SCIENCE

No. 2066 Friday, August 3, 1934 Vol. 80 Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods: Research and Adjustment March Together: HENRY A Simple Agitator for Submerged Respirometers: DR. H. SPECHT. A Stain for Difficult Plant Mate-Work of the American Museum of Natural History: rial: Palmer Stockwell. Micro Mounts, Reverse and Converse: Professor Arthur Paul Jacot 121 Obituary: Special Articles: Nathaniel Lord Britton: Dr. Henry H. Rusby. Spontaneous Encephalomyelitis of Mice-A New Virus Disease: MAX THEILER. Respiratory Types and Photoperiodism: Professor R. H. Roberts and James E. Kraus. Linear and Dendritic Sink-Scientific Events: hole Patterns in Southeastern New Mexico: The Radcliffe Observatory; The New York Post-Dr. Frank A. Melton Graduate Medical School; Dedication of the Mountain Lake Biological Station; Honorary Degrees at 8 Science News the University of Wisconsin 111 Scientific Notes and News 114 SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and pub-Discussion: lished every Friday by How Some Birds Satisfy Thirst: H. A. ALLARD. THE SCIENCE PRESS Selenite not a Certain Indicator of Wind Effect: WALTER B. LANG. On a Whale Skeleton in the New York City: Grand Central Terminal Collections of the California Academy of Sciences: Garrison, N. Y. Lancaster, Pa. M. E. DAVIDSON. A New Mammoth Record for Single Copies, 15 Cts. Annual Subscription, \$6.00 SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C. Illinois: Frank C. Baker 116 The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union: Dr. Jno. A. Fleming 119

RESEARCH AND ADJUSTMENT MARCH TOGETHER

By HENRY A. WALLACE

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

THERE is supposed to be a conflict between agricultural science and the need to adjust agricultural production. Agricultural science enables farmers to increase crop yields per acre and increase the output of meat and milk per unit of feed consumed. As the users of agricultural improvements increase in number, output increases until prices fall. How can all this be reconciled with the need to make supply and demand balance?

This is an old puzzle, but often solved. Again and again people bring it forward as if the solution were unknown. With an air of drawing attention to an unperceived anomaly, a newspaper writer recently declared himself amazed that the technical branches of the U. S. Department of Agriculture should oper-

ate at full blast to perfect crop and livestock production, while the Adjustment Administration labored simultaneously to cut down the production of cotton, wheat, corn, hogs, tobacco and other products. Here, he said, we have futility on a scale worthy of a Greek tragedy.

What would happen were farmers to abandon science or even to use it with greatly decreased efficiency? They would have to continue plowing, sowing and reaping. But they would use poor machinery, poor technique and poor seed. They would allow pests and diseases to ravage their crops and would harvest inefficiently what remained. By so doing, they would certainly reduce the output. But they would do so at a cost ruinous to themselves. They

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