Economy in Farming
— Small Plots are Too Scattered

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Through the rural landscape of Wurttemberg-Baden, with its thousands and thousands of small fields forming a colorful and eye-pleasing design, is very beautiful to look at. But the very pattern of these thousands and thousands of small fields is, from an economic standpoint, a veritable cancer on the face of the countryside.

The present structure of Wurttemberg-Baden's agriculture is important and vital to every man, woman and child in Wurttemberg-Baden and whether or not this present structure is changed in the next very few years will have a tremendous effect on the future welfare of both the rural and the urban population.

The wide separation of the tracts require much time on the part of the farmer, his wife, children and hired help in traveling to them. There is, therefore, a terrific amount of non-productive time and energy expended in this traveling process. Because of the small size of the individual parcels it is impossible to use mechanized equipment. This results in much hand labor which could be eliminated if the parcels were consolidated into a size permitting use of machinery.

Through the use of machinery the productive capacity of each man hour is increased many-fold. This would result in overcoming the existing labor shortage, lower production costs, more profit to the farmer, lower food costs to the consumer and probably, through better tillage of the soil, greater total food production.

The farmers of Wurttemberg-Baden put in long, long hours every working day. Not many persons who live in the cities would be willing to work such long hours every workday including Saturday afternoons. Certainly the time spent by the farmer, his wife and children and hired help, in going to and from his many, many separate fields, is time wasted and produces no benefits for any one.

The average size of these small separate fields is from one-eighth to one-half an acre and the average number of fields per farm owner is

25 to 40, although some have 5 or 6 times this number. Minister of Agriculture Heinrich Stoss has estimated that the grain crop harvested in Wurttemberg-Baden in 1946 was grown on 1,000,000 separate fields by some 200,000 farmers. This is an average of five separate grain fields per farmer.

When it is realized that these fields are scattered all around each village, with usually no two adjacent to each other, the tremendous amount of lost time and wasted unproductive energy is obvious. Also, equally obvious, is the logical solution to correct this situation. It is, of course, to consolidate each farm owners holdings into a much smaller number of larger fields. The ideal plan would be to rearrange each farmer's lands into one solid piece.

The necessity for this drastic change or rearrangement of Wurttemberg-Baden's agricultural structure has long been recognized and acknowledged by many who have given serious thought to the situation. I should like to emphasize a few of the reasons why such a consolidation of farm fields is vitally necessary.

1. Right now there are local shortages of manpower in agriculture and these shortages may get worse instead of better.

2. Far too much time is now spent in unproductive and unprofitable farming.

3. Modern farm machinery and draft power cannot be utilized with the present small, scattered, separate field structure.

4. The younger generation is leaving the farm in large numbers and many will never be content to farm under present conditions.

5. The farmer's logical answer to poor price relationship (about which he is now complaining) must of necessity be "lower production costs." This is almost impossible to achieve under present conditions.

6. In the not too distant future German agriculture will have to be geared to the production and needs of other countries in Western Europe. The farmers of most of these countries are in a position to produce much more economically than is possible under the land operating pattern in Wurttemberg-Baden today, thus putting the Wurttemberg-Baden farmer at a competitive disadvantage.

7. The men on the Wurttemberg-Baden farms will eventually show the strain economically and physically of ineffective and unproductive work, if it continues as at present.

8. German specialists have estimated that when land consolidation has been accomplished, production can

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This article is a digest of the broadcast made by Mr. Taggart over Radio Stuttgart to the farmers of Wurttemberg-Baden.
be increased by 20 percent with far fewer man hours of work. This will result in the production of approximately 50,000 more tons of wheat, 28,000 tons more of barley, 8,600 tons more of rye, 65,000 tons more of sugar beets, 220,000 tons more of potatoes.

A LONG WITH this increase in the crop production will come a good and much desired increase in livestock and milk. In fact, the time should come, when many farmers will be using tractor power instead of cows as at present. Then their present low milk producing cows can be replaced with some real milk cows and milk production can easily be doubled or trebled.

Why has this consolidation of fields not been accomplished? There are many reasons. The average farmer, himself, has been one of the obstacles. He has opposed any rearrangement of his land and fields because of his adherence to customs and traditions, his petty concern regarding characteristics of individual parcels and fields, his jealousy toward what might be a neighbor’s gain through the land consolidation scheme, and, of course, the expense.

A CTUALLY THE farmer has little moral right to complain about overwork and too small income when he is against the consolidation idea. Most German officials agree that consolidation is necessary but apparently have not had the courage or have not been interested enough to get much accomplished. The people in general have never had the situation presented to them so that the vital necessity was realized and so that popular opinion would demand accomplishment.

The land improvement agencies are too painstakingly slow in an effort to be faultless in their work. The length of time required by their present procedure has tended to increase the farmer’s opposition to this measure. Farm machinery manufacturers and dealers will especially benefit from it. Therefore industry and business should be wholeheartedly in favor of consolidation.

A law covering land consolidation is in the formative stage and will probably be implemented in the near future. It is vitally necessary and essential for the welfare of Germany that this land consolidation law have popular support.

The foundations are being laid in Munich and other parts of Bavaria for the formation of Civil Liberties leagues to fight for the rights of Bavarian citizens, according to Mr. Albert C. Schweizer, director of the Civil Administration Division, OMG Bavaria.

A small group in Munich is enlisting the support of lawyers and already considering cases of civil liberty violations to be brought to trial. Mr. Schweizer stated in a speech in the Munich America House (US Information Center).

He said that if Germans again are to prevent their country from being subverted to a dictatorship and becoming a threat to peace they must be willing to give up time and money in the struggle to protect civil liberties. These he described as the rights accorded the individual by his government, such as freedom of press, assembly and religion, freedom from arbitrary arrest and the right to a fair trial, freedom to participate in government, etc.

"It is civil liberties which make civilized living possible," Mr. Schweizer said. "There is hardly a single one, which if transgressed may not lead to oppression. When freedom of religion was denied in the Middle Ages and early Renaissance, that bigotry produced tremendous suffering in many parts of Europe. When freedom of the home and freedom of personal opinion was suppressed we had (and still have in some parts of the world) the terror of the police state and the Gestapo."

Citing the Weimar constitution as an example, he declared that no constitution in itself is a guarantee against dictatorship and the suppression of freedom.

"The only guarantee is an intelligent understanding and a zealous guarding of rights," he said. "If every individual is not protected, then no individual is safe from oppressive measures. One religious faith may be subject to attack today—another may be the subject of attack tomorrow. One political group may be suppressed today—another political group may be suppressed tomorrow. If the liberties in the state are not protected, the safety of the nation is at stake. And as long as nations exist in which the people are not entirely free, the world will continue to be under a threat."

In defending civil liberties "it is necessary to recognize specific cases of violations and fight them case by case," he said. He added, however, that it is not always easy to recognize and prove violations.

"The normal citizens may have to depend on specialists and on lawyers to interpret matters of Civil Liberties," he said. "It certainly shall not be up to the occupation to act as watch-dog for German civil liberties. In a spirit of helpfulness we can call attention to violations and then make suggestions as to what to do about them. However, basically this is a German job and it is one of those jobs for which every individual must be responsible. If the individual leaves the responsibility to his brother, then no one is responsible."

He urged that civil liberties organizations be set up in Bavaria to come to the defense of those who are victims of civil liberties violations.

"It is extremely important that individuals give of their time or of their money to further this movement which will insure their future," Mr. Schweizer said. "If Germany and Bavaria do not want to fall victim to a dictatorship, they must be watchful of these liberties which alone can protect them. If Germany does not want to be treated continually as a threat to peace, it must show evidence of desiring and protecting civil liberties which will eliminate the threat. If Germans, as individuals, want the benefits of the free life they must work to earn that free life."

Adults in Youth Activities

Results of MC studies in Hesse and Bavaria show that organized sports activities in Germany are predominantly adult rather than designed for youth. Total membership of all sports groups in Hesse is 304,000, with only 180,000 of these members in youth groups. More than 55 percent of sports participants are over 25 years of age; 25 percent are from 14 to 25; 20 percent are under 14. In Bavaria, 20,590 sports clubs have a membership of 330,000. Of this number, 70 percent are over 25 years of age; 16 percent are between 14 and 25; 14 percent are under 14.