

## With the MAGAZINES

**"SOCIAL DISRUPTION IN THE SOUTH" by Kathryn Coe and William H. Cordell. (In World Order)**

Great anxiety has been expressed as to the outcome of the wholesale eviction of tenant farmers from plantations in the South as the result of the government's cotton adjustment program effecting in 1934 a 40 per cent reduction from the base acreage devoted to cotton the four years previous to the program, and in 1935 a 25 per cent reduction of the base acreage. Thousands of Negro and white tenants and sharecroppers with their families are homeless and adrift on highways of the southern states, and most particularly in Arkansas and Mississippi. During a recent trip through the cotton growing states countless Negroes were observed eating clay from the banks of the Mississippi on the outskirts of Memphis to assuage their hunger, and most curiously, expressing great fondness for the diet! Conversation revealed that the majority of these Negroes and their families were typical examples of evicted tenants, many of whom had been drifting on the highways a year or more. Hundreds of these families are in circumstances that never fail to excite infinite pity for their plight, and government relief agencies, regardless of the inefficient and inadequate administration of many, have attempted to bring food, clothing, and, less frequently, shelter to these people. It cannot be denied. But thought has in most instances been given only to more or less temporary relief for nearly two million tenant families of the South.

Regardless of charts and graphs prepared by sociologists to indicate increased business, augmented buying power of the average citizen, increased sale of new automobiles to rural Southern districts, etc., designed to prove that the depression is over and that good times are just around the corner, it would be wise at this time to consider tenant relief to cover not a temporary emergency but a plight that will inevitably, in time, become more widespread and socially significant. A solid and permanent foundation should be laid for the building of a new social structure designed to accommodate more and more of the tenants to be evicted from plantations in the South in the years to come.