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It might also be possible to arrange for at least one personal visit by the researchers to each reporting company.

Finally, it might be asked whether this method could be used by a State agricultural experiment station. At present the answer is a qualified "yes." This method is similar in principle to methods long used by agricultural experiment stations and extension services in obtaining individual farm-accounting records. There are many practical dif-

ficulties to establishing a successful reporting system for agricultural processing and marketing firms, but the task does not appear to be an impossible one. However, for State experiment stations the savings in costs probably would not be as large as for the Department. The number of plants for which data are needed is less in a State than in a National study. Also, travel time and expenses are not so large in a State as in a National study.

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## Book Reviews

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*George N. Peek and the Fight for Farm Parity.* By GILBERT C. FITE. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 314 pages. 1954. \$4.00

IN THIS, his second biographical study of agricultural leaders who fought the battle of equality for agriculture during the 1920's, Gilbert Fite has uncovered much new and detailed material on the intricacies of both the pressure and the party politics of the period.

Mr. Fite's biography of Peter Norbeck, published in 1948, was primarily devoted to politics within the State of South Dakota. The earlier book provided valuable insight into counter pressures at work within the farm bloc which limited its effectiveness in the fight for McNary-Haugenism; it contributed new material on the early development of the domestic allotment plan.

Mr. Fite's choice of George N. Peek as the subject of his second biographical study is a particularly fortunate one, for Peek was the most militant and resourceful of the farm leaders of the 1920's who popularized and fought for the principle that the Federal Government had the responsibility for helping farmers to achieve equality of purchasing power with other groups. As executives in the Moline Plow Company, Peek

and General Hugh Johnson turned their attention to finding a solution for the farm surplus problem in the early twenties because, as Peek said, "you can't sell a plow to a busted customer."

The plan that Peek popularized and played a major role in developing was based on the idea of making the tariff effective for agriculture by segregating the exportable surplus from the part of the crop that was domestically consumed. By this means farmers were to receive a fair ratio price, or the domestic price plus the tariff, for that portion of the crop domestically consumed, and the world price for that portion sold on the world market. This 2-price plan was incorporated into the McNary-Haugen Bill which was before Congress from 1924 through 1928 and was twice vetoed by President Coolidge.

The plan developed by Peek and others and the several versions of the McNary-Haugen bills have been described and analyzed in a number of previous publications. Mr. Fite's contribution is in detailing the relationships between changes and compromises in the original plan and the necessity

for securing support from various types of farm and other pressure groups. The author outlines clearly, for the first time, changes in position by major farm organizations and other groups, and by prominent individuals during 1921 through 1928. Mr. Fite distinguishes between nominal and active support for the plan and lists some of the major financial contributions and contributors.

The author stresses the major contribution made by Peek to the acceptance of the parity concept by his single-minded devotion to the cause and his qualities of leadership. But he does not minimize Peek's failure "to take into consideration the overall complexity of economic conditions both national and international" and his inability to adapt his ideas to changes in agriculture and economic life which had taken place by the thirties and early forties. Peek remained an economic nationalist to the last and continued to advocate in 1943 about the same method for dealing with

farm-surplus problems that he had promoted in 1923.

The author classifies Peek as an action man who was single-minded. Accordingly, Peek "did not see all of the economic relationships or show much interest in all of the intellectual excursions which a professional economist might want to consider. Part of his economic argument was weak, because he failed to take into consideration the overall complexity of economic conditions, both national and international."

Mr. Fite has provided an objective, accurate, and interesting account based on meticulous research into public and private files of Peek and other principals in the struggle for farm parity. This book will prove of interest and value to historians, economists, and others who are concerned with the political and economic background of current agricultural price support programs and proposals.

*Gladys L. Baker*

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*Irrigation Development and Public Water Policy.* By ROY E. HUFFMAN. The Ronald Press Company, New York. 336 pages. 1953. \$6.50

THE MANY AND VARIED FACTORS that influence water resources policy and irrigation developments are comprehensively reviewed in this text. The author recognizes that an understanding of historical, institutional, and political aspects, along with economic and social considerations, is essential for enlightened decisions on public water policy, and the analysis accordingly covers a wide range of irrigation issues and problems. The general approach used is to present an impartial interpretation of relevant elements, reserving the last chapter for a definite statement of the author's own conclusions. Throughout the text, extensive quotations are drawn from the works of others, with the author's commentary usually taking the form of an explanation or summary of pertinent considerations.

The topics discussed in the chapters may be grouped into four general categories. The first five are devoted to a summary of experience with irrigation legislation and development, and the extent to which such experience has become

embedded in prevailing water rights and land regulations.

Attention in the next group of chapters centers on a series of interrelated problems that arise in connection with the establishment and operation of present-day irrigation projects and programs. Included are chapters on project organization, financing, land development, and integrated use of irrigated land.

A third group of chapters deals with irrigation within the framework of comprehensive resource development programs. There are chapters on river basin development, public interest in water resources, economic evaluation and feasibility, and irrigation in humid areas. With the possible exception of the discussion on public interest, the chapters in this group are particularly effective in clarifying many of the problems involved. The treatment of public interest leaves the issue rather nebulous.

The final group of chapters covers the major elements to be considered in formulating a con-

sistent water resource policy. The topics discussed are irrigation development in relation to population and food requirements, long-term national and foreign policy, and, finally, a chapter on the elements considered essential for a sound public water policy.

The conclusions and recommendations on water policy given in the final chapter are generally consistent with those contained in the reports of the Water Policy Commission and the Missouri Basin Survey Commission. Considerable attention is devoted to the composition of public water policy, but the discussion of organizational arrangements for its effectuation is limited.

The book has a number of features that deserve special commendation. Attention centers on essential issues and the discussion is well balanced. The presentation is clear and concise, so that the views expressed are likely to be readily understood by most readers. The documentation is extensive and thorough. Dr. Huffman's analysis makes a real contribution to a fuller understanding of the problems and issues that concern resource development; it deserves considered reading both as a college text and as a guide to analysts, policy-makers, and administrators of Federal and State resource programs.

Mark M. Regan

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*American Geography: Inventory and Prospect.* Edited by PRESTON E. JAMES and CLARENCE F. JONES. Published for the Association of American Geographers by Syracuse University Press, New York. 590 pages. 1954. \$6.00

**A**ERICAN GEOGRAPHY: INVENTORY AND PROSPECT is a cooperative contribution of several geographers organized under the sponsorship of the Association of American Geographers to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary this year. The volume attempts to answer such frequently asked questions as "What is geography?" and "What do geographers do?"

Invited readers include workers in related disciplines who want to know more about the objectives, concepts, and methods of geographic research. A special invitation to agricultural economists seems appropriate because their field of activity is in many ways closely related to that of the geographer. The economist who has worked with a problem involving the factor of location or the investigation "of conditions peculiar to specific locations" is already familiar with the distinctive orientation of geography, which is "concerned with the arrangement of things on the face of the earth, and with the associations of things that give character to particular places." The map which is the basic tool of analysis of the geographer is well known to the economist and often serves him well.

This book is especially appropriate reading for workers in related fields of research who still associate geography with the concept of environ-

mental determinism. Most geographers today no longer consider the concept useful.

Separate chapters written by well-known geographers, which were coordinated and edited under the guidance of a committee on American geography, present an interpretative résumé of developments and contributions in the different specialized segments of geography during the last 50 years. The scope of geographers' interests that parallel those of agricultural economists is indicated by such chapter titles as: "The Geography of Resources," "The Field of Economic Geography," "Agricultural Geography," "Transportation Geography," "The Geographic Study of Soils," and "The Geographic Study of Water on the Land." Several of the other chapters, including those on "The Regional Concept and the Regional Method," "Field Techniques," and the "Interpretation of Air Photographs," also have application in the field of the agricultural economist.

Anyone who is confronted with the need to present and analyze data by areas will find the discussion of the regional concept and the regional method particularly helpful. The geographers' approach is also illustrated in such discussions as those on the presentation of marketing data, market evaluation, delineation of trading and selling



areas, and transportation rates. Other examples include the contribution of the geographer to the classification of land, mapping of population and analysis of population trends, and the study of patterns of settlement.

The broad sweep of the volume necessarily limits the space given any specific segment of the field, but compensation for this abbreviated treatment may be found in the selected bibliographies at the end of each chapter. More than 1,300 items are contained in these topically arranged references. They include many examples of research being carried on by geographers as well as the major methodological writings pertaining to the different areas of geographical investigation.

Although the major emphasis of the book is on "inventory" of American geography, "prospect" is not altogether neglected. There is an implication

that geography can be made a more practical subject in the future than it has been in the past and that geographers have many new opportunities in their field of study. The book acknowledges several important needs that concern not only geographers but workers in related areas of research. It invites more effective criticism for geographic work carried on by both professional geographers and "those persons in other disciplines who undertake research of geographic quality." It expresses need "for more cooperative work by teams of scholars with different areal and topical specialties." Lastly, the book gives implicit recognition of the fact that if geographers "are to make their most effective contribution to geography, they must adhere to the geographic point of view and practice incontrovertible geographic methods."

*James R. Anderson*

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### Selected Recent Research Publications in Agricultural Economics Issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and Cooperatively by the State Colleges<sup>1</sup>

BOTTS, RALPH R. AMORTIZATION OF LOANS. ITS APPLICATION TO FARM PROBLEMS. 20 pp. Agr. Res. Serv. May 1954. (Processed.)

Discusses briefly how amortization can be used to advantage by both borrowers and lenders and shows mechanics of preparing an amortization table.

BREAKIRON, P. L., WINSTON, J. R., and KAUFMAN, J. STUDIES OF WATERMELON LOADING FOR RAIL SHIPMENT, 1953. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 62, 27 pp., illus. May 1954. (RMA)

Loading Congo melons crosswise of the car instead of lengthwise resulted in 70 percent less bruising, 69 percent fewer cracked melons, and 47 percent less surface scarring than in comparable shipments loaded lengthwise.

BREWSTER, JOHN M. COMPARATIVE ECONOMIES OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF COTTONSEED OIL MILLS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON OIL SUPPLIES, PRICES, AND RE-

URNS TO GROWERS. U. S. Dept. Agr. Mktg. Res. Rept. 54, 239 pp., illus. February 1954. (RMA)

As a general rule, the prepress-solvent process ranked first in profitability, the direct-solvent process second, the screw-press process third, and the hydraulic process last.

BRINEGAR, GEORGE K., and JOHNSON, STEWART. THE MARKET FOR FLUID SKIM MILK. Conn. (Storrs) Agr. Expt. Sta. Bull. 303, 43 pp., illus. July 1953. (RMA)

Sales of fluid skim milk have decreased in the last 5 years. Findings indicate that skim milk tends to be overpriced in comparison with whole milk.

DREWNIAK, EDWIN E., HOWE, MILTON A., JR., GORESLINE, HARRY E., and BAUSH, EDWARD R. STUDIES ON SANITIZING METHODS FOR USE IN POULTRY PROCESSING. U. S. Dept. Agr. Cir. 930, 30 pp., illus. March 1954. (RMA)

Five sanitizing methods were studied to learn their effectiveness in decreasing bacteria on equipment and poultry during processing. In-plant chlorination at 10, 20, and 45 p. p. m. concentrations in processing water was exceptionally effective.

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<sup>1</sup> Processed reports are indicated as such. All others are printed. State publications may be obtained from the issuing agencies of the respective States.