strong influence on estimated trends, because they stand nearer to the end than to the beginning of the 80-year period analyzed.

The book consists of six chapters of text with charts and text tables, comprising 137 pages. The chapters appear to be arranged in order of decreasing importance as felt by the author: Chapters 1 (on trends in prices and terms of trade) and 2 (on trends in values and quantities) contain the principal analytical findings, while Chapters 3 through 6 are primarily of a methodological nature.

In Chapter 3 the author relates the methodology of his index number construction. Chapter 4 is primarily a critical appraisal of unit value data derived from U.S. foreign trade statistics which opens valuable insights to the foreign trade price analyst. Chapter 5, on the sampling characteristics and accuracy of index numbers, only loosely interwoven with the other parts of the book, is in part an expansion of a paper the author presented in 1955. For this reviewer, who recently returned to index number and price analysis work, the chapter was most enjoyable refresher reading—a text which will make excellent reference material for students of price analysis.

In the final chapter, NBER Indexes are compared with others. That comparison is a reminder that any one index number series, no matter how painstakingly computed, is only one and never the only way of averaging and summarizing relative changes in economic phenomena. This reminder is particularly pertinent in connection with a study encompassing 80 years. Many comparisons over that span are necessarily very broad.

The book contains a wealth of reference material, often enriched with helpful observations. The bulk of the volume, 334 of its 487 pages, is made up of the Appendixes, mostly time series of the indexes. No one, who is concerned with our international trade more than ephemerally, can afford to ignore this book.

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Ottoson, Howard W. (Editor), Land Use Policy and Problems in the United States, Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1963, pp. viii, 470. ($6.00)

The field of land economics has seen a flood of volumes containing edited conference papers in the last several years.1 The latest addition is a group of 18 papers prepared to mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Homestead Act. The theme is a review of the course of United States land policy and speculations on future trends and unresolved issues.

The first section presents a historical background. Thomas LeDuc contends that the policy of cheap land tended to retard economic development by attracting capital prematurely into land purchase rather than improvement. Paul Gates concludes that the Homestead laws contributed to the development of

farm ownership notwithstanding its abuses. Author Marie Sandoz provides an interesting change of pace with a number of humanistic observations of the homesteading process. While all of these papers are valuable, historical scholars could well begin to ask more pointed questions of our experience that would hopefully make it more useful in the design of policies for underdeveloped areas here or abroad. For example, the role of credit is emphasized, but a picture of the dynamic linkages is missing that would enable present policy-makers to decide what type of credit policy is needed or whether its past function can be replaced with something entirely different than the United States experience.

Several papers are addressed to the social, political and economic factors affecting land policy. A number of insights are presented in this group, such as Ross Talbot's observation that political factors force federal natural resource agencies to seek the broadest possible base which explains the current popularity of the multiple use concept. However, the section leaves the reader with little basis for the integration of the various factors so that we might understand them as an interacting process with feedback. The same point can be made with reference to the papers which examine the past, present and future demands for land. The demands for agriculture, recreation and cities are examined and projected without developing a framework for studying their interaction which will be necessary if we are to design meaningful policies and control systems. M. M. Kelso makes a start in his paper on "Resolving Land Use Conflicts." He observes along with Lowdon Wingo that the future holds a more circumscribed role for the market in the allocation of use rights and an expanded role for administrative processes. Both writers call for further evolution of our property institutions, but the way seems vague and uncertain.

Another group of papers explores alternative types of man-man relations regarding the control of land resources. Marshall Harris sets the tone by noting that the conditions of tenure under which the land would be held were as important as the Homestead and the public land policies. The papers include discussions ranging from these background property rules governing private transactions to the other pole of direct public ownership. Again, the job yet to be done revolves around providing a framework in which these various rules can be interrelated and their complementarity and substitutibility understood. One measure of this remaining job is the large number of assertions relating property rights alternatives to general economic performance and the lack of footnotes to concrete empirical evidence. This is not to say that some useful suggestions have not been made, such as Marshall Harris' statement that the whole conservation movement, with its governmental expenditures, might have been unnecessary if the laws of waste had been effective on owners as well as tenants.

Implications for future policy are drawn in the final group of papers headlined by Philip Raup's, "Satisfying the Economic Demands for Natural Resources—Some Recent Developments in European Land Policy." Raup notes that land policy dominated agricultural policy in the U.S. until the middle 1920's and then declined. He argues that it is now on the ascendancy, and the future can be most clearly seen in European policies. Many European
countries now recognize that the control or guidance of agricultural product prices is now in itself an inadequate approach to farm problems. This same expression can be seen in the U.S. rural area development program. Raup’s conception of land tenure policies is much broader than questions of ownership distribution or landlord-tenant relations. It includes the rules which might affect the continuity of farm operation between generations, conditions of access to agricultural resources, and the mobility of capital and people. He presents a view that I predict will be the seat of great controversy in future years—namely, parity between agricultural and nonagricultural incomes is unlikely to be achieved without some more specific controls over entry into agriculture and purchase of farmland.

I have tried to resist the temptation to dwell on the shortcomings of volumes composed of conference papers. I believe that the trouble lies not in editing and conference planning but in the state of our craft. At the heart is the fact that we have not decided what is the common basis of a very mixed bag of problems with land in their titles. Because of this we have not had any significant interchange with economists in other related fields. This is seen in the fact that we have largely ignored the new literature in public finance, theories of externality and public goods, and public decision making. This volume is a good starting place for the needed research into ways to understand the interaction of property rules and economic development performance.

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Farm Policy—New Directions is a well organized collection of the thoughts of Shepherd and others on the major approaches for solving the farm problem. Readers looking for an easy-to-read summary of the conventional wisdom on these approaches will enjoy this book.

The book contains 20 chapters, organized into four parts: (1) the farm problem in the United States, (2) alternative proposals to solve the farm problem, (3) the world food problem, and (4) goals and values determine farm policy. One is impressed with the author’s excellent appraisal of price support and storage programs (Chapter 2), his very comprehensive analysis of low farm incomes as an indicator of the farm problem (Chapter 5 and 6), and his discussion of what would happen if agriculture were returned to the open market (Chapter 7).

In Chapters 14 and 15, Shepherd comes out swinging for his own program. It is, “reduce the chronic oversupply of farmers.” On page 210, he says, “what is needed is to act not on the symptoms (low prices and incomes) but on the twin diseases that cause the symptoms. These are (1) overproduction of farm products and (2) oversupply of farmers. These diseases are both evidences of maladjustment of agricultural supply to agricultural demand.”

To speed mobility off the farm, Shepherd would improve general educational levels among farmers, expand technical and vocational training for urban