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Some Effects of the War On Rural Life in Missouri, 1939-1945

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COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

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Some Effects of the War On Rural Life in Missouri, 1939-1945

GERARD SCHULTZ¹

I. INTRODUCTION

Social change is continually taking place, but the changes that go on in societies at different times have variable rates of speed. War is a time of rapid changes, especially when it is a total war, and a war as desperate and widespread as the conflict of the last six years.

When war comes to our present society, soldiers, sailors, and marines are trained to fight that war, but to have any chance to win over the enemy they must be supplied with the modern tools of war—planes, tanks, guns, shells, and bombs. At such a time farms must supply more food as well as many of the raw materials needed in war production and do this in spite of shortages of farm labor and farm machinery. It takes the time of a number of men to supply the needs of one fighting man at the front. However, in the recent crisis we not only raised and equipped an immense military force of our own, but we also furnished food, munitions, and other supplies to our allies. Notwithstanding the enormous production for war, the total output of our civilian goods and services increased. While supplies of many durable goods were limited or made unavailable, food, clothing, and various services were used in larger amounts than in prewar years.

The exigencies of the war brought full employment, higher incomes, a vast internal migration, and further advance in agricultural techniques. The quick and extensive collective action demanded by modern war brought about an increase in government control and regulation. These larger factors have registered their effects on almost all aspects of rural life.

It is important that farm people and farm leaders know about changes that took place during the period of World War II. To be fully efficient, rural social institutions must be well adjusted to changing conditions. It is the purpose of this study to ascertain to some degree the effects of World War II on rural life in Missouri.

1. Instructor in Rural Sociology. This bulletin was prepared under the general supervision of C. E. Lively.

II. THE WAR COMES TO RURAL MISSOURI

1. The National Defense Program

World War II began in Europe late in the summer of 1939. However, it was not until the terrific strength of the German war machine became apparent early in the summer of 1940 that America's national defense program began in earnest. Billions of dollars were appropriated by Congress for national defense. The nation began to prepare for war by building ships, army and navy posts and bases, and factories for the production of war matériel. Existing factories were converted to war purposes. These activities were accompanied by a continuously growing demand for workers, with the result that rural families and individual members of rural families in Missouri left the farms and villages by the thousands for the better incomes offered them in war industries.

Selective Service.—Another step in the interest of defense was the passage of the Selective Service and Training Act on September 16, 1940. A month later 446,219 men in Missouri between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive, registered for possible military service. Within a month after the registration, local boards had assigned order numbers to all registrants, begun the work of sending out questionnaires, and had the first men on their way to the army. February 16, 1942, all men between the ages of 20 and 44, inclusive, became subject to military service, and by the middle of 1942 the draft age was lowered to 18. In the meantime, on April 27, 1942, the older men, between the ages of 45-65, registered for non-military service.

Principal Defense Areas in Rural Missouri.—The construction of military training posts brought a sudden and intense impact upon a number of rural communities in south-central Missouri. In November, 1940, the War Department announced its intention of establishing an army training center near Waynesville, Missouri, a village of 468 people. Before the war the tourist trade had provided an important source of income to Waynesville and other towns in that area located on United States Highway 66. At that time the village of Waynesville had a very leisurely atmosphere. On Saturday the farmers came to town to "buy their blue denim and flour, their coffee, salt, and sugar with unhurried deliberation." With the coming of Fort Leonard Wood, the village came to resemble an ant hill. Acquisition of the site for the training base necessitated the relocation of 304 rural families. As soon as construction work got under way, workmen began to pour into the area by the thousands. In all of the communities near the cantonment area people quickly altered their homes

and added rooms for rent. "During the construction period," a Waynesville resident commented, "I had 12 double beds in three rooms. There was barely enough space between the beds for walking. At the _____ Hotel the construction workers slept in eight hour shifts."² Not only were living rooms used for sleeping purposes, but garages and hen houses were pressed into use. A small two-room cabin rented for \$21 a week. The families of many construction workers lived in trailers or tents. Farmers living within a radius of sixty miles of the cantonment site found employment there and commuted to their work. A traffic check made on February 21, 1941, revealed that 19,387 automobiles, busses, and trucks passed a given point on the main road leading into the cantonment area within a twenty-four hour period. By the end of March, 1941, the weekly payroll for the construction of Fort Leonard Wood amounted to \$1,380,000. The great influx of workers created for a number of rural communities in the south-central part of the State acute problems of housing, health, sanitation, education, and social organization.

With the coming of Fort Leonard Wood the towns in its vicinity experienced business booms. After its construction, the army post continued to provide employment to a few thousand civilians. The number employed varied from time to time, but in September, 1944, the number was approximately 4000. At least 50 per cent of the civilians working at Fort Leonard Wood in the fall of 1944 were from counties adjoining Pulaski—the county in which the army post is located. Many new businesses sprang up in the towns to cater to the soldiers. Saturday afternoons the streets became so crowded with soldiers that farmers postponed their visits to town from Saturday to Monday afternoon. With the construction and military occupation of Fort Leonard Wood the number of business units at Waynesville increased almost threefold by September 1, 1944. (See Table 1.)

Farm property in Pulaski county advanced from 15 per cent to 40 per cent in price, depending chiefly upon the distance of the farm from a village. Reluctant to settle among strangers, farmers who had to move out of the cantonment area paid premiums for farms to remain in the county. Of the farm families who had to leave the cantonment area, about 40 per cent located elsewhere in the county; most of the others settled in other Ozark counties.

Similar impacts, although they may have been somewhat less intense, were felt by rural communities in other parts of the State. At Camp Crowder, Neosho, Missouri, begun in August, 1941, the peak of employment was reached the week of December 20, 1941, when

2. Statement made in an interview with the writer on September 15, 1944.

21,034 were employed and the weekly payroll amounted to \$650,000. The construction of Weldon Springs Ordnance Works at Weldon Springs, Missouri, was announced in October, 1940. By the middle of

TABLE 1.-NUMBER AND KIND OF COMMERCIAL TRADE UNITS IN WAYNESVILLE, MISSOURI, BEFORE AND AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT LEONARD WOOD

Kind of Trade Unit	Number of Units Present		Kind of Trade Unit	Number of Units Present	
	In 1939	In 1944		In 1939	In 1944
Total	51	144	(continued)		
General Stores	2	1	Lumber Yards	0	1
Grocery Stores	2	6	Confectionary Shops	0	1
Drug Stores	2	3	Tailoring	0	3
Hardware Stores	2	1	Electrical Appliance Stores	0	2
Banks	1	1	Pool halls	0	1
Cafes	7	11	Gift Shops	0	1
Beauty Parlors	2	3	Night clubs	0	2
Barber Shops	2	2	Beer Halls	0	7
Auto and Radio Parts Stores	1	3	Beer Warehouses	0	1
Hotels	3	6	Novelty Stores	0	2
Furniture Stores	1	3	Doctors of Osteopathy	0	3
Produce and Feed	2	1	Movies	0	2
Ice Dealers	1	1	Liquor Stores	0	12
Filling Stations	9	11	Telegraph	0	1
Garages	3	5	Army Stores	0	4
Lawyers	4	5	Jewelry Stores	0	3
Doctors of Medicine	1	2	Hot Dog Stands	0	2
Dentists	1	2	Dress Shops	0	2
Number of bus lines	3	7	Hospitals	0	2
Newspapers	1	1	Photo Shops	0	5
Shoe Repair Shops	1	2	Shooting Gallery	0	1
Dry Goods Stores	0	1	Coin Machines	0	1
Tire Repair Shops	0	2	Bowling Ally	0	1
Dry Cleaning	0	1	Radio Repair Shop	0	1
Variety Store	0	1	Planing Mill	0	1

July, 1941, there were 5500 persons working on construction and by early November, 1941, the number had mounted to 8,699.

2. The United States Enters a Global War

On the Sunday afternoon of December 7, 1941, the radio brought to the rural communities the news that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor from the air in the early morning of that day, killing more than 3000 persons, destroying and damaging many warships and aircraft. The psychological effect of the Japanese attack far outweighed the material losses suffered. In their homes, stores, garages, and other places of business, rural people listened to the war news on the radio and talked about the war to the exclusion of almost everything else. Pearl Harbor had a unifying effect never before experienced. The editor of the county seat weekly in a rural county with a large percentage of its population of German origin reported on December 11, 1941: "Expressions of loyalty to the President and

hatred for the Japanese and Hitler are heard on every hand here. . . . While there seemed to be some difference of opinion before the outbreak of hostilities as to the government's foreign policy, the Jap attack has apparently serve only to unite everybody in the common aim to win the war, no matter what the cost."

3. Organization of War Agencies in Rural Communities

With the war came the need for new federal and state agencies in rural communities. Some agencies were established under the National Defense Program, and many existing agencies assumed war activities.

USDA War Boards.—A new guiding force was needed to convert agriculture to a war industry. It was not only necessary for farmers to produce more food for the fighting men and civilians of the United States and the United Nations, but also to provide the basic materials for many of the military needs of the war. To meet these new tasks USDA Defense Boards were set up early in 1941.³ Membership of the boards consisted of one representative for each of the major agricultural agencies on the state and county levels. The boards were headed by a chairman, who was the AAA chairman for the state or county. The general functions of the boards were to co-ordinate the work of the field agencies of the Department of Agriculture, and to cooperate with war agencies outside the Department. During the fall of 1941 production goals for all essential farm commodities were established for the first time in the history of American agriculture. The State and county USDA War Boards assisted in setting the farm production goals. Other more specific tasks of the War Boards were to assist in rationing of new farm machinery, and to make recommendations with respect to Selective Service deferments for farm boys.

Missouri farmers greatly increased agricultural production to meet wartime needs in spite of many difficulties such as a shortage of farm labor and farm machinery. Changes demanded by the war involved not only increases but also decreases. Production goals for 1943 called for decreases in the production of hay, wheat, cotton, and grain sorghum. According to preliminary figures released by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, the number of farms decreased from 256,100 to 244,562 during the years 1940-1945, while the farm acreage increased from 34,739,598 to 35,435,572. From 1939 to 1943 cropland increased about 12 per cent. In addition, yields per acre increased, mainly as a result of improved farm practices and favorable weather

3. With our entry into the war these boards became known as USDA War Boards.

conditions, although a number of destructive floods occurred. Table 2 provides a comparison of agricultural production in Missouri in 1939 and 1943, while Table 3 indicates the response the farmers of the State as a whole made to production goals. Farm crop production in 1944 was about 8 per cent above that of 1943.

TABLE 2. - FARM PRODUCTION IN MISSOURI, 1939-1943^a

	1939 .	1943	Percent Increase or Decrease
Cattle marketings	812,587	1,201,040	48
Hog marketings	3,456,607	5,383,240	55
Corn (bu.)	126,290,000	139,810,000	11
Hay (tons)	3,222,000	3,132,000	- 3
Wheat (bu.)	32,031,000	12,649,000	-61
Oats (bu.)	42,360,000	51,750,000	22
Cotton (bales)	440,000	295,000	-33
Grain Sorghums (bu.)	1,722,000	760,000	-56
Soybeans (bu.)	1,157,000	8,696,000	651
Tobacco (lbs.)	6,290,000	5,740,000	- 9
Potatoes (bu.)	3,936,000	3,827,000	- 3
Milk cows	926,000	1,115,000	20
Chickens	22,200,000	28,558,000	29

a. Source: Federal-State Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Columbia, Missouri.

TABLE 3. - COMPARISON OF FARM PRODUCTION GOALS WITH ACTUAL PRODUCTION IN MISSOURI, 1943^a

1943 Goals	Number of Units in Production, 1943
Corn, acres	4,493,382
Hay, acres	3,150,000
Wheat, acres	1,645,338
Oats, acres	2,100,000
Cotton, acres	394,725
Soybeans, acres	462,000
Tobacco, acres	6,231
Potatoes, acres	46,099
Milk cows	1,016,000
Chickens	26,461,900

a. Source: Federal-State Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Columbia, Missouri.

Civilian Defense.—Civilian defense work had its real beginning in Missouri on November 3, 1941, when the State Council of Defense created by the General Assembly held its first meeting. Within sixty days divisional and county councils of defense were organized. As enemy air raids were expected, one of the major functions of the local

councils in the early period of the war was to organize adequate protection of the civilian population against possible air raids. The Citizens Defense Corps was organized for this purpose. In World War I the local councils of civilian defense had stressed the building of morale, but in this war the emphasis was on civilian protection. Another important function was to facilitate constructive participation in various wartime programs, especially the salvage of waste paper, tin, fats and metals, and the promotion of victory gardens. By July, 1942, 400,000 volunteers had enrolled for civilian defense work. Shelby county with an entirely rural population had the highest number of enrolees in proportion to total population. The ultimate objective of the Citizens Defense Corps was to carry out practice blackouts. A statewide trial blackout was successfully carried out on the evening of December 9, 1942. However, as the threat of bombers in the sky faded, interest in trial blackouts declined. Communities did not cooperate as well in the second statewide blackout held on August 31, 1943, as they had in the first. On June 30, 1945, the Missouri State Council of Defense ceased to function.

Salvage Drives.—It was the purpose of the Salvage Branch to stimulate the flow of scrap iron, rubber, paper, and other waste materials needed in the manufacture of war matériel into regular commercial channels. To accomplish this purpose a number of specific drives were organized, but there was also a continuous month-to-month program to get in the scrap. In every community convenient salvage depots were set up. Garages and service stations, for example, were salvage depots for old rubber, scrap iron and metals. Missouri farmers responded splendidly to the salvage program.⁴ During the "Scrap Harvest" in the fall of 1942 a number of rural communities suspended regular work for an afternoon to gather scrap iron and metals. In one of these communities an intensive five-hour drive yielded 35 tons. Following the drive, Hitler was burned in effigy over a large bonfire. Much of the scrap was brought in by rural school children who ransacked attics, garages, and cellars, and scoured the countryside for salvage items.

Rationing Program.—A rationing program was inaugurated in an effort to keep down living costs and to provide for a fair distribution of certain scarce articles available for civilian use. Late in December, 1941, state authorities were informed that beginning on January 5, 1942, the automobile tires purchased by civilians would be rationed. The State and County Councils of Defense assumed re-

4. Information furnished by the Salvage Branch of the War Production Board at Jefferson City, Missouri, January 1, 1945.

sponsibility for organizing rationing boards. By January 10, 1942, a rationing board was open for business in every county of the State. Rationing was next applied to new cars and then to retreaded tires, but local rationing boards did not have to deal with large numbers of people until sugar rationing began in May, 1942. This was followed by the rationing of farm machinery on September 17, and of gasoline for motor vehicles on December 1, 1942. During the following year the rationing boards were placed under the control of the Office of Price Administration.

War Finance Division.—The War Finance Division, first known as the Defense Savings Staff, was established in the Treasury Department of the United States to help finance the war and to help maintain the economic stability of the country. The chief function of the War Finance Division was to sell war bonds and stamps to corporations, to partnerships, and to every man, woman, and child with an income. While war bonds and stamps were sold on a month-to-month basis, a number of special campaigns were held to stimulate sales. In these campaigns quotas were set for various area units. Some of the factors that were taken into consideration in setting quotas were the amount of bank deposits, corporate wealth, assessed valuation, and performance in past drives. In Missouri the state quota was first divided into four parts, namely, (1) St. Louis city, (2) St. Louis county, (3) Kansas City and Jackson county, and (4) the outstate area. The quota for the outstate areas was then divided among its 112 counties. County quotas were in turn apportioned among school districts or municipal townships. The eight bond drives raised \$3,114,591,770 in the State. To this total the outstate counties contributed \$555,750,781, or 18 per cent. No quotas were assigned in the first drive. In the second drive 85 per cent of the outstate counties raised their quotas; in the third, 84 per cent; in the fourth, 97 per cent; in the fifth, 95 per cent; in the sixth, 96 per cent; and in the seventh and eighth, 100 per cent. Local War Finance Committees often found it difficult to gain the full effort of all the people in a community or neighborhood. "In our neighborhood, war bond rallies are called in our schoolhouse," said a Missouri farmer. "The quota is usually over-subscribed. But—while there are around 22 families in our school district, only about four or five come to the rally and buy bonds." This response is said to be typical of many rural neighborhoods.

4. Prewar Agencies with War Programs

Agricultural Extension Service.—With the coming of the war a number of the regular federal and state agencies serving the rural

people of Missouri assumed war activities. The Agricultural Extension Service devoted almost all of its time to work that contributed to winning the war. It carried forward general wartime educational work in agriculture and in home economics. Emphasis was placed on the production, the preservation, and the utilization of food and feed; the maintenance of health and well-being; and the conservation of farm and home supplies and equipment. County extension agents worked in all of the counties of the State. In two counties war food production assistants served in the capacity of county extension agents in 1944. In 1944, 88 counties were served by full-time home demonstration agents or war food preservation assistants. Extension workers enlisted the voluntary assistance of many local leaders. While there was some decline in the total number of office calls made at local extension offices as compared to the number in prewar years, there was an increase in the number of telephone calls made by farmers.

In 1943 an act of Congress made the Extension Service responsible for the wartime farm labor program. Since that time the Extension Service has administered and supervised both the intrastate and interstate aspects of the program which has involved the recruiting and the placing of farm labor, the establishment of farm labor placement centers, and the training of workers.

In 1943 the General Assembly of the State of Missouri passed an amendment to the Missouri County Agent Law. The amendment provides that each county having the services of an extension agent is required to have an incorporated organization of 250 adults interested in agricultural improvement which will be responsible for the local financing and for assisting in planning the supervision of county extension work. The expenses of the county extension office and the travel expenses of agents are paid from sources within the county, largely county court appropriations.

Soil Conservation.—Some of the existing agricultural agencies contributed directly to the war effort by continuing to perform their regular functions still more effectively. Despite shortages of labor and machinery, soil conservation practices were expanded by the Soil Conservation Service during the war. The yearly average number of tons of agricultural limestone applied to Missouri farmland during the war years, 1940 to 1944, was 1,545,909 tons as compared to the yearly average of 354,615 tons for the five-year period, 1935 to 1939, inclusive. During the war years there was also a large increase in the tonnage of commercial fertilizer used on farms. Other soil conservation practices, which have been expanded, include improvement

of pastures, correct rotation of crops, contouring, terracing, grass waterways, and construction of big, deep farm ponds. The Missouri Conservation Commission furnished rotary scrapers for use by farmers in building ponds. The AAA program provides payments for devoting a portion of the farm's cropland to soil-conserving crops or practices. The expansion of a number of the soil conservation practices is shown in Chart 1.

In 1943 the General Assembly passed an enabling act authorizing farmers to organize local soil conservation districts. The districts in Missouri are organized on a county basis. Seventeen local districts had been organized by June 1, 1945. The Missouri Soil Districts Act requires the Extension Service to provide the educational information regarding the soil conservation law and soil conservation districts in the State. In 1944, 51 projects to demonstrate scientific methods of farming and soil conservation were set up in 11 counties by the Extension Service in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service.

Rural Electrification Administration.—The Rural Electrification Administration was established in 1935. At that time only 17,893 farms, or 6.4 per cent of all farms in the State, received central-station electric current. Two years later REA electric-service cooperatives began the distribution of electricity in Missouri. By April 1, 1940, 39,204 farms, or 15.3 per cent of all farms in Missouri, had been electrified with central-station service. By June 30, 1944, the number of electrified farms had increased to 64,700 or 25.3 per cent of the State's total. About 57 per cent of these farms were served by REA which also served 19,000 rural non-farm consumers.

Prior to October 1, 1944, REA had loaned a total of \$19,993,681 to 39 locally-controlled member-owned rural electric cooperatives and to one private utility in Missouri. These borrowers had made payments of \$2,700,402 in principal and interest on their issue. This total included \$598,084 in advance payments made on principal, in excess of the amount due under the borrowers' loan contracts.

The shortage of labor on farms and the higher farm incomes incident to the war greatly increased the demand for electric service. The War Production Board, recognizing the importance of electricity on the farm in the production of war-needed foods, issued special regulations permitting the use of small amounts of scarce materials and manpower for the extension of power lines to qualified farms. Under these regulations, the REA borrowers in Missouri have connected more than 6,000 farms.

Electricity has made it possible for many Missouri farmers to keep their farms in production and even to expand their operations in

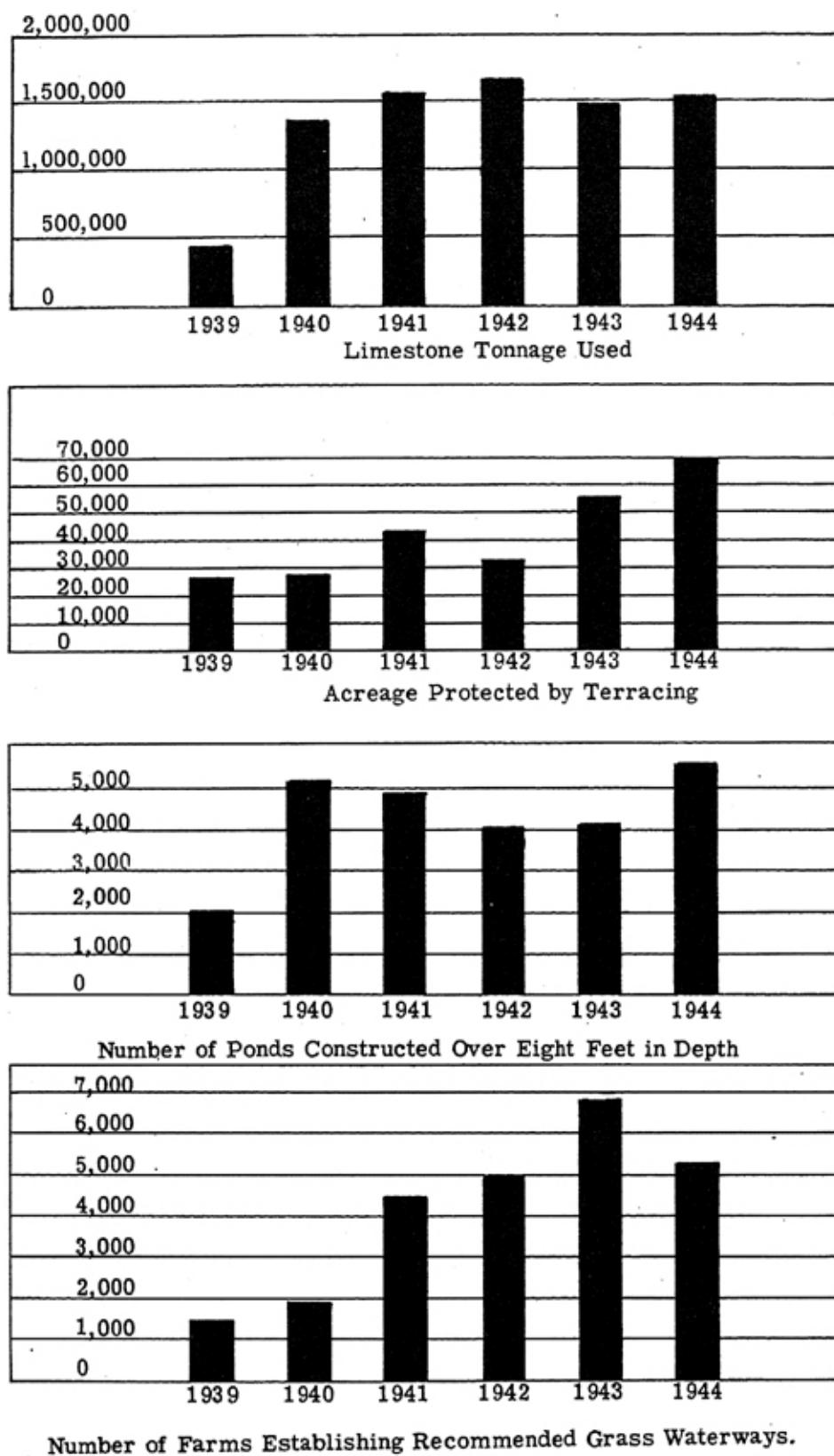


Chart 1.—Spread of Soil Conservation Practices in Missouri, 1939-1944.

a time of labor shortage. A Missouri farmer reports that the electrical equipment that "helped our family most has been our two-unit milking machine. One man with the machine can milk 33 cows in two hours. Milking by hand would take three times as much labor. Last year we sold 240,000 pounds of whole milk."

Farm Security Administration.—In the fall of 1934 federal funds were made available for loans to Missouri farmers who could not obtain credit elsewhere. On September 1, 1937, this service became a function of the Farm Security Administration.

Before the war a major objective of the FSA program had been to encourage client families in production for home use. With the coming of the war the Farm Security Administration assumed responsibility for directing client families in food production for the war effort as well as for home consumption. Performance records for the war years indicate substantial increases in all important food production categories, such as milk, meat, poultry, and feed crops. Since the program was started in 1937, the Administration has loaned \$32,731,263 for equipment and farm supplies to 33,279 Missouri farm families as of March 31, 1945. During this period these families repaid \$23,269,230 in principal and \$3,093,593 in interest. Almost two-thirds of this amount was paid from the time of the American entry into the war up to March 31, 1945. During the period from June 30, 1941 to May 31, 1945, the number of families who had repaid their loans in full, increased from 2,474 to 17,596.

With the enactment of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act in 1937, the tenant purchase program was launched. Loans are made to a limited number of capable farm tenants, sharecroppers, and farm laborers to enable them to buy family-type farms. These loans are repayable over a period of 40 years at 3 per cent interest. From the time of the beginning of the program to March 31, 1945, 1298 Missouri farm families had received farm tenant purchase loans. During the war period 51 of these loans were paid in full. Other types of farm ownership loans were made. Many of these loans were repaid before they fell due.

The G.I. Bill of Rights provides that World War II veterans who were farmers and who cannot finance the purchase of a farm on reasonable terms elsewhere, are eligible for FSA farm purchase loans. However, if veterans are unlikely to succeed without guidance of the type given by FSA, they will get loans even though they might be able to obtain credit from some other agency.

Vocational Agriculture.—The number of high schools in Missouri offering courses in vocational agriculture increased from 180 in 1939

to 218 in 1942. After 1942 a number of schools were forced to give up their vocational agricultural education programs because of their inability to obtain teachers. By the end of 1944 the number of vocational agricultural departments in high schools had decreased to 185. The number of evening classes increased from 74 during the school year of 1939-40 to 149 during the school year of 1942-43 and enrollments from 2,393 to 4,508. During 1943-44, 148 evening classes were conducted with an enrollment of 4,734. Defense courses given by teachers of vocational agriculture numbered 275 in 1940-41 and 379 in 1941-42. Instruction included the operation, repair, and maintenance of trucks, tractors, and automobiles, and metal work which stressed welding, tempering, drilling, shaping, and machinery repair.

The establishment of school-community canneries was an important wartime development in vocational education in rural communities. This new type of educational service was introduced during the summer of 1943. The community canning program was sponsored by the local school district and was supervised by the teachers of vocational agriculture and vocational home economics. By 1944, 128 canning centers had been established. During 1943 and 1944 these centers preserved nearly 5,000,000 pint-equivalents of food.

State Board of Health.—During the war the State Board of Health had to meet many new problems. When the construction of army posts was underway, the Board set up and operated immunization clinics for smallpox and typhoid fever and successfully prevented an outbreak of these diseases among construction workers.

At the beginning of the war there were eight full-time county health units in operation.⁵ Conditions in defense areas made the establishment of new county health units necessary. In 1941 new units were set up in Laclede, Phelps, Platte, Pulaski, and Texas counties. With the exception of Platte county, all of the new units were located in the Fort Leonard Wood area. The building of Camp Crowder resulted in the establishment of a new unit in Newton county in 1942 and following the location of an air base and training school at Knobnoster, a new unit was set up in Johnson county in 1943, making a total of 15 full-time county health units in the State. For the first time in the history of the State Board of Health a number of other counties were ready to establish their own full-time health departments but found it impossible to do so on account of the shortage of personnel.

State Social Security Commission.—Wartime conditions greatly

5. Counties with full-time health units were Cass, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Marion, Miller, Pemiscot, and St. Louis.

affected the social security program in Missouri. Following a steady increase in the number of recipients of old-age assistance prior to the American entry into the war, the number gradually decreased from approximately 116,700 in December, 1941 to 102,100 in December, 1944, or 12.5 per cent. This decrease occurred despite the fact that the number of persons 65 years or older was increasing. The number of families receiving aid to dependent children dropped from a peak of approximately 14,450 in November, 1941, to 10,768 in October, 1944. A sharp decline occurred in the number of general relief cases. In January, 1940, there were 36,404 cases, consisting of families and single persons, receiving general relief and by January, 1944, this number had decreased to 6,619. During 1944 the number of cases increased to 8,451. Almost 90 per cent of the case load consisted of persons who were unable to find or hold jobs because of physical handicaps or mental defects.

From the time the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 went into operation there was an increasing desire by the Selective Service System for more social and background information with respect to the registrants. This was needed to avoid the unfortunate experience and expense involved in the induction of men who could not make a satisfactory adjustment to military life. Beginning in 1941, the State Social Security Commission began to provide this information and during subsequent war years this service was greatly expanded.

The American National Red Cross.—During the war there was an unprecedented expansion of Red Cross activity in Missouri. The adult state membership increased from 142,070 in 1939 to 665,110 in 1943.⁶ Junior Red Cross membership increased from 164,933 in 1939 to 519,107 in 1943. Thousands of volunteer workers rolled bandages, knitted sweaters, and made up soldiers' kits. County quotas in drives for funds were oversubscribed.

In the period, 1933-1940, the Red Cross Chapters in Missouri issued 30,744 certificates for the successful completion of training courses in First Aid, or an average of 4,392 certificates a year. For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1941, 12,868 First Aid certificates were issued, while during the year of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor the number leaped to 76,895. During the three years 1943-45 the number fell to 61,850, 13,844, and 8,759, respectively. The number of certificates issued in Home Nursing increased from 1,125 in 1941 to 4,764 in 1942, and to 16,793 in 1943.

6. During the war period the Red Cross combined its annual roll calls with the war fund campaigns, with the provision that each individual contributor of one dollar or more would become a member of the organization.

The Red Cross Chapters throughout rural Missouri carried on the Home Service program which served as a link between the man or woman in the Armed Forces and his or her family at home. Through the local chapter a family could get in touch within a few hours with a member in the Armed Forces far away from home. The local chapters also furnished reports needed by commanding officers to decide questions of furloughs, discharges, and agricultural releases from military service.

5. War News Reaches Rural Missouri

Rural people followed the war news on the radio and in daily newspapers. In 1940, 60.5 per cent of the rural-farm and 76.8 per cent of the rural-nonfarm homes in the State had radios. Farmers are unanimous in saying that they have listened more to news broadcasts on the radio during the war than ever before. One farmer added that "many farmers have bought radios to hear the war news. Before the war some didn't have the money to buy them."⁷ Another reported that "farmers who feel that they may not be able to replace batteries, listen only to war news."⁸ There have been many complicating factors affecting the circulation of daily newspapers among rural people. Gasoline and tire rationing greatly curtailed the activity of newspaper salesmen in rural areas. Another important restrictive factor has been wartime limitation of the supply of newsprint. For this reason some dailies have been unable to accept new mail subscriptions from rural route residents. One daily reported an increase of 5 per cent in its mail circulation during the period from 1939 to 1945. The increase was attributed "to reader-interest brought on by war conditions, and also, that the farmer has more money and is more readily sold on the idea of taking a daily paper."

The country weeklies explained and helped to promote the various war programs and campaigns in the rural communities. They also furnished the men in the armed forces with news of what was happening to the people in the local community and with news of their friends who had gone into the Service, a contribution which helped to strengthen the morale of the men in training camps and on battle fronts.

War news also reached rural Missouri through letters from servicemen. Many of these letters were published in the country weeklies. The correspondence between the servicemen and his family, his relatives, and his friends was a vital factor in the building of

7. Statement made in interview with writer, September 8, 1944.

8. Ibid, September 15, 1944.

morale among both the members of the Armed Forces and the people on the home front.

III. CHANGES RESULTING FROM THE WAR

1. Changes in Population

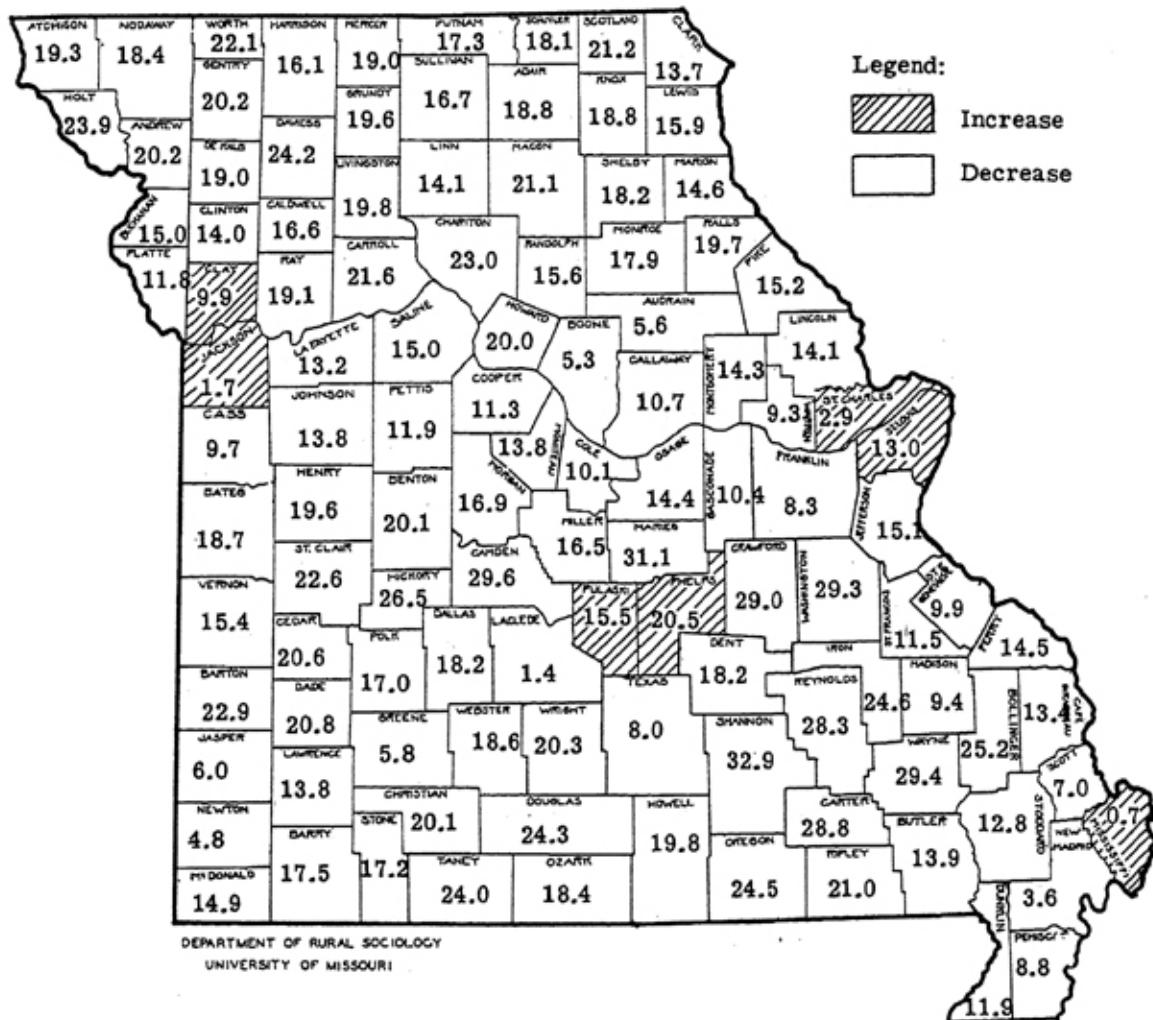
The best available estimates of population changes in Missouri since 1940 are obtained from the Bureau of the Census, and are based on the number of sugar and food ration books issued on November 1, 1943. These estimates show that, on that date, the civilian population of Missouri was 3,524,790 as compared to a population of 3,783,666 on April 1, 1940. This change in the total civilian population represented a loss of 258,876, or a percentage decrease of 6.8.

An examination of the population estimates for November 1, 1943, shows that following 1940 people migrated chiefly from the interior of the United States to the coastal states, and especially to the states on the Pacific coast. The states of California and Washington experienced large numerical gains in population. In all of the eight states adjoining Missouri the civilian population decreased. In five, the percent of decrease was greater than that of Missouri, while in three it was smaller. The heaviest losses to the civilian population occurred in North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, and Oklahoma.

Map 1 shows the population changes by counties in Missouri for the period from April 1, 1940 to November 1, 1943. Only seven counties and the city of St. Louis gained in civilian population. These seven counties were Clay, Jackson, St. Louis, St. Charles, Phelps, Pulaski, and Mississippi. Four of these counties were large centers of war industry. In two counties—Phelps and Pulaski—the increase in civilian population was due to the employment and business opportunities created by the building of Fort Leonard Wood. Mississippi county, which had only a small gain in population, is located in an expanding cotton area in which the population has been increasing rapidly for more than 20 years.

In 107 counties the civilian population declined. Of these 107 counties, 32 lost more than 20 per cent of their civilian population; in 61 counties the losses ranged from 10 to 20 per cent. The heaviest losses to the civilian population occurred in the strictly rural counties.

In Missouri the estimated net loss through civilian migration during the three and one-half years between April 1, 1940 and November 1, 1943 was 116,916. This figure is obtained by adding the natural increase to the 1940 civilian population and subtracting the net loss to the Armed Forces. These figures are given below in Table 4. Since the resulting figure is larger than the 1943 civilian population



Map 1.—Estimated Per Cent Change in Civilian Population for Missouri Counties April 1, 1940 to November 1, 1943.

TABLE 4. - ESTIMATE OF NET CIVILIAN MIGRATION IN MISSOURI,
 APRIL 1, 1940 - NOVEMBER 1, 1943

Civilian Population Apr. 1, 1940	Natural Increase Apr. 1, 1940 to Nov. 1, 1943	Net Loss to Armed Forces	Estimated ^a Civilian Population Nov. 1, 1943	Net Loss Through Civilian Migration
3,783,760	112,101	256,836	3,522,109	116,916

a. Assuming no migration.

as estimated by the number of ration book registrations on November 1, 1943, it is assumed that the out-migration amounted to the difference.

In part, the explanation for wartime changes in the population is

found in the population trends of the period just preceding the war. The proportion of the total population of the State which is rural has decreased steadily for more than a century, although the rural population increased in numbers until 1900. In the period, 1900-1930, the rural population, in spite of the relatively high birth rate, also declined in numbers. During this period there was a heavy migration from the rural areas to the cities which offered employment opportunities. The depression period, beginning in 1929, however, reversed the trend. The last two federal censuses have divided the rural population into the rural-farm and the rural-nonfarm population.⁹ During the ten-year period, 1920-1930, the rural-farm population declined 8.2 per cent, but the rural-nonfarm population increased 8.5 per cent. During the 1930's the latter continued to grow while the former also had a small gain. Part of the increase in the rural-nonfarm population in the period 1920 to 1930 was the result of an increase in the population of the smaller suburban places, but during the depression years many unemployed and underemployed people moved from cities to the smaller towns and to the open country in the more rural areas. However, the increase in the rural population during the depression years was not evenly distributed over the rural areas of the State. The counties that increased in rural population were located chiefly in the southern half of the State in which commercial agriculture is not as highly developed as in the northern part of the State. The rural population of the northern half of the State continued to decline. In 1940 the rural-farm population included about 90,000 more persons than would have been there had migration from rural to urban areas continued at the same rate as during the 1920's.

In Missouri as in the United States, World War II had a marked effect on the marriage and the birth rates. During the late 1920's and the early 1930's the birth rate, i.e., the total number of births per 1000 estimated population, showed a steady decline in Missouri, reaching its lowest point in 1936. The birth rate in that year was 15.0. A gradual upward trend which began in 1937 was greatly accelerated with the beginning of World War II in 1939. From 1939 to 1943 the birth rate increased from 15.6 to 20.1. The latter is the highest since the official registration of births began in Missouri in 1927. By 1944 the birth rate had again started to decline. The trend of the birth rate in Missouri for the period, 1930-1943, is summarized in Table 5.

9. The rural-farm population includes all persons living on farms in rural areas, without regard to occupation. The rural-nonfarm population is composed of all persons living in villages of less than 2,500 and other open country persons not living on farms.

TABLE 5. - NUMBER OF BIRTHS PER 1,000 PERSONS IN MISSOURI,
1930 - 1943

Year	No. of Births	Rate	Year	No. of Births	Rate
1930	62,166	17.1	1937	56,951	15.2
1931	60,734	16.5	1938	58,567	15.7
1932	59,949	16.2	1939	58,876	15.6
1933	57,277	15.4	1940	61,479	16.2
1934	59,185	15.9	1941	65,218	17.1
1935	57,299	15.4	1942	70,711	18.6
1936	55,916	15.0	1943	74,820	20.1

Incomplete data indicate that the wartime rise in marriages reached its highest point in the State in 1942, and that by 1943 the trend was downward. Two new marriage laws passed by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri in 1943 probably contributed to a sharp decline in the number of recorded marriages for the State in 1944. The first of these laws requires a three-day waiting period between the time of the application for license and the actual issuance of the marriage license. The other law requires the persons who apply for a marriage license to furnish a report showing a negative serological test for syphilis. This law became effective on January 1, 1944. Both laws have resulted in many Missouri residents going to neighboring states to be married. For example, the marriage rate for Kansas City, Kansas, increased 141 per cent during the first eight months of 1944. The steady increase in the number of men overseas was another factor in the decline of the marriage rate. With the return of men from overseas another temporary increase in the marriage and birth rates is to be expected.

The general death rate, i.e., the number of deaths per year per 1,000 estimated population for the State, continued through the war years virtually without change.

2. Farm Labor in Wartime

The index of farm labor supply declined approximately 59 per cent in Missouri from 1939 to 1945. Along with a sharp drop in the number of hired workers, there was a relative increase in the number of family workers. To replace the losses of adult male farm workers it became necessary for many women, older men, boys, and girls to enter the farm labor force. In Dade county a farmer's 13-year old son operated the tractor, his 15-year old daughter operated the binder, and his wife and another daughter shocked the oats crops, while the farmer himself combined the wheat. When a farmer in Miller county harvested his wheat crop in 1945, his 9-year old son drove the tractor,

his wife handled the binder, and he did the shocking. These examples are typical of what happened on many farms throughout the State.

During the harvest seasons in various parts of Missouri there were heavy demands for seasonal labor. In southeast Missouri there was an annual demand for about 10,000 additional workers to chop cotton and for 40,000 additional workers to pick cotton. Average wage rates for picking 100 pounds of seed cotton increased from \$0.75 in 1939 to \$2.40 in 1944. After the cotton crop in southeast Missouri was harvested in 1943, 1,091 farm workers were recruited and transported by train to Arizona to help with the cotton picking there. In 1944, Missouri furnished 498 workers for the same purpose.

Ordinarily, when the corn harvest comes to northwest Missouri, the additional help of about 1000 workers is necessary to do the shucking. In 1944, 1800 new mechanical corn pickers did much to relieve the labor shortage in that area. A two-row corn picker with a crew of 4 men harvested an average of 1000 bushels of corn per day. A total of 3600 mechanical corn pickers were used on Missouri farms in the fall of 1944. During this season about 300 farm laborers, recruited in south Missouri, shucked corn by hand in north Missouri at 10¢ per bushel plus room and board.

The farmers in the Platte county tobacco area needed additional help to house and strip the tobacco crop. In 1944 the tobacco growers of this area agreed to pay \$6.00 per day, plus room and board in farm homes for this type of seasonal work. Recruitment was easy on account of the wage offered. Some 150 small farmers from the Ozarks housed and stripped tobacco for a period of about 10 days. The growing of hybrid seed corn in the counties along the Missouri river in west central Missouri requires additional labor when the corn is detasseled. To do this work in 1944 prisoners of war were used in addition to local recruitment in the area where the corn was growing. Prisoners of war were also used to pick potatoes in the potato growing area of Clay and Ray counties.

The recruitment of full-time and seasonal laborers to supply the needs of Missouri farmers was the responsibility of the Farm Security Administration until the spring of 1943 when it was transferred to the Agricultural Extension Service. The county extension office now serves as a recruitment and placement center where prospective workers fill out blanks giving complete information about themselves and their farm experience. Counties requiring additional workers request assistance through the state office. Counties having a surplus of workers list them with the state office which then proceeds to place them where they are needed. Most of the requests for year-round

farm labor have come from north Missouri, while the supply has been found chiefly in Ozark counties. In 1944 farmers of the State placed a total of 14,943 orders which originated in 99 counties. One or more workers were placed with 7,806 different farmers. The total number of farm labor placements made in 1944 was 21,024. Of these, 2,407 were for year-round work, 6,441 for 1 to 5 months, 5,800 for 4 days up to one month, and 8,626 for 1 to 3 days. There was also a considerable movement of farm laborers on their own initiative to farms needing them.

In 1944 a systematic effort was made by the Agricultural Extension Service to train and place urban youth on farms to help relieve the farm labor shortage. This program resulted in 251 urban youths working on farms during the summer. The boys spent their vacation period doing chores and field work; girls helped with the housework.

Many Missouri farmers reported an increase in neighbor cooperation. A farmer in south Missouri reported in September, 1944, "The shortage of farm hands has resulted in a large increase in swapping work among farmers. The other day a man told me that he still owed work to 21 farmers." Small farmers often exchanged hand labor for machinery services.

Business and professional men in small towns helped farmers to harvest their crops. In 1943, 261 men and boys from towns in Cass county assisted farmers during harvest time, shocking approximately 1,500 acres of small grain, flax, and sorghum. They went out in small groups after business hours and worked until dark. Farmers paid these workers by the hour, also paying for their transportation. Many of the volunteer workers had had farm experience. Inexperienced volunteers were paired with men who knew how to do the task. During the same season volunteer workers from towns in Livingston county made 699 man-trips to farms to assist with farm work. In Macon county a farmer phoned the county extension office to say that without help he could not shock his 15 acres of oats before night. At five o'clock that afternoon, 6 business men from Macon went to his farm and in three hours finished shocking the oats. It rained that night and also on the ten successive days. Similar cooperation between town and country was reported in at least a score of other counties during the same year, 1943. During the last years of the war it became less prevalent.

Farm wage rates in Missouri fell sharply from 1920 to 1933. Beginning in 1935 the wage rate began a slow but steady increase which continued through 1940. During these years the monthly wage with board increased from a yearly average of about \$17.80 to \$23.10.

With the onset of the war higher farm prices and greater production enabled farmers to pay higher wages for farm labor. In Missouri the wage of the hired farm laborer with board was reported at \$63.00 per month on April 1, 1945, compared to \$22.75 in April, 1940. The monthly wage without board was \$82.00 on April 1, 1945, compared to \$31.50 in April, 1940. During the same period the daily wage with board increased from \$1.10 to \$3.10, while the daily wage without board increased from \$1.40 to \$3.80.

3. Changes in Transportation

In 1940 there were 162,640 automobiles on Missouri farms, or one automobile per 7.3 persons in the farm population. Of these, 42.5 per cent were models of 1930 or earlier. In addition to passenger automobiles there were 29,845 trucks on farms in 1940.

No data are available with respect to the number of automobiles on farms during the war years. Data concerning the number of automobiles and trucks registered in the State are available by counties, however. According to these data the total number of motor vehicles in the strictly rural counties declined 18.8 per cent from 1941 to 1944, while the number in the counties containing cities, i.e., incorporated places of 2,500 or more, decreased 16.7 per cent.

During the years, 1936-1941, traffic on Missouri highways steadily increased. The war brought an abrupt change in this trend. Chart 2

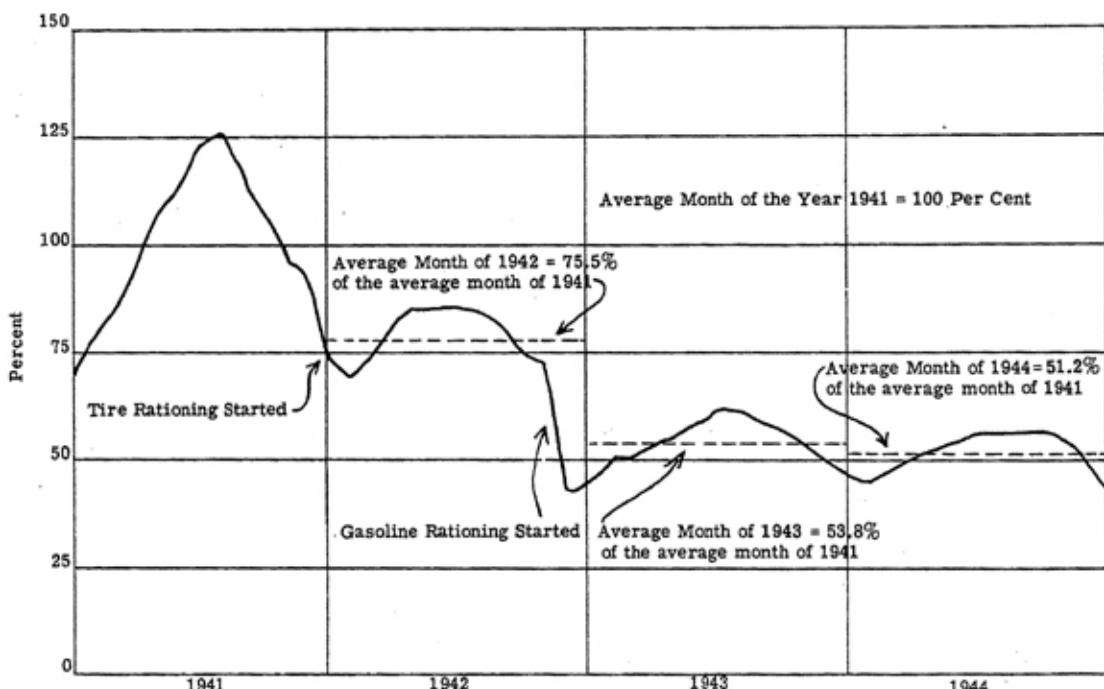


Chart 2.—Monthly Variation of Traffic on the Rural State Highway System Shown as a Percent of the Average Month of the Year 1941.

shows the monthly variation of traffic on the rural state highway system during the years from 1941 to 1944, inclusive, as a per cent of the average month of 1941. In 1942 automobile passenger car traffic was reduced to 75 per cent of the average for 1941. This decline was due to tire rationing and voluntary curtailment of gasoline consumption up to December 1, 1942, when gasoline rationing began. In 1943 automobile passenger car traffic fell to 54 per cent of the average for 1941. In 1944 only a small decline occurred as compared to 1943. It is, however, significant to note that in 1944 traffic was only slightly more than one-half of what it had been in 1941.¹⁰

The rationing of tires and gasoline greatly reduced the number of long trips, but it had less effect on short trips. In 1943 passenger car traffic on the supplementary or popularly termed "farm-to-market road system" declined only to 66 per cent of what it had been in 1941. The use of small trucks declined even less. In 1943 the mileage of trucks of $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons and under on "farm-to-market roads" was 75 per cent of what it had been in 1941.

During the war new highway construction was virtually limited to the building of access roads to army camps and war plants. Although the use of the highways by private passenger automobiles declined, the roads were subjected to heavy use by large army and commercial trucks and busses. As a result, the need for highway repair increased steadily.

4. Effects of the War on Rural Education

Few rural institutions have been affected by the war as much as the rural elementary school. Although the rural school population has been declining for a number of years, this decline was greatly accelerated by the heavy migration of rural people to urban centers during the present war. The number of school children enumerated in the rural districts decreased from 268,482 in 1939-40 to 240,385 in 1943-44, or a decrease of 10.4 per cent. During the same period the average daily attendance in rural elementary schools declined from 144,885 to 109,049, a decline of 24.7 per cent.

The acceleration of general trends has directed attention to the problem of "the low-attendance school", i.e., the rural elementary school with an average daily attendance of less than 15. From 1939-40 to 1942-43 the number of low-attendance schools increased from 3,901 to 5,184. As there were 7,824 rural school districts in the State, this means that during the school year of 1942-43 about two out of every three rural elementary schools had an average daily attendance of

10. Data concerning the effect of the war on traffic on Missouri highways was supplied by the Missouri State Highway Department, Jefferson City, Missouri.

less than 15. Often there are only one, two, or three pupils in a grade in the low-attendance school. As in other one-room rural schools, 20 or more class recitations are crowded into the teacher's day. Almost all of the one-room rural schools in the State today, but especially the low-attendance schools, fail to give their children the benefits of contacts with a considerable number of other children of their age. Also, the per pupil cost of operation of the low-attendance schools is high.

As a result of a war scarcity of teachers, many of the rural districts have closed their schoolhouses. In 1944-45 there were 1,677 districts in which rural schoolhouses were closed. Fifteen of these districts had no pupils; the others transported their pupils elsewhere, usually to schools in town. In many cases it has resulted in better educational opportunities for the children, since the larger groups have made for greater interest and more effective teaching.

Rural schools felt the impact of the war in many other ways. A large number of male teachers went into the Armed Forces. Women teachers joined various branches of the service for women. Many others, both men and women, left the schools for better paid jobs in war industries. The number of male teachers in rural elementary schools fell from 1,816 in the school year of 1940-41 to 584 in the school year of 1943-44, a decline of 67 per cent. School leaders in the State regard the decline in the number of male teachers as a serious loss to rural education.

During the war a loss in the preparation and professional status of teachers in the rural elementary schools of Missouri also occurred. The number of teachers that had no training beyond the high school increased from 317 in 1939 to 1,093 in 1944. In addition, there was a numerical and relative decrease in the number of teachers that had more than 30 hours of college credit. The county teaching certificate represents the lowest level of professional status among rural teachers. During the war the per cent of teachers holding county certificates increased from 59 to 69.

From 1900 to 1930 the number of public high schools in Missouri multiplied rapidly. In 1930 there were 1,015, but during that decade the number decreased somewhat. During the war this trend was accelerated. Over 100 small high schools closed. All of these were located in villages of less than 400 population. In spite of this loss, however, 457 high schools that enrolled less than 100 students still remained. These schools present one of the most important problems in rural education since it is extremely difficult for the small high school to provide a modern educational program.

Another reversal of a significant prewar trend was that of high school attendance by farm boys and girls. Between 1930 and 1941 the non-resident high school enrollment increased 213 per cent. In 1942 the enrollment began to decline and by the school year of 1943-44 the loss amounted to 14.4 per cent. It is probable that this is only a temporary change, however. After the war, high school attendance by farm boys and girls will likely increase, and the sharp decline that has occurred in the number of rural high school graduates entering college will be replaced by an upward trend.

5. Effects of the War on the Rural Church

It appears that during the period 1920-1940 churches in the larger rural centers were gaining or holding their own as against a decided loss in membership and effectiveness of the churches in the smaller centers and in the open country. Figures obtained from a few denominations show that the membership of rural churches in Missouri declined somewhat after the beginning of the war. In 1944 one denomination reported a "decrease of approximately 3 to 5 per cent depending upon the location of the rural area." The annual reports of one of the leading denominations in the State show a gain in membership for the State as a whole, but the few county reports available for this church show a loss in membership in rural counties. The greatest losses occurred in Sunday School attendance. Still another large denomination reported a decrease in attendance at rural churches, but attributed this loss entirely to wartime population shifts.

One of the most evident effects of the war on rural churches was the increase in contributions to church support. This was probably a reflection of the increased prosperity of the war years. Rural church programs and activities remained about the same in nature and extent, with the exception that many of the young people's organizations existing prior to World War II were discontinued. A rural minister, who was questioned in 1944 with regard to the effect of the war on formal church organizations and activities, made this typical reply: "Our church organizations are the same as before the war, except that our Young People's Society was discontinued because so many of the young men are in the Service and many of the young women are working in war plants."

6. Effects of the War on Farm Organizations in Missouri

The two largest farmers' organizations in the State today are the Missouri Farmers' Association and the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. In 1923 the total membership of the Missouri Farmers' Association was 42,013. The years, 1924-1932, showed a steady de-

cline in membership, reaching a low point in 1932. The number of members in that year was 15,136. From 1933 to 1940 there was a general upward trend which was greatly accelerated during the war. From 1940 to 1945 the membership increased from 31,911 to 95,354. With regard to the trends in membership it is important to note changes in the payment of annual dues. Up to 1932 each member paid annual dues of \$2.50. From 1932 to 1940, inclusive, the membership fee was one dollar. Since 1940 the membership fee of one dollar can be paid voluntarily or it may be earned by trading at local marketing and purchasing cooperatives.

In 1944 the Missouri Farmers' Association operated 257 local exchanges and elevators, 5 central produce plants, 5 creameries and whole milk plants, 4 feed mills, an oil company, an insurance department, and a number of other cooperatives. As a result of increased farm production and higher farm prices during the war, the dollar volume of business done by the cooperatives of the Missouri Farmers' Association increased from \$49,087,000 in 1939 to \$142,678,000 in 1944, while net savings increased from \$836,053 to \$3,926,458.

The membership of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation has been greatly influenced by the prosperity and hard times of farmers. During and immediately after World War I the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation grew rapidly. From 1921 to 1933 the membership fell from 15,243 to 2,696. From 1934 to 1941 the organization slowly regained its strength, and beginning in 1942 it rose rapidly to the greatest strength in its history, having 25,164 members on November 30, 1945.¹¹ Annual dues vary some from county to county. Prior to November 30, 1945, the usual dues were five dollars per member family.

During the war the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation pushed the improvement of rural health. Group hospital service, as a Farm Bureau membership service, grew steadily since it was started in 1939 until in 1944 it was operating in 46 counties with a total of 15,042 persons enrolled. In 1945 the General Assembly of the State of Missouri passed a bill, sponsored by the Farm Bureau Federation, which enables a county or a number of counties to build, maintain, manage, and operate a public county health center. Such a health center is to cooperate with state and federal health authorities in the furtherance of all health activities.

7. Effect of the War on Farm Income

After almost two decades of low farm prices, the heavy demand for farm products during World War II brought relative prosperity

11. The membership figures were obtained from the State office of the Farm Bureau Federation at Jefferson City, Missouri.

to the farmers. The index of prices received by farmers rose from 95 in 1939 to 193 in 1944, while the index of prices paid by farmers rose from 124 to 170. The increased agricultural output per acre and per worker and favorable weather conditions also contributed to the greater income of farmers during this period.

The average value of products sold, traded or used per farm in Missouri increased from \$1,048 in 1939 to \$2,264 in 1943. During these four years the per capita cash income on Missouri farms increased from \$227 to \$655. The higher agricultural income was accompanied by a large increase in the demand deposits of country banks. The total demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations of the state banks in the outstate area of Missouri¹² increased from \$148,648,931 on June 30, 1941, to \$419,052,659 on December 30, 1944. The amount of war bonds purchased by individuals, partnerships, and corporations in the outstate area by December 31, 1944, was almost equal to the amount of demand deposits in the banks at that time. If the deposits in banks and investments in war bonds are not unwisely spent, they should go far toward making farm homes more attractive and toward re-equipping farms with machinery and buildings not available for replacement during the war period.

IV. SUMMARY AND POSTWAR OUTLOOK

1. Effects of War Not Disruptive of Rural Life

The preceding summarization of some of the effects of the war upon rural Missouri, brief though it is, suggest certain tentative conclusions. These conclusions appear to be in harmony with those resulting from other similar studies elsewhere.

1. The response of the rural population to the requirements of national defense was wholly satisfying and in complete accord with the traditional patriotism of the farm people of the United States. The alacrity and success with which farmers shifted and directed their efforts to meet the demands of wartime production amply demonstrated their adaptability and the flexibility of American rural economic and social organization.
2. The exceptionally heavy losses of population through entrance into the armed forces and migration to war industries stands as one of the most significant effects of the war upon rural Missouri.
3. A significant effect of the war has been the marked increase in rural community contacts with the outside world, both at home

12. The outstate area includes all the banks of the State, except those located in St. Louis, Kansas City, and St. Joseph.

and abroad. The abundant news, by press and radio, covering significant war events throughout the world—events that involved local boys—kept rural people news conscious. Furthermore, wartime government agencies settled their controls upon the rural communities and regulated daily affairs in such a way that rural people could scarcely fail to be impressed by their close relation to the national whole.

4. An outstanding effect of the war was the increased prosperity it brought to rural Missouri. Debts were paid, inventories were improved and, with opportunities for spending curtailed, some money accumulated. The scarcity of consumption goods prevented much improvement in mode of living. Indeed, housing, farm buildings, conveniences and much equipment tended to deteriorate for lack of replacements.
5. On the whole, rural life was not seriously disrupted by the war. There were fewer people on farms and they worked harder. Rural organizations did not appear to suffer. There seems to have been some increase in local cooperative effort, chiefly by way of mutual aid. No social or cultural upheaval occurred. Rural Missouri "took the war in stride", so to speak. Perhaps the most profound effects have been registered in terms of changes in attitudes, outlook and habits of thinking. If so, more time will be required to observe accurately the nature of these changes.

2. Some Pressing Postwar Problems¹³

a. *Better Adaptation of the People to the Agricultural Resources of the State*

Since pioneer days when the settlers practiced traditional folk methods of farming, a gradual change toward more rational systems and practices has been occurring. The trend from production for use to exploitation for the market represented a profound change for most of the farmers of the State. It has brought sweeping changes in the thinking and in the habits and practices of many. The commercial farmer has become aware that he is not merely a local business man but a competitor in a national and international system of food and fibre production. Such a situation demands that he carefully consider not only the economic soundness of his farming system and practices but also the quality and permanence of his basic agricultural resources.

From this point of view, traditional farming methods must be regarded as frequently uneconomic and flagrantly wasteful of soil

13. No attempt is made herein to present a comprehensive treatment of postwar problems confronting the people of rural Missouri. For more complete discussion of these problems see *Postwar Adjustment Problems in Missouri Agriculture*. University of Missouri, College of Agriculture, 1944.

resources. Food is essential to life. Food production is still the greatest industry of man. To be great, and remain so, a nation must look to the permanence of its food supply. Numerous surveys have indicated the serious condition of much of the soil of the State of Missouri and the need for a more balanced system of agriculture thereon. Probably no greater problem confronts the farmers of Missouri than that of building a more conservative, and therefore, a more permanent, system of agriculture thereby demonstrating the ability of the farm people of the State to live permanently and happily upon the land. Considerable progress has been made in this direction during recent years. However, the recent demands for food and fibre have brought some relaxing of conservation efforts during the war. It is hoped that this condition will not have to be long continued.

The problem of soil conservation is now essentially one of education and organization. Enough technical information is now available to proceed with confidence. Technically, soil conservation is both possible and feasible. The chief problem consists of changing the attitudes and habits of farmers; of convincing them of the need for conservation and assisting them in effecting the farm and community organization necessary to bring it about. With proper effort gradual improvement may be expected.

b. Rural Health Improvement

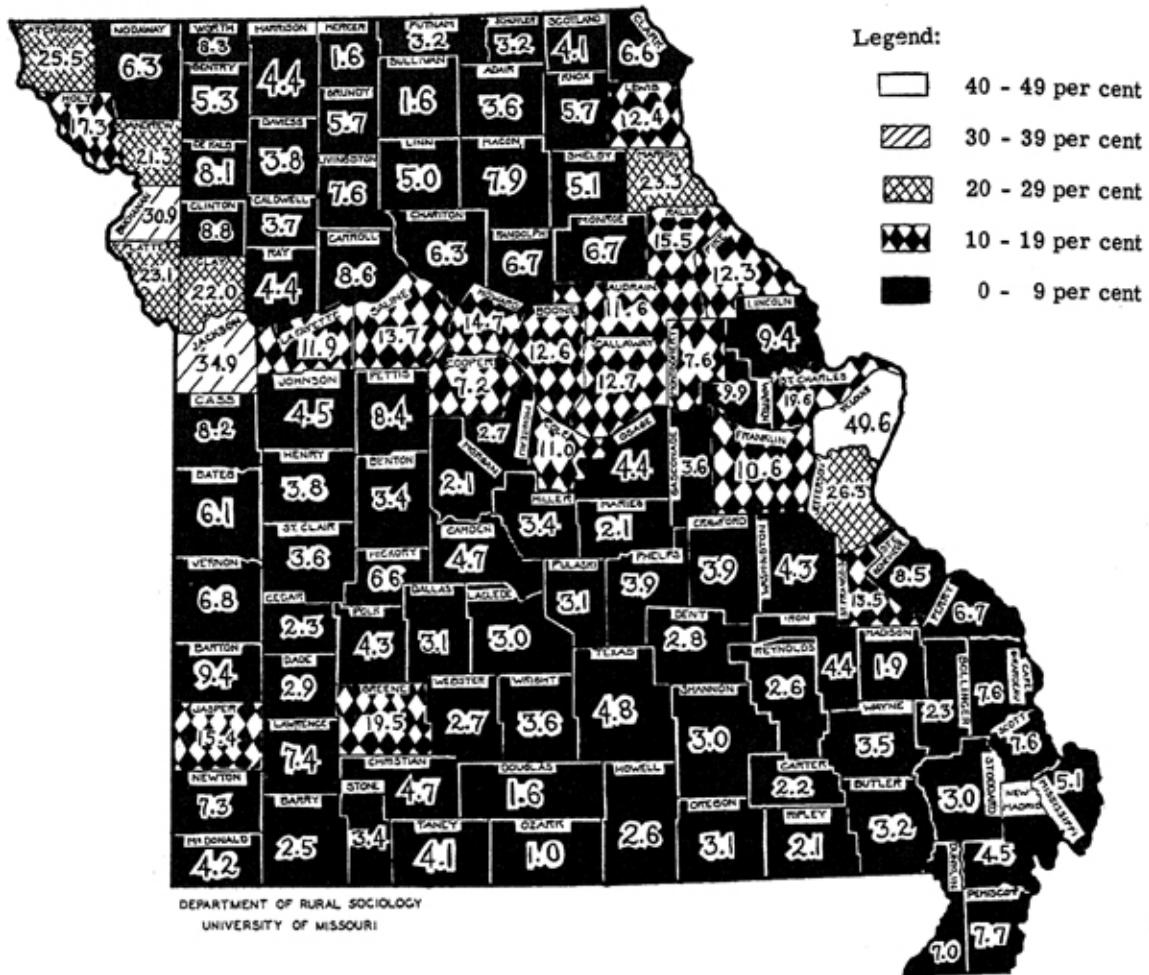
Since the people are the State's most precious resource, their health is a matter of primary concern. Studies in rural health has revealed that the people of rural Missouri are suffering from a large amount of chronic illness, and that adequate medical and hospital facilities are lacking. Long before World War II, a scarcity of physicians prevailed in rural areas. Although the war further decreased the number of doctors of medicine, nurses, and other personnel providing rural health services, it also brought a greater recognition of the need for more adequate health services in rural areas. A program for better rural health should be furthered by all groups interested in the conservation and efficiency of the people of the State.¹⁴

c. Farm Home Improvement

Housing.—During the years, 1921-1945, the deterioration of Missouri farm homes progressed rapidly. For almost 20 years following the deflation of farm values in the depression of 1921-1922, the ~~elementary school attendance area should be large enough to make~~

14. This important subject is not further developed here because a number of reports and bulletins relating to problems of rural health have been prepared by the Department of Rural Sociology in the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri. A number of these studies are available to the public, and others are in preparation.

economic condition of the farmer was such as to permit only minimum improvement of housing conditions. In 1940, 36 per cent of the rural-farm dwellings were badly in need of repair. When farm income increased during World War II, little could be done to improve farm housing due to the scarcity of country carpenters and the restrictions on materials.



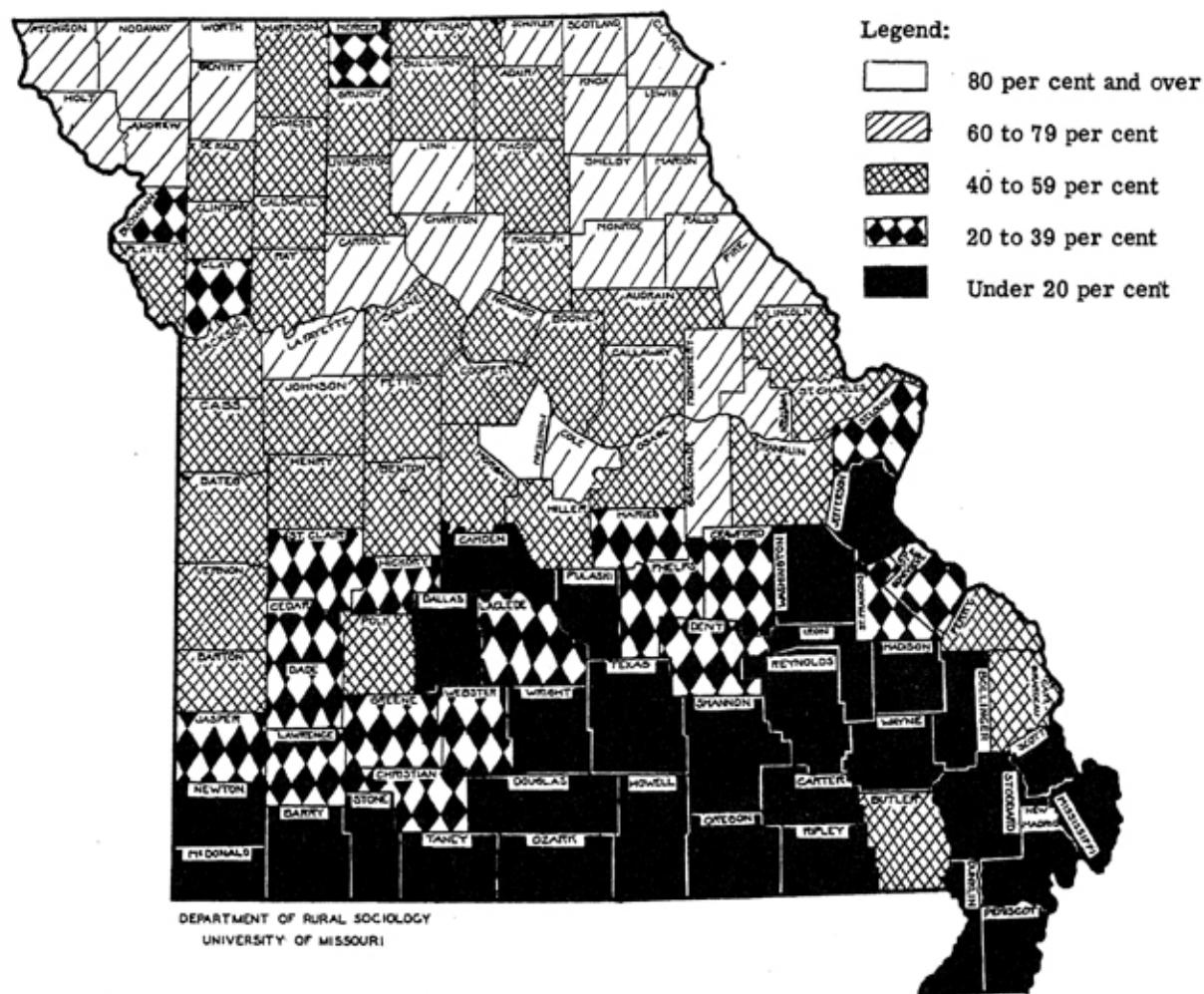
Map 2.—Percentage of Farm Homes with Mechanical Refrigeration by Counties in Missouri, 1940.

The Census of 1940 showed that modern conveniences which lighten the drudgery of housework and add to the comforts of the whole family were entirely too scarce. About 94 per cent of the farms reported no running water in the home. In fact more than 25,000 farm wives had no water supply within 50 feet of the house. Less than 9 per cent of the rural-farm houses had mechanical refrigeration. Less than 5 per cent of the rural-farm homes had flush toilets. Seven per cent of the rural-farm homes had no toilet facilities whatever. Ninety-five per cent of the occupied rural-farm dwellings were

without central heating systems. Ninety-five per cent of the rural-farm houses had no bathtubs or shower. The percentage of farm homes with mechanical refrigeration for each county in Missouri is shown in Map 2. It appears that the percentage of farm homes with mechanical refrigeration bears some relation to size of nearby urban centers.

Because of wartime conditions, the rural-farm housing situation has changed little since 1940. However, with the end of hostilities, the outlook for the repair and modernization of farm homes has improved in view of the rapid liquidation of farm indebtedness and the large accumulation of demand deposits in country banks. Much, however, depends upon the attitude of farmers towards good housing. Demonstrations of good housing is one of the best means of raising the standard of housing.

Telephones.—Good telephone service is of considerable importance to the welfare of farm families in Missouri. Farm families need good



Map 3.—Percentage of Missouri Farms with Telephones by Counties, 1940.

telephone service for business and social purposes, and for health and safety in times of illness, accident, or fire. While there has been a rapid increase in the number of telephone installations in cities, the number of telephones on farms has declined since 1920, when 163,543 farms, or 62 per cent of all farms in the State, reported telephones. By 1930 the number had declined to 137,712, or 54 per cent and by 1940 it had decreased to 99,799, or 39 per cent. During the decade, 1930-1940, the number of telephones on farms declined in every county of the State, except one.¹⁵ The greatest percentage losses in number of telephones on farms occurred in the counties in the western half of the State. In 21 counties in this part of the State telephones were discontinued in one-fifth to two-fifths of the farm homes. The failure to provide satisfactory telephone service led many farm families to discontinue the service. Map 3 shows the percentage of farms with telephones, by counties, in 1940. In general the highest percentage of telephones on farms was found in northeast and extreme northwest counties of the State, while the fewest installations were found in the southern part of the State.

Rural Electrification.—Few modern conveniences are more useful to the farm and the farm home than electric service. Farmers on rural electric lines in Missouri use a variety of electrical farm devices, such as milking machines, chick brooders, pig brooders, feed grinders, water pumps for livestock, and electrically-operated tools in the farm shop. Electric service in the farm home helps to eliminate drudgery, saves time, and provides added comforts. Electrical appliances used in the farm home include washing machines, refrigerators, stoves, irons and numerous small appliances. Electrically-operated pressure water systems supply running water for both household and farm use—for the kitchen, bathroom and laundry, and for the dairy barn, at stock tanks, in poultry houses and at other points where it is needed. It appears that at least two-thirds of all occupied rural-farm dwellings in Missouri do not yet have central station electric service.

d. Rural Community Improvement

In the postwar years, strong rural communities are needed to provide more adequate schools, churches, and other social units. At the present time rural Missouri is being served by social units that were designed to meet the needs of the horse-and-wagon era. So far, many rural people and rural leaders have not fully sensed the import of the revolution that has taken place in the means of communication and transportation and in agriculture. There has been a lack of

15. Butler county had an increase of 35 per cent.

awareness of the need for social units to keep pace with these rapid changes.

The automobile has made contacts between the farm family and the village much more frequent. The trip to town which required two hours in the horse-and-wagon days is now made in fifteen or twenty minutes. As a result of the improved means of transportation, farmers and village people mingle more freely on the streets, in stores and in other business places. Prior to World War II, a steadily growing number of farm boys and girls attended the village high school. Now that the war is over, high school attendance by farm boys and girls is likely to continue to increase. The attendance of farmers at entertainments in the village has become more frequent. As country roads continue to be improved, the larger villages will increasingly become active rural community centers. This trend offers the rural people of Missouri the opportunity to provide the improved institutions now demanded.

The larger community is a more desirable area for rural organization than the neighborhood, or the small community because it provides: (1) sufficient population to maintain the improved institutions and special interest groups now demanded; (2) sufficient wealth to support improved institutions; and (3) more adequate leadership.

The improvement of local roads is prerequisite to the growth and development of larger rural social units. In many counties, even in some of the best agriculturally, local roads frequently become impassable. In this age farmers need roads that are traversable throughout the year. The present units for the administration of local roads and bridges are too small for efficiency in the motor age. The building and maintenance of such roads require adequate funds, modern road machinery, and a full-time crew. It appears that the county is the smallest practicable unit for financing the building and maintenance of local roads and bridges.

Among rural institutions, the public school system is by far the most important in the expansion of rural communities. It is desirable to have the boundaries of the high school attendance area coincide with those of the larger rural community. The size of the high school will vary from place to place, but usually it should enroll as many as 100 pupils.

The need for the reorganization of the elementary schools in rural Missouri is pronounced. Two-thirds of the one-room rural schools have an average daily attendance of less than 15 pupils. One, two, or three pupils may be found in a grade, and more than 20 class recitations may be crowded into the teacher's day. Usually the elementary school attendance area should be large enough to make

possible a school with not more than one grade per teacher. State legislation should encourage the union of village and open-country areas for the support and control of community educational activities. The larger educational units provide an opportunity for a fuller development of the physical, mental, and social abilities of children through better equipment and larger common-interest groups, which can work together with greater profit in class and extra-class activities.

Too often, rural churches are served by ministers who live outside the community area, while many of the resident ministers are insufficiently trained or ineffectual as a result of old age. Many rural communities possess more churches than they can support properly. This situation is aggravated by the marked decline of rural population. In pioneer days the rural church was not only a place of worship but also a social center. Today the church must compete with other agencies, such as the radio and the motion picture.

Recreation is of the highest importance in building a more desirable and effective rural community because it can be a potent force in fostering cooperation. Persons who participate on a team or in a musical organization learn to cooperate with others for a common end. Recreation should also provide rural people with a variety of means of self-expression. Responsibility for providing recreational facilities for rural youth and adults rests with the major rural institutions—which include the school, the church, and farm organizations. These institutions should train local leaders in such group recreational activities as sports, music, drama, and pageantry.

It is generally known that rural churches, schools, health, and other social agencies are inferior in some respects to those of urban centers. If rural people are to have equality of opportunity with urban people in regard to the good things of life, it is of the utmost importance that they organize their social units as efficiently and economically as possible. What is needed is a local unit which is democratic and at the same time large enough to provide the services modern conditions demand. Small units may be personally satisfying to many, but the larger units are more interesting and stimulating, and for this reason are more apt to develop the kind of leadership now so vitally needed. From the standpoint of the social values, so highly prized by the American people, strong and progressive rural communities are essential.