

regulations for governing the issuance of permits, and perpetuated the status quo. Since there is now no competition and competitive bidding, the range wars have stopped and the grazing fees are kept low. The livestock industry is now a monopoly, and prices for beef and lamb are dictated by the stockmen.

Stockmen themselves are in a majority on the advisory board and make the administrative decisions, so that federal control is held to the minimum.

Although injury to the range has somewhat diminished, it has not stopped. The efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps have been most successful in improving the land, which is just fine with the stockmen, because it is paid for by United States citizens, and not by them, although they, of course, reap the benefits.

Large-scale farming — the factories in the fields — has pushed the independent small farmers out entirely, now.

But since great agribusinesses are no more apt to consider the needs of the people, the land or the generations to come than the stockmen, the mining companies, the lumber interests or the railroads, what guarantees are there for the future?

It is obvious, looking back from this vantage point in history, that the vast expanse of lands stretching from the Mississippi to the San Joaquin Valley, were never suitable for small-scale farming or herding. But the once viable small farms of the East have now become all but extinct, too. It is now impossible to even begin farming with a capital of less than \$50,000.

But this prodigiously fertile continent can be revitalized, can produce many times its present output of all foods — without destroying its ecology or ravaging its magnificent stretches of wilderness.

It can be done by communal farming methods. It will entail a totally different attitude to the land, the people who live by it, and those who will be born in the years to come.

It will demand full use of all the knowledge and conservation practices that thousands of years of human experience have left us as a priceless heritage, along with the tremendous new body of scientific knowledge accumulated during the past century.

Above all, it will demand a revolutionary approach to the concept of land and its uses; the concept that the earth and all its bounties are for humanity's use and for no one's profit.

For America — and for the world — hunger lies not in the lack of nature's resources but in a decaying social organization.

When society is reorganized in the interests of the immense majority, famine, like slavery and infanticide, will be a distant memory.

REFERENCES

1. Gustavus Myers, *History of the Supreme Court*. Charles H. Kerr, Chicago, 1912. p. 45.
2. Philip O. Foss, *Politics and Grass*, University of Washington Press, 1960. p. 198.
3. Charles and Mary Beard, *The Rise of American Civilization*, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1927. vol. 2, p.158.
4. Raymond F. Dasmann, *Environmental Conservation*, John Wiley & Sons, 1972. p. 412.
5. Cattle owners are always referred to as cowmen or cattlemen, but the men who work in the cattle industry are "cowboys" though they might be long past boyhood.
6. Phillip O. Foss, *op. cit.*