

Then he went out and bought a saw mill with the money; traded the saw mill for a threshing rig, and paid the loan with the boot.

If Henry Brett could ~~XXXXXX~~ be so clever, why not Roy Wainright, or Dude Collier, or Fred Scott? If they could get drouth relief, why not "wet harvest " relief or "heaved wheat " relief? It looked as though Henry had struck gold.

At first the loans were all they took. But later the relief centers were set up. At first only men like Dude Collier accepted help. Dude sold all of his goods at give-away prices when going got tough and took his family to California to pick fruit. When he slipped back between suns, he found his acres grown up to weeds and his taxes delinquent, his stock and implements gone for a song.

Many of the farmers actually could not hold their farms. Taxes became delinquent and the land was sold to "Pennsylvania Avenue farmers." In many cases the former owners stayed on and farmed for a share of the crop. But their hearts were not in the job. They plowed too shallow and planted out of season. When they could get a few days outside work they took it. Some made out of course. They had no more money than the rest, but they had a fierce pride. And that was what it took. Others found that they could secure everything at the relief center from ready made garments ^{to} chicken feed, and did so. People who had never slept on anything but straw ticks applied for mattresses and got them. They brought home flour stamped with a government label. One mother said, "I don't like dark outing gowns and drawers. I'll wait for the next shipment." Women who had formerly canned their fruit with a minimum of sugar or with syrup for sweetening asked for a sugar dole or canned no fruit at all. It was comparatively easy to secure free canned goods canned from government surplus for the relief rolls. Farmers complained that the potatoes weren't "worth gathering" and that, if the spring were too wet, it was no use to waste seed.