

When the government instituted corn-hog contracts, these same farmers forgot all scruples . Farmers who had raised neither corn nor hogs accepted checks from Uncle Sam and signed contracts saying they would not plant. When John Brandeis was called upon by a government representative and asked to solicit corn-hog signers among his neighbors, he ran the man off the place. When the government started paying men to plow up wheat and kill little pigs he walked the floor. He saw surplus wheat bought up by the government and stored into bins. He saw it molding there and more wheat coming on to glut the market. He read of wheat being hauled away from the east coast by barge and dumped into the Atlantic. Now no one said, "Plant, for it is you who must feed the world." Now they said, "You brought this on yourselves by overplanting. " He saw that that much was true, and he tried to diversify by planting sweet clover and cowpeas and cane hay. But these were not cash crops and he needed cash to pay the taxes.

He saw a carload of steers shipped to Kansas City fail to bring enough to pay the freight bill. He read in one column that the farmers were overproducing and in another that millions were going hungry. He was only an illiterate farmer, and he did not understand. He sold cordwood and crow heads, comb honey and cottage cheese and made the taxes. But he saw his taxes go higher and higher in order , as he told his sons, that the government might "feed the bastards who wanted to live without sweat".

He saw his neighbors who ought to be plowing their own fields take their teams out to work on the public roads. And to him that was almost as bad as the dole.

Transients came through, and he fed them all. But now they were not the carefree tramps who had once wintered in the south and summered in the north, They were young men, in odds and ends of army clothing, men with tools and trades going rusty and to waste. They grumbled to John that the man on the land was at least safe and fed. And John agreed.