

Dalhart
See below

When A Country Is Down Give It A Kick!

By ED BISHOP

Thanks to March of Time officials, and the Resettlement Administration Dalhart has regained its position in the sun as "The Capitol of the Dust Bowl," and all the drawbacks of this country are paraded before the eyes of the great American Public. Even though it was necessary to dramatize the scenes with events that never did, and never will, take place in this country, the desire to make the public catch its breath at the awe-inspiring scenes and thus enrich the pockets of the film company and make more secure the life of the government agency, far overcame any wish to rehabilitate the Dust Bowl.

Just as gossip may start about some individual, with little or no foundation for truth in it, and as the story is told over and over again, each one adding something to make it more dramatic, until there is no semblance of truth in it, so has the story of the Dust Bowl advanced to its present stage. Unmindful of the fact that Dalhart, the particular victim, in this case, had years and years of fine reputation behind it and is well on the way now to recovery, those in charge seem to take particular pleasure in painting the picture as dark as possible, making of this country, in the eyes of the public, a desert uninhabitable by man or beast.

For this kind of publicity Dalhart will pay, and is now paying, dearly. What prospective tourist will dare to risk his and his family's lives by taking a chance of traveling through a country such as is pictured? What prospective industry, looking for a location, where cheap fuel can be obtained, will take a chance on making its laborers live in a section where their lives are in constant danger?

Of greater news value than a few occasional sandstorms were the recent rains and consequent floods of this section. But where was the March of Time and the Resettlement Administration when this was happening? One was trying to convince official Washington that another million dollars should be appropriated for thousands of white collar workers and the other was busy at the box office window coining money at the expense of Dalhart and the Dust Bowl!

The damage is done, the die is cast, and a hundred years from now it will all be forgotten. But during the life time of this generation every man, woman and child with investments in this section will pay and pay. We'll stay here, not "till Hell freezes over" but until we have convinced the world that we are proud of our country, that it has given us all that we have, or hope to have, that it is a country, under normal conditions, which far surpasses any other on God's green earth.