

## The Wandering Americans

A migration of landless Missourians has called the attention of the country to an inevitable and cruel effect of the administration's attempt to control crops. Tenant farmers have been evicted by their landlords as a result of the crop-reduction payment program of the government. These payments are made to both landlords and tenants, on the basis of the division of crops in the terms of tenancy. The checks are made out to both. Thus, the government actually pays our tax

money directly to the landlord, increasing land values and encouraging speculation.

The tendency of landlordism is to get "all that the traffic will bear." Gratuities from the government are not to be overlooked. Since ownership of the land gives him the first call on all revenues attaching to it, the landlord will not part with any more of it than he must. To share this extra emolument with his tenant is silly, provided he can get his land worked by cheaper labor. The cheapest labor he can get is the wage worker. Therefore, eviction of tenants and replacement by day laborers resulted from these government grants.

The migratory Missouri tenants are the offspring and successors to the evicted eastern tenants who travelled by covered wagon to the free lands of the West. But, thanks to government, there is no free land to go to today. There is only "relief."