

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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CORN

We devote some observation to this commodity because there is a crisis in corn. Who would believe that this humble crop which grows so profusely in the great Middle West and whose production is sort of taken for granted could be the focal point of a crisis Yet such is the case.

IT'S IMPORTANCE.

Corn is important. To the farmer it means a ~~livelihood~~ ^{livelihood}, it means feed for hogs, cattle and chickens, it means cash To the urban dweller it means pork chops, steak, succulent chicken, breakfast food, grits, corn starch pudding and a host of other things To the baker it means corn sugar for bread and pastry, it means filling for pie. To the war effort it means alcohol for the dehydration of powder To the manufacturer of drugs and pharmaceuticals it means alcohol for drugs, toiletries and a countless list of products To the distiller it means alcoholic beverages To other industries it means starch for making glue and adhesives, it means the "sizing" that is universally used in treating calico, gingham and a host of textiles and fabrics Corn is all things to all people and is the most important crop in the nation

OUR INTEGRATED LIFE.

If there were no corn or the crop or supply was short, there would be a reduced meat supply not only for the men in the armed services but for the civilian population as well It would mean a reduced number of jobs in packing plants, meat markets and other facilities which prepare and handle meat. It would be translated in terms of reduced jobs in distilleries and corn products plants It would mean fewer jobs in plants which produce malt and other products derived from corn The welfare of farmer and city man alike are bound up to some extent in the question of an adequate supply of corn.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE CORN SUPPLY.

What happens to this vast supply of corn which is produced from one year to another. Take the 1942 crop as an example with an available supply of more than 3 1/5 billion bushels That's a lot of corn For dry processing such as hominy, grits etc it takes 41 million bushels. Distillers will take 54 million. Wet processing such as the manufacture of starch, corn sugar and glucose will take 130 million Breakfast foods takes 11 million Farm household use takes about 24 million Seed takes 17 million Exports will take about 8 million That makes about 284 million bushels The balance of slightly over 2,900,000,000 bushels is for feed and waste. Corn for feed is used from the time the crop is harvested so that on June 30 of the following year, we would normally have a stock of about 800 to 900 million bushels on farms and in elevators for feeding and industrial purposes to carry thro until the new crop is made.

THE SITUATION AS OF NOW

The Commodity Credit Corporation of the Department of Agriculture owns about 10 million bushels which it took over as a result of the liquidation of loans on corn An additional 70 million bushels is still under seal on which government loans were made It is estimated that about 900 million bushel is located on farms and elevators That makes an estimated 980 million bushel That looks like a lot of corn for the middle of the year with a new crop coming on Then why the crisis?

HERE IS THE DIFFICULTY.

Farmers will require more corn for feed than ever before It is estimated that we now have about 78 million cattle of all kinds on farms. That is 3 million greater than in 1942 and about 7 million above 1941. Hogs on farms for 1943 are estimated at a little less than 74 million That is 13 million more hogs than in 1942 and 20 million more than in 1941 In addition, hog farrowings are expected to produce another 45 million to be fed from present stocks and from the new crop More hogs and more cattle take more feed The war effort requires hundreds of millions of gallons of alcohol This will require more corn Wheat as a substitute feed for corn might be used but the carry-over supply from last year is 60 million bushels less than what was estimated and the 1943 crop is estimated to be about 250 million bushels less than what we produced in 1942 Finally, a farmer who feeds hogs can get

more for his corn in the form of meat than by hauling it to the elevator,

THE RESULT.

So corn does not move from farms and elevators into the cash markets. Industries and processors are crying for corn. If they fail to secure ~~an adequate~~ an adequate supply, they must shut down, thereby throwing men out of work. Other industries which are dependent on corn sugar, glucose, starch, oil and other derivatives of corn will be unable to continue operations and are threatened with a shutdown. What to do? That is the problem which is now receiving frantic attention. Rather heroic remedies have been discussed and the next few days will see an endeavor to come up with the answer.