

LINES AND VOICE....STAGE
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FARMERS' CONFERENCE IN HOLLAND.

In the historic Ridderzaal, at the Hague, 50 farming experts of 18 nations met for the annual conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. Keynote of the proceedings was voiced in his opening address by the President of our own Farmers' Union, Mr. James Turner.

"How the Dutch turn into assets the disadvantages of their low-lying country was seen by the delegates in their six-day tour of Holland's farming land. Large herds of Friesian cattle thriving on Dutch pasture were appreciatively sized up by the visitors. Australian delegate Mr. Howeman praised the national champion prize bull.

Over Hingevoen Bridge spanning the IJzer Rhine (captured intact by the British, it will be remembered) the delegates crossed into Westland, an area of intensive fruit and vegetable growing. In the rich soil, in the open and under glass, Westlanders raised early potatoes, and the famous Dutch tomatoes. A fruit and vegetable auction was in progress when the visitors dropped in. Barges loaded with produce passed along a small canal before the auctioneer's dock.

Considerable supplies of peat, more valuable than ever in these days of fuel shortage, are raised in the Dutch marshlands. When cut and left to dry it burns with great heat. English delegates pointed out that in the Midlands we have large peat bogs untapped.

Along the 18 mile dyke crossing the Zuider Zee the farmers saw land recently 20 feet under water being reclaimed. It was all evidence of the fundamental sanity of those who cultivate the soil and give to mankind the vast resources of the land.