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CONDITION REPORT SHOWS LOW YIELD

Washington, July 2.—Cotton production this year promises to be the smallest crop of the last quarter of a century, today's forecast by the Department of Agriculture placing it at 8,433,000 bales, or nearly five million bales smaller than last year's crop and nearly eight million bales below the record crop of 1914. This year's acreage is 28.4 per cent smaller than last year's.

The acreage this year is the smallest since 1900 and never before, according to the Department of Agriculture, has there been so great a change from one year to another in acreage as there has been from last year to this year.

The condition of the growing crop has not in 20 years been so low on June 25 as it was this year. All sections of the cotton belt have been affected. It is due, according to government experts to an adversely late, wet spring, and to the presence of boll weevil in large numbers.

Owing to the unfavorable conditions of April and May and to other discouraging factors, shortage of fertilizer, and unsatisfactory price, abandonment of planted cotton acreage has been greater than usual east of the Mississippi river, ranging from five per cent in North Carolina and Mississippi to as high as 10 per cent in Georgia. West of the Mississippi abandonment has been light. The abandonment was taken into consideration, the crop reporting board announced, in its preliminary estimate of acreage.

The amount of commercial fertilizer used per acre on cotton this year according to the reports reaching the bureau of crop estimates, is about 66 per cent of the average amount used annually in the four years, 1917-20; Virginia reporting 86, North Carolina 80, South Carolina 65, Georgia 78, Florida 75, Alabama 72, Mississippi 50, Louisiana 42, Texas 47, Arkansas 61, Tennessee 63. The returns of sales of fer-

WILMINGTON MAN TO HEAD SEMINARY

The State.
 The second president of Columbia Theological seminary will be the Rev. John M. Wells, D. D., at present pastor of the First Presbyterian church at Wilmington, N. C. He succeeds the Rev. Thornton Whaling, D. D., the only president the institution has ever had who resigned recently to become professor of theology in Louisville seminary.

The board of trustees of the seminary met in Atlanta yesterday and there received word that Dr. Wells who was offered the place at a meeting held in Columbia during commencement, would accept. The news came to Columbia last night in a telegram to the Rev. Hugh Murchison, D. D., executive secretary of the seminary. At the same time it was learned that a professor of theology to succeed Dr. Whaling, who held this chair in addition to his administrative duties were selected, but his name was withheld pending advice as to whether he would accept.

Fertilizer license tags compared with last year, show to May 31 for North Carolina about 65 per cent and to the close of June in South Carolina 40 per cent. Alabama 45 per cent. Mississippi 40 and Texas 33. Special returns to the agricultural department indicate only amount 55 per cent as much as last year in North Carolina, 50 per cent in South Carolina, 42 per cent in Mississippi and Tennessee, and 15 per cent in Louisiana and Arkansas and compared with the usual only 49 per cent in Georgia and 32 per cent in Florida.

Thus, said the bureau's statement, all indications point to a reduction in absolute quantity of fertilizer purchased much greater than the unprecedented reduction in acreage of cotton, and this is confirmed by the figures quoted showing lessened use per acre. This lack is reflected in the relatively low condition of cotton, which is almost ten points below the average condition at this date. The quality is generally reported as lower than in previous years.

PRESIDENT TO TALK OF SOLDIER BONUS

Washington, July 5.—A statement from President Harding regarding the proposed soldier bonus legislation is expected soon by senate leaders. Belief was expressed today that the president would advocate passage of the legislation which he discussed recently with Senator McCumber, Republican, North Dakota in charge of the bill, and other senate leaders.

As the McCumber bill would not authorize any payments to former service men until 1922, it was believed probable that action might be deferred for a few weeks, in view of negotiations for suspension of senate business while committee work on the tariff proceeds.

FIREMEN AND OILERS OPPOSE WAGE CUTS

Chicago, Ill., July 2.—Ninety-five per cent of the membership of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers has voted against accepting the wage cut ordered by the United States Railroad Labor board on all roads today. Timothy Healy, international president, made the announcement today as 1,500 union leaders gathered here to pass on the order.

The maintenance of way men and the shop crafts which also have taken a vote on the wage reduction question will not announce the result until after the conference here today.

One thousand general chairmen of the four big brotherhoods went into session at 10 o'clock, with leaders talking of an "informal acceptance" of the cut. W. F. Krider, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen said such a resolution probably would be adopted.

The executives of all the unions involved met early today to plan the procedure to be followed in the group meetings. At the close of the conference E. J. Manion, president of the telegraphers, said his organization had taken no vote and that the question of the board's order was up to the 150 general chairmen who are here.

MATERNITY BILL DIVIDES WOMEN

Washington, July 2.—The Shepard-Towner bill, pending before the senate, has divided the women of the country. The militant suffragettes, which have acquired headquarters, called the "Watch Tower," overlooking the capitol, insist that the bill be enacted. The anti-suffragettes are conducting a bitter fight against the bill which they say would promote "birth control and free love."

That statement, Senator Kenyon of Iowa, in charge of the bill, challenges. He thinks that inasmuch as the congress has voted \$25,000,000, to Columbia "bandits" it might vote \$1,000,000 per annum for the women of the country. He says that mand. At that he might be mistaken.

Senator Reed of Missouri has entered his protest against establishing a government bureau to supersede the women of the country in the business of rearing babies. He opposes the government "taking charge of the family life of the country."

He refers to the tendencies towards centralizing everything in Washington.

The bill, if it is enacted, and it has the support of the congressional "uplifters"—will be enforced by the proposed welfare department, to be headed by a cabinet officer. The president's physician, Dr. Sawyer, is slated for the berth. It is understood, although the suffragettes have several candidates from among their own ranks. They insist that a woman be made secretary. Several have ambition to be the first cabinet officer chosen from among the women of the country.

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