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## LAND AND LAND USE<sup>1</sup>

By P. E. BROWN

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THE United States is a very large country, but in this day and age of rapid transportation, of airplane travel from coast to coast with almost inconceivable speed, the enormous land area of the country is almost forgotten. Of course, we have been brought up in this "big" atmosphere and are so accustomed to it that it makes little impression upon us, except very infrequently. But foreigners are appalled at our size as a nation. For we are really enormous in comparison with most of the leading nations of the world, and people from those nations have often made us self-conscious and even awkward in our bigness. This size and our comparative youth as a nation have combined to affect our diplomatic relationships. But a

big fellow does not need to be diplomatic. He can do just about as he pleases, while the little fellow must be cautious, wary and very diplomatic, if he is to survive. So it is with nations. The smaller they are the more diplomatic they become.

Size affects characteristics in the case of individuals and also in the case of nations. Our development as a nation has been amazing and our size or land area has played a large part in that development. It is not the whole story, but it is vastly important. Our whole national character is a reflection of our bigness. Our confidence and our attitude toward our national neighbors toward the world is due largely to our size.

And we have always done things in a "great big way," nationally, locally and individually, has been bigness, numbers, speed. If we have

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered at the Iowa State College, February 20, 1936, in a series of lectures arranged by the college, national, state, regional and local planning.

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