

# FARMERS FIGHT FOR EQUALITY UNDER THE NEW DEAL

**1** MASS PROTEST. WEAPON OF DISGRUNTLED AGRICULTURISTS ONLY TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO, when Iowa farmers (right) stormed into Des Moines to object to alleged discriminatory legislation, has been supplanted today in many sections by so-called farm strikes, attended by disorder and violence. These strikes, some under way at present, are the farmers' reply to low prices for crops, to lack of credit in local communities, to increasing prices for commodities that they buy, and to their belief that the administration in Washington has failed to help them out of the economic morass into which the depression has driven them. Though never as yet nationwide, and limited so far to sporadic outbursts, the farm strikes nevertheless present a growing menace to peace in rural America and bring the suggestion, at least of open revolt, against the NRA (National Recovery Act) and the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration). The middle west farm belt, hard hit by the depression, has been and is today the territory most seriously affected by the belligerency of the farmers. Picketing and the blockading of roads to prevent movement of farm products naturally provoke conflict with the authorities—conflict which results in cracked heads, wrecked trucks, and more serious manifestations. Burnings of railroad bridges, bombings of warehouses, elevators, and dairies, and other outrages are reported in mounting numbers. The government's reaction to this state of affairs is a multiplication of boards, bureaus, and administrators—proconsuls and more proconsuls on the federal pay roll.



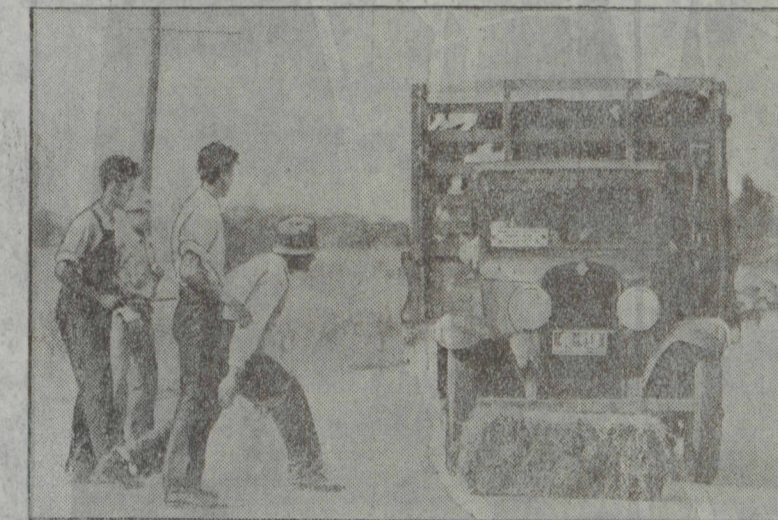
(Associated Press photo.)

"... disgruntled agriculturists ..."



(Associated Press photo.)

"... protest against falling prices ..."



(Associated Press photo.)

"... halt a loaded truck ..."



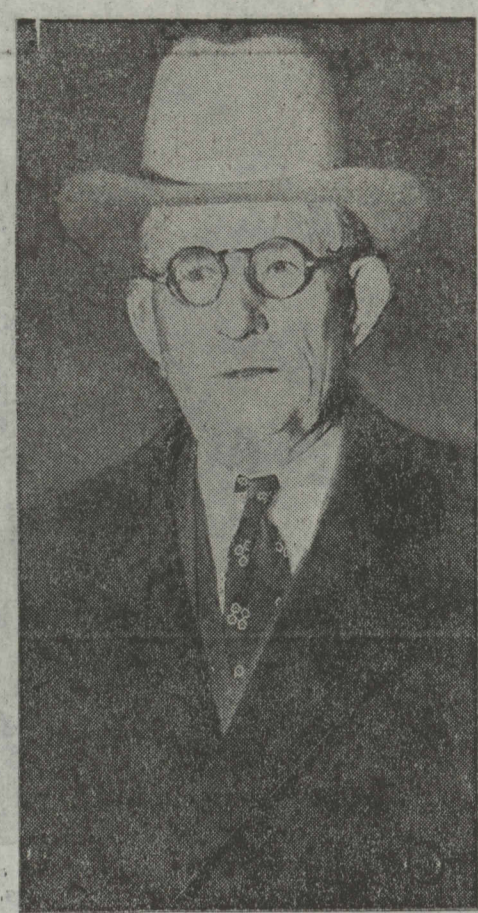
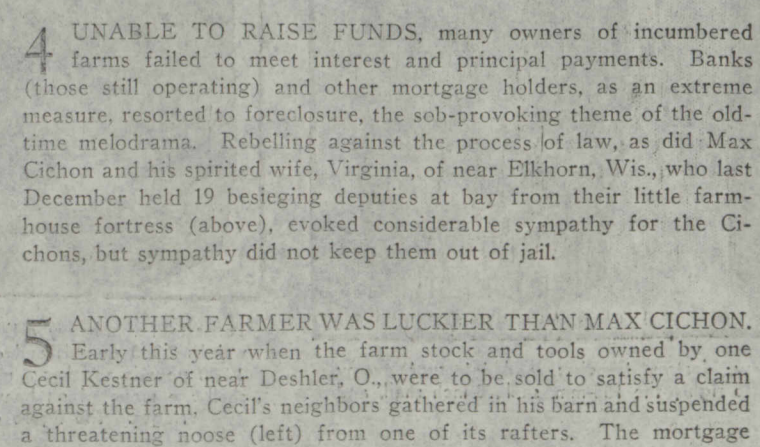
(Acme photo.)

"... a threatening noose ..."



(Associated Press photo.)

"... held ... deputies at bay ..."



(Associated Press photo.)

"... militant jack-in-the-box ..."

**6** PREFERRING TO CALL A STRIKE A HOLIDAY, the battling farmers are led by a militant jack-in-the-box, Milo Reno (above), who pops up now and then to proclaim a "holiday." He heads the National Farm Holiday association.



(Acme photo.)

"... protect loaded milk cars ..."



(Acme photo.)

"... fought ... desperate battle ..."

**11** THE STATE OF NEW YORK HASN'T ESCAPED its share of farm strike trouble. In the region around Utica state troopers and milk pickets fought (above) one desperate battle after another, the most recent a few weeks ago. That at a time when distressed farmers in many localities were beginning to lift their voices in loud protest against the allegedly slow functioning of the farm credit administration—the outfit that lends money on farms.



"... hinted at compulsion ..."

**12** UNDER FIRE OF FARMERS is Secretary of Agriculture Wallace (above) of Iowa. Thirteen days ago in Chicago he assailed criticism of the NRA and the AAA as an obstacle to economic recovery, predicting ruin for the city itself in case of failure of the administration program—a device viewed from many quarters as an effort to divert the farmers' ire from himself to the city people and their newspapers. He even hinted at compulsion to enforce readjustment. Reno has asked him to resign. In Shenandoah, Ia., a dummy representing him was paddled.



(Associated Press photo.)

"... his plan ... denounced ..."

**13** GOVERNOR OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, Henry Morganthau Jr. (above, left), with Deputy Herbert Gaston) continues to urge farm mortgage creditors to withhold foreclosures.



(Associated Press photo.)

"... continues to urge ..."

**14** ROOSEVELT'S MANAGED CURRENCY PROGRAM will boost farm prices, say George N. Peck (above), head of the AAA. His plan to lend federal funds up to \$10 cents a bushel on corn in storage at Chicago was denounced recently by Reno as a "half way measure."



"... in ... another conflict ..."

**7** ALREADY VETERAN OF TWO STRIKES in protest against prevailing milk prices, Walter M. Singler (above), president of the Wisconsin Co-operative Milk Pool, is in the midst of another conflict which has brought threats of action from Gov. A. G. Schmedeman.



"... hooded and hissed ..."

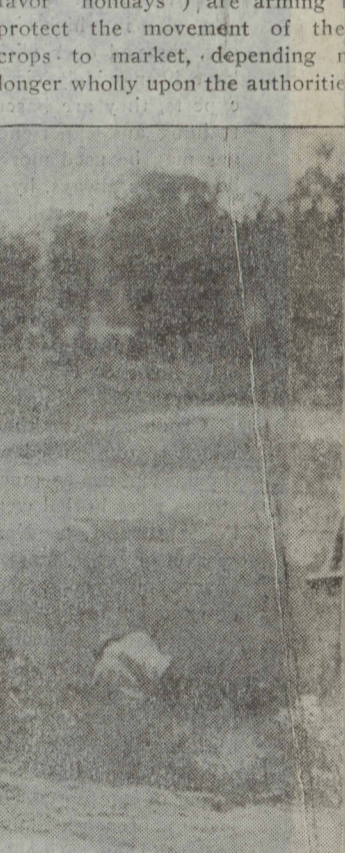
**8** OF MILDRED TIMBER then Reno is Arnold G. Lewis (above), president of the Wisconsin Farm Holiday association, who on Nov. 3 called upon the striking farmers to declare a truce and who was hooded and hissed for his trouble.



(Acme photo.)

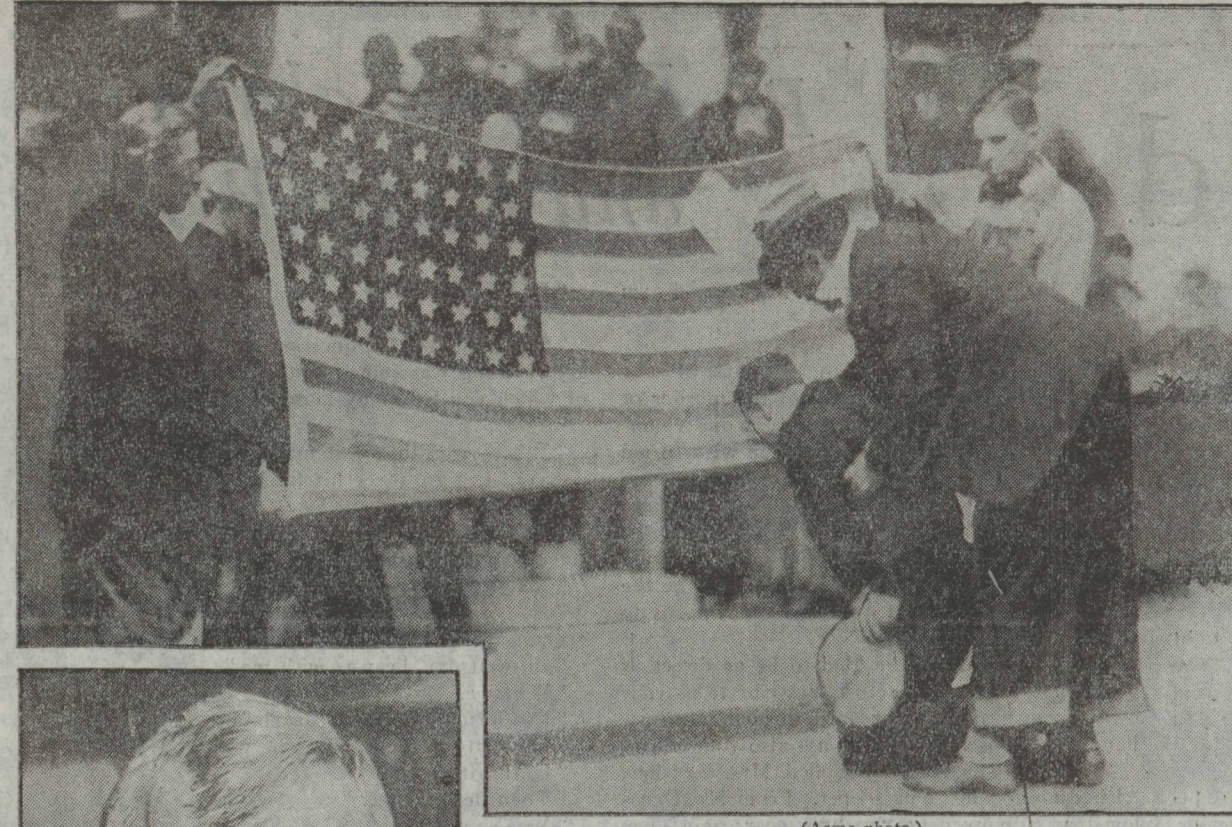
"... choked into unconsciousness ..."

**10** FIREMEN OF WAUKESHA, WIS., not long ago turned streams of water on milk pickets (left) to protect loaded milk cars in the city's freight yards. Just one of several forms of resistance employed against farm strikers. In western Iowa and northern Wisconsin today farmers of an anti-strike element (not all favor "holidays") are arming to protect the movement of their crops to market, depending no longer wholly upon the authorities.



(Acme photo.)

"... fought ... desperate battle ..."



(Acme photo.)

"... forced ... to ... kiss ... flag ..."

**15** NOT ONLY HAS THE MORTGAGE SITUATION AROUSED INDIGNATION, in outbursts such as that in Iowa, where farmers forced a deputy sheriff to kneel and kiss the flag (above), but throughout the country today there is public condemnation of the AAA's domestic allotment plan—a scheme devised to reduce crop acreage. Though eight million acres of wheat were taken out of production, acreage now is within 40,000 of that of a year ago. The same is true of cotton. Production last year was 13,002,000 bales. Reports say this year's production will be 13,100,000 bales, though the government expected to reduce production by 4,200,000 bales, and spent 111 million dollars in the effort—almost rivaling the farm board's 18-million-dollar adventure in stabilizing wheat. Crop reduction has been branded as inconsistent with irrigation projects to increase soil fertility, such as the 165-million-dollar Hoover dam.



(Acme photo.)

"... on the milk war front ..."



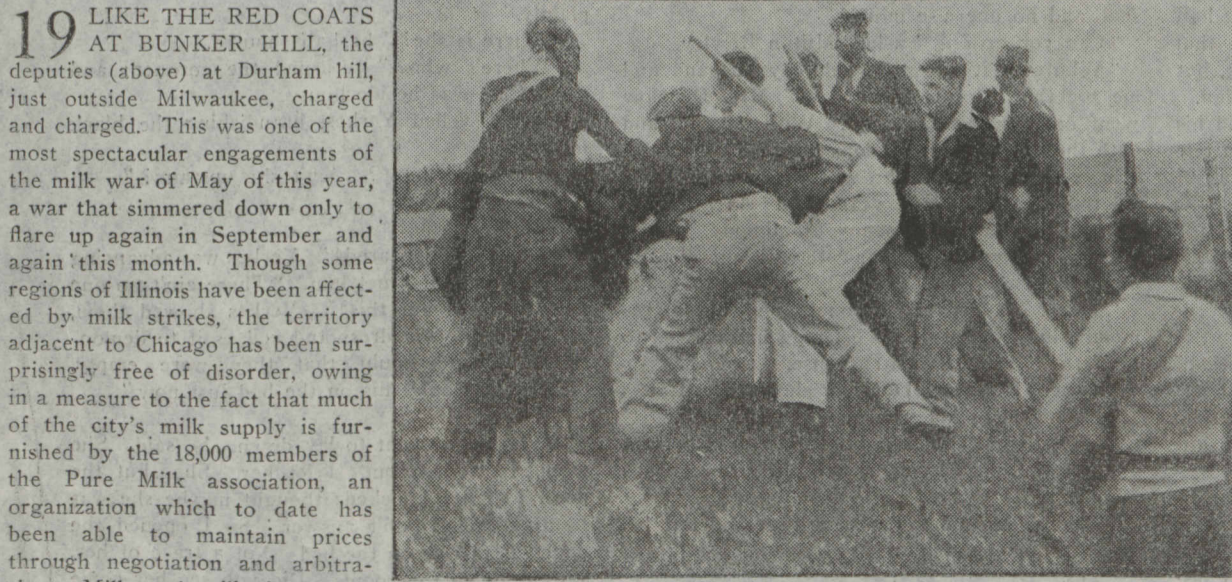
(Acme photo.)

**17** MILK STRIKES ARE ONLY ONE PHASE of the general farm holiday movement, and Wisconsin, so far, has been the most active sector on the milk war front. At Shawano last May, national guardsmen in civilian clothes (above) were sworn in as deputy sheriffs. They were armed with pistols, clubs, and tear gas bombs, and marshaled onto the highways with orders to prevent violence on the part of milk strike pickets. The pickets—farmers, farm hands, and town boys seeking adventure—were on the job to stop milk sold at a price below that asked by the striking dairymen from reaching the milk depots.



(Acme photo.)

"... charged and charged ..."



(Acme photo.)

**19** LIKE THE RED COATS AT BUNKER HILL, the deputies (above) at Durham hill, just outside Milwaukee, charged and charged. This was one of the most spectacular engagements of the milk war of May of this year, a war that simmered down only to flare up again in September and again this month. Though some regions of Illinois have been affected by milk strikes, the territory adjacent to Chicago has been surprisingly free of disorder, owing in a measure to the fact that much of the city's milk supply is furnished by the 18,000 members of the Pure Milk association, an organization which to date has been able to maintain prices through negotiation and arbitration. Milk and milk for cream bring \$1.92 a hundred pounds in the Chicago market; elsewhere as low as ninety cents to \$1.25 a hundred pounds.



(Acme photo.)

**20** CLOSEUP OF A BATTLE (above) reveals considerable dragging about of the deputies, often may be with the striking dairymen.



(Acme photo.)

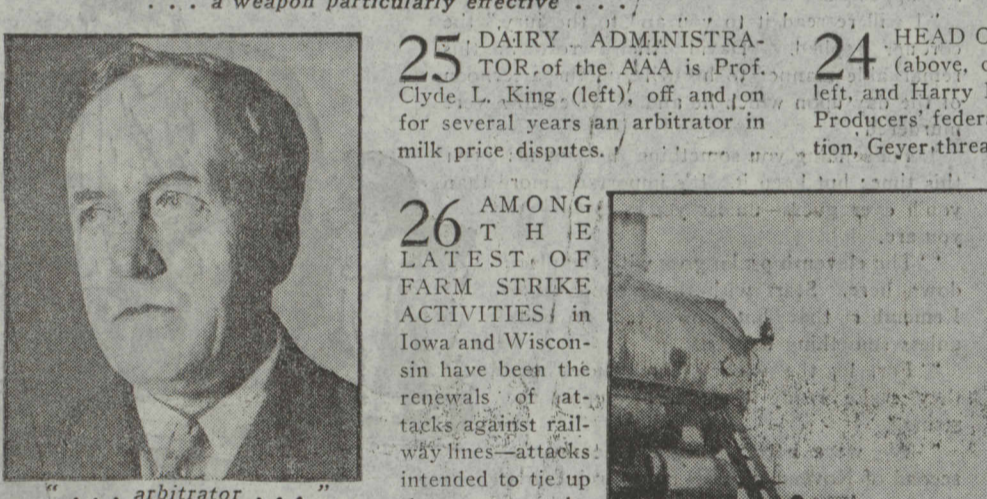
"... smiles on their faces and hopes in their hearts ..."

**23** ALMOST EVERY WAR PRODUCES SOMETHING NEW in the way of weapons—witness the plane, the dirigible, and the tank of the world war. Inventors in the ranks of the farm strikers have brought forth a weapon particularly effective in their type of warfare, a plain old plank studded with sharp nails (below) that puncture the tires of automobile trucks. A vehicle of that description can't be driven to market on flat tires, so its owner is balked in his efforts to sell his products.



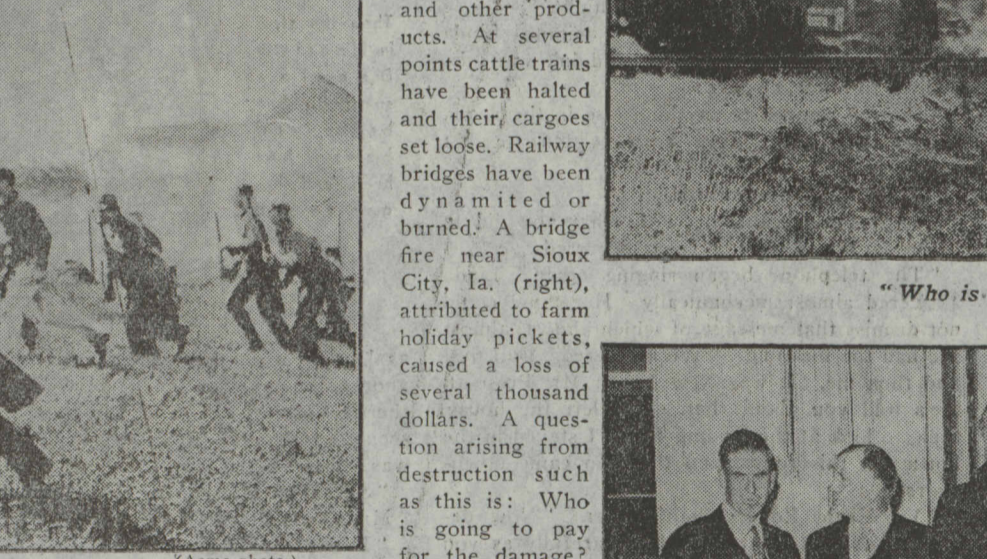
(Acme photo.)

"... a weapon particularly effective ..."



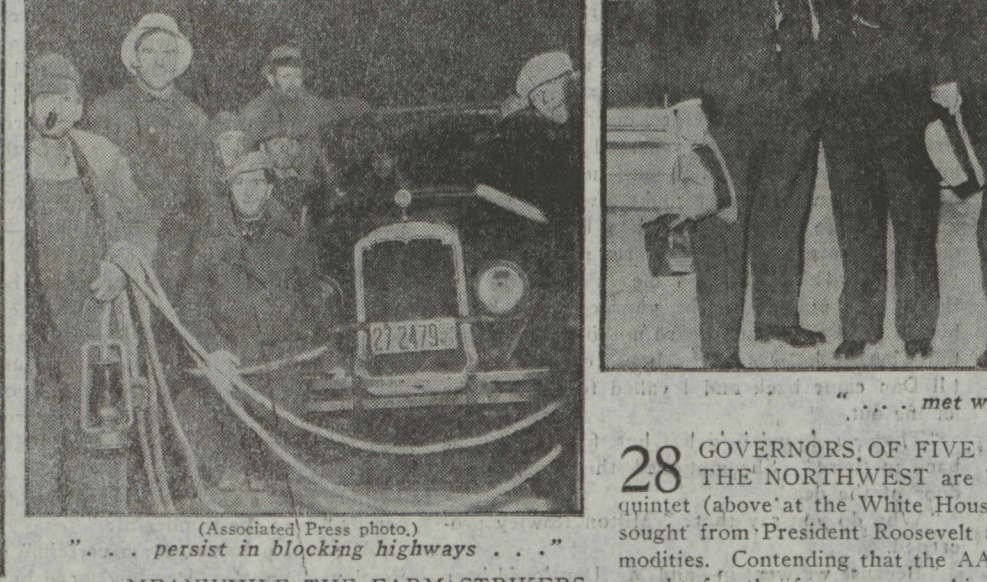
(Acme photo.)

"... threatens a strike ..."



(Associated Press photo.)

"... who is going to pay ..."



(Associated Press photo.)

**27** MEANWHILE THE FARM STRIKERS PERSIST in blocking highways (scene above from Sioux City, Ia.), destroying milk shipments, dumping trucks, and in divers ways calling the public's attention to their economic plight.



(Acme photo.)

"... met with disappointment ..."

**21** APPARENTLY IT DOES NOT DAMPEN THE ARDOR OF FARM STRIKERS (left) to lock them up, for when they are released, which happens speedily in all cases of a not serious nature, they go back to patrolling the roads, dumping trucks and wagons of farm produce, or turning back crops intended for the market. They wage their war against low prices for their crops and rising prices for the things they buy, and against what they call the impotency of the AAA with smiles on their faces and hopes in their hearts.

**22** GROUPED BY THE FARM STRIKERS under the heading of minor annoyances are the demonstrations of law and order, such as explosions of tear gas bombs (below), battering about of pickets, and verbal thunderbolts from governors and the like miles from the scenes of action. The farmers, so they say, are fighting for equality, contending that the AAA is not getting it for them.



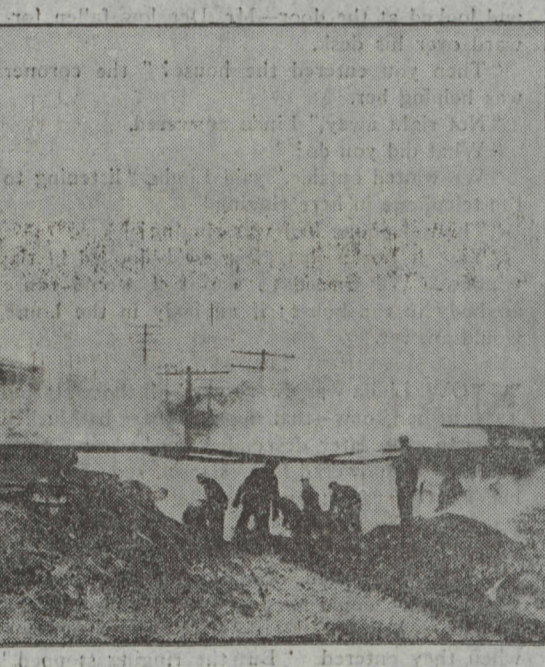
(Acme photo.)



(Acme photo.)

"... threatens a strike ..."

**24** HEAD OF CHICAGO AREA DAIRYMEN is Don N. Geyer (above, center), with John Brandt, creamery company head, left, and Harry Hartke, president of the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, right. As manager of the Pure Milk association, Geyer threatens a strike this winter if the AAA fails completely.



(Associated Press photo.)

"... who is going to pay ..."



(Acme photo.)

"... met with disappointment ..."

**28** GOVERNORS OF FIVE FARM STATES OF THE MIDDLEWEST AND THE NORTHWEST are back home again after a trip to Washington. The quintet (above) at the White House with Secretary Wallace and Administrator Peck) sought from President Roosevelt a minimum fixed price for all important farm commodities. Contending that the AAA was not assisting farmers as it should, they also sought for the farmers a working code under the NRA. The governors met with disappointment at the White House. Arguments of the farmers, not only the striking farmers but a sizable proportion of the others in east, west, south, and north, is that the AAA has brought them little relief and that the NRA, in raising prices on virtually everything except farm crops, has brought a considerable amount of harm.