WHAT CAN AGRONOMISTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM?¹

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I suppose that the most of us are ready to admit that there is an agricultural problem, though we may differ as to its cause and solution. There have been a number of periods of financial distress on the farm when the discussion of situations and remedies was rife, but probably no period when it has been as general as during the last three years. This discussion has not been confined to farmers and the farm press, but noted financiers and more or less distinguished statesmen have had a part in it. The editorial columns of our great daily papers and our financial journals, day after day and week after week, have been filled with investigations and explanations and predictions.

While there have been some differences of opinion as to what is wrong with the farmer, his troubles have been diagnosed in the main as surpluses of one kind or another. Three years ago it was a wheat surplus which commanded our attention. Wm. McNary-Haugen the First was born to rescue wheat from that low index number, as you remember, and was intended to put wheat back to the good old days of 1909 to 1913. But wheat could not wait for Bill the First and climbed back, and then some, with the help of what some of Bill's friends ironically call the divine law of supply and demand.

There are other surpluses, however, and a little later it was said to be corn, though there is good reason for thinking that it may have been a shortage that was troubling the Middle West—a shortage of hogs; together with greatly inflated land values.

Surpluses have occurred from time to time with most of our agricultural and horticultural products, and may be expected to occur for some years to come.

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