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Book Reviews

No Need for Hunger

By Jonathan Garst. Random House, New York.
182 pages. 1963. \$3.95.

JONATHAN GARST has written an exciting little book with a mission. The mission is—to convince informed laymen and social leaders that there is *No Need for Hunger*. We now have the skills and the technology in the world to produce all the food that is needed now and in the next several decades—even taking into consideration the population explosion.

Mr. Garst does not develop his argument in terms of statistics, or scientific formulas or the history of nations. He tells the story of the advance in science and technology in terms of the Garst farm at Coon Rapids, Iowa. As he says, "In 1915 Thomas Jefferson would have felt much at home on the farm at Coon Rapids . . ." The crops were about the same; the farm implements were bigger but they were still pulled by horses; and the farming processes of planting, cultivating, and harvesting were little changed.

But the tractor, hybrid-seed corn, nitrogen fertilizer, the soybean, urea, and the corncobs turned the Coon Rapids farm upside down in 45 years—changing it from a tradition-bound, land-based, peasant operation to an explosive, highly productive, food-producing factory. And this, Mr. Garst argues, these same technologies can do for the underdeveloped world—if we, the skilled, will carry these technologies to the unskilled with persistence, wisdom, and some emptying of our pockets.

Mr. Garst's program of action is a bit superficial. It is built around four human types: the scientist, the business man, the salesman, and the farmer. The role assigned to the salesman both in the American development experience and in the present-day "underdevelops" is an interesting one. The extension type is not likely to find it to his tastes.

Finally, Mr. Garst ends his book with a travelogue through several underdeveloped countries. The Garstian view is always fresh as he breezes from one underdeveloped country to the next. A big dash of nitrogen fertilizer and the right combination of local incentive and foreign technical assistance form the usual development prescription.

No Need for Hunger is a wonderful tonic; it should be required reading for every tired economist and development specialist. But unfortunately the problems to which it is addressed are tougher than the author implies.

Willard W. Cochrane

Food: One Tool in International Economic Development

By Iowa State University Center for Agricultural and Economic Adjustment. Iowa State University Press, Ames. 183 pages. 1962. \$4.75.

TWENTY-FOUR leading authorities on technical assistance and world food needs contributed chapters to this summary of programs, policies, and problems in world food production and distribution. The actual and potential contributions of U.S. colleges and universities, the Department of Agriculture, the Agency for International Development, international agencies, and private enterprise to world agricultural development are critically examined. Several of the authors cite as a major bottleneck in agricultural development the rather limited economic and social research on the subject and the even more limited dissemination and application of the results.

The authors raise many cogent questions such as: Is food aid a long-term help or hindrance to underdeveloped countries? Can scientific technology be transplanted? Can research on the problems of underdeveloped countries be successfully prosecuted in the United States? Should the Federal Government take more responsibility for in-

ternational programs in the agricultural colleges of the land-grant universities?

The authors' answers to these and similar questions call for sweeping changes in the orientation of U.S. agricultural research and educational institutions. Some recommendations, such as that of Loren Soth that the Federal Government take over the agricultural colleges of the land-grant universities, are highly controversial. The final chapter gives highlights from the views of each of the contributors.

Jane M. Porter

The Dilemma of Mexico's Development

By Raymond Vernon. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. 226 pages. 1963. \$4.95.

THIS IS AN EFFORT to evaluate the roles and interrelationships of the public and private sectors in the growth of Mexico's economy over the last several decades. Findings are interpreted in terms of alternative potentials for growth in the future. The author gives explicit recognition to the difficulties of such an undertaking, emphasizing both the complexity of the topic and the subjective and qualitative nature of much of the interpretive analysis.

A study of the Mexican case is justified on the basis that (1) Mexico is a nation in the true sense of the word, not a collection of loosely joined localities, (2) it has a well-developed public sector and a firmly established indigenous private sector, and (3) both sectors have played vigorous roles in the country's economic growth.

The author traces the country's political course from regional separatism, revolving around a local patron, leader, or protector, to the strong central government of today with its concentration of apparent power in the office of the President. He emphasizes that the process was not attained without cost. The succession of recent Presidents worked themselves into a political straitjacket in their efforts to achieve unanimity of popular support by being responsive to every source of power in the country—including any significant elements of opposition and extending the full 180 degrees to both right and left. As a result Vernon sees the President in the 1960's as "held to a course of action which is zigzagging and vacillating when it is not blandly neutral."

Too, the government has worked itself into a key role in motivating economic growth. "It governs the distribution of land, water and loans to agriculture; it mobilizes foreign credits and rations the supply of domestic credit; it imposes price ceilings, grants tax exemptions, supports private security issues, and engages in scores of other activities that directly and immediately affect the private sector."

Thus, the government is looked to as holding the key to economic development, yet its political structure (firmly entrenched in the leader's thinking) is straitjacketed with limitations on how the key is used.

The dilemma that Mexico's leaders are likely to face in the 1960's is that of inability to accelerate a lagging economic growth rate within the existing public decision-making framework. Their course must either condone economic stagnation or pave the way for marked and sudden change in the public decision-making structure. Both involve risk. The Mexican people, accustomed to significant economic advances over the last two decades, are unlikely to accept loss of economic momentum without serious protest. On the other hand, abrupt changes in the national decision-making machinery were not attained peacefully in Mexico's past history.

This brief summary cannot portray the evidence the author marshalls to support his thought-provoking conclusions. Many acquainted with the Mexican society and political structure may differ with various parts of his interpretations and conclusions. Few will deny, however, that the book deserves considerable stature among current efforts to understand the complex forces that bear on the economic development of underdeveloped countries.

Clarence A. Moore

Mexico: Revolution to Evolution—1940–1960

By Howard F. Cline. Oxford University Press, New York. 375 pages. 1962. \$6.75.

IN HIS DESCRIPTION of the astounding rate of growth which Mexico has exhibited during the past two decades, Professor Cline has more than justified the eminent position he holds as a historian and an authority on Mexican affairs. His broad background has enabled him to single

out the aspects of Mexican development which have general significance.

The author covers a wide range of subjects without losing sight of the central theme of the book. His comments on regionalism and centralism, the role of the Indian, and the place of the public sector in Mexican development are particularly interesting.

However, this reviewer regrets that Professor Cline did not employ his experience and background in Mexican affairs in analytical treatment of the facts which he so prodigiously presents. In the preface the author states, "A salient feature of recent developments in Mexico is a clear demonstration that beneficial social and economic change can be brought about in so-called 'underdeveloped areas' while preserving and increasing political and economic democracy as defined in the New World." For those directly concerned with economic growth, an analysis of the factors which made this unusual phenomenon possible would have placed the book at the head of its field. As it stands, the book is an interesting and informative chronology of the past two decades of Mexican history.

Jane Turns

The Middle East—A Social Geography

By Stephen H. Longrigg. Aldine Publishing Company, Chicago. 291 pages. 1963. \$6.95.

THE AUTHOR'S long experience in the Middle East and his thorough knowledge of its affairs are evident in each chapter of the book under review. With authority and personal feeling he presents the historical highlights of the region and discusses its current conditions. He complements a unified regional approach with discussions of the physical, political, economic, and social features of individual countries. Discussion of economic aspects is rather limited; of the 12 chapters of the book, only one is devoted to agriculture and industry, and one to oil.

But the author goes beyond a condensed presentation of the Middle Eastern panorama: He answers basic questions that are often raised about the Middle East, arrives at convincing conclusions, and clearly expresses his views on issues. One of these is whether the region has "any unity at all";

and within that, what basis is there for Arab unity? Another is whether Islam continues to play a vital role in the modern Middle East.

In the chapter on oil, the author discusses the role of oil companies in an atmosphere of intense nationalism.

Students of the Middle East will find very little in the book that is new to them. Yet they will be challenged by some of the author's conclusions and views. On the other hand, the general reader will find here an authentic source of condensed information on various aspects of the region.

Afif I. Tannous

From Prairie to Corn Belt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century

By Allan G. Bogue. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 310 pages. 1963. \$6.95.

THE DEVELOPMENT of Corn Belt farming resulted from a combination of many experiences and circumstances. Allan G. Bogue has emphasized, very successfully, the individual farmer and his contribution. At the same time, this first full-scale study of the subject gives us a clear picture of the change from open prairie to a highly productive farming region.

The prairie lands themselves had distinctive features which both hindered and facilitated settlement. The settlers were as varied as the American population. Together, the land and the settlers made a new combination. The problems of settlement, of breaking the land, of deciding upon the most profitable crops, of obtaining better livestock, and of meeting the major costs of production are discussed in separate chapters. In each case, the experiences of particular farmers give sharpness and definition to the overall picture. The author has carefully searched manuscript collections throughout the Midwest for accounts of such experiences. At the same time, he has used data in the county courthouses and in the censuses to add breadth to his picture.

Several conclusions at variance with commonly accepted beliefs come from the study. Prairie farmers, for example, turned to commercial agriculture virtually from the moment they settled. There was no period of subsistence farming be-

fore they began producing for the market. Most Corn Belt farmers were prosperous during the 1880's and the 1890's. The Populist revolt was sparked by discontent from the plains, not from the Corn Belt. Life for a farm owner and operator in the Corn Belt was, by the 1890's, a good life.

This study is a major contribution to agricultural history, and a worthwhile volume for the agricultural economist who is interested either in the Corn Belt or in just how economic growth takes place.

Wayne D. Rasmussen

Selected Recent Research Publications in Agricultural Economics Issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Cooperatively by the State Universities and Colleges¹

ANDRILENAS, PAUL A. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SPECIFIC PATHOGEN FREE HOG PRODUCTION. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-142, 14 pp. January 1964.

The report aims at determining the least-cost method of repopulating individual farms raising hogs and at estimating the possible financial benefits of SPF hog production compared to conventional methods. SPF hogs have more feeding efficiency than conventional hogs because the risk of two growth-retarding diseases, virus pneumonia and atrophic rhinitis, is reduced. Feed costs for SPF hogs are estimated at 22 and 27 percent lower than those for conventional hogs requiring 500 and 550 pounds of feed per hundredweight of production.

BALLINGER, ROY A., and L. C. LARKIN. SWEETENERS USED BY FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES: THEIR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE UNITED STATES. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 48, 22 pp., illus. January 1964.

Industrial food processors are the largest users of sweeteners in the United States. Sugar is still the primary sweetener used by food processors but its position in the manufacture of a number of products is weakening, particularly in favor of corn sirup and noncaloric sweeteners. The rising price of sugar, relative to other sweeteners, is an important factor inducing food processors to look for substitutes.

BANKS, VERA J. MIGRATION OF FARM PEOPLE—AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1946-1960. U.S. Dept. Agr., Misc. Pub. 954, 37 pp. October 1963.

More than 250 studies, papers, and articles relating to farm migration in the United States are listed. In general, items are grouped according to the geographic area to which the data relate. References are arranged alphabetically by author within each major heading.

¹ State publications may be obtained from the issuing agencies of the respective States.

BERNITZ, ALEXANDER. SUMMARY AND EVALUATION OF AUSTRIA: PROJECTED LEVEL OF SUPPLY, DEMAND, AND TRADE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1965 AND 1975 (ERS-FOREIGN-62.) U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-Foreign-56, 44 pp. December 1963.

Summarizes a report prepared by the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, Vienna, Austria. The study analyzes the past trends and projects Austria's agricultural production, consumption, and trade for 1965 and 1975. A special section dealing with implications of U.S. agricultural trade with that country is included. Selected farm products which may be supplied by the United States are specified. Methodology used for making these projections is also included.

BIRD, KERMIT. FREEZE-DRYING OF FOODS: COST PROJECTIONS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Mktg. Res. Rpt. 639, 34 pp., illus. January 1964.

Processing costs of four hypothetical but representative processing plants were studied. Plants are classified according to their daily capacities for removing water from frozen foods—4, 8, 16, and 32 tons. Major cost factors are size of plant, duration of drying cycle, and continuity of operation. Other factors are kinds of food dried, wage rates, and utility rates. Economies of size are significant in freeze-drying. For example, the 4-ton plant at full capacity has costs of 8 cents per pound of water removed; the 8-ton plant's costs average 6.7 cents; the 16-ton plant, 5.4 cents; and the 32-ton plant 4.4 cents. Dollar volume of freeze-dried foods in 1970 is projected at about \$250 million.

BIRD, KERMIT. SELECTED WRITINGS ON FREEZE-DRYING OF FOODS. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., ERS-147, 53 pp., illus. January 1964.

A collection of speeches, articles, and informal papers by the author on freeze-drying. Discussed are such aspects of the industry as: advantages and disadvantages of the process, what foods are best suited to freeze-drying, cost studies of the process, and how freeze-drying may affect other food industries. Included is a directory of food processors, equipment firms and other businesses which now process freeze-dried foods.