

Papers of

LOUIS H. BEAN, 1896 - 1994

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LOUIS H. BEAN, 1896-1994

Biographical Sketch

Louis Hyman Bean was born in Russia (Courland), April 15, 1896. His father came to the United States in 1905 eventually settling in Laconia, New Hampshire. Mrs. Bean followed with Louis and their other children in 1906. After attending elementary and high schools in Laconia, Louis Bean entered the University of Rochester in 1915. He enlisted in the Army in 1918, received a commission as a lieutenant and served in the infantry without going overseas until his discharge in 1919. He received his A.B. from Rochester the same year. Bean's work as an Assistant Labor Manager induced him to enter the Harvard Business School from which he received his M.B.A. in 1922.

In 1923 Bean joined the research staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he worked on estimates of farm income, price indices, commodity price analysis, served as secretary of the committee preparing the department's monthly price reports and began his career long study of interrelationships between agriculture and industry. Charts prepared by Bean were first used in Congress while the McNary Haugen Act was under discussion. In 1933 Secretary Wallace, whom Bean had met during the course of his work in the 1920's, appointed Bean Economic Adviser to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Bean also became head of the Office of Agricultural and Industrial Relations in the Office of the Secretary in 1934. Bean has described himself as being a member of a group to whom Wallace could turn for objective information uninfluenced by politics. Bean's work for Wallace included supplying information needed for press conferences, public discussions, speeches, cabinet meetings and congressional hearings. Bean also worked on several of Wallace's books. He continued to furnish information to Wallace until Wallace's departure from government in 1946. In addition to his work for the Department of Agriculture where, he as said, he was allowed to work on anything that interested him, Bean was also connected with the National Resources Planning Board and testified at hearings on the NRA. Bean also began his work on election trends and forecasts during the 1930's. His first book on this subject, Ballot Behavior first appeared in 1936 and was revised in 1940. Bean was Counsellor, Office of Agricultural Economics from 1939 to 1941.

In 1942 Bean became an Assistant Director of the short lived Board of Economic Warfare where he was involved with postwar planning and the BEW British Empire Division. In 1943 he became Chief Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Division, Bureau of the Budget where he worked on postwar economic problems, including full employment, the absorptive capacity of Palestine and other matters. Bean's statistical study

prepared for Senator James Murray's committee drew him into the controversy over steel capacity and its effect on the economy. Bean began supplying information to the Council of Economic Advisers in 1946. In 1947 Bean rejoined the staff of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture as Economic Adviser. With the advent of the Eisenhower administration Bean returned briefly to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics until his retirement from government, June 30, 1953.

Bean's books include Graphic Method of Curvilinear Correlation (1929), Ballot Behavior (1936, 1940), How to Predict Elections (1948), and The Art of Forecasting (1970).

Louis Bean died July 5, 1994.

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<u>Container</u>	<u>Series</u>
1 - 31	<p>I. Subject File, 1923-1955.</p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, speeches, papers, reviews, statistics, graphs, charts and indices relating to Bean's work with the Department of Agriculture, Board of Economic Warfare and Bureau of the Budget and Bean's more or less extra curricular interest in political trends and forecasting. The greater part of his material relates to agriculture and the interrelationship between agriculture and industry.</p>
31 - 33	<p>II. Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1932-1952.</p> <p>Memoranda, correspondence, printed material, and graphs on prices, memoranda concerning plans and programs and copies of Bean's memoranda, 1947-1952, addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture and other members of the Secretary's staff on diverse topics ranging from the comparative cost of agricultural price supports to the probable outcome of the 1952 congressional elections.</p>
34	<p>III. Board of Economic Warfare, 1942-1943.</p> <p>Consists primarily of memoranda and reports prepared by others and a few memoranda by Bean relating to the work and plans of the Board of Economic Warfare.</p>
35 - 36	<p>IV. Economic Stabilization and Critical Areas Commodity Reports, 1949-1951.</p> <p>Reports, mainly 1949, prepared in connection with proposed economic stabilization legislation. Processed material.</p>
37	<p>V. Reading File, 1942-1953.</p> <p>This file consists primarily of copies of Bean's outgoing correspondence with a very limited amount of incoming correspondence. Related incoming correspondence and other related material will sometimes be found in Series I.</p>

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VI. Speeches and Writings, 1927-1952, 1960.

Speeches, statements, press releases, articles, reviews by Bean, occasionally accompanied by related correspondence, that appeared in Department of Agriculture publications and press releases, Congressional committee prints, popular and professional periodicals and newspapers. A file, List of Publications by L. H. Bean, includes pre-1927 titles the texts of which are not present in this collection. Although Bean continued to write after his retirement from government, there is only one post-1952 item in this series. These writings are arranged alphabetically by title or subject.

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VII. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1927-1957.

Material concerning Bean, his statistical methods, the dispute over steel capacity and its effect on the economy, full employment, and Bean's statistical study for Senator James E. Murray's committee.

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Agricultural Adjustment Administration (Oct. 28, 1933)

Agricultural Income and Well Being (Oct. 1, 1936)

Agricultural Income, Research in (Jan. 1928)

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- Agriculture's Share of the National Income (Oct. 1935)
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- America's Capacity to Produce (Book Review) (1935)
- The Anatomy of Domestic Demand (Sept. 1939)
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- Application of a Simplified Method of Correlation to Problems in Acreage and Yield Variations, (Dec. 1930)
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- Characteristics of Agricultural Supply Curves and Industrial  
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- The Cost of Living (August, September 1934)
- Cotton Report (August 1935)
- Cotton: Changing Trends in Cotton Production and Consumption  
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- Changing Trends in Cotton Production and Consumption (Southern  
Economic Journal, April 1939)
- Cotton: Permanent Trend Upward in World Production (Cotton  
Trade Journal, 1937)
- Cotton: The Trend of Foreign Cotton Production (Cotton Trade  
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- Some Short Time Interrelationships between Agriculture and Business (December 1, 1927)
- Steel Hearings-TNEC, Comments on U.S. Steel Corporation Statements (January 25, 1940)
- Steel Requirements for Full Employment (April 25, 1947)
- The Dependence of Industrial-Agricultural Prosperity on Steel Requirements for Full Employment (June 19, 1947)
- Steel and Employment (November 28, 1947)
- The Farmers' Stake in Steel (March 19, 1948)
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- Steel Capacity (January 6, 1949)
- What About Steel? (January 7, 1949)
- Everybody's Stake in Steel (February 16, 1949)
- The High Cost of Steel and Other Shortages (March 1949)
- Enough Steel Capacity (March 19, 1949)
- Steel-the Industrial Bottleneck (April 12, 1949)
- Agriculture, Industry and Steel (April 25, 1950)
- Comments on Bradford B. Smith's Response to Cellar (May 18, 1950)
- Steel and the Public Interest (May 22, 1950)
- Tides and Patterns in American Politics (August 1942)
- To Promote Industrial Revival (late 1920's or early 1930's)
- Trends in Domestic Demand Following Major Depressions (July 1, 1931)
- Trends in Farm Wages, Farm and Nonfarm Income, Industrial Production and Unemployment (May 16, 1940)

ContainerContents

- 43 (cont'd) Trends in Gross Farm Income and Expenditures, 1909-1931  
(July 1932)
- The 20-Year Rise in Crop Yields (September 15, 1952)
- Use of Correlation in Price Analysis (January 25, 1947)
- Uses of National Income Estimates in Agricultural Research  
and Policy (May 1941)
- The Use of the Short-Cut Graphic Method of Multiple Cor-  
relation (February 1940)
- The Use of Statistical Analysis in Wage-Price Policy  
by Labor (January 1946)
- The Use of "Trends in Residuals" in Constructing Demand  
Curves (March 1932)
- Weather and Crop Forecasting Progress Report (May 1936)
- When Will the Farm Price Disparity End? (March 1927)
- Comments on Chicago Tribune Editorial, "Why Are Farmers  
More Prosperous? (January 22, 1936)
- The World Needs a Sixth as well as a Fifth Plate
- Workers' Earnings Keep Pace with Food Prices (September 4,  
1936)

## 44 VII. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1927-1957

Steel in Washington Post

Articles

Clippings, 1927-1957

Undated Clippings