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The Problem of Surplus Agricultural Population



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NOTE BY THE EDITOR

AN explanation by the editor of the form and purpose of the *International Journal of Agrarian Affairs* is called for in this, the first, number. The publication is called a Journal for convenience because it will be published as a periodical twice a year. It might, however, be as aptly described as a series of studies, because the intention is that each number of the *Journal* will deal as a rule with one general economic or social problem of agriculture.

First a word about the kind of topics which will be the subject-matter of the *Journal*. Many of the problems of the economic and social conditions of agriculture are common to all countries. They may be present in greater or less degree in some types of countries than in others, and everywhere the forms and manifestations may vary, but the problems are international in the sense that they are fundamental issues in the agricultural economy of all countries.

These are the problems which will be the subject-matter of this *Journal*. The aim is to emphasize the universal concern with the solution of similar, and sometimes identical, problems. Ultimately, it is on the international understanding of these basic problems that the firmness and security of international relations will depend.

The intention is to have them discussed from all possible angles. The angles necessarily vary according to differing lines of academic and political thought, differing national or racial circumstances, political and social as well as economic, and so on. The aim in the first place is to emphasize the universality of the essential problem, to indicate its various forms and implications, and then to outline various efforts at solution.

While the contributions will necessarily include useful and important facts and figures pertaining to the various problems, the *Journal* is designed as a forum for international discussion and not as a statistical year-book or encyclopaedia of agricultural information. International publications of the latter kind are already available, published by institutions infinitely better equipped for the purpose. As an essential complement to the facts and figures there is need for international discussion of fundamental problems, and it is this need which the *International Journal of Agrarian Affairs* hopes to satisfy in some measure.

Contributions on each subject will be invited from agricultural economists and sociologists drawn from different countries where

varying conditions in relation to the problem exist. The papers will not necessarily deal with the conditions of the author's own country. In the space of one number of the *Journal*, it will be impossible to exhaust the discussion of any of these subjects, especially as the subjects envisaged are of very far-reaching significance and can be approached from innumerable aspects. The same subject, or special aspects of it, may therefore be returned to in later numbers of the publication.

For that reason the editor would be glad to hear from readers who have done research or are generally interested in the various subjects dealt with in the *Journal*. No space is being given to the publication of letters to the editor, but the information received will be of inestimable value in planning later issues.