Good Neighbors, More Food, More Dollars

By R. W. Roskelley and Catherine R. Clark

in furthering democracy in Mexico. If their experiences are unfavorable, many of them may return to Mexico to support some foreign "ism" rather than the democratic way of life. We know that some unfavorable experiences which Mexican Nationals had in the United States in 1943 are being used by foreign propagandists in Mexico and South America to develop the Axis front.

It is within the power of farmers and members of American communities to help shape the political destiny of Mexico, even to help determine whether we shall live at peace or at war with this neighbor. It will depend on the treatment the Mexican Nationals receive this summer.

Some farmers and communities last year practiced democracy at home. They put the good-neighbor policy to work on their farms and in their communities. We know as a result of experiences with the Mexicans in 1943 that they were favorably impressed with some things that were done for them, disappointed in some omissions, and offended in things that involved discrimination or non-consideration.

Here are some activities that can be carried out by farmers, business men and communities, which were favorably received by the Mexicans last year:

- Provide occasional public concerts of the Mexican National anthem and other Mexican music played by the high school band or community concert groups, or broadcast over loud speakers at times when Mexicans are in town.
- Distribute Spanish literature among the Mexicans, make it available through the local library, or have business firms order Spanish literature for resale to Mexican patrons. Convert that abandoned store into a recreation hall, where the Mexicans can read, or play checkers, cards and other games. Show Spanish commercial movies in town, or 16 mm. sound and silent movies in small communities. Give a welcome party with free coffee and doughnuts. Assure the men of protection from the weather and a place to sleep the first night in town. Send letters of welcome from the employment service, labor leaders or chamber of commerce, expressing appreciation for their willingness to leave their native land and come here to help us with food production. Give them small American flags as symbols of inter-American cooperation. This has been suggested as an American Legion activity.

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