

AMERICAN FARMERS PLANT GREATEST WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE ON RECORD

But Condition of Crop on Dec. 1 Was Poorest Ever Known, Is Official Report

42,170,000 ACRES NOW EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ONLY 540,000,000 BU.

This Figure Is Maintained, However, It Will Exceed Winter Wheat Crop of 1917 by 122,000,000 Bushels

Area Is Sown and Condition of Crop Is Reported as Favorable. Condition May Improve

Dec. 19.—Winter wheat planted on the prairie in the country, showed the lowest condition of a crop of 42,170,000 bushels was by the department of agriculture. The final production will be above or below the average.

Wheat sown this fall for next year and the condition on Dec. 1 was 1.93 per cent of a normal, the department of agriculture announced. The average is 4 per cent more than the previous year's sowing in the west and 10 per cent more than the sowing in the 1917 crop. One of the many years.

average. The yield to the acre is 6,119,000 bushels, or 95.4 per cent more than the average.

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FRENCH SUBMARINE TORPEDOED

Attacker Her Destroyed.

Paris, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—The old French cruiser Chateau Renault, employed as a transport, was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on the morning of Dec. 14, and the submarine which attacked her later was destroyed. The French minister of marine announced today that the crew of the Chateau Renault had been fitted as a transport.

FRANCE TO TAKE ALL WOOD ALCOHOL

Washington, Dec. 19.—The country's supply of wood alcohol will be immediately taken over by the government under an agreement with the private consumers of licenses issued by the board.

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DRASTIC ORDER IS ISSUED BY HEALTH BOARD

Vaccination for Every Teacher and Pupil in Public or Private Schools.

Owing to the spread of smallpox in this city and county the state board of health has ordered the vaccination of all school children, teachers, janitors and all other persons frequenting public, private or parochial schools. This announcement was made this morning at a joint meeting of the city and county boards of health along with state president, Dr. Dan J. Donohue, in the office of the county commissioners.

W. F. Cogswell, secretary of the state board of health, caused notices to be sent to all parties interested through Sheriff John K. O'Rourke. The following is a copy of the notice sent to the school board, the Butte Business College and the Central high school:

"At a special meeting of the state board of health held in Butte on Dec. 18, 1917, an order was passed requiring the vaccination of children, teachers, janitors and all other persons frequenting public, private or parochial schools in the city of Butte and Silver Bow county.

\$58,000,000 IS NEEDED TO HOUSE GOVERNMENT WORK

That Amount is Needed for Additional Space in Washington.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Expenditure of more than \$58,000,000 for land and buildings for housing all the government activities in Washington with an outline of a general building plan has been recommended to congress by the public buildings commission in its first report. The buildings proposed are in addition to the permanent government buildings already occupied. At present the government is paying about \$1,959,000 a year in rents for private buildings in Washington.

NOTICE OF CITY AND COUNTY DRAFT BOARDS TO REGISTRANTS

The city and county draft boards are sending out questionnaires to 5 per cent of the registered men each day. The statement below shows the date on which questionnaires are mailed, the order numbers of the men included in each day's batch and the date on which the filled-out blanks must be returned.

GENERAL DELAY, OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT



The senate military affairs committee, headed by Senator Chamberlain, is in the midst of an inquiry into the war department's work. The senators in examining witnesses, although bent upon constructive criticism of the department, have given frequent expression to dissatisfaction over delays in the equipment of American field forces. Much of the delay, it was stated, was due to red tape, which is being rapidly eliminated.

TRIPLE EXECUTION IS SET FOR JANUARY 14 IN THE YARD OF COUNTY JAIL

Judge Dwyer This Afternoon Pronounces the Death Sentence Upon Frank Fisher, John O'Neill and Sherman A. Powell. Three Men Listen to the Words of Doom Without a Quiver. Two Former Protest Their Innocence in Short Statement to the Court. Powell Admits He Has Nothing to Say.

A triple hanging will take place in Butte on Monday morning, Jan. 14, 1918, between the hours of 3 and 10. Sentence of death was pronounced today by Judge John V. Dwyer upon Frank Fisher, John Gullich, alias John O'Neill, and Sherman A. Powell, colored. The three men heard the words of doom pronounced by the court with perfect composure. If their spirit of bravado wavered they did not show it. Powell, the negro, smiled at spectators in the courtroom when the deputy sheriff released the handcuffs from about his wrists. Fisher and O'Neill in short statements to the court both protested their innocence of the murder of which they were convicted. They declared they knew nothing of the crime. Powell acknowledged to the court that he had nothing further to say in his own behalf.

The proceedings in court this afternoon were brief. In the case of Fisher and Gullich, alias John O'Neill, Deputy County Attorney Frank L. Riley informed the court that the remittitur had been received from the supreme court this morning denying a rehearing in the case of the two men who had previously been sentenced to death, but whose execution had been stayed through appeals to the supreme court.

ERECT MONUMENT TO FIRST MEN WHO FELL

Lorraine People Will Honor First American Who Died in France.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 19.—Citizens of Lorraine, France, will erect a monument to the memory of Corporal James B. Gresham of Evansville, Ind., and Privates Merle D. Hay of Glidden, Ia., and Thomas F. Enright of Pittsburg, who were the first of the American expeditionary force to fall in France, according to a letter received yesterday by Mayor Joseph G. Armstrong of this city, from the prefect of the village near which the Americans are buried.

U. S. HAS FINEST RIFLE MADE, SAY MUNITIONS MEN

Change in Type From That Made for Britain in U. S. Caused Delay.

MAXIMUM OUTPUT NOT TO BE REACHED UNTIL MAY

Contracts Were Not Closed Until July—Changes in Machinery Took Time.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Several months' delay in supplying rifles, private ordnance manufacturers told the senate military committee, resulted in the war department's decision to modify the Enfield type. Factory machinery changes, the committee was told, reduced the output of Enfields for England and production will not return to maximum until next May.

A contract with the war department to produce modified Enfields was not completed until last July. President Henry S. Kimball of the Remington company testified. It was October, he said, before machinery changes could be completed to begin output. Delay in congressional appropriations, Kimball also stated, further delayed the output. His firm hesitated to take a contract in the absence of definite appropriations.

SUPERIOR TO BRITISH.

The new modified rifle and also the American ammunition, Vice President Tyler of the same concern testified, are regarded as superior to British types.

SEND A RIVER FLEET TO AID RESCUE WORK

Rivers Are Overflowing in Oregon and Washington and Many in Danger.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 19.—A fleet of three river steamers and a Port of Portland tug has been sent by Mayor George Baker of this city to Woodland, Wash., on the Lewis river, to rescue residents endangered by the flooding of the town. The water is said to be six feet deep in Woodland.

COMMANDER OF THE BALKAN ARMY RECALLED

London, Dec. 19.—General Sarrail, commander of the allied armies at Saloniki, has been recalled, according to newspaper announcement in Athens, says a Reuter dispatch from the Greek capital under date of Dec. 15. The successor of General Sarrail in command of the Macedonian armies, it is stated, will be General Guillemet.

TWO-THIRDS OF TAX ON MONEY IS PAID BY SILVER BOW COUNTY

Thirteen Counties of the State Pay No Tax on Money or Solvent Credits. What the Montana Tax Commission is Seeking to Accomplish.

For the year 1917, the people of Silver Bow county paid taxes on money and solvent credits to the amount of \$2,000,000. That was twice the assessment returned on that class of prop-

CAR SHORTAGE TO BLAME FOR SUGAR TROUBLE

President of American Sugar Company Refutes Story of Spreckels.

DENIES HE HELPED FIX SUGAR PRICES

Babst Declares Western Refiners Offered to Send Sugar East.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Car shortages and not attempts of refiners to manipulate supplies or prices were attributed as largely the cause of the sugar shortage by Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining company, testifying before the senate investigating committee today.

He refuted testimony of Claus A. Spreckels that George M. Rolph, general manager of the California-Hawaiian company, and director of the sugar division of the food administration, declined to allow supplies to come east from his own refinery at a time Spreckels was threatened with being forced to close his plant, by saying that Rolph and another refiner offered to let Spreckels have 25,000 tons at the basic price set for Cuban sugar by the international committee. Babst denied that he had anything to do with the fixing of the price of beet sugar and that he had any connection with setting the price for Louisiana sugar.

TESTIFIES HE COLLECTED THE WHOLESALE GRAFT

Operator of Chicago Graft System Testifies Against Former Police Chief.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Thomas F. Costello, confessed manager of the police graft system during the period in which Charles C. Healey was chief of police of Chicago, testified today at the trial of the former chief that in 15 months he turned \$13,900 over to Healey for the protection of saloon licenses which had been forfeited for infractions of the law. His own bit out of the collections averaged \$100 a week.

SWISS PEOPLE ARE SATISFIED WITH TREATY

Berne, Switzerland, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—The text of the new commercial treaty with the United States was published in Switzerland today and caused an excellent impression everywhere. All the Swiss newspapers express the warmest gratitude of the Swiss people to President Wilson and the American government.

EFFORT TO RECALL AN OFFICIAL IS A FAILURE

San Francisco District Attorney Returned to Office in Recall Election.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—An election for the recall of District Attorney Charles M. Fickert here yesterday failed, completed returns showing that Fickert was returned by a lead of approximately 2 to 1 over his nearest opponent, Charles A. Swigert. Fickert's total, according to late count, was 46,451 against 23,937 for Swigert. A third candidate received 1,844 votes.