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SHORT WINTER WHEAT CROP

Dry Weather and Hessian Fly Have Seriously Affected 1915 Yield.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Dry weather and Hessian fly have so seriously affected the winter wheat crop that the 1915 yield probably will be not more than 530,000,000 bushels, according to an estimate today by the department of agriculture. This is nearly 100,000,000 bushels under last year's total production. This year's acreage, 41,263,000 acres, is the greatest ever sown.

A very dull fall prevented the crop from making a good start, said the department's statement. Hessian fly, the report said, had been at work in various localities from Maryland to Oklahoma.

The bureau of crop estimates issued this statement: "The condition of the winter wheat crop on December 1 is estimated at 83.3 per cent of a normal, which compares with 97.2 per cent a year ago. The production in 1914 was estimated at 675,623,000 bushels and in the preceding five years the average annual production was 441,000,000 bushels."

The acreage (000's) omitted and condition on December 1 of winter wheat in Virginia, Tennessee and the Carolinas follow:

Table with 3 columns: State, Acres, Condition. Rows for Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

Liverpool Cotton

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 17.—Cotton, spot, quiet; prices steady. American middling fair 5.25; good middling 4.63; middling 4.39; low middling 3.92; good ordinary 3.30; ordinary 2.85. Sales 6,000 bales, including 5,200 American and 1,000 for speculation and export. Receipts 43,000 bales, including 42,700 American.

Futures closed steady. May-June 4.14; July-August 4.20 1-2; October-November 4.31; January-February 4.36 1-2.

Dry Goods

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Raw silk sold more freely today. Prices were steady. Men's wear prices were higher in consequence of high wool and large orders received for uniform clothes. Cotton goods were in steady demand from jobbers. Fruit of the loom 4-4 bleached cottons were advanced 1-8c to 7-8c a yard.

HEAVY EXPORT MOVEMENT

Cotton Shipments Largest Since the Beginning of the European War.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—The export movement of cotton today was the largest of any day since the first of the season and the beginning of the European war. Total clearances from all United States ports for foreign ports amounted to 107,321 bales. The increase in shipments will make this week the record week for the season with 291,491 bales cleared already, to which must be added the foreign clearances of tomorrow.

The heavy movement today sent the total foreign clearances for the season to 2,032,169. The day's clearances mean that for eight spinners and cotton merchants will pay to southern farmers about four million dollars in addition to what they have already paid. Besides the foreign shipments today 12,541 bales were cleared coastwise, much of which is destined for domestic cotton mills. The grand total of the movement from the ports was 119,872 bales, while receipts at all ports were less than half as much, 59,000 bales. Stocks at all ports now amount to 1,342,602 bales.

New Orleans Cotton

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—After a short period of easiness at the opening, due to poor cables, the cotton market advanced and remained at the advance today. At the lowest the trading months were 3 to 5 points under yesterday's close; at their highest they were 11 to 14 points up from the lowest. The close was within a point or two of the top, at a net gain for the day of 6 to 10 points. The tone on the close was steady.

Covering of the short interest started the advance and buying was interstimulated by reports of advances in spot prices in the interior, and finally by the heavy export movement, and the total shipments from all ports of 119,872 bales being the largest for any one day of this season. Foreign exports for the season went over the two million bale mark. Reports of heavy freight engagements by cotton shippers out of gulf ports brought up investment buying in a quiet way. The market made little display of activity at any time and business was plainly restricted by the approaching holiday period.

Spot cotton steady. Sales on the spot 1,050 bales; to arrive 1450. Cotton futures closing: January 7.13; March 7.26; May 7.46; July 7.65; October 7.93.

Tremendous Increase in Winter Wheat Acreage

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Tremendous increases in the acreage devoted to the planting of winter wheat in the South were shown today in the department of agriculture's estimate of the total acreage sown in the United States. That amounts to 41,263,000 acres, an increase of 4,135,000 acres over the area sown last fall and on which the record crop of 648,990,000 bushels of winter wheat was harvested this year.

The condition of winter on December 1 was 83.3 per cent of a normal, almost 10 per cent lower than it was last year at this time and 2 per cent below the 10 year average on December 1.

South Carolina's acreage was increased 200 per cent compared with the 1913 planting; North Carolina 75 per cent; Virginia 50 per cent, and Tennessee 20 per cent.

In the great wheat growing states the increases in acreage range from 5 to 15 per cent except in the greatest of winter wheat States, Kansas, where a two per cent decrease in acreage is shown.

New York Cotton

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The cotton market was particularly active today and prices showed decided firmness on covering of shorts, moderate demand from trade sources, and scattered buying. The rapidly increasing export movement and the failure of Southern spot markets to weaken materially were the bullish factors most discussed on the advance which ended in a firm close with last prices 8 to 14 points net higher.

The opening was steady at a decline of 1 to 3 points and active months sold about 2 to 6 points net lower during the early trading. There was nothing to indicate pressure of spot cotton from the South and prices soon turned firmer on the appearance of buying orders in the hands of some of the leading trade brokers.

As prices worked higher local commission houses became more active and fresh buying seemed to be encouraged by the talk of a continued good demand from exporters, the general reduction in war risks and the failure of Southern spot offerings to increase as rapidly as recently predicted. All active months made new high ground for the movement with May contracts selling at 7.66 or 41 points above the low level of last Friday. The close was at practically the best point of the day. Exports were the heaviest reported for any one day so far this season.

Spot cotton quiet; middling uplands 7.40; Gulf 7.65. No sales. Cotton futures closed firm.

Table with 2 columns: Month, Price. Rows for January, March, May, July, October.

Cotton Seed Oil

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—While quiet the market for cottonseed oil was higher today on covering of shorts induced by the strength in lard and cotton and light offerings of crude. Final prices were 4 to 5 points net higher: sales 3,500 barrels.

The market closed firm. Spot 5.70 @ 5.85; December 5.73 @ 5.85; January 5.79 @ 5.80; February 5.87 @ 5.94; March 6.05 @ 6.07; April 6.31 @ 6.18; May 6.28 @ 6.30; June 6.35 @ 6.42; July 6.50 @ 6.54. Total sales 3,500.

Stocks and Bonds

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Stocks continued to drop today on a smaller volume of operations. Trading seemed to be largely for the short accounts and when that demand was satisfied the list drifted idly towards lower quotations. The significance of the session as a whole may be judged from the fact that a relatively inconspicuous specialty, Central Leather, was the most active feature with a gain of 1-2 points.

Irrregularity characterized the opening, followed by a general advance which provoked great selling of the international list. It took only a few thousand shares to reverse the falling movement and send the average under yesterday's close. Numerous additions were made to the group of stocks selling at minimum prices. Finals were at or near the low level of the day.

Little encouragement was derived from routine news, which included reductions in Louisville & Nashville and the Atlantic Coast Line dividends from 7 to 5 per cent and the Southern Pacific statement for November, showing a net loss of almost 700,000. The government crop report, as also far from favorable in its forecast of winter wheat which was two per cent under the ten year average.

Exchange on Germany was lower and London remittances showed an easier tendency. Reduction in francs was ascribed to the further extension of the French moratorium.

Preparations for the loaning of money by the 135,000,000 cotton pool were finally completed, total financial institutions contributing their quota of \$50,000,000. Call money was raised to 5 per cent but time loans narrowed a fraction for long dates.

Apart from a gain in gold, the weekly statement of the Bank of England threw light on the situation in that quarter.

London's markets reflected in mild degree the alarm occasioned by the recent bombardment of British coast towns.

Bonds again were irregular with contrary movements in some of the speculative issues. Total sales, par value, aggregated \$1,202,000.

United States government bonds were unchanged on call.

Chicago Grain

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Immense ex-

CHRISTMAS SALE OF SHOES. LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE 'TIS XMAS TIME. The holiday spirit is in the air. Geisberg's Shoe Sale will enable you to shop for shoes economically. MEN: \$5.50 Men shoes... \$4.95, \$5.00 Men shoes... \$4.25, \$4.00 Men shoes... \$3.45, \$3.50 Men shoes... \$2.95. WOMEN: \$6.00 Women shoes... \$5.00, \$5.00 Women shoes... \$4.25, \$4.00 Women shoes... \$3.45, \$3.50 Women shoes... \$2.95. Put your feet in our care, we fit them intelligently with shoes suited to your requirements. Geisberg Bros. Shoe Co. UNDER MASONIC TEMPLE.

How About The Skilled Mechanic And Laborer?

The most of them live by the week. They are out of work or possibly working half time; rents are due; grocery bills due; coal to buy; clothes and shoes for the children to buy.

The question is—"How can we best help them and help ourselves at the same time?" Listen:—The building business is paralyzed and almost shut down on account of low price cotton and stagnant money.

Probably you have some improved property that is vacant, or at least paying less on the investment than it should. Now is the time to improve it. Brush it up; paint it; remodel it if necessary; make it pay.

Very few people are building homes now, but if YOU are thinking of it, now is the time. Prices are right. YOU will get the benefit.

Contractors and material men are on a seven cent cotton basis, and every one of them are willing and anxious to sacrifice their own profit in order to give mechanics and laborers employment. It is up to YOU, Mr. Investor and Property Owner, to use this opportunity to your own advantage, and at the same time help your community.

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LOCAL DELEGATES FOR ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE

WILL BE NAMED SOON TO REPRESENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOREIGN TRADE

Matters of National Importance Will Be Discussed at a Meeting Jan. 21-22.

Acting upon the request of President Fairfax Harrison of the Southern Railway, the chamber of commerce will shortly appoint delegates to represent the organization at the Second National Foreign Trade Convention to be held in St. Louis, Mo., January 21 and 22. Mr. Harrison is president of the convention, and in a letter to the chamber of commerce stresses the importance of the conference to be held in the Missouri city. His letter is as follows: "Permit me to call your attention to the Second National Foreign Trade Convention to be held in St. Louis, Mo., January 21 and 22, for the practical discussion of problems arising in our commerce. "The National Foreign Trade Council, of which I am a member, has called this convention in the hope of encouraging unity of action and cooperation between the Government and all commercial, industrial, transportation and financial elements in the extension of foreign trade. "While many foreign trade conferences have recently been held in different parts of the United States, no truly national convention, participated in by all elements has been called since the European war. "The convention at St. Louis will avoid generalities. There will be addressed by recognized authorities on foreign trade questions, but the greater part of the time will be given over to practical discussion by the delegates of the opportunities and difficulties in the path of increase of our overseas business. Group conferences on specified subjects will give opportunity for intensified discussion and constructive work not possible in a general conference. "An invitation for your organization to send delegates has already been issued, and I take this opportunity to urge upon you the importance of accepting and sending a strong delegation, which will contribute to the national character of the gathering. Details of the preparations for the convention were transmitted to your organization with the invitation, acceptance of which should be addressed to the Secretary of the National Foreign Trade Council, No. 54 Stone Street, New York City."

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All Pork Sausage, country style... 20c
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Pork Chops, or Steak... 18c
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PUT SULPHUR ON AN ITCHING SKIN AND END ECZEMA

Says this old-time Eczema remedy is applied like cold cream.

Any irritation or breaking out on the face, arms, legs or body when accompanied by itching, or when the skin is dry and feverish, can be readily overcome by applying a little bold-sulphur, says a noted dermatologist. He states that bold-sulphur instantly allays the angry itching and irritation and soothes and heals the Eczema right up leaving the skin clear and smooth. Bold-sulphur has occupied a secure position for many years in the treatment of cutaneous disorders because of its parasite-destroying property. Nothing has ever been found to take its place in treating the irritable and inflammatory skin affections. While not always establishing a permanent cure it never fails to subdue the itching irritation and drive the Eczema away and it is often years later before any eruption again appears on the skin. Those troubled should obtain at any drug store an ounce of bold-sulphur, which is applied to the affected parts in the same manner as an ordinary cold cream.