lines and 12 miles of sewer. It will be serviced with 44 miles of roads and 61 miles of railroad. The various contracts were farmed out to 65 subcontractors located in 13 states. 25,000 men put on the job at Charlestown. A special post office there handles 10,000 pieces of mail daily. Doctors and nurses have been supplied to look after the welfare of the workers. Consider the specialized plants which must be built to carry out the defense program and multiply it by the enormousness of the Charlestown operation and you get some estimate of the complexities of coordinating a defense program and attaining that all-essential quality of speed.

## PROFESSOR QUIZ.

Now and then we receive queries concerning the number of various kinds of livestock in the land. Some of the queries are in answer to quiz questions and some to determine wagers. Whatever the reason, there were according to the 1940 livestock census, 10,086 971 horses and colts, 3,844,560 mules and mule colts, 60,674,734 cattle and calves 34,037,700 hogs and pigs, and 40,129,261 sheep and lambs. Total 148,772,226. Cut yourself a steak, pork chop or cutlet.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

In 1917 Congress authorized a program for the cooperative eradication of tuberculosis in cattle and provided a fund of \$150,000,000 to carry on this work. When the program began, it is said that five out of every one-hundred cattle tested showed a tubercular reaction. After twenty-three years of effort the estimate is that only one-half of one per cent of our cattle now reacts to the tubercular test. Since 1917 nearly 230,000,000 cows were tested and 3,375,000 were found to react. There are today 284,757 herds which are certified as disease free and 6,191,000 herds under supervision embracing a total of 61,570,000 cattle. Thus does the work of safeguarding the milk supply of the nation go forward without fanfare, noise or heraldry.