

## AGRICULTURE

# Super-Normal Granary Is Urged at Science Meeting

Store of Food, of Value Comparable to Gold Reserve, Could Be Preserved for Time of Drought or War

**A**N IMMENSE store of food, rivaling the nation's buried gold reserves in value, is advocated for America as a super-normal granary for use in emergencies of drought, war or other disaster.

Going Secretary of Agriculture Wallace's ever-normal granary one better, this gigantic national food reserve is declared to be perfectly practical from a scientific standpoint.

Prof. R. B. Harvey of the University of Minnesota is the proponent of a food hoard to be held in long-time storage. He suggests that it would be more logical to have a food reserve that could feed the nation in an emergency than it is to have a gold reserve that has very little practical value.

The government could well spend as much as twelve billion dollars for plant and animal products that could be held in reserve for decades, not mere years, Prof. Harvey argues. Since he is one of the leading plant physiologists of the nation and the originator of chemical methods of blanching and ripening fruits and vegetables, his technical knowledge gives the long-time storage suggestion support.

"It is best not to plow under cotton or corn, not to decrease farm production by allowing weeds to grow on arable land and pay for it, but to get the best

production of the crop best adapted to the soil and store the excess as a national reserve," Prof. Harvey declared.

"We do not know how soon we may be in need of such reserves to release man power. We need to learn how to distribute and conserve maximum production, rather than how to restrict production to a minimum."

Prof. Harvey is confident that physiologists, chemists, pathologists, entomologists and other specialists can work out large-scale methods of storage so that food can be kept fresh and edible over long periods. Wheat, for instance, is known to be good to eat after fifty years. Meats, fats and carbohydrates when properly prepared can be stored almost indefinitely.

Champion long-time storage record was the storing by nature of the flesh of mastodons in Siberian ice for tens of thousands of years. Steaks of this ancient meat were actually served to the Russian Academy of Sciences as a demonstration of its edibility after storage since the glacial epoch.

Such extremes in the holding of food stores are not contemplated by Prof. Harvey but he does suggest investigating whether the Antarctic and other natural ice refrigerator regions may not be well adapted as places of storage. The use

of great storage vaults underground where the temperature could be kept uniform is another possibility.

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## GEOLOGY

## Runaway Glacier Caused By Friction and Skidding

**F**RICITION and skidding, not excessive local snowfall, cause Alaska's Black Rapids Glacier to go on periodic rampages, according to evidence recently brought from the northland by Fred H. Moffit, of the U. S. Geological Survey.

Suddenly increased snowfall in the Black Rapids region, formerly believed to be the cause of the mile-a-month extension of the ice field last year, is now ruled out. If the snowfall increased, every glacier in the area should run away. Only Black Rapids Glacier advanced rapidly.

Friction, Mr. Moffit indicated, allows the accumulated snow in the gathering basin of the glacier to accumulate for a long time behind the narrow outlet, until it reaches a great thickness. Then,

### RUNAWAY GLACIER

*Alaska's Black Rapids, the ice mass at center of the picture, advances as much as 115 feet a day. Since first seen thirty years ago, when it was out of sight in the narrow valley to the left, the grinding ice has crept forward, now threatening to invade the river valley in the foreground. Friction in the narrow outlet allows ice to pile up in the wide valley above. Then the weight of ice forces the accumulation out, causing a very rapid advance. This photograph was taken by United States Geological Survey engineers during a study of the mysterious ice field.*

