

interest rates and at better terms, with the purpose of releasing agricultural buying power for the current purchases of industrial products. The Home Loan Administration was similarly organized to help refinance and extend urban credit so as to release current purchasing power for the products of industry and agriculture. The Emergency Relief Administration was organized to provide temporary relief to the unemployed victims of this depression. This, too, provides for Federal, State, and local distribution of funds so as to give those on relief some measure of purchasing power. All of these recovery efforts are interrelated. Recovery calls for removing agricultural-price disparities and increasing farmers' purchasing power, wiping out unemployment, expanding industrial production, restoring incomes to city workers, creating a demand for raw materials of agriculture, mining, and manufacturing, and so bringing about a general business revival on an enduring basis. The Agricultural Adjustment Act and the other recovery measures are thus fundamental in promoting a lasting and self-sustaining general recovery.

MORDECAI EZEKIEL, *Economic Adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture*, and

LOUIS H. BEAN, *Economic Adviser, Agricultural Adjustment Administration*.

APPLE and Pear Export Act Promises Important Benefits to Producers The Export Apple and Pear Act, approved June 10, 1933, is designed to promote the export of apples and pears from the United States, to protect the reputation of these American-grown fruits in foreign markets, to prevent deception or misrepresentation as to their quality when moving in foreign commerce, and to provide for the official inspection of these products before they enter foreign commerce.

There has been a steadily increasing tendency on the part of foreign governments during recent years to restrict the importation of American fruits in various ways. In some instances only fruits having certain quality may be imported during certain periods. In other instances there has been increasing rigidity of sanitary requirement and inspection. Great Britain now prohibits the importation of the lower grades of American apples between July 1 and November 15 of each crop year. The higher grades of apples, which are allowed entry, must be practically free from apple maggot. There is no British regulation or order excluding fruit infested with this insect, but representations had been made to this Government concerning the undesirability from the British point of view of importing such fruit. To avoid an embargo or other official restriction which appeared imminent, it was necessary to provide some authority under which uniform and universal inspection of export shipments could be made. The voluntary inspection service of the Department could be made effective only with the cooperation of all the shipping interests, which obviously would not be obtained, for at times the British market was so much better than the American for certain varieties and sizes that uninspected lots were certain to be exported.

It is probable that the failure of some exporters to cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture and the steamship lines in a voluntary plan to prevent the exportation of infested fruit was the

determining factor in winning the support of the industry as a whole for mandatory legislation.

Importance of the Export Trade

Yearly exports of fresh apples have ranged from 12 to 20 percent of the domestic crop in recent years. In the 1932-33 season we exported 13,800,000 bushels of apples, or about 16.1 percent of the total commercial crop, which was well below the average of the previous 5-year period. During the same season we exported 2,400,000 bushels of pears, or about 10.9 percent of the total crop. Recent yearly exports of pears have ranged from 6 to 11 percent.

It is easy to see that if our export market were closed the effect upon domestic prices would be disastrous. Furthermore, much of the export demand for apples has been for the smaller sizes which are least in demand in the home market. Thus the export outlet has reduced the pressure at the exact point best calculated to strengthen the home market. It is therefore highly important that the appearance and intrinsic quality of American fruits on foreign markets shall be such as to commend them and to give the general impression that they are desirable products, distinctly superior to the orchard run of local offerings.

Results Expected from the Act

The fruit trade believes that this action by the Government to limit exports to fruit of desirable quality and appearance will meet with the approval of foreign buyers and will tend to lessen the apprehensions of foreign governments.

It has been well known abroad that the Government of the United States assumed no responsibility for the character of fresh fruit exported and that it made inspections and issued sanitary certificates only to meet the requirements of specific foreign governments. The passage of the Export Apple and Pear Act marks a change in governmental policy in this respect. Hereafter, regardless of the requirements of foreign governments, the United States assumes responsibility for establishing minimum qualities of apples and pears that may be exported in carload lots to any foreign destination. The inspection of this fruit is no longer at the option of the exporter nor merely to establish those facts that must be determined to meet certain foreign requirements, but is universal and uniform as to the minimum requirements set up by our own Government. These requirements are sufficiently rigid to satisfy a majority of our important foreign customers.

Nature of Regulations Under the Act

The act provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may designate the conditions other than those of grade which the fruit must meet before it may be exported. Under this provision the regulations require:

(a) The packages shall be plainly and conspicuously marked with (1) the name and address of the grower or packer; (2) the variety; (3) the grade names not lower than those specified in regulation 5; and (4) the numerical count or the minimum size.

(b) Each package shall be packed so that the apples and/or pears in the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size, color, and quality of the contents of the package.

Another regulation provides that

no certificate shall be issued under this act and these regulations except upon a showing satisfactory to the Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that the apples and/or pears comply with the tolerances for spray residues established under the Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906.

The machinery already in existence for the inspection of fruit under the farm products inspection law has been utilized for the purpose of making inspections under this act. This enabled the Department to render the service wherever required from the moment that the act became effective.

Enforcement

The act forbids any common carrier to receive any apples or pears for a foreign destination unless accompanied by the official certificate required by the act. It is hoped that this provision will render the enforcement of the act almost automatic, for it is not believed that many common carriers, either by rail or water, will intentionally risk incurring the penalties of the act for the sake of transporting a few uninspected shipments in violation of the law. It is believed that a few violations that occurred during the first 60 days of the operation of the act may be charged to a lack of appreciation of the seriousness of the situation by certain local and minor officials of the boat lines involved. On the whole, the first few months of operation indicate that the act is entirely workable, salutary, and desirable.

WELLS A. SHERMAN,
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

AVIATION Brings Foreign Plant Pests and Makes Quarantines Necessary

To the guardian of the horticultural interests of this country the airplane suggests another means of entry for plant pests. The development of fast ocean liners with improved refrigeration facilities, and more recently the use of the airplane for international travel, have made it possible to bring to our shores in a fresh condition many perishable fruits and vegetables, with the attendant pest risk, which heretofore were excluded by lack of transportation facilities. Fruits from the tropics of Central America and South America may reach subtropical Florida within a day or two from the time they are gathered. Brownsville, Tex., is only a few hours removed from Mexico City and Tampico, Mexico. Mountain ranges, deserts, oceans, and other natural geographic barriers which have tended to keep plant pests in their place, so to speak, for countless centuries have in effect been erased from the map.

In an effort to cope with this situation quarantines and restrictive orders prohibiting or restricting the entry of plants and plant products have been promulgated under authority of the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912. Plant quarantine inspectors engaged in the enforcement of these quarantines and restrictive orders are stationed at all important ports of entry, including landing fields for airplanes from foreign countries. Such plants, fruits, and vegetables as are permitted to enter are examined closely for the presence of plant pests (fig. 30). Baggage of passengers (fig. 31), ships' stores, crews' and passengers' quarters on ships, and airplanes from foreign countries are also examined by these inspectors for the presence of prohibited fruits, vegetables, or other plant material.