

observation offers still more problems. But after all, this is what keeps us intellectual workers happy. If we knew it all now, about the spadefoots or anything else, life would be boring indeed.

## Books

*The Agricultural Regions of the United States.* By Ladd Haystead and Gilbert C. Fite. University of Oklahoma Press, 1955. Reviewed by Thomas Harry McKinney.

This book is a concise analysis of the economic and geographic factors that make American agriculture what it is today. It is designed to be severely functional and is intended as a tool for students, county agricultural agents, teachers of vocational agriculture, businessmen, and all others interested in understanding why our nation's farm output is the largest and one of the most varied in the world today. At the same time, the authors express the hope that some of the drama, the beauty, and the quiet emotional liaison between the husbandman and his environment show through the utilitarian goals.

Almost everybody has his own idea of

what he considers to be the typical American farm. The picture he has in mind is usually based on limited observation or childhood experience. The authors contend that the "typical" American farm is nonexistent. Furthermore, they feel that this fallacy of reasoning from the specific to the general causes many people to make errors in judging modern American agriculture. "Farm patterns not only have changed incredibly in the last generation, but are in a continuous process of change right now." For this reason, "nobody can make a fair judgment on anything concerned with American agriculture unless he has a clear picture in mind of the scope, variegation, and transitions of this highly mutable industry."

Eleven chapters are devoted to fact-filled discussions of agriculture in the various geographic regions of the United States, ranging from "New England: Land of Abandonment" to "The Western Slope: Land of Tomorrow." Useful, up-to-date information on soil groups; crop and livestock production; and number, size, and class of farms is presented, by states, for each region.

Ladd Haystead and Gilbert Fite have done a competent job in presenting a brief but thoroughgoing analysis of agriculture

in the United States. They have succeeded where other writers often fail. They include the enormous quantity of statistical data needed in a book of this type, yet they do it in such a way that the reader is not burdened or bored by its presence. As well as being informative, the book is easy to read and interesting.

## Declaratory Judgment Suits . . .

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at common law." (*Hargrove v. American Central Ins. Co.*, 125 F2d, 226, 10 Cir. 1942.)

Forty-six of the forty-eight states have passed declaratory judgment acts; Oklahoma and Mississippi are the two exceptions. However, the federal courts in Oklahoma may grant declaratory judgments. As a result, this remedy is available in Oklahoma where citizens or corporations of other states are involved, but the action must be brought in a federal court. An Oklahoma citizen cannot bring such an action in the courts of his own state. Since this remedy has such enormous and far-reaching possibilities in preventive relief—prevention of uncertainty and misunderstanding as to rights—Oklahoma courts should be authorized to grant declaratory judgments.

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