

farmers use the funds to reduce their own obligation with public lending agencies and banks—and put remaining balances into War Bonds and similar savings. And there are fairly good indications that many farmers with increased incomes, either from improved prices for their products or from the sale of some of their lands, are doing just that.

During the period of the First World War, from the beginning of 1914 to the start of 1918, farm mortgage debt increased from 4.7 million dollars to 65 billion dollars, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. In about the same period, farmers increased their non-farm estate loans at commercial banks from \$1,608,000,000 to \$2,507,000,000.

By way of contrast in this war, the farm-mortgage debt reduction of 360 million dollars in 1942 was three times the average annual reduction for the three preceding years. These reductions are a continuation of the downward trend from the peak farm debt load of \$10,786,000,000 in 1923, to the January, 1943, figure of \$6,350,000,000.

The Department of Agriculture estimates the average reduction in farm mortgage debt during 1942 at 10 or 11 per cent—a very healthy sign for the future. There is general agreement among farm leaders, economists and bankers at this is the time for farmers to meet their obligations reduced, and lay aside as much as possible as a cushion against the post-war let-down.

on contract, or will apply to the court for any other relief demanded by the complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Solano, this 12th day of August, 1943

LEWIS MORRILL,
Clerk.

By Hope Erwin, Deputy.
Raymond R. Bruce and Frank Taft,
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
11 Texas Street,
Fairfield, California.

19-26-S-2-9-16-23-30-O-7-14-21

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