U. S. MUST PRODUCE MORE, SAYS HOUSTON

Secretary of Agriculture Urges Increase in Farm and Stock Production.

RECORD CROPS IN 1917

Farmers' Further Co-operation Needed to Meet Demands of the War.

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—With record crops grown this year, the Nation's farm and live stock production must be stimulated to a still higher efficiency during the coming twelve months if domestic demands and the needs of the Allies are to be adequately met, David F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, says in his annual report to Congress today.

"That the farmers of the Nation have generously responded to the appeals for increased production, and that much has already been done to insure a large supply of foods and feedstuffs," says the report, "justifies no let-down in their activities or in those of all agricultural agencies. On the contrary, even greater efforts must be put forth in the coming months.

"There must be no break-down on the farms, no failure of foods, feedstuffs or clothing. I cannot emphasize too strongly the urgent necessity of doing everything possible to bring about a still further increase in the production of all essential commodities, particularly of the staple crops and live stock."

Relies on Farmers.

Confidence in the ability of the farmers to meet the unusual emergency caused by America's entrance into the war is reiterated by the Secretary. Their willing co-operation since April has been prolific of encouraging crop increases, he says, and there is no doubt but that they have a complete and ready comprehension of the demands to be supplied as the war proceeds.

While the precise figures for meat, poultry, dairy products and vegetable oils are not yet available, the Secretary estimates that the quantity of these commodities is greater than for 1915 and 1916.

An increase of a billion bushels over the five-year pre-war average was affected in this year's crop of staples. Unrevised estimates contained in the report are as follows: 3,191,000,000 bushels of corn, 659,797,000 of wheat, 1,580,000,000 of oats, 201,659,000 of barley, 56,000,000 of rye, 16,813,000 of buckwheat, 33,256,000 of rice, 73,380,000 of kafir, 439,686,000 of Irish potatoes, 84,727,000 of sweet potatoes, 15,957,000 of commercial beans, 42,606,000 of peaches, 11,419,000 of pears, 177,733,000 of apples and 7,621,000 of sugar beets.

"The number of milch cows and other cattle," the report adds, "has shown an increase during the last four or five years. In considering the whole meat situation it should be kept in mind that there is a close relationship between the production of live stock and the supply of feedstuffs and that for more than a year past there has been a relative shortage of grains and of forage. The large production of these necessaries during the present crop season should conduce to more satisfactory conditions for the producers of live stock and should, other things being equal, tend to bring about an increase.

Supply Inadequate.

"But with the destruction of live stock in Europe and the great demands from there for meat and fats, with consequent greatly increased exports from this country, it is clear that the supply will not be adequate for the domestic needs and for those of the nations with which we are associated in the war.

"The mere statement that the population has steadily increased in this country—the gain in the ten years from 1908 to 1917 being 13,000,000—with an absolute decrease in the live stock for the same period, would sufficiently emphasize the seriousness of the situation if conditions were normal and the demand for meats and fats were not so urgent."

A $3,000,000 saving has been made, says the report, by the department's placing specialists in the regions of greatest sweet potato production to superintend proper handling and storage of the commodity. A special survey to collect Irish potato seed stock now is being conducted in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Colorado.

Extension Service Organized.

Material development of native agricultural resources, the report says, is expected to follow complete organization of the department's extension service. Equipped with an appropriation of $4,348,400, the service will soon be able to place one demonstration agent—possibly two—in nearly every agricultural county in the country, and a woman in each large city to give advice regarding the production, conservation and utilization of food products. Agents numbering 5,000 are now performing extension work among the Nation's farmers and in the urban communities.

"These agents," declares Secretary Houston, "not only are performing the normal and emergency demonstration and educational work, but they are also assisting other branches of the Government in special directions, such as the Treasury Department in its Liberty Loan campaigns, and the Food Administration in its food conservation activities."

The report outlines in detail the varied activities and lines of effort of the department during the year, particularly the tremendous expansion effected at the outset of the war.

WAR AFFECTS FARMERS' WEEK

Poultry as Conservation Measure Will Be Discussed by Experts.

Much more attention will be given to Farmers' Week than formerly, due to the fact that the war crisis devolves itself upon the agricultural interests in the need of food. Horses, mules, hogs, wheat—these are wanted, and it will be urged that farmers and live stock men conserve and produce as much as is possible.

Poultry as a war industry is to be featured by the experts of the state. The rapid rate of reproduction of fowls and their utilization of waste products, together with the ease that chickens may be kept by every family, are important enough that three Government experts are to be sent here to spur interest in poultry husbandry. The need of the day, the poultry department says, is to shift civilian food consumption from beef and pork to chickens and eggs.

The corn show offers opportunities for University students to compete for $700 worth of cash prizes and gold watches, if they care to enter in the junior sections which are open to the public. About $2,500 in prizes is up this year at the show of the Missouri Corn Growers' Association. A record number of entries is expected.

The program for Farmers' Week is not complete yet. Other features are being added from time to time, with a view toward making this serious war-time gathering the most productive of good results of all the Farmers' Weeks ever held.

SWISS BUILD HOUSES FOR U. S.

Military Commission Orders 2,000 Buildings for Barracks.

By Associated Press

BERNE, Dec. 8.—The American military commission in Switzerland, it is announced, has just contracted for an additional 2,000 wooden buildings to be used as barracks, which are to be delivered not later than next February to the American military authorities. These will supplement 1,500 such barracks ordered months ago.

The barracks are to be about 100 feet long by 20 feet wide, and are of double thickness so as to protect the soldiers from cold and dampness. They are of pine and are so built that they can be shipped in parts and erected without the use of nails. Each part is numbered, so that assembling is an easy matter. A number of Swiss building concerns are to fulfill the contract.

Sample of German War Bread Shown.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press)

PARIS, Nov. 25.—Slices of bread found on board the Zeppelin brought down at Bournonne-les-Bains were shown at a meeting of the Academy of Agriculture. Some were gray in color and covered with lard. These were for the men on board. The officers had bread much whiter and honey to spread on it. The officers' bread contained 10 per cent of Java rice which, it was stated, must have reached Germany through Holland.

Equador Breaks With Germany.

By Associated Press

GUAYAQUIL, Equador, Dec. 8.—Equador has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, according to official announcement by the government today.

DOCUMENTARY WAR TAX INTO EFFECT LAST WEEY

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Documentary stamp taxes of the war tax bill became effective last week. Revenue stamps must be affixed to bonds of indemnity or indebtedness, capital stock issues, stock transfers, produce sales on exchanges, drafts, promissory notes, conveyances and deeds, customs house entries, steamship tickets, proxies, assignments of power of attorney, playing cards and parcel post packages. None are required on checks.

All stamps are sold by postoffices except those for stock transfers and produce sales which are distributed through revenue collectors. Millions of dollars in receipts are expected to reach the treasury from this source.

The taxes are similar to those imposed during the Spanish-American war and by emergency revenue act of 1914.

On capital stock transfers, from which the government expects to derive a large revenue, and which will fall heavily on stock exchanges, the tax is 2 cents for each $100 or fraction of the face value. Stamps are to be affixed to the stock books, not to the certificate of sale or exchange.

For produce sales an exchanges the tax is 2 cents for $100 of value of the merchandise covered by the agreement and stamps are to be affixed to the memorandum or bill of sale. The law covers transferred or scratch sales and sales for future delivery.

Bonds of indebtedness are taxed 5 cents for each $100 of face value or fraction and renewals are taxed as new issues.

Indemnity and surety bonds are subject to a tax of 50 cents, or 1 per cent of the premium charged for the execution of the bond. Bonds or policies of reinsurance are exempt.

A tax of 5 cents is levied on each original issue of certificates of stock, either on organization or reorganization, of face value of $100 or fraction. To meet the practice in some states of issuing stock without face value, it is specified that the tax shall be laid on the actual value if there is not face value.

For drafts or checks payable other than at sight or on demand, and for promissory notes and their renewal, the tax is 2 cents for each $100 or fraction. This levy will lay a burden particularly on the banking business. Ordinary bank checks are not taxable.

Realty conveyances and deeds are taxed 50 cents where the value of the interest conveyed is between $100 and $500, and 50 cents for each additional $500 or fraction. Deduction may be made of only a lien or encumbrance remaining on the property at the time of sale.

Before any parcel post package may be accepted by a postoffice it must bear, in addition to the regular postage, revenue stamps amounting to 1 cent for each 25 cents postage or fraction.

The entry of goods at a customs house for consumption or warehousing is taxable 25 cents when the value is not more than $100; 50 cents when the value is between $100 and $500, and $1 when the value exceeds $500.

Passage tickets to trans-Atlantic South American, or other ports not in the United States, Canada or Mexico, are taxed according to a sliding scale running from $1 on tickets costing between $10 and $30, to $5 for tickets costing more than $60.

Proxies for voting at any meeting, except of religious, charitable, fraternal, educational or literary organizations, must bear 10 cent revenue stamps. For a power of attorney the tax is 25 cents. In addition to the old tax of 2 cents on playing cards, a new levy of 5 cents a pack is imposed.

CITY AND CAMPUS

C. Edwards went to Centralia Friday on business.

J. W. Dodson went to Mexico Friday on business.

O. F. Nichols went to Hallsville Friday on business.

G. B. Dorsey went to St. Louis Friday on business.

The Home Economics Club will take a hike Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Vona M. Vance left Friday afternoon for Mexico to spend the week-end at Hardin College.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Bond of Pleasant Hill, who have been visiting their son, George Bond, and their daughter, Miss Mary Louise Bond, both students in the University, returned home today Mr. Bond, who is president of the Missouri Automobile and Good Roads Association, also attended the convention of the Missouri State Grange.

G. Y. Bast, Jr., a student in the University, went to Mexico Friday to spend the week-end.

Hugh Stephens went to Hallsville Friday to spend the week-end at his home.

I. E. Kunkel, a student in the University, went to Mexico Friday to spend the week-end at his home.

Miss Mary Stewart, a student in the University is spending the week-end at her home in Chillicothe.

The brick work on the dormitory at Stephens College has been completed.

Howell Van Blarcon of Pittsburgh, who has been visiting Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Whitten, left for his home Friday.

W. P. Clemison, formerly assistant cashier at the Wabash depot, came to Columbia Friday to spend a few days before he goes to St. Louis to enlist in the navy.

Hillis R. Leslie returned Friday from Kansas City, where he went to make application for admission into the Navy.

E. S. Wilhite, a junior in the College of Arts and Science of the University, passed the preliminary examination for the photographic division of the signal corps at Moberly yesterday. He will take the final examination in St. Louis Tuesday. Mr. Wilhite left today for Oak Grove to visit his sister.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Davis of Cleveland, Okla., will visit their daughter, Erma, at Christian College for the week-end.

Miss Katherine Smith of Lawson, who has been the guest of her aunt, Mrs. J. O. White, returned to her home today. Miss Smith was graduated from the University last year.

Hiles R. Leslie, a senior in the School of Commerce of the University, will go to Kansas City December 12 to take the examination for the aviation corps.

Noted German Aviator Reported Dead.

By Associated Press

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The death of Lieutenant Bernert, one of the foremost German army aviators, is reported in an Exchange Telegraph message from Amsterdam. Lieutenant Bernert, who was credited with the destruction of twenty-seven enemy planes, is said to have been killed in an air battle on October 13.

English Camps Out-Hoover Hoover.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press)

LONDON, Nov. 25.—Utilization of the by-products of rations and waste throughout army camps has become a big business and has effected a profit of nearly five million dollars a year.

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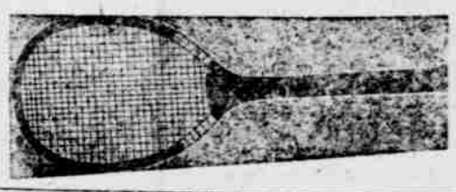

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