



WEALTH IN ABYSSINIA
The one drawback is getting rid of the beef



. . . . POVERTY IN EUROPE
People will be very hungry for the next three months

(continued from previous page)

women that they could sell farm produce for money. But there was one drawback—getting rid of the beef. Until some packing firm got interested in the position, and showed the people how to deal with manures and hides the cattle industry would not really advance.”

“Then Haile Selassie is an enlightened ruler?”

“Very much so. When I met him I found him very easy and pleasant to deal with; but he wouldn’t speak English, though he knows it well. I think he still feels a little hurt about the British attitude in 1935.”

A Hungry Three Months

Discussing Europe, Dr. Hopkirk said that cattle, horses, and grain were the main items which were short. People would be very hungry for the coming three months—until the American harvest. Not much well-bred stock survived the war in Europe. America had contributed some, but it was not really first-class. Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Italy received stock in good condition. Austria, he said, was almost a dead country—in fact, down and out. The people seemed to have no incentive to do anything.

“A certain amount of bloodstock that was supposed to have been eaten was being found in Germany and returned to its owners. But that did not help much against disease. The great trouble there is the fact that so many laboratories and serum factories had been completely destroyed.”

“What cattle diseases affect Europe most?”

“Foot-and-mouth disease and anthrax particularly. And we are afraid of rinderpest coming in from Africa. It has got as far as Malta already, and I have vaccine waiting in Greece in case it is wanted. Swine paralysis is also killing a lot of pigs in Central Europe, and Newcastle disease is taking its toll of poultry.”

“What disease is that? We have never heard of it.”

“Fortunately it has not come here. But it is one of the most fatal complaints among poultry—a virus infection that wipes flocks right out.”

“In general do they have the same stock diseases in Europe as in New Zealand?”

“Yes, roughly, though the incidence varies a little. Here, for example, we have more contagious abortion among cattle, but that is chiefly because we have more intensive production of dairy produce and more cows packed into a small area. But there, as here, the complaint will be reduced by vaccines.”

“Is vaccination succeeding here?”

“Yes, almost sensationally. In some areas we have reduced it already from 36 per cent. to 3 per cent., though we of course don’t know yet how long the immunity will last.”

“How do you manage about trained staff in Europe?”

“There are enough men in most of the countries for skeleton staffs, and they, in turn, are training others. I have organised a class in Weybridge, England, which the best technicians in Europe can attend, and later I will look in to see how they are getting on. And we have another class in artificial insemination in Milan. The Italians certainly have good institutions and wonderful buildings, but the staffs are only fair.”

No Politics in Science

“There are no politics in the veterinary service?”

“No; all men are free of political feeling.”

“So you are more or less political decontaminators as well?”

“We make occasional smiling references to politics, but that’s about all.”

“Are there any other New Zealanders with you?”

“Not in this field; I have had to do most of the work alone. But a professor from an American university did a good job in Greece when he set up a veterinary school. He takes my place when I’m away.”

Dr. Hopkirk said that he had been invited after his UNRRA work ended to join FAO. In China he would organise a small veterinary force. New Zealand sheep and cattle sent to China had arrived in good order, and they would be used for their milk and for improved breeding.”

“We hear occasional stories alleging that UNRRA has fallen down on the job and that UNRRA materials are being sold on the black market.”

“That sort of thing can happen anywhere, but isolated instances, if there are any, should not be unduly stressed. UNRRA has done a good job and saved the lives of thousands of people. I, personally, saw a lot of food given to starving people in southern Yugoslavia, for

instance; without it they would have died. But there is a limit to UNRRA’s power and responsibilities. UNRRA buys the goods, takes them to the country concerned and delivers them free on the wharves. There its job ends, and the goods become the property of the Government of that country.

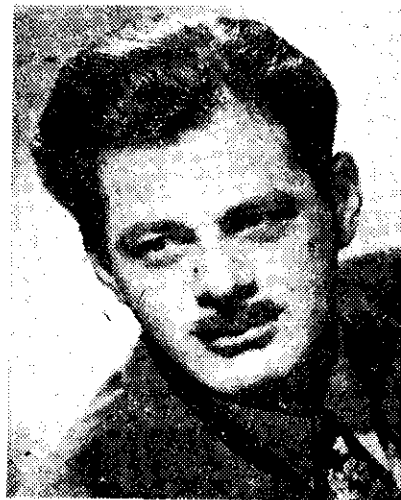
“UNRRA has no say in distribution, and if you hear of cases of maldistribution, that’s not UNRRA’s fault.”

RADIO SYSTEMS COMPARED

Corwin Looks Back on a Journey

WHEN Norman Corwin won the Wendell Willkie Memorial Award—a round-the-world flight—it gave him an opportunity to compare the world’s radio systems. Of European radio, he said, Britain’s programming is adequate, effective, and sometimes dismal. France’s is brave, but the equipment is extremely poor. Norway’s Oslo studios “make Radio City look like a garage,” the Copenhagen studios make it look like a two-storey garage. Sweden’s radio bears a remarkable resemblance to KOIN (Portland, Ore.). Poland’s operated in a reconstructed mansion. Radio is one of Russia’s lesser arts, it is used functionally, not as an artistic medium. Russian radio is used well for its purposes, and is not cocky. Czech radio is good and substantial, Italy’s sad.

In Asia and the Pacific, Corwin said India is proud that its radio is all-Indian-built, designed and operated and is the third most attractive he saw anywhere in the world. Chinese radio reflects the piratical attitude of all Chinese media and is far from politically free. Japan has introduced soap operas. Australia’s radio is “schizophrenic”: it has three or four commercial systems beside the government system. In New Zealand, commercial and government radio exist side by side, but commercial



NORMAN CORWIN
East, west, home’s best

radio kicks in all profits to the government.

Nations making best use of radio within their objectives, Corwin said, are Russia, Britain, and New Zealand. As for U.S. radio it is “best over most of the distance,” has most of the serious defects not found in government radio instead of others, which it avoids. U.S. listeners have a wide option not available in any other country.