

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

November 9, 1931

Hon. Eugene Meyer,
Governor of the Federal Reserve Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

For some time I have been emphasizing the fact that in the long run a sound policy of land utilization is a necessary basis of a prosperous agriculture. Emergency conditions of the past several years, due in considerable part to the lack of an adequate land policy, have strengthened my conviction.

After due consideration I have decided to call a conference where I may discuss this subject with members of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, State officials, representatives of farm organizations, railways, mortgage and insurance companies, banks, and other organizations primarily concerned with the land. I believe it possible to make substantial progress toward the development of a long-time policy of land utilization, and also to consider helpfully some of the immediate land problems growing out of the present emergency.

The three days, November 19 to 21 inclusive, immediately following the meetings of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities appear to be a favorable time to hold the conference. The Executive Committee of the Association has expressed approval of the proposal and has authorized the collaboration of the Association in calling the conference, which will convene at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago.

I am writing to say that we shall be very glad to have you or any of your colleagues of the Federal Reserve Board present at the conference, and I shall also appreciate it if you will bring the conference to the attention of the officials of each of the Federal Reserve Banks. You will understand, of course, that the United States Department of Agriculture does not have funds available for paying the expenses of those who may attend.

For your information I am inclosing a copy of the tentative program.

Sincerely yours,

(S) Arthur M. Hyde
Secretary.

Inclosure

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(Revision of 11-6-31)

Tentative Program of Proposed Conferences on Land Utilization

Chicago, November 19-21, 1931

First Day, November 19

Forenoon, 9 A. M. to 12 N.

LAND UTILIZATION AND THE FARM PROBLEM

Presiding, R. A. Pearson, President, University of Maryland and Chairman,
Executive Committee, Association of Land Grant Colleges and
Universities.

1. The agricultural outlook and agricultural planning, Nils A. Olsen,
Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics
2. The place of Federal reclamation in a National land policy,
Elwood Mead, Commissioner of Reclamation, Department
of the Interior
3. Relation of Land Utilization to the general objectives of the
Federal Farm Board, J.C. Stone, Chairman of the Federal Farm Board
4. Developing a national policy of land utilization, Arthur M. Hyde,
Secretary of Agriculture

Afternoon, 2 P. M. - 5.30 P. M.

LAND: ITS USE AND MISUSE

Presiding, Charles E. Hearst, Vice President, National Farm Bureau Federation

1. Extent and emergency character of the problems of submarginal
land, Thomas P. Cooper, Dean and Director Kentucky Agricultural
College
2. Land Utilization in the western range country, William Peterson,
Director of Extension Utah Agricultural College
3. The program of New York State for handling submarginal land,
C. E. Ladd, Director of Extension, Cornell University
4. Some ways of dealing with the problems of submarginal land,
L. C. Gray, In Charge, Division of Land Economics,
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

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Ten-minute discussions

1. Homestead and other policies affecting the utilization of the public domain, A. C. Hardison, Fruit Grower and Vice President, Tax Payers' League of California
2. An economic classification of land as a basis of a utilization program, L. R. Schoeneman, in charge of Land Economic Survey, Michigan Department of Conservation
3. What methods should be employed to take submarginal lands out of agricultural production? H. W. Mumford, Dean and Director, Illinois College of Agriculture

Five-minute discussions from the floor

Evening, 7:30 - 10:30 P.M.

THE PLACE OF FORESTRY IN A NATIONAL LAND UTILIZATION PROGRAM

Presiding, L. J. Taber, Master of the National Grange

1. National economic and social objectives in forest policy, Raphael Zon, Director Lake States Forest Experiment Station
2. Land utilization and conservation, George D. Pratt, President, National Forestry Association
3. Fitting forestry into a general program of land utilization, Major R. Y. Stuart, Forester, U. S. Forest Service.
4. The coordination of State and Federal efforts in the development of a land utilization program, Cully A. Cobb, Associate Editor, Progressive Farmer and Southern Ruralist

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Ten minute discussions

1. Making forests contribute to a more stable agricultural prosperity,
Bradford Knapp, President, Alabama Agricultural College
2. Cooperation among forest owners in making forestry more profitable,
Joseph Hyde Pratt, Executive Secretary Southern Forestry Congress
3. Turning submarginal crop lands within the farm to woodlot uses,
James Fowler, Farmer, Soperton, Georgia
4. What are the possibilities of private reforestation? S. T. Dana,
Dean University of Michigan School of Forestry
5. Along what lines should the public acquisition program be amplified?
Earl C. Smith, President Illinois Agricultural Association

Five minute discussions from the floorSecond Day, November 20, 1931Forenoon. 9 A. M. - 12 M.READJUSTMENTS IN TAXATION MADE NECESSARY BY CHANGES IN
LAND UTILIZATION

Presiding - Dr. Arthur W. Gilbert, Secretary National Association
Commissioners and Secretaries of Agriculture

1. Fiscal problems of local communities resulting from changing
conditions of land utilization, George F. Wehrwein,
Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin
2. Adjustments for greater economy in local public expenditures,
John C. Watson, Illinois Agricultural Association
3. Replanning public institutions on the basis of a land utiliz-
ation program, Ralph Compton, Professor of Economics, Yale
University, and formerly Research Investigator, Department
of Taxation and Finance, New York State
4. Changes in taxation requisite for a sound program of land
utilization, Eric Englund, Assistant Chief Bureau of
Agricultural Economics

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Ten-minute discussions

1. Should other industries help bear the financial burden of maintaining a rural civilization? C. V. Gregory, Editor, the Prairie Farmer, Chicago
2. Redistribution of the responsibility for local public services between State and local governments, Fred Brenckman, Washington representative, The National Grange

Five-minute discussions from the floorAfternoon - 2:00 - 5:30 P.M.

ADJUSTMENTS IN FARMING IN THE BETTER FARMING AREAS

Presiding - C. E. Huff, President Farmer's National Grain Corporation and former President Farmer's Educational and Cooperative Union

1. Soil conservation a major problem of agricultural readjustment, H. G. Knight, Chief, U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils
2. The Outlook a basis for adjustments in the better farming areas, H. R. Tolley, Director Giannini Foundation, University of California
3. A regional approach to the problems of farm reorganization, C. L. Holmes, In charge, Division of Farm Management and Costs, Bureau of Agricultural Economics
4. How can mechanization and scientific management strengthen the competitive position of American agriculture? M. L. Wilson, Chairman Department of Agricultural Economics, Montana Agricultural College
5. What is the future role of the small farm and by what methods can it be made to hold its own in world competition? John D. Black, Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Chief Economist, Federal Farm Board
6. Helping the farmer translate economic information into action, C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture

Ten-minute discussions

1. Soil classification a basis of agricultural adjustments, J. C. Lipman, Dean and Director, New Jersey Agricultural College
2. Greater efficiency in agriculture as a sound National objective, W. J. Kerr, President Oregon Agricultural College

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Five-minute discussions from the floorEvening, 7.30 P. M. - 10.30 P. M.CREDIT PROBLEMS IN THE READJUSTMENT OF LAND UTILIZATION
AND FARM ORGANIZATION

Presiding - C. O. Moser, President National Cooperative Council

1. Functions of farm mortgage agencies in agricultural readjustment,
S. J. Westbrook, Vice President, Aetna Insurance Company
2. The management of farm lands held by credit agencies, Elbert S.
Brigham, National Life Insurance Company of Vermont and formerly
member of Congress from Vermont
3. Providing credit for needed readjustments in land utilization
and farm organization, Norman J. Wall, Bureau of Agricultural
Economics
4. Strengthening the country bank as an essential part of the rural
credit structure, Nathan Adams, President First National Bank,
Dallas, Texas
5. Increasing the usefulness of the Intermediate Credit system as a
supplement to the country bank, Wood Netherland, President
Federal Land Bank and Intermediate Credit Bank, St. Louis,
Missouri

Ten-minute discussions

1. Broadening the debenture market, N. H. Thompson, President,
Federal Land Bank, Springfield, Massachusetts
2. How the country bank can influence the farm production program,
J. Phil Campbell, Director of Extension, Georgia Agricultural
College

Five-minute discussions from the floorThird DayA NATIONAL LAND UTILIZATION PROGRAM
(Summaries and conclusions)

Presiding, Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture

1. Submarginal lands
2. Forests and other nonagricultural uses
3. Taxation
4. Farm reorganization and soil conservation
5. Mortgage credit
6. Intermediate and short term credit