

# CAN DO ANYTHING

**N**EVER in the history of the world has any plant been used to such an extent as the lowly seaweed. As a food it supplies man, animals and other plants with an abundance of nourishment and minerals. When used as a medicine it has contributed to the saving of countless lives. It even helps to keep man warm in winter and cool in summer.

The economic importance of seaweed is so great that before and during the Second World War more than fifty countries were engaged in importing and exporting it. Germany brought it from Japan by submarine and the Germans, along with the Allies, were the world's largest users of agar, a product obtained from seaweed. Agar is employed in the preparation of vaccines.

As a food it contributes to the diets of the Japanese and Chinese. It is also eaten by those living along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the United States and Canada, the Malayan coasts, and

those of the Dutch East Indies, Burma, Siam, Borneo, the Strait Settlements, Indo-China, Hawaii and the British Isles.

In the United States and Canada, *dulse*, a specific variety of seaweed, is packed in cellophane bags and sold as an appetizer or relish. A major manufacturing company in the United States produces a seasoning made with seaweed, for meats, soups, and gravies, which has a delightful and different flavor.

Seaweed is also used in preparing a large number of other foods, such as salad dressing, ice cream, puddings, chocolate milk, soups, confections, canned fish, and artificial sausage skins. It is very likely that you have at sometime eaten seaweed in one form or another.

Every household in Japan uses the large brown variety of seaweed as noodles, or toasted and served with rice or in soup. The smaller varieties are dried for general use. Seaweeds are also used for sweetening and seasoning, and as a substitute for soya beans in making soya bean sauce. The most important use is in the manufacture of a seaweed flour which is added to cereal flour. In many localities *the law requires its use*.

The red seaweeds are used in Japan to produce "*nori*". It looks like thin, dry sheets of paper. "*Nori*" is used for flavoring, to wrap balls of rice, or is toasted and eaten hot as a delicacy.

The markets of South Wales feature a type of seaweed called laverbread. It is made by pounding and sweating seaweed, then kneading it like dough. Some eat the dough raw, or mix it with oatmeal and pat it into small cakes which are fried in butter or bacon fat. Laver is also prepared by drying fresh seaweed, then boiling it. In this form it is sold in the market place packed in cartons for carrying home. It is served with oatmeal, or sprinkled with vinegar or lemon juice and served hot on toast. It has a pleasant and appetizing flavor with a tang of the sea.

Hawaiians use seaweeds by mixing them with roasted candle-nuts which have been chopped very fine. This mixture is eaten with bread and butter or various meats. Fresh seaweeds often take the place of yams for roasting with meats in underground ovens. The raw weeds are also eaten as salads.

EATEN RAW, seaweed is said to have a value similar to oranges, limes, and lemons as an antiscorbutic. Laver is said to be a good remedy for any distemper of the liver or spleen, and to bring relief from the acutest pains of gall stones. Agar is used in the treatment of stomach complaints, as is a red seaweed in the Herbrides. Seaweed is prescribed in treating goiter by Chinese physicians, and a seaweed product for

this purpose is sold in the United States. Goiter in Japan is unknown, while the excellent teeth of the Japanese people is said to be a direct result of their seaweed diet. Hay fever is almost unknown in Japan and along the coasts of China. The high vitamin C content of seaweed is given as the reason. Seaweeds also have been used to destroy intestinal worms and in the treatment of scrofula, a tuberculous condition, and lymphatic and glandular disorders.

An unusual use for seaweed is that of the stipes (stalks) for holding wounds open for draining. In the Hebrides, mothers use the stipes as teething-rings for their young. When dry the stipes become very hard and make excellent walking sticks, or handles for knives. They can be whittled and polished just like any hard wood.

Other uses for seaweeds are in the manufacture of a yarn similar to rayon, and in the manufacture of glue, varnish, plaster and building board.

One large company in Nova Scotia has a whole factory producing a building insulation from seaweed. It is said to be one of the best insulations known. It is low in cost and is an approved vapor barrier which is fire resistant and vermin proof.

Animals, too, find seaweed useful. It constitutes a part of the diet of deer, arctic foxes, rabbits and even the polar bear. In Holland,

Sweden and Norway it is used on fox farms and is said to aid in producing top quality silver fox pelts. For as long as can be remembered, domestic animals have fed along the coasts of the Hebrides, Ireland, Norway, Brittany, Gotland, Scotland, and Finland on the drifts of seaweed left exposed by the receding tide. Some kinds are so relished that they have received special names such as "pig-weed," "cow-weed," and "cow-tang."

FRESH SEAWEEDS supply salt and every known element plus vitamins, proteins, fats and carbohydrates. In the United States a special animal feed made with seaweed is receiving wide acceptance. Similar products are manufactured in Norway, while a British company imports large quantities to the Isles.

The Norwegian Ministry of Supply has recommended that seaweed be used as a winter feed for cattle. The Ministry of Agriculture in the Isle of Man advises farmers to cut up dried seaweed and use it as fodder.

Seaweed is especially valuable in those areas where the soil is deficient in iodine. Products from animals fed seaweed meal is high in iodine content.

A common practice with farmers that live along sea coasts is to treat their animals' ailments with seaweed. One farmer in Pem-

brokeshire, England, always gives his pigs a mess of boiled carrageen when they aren't doing well. A dog raiser in Anglesey found that the coats of his red setter dogs were suffering from the poor diet caused by the war. But after he had fed them a diet of boiled carrageen, he noted that their coats improved rapidly. In Guernsey, calves are regularly fed on boiled carrageen.

**S**EAWEED contains every known natural element. It has been called "Father Neptune's Compost." As an organic manure it is used for growing potatoes and barley and is especially good due to its high content of potash. In Jersey, British Isles, up to forty tons per acre are added to the sandy soils near the coast before planting potatoes. Asparagus, onions, cabbages, carrots, cauliflower, artichokes, mangels, turnips,

swedes, hay, and sugar beets all do well on this natural fertilizer.

Seaweed is such a complete manure that it alone with sand constitutes a soil. In the Isle of Aran, alternating layers of seaweed and sand built up on bare rock are used as a soil for growing crops. Within the Arctic Circle salads have been grown where no soil is available. The salads were grown on a compost made of six inches of seaweed covered with two inches of fish waste, another six inches of seaweed and then two inches of sand. It was kept moist until the weed had rotted.

Never in the history of the world has there been another plant with so many valuable uses as the seaweed. And new uses for this versatile weed are being discovered every day throughout the world in research laboratories. It indeed has helped greatly in the rise of our modern civilization.

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Smith had bought a house in a newly developed section. All went well until the severe weather set in and flaws began to appear. Smith, irate, summoned the builder and recited his woes.

"I really can't understand why anything should go wrong," said the contractor. "This isn't hollow-block construction, it's the good old-fashioned kind and should be satisfactory in every way." With evident self-control he continued, "Just what, specifically, is your complaint?"

"A very simple one," retorted Smith. "We put the cat in the cellar at night and let her out of the attic in the morning."



# Money Made Mysterious *Part IX*

By PAUL STEVENS

## Planned Bankruptcy

**S**URROUNDED by hordes of armed guards supplied by the United States Secret Service, 91 members of the "Invisible Government" from the United States, Europe and Canada met in an emergency secret session at the King & Prince Hotel, St. Simons Island, off the coast of Brunswick, Georgia, on February 15, 16 and 17, 1957.

Simultaneously came announcement that the French gold and silver reserves have dropped more than 50 percent in the past year. This announcement was followed by partial withdrawal of French gold balances in the United States.

Billed by the New York *Times* as a "private and unofficial meeting" but with "State Department officials meeting" in secret session with such "unofficial" personages as Felix Frankfurter; Viscount Kilmer, Lord Chancellor of Britain; Kurt Kiesinger, top adviser to German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer; and former French Premier Antoine Pinay.

Though called an "unofficial" meeting, "official" protection was

given by U. S. Secret Service. The following is taken from the February 16 issue of New York *Times* and should give some indication of the importance of this meeting:

"Spokesmen said secrecy was to encourage frank discussions by persons whose positions otherwise would restrict full expression of their personal views. They declined to list those attending.

"... The hotel was made into a miniature United Nations chamber for the meeting, which will last through Sunday. Electronic translation machines, tiny receivers enabling members to hear proceedings wherever they may be in the hotel and especial truck wires to Washington and New York were installed."

Seventy persons signed the hotel register—at least 12 others refused to do so. Among those present were the expected international bankers, foundation directors, international cartelists, and so on.

As a press "cover up," the group is publicly known as the "Bilderberg Group," a name taken from