

pared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIV, No. 1

Section 1

July 5, 1939

AGRICULTURAL
MARKETING
SERVICE

With the opening of the new fiscal year, the final step has been taken in the establishment of the Agricultural Marketing Service, announced last October by Secretary Wallace as one of the major changes to be made in the Department. Under the direction of C. W. Kitchen, chief, the Agricultural Marketing Service administers related activities transferred from four bureaus of the Department: (1) from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics--market research, service and regulatory work in connection with cotton, dairy and poultry products, fruits and vegetables, grain, livestock, meats and wool, hay, feed and seed, tobacco, warehousing, market news service, and all the work on crop and livestock estimates; (2) from the Bureau of Animal Industry--administration of the packers and stockyards act; (3) from the Bureau of Plant Industry--administration of the federal seed act; and (4) from the Bureau of Dairy Industry--administration of the dairy exports act.

WHEAT CROP
INSURANCE

A crop insurance program applying to wheat seeded for harvest in 1940 will be introduced to farmers in all wheat states within the next few weeks, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has announced, following approval by Secretary Wallace of the regulations which will govern the new program. "The 1940 program, while basically the same as the 1939 wheat crop insurance plan, incorporates many improvements which will make it easier for growers to insure their crops and will effect many economies in operation," declared Leroy K. Smith, manager of the corporation. "All-risk crop insurance was first made available to wheat growers in 1938, to apply on the crop now being harvested. The program was and still is experimental, but in the first year it has given protection to more than 170,000 growers and has revealed many short cuts to better and simpler methods of operation."

BAE SAYS TRADE
BARS HALTED

Gradual elimination of interstate trade barriers, which have limited distribution and raised costs of food products, was noted yesterday by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. More than a dozen state legislatures, at their 1939 sessions, rejected such bills, and some lowered or repealed existing barrier laws, with only a few states enacting new legislation of this type, the bureau announced. (Washington Post.)

Science in Government The United States government is the heaviest investor in scientific research, Dr. Charles H. Judd, director of education of the National Youth Administration, said recently at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Throughout its history, Dr. Judd pointed out, the federal government has made use of science and hence has been interested in its promotion. It started as early as 1790, when the first patent law was passed and the first census taken. Many science activities have come in by degrees. Thus, the Weather Bureau started as a side issue with the signal corps of the Army, and the National Bureau of Standards began its evolution through the necessity of establishing dependable weights and measures. The greatest single scientific agency of the government is the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Judd stated, adding: "It has been said that the farmers of the United States are more fully convinced than is any other section of the population that the way to human welfare is through the applications of science to the solution of problems. They have been led to this conviction through the demonstrations given them by the Department of Agriculture. Whether this is true or not and whether the general popular esteem of science is due to contagion of farmer opinion or to other causes, the fact is that today there is very general acceptance of the view that science is worth supporting." (Science Service.)

Artificial Hay Drying "Something new in the field of artificial drying is the experimental work being carried on at the University of Tennessee where haymows are built in such a way that air can be blown up through wilted hay put into the mows," says the Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife (July). "Hay thus cured retains green color and carotene, parent of Vitamin A. This calls for a special type of haymow, with air ducts built into the mow floor. On the roof of the barn is a solar heat absorber built of 28-gauge galvanized sheet steel. The absorber is really another roof placed on top of the barn roof. Before the air is forced through the hay in the mow, it first passes under this solar heat absorber. Samples of hay analyzed show that the barn-dried hay averages 2.3 percent more leaves, 19 percent more green color and a quality of about one grade and class better than field-dried hay cut from the same field at the same time. The barn-dried hay, when fed to laboratory rats, contained more Vitamin A than field-dried hay. The cost of blower, motor, lumber, hardware and labor for equipping a barn for drying an annual crop of 20 tons of hay is about \$300. That figure is supplied by John W. Weaver, Jr., and C. E. Wylie, of the University of Tennessee. They said that the cost of operating this system (not counting labor) in drying about 200 tons of hay during the last three seasons has averaged 86 cents per dry ton, with electricity costing two cents per kilowatt hour. Their records show that the labor requirements for this barn-drying system are about the same as for the field-drying method..."

Senate Passed with amendments H. R. 6970, urgent deficiency
June 29 and supplemental appropriation bill. O'Mahoney amendment
modifying the provision in the Treasury-Post Office Ap-
propriation Act which limits the use of the franking privilege, was
agreed to. As passed the Senate, the bill contains the following items:
Assistants to the President, \$86,400; Electric Home and Farm Authority,
\$500,000; Export-Import Bank, \$75,000; Temporary National Economic Com-
mittee, \$300,000; Commodity Credit Corporation, \$2,000,000; Alaskan In-
ternational Highway Commission, \$6,200; International Congress for Mi-
crobiology, \$5,000.

Committee on Banking and Currency reported with amendments S. 2697,
to facilitate the execution of arrangements for the exchange of surplus
agricultural commodities produced in the United States for reserve
stocks of strategic and critical materials produced abroad.

Sunday through Tuesday: In adjournment.

House Conference report on H. J. Res. 326, emergency re-
June 29 lief appropriation bill, was submitted to the House. Ac-
tion was taken on the following Senate amendments by the
conference committee as follows: Public Works Administration, \$125,000,-
000, stricken; authorizing projects for eradication of plant and fungus
pests, retained; prohibiting purchase of machinery which can be rented
fairly, modified and retained; Farm Security Administration item fixed
at \$143,000,000; permitting Secretary to require recipients of relief
to perform work, retained; \$10,000,000 for refinancing of farm mortgages,
etc., stricken; providing for membership of National Resources Planning
Board, modified and retained; increase of Federal-projects authorization
to \$60,000,000, retained; limit on nonrelief employees under Federal
projects to 5 percent, retained with limit changed to 10 percent;
authorizing employment without regard to civil service, retained; pro-
hibiting establishments of mills, etc., in certain cases, retained.

Senate Both Houses agreed to the conference report on H. J.
June 30 Res. 326, emergency relief appropriation bill. Approved
by the President on June 30. (Public Resolution No. 24,
76th Cong.)

Both Houses agreed to the conference report on H. R. 6970, urgent
deficiency and supplemental appropriation bill. Approved by the Presi-
dent on June 30. (Public No. 160, 76th Cong.)

The House agreed to the conference report on H. R. 3325, to extend
the time within which the powers relating to the stabilization fund
and alteration of the weight of the dollar may be exercised.

Passed the following: S. 1995, to authorize the Secretary of Ag-
riculture to delegate certain regulatory functions, and to create the
position of Second Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; S. 2399, for the
relief of certain former employees of the Farm Security Administration,
for compensation for annual leave; S. 2197, authorizing Federal

participation in the United States Coronado Exposition; H. J. Res. 247, to provide minimum national allotments for cotton. An amendment was agreed to providing for allotments of 10,000,000 bales instead of 11,500,000.

During call of the calendar, the following bills were passed over after discussion: S. 446, to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act to authorize the Secretary to fix rates, etc.; S. 1108, to restrict the exportation of certain Douglas fir peeler logs and Port Orford cedar logs; S. 1852, to promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce; H.R. 5625, Coffee Federal seed bill; H. J. Res. 248, to provide minimum national allotments for wheat.

Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment: S. 2694, amending section 322 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, and S. 2695, to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 relative to marketing percentages.

Adjourned until Wednesday, July 5.

House Passed H. J. Res. 306, neutrality bill.
June 30 Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce reported with amendment H. R. 6884, to encourage travel in the United States (H. Rept. 1010).

Rejected the conference report on the D. C. revenue bill and appointed conferees for a further conference.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Federal In five years since the Federal credit union act
Credit Unions was passed, in June, 1934, credit unions chartered under that act have loaned their members \$125,000,000, said Director C. R. Orchard, of the Credit Union Section in the Farm Credit Administration. Enrollment in Federal credit unions has passed 700,000 with about 3,000 new members being added each week. Of the 3,342 Federal credit unions thus far chartered fully 90 percent remain active. Mr. Orchard emphasized that the credit unions' first object is to encourage its members to save. "More impressive than the loan total is the thrift fostered by the credit union," he observed. "Share capital of Federal credit unions, contributed entirely from members' savings, now stands at \$33,000,000 and total assets at \$36,000,000. The total is increasing at the rate of \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 a year." Federal credit unions show losses of less than \$1 for each \$1,000 loaned. At the end of last year reserves aggregated \$760,000 as against loans outstanding of \$23,728,000. Up to that time 1,177,000 loans had been made for \$98,653,000 and only \$54,000 had been charged off as uncollectible. Returns on members' savings in credit unions are variable, taking the form of dividends declared from net earnings each year after deducting 20 percent for reserves. Last year 70 percent of all active Federal credit unions paid dividends at rates of 2 to 6 percent.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 2

Section 1

July 6, 1939

U.S. DUTY ON ITALIAN SILK

The United States yesterday imposed countervailing duties on silk importations from Italy, effective August 13, to offset the amount of bounties, or subsidies, that the Italian government pays to shippers of such merchandise. Countervailing duties are not now in effect on any other importation from Italy, customs officials said. They stated that in general Italy and Germany were the countries that employed the bounty method of reducing the foreign price of their exports. Because the regular duty on silk imports from Italy is on an ad valorem basis, differing for each of various types of silk goods, and the new countervailing duty is on the silk component of the exports per kilogram, customs officials said it was impossible to calculate how much the countervailing duty would amount to as a percentage of the normal duty. (New York Times.)

CORN LOAN EXTENSION

Secretary Wallace announced yesterday farmers having corn stored as collateral for government loans may apply for a 12-month extension period when the loans fall due August 1, says an Associated Press report. Farmers now have 257,127,595 bushels stored under 271,315 loans, at the rate of 57 cents a bushel, in the Corn Belt. Wallace said the purpose of extending the loans was to keep this supply of grain under seal as a reserve supply for use in later years, when a drought might cut crops short and to prevent "wide price and supply fluctuations." To encourage farmers to hold their corn for the 12-month period, the government offers to pay them 6 cents a bushel for storage at the end of the extended loan period, provided the market price at that time is less than the loan rate plus storage and carrying charges.

SENATE VOTES MONEY BILL

The Senate, by a vote of 43 to 39, approved yesterday the monetary bill conference report. The bill continues President Roosevelt's control over the dollar until June 30, 1941, and returns to him his authority to reduce further the gold content of the dollar and his power to control exchange rates by operation of the \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund. (New York Times.)

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Secretary Wallace has announced the establishment of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations as part of the Office of the Secretary. The new office will handle that part of the foreign agricultural service not taken over by the Department of State and will be under L. A. Wheeler, who has had charge of foreign matters for the Department. (New York Times.)

Section 2

Forest Pyrology H. T. Gisborne, Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, writes in *Scientific Monthly* (July) on "Forest Pyrology." The author says a plan evolved by Dr. Earle H. Clapp, associate chief of the Forest Service, contained in "A National Program of Forest Research" and published in 1926 by the American Tree Association, "still is the master working plan for the guidance of forest fire research in evolving a science of forest pyrology. The six main parts of the forest fire problem, which the author discusses, are: laws of combustion; fire prevention; fire suppression; fire damage; fire as an agent; and protection standards. "Research in forest pyrology, that subdivision of forest protection devoted to protection from fire," he says in conclusion, "has in the past few years identified and isolated many of its particular groups of phenomena; developed numerous specific techniques for measurement, analysis, integration and correlation; and has originated distinctive methods of immunization, detection, diagnosis and control fully comparable with those of many other recognized subdivisions of science. Forest pyrology is rapidly supplanting rule-of-thumb fire control and is now taking its proper place with the sciences of forest entomology and forest pathology for the better protection of our forest resources."

Soil Erosion Exploration "Early in 1939, W. C. Lowdermilk, distinguished soil explorer and chief of Research for the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, embarked on a scientific venture that stirs the imagination of conservationists," says *American Forests* (July). "He set out to follow in the footprints of the ancient Romans in North Africa, to determine if possible the part soil destruction played in the crumbling of this once great empire 6,000 years ago, and thereby contribute to the knowledge of mankind in the present battle against soil erosion and depletion. In seven weeks he traveled nearly 7,000 miles -- across Algeria, Tunisia, Lybia; into Egypt, Palestine, following the route of the Children of Israel. A brief account of this journey is contained in a letter to H. H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation Service, which is published here, in part -- as an introduction to a series of two articles which Mr. Lowdermilk has written for *American Forests*. The first, observations on Roman agriculture in North Africa, will appear in the August issue; the second, dealing with the control of little waters in North Africa during Roman times, will appear in September."

Farm Home Refrigerator Electricity on the Farm (July) reports a "new dual purpose refrigerator designed especially for the farm and of a size to hold a 5 gallon milk can and a lot of ice trays or space for frozen foods. The special features are the large low temperature compartment, and the elimination of the condenser coil box, making the entire interior available for storage."

Sugar Beet
Thinning

"Until recently mechanical thinning of sugar beets has been considered an impossibility, but agricultural engineers now consider it not only possible but entirely practical," says Farm Implement News (June 29). "This is the opinion of E. M. Mervine and S. W. McBirney of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, based on studies conducted jointly by the California and Colorado Experiment Stations and the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering. 'For four years,' they reported, 'beets have been mechanically thinned experimentally. Not only has "stoop" labor been eliminated in these trials but the product gives evidence of being equal to the hand-produced crop.' They say two factors operate to make thinning of beets difficult; one is that the beet seed ball frequently has several germs and the other, and chief factor, is the tendency of present planting machines to drop seed in bunches. Tests with different types of planters showed that 'the pick-up cup or cell type of mechanism seemed to show the most promise.' The tests show that the percentage stands of plants with the single-seed planter increased from 30 percent when 5 pounds of seed was used to the acre to 73 percent when 20 pounds was used. For the conventional planter the corresponding percentages were 26 and 59. The single-seed planter produced half again as many single seedlings as did the conventional planter..."

Container
Studies

Packing and Shipping (June) contains a note on a recent report by T. A. Carlson, of the Forest Products Laboratory, on corrugated fibre board. "Research on shipping containers at the laboratory," it says, "is one of the objectives of the Forest Service to increase the serviceability and satisfaction of Forest Products to the users. The results of the laboratory's work on wooden shipping containers are well-known. While the same tests that are used for studying wooden boxes and crates have also been used for testing solid fibre and corrugated fibre boxes, says the laboratory, little basic information is available regarding the materials from which fibre boxes are made..."

Hydraulic
Tree Pruner

There is now available a tree pruner, operating on hydraulic pressure, that cuts limbs as thick as two inches with no effort, and by means of light-weight extension poles, will remove a limb twenty feet high without the tree surgeon leaving the ground. Foresters who have seen and used the hydraulic clipper state that it makes the cleanest cut they ever saw -- one on which the bark will heal over without fear of decay forming -- and cuts closer to the boll, or clean through the collar, with no need for sawing back. For sheer speed of operation, this clipper, it is claimed, will remove limbs faster than any other tool. (American Forests, July.)

Basic Copper Arsenate as Insecticide "A new insecticide of great promise has been developed by Dr. D. M. DeLong and his assistants, Ohio State University," says A. J. Patch, Ohio State University, in Country Gentleman (July). "The material is basic copper arsenate, and 10,000 pounds of it are being tested this year in many sections of the United States. One year of laboratory and one year of field tests already have been made, and results indicate a poison of greater toxicity to insects, with much less toxicity to plant tissues, and with less residue problems than the arsenicals now available. The poison has been used on beans, soybeans, cabbage, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, grapes and apples, and has been tested for killing power on southern army worm, Mexican bean beetle, potato beetle, and other insects less resistant to arsenicals. Insects do not detect its presence as readily as they do calcium arsenate or lead arsenate, so they continue to feed on poisoned foliage until they obtain a fatal dose. Basic copper arsenate will not be commercially available for protecting crops until 1940. The first 10,000 pounds manufactured are being tried by farmers in field tests under the supervision of their state experiment stations or other institutions. A favorable report from these trials will result in a new and better weapon in the farmers' hands."

Poultry Congress The July issue of the U. S. Egg & Poultry Magazine has a 32-page section devoted to the Seventh World's Poultry Congress to be held this month. The section includes illustrated articles, information on tours, and description and photographs of the Department exhibits and 4-H Club programs, by a member of the Extension Service.

Egg Cooler, Freezer Box "An electric egg cooler with a capacity of 2,500 to 3,000 eggs in cases or other containers is now available," says Electricity on the Farm (July). "It is a top opening cooler with insulation, supplied with forced air circulation and designed to maintain a temperature of 50° with a humidity of 80-85 percent. The high humidity is maintained by a coil design which does not freeze the moisture out of the atmosphere. The same company has recently placed on the market a 30 cu. ft. top opening box as a zero freezer-storage locker. It contains a special freezing compartment of 5 cu. ft. held at 5° below zero and a 25 cu. ft. storage compartment at 5° above zero. It has forced air circulation and is of a size to hold fruits, vegetables and meats for farm use from one season to another."

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 3

Section 1

July 7, 1939

FARM MORTGAGE INSURANCE BILL The Senate yesterday, without a record vote, passed the Lee bill providing for 100 percent government insurance of farm mortgages as a means of enabling tenants to buy farms. The bill, which now goes to the House, sets a \$350,000,000 limit on the amount of mortgages which may be insured at any one time. Sponsored by 52 Senators, the bill would supplement the loan program for tenant farmers in the President's lending program. Existing farm mortgages could be refinanced under the Lee bill, which provides for 3 percent interest and amortization of principal over a 40-year period. If a farm buyer falls in arrears more than 6 months, the Secretary of Agriculture could issue to the holder of his mortgage a 3 percent government-guaranteed debenture in exchange for the mortgage. If the buyer lost a crop and could not make payments on his mortgage, the government could pay the mortgage holder cash and collect later from the farmer. (Washington Post.)

FOOD STAMP ADDITIONS Seven more commodities were added by the Surplus Commodities Corporation yesterday to the list of surplus foods under the food stamp program. Effective July 16, rice, cabbage, fresh peaches, fresh tomatoes, fresh garden peas and onions (except green onions) will become available under the program now in operation in Rochester, Dayton and Seattle. Fresh pears will be added to the list on August 1, it was announced. Oranges and grapefruit, which are included on the current surplus list, will be removed from the list on July 16. (New York Times.)

COTTON-RUBBER DEAL UNDER CCC The Senate approved yesterday a bill by Senator Byrnes of South Carolina to permit the Commodity Credit Corporation to take title to government loan cotton which will be traded to Great Britain for stocks of rubber. Ownership of the cotton, now held on loans to growers, would be transferred to the Commodity Corporation under terms to be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. (A.P.)

MONEY BILL SIGNED President Roosevelt yesterday signed the monetary bill which renews for two years his power to devalue the dollar and to operate the \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund and calls for resumption of the silver buying program. Secretary Morgenthau announced regulations covering the purchase of domestic silver at the new price of 71.11 cents a fine ounce set by the law. (Press.)

Civil Service Examinations The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 61, unassembled; Principal Silviculturist, \$5,600, Senior Silviculturist, \$4,600, Silviculturist, \$3,800, Associate Silviculturist, \$3,200, Assistant Silviculturist, \$2,600; (Optional Subjects: (1) Silviculture (General), (2) Forest Physiology, (3) Forest Genetics, (4) Dry Land Forestry.) Bureau of Plant Industry and Forest Service; No. 60, assembled; Senior Architect, \$4,600, Architect, \$3,800, Associate Architect, \$3,200, Assistant Architect, \$2,600; (Optional branches: (1) Design, (2) Specifications, (3) Estimating). Applications must be on file not later than (a) July 24, if received from States other than those named in (b), (b) July 27, if received from the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. The Commission also announces the following: No. 63, unassembled; Meteorologist, \$3,800, Associate Meteorologist, \$3,200, Assistant Meteorologist, \$2,600; Applicants must qualify in one or more of the following optional branches; eligibles are particularly desired who qualify in both Option 2 and Option 4, or who qualify in Option 2 and are trained in hydrology, or who qualify in Option 4 and are trained in oceanography: (1) Radiometeorography, (2) Synoptic Meteorology (Air Mass Analysis), (3) General Meteorology and Climatology, (4) Physical and Dynamical Meteorology, (5) Statistical Meteorology, (6) Any other well defined specialized branch of meteorology; Weather Bureau; No. 64, unassembled, Farm Agent, \$1,800, Indian Field Service, Department of the Interior. Applications must be on file not later than the following dates: (a) July 31, if received from States other than those named in (b), (b) August 3, if received from the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Freezer Burn Prevention A markedly more efficient method of eliminating "freezer burn", or surface drying, which is the major cause of deterioration of frozen perishables, was described to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Food Conference recently by Dr. W. H. Cook of the National Research Council, Ottawa. More or less moisture-proof packaging to prevent evaporation is the current method but Dr. Cook has attacked the problem from the other end, humidifying the freezer's atmosphere. The biggest problems were to provide for the continuous addition of moisture and prevent ice formation on the cooler surfaces. Dr. Cook solved both at the same time by evaporating water from a brine circulated over the coils as a de-icer. The optimum humidity seems to be about ninety-five percent and in preliminary tests Dr. Cook has been able to maintain this with an increase of only ten or fifteen percent on the refrigerating load. "It seems probable," Dr. Cook said, "that still higher efficiencies can be attained but even the present performance indicates that this equipment will prevent surface drying more effectively and economically than the reduction of temperature without humidification." (Science Service.)

Pullet Egg Experiments "Results of a 4-year experiment by Knox and Olsen, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, working with S. C. White Leghorn pullets at the National Agricultural Research Center, indicate that the average weight of the eggs laid by pullets -- especially during the early part of their first production year -- can be materially increased in a relatively short time by the use of selected males and progeny testing in a breeding program," says Thomas H. Bartilson, of the bureau, in *Country Gentleman* (July). "Increased size is important since such eggs generally sell for lower prices because of their usual small size. In the first year of the test, average egg weight for the first production year was 23.2 ounces per dozen. Going into the breeding pen these pullets were mated to males selected on the basis of their sisters' average egg weight. In subsequent years the males were chosen on both their sisters' and their daughters' average egg weight. There was no culling of the pullets, and egg-weight records were obtained on all the pullet progeny of the matings. Steady improvement in pullet egg weight was accomplished, reaching an average of 24.8 ounces per dozen last year, well over the 24-ounce per dozen minimum weight required for large eggs in the top market grades. Improvement in the weight of eggs laid by the pullets early in the first production year was particularly striking, as shown by the steady increase in succeeding years in the average weight of the eggs laid in December. In December of 1934 the average weight of eggs laid by the pullets was 21.9 ounces per dozen. The average dropped back to 21.2 ounces per dozen for December, 1935, but in December, 1936, it was up to 22.9 ounces per dozen; in December, 1937 it had increased to 23.2 ounces, and in December, 1938, it averaged 24.6 ounces per dozen, only slightly under the average of the entire first year of production of the 1938 pullets."

Duck Stamps Are on Sale The 1939 "duck stamp" went on sale on July 1 in all first and second class post offices throughout the country, the Bureau of Biological Survey announces. Certain third and fourth class post offices in duck-concentration areas will also sell the \$1 stamps, which must be purchased by all hunters of migratory waterfowl over 16 years of age. Sixth in the series of "duck stamps" inaugurated in 1934, the new issue was designed by Lynn Bogue Hunt, well-known wildlife artist. The stamp pictures a male and a female green-winged teal standing at the edge of a marsh. In the background, five teals are descending for a landing. The "duck stamp" may be purchased singly, in blocks, or in sheets of 28 stamps. Ninety percent of the revenue realized from "duck stamps" is used by the Biological Survey to supplement other funds for migratory waterfowl refuges in the United States and Alaska. Ten percent is used for administrative expenses, printing and distributing the stamps, and protecting the birds.

Senate S. 1836, to amend the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant
 July 5 Act by providing for a system of Government insurance
 of mortgages given by tenants, was made the unfinished
 business.

Received from the Secretary of Agriculture a draft of proposed
 legislation amending section 387 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act
 (photographic reproductions and maps); to Com. on Agriculture and For-
 estry.

House Passed the following: S. 1523, to authorize the
 July 5 payment of burial expenses in connection with last ill-
 ness and death of native employees who die while serving
 in offices abroad of executive departments (this bill will now be sent
 to the President); H. J. Res. 320, authorizing an appropriation of
 \$5,000 for Federal participation in the International Statistical In-
 stitute in the U. S. in 1940; S. 2197, authorizing an appropriation of
 \$250,000 for Federal participation in the Coronado Exposition.

Committee on Agriculture reported without amendment H. R. 2418, to
 extend the provisions of the Forest Exchange Act to certain lands so
 that they may become parts of the Whitman, Malheur, or Umatilla National
 Forests (H. Rept. 1030), and H. R. 5404, to extend the provisions of the
 Forest Exchange Act to certain lands so that they may become part of the
 Ochoco National Forest (H. Rept. 1031).

Committee on Judiciary reported with amendment S. 1871, to prevent
 pernicious political activities (H. Rept. 1028).

Received a draft of proposed legislation from the Secretary of Ag-
 riculture to authorize the Secretary "to eradicate, suppress, control,
 or prevent the spread of injurious and noxious pests"; to Com. on Agri-
 culture.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Secretary to The Seventh World's Poultry Congress and Exposition
 Open Congress will be officially opened in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 28,
 by Secretary Wallace, President of the Congress. He will
 open the exposition phase of the international poultry event at 9:00 a.m.,
 at the entrance of the Cleveland Public Auditorium. Accompanied by an
 official party, he will then inspect the exhibits in the Hall of Indus-
 try, Hall of Nations and States and Hall of Live Poultry. In the after-
 noon at 2:00 o'clock a general assembly will be held at which time the
 Secretary will officially open the Congress and discuss the contributions
 of the poultry industry to world-wide abundance. The general assembly
 on the afternoon of July 28 should be the most important and interesting
 poultry meeting ever held in the United States, in the opinion of W. D.
 Termohlen of the Department, Secretary General of the Congress. Repre-
 sentatives from at least 39 countries, 48 states, and 2 territories will
 be present.

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 4

Section 1

July 10, 1939

COTTON REPORT

The acreage of cotton in cultivation in the United States on July 1 is estimated by the Crop Reporting Board to be 24,943,000 acres, which is three-tenths of 1 percent less than the 25,018,000 acres on July 1, 1938, 32.2 percent less than the 1928-37 acreage, and 14.4 percent less than the 1934-38 average. If the 10-year (1929-38) percentage of abandonment is applied to the estimated acreage in cultivation on July 1, an acreage of 24,424,000 is indicated for harvest. This would be only slightly more than the 24,248,000 acres harvested in 1938, which was the smallest cotton acreage harvested since 1899.

SURPLUS FOOD PURCHASES

A total of 1,700,000,000 pounds of surplus agricultural commodities were bought by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation in the fiscal year ended June 30, at a cost of \$66,000,000, including freight and handling charges, the organization announces today. These commodities, with the exception of cotton and cotton ticking, were foodstuffs and were donated to welfare agencies in 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands for distribution to families on relief rolls. Purchases included 79,000,000 pounds of dried beans, 122,000,000 pounds of butter, 171,900,000 pounds of corn meal, 3,210,000 dozen fresh eggs, 178,000,000 pounds of white flour and 1,800,000 boxes of oranges. (Washington Post.)

FOOD STAMPS IN BIRMINGHAM

Selection of Birmingham, Alabama, as the fourth city in which the food stamp plan will be started, has been announced by Secretary Wallace. Distribution of stamps is expected to begin in Birmingham about August 1. With a population of 259,000 (1933 census) Birmingham has 15,000 public aid cases eligible to participate in the stamp plan. These cases include about 8,700 employed on WPA projects, about 2,900 eligible cases waiting assignment to WFA; approximately 2,800 cases receiving social security aid or general relief; and 600 eligible cases who are receiving no financial aid but who are getting surplus agricultural commodities under the present direct distribution program.

Section 2

FSA County Planning W. F. Baxter, of the Farm Security Administration, writes in Planning and Civic Comment (April-June) on "Coffee County, Alabama -- A Demonstration in County Planning." Describing the Coffee County Farms project, he says: "In a true sense, the work is neither a land program, a resettlement program, nor a rehabilitation program. It is an area or county program into which have been brought the activities of Federal, state and local bodies so that the problems of the whole county might be solved...The plan for Coffee County includes rehabilitation of the population, reconstruction of the educational and public health systems, land-use, education in the home and improved recreational and social opportunities. The Farm Security Administration is extending financial aid and agricultural guidance to about 600 families in the country...Money for schools, teachers, nurses and other public service personnel is received from various agencies. Agricultural Adjustment Administration and Soil Conservation payments are an important factor in the improved financial status of Coffee County farmers...The Farm Security Administration is remodeling one school house and is constructing three more...Vocational teachers are being employed and one-half of those available are assigned to the schools while the others work in the homes...A new public health program, with three county health nurses in residence, is bringing much-needed medical care to more than 30,000 persons. A group health plan has been set up with the cooperation of the State and County Medical Boards...Information on sanitation, health habits and proper diets is brought to each family through the public health nurses, the schools and the vocational teachers as they work in the homes. A County Health unit, under the supervision of a county medical officer, has cooperated with the Health Association during the year...Cooperative purchasing, processing and marketing are conducted in connection with an existing cooperative organization, the Enterprise Farmers' Exchange. Four cooperative canning services are being established...Improved school houses in four localities are providing community meeting places. A lake, camping grounds and picnic areas have been provided so that residents in different areas of the country are not isolated from their neighbors. The new planning for Coffee County, plus the active leadership of the County Council, is beginning to show results in the economic, civic and social progress of Coffee County."

Dr. Skinner Promoted

Dr. William W. Skinner has been appointed Associate Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, Dr. Knight, Chief of the Bureau, has announced. Dr. Skinner will assist in the supervision of scientific, technical, engineering, and administrative work, including the four Regional Research Laboratories. Doctor Skinner has been with the Department for almost 35 years. He entered the service as a chemist in 1904 and has been engaged in chemical problems ever since. He has had wide experience in fundamental and applied chemistry, and is the author of numerous books, bulletins, and scientific papers.

B.D.I. Cheese Packaging A new method of curing and packaging cheese developed by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, was discussed in the May, 1938, issue of Food Industries. The Bureau's efforts are bearing fruit. Aged cheddar, Swiss and other cheeses are appearing on the market in package sizes from 8 oz. to 5 lb. Ready-sliced cheese, sandwich size, in 5 lb. cans, is meeting popularity with institutions, where prepared meals are served. Although the cost of the sliced cheese is somewhat higher than the cost of the same cheese in dairies, drug-stores, lunch counters, "dog wagons," and roadside stands, where the sandwich is a demand item, are turning to the sliced cheese in 5 lb. cans in preference to other cheeses. The loss from staling is less and the convenience angle in handling saves time and money. (Food Industries, July.)

Dry Ice Cream Mix "Two Wisconsin men -- a milk-producing industrialist and a chemist -- have recently perfected a dry ice-cream mix which is expected to increase ice-cream consumption in districts distant from a fresh cream supply," says Joseph E. Ryan in Country Gentleman (July). "There have been dry mixes for the same purpose in the past, but they have had the objection of becoming rancid. Tests made by container companies' research laboratories have demonstrated that the new mix develops no off flavors after standing in a 98-degree temperature for four months, and it appeared that the moistureless combination could be kept up to a year without any rank flavors. Wet ice-cream mixes are composed of 60 percent water and 40 percent solids and must be refrigerated when shipped to their logical market -- points distant from milk producing centers, the South in our own country--and many areas in foreign lands. The refrigerating in transit makes the cost prohibitive in most cases. The perfecting of the new dry mix resulted simply from a special treatment given standard ice-cream mix before it is dehydrated. After this treatment and following dehydration the powder may be sent to any point--without special care in conveyance. To convert the powder into ice cream, it is only necessary to add ordinary water and freeze. It is hoped that the discovery will aid ice-cream consumption in centers away from the dairy area and relieve some of the surplus from regions of abundant dairy products."

4-H Club Protection "Congress has passed and President Roosevelt has signed a law which prohibits unauthorized use of the 4-H Club emblem," says an editorial in The Farmer (July 1). "Hereafter it is unlawful for any person 'falsely and with intent to defraud' to pretend that he is a representative of the 4-H Clubs, or to wear or display the 4-H emblem to induce the belief that he is a member of the 4-H Clubs. Unauthorized use of the emblem in advertising is also unlawful. This is wise action and in the interest of the 4-H Club movement which many unscrupulous persons often attempt to commercialize to their personal advantage. This is an educational movement and it should never be commercialized..."

Senate Passed the following: S. 2697, to facilitate the execution of arrangements for exchange of surplus agricultural commodities produced in U. S. for reserve stocks of strategic and critical materials produced abroad; S. 2152, to protect scenic values along the Catalina Highway within the Coronado National Forest, Ariz.; S. Res. 146, directing the Committee on Interstate Commerce to investigate methods of handling express and freight traffic.

S. 2635, to extend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to cotton, was passed over after discussion.

Concurred in a clerical House amendment to S. 2197, authorizing an appropriation of \$250,000 for Federal participation in the Coronado Exposition (this bill will now be sent to the President).

House Passed the following: S. 2237, to amend the Taylor July 6 Grazing Act so as to provide for advisory boards of local stockmen (this bill will now be sent to the President); H. R. 6634, making various amendments to previous flood-control acts; H. R. 6614, to amend the Government Losses in Shipment Act; H. R. 5681, to authorize the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation to purchase and distribute surplus products of the fishing industry; S. 884, for the relief of disbursing officers and other officers and employees from disallowances and charges on account of airplane travel (this bill will now be sent to the President); H. R. 6538, 6539, 6540, 6541, amending certain of the tobacco provisions in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938; Bills to add certain lands to national forests as follows: H. R. 2415, Plumas National Forest, Calif.; H. R. 5747, Wenatchee National Forest; H. R. 2752, Kaniksu National Forest; H. R. 168, Cleveland National Forest, Calif.; H. R. 2548, Pike National Forest.

Adjourned until Monday, July 10.

New Apple Concentrate "A new method of preparing concentrated products from fresh fruits and vegetables has been developed," say H. W. Gerritz and J. T. St. John, of the Washington Experiment Station, in Food Industries (July). "These products can be reconstituted into prepared foods with a flavor identical with those prepared directly from the fresh raw materials. The new method avoids the difficulty of loss of flavor and character so typical of older methods. It produces a food material that can be reconstituted in fifteen minutes or less, rather than requiring the tedious method of soaking formerly employed. In fact, apple concentrate more recently prepared has been reconstituted in two minutes in hot water. In general, the new process as applied to apples is the result of the utilization and proper selection, sequence, combination, and careful control within modified limits of well-known processes such as bleaching, heat treating, and evaporating after the usual preparation of the fruit or vegetable by peeling, coring, and washing..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 5

Section 1

July 11, 1939

LENDING... PROGRAM The Administration's new lending program went before Congress yesterday in the form of parallel House and Senate bills proposing the authorization of new type credits totaling \$2,660,000,000 according to a report in the New York Times. The bills were introduced by Senator Barkley, majority leader, and Representative Steagall, chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency. The program was amended from its original form in one substantial particular, in that it omitted a projected extension of \$500,000,000 in foreign credits. Instead of that item, the bill proposed that the \$100,000,000 lending authorization of the Export-Import Bank be enlarged to \$200,000,000. The program would provide for use of \$40,000,000 already appropriated for rural electrification and \$100,000,000 already appropriated for loans to farm tenants to assist them in buying their land, in addition to sums proposed to be authorized by the new law. Rounding out the program in a separate bill is an increase of \$800,000,000 in the loan authorization of the United States Housing Authority, which has passed the Senate.

TREASURY CUTS SILVER The Treasury, while cutting its price for foreign silver to 35 cents an ounce, the lowest it ever paid for bullion, apparently acted yesterday to stabilize the world silver market, says an Associated Press report. The Treasury cut its offer from 36.75 cents yesterday, but declined to follow the reduction which had brought the free silver market in London down from 36.61 to 33.84 cents over the weekend. Because it costs only a half cent an ounce to ship silver across the Atlantic, the Treasury action was expected not only to arrest the declining London price, but perhaps bring it up a little.

WORLD FARM CONFERENCE The sixth International Congress of Agricultural Industry opened yesterday at Budapest, Hungary, with delegates from 18 nations attending officially. Admiral Nicholas Horthy, the regent, made the opening address. (New York Times.)

INSURANCE FOR COTTON Secretary Wallace told Congress yesterday that it might be well to extend federal crop insurance to cotton "in view of the many hazards that affect the production of cotton and the large number of farmers who must face these hazards." A letter from Wallace to Senator Bankhead was made public before the House Agriculture Committee by Cecil A. Johnson, assistant manager of the Crop Insurance Corporation. (A.F.)

Drama of the Weather W. J. Humphreys, of the Weather Bureau, in Scientific Monthly (July) reviews the second edition of the book, "The Drama of Weather," by Sir Napier Shaw. Mr. Humphreys says: "Sir Napier has enlarged his delightful drama by nearly 40 pages, and our only regret is that he did not enlarge it more, for all he says is both interesting and informative. The idea of super-personifying the weather into a drama for which the whole world is the stage might occur to almost any creative writer of artistic mood, but only the abundant knowledge, the facile pen and the ready wit of Sir Napier could make real, as he has made real, this daring dream...The various weather elements, and how they are measured, are discussed in some detail; and the information gathered by means of the instruments clearly set out with many maps and diagrams. Any one can read 'The Drama of Weather' with pleasure and with profit, and the more he already knows about meteorology the keener will be his enjoyment of this book..."

WPA Aids Farmers "WPA work goes on in rural and semi-rural areas to a far greater extent than is perhaps generally realized," says Colonel Francis C. Harrington, Administrator, Works Progress Administration, in The Southern Planter (July). "It is true that unemployment is heavily concentrated in our large industrial cities, and that a large proportion of employment on WPA projects is to be found in these cities. But more than a million WPA workers today are residents of rural or semi-rural communities, and about a third of these are in the South. WPA projects in rural districts have always given employment to farm laborers in seasons when they have no farm employment. And the law passed by Congress in 1938 gives to farmers who are not on the relief rolls, but who need work to supplement their farm incomes, equal eligibility for WPA jobs in rural areas...Thousands of public buildings have been constructed or repaired in small communities. Among them are many farmers' markets, designed to aid country people in selling produce and livestock...More than one-third of America's population is out of reach of any library. The WPA has not only built and repaired many library buildings but, for the benefit of those in rural and isolated sections, it has established traveling library services in hundreds of localities...Rural education has also received a great deal of help from WPA adult education projects. The services of unemployed teachers are made use of to conduct classes not only in regular academic subjects, but in vocational education, home economics and other important fields...School lunch projects have been widely established by the WPA, and more than half of them are in rural schools. In the Southern States a total of over 76 million lunches have been served to undernourished children...Medical, dental and nursing services, ranging from health examinations and immunizations to home care by doctors and nurses, are provided each week without cost to large numbers of people who cannot afford to pay for them, through WPA projects sponsored by

county and city boards of health...The flood-control and conservation projects of the WPA are of direct benefit to rural populations. Nearly 170,000 acres of land have been irrigated by ditches dug by WPA workers, while repairs and improvements on existing irrigation facilities have benefited agriculture on more than two and a half million acres. About 27,000 small dams have been built to check soil erosion and to conserve the water of streams and rivers. Over 50,000 acres of land have been reforested by WPA workers. Noxious plants have been eradicated on areas totaling over six million acres. Nearly three and a half million acres have been sprayed or otherwise treated...These WPA services go hand-in-hand with the fundamental service of providing employment to those who are in great need of it..."

New Wood Stave Silo In Capper's Farmer (July) M. E. Bridston, reports that "a new type of wood stave silo, built of standard flooring and hooped with Douglas fir, is being constructed by farmers in the Pacific northwest. Stability of these silos is due to the 'trouble free' wooden hoops which never need to be tightened and which hold the silo firmly rigid. Skilled labor in construction is not required." The author describes the construction of the silo in detail, and adds: "Tests made at the University of Washington College of Forestry reveal that the modernized wood stave silo will withstand enormous pressure, and thus the building will not twist or suffer other structural damage. Further, here is a home-built silo which remains solid and rigid through summer drouths or winter freezes, whether empty or full..."

Spraying Wild Fruits Spraying the wild fruits and berries on which game animals and song birds feed, just as orchards and cotton-fields are sprayed to keep down insect pests and destructive fungi, is proposed by Floyd B. Chapman of the Ohio Division of Conservation, in a communication to the Journal of Wildlife Management. Test sprayings of two species of wild grape affected by the grape berry moth resulted in fivefold increases in yield of ripe fruit, Mr. Chapman reported. Spraying wild fruits has the further, indirect benefit of abating their role as lurking-places of insects and fungi that may spread to neighboring farms and orchards. (Science Service.)

Record Coffee Deliveries A review of the coffee crop year, which ended on June 30, shows that Brazil, the world's largest producer of coffee, expanded her markets, especially in the United States, but was unable to obtain prices much above the low record made in the spring of 1938, while other countries, particularly the producers of high-quality beans, shipped less coffee but were more fortunate from the point of view of price. According to statistics just released by the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange, the United States in the year consumed 51.69 percent of all the world's coffee, or 907,107 bags more than all the rest of the world combined. (New York Times.)

Cotton Exports The Agriculture Department has reported that during the first nine months of the current marketing season the world's eight leading exporting nations shipped 7,924,000 bales of cotton. This figure compared with exports averaging about 11,000,800 during the 1923-33 period and 9,250,000 bales last year. The reduction was more than accounted for, the department said, by a loss of almost 4,000,000 bales in exports from the United States. Shipments from the United States during the nine month period totaled 3,131,000 bales compared with 5,379,000 last year and 7,091,000 averaged during the pre-depression period. While the United States still held its position as the world's leading cotton-exporting country, it fell from 65 to 40 percent of the total and its exports were more than equaled during the nine-month period by those of British India and Egypt combined. (Washington Post, July 2.)

Engineering in Farming The Minneapolis Tribune (June 23) in an editorial on the recent meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, says "it presented striking evidence to the lay observer on the outside that scientific research is bound to play an increasingly important part in the future of agriculture...Research aiding agriculture toward increased efficiency, with the getting of crops to the industrial market in forms more readily adapted to factory use, should not be left wholly to state and federal agencies, L. F. Livingston, well-known agricultural engineer, contended: "Every farm organization should show its active interest in and support of research projects and fellowship studies...Farmers, continually puzzled by the problems of surpluses and markets, will look with mounting interest toward scientific research as an aid toward solution of some of their difficulties."

5-Month Farm Income Down Cash income from the sale of farm products in the first five months of 1939 amounted to \$2,466,000,000, a decline of 4 percent from the \$2,570,000,000 estimated for the same period of 1938, the Department of Agriculture has announced. Lower January-May receipts from sales of cotton reduced income sharply in all of the cotton States, with largest reductions occurring in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. Income from tobacco was also much lower. (Press.)

Stock Losses in Shipping "Livestock shipping losses from death and injury were less in 1938 than in 1937 according to a report of the National Livestock Loss Prevention Board," says C. D. Lowe, Bureau Animal Industry, in Country Gentleman (July). "Animals dead on arrival by rail at twenty-five of the largest markets were 13 percent less last year than the year before. While truck shipments also showed reduced losses as compared with 1937, such shipments continued to show a higher percentage of loss from death and crippling than rail shipments, according to the Board's report."

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 6

Section 1

July 12, 1939

FOOD DOLLAR DISTRIBUTION Consumers are paying higher than pre-war prices for foods, although farmers are getting less for the raw materials, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said last night after computing a survey covering 58 food products, F. L. Thomsen, who made the survey, said that in 1913-15 the farmer received 53 cents of every dollar spent by consumers for the 58 foods. In the last year, he said, the share was but 40 cents. Increased cost of distribution, more services in connection with the processing and handling of commodities, higher wage rates and "other middlemen's costs" were blamed by Thomsen for the difference. (Washington Post.)

WHEAT SUBSIDY CONTINUED Officials of the Department of Agriculture said yesterday that the wheat flour export subsidy program would be continued indefinitely. The program is designed to encourage the sale of United States flour abroad. The officials said the program would be carried out under substantially the same operating procedure as that in effect in the fiscal year ended on June 30. The department is to announce daily the rate of payment which it will make on foreign sales. (A.F.)

TVA PLAN APPROVED Compromise legislation enabling the Tennessee Valley Authority to carry out contracts for public purchase of private utilities in three Southern States was approved by a joint committee of Senators and Representatives yesterday. President gave virtual assurance that he would sign the legislation when it reaches his desk. Representatives Andrews of New York and Short of Missouri withheld their signatures from the conference report approving a new \$61,500,000 bond issue to finance TVA's share of the \$78,600,000 Tennessee Electric Power Company contract and subsequent purchases from the Commonwealth & Southern Corporation in 27 North Alabama and Mississippi counties. (A.F.).

ALASKA FOREST FIRE CONTROL Should forest and brush fires come to Alaska, 250,000,000 acres will be protected in an extensive program being worked out by the General Land Office. The new protection, made possibly by appropriations obtained from Congress for the first time this year, will be under the direction of W. J. McDonald, senior forester of the General Land Office. Civilian Conservation Corps groups will cooperate with the Forest Service forces in the program. (Washington Post.)

Selenium Problem The American Journal of Public Health (July) contains a paper on "The Selenium Problem and Its Relationship to Public Health" by Ira A. Manville, University of Oregon Medical School. "Only a few cases of injury to man have been definitely determined," he says in part. "The only studies made on humans have shown the presence in the urine of selenium in quantities equal to that found in the urine of toxic animals. To deny the existence of selenium poisoning as such in these individuals because studies have not shown a symptom pathognomonic of selenium poisoning is assuming a very conservative attitude. Byers (Bureau of Plant Industry) in his Mexican studies, was not willing to commit himself by stating that the evident ill-health of the inhabitants was due to the selenium content of their food and concluded that the question was problematical and worthy of study. By the investigators who have studied the selenium problem the most thoroughly, the public health aspect of the situation is limited exclusively to the affected areas. It should not be overlooked, however, that the largest part of the world's wheat is grown in semiarid soils where selenium, if present, would tend to remain and perhaps even accumulate in the soil. Of equal importance is the contamination of food material by seleniferous sprays. Byers and Knight state that while it is true quantities of toxic foodstuffs have been produced and marketed, and that unless preventive measures are taken they will continue to be produced and marketed, no serious concern need be felt except in the areas concerned...The following statement was made by Smith, Franke, and Westfall: 'More detailed information regarding the sources of selenium; accurate knowledge concerning the quantitative relationship between the selenium excreted to that ingested and stored in the tissues; more intimate knowledge concerning the chemical nature of the compound or compounds of selenium occurring in foodstuffs, and a thorough knowledge of the fate of these compounds in the body, are some phases of the general problem requiring solution before its public health significance can be fully appreciated...'"

Record Bean Inspections The aggregate number of inspections of dry edible beans and soybeans made during the fiscal year 1939 is one-third larger than in any previous year. Although most of this increase is attributed to the record crop of soybeans, much of it is the result of wider use of the official U. S. standards in the marketing of dry edible beans. Inspections of soybeans for export exceeded those of any year of record. (A.M.S. News, July 1.)

House Organs in B.A.E. The first issue of the A.M.S. (Agricultural Marketing Service) News has appeared (July 1). B.A.E. reports that "issues will be mailed only to the staff of the A.M.S. and to administrative officers and divisional leaders in B.A.E. The bureau is making other plans to keep its personnel, both in the

House Passed S. 1575, to provide that the annual registration of motor vehicles in the District of Columbia shall be from April 1 in each year to March 31 in the succeeding year. Randolph amendment to make this bill applicable to the licensing of public vehicles was agreed to.

Received from the President a modification of the estimate of appropriation for the Foreign Agricultural Service, as submitted in the 1940 Budget (H. Doc. 393); to Com. on Appropriations.

Committee on Agriculture reported the following: without amendment, H. J. Res. 342, to amend section 322 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (marketing quotas - corn) (H. Rept. 1046); without amendment, H. J. Res. 343, to amend section 335 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (marketing quotas - wheat) (H. Rept. 1047); with amendment, H. R. 5764, to provide for establishment of a cemetery within the Crab Orchard Creek Project, Ill. (Soil Conservation Service) (H. Rept. 1048).

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Riper Peaches "Studies by pomologists of the College of Agriculture, Illinois, have demonstrated that there are several advantages of harvesting peaches more mature than has heretofore been the case," says F. J. Keilholz, extension editor, University of Illinois, in Country Gentleman (July). "Most important are the higher quality and better flavor which the fruit carries when it is allowed to ripen on the tree. Illinois growers who have adopted the newer method of harvesting mature peaches report that they have no trouble in getting a premium of fifty cents or more a bushel for tree-ripened fruit. On the other hand, many crops have been harvested so green that the pack of No. 1 fruits of more than 2 1/4 inches was reduced by at least 50 percent. A second important advantage of harvesting peaches more mature is the increase in yield. What most growers have failed to realize is that fruits make their most rapid increase in volume during the last two or three weeks the fruits are on the tree. In the Illinois experimental work it was found that Elberta peaches increased 7.8 percent in size from August fifteen to August seventeen, 16 1/2 percent to August twenty and 24 percent to August twenty-two. In other words, delaying the harvest seven days increased the total volume of fruit almost one quarter. On an acre basis this meant five to ten bushels more an acre for each additional day the peaches were left on the trees. In a forty-acre orchard this gain would amount to as much as a carload a day.

Cotton Parley The Department of Agriculture has called a meeting to be held tomorrow with representatives of the cotton trade to discuss plans for increasing exports of the commodity. A leader of the movement to attack the cotton surplus through a program of cooperation with industry to lower prices of products made from the commodity turned up in Representative Marvin Jones (Tex.) chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. (New York Journal of Commerce, July 10.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 7

Section 1

July 13, 1939

STEM RUST DAMAGE The Department of Agriculture reported yesterday that stem rust caused little damage to grain in the winter wheat belt this season, says an Associated Press report. Only light infestations were found at points in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. In the spring wheat belt some rust has developed in the eastern portions of the Dakotas, where warm, humid weather, ideal for development of the plant disease, has prevailed. The department said late fields of grain in the spring wheat area could be expected to suffer damage if weather favorable to rust continues.

DAKOTA, COLO., FOREST FIRES Three communities west of Rapid City, South Dakota, again were threatened early yesterday by a forest fire raging in the Black Hills, according to an Associated Press report. A crown fire, that feared most by those who live in the forests, made a wreckage of 15,000 acres. A large amount of livestock was burned to death. As the fire waned for a while early yesterday, a score of Forest Service officials directing 1,500 fire fighters succeeded in re-establishing fire lines for the first time since Monday night. E. A. Snow, supervisor of the Harney National Forest, thought then they might be able to get the blaze in hand if the wind did not blow again. In northern Colorado, 1,000 fire fighters reported a conflagration in Roosevelt National Forest under control. An aerial survey showed the fire had eaten approximately 1,500 acres of lodgepole pine in the 6,000-acre fire belt.

WALLACE INDORSES LENDING PROGRAM Secretary of Agriculture Wallace yesterday indorsed farm tenancy provisions of President Roosevelt's new \$2,800,000,000 lending program as one way to check a steady increase in the number of farm tenants. Testifying before the Senate Banking Committee, Secretary Wallace said 42 percent of all farmers now are tenants and that the total is increasing. "If this trend is not checked in the very near future," he said, "there is grave doubt whether America's traditional system of family sized farms can long survive." Under the lending program, the Farm Security Administration would receive \$600,000,000 for a 7-year program of rehabilitation loans to tenants. Mr. Wallace said rehabilitation plans already have been made to 750,000 needy farm families and that 87,000 of these paid off their loans in full before they were due. (A.F.).

"Selective Registration" "Breed associations in America have frequently been criticised for accepting for registry animals whose only qualifications was that their sires and dams were registered," says an editorial in New England Homestead (July 1). "The battle against scrub sires has been waged vigorously, but the pure bred breeder has too often failed to discard the scrub pure bred. The American Jersey Cattle Club has taken the initiative which calls for production inheritance as well as pure blood requirements as prerequisites to breed registration of males of the breed. 'Selective Registration,' compulsory under the breed's new program, will become effective January 1, 1942. As we see it, a young Jersey bull to be eligible for registry after the deadline date, must be the offspring of a bull proved in a dairy herd improvement association with daughters averaging 400 or more pounds of butter fat; the son of a bull recognized by the American Jersey Cattle Club as a tested sire whose daughters average 500 pounds of butter fat in 365 days, or the dam of the bull to be registered must have a record with a mature equivalent production of 400 pounds of butter fat in 10 months. This program should stimulate dairy herd improvement association work..."

WPC Dressed Turkey Show "The Dressed Turkey Show at the World's Poultry Congress represents one of the most unusual turkey shows that has ever been held," says S. J. Marsden, Bureau of Animal Industry, in Turkey World (July). "Here will be displayed many of the champion and grand champion winners from the leading dressed shows of the past year. The list of exhibitors represents the country's leading meat type breeders. Approximately 100 turkeys have been entered in this event. They come from all sections of the country. Four varieties are represented -- Bronze, White Holland, Black, and Narragansett; although about 90 percent are Bronze, nearly all of the large type. Nine-tenths of the birds entered were dressed last year and retained in storage. The remainder are early hatched turkeys. These young birds will be an interesting addition to the show and will demonstrate what can be done in respect to off-season production..."

Pears Resist Blight Ten new pears that are markedly resistant to blight have been developed at New York Experiment Station. Four are of Seckel type and six Bartlett. Four of the latter, Covert, Gorham, Pulteney and Phelps, ripen two weeks to 3 months later than Bartlett. Two other Bartlett types, Ovid and Willard, will extend the season for this variety into January. Planting stocks of some of the new varieties are available through nurseries. Adaptation under varying soil conditions and in regions other than that in which developed has not been determined, however. (Capper's Farmer, July.)

Bang's Disease Eradication Owners of both dairy and beef cattle in practically all States are making progress in eradicating Bang's disease from their herds, according to officials of the Federal-State campaign against this disease. The work has been in progress on a systematic nation-wide scale since July, 1934. The United States Department of Agriculture has just issued a map showing the percentage of all cattle over six months of age, except steers and sprayed heifers, under supervision in the Bang's disease project on May 1, 1939. In comparison with similar information for May 1, 1938, the new map shows substantial gains. The States in which the greatest progress has been made are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. (Milk Plant Monthly, July.)

Science Aids Agriculture "The government has made an appropriation which in due time may pay large returns, for if farmers are to make money it is evident products now waste must be utilized," says an editorial in Missouri Ruralist (July 8). "Such will be the purpose of scientists in charge of four regional laboratories at Peoria, Ill.; New Orleans, La.; Albany, Calif.; and Wyndmoor, Pa. Cost of establishment and operation is not to exceed one million dollars for each laboratory annually. Four million dollars should be enough for a start. Dr. W. W. Skinner, of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, forecasts a new era of progress with establishment of the four research laboratories. Said Doctor Skinner: 'A lot of the progress in agricultural production and utilization in our life has come thru quick development of rich natural resources with the happy combination of a mixed, ingenious people. Let us expect steady progress, but no over-night miracles. Research is a wheel horse that pulls a heavy load thru an unknown road. But he is dependable. Therefore, I have faith that our new research laboratories will do the country good.'"

County Agent Aid Increases Any notion that American farmers fell into an unprogressive rut during the depression is dispelled by the announcement of the results of personal interviews with 32,000 farmers in thirty-five States, which disclose that farmers are more eager to learn and to use the latest scientific farming methods than they were in the boom days of 1928. This year more than 53 percent of the farmers attended meetings or demonstrations held by their county agents, and more than 28 percent made the long drive to their State experiment station's farm and fields for up-to-date pointers on advanced farming, it was announced by the National Fertilizer Association which conducted the nation-wide poll. This mass pilgrimage to centers of agricultural information represents a gain of 16 percent in the number of farmers who reported that they attended county agents' meetings and demonstrations, over a similar survey made by the association ten years ago. (Press.)

Senate
July 11 Concurred in the House amendment to S. 1575, to provide that the annual registration of motor vehicles and the annual licensing of certain public vehicles in the District of Columbia shall be from April 1 in each year to March 31 in the succeeding year (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Began debate on H. R. 6635, making various amendments to the Social Security Act.

Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported: with amendment, S. 2585, to reimburse the cotton cooperative associations for losses occasioned by the Federal Farm Board's stabilization operations (S. Rept. 742); with amendments, S. 2573, to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to regulate commerce in rice and providing for the orderly marketing of rice at fair prices in interstate and foreign commerce (S. Rept. 763).

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Non-Chemical
Weed Control "With 127,000 pounds of sodium chlorate applied to 165 of its farms in 1938, Unatilla county is definitely interested in weed control and the five-year experiment recently set up on the Indian reservation by the Extension Service promises well," says the Oregon Farmer (July 6). "It aims at control on large areas by methods other than chemical. Here is the program on two of the fields: Plow in the fall eight or nine inches deep, plant with fall rye at the rate of two bushels per acre, plow down the following May, duckfoot every eight to 14 days after emergence of morning glory, plow again to the same depth in the fall of 1939, seed again and follow the foregoing procedure for at least three seasons.-----
----- Procedure will be the same on the other two fields except that rye will be cut for hay in the milk or soft dough stage. The Indian service, the Pendleton field station and the Extension Service are cooperating in the experiment."

Wash. Crop
Insurance "First indemnity paid in Washington for loss of a wheat crop covered by a federal all-risk crop insurance policy went recently to Paul Guske, who operates 700 acres near Farmer, Douglas county," says the Washington Farmer (July 8). With a loss figured at 90 percent, due primarily to drought, Guske received \$423.23, paying for a loss of 848 bushels. He had paid a premium of 83 bushels of wheat (cash value \$38.98) to insure the 194-acre planting. The wheat was seeded last fall in sandy soil. The first covering of snow melted and the ground froze when bare. When the second cover of snow melted, it ran off the frozen soil, leaving the ground dry this spring. Spring rains failed to materialize and cheat grass choked out the stunted wheat. The crop was figured to have a 10 percent value for pasture..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 8

Section 1

July 14, 1939

WALLACE ON COTTON SUBSIDY

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace yesterday told representatives of thirteen major cotton trade and textile organizations that the department intends to place a cotton export subsidy into effect as soon as possible, says a report in the Washington Times Herald. Officials of the trade groups were opposed to the subsidy, but announced they would cooperate with the department in making it "effective in a way which will render it as workable as possible." Tentative plans call for start of the program next month.

The projected export plan, Wallace said, should not embody the variable rate of payment to exporters now in effect in the wheat export program. He also said that the cotton plan should be put into effect for 1939 exports. "In determining the rate of payment," he said, "care should be exercised against adopting a rate so high that it would either cause a serious break in the world market or more than fully offset the present competitive disadvantage of American cotton in the export market."

Funds to finance the cotton export plan, designed to assist in recapturing foreign markets which consumed 3,500,000 bales of American cotton last year instead of the normal 6,000,000 bales, were provided in the agriculture appropriation bill. Officials estimated that between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000 is available to initiate the drive against surpluses.

FSCC TO BUY VEGETABLES

The Department of Agriculture announced yesterday that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has been authorized to buy commercial fresh vegetables during certain periods of surplus production in producing areas near consuming centers. Purchases are to be made primarily in the farmers' markets as a means of assisting vegetable growers engaged in organized efforts to improve marketing conditions for their products. All vegetables bought will be turned over to state welfare agencies for distribution to families on relief rolls.

TRUCK CROPS

Acreage planted and to be planted to commercial truck crops for fresh market shipment this season is the largest on government record. But the total production will be smaller this year than last on account of unfavorable growing conditions. (Agricultural Situation, July.)

Trees for Dust Bowl "The success of the tree-planting project in the 'dust bowl' areas is marked enough after five years to justify Secretary Wallace in saying that they may help to make the Great Plains region a breadbasket for the nation rather than an ever-threatening desert," says an editorial in the Madison Capital Times (July 5). "At four cents apiece, the government has helped plant 127,000,000 trees along 11,000 miles of windbreak. Some of the trees, which sarcastic critics insisted wouldn't grow, are now 30 and 35 feet high. And on more than 20,000 farms, new life has come to the crops, and new hope to the farmers. Without faith, there can be no progress; without the willingness to take a risk there can be no solid gain. The cedars, pines, locusts, Chinese elms, and willows waving in the prairie breeze are a row of banners to a risk justified and a faith vindicated..."

N.D. Health Program The Farm Security Administration's health program in North Dakota, far from being abandoned as a failure, as a recent news report indicated, is to continue under an improved plan shortly after July 30. Dues will be set at \$33 per year, a slight increase over the \$2 per month of the last plan. 'There is no justification for saying the plan has failed,' said Jesse B. Yaukey, statistician borrowed from the U. S. Public Health Service. The lapse in operation of the health program for FSA clients in North Dakota is similar to the lapse which occurred in 1937, Mr. Yaukey explained. It is due to the fact that the FSA and medical groups in North Dakota have deliberately limited each of the plans so far tried to a definite period for trial purposes, with the idea each time of starting operations again under new plans improved from the experience gained with previous ones. The new program, it is planned, will operate for two or three years, instead of the shorter periods to which previous programs have been intentionally limited. Members may join at the beginning of each quarter-year. Under previous plans members were accepted only at the beginning of the program and for the entire length of its operation. (Science News Letter, July 15.)

OES Work in Mississippi A livestock experiment station at Natchez and a soil fertility station at Raymond are provided under a reorganization program effective August 1 to further specialize the work of the Mississippi Experiment Station system, according to Dr. Clarence Dorman, director. Both the Natchez and Raymond stations have previously conducted general research work. Under the new program, the Natchez unit will specialize in livestock research. The Raymond station under the new program will be concerned with the maintenance and increase of soil fertility. The legislature of 1938 provided for two specialized units, as a result of which research is now under way concerning fruits and vegetables at Crystal Springs, and concerning tung oil production at Crossroads. (Jackson News, July 4.)

Vocational Education "Enrollment in vocational education schools and classes -- agriculture, trade and industry, home economics, and the distributive occupations -- last year was 1,810,150, an increase over the previous year of more than 313,000," says J. C. Wright, Assistant Commissioner for Vocational Education, Office of Education in Agricultural Leaders' Digest (July). "One of the important developments in the field of agricultural education is the practice followed by vocational agriculture teachers in a number of States and local communities of cooperating with home economics teachers in setting up programs for the improvement of the farm, the farm home, and the community. Worthy of mention is the cooperative effort now being made by supervisory and teacher training staffs to plan long time programs of research in agricultural education...Some states have found it necessary to meet the demands of adult farmers for instruction in evening classes by appointing special teachers to devote full time to adult classes. An effort has been made in the past year to meet the need for instruction of out-of-school farm youths. This has been done by freeing agricultural teachers from the necessity of teaching academic subjects, by the employment of teachers to do only part time and evening teaching, and by the employment of special coordinators or supervisors to promote and supervise part time and evening classes. The enrollment in vocational agricultural schools or classes operated under State plans for the year ending June 30, 1938, totaled 460,876...Approximately 615,000 home projects were carried by home economics students during the year...Enrollment in vocational home economics schools or classes under State plans for the year ending June 30, 1938, totaled 627,394."

Poultry Improvement Two changes to improve poultry breeding are now effective as the National Poultry Improvement Plan enters the fifth year of its operation. One change eliminates the 60-day trial trap-nest period for birds entered in U. S. Record of Performance supervision. Paul B. Zumbro, senior poultry coordinator of the Department, says this change should result in trap-nest records on more representative birds, since the ones to be trap-nested the full year can no longer be selected on the basis of 60-day laying trials. The other change permits the use of males in U. S. Record of Performance matings that are out of dams with good family records of production, even though the individual records of the dams are between 200 and 225 eggs per year. Formerly the males could be used only if the dams had produced 225 or more eggs. Both changes, Zumbro points out, are based on a new principle of breeding which places great value on family records of production in selecting poultry breeding stock.

Butter in Storage Reserves of creamery butter in the Nation's cold storage warehouses rose 47,403,000 pounds last month to 132,370,000 pounds, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has disclosed. The July 1 holdings compared with 121,467,000 pounds a year ago. Included in the total was butter held by the Dairy Products Marketing Association for resale or relief and the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation and state relief agencies. (A.P.)

Senate Confirmed the nomination of Paul V. McNutt to be
July 12 Federal Security Administrator.

House Rejected the conference report on the D.C. revenue
July 12 bill, H.R. 6577, by a vote of 74 to 238.

Committee on District of Columbia submitted a report on the milk investigation conducted pursuant to H.Res. 113 (H.Rept. 1095). Conference report on S. 1796, to amend the Tennessee Valley Authority Act so as to authorize issuance of bonds, etc., was submitted to both Houses.

Passed as reported H.R. 4190, permitting unclassified laborers to be classified laborers to be classified after five years service.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Aides to President Three executive assistants to the President have been named/
President Roosevelt under the reorganization law, which authorized a salary of \$10,000 a year for each of six helpers to the President. The three named by Mr. Roosevelt are: Lauchlin Currie of Maryland, at present assistant chief of the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Reserve Board; William H. McReynolds of Michigan, now administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, who has been working on personnel problems for the President and who retains his present civil service status; and James H. Rowe, White House assistant to General Edwin M. Watson, assistant secretary to the President, who first came to the White House from the Securities and Exchange Commission. (New York Times.)

Community Forests Steady gains in number, size and usefulness of community forests throughout the nation are being reported to the Forest Service, said Ernest O. Buhler, forest specialist, speaking recently before the North Carolina Forestry Association. "New community forests are constantly being established," he said. "Although there are now more than 1,500 in the United States, new community forests were established this year in Florida, North Dakota, Virginia, Illinois, Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina and a number of other states." Among the reasons for starting local public forests, Buhler has found, are the value of timber sales, recreational areas, outlets for unemployment, protection for watersheds, refuges for wildlife and improved community environment. Buhler said that a community which establishes a forest of 2,000 acres might have a property valued at \$100,000 at the end of 30 years, as such a forest is conservatively estimated to increase in value at the rate of a dollar an acre a year, if properly managed and protected. In some cases, he pointed out that returns would be much higher, depending upon tree species and growth, nearness to market, management and other factors.

Colorado FSA Ninety western slope farm families on a Farm Security Administration resettlement in Delta and Mesa Counties produced an average \$833 cash crop last year, despite prevailing low agricultural prices, H. D. Brindle, manager, said recently. (Denver Post, July 2.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

July 17, 1939

AAA FARM PROGRAM

No fundamental changes from the existing program are proposed in the farm program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration for 1940, an outline of which has been made public. There will be increased emphasis upon soil conservation, increased opportunities for participation in the program by small farmers and greater responsibility in administration invested in farmers' committees. The program was discussed in a three-day conference of 100 state committeemen of the AAA meeting at the Department of Agriculture. Recommendations adopted by the conferees will be drafted into specific provisions of the program.

It was announced that the determination of rates of payment and the acreage of crops other than wheat would be made later, when the outcome of the present crop is more certain. The 1940 wheat acreage allotment already ^{has} been placed at 62,000,000 acres, an increase of 7,000,000 over the allotment for 1939. The acreage allotments for other special crops, such as cotton, corn, tobacco and rice, will be made later in the season. It is expected that the cotton allotment will be substantially the same as for 1939, or slightly more than 26,000,000 acres. In view of the large crops of corn and tobacco which are forecast, acreage allotments for these crops may be adjusted downward for next year so that normal supplies of these crops will be maintained, it was said. (New York Times.)

RETIREMENT BILL ACTION

The House has passed the civil service retirement bill, making changes in retirement ages for government employees and increasing an employee's rate of contribution to the retirement fund from 3 1/2 to 5 percent. The measure, guided by Chairman Ramspeck of the Civil Service Committee, was sent to the Senate for adjustment of differences.

As it passed the House by a voice vote, the bill makes compulsory retirement ages 65 and 70, depending on the type of work, instead of 62, 65 and 70. The optional retirement age is set at 60 after 30 years service, or 62 after 15 years. (Present law includes three categories, at 68, 63 and 60.) A member of the fund would be permitted to accept a reduced annuity during his lifetime, and designate a surviving beneficiary to receive the balance.

Provision is made for voluntary retirement at the age of 55 by an employee with 30 years of service, on an annuity having a value equal to the present worth of a deferred annuity at the age of 60. The bill prohibits continuance of employees in the service beyond the compulsory retirement age, except by executive order. (Washington Post.)

Lower Marketing Costs C. B. Sherman, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, writing in Better Crops with Plant Food (June-July) on cutting marketing costs, says the Department is now supplying an adviser on request from markets in large communities. However, she says, "The Department does not have the personnel to work directly with smaller cities whose markets are strictly intra-State, but its specialists are working with State marketing agencies in such a way that, when requests for advice or aid reach the Department from these localities, the Department can refer the request to the State agency with the assurance that the State officials will have ready access to the materials and assistance that is available to the large cities. Balancing this work in large city markets, another program is under way in a large producing area which is also operating on disinterested principles. State and Federal marketing research specialists have been studying together the regional situation in the Southeast in such fashion that they will soon have determined the number of wholesale concentration markets needed for assembling fruits and vegetables, and the best cities for their location. Next will come a study of the layouts, equipment, and type of operation needed in each case. Thus the acute need of cutting the costs of marketing is being vigorously attacked at both the producing and the city ends. Success of the attacks depends largely upon cooperation and informed guidance all along the line with equal interest at the producing and the consuming ends. It is distinctly a public-welfare program as well as a matter of saving untold dollars and cents for farmers and for consumers."

in Agricultural Leaders Digest (July)

Hosiery Buying Margaret Smith of the Bureau of Home Economics, reviews "Hosiery for Women - A Buying Guide" (obtainable for 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, G.P.O.). "The vast array of hose in our stores, in all fibers as well as all qualities," she says, "has caused hosiery buying to become more or less a gamble. In fact little is generally known about what makes stockings good or poor buys. In order to find out why one pair of hose wears well while another does not, it was necessary to learn just how stockings were made, so a mill was visited. Also, many kinds and grades of hose were collected and examined from top to toe. Attention was given, too, to the way women choose their hose, whether or not they select the right weight for their use, and how well they see to getting the proper size and fit. A woman who wants to get the best value from the money spent on hosiery needs first of all to choose the fiber best suited for the purpose. A 3- or 4-thread in 48 or 51 gauge is right for times when reasonable durability combined with nice appearance is wanted. If sheerness is wanted above everything else, then a 1- or 2-thread stocking can be had, but wear will have to be sacrificed. All these and many more points about selection are fully explained and illustrated in the new 23-page picture book."

Cotton Classing "Facilities have been set up for the classification of cotton from the 1939 crop, authorized by Congress in the Grade and Staple Estimates Act," says W. B. Lanham in the Agricultural Situation (July). "Free classification of cotton will be provided cotton growers in 1,000 'improvement' communities this season. In these communities groups of farmers have organized to improve the quality of their cotton. Market news service also will be provided, consisting of market supply and demand conditions and price quotations for the various grades and staple lengths of cotton. Earlier this year, reports from county agents and other agricultural workers indicated that 900 to 1,000 organized groups of producers may apply for the free classing and market news services this season. Last year 312 groups were approved to receive these services. The Agricultural Marketing Service has specified that applications must be filed before September 1. Applications can be filed only after the members of a group have completed planting. The arrangements provide that groups send samples from all ginnings of their approved varieties to the nearest field classing stations of the Service. Samples will be classed for grade and staple length at no cost to growers, and reports of the class for each bale returned to growers and to group representatives..."

Crude Rubber Storage By the proper inspection of the crude rubber which the United States will exchange with Great Britain for cotton under the new trade agreement just signed, Uncle Sam need have no fears that he is exchanging a permanent commodity for one which rapidly deteriorates. Dr. A. T. MacPherson of the National Bureau of Standards says that properly selected crude rubber, properly stored, will last 25 years without suffering a decrease of its valuable properties. The two dangers in rubber are the elements copper and manganese which quickly make rubber become soft, sticky and virtually worthless. The manganese may come from the water and soil of a rubber plantation, while copper and brass may appear in the equipment of the plantation. By proper standards for the rubber it receives by the exchange agreement, the United States can easily overcome these potential hazards. Storage in a dark, cool warehouse will be all that will be necessary. (Science News Letter, July 15.)

USDA Illinois Laboratory A Peoria (Ill.) report in the Northwest Farm Equipment Journal (July) says the first of the four Department regional laboratories was begun recently by a ground-breaking ceremony. H. T. Herrick, of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, and Dr. O. E. Maw, who will be the director of the research laboratory when it is finished, were the speakers. "In keeping with the spirit of the new day," the item says, "The ground-breaking 'tool' was not a hand spade, but a 95-horsepower diesel caterpillar tractor with big bulldozer blade."

Senate Passed H. R. 6635, to amend the Social Security Act,
July 13 by a vote of 57 to 8. (Senate conferees were appointed
on the bill).

House Received from the President a supplemental estimate
July 13 of \$75,000 for the Warehouse Act; to Com. on Appropria-
tions (H. Doc. 408).

Received from the President a supplemental estimate
of \$19,746.07 to pay claims for damages to privately owned property; to
Com. on Appropriations (H. Doc. 412).

Committee on Judiciary reported without amendment: H. R. 6324, to
provide for the more expeditious settlement of disputes with the United
States (H. Rept. 1149) and H. R. 6832, to provide for the protection of
witnesses appearing before any department, independent establishment, or
other agency of the U. S. (H. Rept. 1143).

Senate H. R. 5681, to authorize the Federal Surplus Com-
July 14 modities Corporation to purchase and distribute surplus
fish products, was placed on the calendar.

Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported with-
out amendment S. 2410, to encourage the development of farm units on
public lands under Federal reclamation projects with Farm Security Admin-
istration funds (S. Rept. 795).

Both Houses agreed to the conference report on S. 1796, to amend
the Tennessee Valley Authority Act so as to authorize issuance of
bonds, etc. (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Both Houses agreed to the conference report on H. R. 5610 D. C.
appropriation bill (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Recessed until Monday, July 17.

House Passed S. 26, to empower the President to create
July 14 new national forest units and make additions to existing
units in Montana (this bill will now be sent to the
President).

Committee on Agriculture reported with amendment H. R. 7171, to
amend section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (H. Rept. 1166).

Received from the President a schedule of claims allowed by the
General Accounting Office under the Act of June 20, 1874 (H. Doc. 418).

Adjourned until Monday, July 17.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Patent Law Far-reaching recommendations for revision of the
Change Asked patent and anti-trust laws have been conveyed to Congress
in the preliminary report of the Temporary National Eco-
nomic Committee. The legislation proposed by the committee includes
fundamental procedural changes to speed patent law litigation; prohibitions
upon the use of patents for restraint of trade; amendment of the Clayton
Act to prohibit one corporation from acquiring the assets as well as the
stock of a competing corporation; and civil remedies for enforcement of
the anti-trust laws.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 10

Section 1

July 18, 1939

SENATE ACCEPTS D.C. TAX BILL The Senate approved unanimously yesterday the conference report on the 1939 District of Columbia tax bill. The report now goes to the House. The income tax allows the same exemptions as in the federal law. Deductions also are similar to the federal law, for other taxes, debt interest and charity contributions. After these exemptions and deductions, the rate schedule starts at 1 percent on remaining taxable income up to \$5,000, increasing gradually to a maximum of 3 percent on all income above \$20,000. (Washington Star.)

FARM CROPS IN MOTOR FUEL Dr. David F. Smith, professor of chemistry at the University of Buffalo, is to head the work on agricultural motor fuels at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Dr. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, announced yesterday. Dr. Smith's investigations, which will be carried on at the Peoria, Illinois, laboratory, will be on research intended to develop methods of producing gaseous, liquid and solid motor fuels from agricultural materials. In announcing Dr. Smith's appointment, Dr. Knight expressed the view that motor fuel production is one of the most promising fields for large-scale industrial utilization of farm products.

DEMAND, PRICE SITUATION Federal farm officials have predicted that the European demand for United States agricultural products would improve in the next few months, largely as a result of foreign military expansion, says an Associated Press report. They reported marked improvement in industrial production and general economic conditions in countries that are important markets for United States farm goods.

LENDING PROGRAM President Roosevelt's \$2,600,000,000 lending program was heartily indorsed yesterday by Secretary Morgenthau and Jesse H. Jones, administrator of the new federal lending agency. Both urged its enactment at this session of Congress. Mr. Morgenthau will submit to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee today a formal statement in support of the program. Mr. Jones took the oath during the day as Loan Administrator and was succeeded as chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation by Emil Schram. (New York Times.)

to, but still without the three freight planes the transportation job would have had to be withdrawn for lack of food. Two planes of 1,200 pounds payload capacity and another of 800 pounds payload were used, and altogether 112 tons of supplies and equipment were delivered to fire camps...!"

Tobacco Inspection "Services under the Tobacco Inspection Act will be expanded to provide Federal inspection and grade certification for additional markets this season," says C. E. Gage in the Agricultural Situation (July). "Inspections during the marketing year for the 1939 tobacco crop seem likely to be in the neighborhood of 500 million pounds compared with approximately 250 million pounds handled under the Act during the marketing season for last year's crops...Tobacco holds a unique position among the commodities for which the Department of Agriculture provides inspection services, in that it is the only farm product singled out by Congress for free service. The reasoning behind this is based upon the tax on the sale of manufactured tobacco products. This tax furnishes the Federal Government one of its most important sources of internal revenue. During the fiscal year now coming to a close, collections from this source probably will total close to 575 million dollars. Because of this tax contribution by tobacco the inspection service is made available without cost to tobacco growers."

"Fresh Fruit Salad" The Blue Anchor (July) reports that an enterprising middle western grocer makes up a "fresh fruit salad" packed in a 3-pound cellophane bag. Each bag contains one orange, one banana, a bunch of grapes and a pear, enough for a salad for four people.

Smaller Tractors Business Week (July 15) reports that competition is increasing among farm machinery companies in the low-price, small tractor market. "In the present competitive situation," says the periodical, "design details on the new tractors are interesting more people than farmers. Points emphasized at the preview of one small tractor are: it operates at full load on an hourly gallon of gasoline (or of distillate, if equipped with distillate attachment); its four forward speeds include a top of 10 m.p.h. for highways, a bottom of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h. for delicate cultivating jobs; its rear wheel treads adjust to row widths from 40" to 68"; it runs on rubber tires; it has four cylinders with 3" bore and 4" stroke, a variable speed governor giving engine speeds of 900-1,400 r.p.m.; its brake horsepower is 16, wheelbase 70", overall length 106", turning radius 9' with rear wheels set to 40" tread; its steering brakes may be operated separately or simultaneously. Trickiest touch in design is the unorthodox location of the motor 'way over on the left, the driver's seat 'way over on the right. This means that the driver can sit up straight and have an

unimpeded view of where his working tools are going...The next most recent entry in the small tractor market can boast a low price per hp. and per lb. Bore is 3.18" by 3.75". Brake hp. is 23 at 1,400 r.p.m., the speed recommended for plowing. Wheelbase is 70", overall length 115". Front and rear treads are adjustable from 48" to 76". Most revolutionary feature is a hydraulic mechanism holding the plow at any desired depth regardless of irregularities of surface contour or soil consistency. Next most startling is that when the plow strikes an obstruction the tractor shifts its weight to its front wheels, the drive wheels spin idly and the machine stops with no danger of tipping backward; the driver then backs the tractor to free the plow, lifts it above the obstruction without leaving his seat, and resumes plowing at the required depth..."

Southern
Export
Prospects

The leading article in the Southern Economical Journal (July) is "Export Prospects for Southern Farm Products" by L. H. Bean, Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Mr. Bean says in the last few paragraphs: "We conclude with respect to cotton export prospects that if we could regain a 43 percent share of foreign consumption, with foreign consumption of all cotton at 22 million bales, we would be exporting annually an average consumption of about 9.5 million bales. This is about twice the 1938-39 foreign consumption of American cotton. One-half of that increase depends on external factors; the other half could be obtained by a complete release of government loan stocks at world prices. The export prospects for cotton, in so far as we have the power to affect them, depend on how we resolve the conflict between our desire to have a larger share in the foreign cotton markets and our desire to have a better standard of living in the South derived from cotton. If it is resolved in favor of larger exports by releasing the government-held cotton and thus driving the price level down, the gain in exports of say, 2.5 million bales would hardly be worth the economic cost to the South. If it is resolved in favor of maintaining farm income by an abnormal price and increasing holdings by the government, our share in foreign cotton consumption could easily go still lower. A solution somewhere between these two extremes is probably what practical statesmanship should aim at. In any case the prospect for our foreign trade in cotton as well as our foreign trade in other Southern products is probably as different from what it was in the 1920's as the present political and economic face of the whole world differs from that of the 1920's."

Synthetic
Vitamin K

Five groups of chemists, working independently have reported simultaneously the synthesis of vitamin K. The vitamin previously was extracted from alfalfa. The chemists made it from coal tar. It was discovered simultaneously by chemists at Harvard University, Northwestern University, the Squibb Institute for Medical Research, the University of California and the St. Louis University School of Medicine. (A.F.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 11

Section 1

July 19, 1939

D.C. INCOME TAX BILL

Only the signature of President Roosevelt was needed last night to give the National Capital its first local income tax bill after the House had adopted without debate the District revenue conference report. A court test of the income tax is expected when payments fall due next March because of its application only to persons domiciled in the Capital on the last day of the taxable year, or on December 31, 1939. The present tax of 1 to 3 percent is one of the lowest in the country, but its sponsors freely admit that the first year is only an experiment.

The 1 percent applies to the first \$5,000 of taxable income and the tax graduates upward at the rate of 1/2 of 1 percent for each \$5,000 increase in net income to a maximum of 3 percent on \$20,000 or more. Other levies carried in the bill other than the income tax are merely amendments of present revenue acts. Higher taxes on public utilities, inheritance and estates, and a pro-rating of the personal property tax on motor vehicles are included. Actually the new revenue bill does not raise as much money as the taxes which it repeals or allows to lapse. (Washington Post.)

WHEAT, FLOUR EXPORT SALES

Of the total United States wheat and flour exports of 118,054,000 bushels during the fiscal year ending June 30, 93,754,000 were sold abroad with federal aid at a cost to the government of \$25,700,000, or 27.4 cents a bushel, the Department of Agriculture reported yesterday.

The cost to the government for selling 93,754,000 bushels for export included the difference between the price at which the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation bought wheat on the domestic market and the lower price at which it sold the wheat to American exporters for sale on the world market, storage, handling and transportation charges and the indemnities paid on flour exports.

The total exports included 90,168,000 bushels of wheat and 27,886,000 bushels of wheat sold in flour form. Only 106,000,000 bushels of the total sold has actually been exported to date. Of the 93,754,000 bushels sold under the export subsidy program, 69,668,000 bushels of wheat were sold by the FSCC for export and 24,086,000 bushels of wheat represented flour sales on which indemnities were paid. (New York Times.)

Section 2

State Trade Barriers The July 15 issue of Business Week contains a report by the periodical on "The War Between the States." "Every indication points to an increasing number of trade barrier conferences in the future," it says, and continues: "The survey shows that every one of the 48 states has circumvented the Constitution and erected some barricades against trade from other states. Tabulation of 13 principal types of such restrictions reveals a total of 304 of them in operation. They have come particularly fast since 1929 when legislators decided that depression had put a premium on keeping wages and trade at home. Recent years have seen a series of vendettas of reprisal between the states. Even municipalities have taken a hand. Business Week's news has traced the growth of the war between the states and the first moves toward an armistice. This report tells how the war started, how far it has spread, what it has cost, and what are the prospects for peace. Business, supposed beneficiary but real victim of state trade barriers, has a vital interest in its findings."

Civil Service Examinations The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations; No. 70, unassembled; Principal Forest Economist, \$5,600, Senior Forest Economist, \$4,600, Forest Economist, \$3,800, Associate Forest Economist, \$3,200, Assistant Forest Economist, \$2,600; Forest Service; No. 71, unassembled; Principal Forest Ecologist, \$5,600, Senior Forest Ecologist, \$4,600, Forest Ecologist, \$3,800, Associate Forest Ecologist, \$3,200, Assistant Forest Ecologist, \$2,600, Forest Service; No. 72, unassembled; Principal Extension Agriculturist, \$5,600, Senior Extension Agriculturist, \$4,600, Senior Extension Home Economist, \$4,600, Extension Service; No. 73, un-assembled; Federal Agent for Home Economics Education, \$4,600, Office of Education, Department of the Interior; No. 67, ^{unassembled} Senior Engineer, \$4,600, Engineer, \$3,800, Associate Engineer, \$3,200, Assistant Engineer, \$2,600; Applications must be on file not later than the following dates -- (a) August 14, if received from States other than those named in (b); (b) August 17, if received from the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Rural-Urban Balance Agricultural Engineering (July) says editorially: "S. P. Lyle, in his address in this issue as the retiring president of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, analyzes the evolution of agricultural and agricultural engineering progress in relation to the progress of civilization, with particular reference to conditions in the United States. He traces the parallel growth of populations, technology, mechanization, increased production, new employment, and better living, down to a present need for thinking in terms of 'rural-urban balance in opportunities and

Senate Passed S. 1032, to amend the Walsh-Healey Public Con-
July 17 tracts Act.

Received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, in response to S. Res. 150, transmitting annual reports of certain agencies (including ^{C. C. Corp.} REA, FCA, FSA) and stating that the statements for other agencies (including FCIC) will be transmitted when completed; referred to Com. on Banking and Currency (S. Doc. 96).

Received a preliminary report of the Temporary National Economic Committee; referred to Com. on Judiciary (S. Doc. 95).

House Passed the following: H. J. Res. 342 and H. J. Res. 343,
July 17 to amend sections 322 and 335 (c) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, respectively, relating to marketing quotas; H. R. 5764, to provide for the establishment of a cemetery within the Crab Orchard Creek Dam Project, Ill. (SCS); and H. R. 6585, providing procedures for disposition of certain government records.

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds reported without amendment H. R. 7233, to amend the act to provide for disposition, control and use of surplus real property acquired by federal agencies (H. Rept. 1198).

Received from the Secretary of Agriculture a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Small Claims Act of December 28, 1922; to Com. on Claims.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Frozen Food Helen F. Smart, of the Bureau of Agricultural Chem-
Microbiology mistry and Engineering, is author of a paper on "Micro-
biological Studies on Commercial Packs of Frozen Fruits and Vegetables" in Food Research (May-June). She says in summary: "A comparison of the microbial content of commercially frozen fruits and vegetables over a period of years shows that extremely high counts in these products were less common in 1935 and 1936 than they were prior to these years. The types of microorganisms most frequently isolated from commercially frozen fruits and vegetables were the common soil types which have always been considered to be without health significance, but which will cause spoilage of the food provided it is not used promptly after defrosting. Defrosted, commercially packed vegetables were found to spoil much faster than similarly treated fruits when both were held at 30 degrees C. for 24 hours."

Iowa State A new publication outlet for manuscripts dealing
College Press with science and technology has been provided at Iowa State college, by the recent organization of the Iowa State College Press. The new press will consider for publication manuscripts from any source. It will be especially interested in developing publications in certain fields in science and technology for which satisfactory publication channels are not elsewhere available. The manufacture and sale of Iowa State College Press publications will be conducted by the Collegiate Press., Inc. (Veterinary Medicine, August.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 12

Section 1

July 20, 1939

INSURANCE FOR COTTON Extension of crop insurance to cotton farmers in the form already made available to wheat growers was approved yesterday by the Senate with adoption of a bill sponsored by Senator Bankhead. The bill was sent to the House for consideration. The appropriation for the first wheat program was \$6,000,000. Under the Bankhead bill a similar sum would be authorized for administrative expenses in connection with cotton insurance. Senator Danaher sponsored an amendment to the bill providing for a study looking to the inclusion of tobacco in the list of insurable crops. (New York Times.)

CORN AT 5-YEAR LOW Corn futures tumbled 1 1/8 to 1 1/4 cents a bushel yesterday to the lowest level in more than five years as prospects of a huge new corn crop to augment a high record carryover caused buyers to stay out of the market, says a Chicago report by the Associated Press. July contracts dropped 1 1/4 cents to 42 5/8 cents a bushel, unparalleled since the 40-cent prices of April, 1934. September closed at 43 5/8 cents, down 1 3/8 cents from day before yesterday, on the Board of Trade.

SENATE VOTES BUREAU CURB Legislation designed to curb and control the powers of scores of federal agencies that now exercise both legislative and judicial powers was approved by the Senate yesterday and sent to the House. The bill, sponsored by Senator Logan of Kentucky, aims at standardization of regulations and court appeals from dozens of bureaus such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Wage and Hour Administration, National Labor Relations Board and others. (A.F.)

ASSETS OF RFC Vouching for the competence and efficiency of those remaining to carry on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation as an instrument of business readjustment, Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the new Federal Loan Agency, and former head of the RFC, has reported to President Roosevelt that the emergency corporation has "sound assets sufficient to pay all of its debts and return to the Treasury the entire capital stock invested in it, with something in addition." The President said the RFC had made an "amazing record of financial efficiency." (Washington Star.)

Electric Fences "The growing popularity of electric fences in Ohio causes I. P. Blausner, specialist in rural engineering, Ohio State University, to repeat a previous warning that homemade devices for controlling the current in these fences may turn them into death traps for livestock or human beings," says Farm and Dairy (July 14). "The controlling device if properly constructed according to approved safety standards may cost anywhere from \$15 to \$45. None of the homemade controls inspected by Blausner have been safe. Ohio records show numbers of livestock and one human being were killed by electric fences. Ohio does not have laws to control the erection of electric fences but Wisconsin has established standards of safety for controlling devices to be used on fences in that state. This new type of fencing will not entirely replace old types but it has a definite place on farms..."

16-Cent Food Stamp Meal To demonstrate the economy and wholesomeness of surplus commodities, says a report in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (July 7) a food stamp luncheon was served recently under the supervision of the housekeeping aid division of the WPA. The menu was: iced grapefruit juice, tamale pie, combination vegetable salad, radishes, green onions, hot rolls, prune bread, prune whip, cookies, and coffee. The luncheon was served at a cost of 16 cents a plate and in quality, quantity and variety it "hit the spot," according to the diners. The surplus commodities used were flour, cornmeal, butter, raisins, prunes, and grapefruit juice.

Aamodt Heads Forage Crops Dr. Olaf S. Aamodt has been named principal agronomist in charge of the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases by Dr. Auchter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Doctor Aamodt has had extensive experience in research on plant diseases, on breeding for disease resistance, and on grasses and other forage crops. He will direct federal research on forage plants throughout the United States. This involves cooperation with the State Experiment Stations, Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service.

Poultry Posters A pictorial guide to six successful ways to cook poultry has been published by the Bureau of Home Economics in a series of eight posters. Photo layouts tell the complete story of how to prepare birds for broiling, frying, roasting, braising, steaming, stewing. The posters will be on display for the first time at the World's Poultry Congress and are available to schools for use in illustrated lectures, and for display in meat markets. The eight posters may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 50 cents.

- Senate Passed the following:
 July 18 S. 2694 and S. 2695, amending certain provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 with respect to marketing percentages.
- H. R. 6984, to provide a plan for the variable payment of construction charges on United States reclamation projects, to protect the investment of the United States in such projects.
- H. R. 4998, to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act.
- S. 915, to provide for the more expeditious settlement of disputes with the United States.
- S. 1108, to restrict the exportation of certain Douglas fir peeler logs and Port Orford cedar logs.
- S. 1850, to aid the States and Territories in making provisions for the retirement of employees of the land-grant colleges.
- H. R. 161, authorizing Hawaii to sell public lands to citizens who possess the qualifications of homesteaders and who have received loans under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (this bill will now be sent to the President).
- H. R. 5625, to regulate interstate and foreign commerce in seeds, etc. (Coffee Federal seed bill). This vote was later reconsidered, and the bill was passed over at the request of Mr. Gurney.
- H. J. Res. 248, to provide minimum national allotments for wheat of 55,000,000 acres (this bill will now be sent to the President).
- S. 2619, to provide damages for trespass involving timber and forest products upon lands of the U. S.
- S. 2410, relating to the development of farm units on public lands under Federal reclamation projects with Farm Security Administration funds.

During consideration of the calendar, the following bills were passed over:

- S. 2610, to prevent discrimination against graduates of certain schools and those acquiring their legal education in law offices in the making of appointments to Government legal positions.
- S. 1852, to promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce through Commerce Department and F. S. C. C.
- S. 2212, to provide for development of marketing and marketing services for farm commodities.
- H. R. 5835, to authorize the President to render closer and more effective relationship between the American republics.
- S. 2635, to provide for crop insurance for the cotton crop, was made the unfinished business.

Committee on Commerce reported with amendments H. R. 6634, amending previous flood-control acts and authorizing preliminary surveys for flood control (S. Rept. 816).

Both Houses received proposed legislation from the Secretary of Agriculture, to amend the act providing punishment for killing or assaulting Federal officers; ref. to Coms. on Judiciary.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 13

Section 1

July 21, 1939

COMMODITY CREDIT ISSUE Secretary Morgenthau announced yesterday the Commodity Credit Corporation would borrow \$200,000,000 from the public Monday to take up expiring crop loans now held by banks. Details of the note issue will be given Monday. The only other Commodity Credit financing, on May 2, 1938, was the borrowing of \$206,000,000 on three-quarters of 1 percent, 1 1/2 year notes. Mr. Morgenthau explained most loans on corn, cotton and wheat, for instance, under the government program, are made by banks for a term of one year. At the end of that time the banks have the option of renewing the loans or selling them to the government in order to prevent a call upon farmers for payment. (A.P.).

ANTI-POLITICS BILL VOTED The House yesterday approved and sent back to the Senate the Hatch-Dempsey bill severely restricting the political activities of federal officials and employees. The vote was 242 to 133. The President, Vice President, Cabinet officers and top-ranking administrative chieftains would be excepted, however. The bill would prohibit the solicitation of campaign contributions from all persons, including supervisors, who are paid from relief funds, and would afford general protection to relief workers from political intimidation. (Washington Post.)

RETIREMENT BILL FARLEY House and Senate conferees failed to agree on provisions of a more liberal civil service retirement bill at their first meeting yesterday, but were optimistic over the prospect of settling their differences when they reconvene on Monday. Whether to increase the employee contribution to the retirement fund to 4 percent, as in the Senate bill, or 5 percent under the House bill, is understood to be the chief point of contention. Employees now contribute 3 1/2 percent of their salaries. (Washington Star.)

RFC FUNDS FOR LENDING Federal Loan Administrator Jesse Jones told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee yesterday that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has sufficient funds available to finance the first year of President Roosevelt's proposed lending program, according to a report in the Washington Times Herald. Jones told the committee that the RFC has sufficient borrowing capacity and finances, but that it needs authorizations to make certain types of loans proposed by the President.

Women in Co-ops Evidence of the keen and increasing interest women are taking in the business side of the farm is found in their attendance at the annual meetings of the production credit associations and the national farm-loan associations. Out of a total attendance of 149,000 at the PCA meetings this year, 34,464 were women. They turned out in particularly large numbers at meetings in the Corn Belt, where it is customary for the men to bring their wives to such gatherings. The NFLA's reported 24,361 women among their total attendance of 167,150 at their meetings last year. This was nearly double the number of women who came to the meetings in 1937. (News for Farmer Cooperatives, July.)

Farm Accident Statistics More persons are killed in the course of farm work than in any other industry, according to the 1939 edition of Accident Facts, the National Safety Council's statistical yearbook. The agricultural accident death total in 1938 was 4,300 or 26 percent of the all-industries total of 16,500. There were 4,000 accident fatalities in trade and service industries, 2,700 in construction work, 2,000 in transportation and public utilities, 2,000 in manufacturing and 1,500 in mining, quarrying, oil and gas well operations. In addition to the deaths there were 1,350,000 work accident injuries. The total of deaths and injuries represented an economic loss of about \$650,000,000, the council estimates. However, 1938 deaths were 13 percent fewer than in 1937, a saving of 2,500 lives. (Press.)

Poultry Show The July 15 issue of the Ohio Farmer contains a detailed schedule of each day's program at the World's Poultry Congress, July 28-August 7. It also contains plans of the Cleveland area of the show and of the show grounds.

Machine for Dry Chemicals "A machine which can apply the weed killing chemical, sodium chlorate, with much less time, labor and expense than the old sprayer type of machine has just been developed," says The Farmer (St. Paul, July 15). "Designer is L. M. Stahler, weed specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture working at the experimental farm near Lamberton, Minn. The new machine applies the chemical in dry form. It consists of a 'V' shaped hopper mounted cartlike on two rubber tire wheels. The cost of construction is between \$30 and \$40, and plans for construction are obtainable from the Agronomy Department at University Farm, St. Paul (and the Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry). Those who have been close observers of weed killing work look upon this new machine as a solution of one of the chief problems in chemical weed killing -- that of equipment cost. Since cost of sodium chlorate makes its use practical only in eradication of weeds on relatively small areas where a kill is necessary to prevent spread, the weed specialists at the Lamberton experimental farm are continuing their efforts with other control methods..."

New Farm Implement and Tractor (July) reviews farm machinery
Machinery described by state college agricultural engineers at the
meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.
It says: "R. I. Shawl, University of Illinois mentioned four machines.
One is a machine for detasseling corn, a necessary process in the pro-
duction of hybrid corn...A seed corn grader of the vibrating type is
another, in which 98 percent accuracy has been developed. Another is a
ridge leveler which attaches to the front end of a cultivator...The
unit can be made for \$13.50. A combination corn picker and sheller is
another new unit.

"...E. V. Collins, Iowa State College, showed reels of machines used
in Iowa. One was a 2-wheel, rubber-tired trailer, behind a mounted corn
picker. Another was a self-propelled wagon for use with hand husking of
corn under conditions where pickers cannot be used...Another interesting
development was a cultivator equipment which uses a weeder cultivating
attachment for cultivating at right angles to the direction of travel
and makes cross cultivation unnecessary...Mr. Collins also showed a new
type of vertical trailer.

"One development shown by A. J. Schwantes, University of Minnesota,
was an attachment for a harvester, which collects the wheat straw.
Another machine is a harvester for the top seed of certain grass crops...
Considerable interest was shown in a wood splitting machine. This con-
sists of a wedge fastened to the rim of a spreader wheel, which is belt
driven from a 2-horsepower engine...A quack grass digger has spikes
mounted on four wheels to form a drum which pulls all the larger roots
from the ground.

"...Several unusual units were reported by L. W. Hurlbut, University
of Nebraska, one of which was a simple attachment for the tractor for
spreading silage in trench silos. Another was an adjustable ratchet
arrangement mounted on the axle of an all-purpose tractor...A novel type
of damming equipment involves the use of a large wheel with a partially
open rim, which collects sufficient dirt in each revolution for damming
the furrow, depositing the dirt in a dam formation. Mr. Hurlbut also
described a tool-bar type of duckfoot cultivator with semi-subsoil points...
A field silage harvester of a new type is being used in Nebraska, ac-
cording to Mr. Hurlbut. The cutting is accomplished by a series of mower
knives revolving in a horizontal plane. The cut silage is blown into a
wagon or trailer. A new type of shocking attachment for a binder also
was explained, and another interesting unit was a grasshopper catcher
mounted ahead of a cultivator.

"Some unusual expedients are being adopted in North Dakota, accord-
ing to H. F. McColly, North Dakota Agricultural College. Plows from
which the moldboards have been removed have been used as field cultiva-
tors. One-way plows with every third disk left on have been used as
substitutes for listers. Disk harrows with every third disk left on are
used for a moderate job of ridging to stop blowing. Mr. McColly also
described a new type of grain harvester. The grain is cut by a 12-foot
cutter bar of header type, and is then elevated into a tank which de-
posits its load as a small stack. A machine for exterminating grass-
hoppers was described. The bait drops upon revolving spreaders of the

type employed in combines for spreading straw.

"F. W. Duffee, University of Wisconsin, reported two interesting developments. A machine has been developed following conventional drill design, but drilling between the rows of a culti-packer. The bulk is seeded between three-fourths and one inch deep, resulting in a 30 percent saving in seed. Another is electrical equipment designed to increase fox productivity on the numerous Wisconsin fox farms, and to lower the costs of fox production..."

Senate Began debate on S. 162, the truth-in-fabric bill.
July 19 Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation reported with amendment S. 1802, authorizing construction of water conservation and utilization projects in the Great Plains and arid and semi-arid areas of the U. S. (S. Rept. 863).

Committee on Foreign Relations reported without amendment S. J. Res. 85, authorizing the preparation of plans for eradication and control of the pink bollworm affecting cotton in the U. S. and Mexico.

House Committee on Public Lands reported without amendment
July 19 H. R. 6372, relating to the development of farm units on public lands under Federal reclamation projects with Farm Security Administration funds (H. Rept. 1224).

Committee on D. C. reported without amendment H. J. Res. 340, providing that the farmers' market in blocks 354 and 355 of the District of Columbia shall not be used for other purposes (H. Rept. 1225).

Committee on Banking and Currency reported without amendment S. 591, to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 (H. Rept. 1208). The title relating to rural housing is retained in the bill, amended.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Machine Tests "One of the most awe-inspiring machines at the United
Wood Strength States Forest Products Laboratory is a wood-testing machine
capable of exerting a pressure of 1,000,000 pounds," says
California Cultivator (July 15). "It is used in making crushing tests
on both solid wood and built-up wood construction. This machine, which
will crush a timber 12 by 12 inches square and thirty feet long, is one
of the largest wood testing machines in the United States. What holds
one's interest is the amount of work the machine can perform. Full-
sized wall panels, large columns, solid or built-up beams, all break
like matches when the machine clamps its jaws upon them. In this way
the strength or rigidity of the wood tested is studied and stronger con-
struction devised. Work done with this mammoth wood crusher is of marked
interest to contractors and builders for it has shown ways of improving
rural and urban buildings and thus made wood serve better in the home
at lower costs. Improving the use of wood in building construction has,
in turn, helped the farmer maintain a market for his timber crop."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 14

Section 1

July 24, 1939

CROP DAMAGE IN EAST, MIDWEST

Highly beneficial rains fell over part of the main corn belt last week, according to a report from Chicago by the Associated Press, but there was little or no precipitation in Oklahoma, Kansas and a large area in Nebraska, with the result that further deterioration is reported in the affected areas. High temperatures prevailed in Kansas and Nebraska. There is ample subsoil moisture reserve over the greater part of the main corn belt, but surface moisture is rapidly depleted for this season when temperatures rise to about 100 degrees. The Iowa Weather Bureau in commenting on the corn crop last week said that past experience shows that after four days of temperatures of 100 degrees and over corn starts to deteriorate regardless of such favorable soil-moisture conditions. Irreparable damage has been done to the corn crop in the Southwest and parts of the West, and temperatures at the close of the week in parts of Kansas were still excessively high. However, they were moderate in Illinois and Iowa.

An increasingly serious view of the drought that has parched the North Atlantic States and some western areas was stated yesterday by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, says a report in the New York Times. While reports of scorched crops and water shortages continued from upstate New York, virtually all of New England, Pennsylvania and Maryland, the New Jersey report described conditions in the most arid sections of that state in drastic terms. Thirst-crazed cattle in some localities were reported stampeding from dry pastures in search of water. In parts of Sussex County farmers were said to be short of water and were working at well digging in day and night shifts.

SUBSIDY FOR COTTON EXPORTS

An export subsidy of 1.5 cents a pound net weight on lint cotton and commensurate payments on exports of cotton goods produced in the United States will become effective at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, Secretary Wallace has announced. He described the subsidy as part of a program designed to assure the United States its fair share of the world's cotton market. Mr. Wallace said he hoped the subsidy payments would be temporary, and he expressed the opinion that an effective and equitable international cotton agreement would remove the necessity for them. This country, he added, would do everything possible to bring about such an agreement.

Meanwhile, he added, he wished to assure other countries that the United States "has no intention of precipitating mutually injurious price competition in the world cotton market." (New York Times.)

"Knight of Agriculture" The leading article in the August Country Gentleman is "Knight of Agriculture," describing Dr. H. G. Knight, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, and the work of the bureau. The author, Ben Hibbs, says in the concluding paragraphs: "The (regional) laboratories will, of course, do much work on many of the fundamental substances such as starches, oils and fats, proteins and casein. Some of the research will be of a basic nature -- the search for hidden facts whether or not there is any immediate dollars-and-cents objective. The largest chemical concern in this country announced recently that 40 percent of its production today is of things which research has developed within the past ten years. I asked Knight if science could do as much for agriculture. 'Certainly not in ten years,' he replied. 'For one thing, industry can shift more swiftly to new products. Agriculture is less flexible. This is a long job we are tackling, and we don't expect overnight results. But in the end I hope we can do much to put the American farm on a firmer footing. We expect to be practical, but we shall not forget that there is often merit in an idea which, on the surface, appears a little far-fetched. Timidity has no place in research.' Somehow it seems fitting that the son of a pony-express rider should lead this new adventure in science."

Nitrogen in Fertilizers "When South Carolina, during June, passed a law requiring that nitrogen-bearing fertilizers be guaranteed and sold on the basis of their nitrogen content rather than their ammonia content, it became the forty-seventh state to enact a similar law," says The American Fertilizer (July 8). "This makes all the states in the Union having fertilizer control laws uniform on this point. The achievement of this uniformity of terms is the culmination of a number of years' work on the part of agronomists, agricultural chemists, state officials, and members of the fertilizer industry who sought the accuracy and simplicity which this regulation brings about. Nitrogen contained in fertilizer materials is chemically combined in a number of forms, and the only common denominator of all these chemical compounds is the element nitrogen. By stating the nitrogen content in terms of nitrogen, no matter what its source, the dual statements of guarantee are eliminated and with them much confusion and misunderstanding."

Pa. College Dairy Herd "Thousands of people who visit the farms of Pennsylvania State College are always interested in the herd of pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle," says R. L. Watts in Pennsylvania Farmer (July 15). "It contains 25 breeding animals which are large and uniform in type and excellent milkers. All these good cattle are descendants of one cow, Gaytania 109326. This cow cost \$100. She produced several good females but the outstanding one was State's

Gay Bird 201413, and all of the cows in the herd are directly descended from her. Of course new sires have been purchased when necessary but the development of this herd is an excellent demonstration of what can be accomplished without excessive cost."

Wisconsin "Interest and activity in area testing of dairy
Bang's Testing cattle for Bang's disease continues at an increased rate in various sections of the state, according to an announcement by the State Department of Agriculture," says Wisconsin Agriculturist (July 15). "Because federal funds will be paid to match state funds, cattle owners outside the area will now get double the indemnity money formerly paid. In the two years that the Bang's disease area testing plan has been operating in Wisconsin, more than 183,263 cattle have been tested. More than a million additional cattle have been tested for Bang's disease under the individual herd testing plan in Wisconsin."

New Strains A golden Leghorn and an imported breed showing
of Poultry promise of becoming a markedly superior bird for both egg and meat production, are among 2 new and 4 improved strains of chickens developed during the last 6 years by poultry geneticists in the Department. The new strains are a Columbian-feathered bird and a golden Leghorn, and the improved strains are selections from imported Light Sussex, White Wyandotte, Rhode Island Red, and White Leghorn breeds. The story of the development of these birds will be told in the U. S. Government exhibit at the World's Poultry Congress. The strain of Light Sussex, the foundation stock of which was imported from Canada and England in 1932 and 2 cockerels from Scotland in 1936, has many advantages and one important disadvantage, according to Charles W. Knox, Bureau of Animal Industry. The main disadvantage of the Sussex is their white skin and shanks. American consumers generally prefer yellow skin and shanks. This disadvantage in skin color may be overcome by combining the Sussex with the Rhode Island Red and perhaps also with an improved strain of White Wyandotte. This strain undoubtedly can be developed to lay 200 eggs a year, Knox says. Their production has been increased from an average of 130 to 175 eggs a year in 5 years. Each female in the breeding pens last year laid at least 200 eggs. The average weight of the eggs is 24 ounces per dozen. The Light Sussex are also heavy meat birds, averaging between 5 and 6 pounds at maturity. The new Columbian-feathered birds, like the Sussex and the Columbian Plymouth Rock, have yellow skin and shanks and the feather coloring known as Columbian. The birds are the product of crossing Rhode Island Red, White Wyandotte, and Light Sussex. In the breeding experiment, an outbred flock of Rhode Island Reds serves as a basis of comparison for egg production in the heavy breeds. Without culling the pullets, this flock has averaged 200 eggs a year for 6 years, with an average egg weight of 23 ounces per dozen. This represents some increase in egg weight, and Knox says

further improvement is expected. The golden Leghorn is a gold and white barred Leghorn produced from a foundation cross of superior Rhode Island Reds and White Leghorns and in subsequent years selected for egg production, egg weight and body weight. The golden Leghorns at present equal the Agricultural Research Center White Leghorns in average egg production of 200 eggs per year and average egg weight of 24 ounces per dozen. Both average about 4 pounds in body weight."

Senate Passed H. J. Res. 342, amending section 322 of the
July 20 Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (marketing quotas for corn); and H. J. Res. 343, amending section 335 (c) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (marketing quotas for wheat): Both resolutions will now be sent to the President.

Continued debate on S. 162, truth-in-fabric bill.

Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments reported with amendment H. R. 6614, to amend the Government Losses in Shipment Act (S. Rept. 886).

Confirmed the nomination of Charles W. Eliot to be Director of the National Resources Planning Board.

Senate Passed S. 162, truth-in-fabric bill, by a vote of 48
July 21 to 23. Mr. Thomas of Okla. entered a motion for reconsideration of the vote by which this bill passed.

Passed S. 1610, to prevent discrimination against graduate of certain schools, and those acquiring their legal education in law offices, in the making of Government legal appointments.

Concurred in the House amendments to S. 1871, to prevent pernicious political activities (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Recessed until Monday, July 24.

House Began debate on S. 2009, to amend the Interstate Com-
July 21 merce Act by extending its application to additional types of carriers and transportation and modifying certain provisions thereof.

Committee on Public Lands reported with amendment H. R. 884, to add certain lands to the Siuslaw National Forest, Oreg. (H. Rept. 1238).

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Premium for "For the first time in the history of Kansas fairs,
Bread Wheat premiums are being offered for wheat to be judged on its value for bread making," says the Northwestern Miller (July 19). "The bushel wheat class has been judged in the past on appearance, test weight and protein content. Although such an examination of wheat gives much of the information needed to determine the value of wheat, it does not take into account the quality of protein. Wheat with a fine appearance and high protein content may not make a good loaf of bread under present bakeshop conditions because the protein is of such poor quality that it breaks down under the stress of mixing and loaf rising."

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

July 25, 1939

NOTICE

The Press Service is revising its mailing lists. If you are receiving a copy of the Daily Digest, addressed to you personally, and wish to continue receiving it, please send to the Press Service, Office of Information, the following information within the next ten days.

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RECORD WORLD WHEAT SUPPLY

The Department of Agriculture estimated yesterday that there would be a new record supply of wheat in the world's bread basket for the year which began on July 1, says an Associated Press report. It tentatively placed the prospective world supply for 1939-40 at about 5,290,000,000 bushels, or about 120,000,000 bushels above the record supplies in the preceding 12 months. World production for 1939-40 was placed at about 4,090,000,000 bushels, while stocks on July 1 were estimated at about 1,200,000,000. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics said that although the production figure was 480,000,000 bushels less than last year's record crop this reduction only partly offset an estimated increase of 600,000,000 bushels in world stocks of old wheat carried over.

DR. FAIRCHILD WINS MEDAL

Secretary Wallace has presented to Dr. David Fairchild, veteran plant explorer of the Department of Agriculture, the Meyer Medal for distinguished services in plant introduction. The award was made for the Council of the American Genetic Association, trustees of the medal. The award was established 20 years ago as a memorial to Frank N. Meyer, who lost his life on an expedition into China after 28 years of plant finding. Considered the father of plant introduction in America, Dr. Fairchild has introduced hundreds of new plants to this country. (Washington Star.)

Poultry Improvement The August National Poultry Digest contains a condensation of a talk by Paul Zumbro, Bureau of Animal Industry, on the national poultry improvement plan.

"Remarkable progress has been made in the work of the National Poultry Improvement Plan during the past year. Breeders and hatcherymen in Maine and Tennessee cooperated in the plan for the first time, making a total of 44 states that are cooperating with one another and with the Federal Government to improve the quality of hatching eggs, baby chicks, and poultry breeding stock. Our tabulation of participation for the current year shows a total of 2,038 hatcheries with a hatching capacity of nearly 76 million eggs. This represents an increase over last year of 38 percent in number of hatcheries and 25 percent in hatching-egg capacity. More than 42,000 flock owners with approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ million breeding birds had their flocks qualified during the past year to produce suitable hatching eggs for the cooperating hatcheries. This is an increase of about 48 percent in the number of flocks and 46 percent in the number of breeding birds. Poultry flock owners in two new states, Iowa and South Carolina, are now doing trapnest-pedigree breeding under the U.S.R.O.P breeding stage of the plan, making a total of 35 States cooperating in this advanced breeding work of the plan. The number of flock owners has increased only from 298 last year to 317 this year, but the number of birds entered in their trapnest flocks has increased from 108,183 last year to 124,937 this year. And the number of qualified U.S.R.O.P. females in their single-male matings has increased from 26,135 last year to 30,081 this year..."

F. B. on Silos A new Farmers' Bulletin, Silos - Types and Construction, just issued by the Department and prepared by J. R. McCalmont, Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, deals with above-ground and below-ground silos and contains details of construction, handy tables of dimensions, and helpful illustrations. The new bulletin supersedes Farmers' Bulletins on pit silos and home-made silos, and contains special information on silos to hold different kinds of silage. Extra reinforcement is recommended for walls of silos to be filled with silage made from sunflowers, pea vines, hay and molasses, or from corn very high in moisture. The danger from fermentation gas in the silo receives special attention, and means are suggested for insuring safety and for reviving victims. Farmers' Bulletin 1820 may be obtained free while the supply lasts by writing to the Office of Information.

How Plants Resist Heat "Exposure to light for a few hours materially increases the ability of plants to withstand heat, Dr. H. H. Laude of the Kansas Experiment Station has found," says Frank Thone, Science Service Writer, (July 21). "In ordinary experience the thing is done automatically. Light is turned on when the

sun comes up, and the plant gets its parathermal toning-up in the cool of the forenoon. To separate the effects in order to make a more exact study of their relations, Dr. Laude grew several varieties of ordinary grain crop plants in rooms that could be lighted, and darkened, heated and cooled, at the experimenter's will. He discovered, for example, that if a 122-degree temperature were turned on to a plant that had just been taken out of darkness, it suffered much more than did a control plant that had been illuminated by forenoon sunlight for several hours before being exposed to the same degree of heat. Artificial light appears to be as effective as sunlight in conferring this protection against heat. Plants kept under a 200-watt lamp over night showed only a little more than a third as much injury, after five hours' exposure to 120 degrees, as did plants that had been kept in normal night-time darkness. Dr. Laude is continuing his investigations."

Freezing
Powder

"A freezing powder is now on the market," says the Trained Nurse and Hospital Review (July). "It is actually two powders, which like a seidlitz powder need to be mixed together with water. The resulting solution is at once chillingly cold and remains so for from 20 to 25 minutes. After that its cold properties are renewed by the addition of a little more powder. There are two different mixtures. The first is known as the medicinal unit to be used for cold applications, ice bags, first aid emergencies. The second unit is the household unit, much colder than the first, averaging approximately 10 degrees above zero. This is useful for picnics, travel, and vacation trips, in cooling drinks and foods. The cost is moderate, and this non-poisonous powder keeps long without deterioration."

Carbon
Dioxide in
Fire Control

Carbon dioxide gave encouraging results as a de-struction-less fire extinguishing agent in National Bureau of Standards tests which included deliberate gutting of an old building, says a Science Service report. The gas is ordinarily generated in hand fire extinguishers to squirt out the water, but in the tests conducted by Dr. S. H. Ingberg of the Bureau the inert gas itself was used to blanket the fire and cut off the air's oxygen. Bureau scientists are seeking a fire extinguisher such as carbon dioxide gas which does not damage papers and furnishings as does water, the foam form of carbon dioxide extinguishers and other chemical agents. The Federal government is particularly interested because of its job of preserving intact and for as long as possible public documents. Gasoline fires in rooms in an old building were the subject of the tests. Papers stacked on metal shelves were not damaged by the gas.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 16

Section 1

July 26, 1939

DROUGHT IN NORTHEAST

The drought that began in the Northeastern States about the first of July is now reaching serious proportions, says the weekly report of the Weather Bureau. In New York State, where the drought is most acute, damage from this cause is becoming daily more serious and widespread, with the fire hazard increasing and streams and wells becoming low. In the New England States cool, dry weather early in the week assisted in retarding the effects of the drought, but toward the close the advent of hot weather again aggravated conditions. In this area there have been 25 days with less than one-half inch of rainfall and shallow-rooted crops are now reported badly hurt. The effects of the dry weather are less serious in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but in these states there is urgent need for immediate, soaking rains.

SESSION FOR LENDING BILL

Democratic leaders yesterday launched the Senate on its last fight of the session, for enactment of the President's lending program, says a report in the Washington Post. After salvaging the measure from a two-day parliamentary snarl, Senate Majority Leader Barkley made a speech in support of the program and ordered a night session tonight to speed consideration. Barkley served notice that no move will be made to adjourn Congress until the greatly modified works financing bill is disposed of. House Majority Leader Rayburn said: "We told the President we will be ready to adjourn by August 5."

FARM LABOR UNDER NLRB

Spokesmen for farm organizations yesterday insisted before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor that the Wagner act should exempt agricultural workers and those who prepare farm products for sale, because the farmer was unable to pass increased costs to the consumer. The witnesses asserted that the Wagner act was responsible for the labor difficulties in the western farm areas in the last few years. (New York Times.)

RIVER, HARBOR BILL SHELVED

The Senate Commerce Committee yesterday agreed to pigeonhole for the present session of Congress the flood control, rivers and harbors bill. The legislation, carrying authorization for approximately 60 projects, was set aside in a special meeting. (Press.)

Prairie States Forestry Man-months of WPA work to the number of 32,589 were provided by the Prairie States Forestry Project during this year's planting season, J. A. Fitzwater, Chief of the Division of State Forestry, Forest Service, has reported, following inspection of government-sown field windbreaks on farms in Nebraska and the Dakotas. The season's work also required, he said, 2,977 man-months by Forest Service supervisors and clerical help. He revealed that of 11,000 miles of windbreaks planted in cooperation with farmers on 20,000 farms, only 100 miles -- or less than one percent -- had been abandoned in the four years of the project because of farmers failing to carry out their agreement to fence and take care of the young trees. He also said the project planters, all WPA employees, had been unable to keep up with the steady flow of applications for windbreaks, saying that he found 1,630 unfilled applications on file from farmers of the Dakotas alone. The usual size of the WPA planting crews, Fitzwater explained, was 14 men. Citing South Dakota as an example, he said that this season 61 such crews worked one month in the State, beginning April 13. The 800 miles planted nearly equalled the work of the four preceding seasons, or 844 miles. At the peak of operations, these men planted as much as 50 miles of windbreaks in a single day. The windbreaks are usually 110 feet wide, and include two outside rows of shrubs or bushes and eight inside rows of trees, mainly native cottonwood, Chinese and American elm, hackberry, juniper, ponderosa pine, honey locust and catalpa.

Broilers the Year Round "A comparatively recent development in the poultry industry is the extremely rapid growth in the commercial production of broilers," says J. H. Radabaugh, in the Agricultural Situation (July). "In the early days the majority of broilers were cockerels from general farm flocks marketed principally in the late spring and the summer. With the development of commercial egg farms, a second source of supply appeared. Here again, surplus cockerels produced as a byproduct in the production of pullets were marketed as broilers. The recent innovation of chick sexing, however, has tended to diminish the number of broilers marketed from this source. The third source of supply is cockerels and pullets produced commercially as winter broilers and marketed during the winter months in advance of the normal broiler season. One factor which has contributed substantially to the growth of the commercial-broiler industry has been an increasing tendency for urban consumers to dine out in hotels and restaurants...Agricultural specialists have been warning of the dangers of overexpansion in the commercial-broiler industry...It is likely that some contraction in production may soon be necessary."

Bin Storage for Corn Secretary Wallace has announced plans for increasing Ever-Normal Granary storage facilities in the Corn Belt with the calling for bids on steel grain bins in quantities adequate to store 50,000,000 bushels of shelled corn. On July 5 the Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced that the 257,000,000 bushels of corn now under seal in the Corn Belt were eligible for a loan renewal, advancing the due date to August 1, 1940. For storing this corn the additional 12 months, farmers are being offered a payment of 6 cents per bushel. The same payment is available to local elevators. Only corn which is actually delivered to the Commodity Credit Corporation in settlement of the loans will be placed in these bins. The bins will be from 1,000 to 2,000 bushels in capacity and will be located throughout the corn producing counties of the Middle West. They will be under the management of county agricultural conservation associations. It is contemplated that in most cases county agricultural conservation associations will be able to arrange space near existing shipping facilities. The erection, filling and maintenance of the bins will be under the supervision of the county committee, as well as the periodic inspection of the shelled corn. In all cases every encouragement will be given to hold the sealed corn either on the farm or in local elevators. In this way farmers will be able to retain title to the corn and be in a position to receive the benefit of any price increase. In the heavy feeding areas a reserve of corn is needed at all times to guard against the possibility of a short crop. The corn delivered in settlement of the loans will be held in the Ever-Normal Granary until it is needed on farms for livestock feed or until higher corn prices justify its movement into regular trade channels.

Farm Credit Associations "Trapping the great credit reservoir represented by the general investing public for funds for short-time production purposes, instead of depending upon the uncertainties of local financial conditions, is one of the chief values of the relatively new farm production credit associations established within recent years under the auspices of the Federal Farm Credit Administration," says John M. Collins in a Salina, Kansas, report in the New York Times. "At a conference called by D. L. Mullendore, president of the Wichita Production Credit Corporation, he reported that the ninth district, covering Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico, had reached a new high in lending. Loans outstanding in the district in June were set at \$14,354,000. The first associations were set up in the district five years ago. There now are forty-one associations in the district, which have made 67,000 loans in the five years totaling \$107,000,000. There are 532 associations in the United States which have made, since inception of the operations, a total of 1,200,000 loans for \$1,300,000,000. Through the formation of the cooperative credit associations, members are enabled to obtain an even flow of money on a budget plan for production purposes..."

Senate Committee on Banking and Currency reported an original bill (S. 2864) to provide for the financing of a program of recoverable expenditures (S. Rept. 896).

July 24 Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment H. R. 6538, 6539, 6540, and 6541, to amend the marketing-quotas provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (S. Repts. 897, 898, 899, and 900).

S. 1871 to prevent pernicious political activities, was printed in the Record in its final form and was ordered printed as S. Doc. 100.

House Passed H. J. Res. 340, providing that the farmers' market in blocks 354 and 355 of D. C. shall not be used for other purposes; and H. R. 6266, providing for the incorporation of certain persons as Group Hospitalization, Inc.

July 24 Continued debate on S. 2009, to amend the Interstate Commerce Act by extending its application to additional types of carriers and transportation and modifying certain provisions thereof. The following amendments were agreed to: By Mr. Jones of Tex.: Providing that the same average reduction in freight rates be given to farm products going into export that prevails with reference to industrial products; By Mr. Whittington: Authorizing ICC to make investigations regarding freight rates on farm products as well as manufactured products.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

1938 Timber Prices Stable Timber prices in 1938 were more stable than prices of farm products in general according to price compilations just published by the Forest Service. Henry B. Steer, senior forest economist who made the compilations, pointed out that all available statistics indicate stumpage and log prices have been more stable than prices of most agricultural products since 1900. Mr. Steer's compilations were based upon records of 10,000 standing timber and log sales in forty-five States last year. The 10,000 sales records cover standing timber transactions involving more than 7,000,000,000 board feet and log sales of more than 4,500,000,000 board feet. In line with the decline in lumber production from 26,000,000,000 feet in 1937 to less than 21,000,000,000 feet in 1938, less standing timber and fewer logs were sold last year than in 1937. Subject to regional variations and price differences between the various species, 1938 stumpage prices were 5.7 percent below the 1937 average, log prices 7.3 percent below and wholesale lumber prices 8.7 percent below. "Comparison of the relatively small drop in the price level for stumpage, logs and lumber," Mr. Steer said, "with the decline in farm products in the 1937-38 period, indicates the desirability of farmers supplementing farm income with forest products."

A publication of the Forest Service dealing with forest products statistics of the Southern States says that the aggregate cut of lumber in eleven Southern States from 1800 to 1935 is estimated at 715,000,000,000 board feet. These were the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. R. V. Reynolds and A. H. Pierson are authors of the publication (Stat. Bull. 69, price 15 cents). (New York Times.)

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 17

Section 1

July 27, 1939

LOW-INCOME EARNERS GET FOOD STAMPS

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace yesterday opened the door to an extension of relief through surplus food donations to families with incomes from private employment ranging up to about \$1,000 a year, says a report in the Washington Post. Shawnee, Oklahoma, a small city of 23,000, has been selected for the test. Non-relief families whose incomes would place them among the "submerged one-third" will be permitted to buy the Agriculture Department's orange-colored food stamps, and to receive free the blue stamps which entitle the holder to certain surplus agricultural food products. Blue stamps will be issued in an amount equal to one-half the orange stamp purchases. This is the system employed in making donations of surplus food products to relief families in Rochester, New York, Dayton, Ohio, Birmingham, Alabama, Des Moines, Iowa, and Seattle, Washington.

SURPLUS LARD PROBLEM

The problem of the lard surplus was presented to Secretary Wallace yesterday by a group of Senators and Representatives from the Southern and Midwestern States. At its present price lard, of which there are prospects of an increasing surplus, is cheaper than cottonseed and other oil products. Lard and such products are directly competitive and since this country has lost large foreign markets, particularly the German market, for lard, cottonseed interests are concerned over the outlook. Accordingly, Secretary Wallace said, the southern Representatives were as pressing in behalf of action to push up lard prices as they were to improve their own markets. An export subsidy on lard and cottonseed oil was one of several proposals put before Mr. Wallace. Other suggestions included the purchase and storage of cottonseed by the government and loans to farmers on cottonseed. Mr. Wallace, at a press conference, said experts would be named by the Departments of Agriculture, State, and Treasury to study it. (New York Times.)

NORTHEASTERN RECORD DROUGHT

Unable to offer any hope for a general rain sufficient to break the drought in the near future, Dr. James H. Kimball, head of the New York Weather Bureau, announced yesterday that the present dry spell was the longest since the bureau began keeping its records. There has been only .06 of an inch of rain in the last 26 days, he said. Reports of widespread crop damage mounting into millions of dollars and of forest fires and dwindling water supplies came yesterday from the Northeastern States. (New York Times.)

Underground Cold Lockers Welch Richardson, in his regular collection of short items -- Rolling Along the Road -- in Country Gentleman (August) reports that one of the latest developments in cold storage lockers is an underground individual locker service of a man in Washington Court House, Ohio. The man ripped out the floor in the back of his store and lined the basement underneath with cork insulation. "Then 1500 feet of expansion coils, with two motors, in case one failed, were put in, the roof raised and a skylight built overhead. Where the floor had been he installed 100 trap doors, forming the new floor surface. The doors are covered with a composition flooring and insulated with cork. Under each trap door was installed a two-foot-square cabinet, six feet deep, and divided into compartments. He pulls up the cabinet with a mobile electric motor suspended from an I beam running across the locker space. The trap door is flipped open, a button pressed and the lifting bar goes down and is hooked to the cabinet. The operator presses another button and the cabinet rises from the basement in handy position to open the lockers. Ten of the cabinet spaces are portioned off for quick freezing. There is also a chilling room, where meat is hung for seven to fourteen days to tenderize it. The main advantage is the easy accessibility..."

June Farm Income The Department of Agriculture estimates that farmers' cash income from marketings totaled \$501,000,000 in June, about 1 percent less than the estimate of \$508,000,000 in May. Income last June was 3 percent smaller than the \$514,000,000 reported for June, 1938. Including government payments, the farmers' June income totaled \$552,000,000 as compared with \$589,000,000 in May and \$559,000,000 in June, 1938. (A.P.)

Wind Tunnel Studies Soil In Pasadena, at the California Institute of Technology, scientists of the Soil Conservation Service and the Institute operate a wind tunnel for classifying sand and soils as to the size of the particles in them and obtain a better separation than they do with ordinary sieves. Moreover, the method works better for the finer particle sizes; the place where sieves fail to yield best results. The Caltech device brings a new technique into the field which provides accurate data with a low cost, for apparatus was built for about \$50 and requires only one laborer to operate it. George H. Otto and Hunter Rouse, assistant geologist and associate hydraulic engineer at the laboratory, describe the new wind tunnel method in the current issue of Civil Engineering. (Science News Letter, July 22.)

Farm Chemurgy in Oklahoma "How Oklahoma is making chemurgy solve some of its problems is the interesting story released by the Oklahoma State Farm Chemurgic Council, organized in 1937," says Victor H. Schoffelmayer, agricultural editor, in the Dallas News (July 10). "Oklahoma has similar problems to Texas...In Oklahoma several basic research projects are beginning to have important results. One deals with the considerable broomcorn industry, which in the past centered upon making brooms without much regard as to utilization of the seed crop which grows on the straw or the chemical properties in the hulls. Scientific tests of these waste materials were arranged by the Oklahoma Farm Chemurgic Council and the result is that an oil crop worth \$7 a ton was found in the seed, paying quantities of furfural in the hulls, and that a nonbreakable plastic could be made from a combination of the final waste material from these two previous wastes. In the past the pecan shells were burned or allowed to rot. Now they can be converted into commercial carbon and be sold at a profit to the shellers. The biggest chemurgic project in Oklahoma is a paper mill to use the pines and hardwoods of its southeastern forests in a region where farming has fallen largely into disuse...In this same area Oklahoma chemurgists are experimenting with hardier varieties of tung trees than those planted in the deep South. One of Oklahoma's chemurgic projects of first importance is that of finding a suitable strain of soybean which can be depended upon to produce seed annually to supply Oklahoma oil mills..."

Small Power Sprayer American Fruit Grower (July) reports a small power sprayer for small fruit plantings or for a utility unit for large orchards. "Operating economy, balanced by maximum coverage, as well as the ease of moving the sprayer about," it says, "are outstanding features. The one-half horsepower gasoline motor is fitted with kick starter, flywheel magneto, air cleaner and an extra power take-off pulley. Valves are made of stainless steel and the pump cylinder is porcelain-coated, seamless steel tubing. Steady working pressure of 100 pounds is provided by a large air chamber. Hose, nozzle, 50-gallon barrel and spray pipe are included."

Poultry Movie The first moving picture ever made covering all phases of the poultry industry will have its first public showing at the 7th World's Poultry Congress. Titled, "Poultry, a Billion-Dollar Industry," the movie is a production of the Department, whose movie photographers traveled thousands of miles into many States to get their "shots." "Poultry, a Billion-Dollar Industry" will be available after the Poultry Congress for showings by farm organizations, schools, colleges, theatres, and other agencies. It can be obtained through application to the Division of Motion Pictures.

Senate Committee on Finance reported with amendment S.Res. July 25 160, directing the Tariff Commission to investigate certain facts concerning domestic productions and importations of wood pulp or pulpwood (S.Rept. 938).

Committee on Education and Labor reported with amendment S. 1110, to amend the Civilian Conservation Corps Act to make it permanent, cover its employees into civil service and authorize an official seal (S.Rept. 950).

House Received from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation July 25 a summary of the activities of the Commodity Credit Corporation since its organization on October 17, 1933; to Committee on Banking and Currency (H.Doc. 449).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Civil Service Examinations The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 75, unassembled, principal seed technologist, \$5,600, senior seed technologist, \$4,600, seed technologist, \$3,800, associated seed technologist, \$3,200, assistant seed technologist, \$2,600, No. 76, unassembled, tobacco inspector, \$3,800, associate tobacco inspector, \$3,200, assistant tobacco inspector, \$2,600, Agricultural Marketing Service. Applications must be on file not later than the following dates: (a) August 21, if received from states other than those named in b: (b) August 24, if received from Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

FSA Low-Cost Farm Homes The Farm Security Administration has announced that contracts were awarded the past fiscal year for the construction of 2,784 of its specially designed low-cost farm homes for an average cost of only \$1,474.20. Dr. W. W. Alexander, Farm Security Administrator, characterized this as the lowest cost at which homes of comparable quality had ever been built in this country by either public or private agencies. "This is the culmination of our four-year effort to develop a really substantial, low-cost farm house," he said. "We have shown that liveable farm houses can be built in the South for less than \$1,400 and in the North for less than \$2,500, including profits for contractors and suppliers of materials and paying prevailing wages to labor." The homes included 1,645 southern farm buildings of frame construction, without bathrooms, costing an average of \$1,350. They also included 800 fully modernized units, with bathrooms, costing slightly over \$1,500. Prefabricated steel houses in the South, and northern farm building equipped for heating, raised the average cost. The steel units, built on an experimental basis in the South, in cooperation with a leading southern steel company, to determine how much they would save in maintenance cost, averaged \$1,850, and the northern homes ran up to a maximum of \$2,635 for a story and a half house, fully plastered, with a central hot air heating plant.

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Section 1

July 28, 1939

WHEAT CROP INSURANCE

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation reported yesterday that it had turned over 1,607,000 bushels of wheat or its cash equivalent to 5,862 farmers on crop-loss claims filed under the new crop insurance program. About 170,000 farmers took out insurance on 7,638,157 acres of wheat, paying 6,714,074 bushels of grain or its cash equivalent as premiums. The policy holders were insured a total production of 63,769,356 bushels this year.

Spokesmen for the federal agency expressed the doubt that the premiums would be sufficient to pay all claims, inasmuch as crop losses in the winter wheat belt were above normal and prospects in the spring belt are somewhat below those of last year. They pointed out, however, that the corporation has a capital reserve of \$20,000,000, and explained that premiums soon to be collected on policies covering the 1940 crop could be used in paying this year's losses. Normal crop years, it is understood, should enable the corporation to build up wheat reserves for use in bad years. (A.I.).

WEATHER IN NORTHEAST

President Roosevelt yesterday ordered four government agencies--the Civilian Conservation Corps, Work Projects Administration and the Agriculture and Interior Departments--to prepare for possible emergency relief measures in drought-stricken Northeastern States, says a report in the Washington Times Herald. The President's request was transmitted to the agencies by his secretary, Stephen T. Early. In it the Executive asked that drought conditions "be most thoroughly observed and that the federal agencies be prepared in the event of an emergency to render all possible assistance." It was emphasized that drought conditions are becoming progressively worse and that relief measures may become necessary unless there is sufficient rain to alleviate the situation. The drought, searing nine states from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Seaboard, is unprecedented in Weather Bureau records. (Washington Times Herald.)

Thundershowers swept into the drought-ridden Northeast yesterday, first heavy rains in 27 days. In some parts of up-state New York, where men and boys battled 57 forest fires, 2 inches of rain fell, the Associated Press reported. Heavy rains fell in Pennsylvania and broke the grip of drought almost a month old. New Jersey farmers were heartened by the first general rain in four weeks and occasional showers were predicted for Connecticut. Staten Island farmers have taken a loss of \$300,000 in the drought, it was reported. (Washington Post.)

Quotas for Wheat, Corn Two amendments to the wheat and corn marketing quota provisions of the agricultural adjustment act of 1938, which have been passed by Congress and signed by the President, will simplify the administration of marketing quotas on these commodities whenever quotas may be in effect, Agricultural Adjustment Administration officials said yesterday. The effect of the amendments is to place farm marketing quotas for wheat, corn and cotton all on a similar basis. The amendments provide that the marketing percentage for wheat and corn be 100 percent of the farm acreage allotment. Farmers who did not exceed their acreage allotments for corn and wheat would be able to market their entire production without penalty in years when quotas were in effect just as cotton farmers do now. The corn amendment also provides that any referendum on corn marketing quotas be held one month later, at the end of September instead of August as previously provided. The farm marketing quota for cotton and wheat is the normal or actual yield, whichever is greater, of the farm acreage allotment, plus the carryover on the farm which might have been marketed in previous years without penalty. The farm marketing quota for corn does not include the carryover. Previous provisions of the law called for farmers to hold part of their corn and wheat supplies when there was a marketing quota, even if they had planted within their acreage allotments.

U.S. Exports to Japan Cotton, scrap iron, petroleum, iron alloys, machinery, automobiles and airplanes are the major items which Japan has been buying from the United States under the 1911 commercial treaty which this government intends to abandon next January. Commerce Department figures show that last year 21 percent of the United States \$239,620,000 sales of merchandise to Japan were cotton, while Japan's \$126,820,000 sales to this country were 63.5 percent raw silk. Japan's sales to the United States reached a peak of \$431,873,000 in 1929, declining almost steadily every year except 1937, when the total was \$204,201,000. Peak United States sales to Japan were in that same year, when Japan took unusually large amounts of scrap iron as well as cotton and other products. Although individually one of the major nations in United States foreign trade, Japan last year bought only 7.7 percent of all United States exports, while this country bought only 6.5 percent of its total foreign merchandise from Nippon. Last year the United States sold 1,028,000 bales of cotton worth \$52,850,000 to Japan. This was a decrease from the 1,356,000 bales worth \$88,338,000 sold in 1936. (.A.F.).

Farm Products Exchange Bill The House yesterday passed a Senate bill to facilitate the exchange of surplus agricultural products for strategic war materials produced in other countries. The bill would permit the Commodity Credit Corporation to exchange cotton and other products abroad. The measure now goes back to the Senate. (New York Times.)

Butter Purchases Secretary Wallace has directed the Dairy Products Marketing Association to buy butter on the mercantile exchanges. This is the first purchase authorization under the recently announced loan program for the 1939-40 butter storage season under which a Commodity Credit Corporation loan of up to \$6,000,000 to the DMFA has been approved for the purchase and storage of up to 25,000,000 pounds of butter. Purchases will be made from time to time in quantities and at prices warranted by conditions. The butter loan program will supplement the relief purchase programs. All butter bought by the DFMA under the government loan program is to be held in storage available for resale to the commercial trade at prices at least sufficient to cover the loan value of the butter which includes the cost plus handling and carrying charges. Butter not resold to the commercial trade may be sold to the Surplus Commodities Corporation for relief distribution.

Cotton for Flour Bags An order for 2,500,000 flour bags was announced recently by the Cotton Textile Institute as a "major victory" in a campaign to boost the home consumption of American cotton. The order, it was said, rises out of a shift from jute bags by a nation-wide grocery chain. "Henceforth the company will use cotton instead of jute bags for the 1,500,000 barrels of flour consumed annually by its bakeries," said Paul B. Halstead, secretary of the institute. This involved more than 2,500,000 large bags, made from over 2,100 bales of cotton, which in turn are the product of approximately 5,000 acres of land." (A.F.).

Marginal Land Buying One of the largest land-buying programs ever undertaken by the federal government--the purchase of submarginal farming areas under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 and the Emergency Relief Act of 1935--has closed its books, H. H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation, has announced. During the past five years, more than 9,000,000 acres of land primarily unsuited for cultivation have been bought at a total cost of about \$46,000,000, and developed largely by FERA and WPA funds. Through the purchase of this land, the government has made new areas available for conservation programs. Approximately two-thirds of the land is being held by the Department and put to uses for which it is naturally adapted. Some 956,000 acres have been added to national forests, while other areas, used chiefly for grazing, are managed by the Soil Conservation Service. Although emergency funds for the purchase of submarginal land expired on June 30, development will be continued and additional areas will be purchased under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937. New Federal purchases will be made in selected areas where the retirement of submarginal land from cultivation will aid in improving agricultural conditions and reducing the costs of local government.

Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys reported the July 26 following bills with amendment: H.R. 2752, to include within the Kaniksu National Forest certain lands owned or in course of acquisition by the United States (S.Rept. 959); and H.R. 5747, to authorize the addition of certain lands to the Wenatchee National Forest (S.Rept. 960).

Committee on Education and Labor reported with amendment S. 1234, to amend section 13 (a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (S.Rept. 980).

Committee on Interstate Commerce reported with amendments S.J.Res. 58, providing for an investigation of the feasibility and desirability of fixing railroad rates on the basis of zones (S.Rept. 981).

Received from the RFC a summary of the activities of the Commodity Credit Corporation since its organization in 1933; to Committee on Banking and Currency.

House Passed S. 2009, to amend the Interstate Commerce Act July 26 by extending its application to additional types of carriers and transportation and modifying certain provisions thereof. Amendments rejected: Poage amendment to strike out provisions requiring government to pay full rates to land grant railroads, by a vote of 39 to 63; Leavy amendment to modify the land grant provision by requiring such railroads to return these lands to the government, by a vote of 43 to 76; Wadsworth motion to recommit the bill to committee was defeated by a vote of 99 to 273.

Committee on Census reported with amendments S. 2240, to provide for a national census of housing (H.Rept. 1319).

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds reported with amendment H.R. 7293, to amend section 355 of the Revised Statutes to make permissive the acquisition of legislative jurisdiction over land or interests in land acquired by the United States (H.Rept. 1329).

Received from the President a proposed provision pertaining to appropriations of the Public Works Administration; to Committee on Appropriations (H.Doc. 451).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Half-Year The Commerce Department says the United States sold U.S. Exports \$320,864,000 more merchandise abroad in the first half of the year than it purchased from foreigners. The export excess, however, was only about half the size of the unusually large excess piled up in the same period last year. Exports in the first half of 1939 totaled \$1,415,427,000 and imports \$1,094,563,000. In the same months last year, exports amounted to \$1,590,788,000 and imports \$960,955,000, making an export excess of \$629,833,000. The department attributed the decline in exports partly to lower commodity prices, but primarily to decreased volume shipments of cotton, wheat and corn. (A.I.).

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 19

Section 1

July 31, 1939

NORTHEAST, MIDWEST DROUGHT Farmers in upper New York State reported yesterday that rain had broken the drought, says the New York Times. Intermittent showers fell generally in New England. The rainfall varied over most of New York State, but the chief benefits were felt in the central and western areas. The New York City Weather Bureau reported that rainfall this month has been 3.63 inches below normal. With only one day of the month left, July's total rainfall has been .44 of an inch.

According to a Chicago report to the New York Times, dry and hot weather west of the Missouri River has materially lowered the outlook for the new corn crop in that area. There still is considerable corn in eastern Kansas and Nebraska which would be helped by a soaking rain, but in the more western areas the damage is said to be largely irreparable. Reports from the main Corn Belt indicate there has been no material damage so far from hot and dry weather, except possibly in parts of southern Iowa and Illinois.

HOME LOAN INTEREST CUT A reduction of one half of 1 percent in the maximum interest rate on mortgages committed for insurance by the Federal Housing Administration on small homes was announced yesterday by Stewart McDonald, Federal Housing Administrator. The reduction will become effective on Tuesday. It will scale the rate down to 4 1/2 percent. Mr. McDonald also announced a reduction of one-half of 1 percent to 4 percent of the maximum rate on mortgages on large-scale rental projects, limited by law to \$5,000,000. Simultaneously Jesse Jones, Federal Loan Administrator, announced the Federal National Mortgage Association and the RFC Mortgage Company would buy FHA-insured mortgages at the reduced rate at par, and accrued interest, from lending institutions anywhere in the United States and Territories and would continued the usual allowance for servicing. (New York Times.)

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM A consolidated, nation-wide employment security program has been organized by the Social Security Board through the creation of a new Bureau of Employment Security. In it are consolidated the job insurance activities of the board's Bureau of Unemployment Compensation and the job placement activities of the United States Employment Service, formerly in the Labor Department. O. W. Powell, director of the board, said the veterans' and farm-placement activities of the Employment Service would be kept intact under the new organization. (New York Times.)

Secretary
Opens Foultry
Congress

Secretary Wallace, in his address opening the Seventh World's Foultry Congress and Exposition, said in part: "Many (poultry) problems remain to challenge the investigator. High mortality among poultry is an outstanding one; it seems to be largely of environmental origin, and may yield to further knowledge, combined with genetic and pathological research. There are unsolved nutritional problems of 'crazy chick' disease, chick dermatosis, and cannibalism. Eventually, it will round out the whole technique, and tell us infinitely more than we know today about the nutrition requirements of poultry for reproduction, growth, egg production and fattening. Recent progress with egg hatchability is a sign. Not many years ago only about 60 to 70 percent of the fertile eggs set in commercial hatcheries produced live chicks. Hatcheryman can now get fertile eggs with a hatchability of 90 percent or more. Foultry research, like other types of scientific work, knows no frontiers between countries. The benefits extend to all nations and to all human interests. Recent applications of poultry work in medicine are a reminder. Poultry investigations contributed much to revealing the facts about the vitamin B-G complex and this in turn led to a knowledge of the role of nicotinic acid in the prevention of pellagra. Nutrition studies with chicks and rats showed that there is more than one kind of vitamin D and that the several kinds are not equally effective in all species. This discovery had a direct application to human nutrition. Experiments with chicks revealed the anti-hemorrhagic factor, or vitamin K. This vitamin quickly proved of value in pre-operative treatment for the prevention of post-operative hemorrhage in surgical operations on the gall bladder and bile ducts. These facts are new evidence of the familiar truth that the by-products of research are often as important as the intended results."

REA Under
Department

Rural Electrification News (July) in commenting on REA's inclusion in the Department, says in part: "Closer coordination than in the past will exist between the farm power program and the many units of the Department's far-flung organization. The significance for the future of the incorporation of rural electrification among the services rendered American farmers by the Department of Agriculture cannot be overestimated. REA brings to its new home a record of more than \$226,000,000 loaned to some 635 borrowers with which to make electric service available to about 675,000 homes. Over 250,000 of these are already receiving high-line electric service for the first time. The 225,000 miles of line and 26 generating plants which these loans make possible are spread over 44 states. They are built and operated by numerous types of organizations, nearly 90 percent of which are farmers' cooperatives. In addition, the entry of the Federal Government into a rural electrification program in 1935 provided a powerful stimulus to private utility companies to build new rural electric lines financed by their own funds and to add new rural customers to their existing lines. Hence the number of farms in the United States receiving electric service doubled in less than four years following the initiation of the Federal program."

Senate Both Houses agreed to the conference report on H.R.
July 27 6984, to provide a feasible and comprehensive plan for the
variable payment of construction charges on U.S. reclama-
projects (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Committee on D.C. reported without amendment H.J.Res. 340, providing
that the farmers' market in blocks 354 and 355 of D.C. shall not be used
for other purposes (S.Rept. 1007); and H.R. 6266, providing for the in-
corporation of certain persons as Group Hospitalization, Inc. (S.Rept.1012).

Both Houses received from the President a report of the Tennessee
Valley Authority, "Value of Flood Height Reduction from Tennessee Valley
Authority Reservoirs to the Alluvial Valley of the Lower Mississippi
River"; to Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (H.Doc. 455).

House The conference report on S. 281, to amend the Civil
July 27 Retirement Service Act, was submitted to the House. As reported
from conference, the bill provides as follows: Present
provisions regarding computations of annuities remain, except that the
government's part of the annuity shall not be less than the employee's
purchasable annuity, and provision is made for a reduced personal annuity
accompanied by a survivorship annuity. Mentally incompetent employees
have one year after restoration to competency or appointment of a fidu-
ciary to apply for retirement benefits. Recovered disability annuitants
may be retained on the retirement roll for one year. The compulsory de-
duction remains at 3 1/2 percent, but employees are authorized to con-
tribute up to 10 percent ^{if purchase} additional annuity. Effective date is January 1,
1940.

Committee on Agriculture reported with amendments H.R. 4088; to
amend the Commodity Exchange Act to extend its provisions to fats and
oils, cottonseed meal and peanuts (H.Rept. 1355); and H.R. 7342, to amend
the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of 1933 (H.Rept. 1336).

Committee on Public Lands reported with amendment H.R. 4282, to
amend the act providing for the administration and maintenance of the
Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia, and North Carolina, by the Secretary of the
Interior (H.Rept. 1363).

Senate Continued debate on S. 2864, to provide for the
July 28 financing of a program of recoverable expenditures.
Wheeler-LaFollette amendment, making Federal Farm Mortgage
Corporation funds available for refinancing farm mortgages under the pro-
visions of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, was agreed to by a vote
of 74 to 7. Townsend amendment, terminating the President's power to
purchase foreign silver, was rejected by a vote of 38 to 41.

Committee on Banking and Currency reported without amendment S.
2904, to provide for the sale under certain conditions of agricultural
commodities held by the Commodity Credit Corporation (S. Rept. 1023).

House Passed H. R. 7171, to amend section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act so as to provide for establishment of quotas against importation of foreign farm products whenever such importations are interfering with section 32 programs.

July 28 Committee on Agriculture reported the following: with amendments, S. 1955, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to delegate certain regulatory functions and to create the position of Second Assistant Secretary of Agriculture (H. Rept. 1381); and without amendment, S. 1850, to aid the States and Territories in making provisions for the retirement of employees of the land-grant colleges (H. Rept. 1382).

Same committee reported with amendments H. R. 6480, to amend section 8 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 (warehouse receipts). (H. Rept. 1380).

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Forest Seed Policy As an aid in the long-time development of American forests, the Department has adopted a Nation-wide forest seed policy for its planting, under which only locally produced seed of traceable origin will be used where practicable, and only seed from localities of similar climate and altitude be substituted where local seed proves impracticable. Ninety-five percent of the Nation's annual planting of around 250 million trees is done by the Department or agencies cooperating with it. The Department hopes, says the Forest Service, that the new seed policy eventually will become a national standard, accepted by all seed and nurserymen, with private as well as public planters refusing to use any but "pedigreed seed" and nursery stock of known origin. The policy became effective upon adoption in National Forests, where the idea has been generally accepted for years, in the Prairie States Forestry Project where it has been closely followed in planting field windbreaks, and in the erosion-control plantings of the Soil Conservation Service. In addition, all States, counties, cities, corporations, and individuals cooperating with the Department, chiefly under the Clarke-McNary Act, are being urged to adhere to the policy. Outside these agencies, including National Forest Nurseries, which produce about 160 million seedlings annually, the Forest Service said the policy will affect seed collectors, dealers and nurserymen who offer seeds or nursery stock for purchase by the Department planting agencies.

Farm Price Index The average of prices received by farmers in mid-July was unchanged from a month earlier, the Agricultural Marketing Service has reported. The index on July 15 stood at 89 percent of pre-war, the same as in mid-June, but 6 points lower than a year earlier. Sharp declines occurred the past month in grain and fruit prices but these were offset by increases for chickens, eggs, milk and potatoes.

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXIV, No. 20

Section 1

August 1, 1939

NORTHEASTERN CROP DAMAGE The rains of the last few days have been insufficient to afford lasting benefit to vegetable, farm and fruit crops and lawns and trees, agricultural authorities of New York and New Jersey said yesterday, according to a report in the New York Times. New concern was felt by clearing weather generally throughout New York State and by a state-wide forecast for generally fair weather today. "There has been a decided change in the general situation," Dr. James H. Kimball, chief meteorologist of the New York Weather Bureau, said. "The wind has shifted from an ocean breeze to a land breeze, from southeast to southwest. That means the air is coming from the land to the south of us and will bring drier air and lower humidity. The temperature will continue high and there will be partly cloudy weather, but no rain." The New Jersey Department of Agriculture reported also that the rains were inadequate. The department admitted that a major portion of the state's \$100,000,000 agricultural industry was saved from ruin, but added that losses to individual farmers were severe. The last day of July saw new low rainfall records established in New York and Boston. In New York the July fall was .44 of an inch, 3.80 inches below normal, making the month the driest since 1910. In Boston, the Associated Press reported, the total precipitation for the month was the lowest July rainfall in the 121 years that readings have been kept. The fall was .67 of an inch compared with a normal of 3.49 inches.

RETIREMENT LEGISLATION The Senate yesterday adopted the conference report on civil service retirement act amendments and sent the legislation to the White House for the President's signature. While stripped of its major liberalization provisions, the Neely-Ramspeck bill permits government employees to invest up to 10 percent of their salaries voluntarily in additional annuities. It also allows civil service workers to withhold part of their pensions for payment to heirs upon death and extends from 90 days to one year the period which a disabled employee may remain on the retirement list after recovery while waiting for restoration to active rolls. (Washington Post.)

CCC BILL A bill extending the life of the Civilian Conservation Corps until July 1, 1943, was passed by the House yesterday and sent to the Senate. The Labor Committee previously had set July 1, 1945, as the date. Under existing law the CCC is scheduled to expire December 31, 1939. (Washington Post.)

Food Stamps Extended The Department of Agriculture has announced the selection of Des Moines as the fifth city for trial of its food stamp plan to distribute surplus farm products to persons on relief. Operation was expected to start within a month. The department estimated that 10,700 relief cases, comprising about 30,000 individuals, would be eligible to take part. Participation is optional. (A.F.).

Beef Grading Method "By making two body measurements of beef cattle, and comparing the measurements, with the weight of the animal, it is possible to do an accurate job of carcass grading on the farm," says the Washington Farmer (July 20). "The system has recently been perfected by specialists of the Department of Agriculture. The measurements indicate carcass quality and by also taking into consideration the record of feed consumed by an animal in reaching a certain weight, an accurate idea of the value of the animal as a breeder may be obtained. The two measurements are the height of the animal at the withers and the weight. Where it is not possible to determine the weight of the animal because of lack of scales, the girth of the body at the heart may be measured and used instead of the weight. As an example of how the slaughter grade is arrived at by height at withers and weight,' the government specialists report, 'an animal 45 inches in height at the withers must weigh 1010 pounds or more to grade Prime, 873 to 1009 to grade Choice, 755 to 872 pounds for Good, 652 to 754 pounds for Medium. All below 651 pounds grade Plain.' A table has been prepared giving the range of weight for each height at half-inch intervals. A similar table for height and heart girth has been prepared. Both tables are given in Circular 524 (5 cents)."

X-Ray Dot Photography Dot photography, a new kind of X-ray pictures, has been announced at the University of Illinois, according to an Associated Press report. The dot pictures look like mere black spots on photographic film. But they contain a complete picture which can be magnified hundreds of times. They have both industrial and biological uses. The new technique was developed by Dr. George L. Clark, the university's X-ray expert. The dot pictures are made by a small beam of X-rays. The object to be photographed is placed between the beam and a photographic film. The rays pass through the object. A birdseye view of a small section of the object photographed is recorded on the film. The picture shows the shadows of the interior structure. Since X-rays are small enough to pass between atoms, the rays cast an atomic skeleton shadow on the film. The new dot pictures provide a quick, easy and cheap method of studying duralumin to discover conditions under which true "solution" of copper in aluminum may take place, and the dots have been used successfully to show the internal structure of living insects and other biological tissues. (A.I.).

Tenant Program "Occasionally some one who is intensely interested in improving the lot of tenant farmers express disappointment over the fact that the Farm Security Administration has secured such a small number of farms for the tenant program in its two years of operation," says an editorial in Southern Agriculturist (August). "The size and urgency of the problem should not cause zeal to overbalance caution and sound judgment. This is a case where haste is certain to make waste. The Bankhead-Jones Tenant Act launched a new social and economic undertaking, and the first few thousand farms and tenant families accepted for the program will serve to chart the future, to set precedents, and to make policies. Loans made by FSA so far have been on desirable farms well worth the money, and it is hoped that the present conservative, business-like policies will be continued."

South Leads Rural Gain The South registered a gain of 19 percent in the daily average sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas in June as compared with June last year, according to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. There was an increase of about 13 percent for the country as a whole, with sales in the East about 14 percent above June, 1938. The Middle West and the Far West averaged a gain of about 10 percent.

Cotton in Insulation Possible use of cotton as an insulating material in construction of homes, office buildings and other structures was envisioned recently by Texas Agriculture Commissioner J. E. McDonald, according to an A.P. report in the Shreveport Times (July 16). McDonald said one Texas manufacturer had developed a process of mixing medium staples and linters, fireproofing the mixture and placing it in thick mats between inner and outer walls of buildings.

National Income Up The Commerce Department has reported that an increase in wages boosted the national income in the first six months of this year nearly \$1,000,000,000 above the same period of 1938. The total income received from wages, dividends, rents, and other sources was estimated at \$32,496,000,000 for the first half of 1939, compared with \$31,538,000,000 in the first half of last year. (Press.)

Durables Trade Up The dollar volume of United States service wholesale trade, including such consumers durable goods as house furnishings, jewelry and building materials, increased \$500,000,000 in the first half of this year over the value for the corresponding period of 1938, Secretary of Commerce Hopkins has announced. For the six months of this year the aggregate volume was placed at \$9,600,000,000, with the second quarter accounting for \$300,000,000 of the increase. (Press.)

Senate Continued debate on S. 2864, works financing bill.
 July 29 O'Mahoney amendment, to prohibit Government competition
 with private industries through funds provided by this
 bill, was agreed to by a 45-24 vote.
 Recessed until Monday, July 31.

House Agreed to the conference report on S. 281, to
 July 29 amend further the Civil Service Retirement Act.
 Adjourned until Monday, July 31.
 (Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Conservation Richard F. Hammatt, assistant to the chief of the
 and Forests Forest Service, is author of a 14-page illustrated
 article, "Forest Conservation and National Security,"
 in the August Scientific Monthly. In the concluding paragraphs he
 says: "Out of the forest came the right of America; wealth, and power,
 and men." (Development of Governmental Forest Control in the United
 States.) There is truth in this statement by Jenks Cameron, but out
 of those same forests have in large part come our distressed rural
 regions. With minor exceptions these include 1,300 counties, half of
 all our farms, millions of acres of tax-delinquent land. Index of
 average farm income is under 30 compared with 90 to 120 for typical
 corn belt counties. Living standards are low, educational facilities
 meager. There are 700 to 1,000 children under 5 years old for every
 1,000 women of child-bearing age. Undernourishment and pellagra are
 common. But 60 odd percent of the land in these distressed regions
 is more valuable in forest growth than it is as plow land. These lands
 once grew forests. They have been abused, but forests can be restored
 on them. Cropped instead of mined, new forest wealth can provide
 better standards of living for hundreds of thousands of families now
 in sore distress; and add to national security. What has happened to
 our forest lands and what is happening to them now indicate that it may
 be no light task for a nation to stop forest and human exploitation,
 and to provide affirmatively for forest and human rehabilitation. Yet
 what has been done on the National Forests,
and what is now being done on their own lands
 by leaders in forest industries, indicate that the job can be done. And
 the values at stake seem to make it a worth-while one."

Me. Potato The Maine Department of Agriculture has created a
 Grading super grade of potato, requiring nothing smaller than a
 2 1/4 inch minimum-sized potato in all consumer ten and
 fifteen pound bags of mesh and paper or in cartons or containers
 carrying the State of Maine trade-mark, up to forty-nine pounds in
 weight, the Maine Development Commission has announced. Bags or con-
 tainers of fifty pounds or more, carrying the State trademark under
 license, will require nothing smaller than a two-inch minimum potato.
 (Press.)