

## REPORT ON TRIP TO IOWA

This report is based upon a hurried trip to five days spent in the neighborhood of Des Moines, Iowa and the Clear Lake district in northern Iowa. It is based strictly on personal observation and the deduction derived from personally contacting the people of these districts.

### GENERAL FARM CONDITION

Iowa is primarily a agricultural state. Average size of farm being between 150 acres and 200 acres in size. The soil is rich and of mineral type in general with the exception of peat beds in Clear Lake district, which is extremely rich and most suitable for truck gardening. The growing season is of short duration during the warm summer months. The last heavy frost generally ends around mid-April and the early frost comes around the later part of September. The winter is cold, often dropping as low as 20 degrees below. Irrigation is not necessary as they have ample rainfall and humidity is quite high.

Their main field crop consist of corn, grain, hay, soy beans with emphasis placed on corn. Typical of general farming has 10 to 20 heads of milk cow and 30 to 60 heads of hogs to whom the bulk of feed crop are fed, thus occupying the farmers during the long winter and at the same time creates year around income through sales of cream to the creamery and fatted hog to the packing houses. Any excess feed crop is sold to create further income.

The labor requirement of the average general farming is about two men. In most cases it is being operated by the father of the family, with the children and mother helping with the chores around the barn such as care of the hogs, cows and chickens. The larger farms were operated with the aid of hired help. Even smaller farms where the boys of the family has grown and became independent, were operated with the aid of hired help. Since the war started the industrial centers has made a heavy drain on these farm labors to such a extent that today, these farmers are facing a acute shortage of help. Besides these year around hired man, they require a great number of laborers during the harvest season in form of seasonal labor. The labor requirement in the peat soil area is much more acute in as much as type of crop grown here is highly specialized form such as potatoes and onions.

The day labor rates are generally about 50 cents per hour. The year around hired help of these farms, usually, live with the family if they are single. A man with his family is generally provided with a separate house and provided with partial food supply such as eggs, milk and couple of hogs per year and a little yard for gardening. All this depending on the individual arrangement entered into.



The general wages paid these year around hired men ranges from \$50 to \$75 per months. These year around hired man is expected to work long hours during the growing season and harvest season but this is offset by a very limited work during the winter months.

The share cropping and outright cash rental is not uncommon. Where the owner furnishes land and all the necessary equipments and you only furnish the labor elements, the crop is generally divided two thirds for the owner and one third for the share cropper. Where the owner furnishes the land only the crop is generally divided equally.

Outright cash rental ranges from five to ten dollars per acre. The purchase price of these land ranges around \$125 to 150 per acre.

#### OTHER FACTORS

The people of Iowa impressed me as being being a hard working, thrifty, honest and conservative but extremely friendly. Majority of these people are third generation Dutch, Germans or Danish. Their attitude toward Japanese Americans are now in the process of making. As yet there is no adverse legislation against Japanese. In fact, good many of them have not had the opportunity of coming in contact with Japanese. The impression can be made good or bad by few who may pioneer among them.

You will find general wage rate both as farm laborer and industrial laborer a little lower than offered in number of other places but you will also find that the cost of living is lower in state of Iowa.

In conclusion I would like to make a few suggestions. Try to correspond personally with prospective employer whenever or wherever possible, so that you will have a better aspect of the job offered. Prospective employee should be aware of the fact that many of the industrial job offers requires union membership with quite a high initiation fee. They should have knowledge of the victory now imposed on all the industrial laborers.

TAX

*R. P. H. S.*