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RESEARCH AND ADJUSTMENT MARCH TOGETHER

By HENRY A. WALLACE

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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

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

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

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

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