Farm Production Gains For Season

The Agriculture Department's final crop report for the season showed that farm production during 1939 was nearly 4 per cent larger than the average of the 1923-32 "pre-drought period", despite a considerable smaller acreage harvest.

Crop land harvested this year was reported at 325,000,000 acres—the smallest since about 1915—compared with an average of 354,000,000 acres in the pre-drought period. Higher yields more than offset the reduction in acreage. This year's total farm production was said to have been about 1 per cent below last year.

The final report, based on December 1 conditions, placed the corn crop at 2,619,137,000 bushels, an increase of about 1 per cent over the November estimate of 2,591,063,000 bushels. The wheat crop was put at 755,000,000 bushels, an increase of about 2 per cent over the previous estimate of 739,445,000 bushels.

Other changes raised the flaxseed production from 17,439,000 to 20,330,000 bushels, the largest crop since 1930, and the soybean crop from 79,689,000 to 87,409,000 bushels, the largest on record.

The tobacco crop estimate, previously reported as the largest of record, was increased from 1,659,409,000 pounds to 7,770,000,000 pounds.

The reduction in crop acreages this year was said to have been due to several factors. These included large supplies of grain, cotton, hay, canned vegetables and several other important farm products on hand last spring, relatively low prices of some crops at planting time and "more general compliance" with the department's crop-control program.

A part of the reduction also resulted, the report said, from drought conditions in the Central Great Plains — conditions which have prevailed this fall to the detriment of next year's winter wheat crop.

The report said that in six Central Great Plains States which normally plant a fifth of the country's crop acreage, nearly a sixth of the acreage planted was lost because of the drought. Yields from remaining crops were "distressingly low," it was said.

On the other hand, the yield of cotton was unusually high in much of the South and the average of nearly 236 pounds per acre, which has been exceeded only in 1937, resulted in the production of the medium sized crop of nearly 11,800,000 bales from the smallest acreage picked in more than 40 years.

The corn crop was described as equally outstanding. Four States, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, average 50 bushels per acre or better. Although yields were low in the western part of the corn belt, the United States average of 29.5 bushels per acre was the highest secured since 1920. It resulted in the third largest crop in 10 years from the smallest corn acreage harvested since 1898.

The report said the total gross tonnage of 15 major fruit crops for marketing during the 1939-40 season, was about one per cent less than the record tonnage produced in 1937, but nearly two per cent larger than last year's production.

Gov. O'Conor Tells Of Progress In Conservation

(Continued from page one)

flict between diverse interests. I submitted to the Legislature two bills which would separate the handling of tidewater questions from those affecting inland fish and upland game."

It remains to be seen, Governor O'Conor said, whether a general coordination of conservation efforts ought to be made at a later date.

"If, in the light of further experience, such a change is shown to be advisable," he said, "I will be the first one for it. But in the light of conditions as they existed last winter, I preferred tomake as much progress as possible.

Already, Governor O'Conor said, the two commissions in charge of the State's conservation activity have done much toward conserving and increasing the State's natural resources.

"Through a cooperative agreement with the State Forestry Department, the Game and Fish Commission has been able to establish on State-owned forest property nine wild-life inviolate sanctuaries or game refuges," the Governor said.

Besides giving wild life a place to propogate unmolested, iwthout changing usual hunting privileges on adjoining property, he said, the overflow from the refuges will supply surrouiding neighborhoods with game.

The refugees are located in Garrett and Worcester counties and cover about 2,800 acres. Another wild-life restoration project, he said, is under way on a 1,200 acre tract in Washington county.

Councils are being formed in every county to cooperate with the State Game and Inland Fish Commission, Governor O'Conor added. He said they wil lbe composed of members of farming organizations and sportsmen's associations.

Governor O'Conor cited as other work done under the control of the Game and Fish Commission, distribution of 25,000 pieces of game in Maryland covers for propagation purposes during 1939 and plans for extensive enlargements to fish hatcheries an dnurseries.

The Governor praised the present members of the Conservation Commission, which is headed by Edwin Warfield, Jr., as "sound and forward-looking officials." The Conservation Commission has the supervision of tidewater fishing and the oyster industry.

This commission, according to Governor O'Conor, has begun a strict enforcement of the conservation law and has tried to secure the cooperation of both watermen and packers.

Prosecution of cases against oystermen who fail to observe the cull law and tong or dredge oysters smaller than the law permits, already has produced "beneficial results", according to the Governor.

"The practical effect of the enforcement of this provision has been a very definite improvement in the standard of oysters being shipped . . . from the Chesapeake Bay area. This has brought an increased demand for Maryland oysters.

"The department conservatively estimates that this has meant an increase of income to the oystermen of the State of something over $150,000 so far this season," the Governor said. "But it is of still greater significance that the future supply of oysters is being insured by leaving the small oysters on the bars for further growth."

Conferences have been held, Governor O'Conor added, with the authorities of Virginia and North Carolina in view to adopting uniform legal sizes for fish of farious species. If the necessary measures are adopted, the Chesapeake Bay shad industry might be restored, the Governor indicated.

Under the direction of Conservation Commission, Governor O'Conor asserted, the State has gone in the business of oyster farming on a large scale, attempting to bring depleted bars back into production.

Also cited were the work of the Maryland Publicity Commission to promote products of the Chesapeake Bay and the development of recreational facilities such as the new water sports area in Garrett county.

Governor O'Conor emphasized the importance of restoring depleted woodland, of preventing soil erosion and of including courses in conservation in the public school curricula.

"The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries constitute a priceless public domain," the Governor said. He added that while he remained at Annapolis the State administration "will leave no stone unturned" in the protection and development of natural resources.

61,000 PERSONS IN STATE GETTING WELFARE FUNDS

More than 61 000 residents of Maryland are drawing relief checks, a report of the State Department of Public Welfare showed this week.

Recipients of direct relief, numbering 23,5881, are the largest of any one group receiving payments. The next largest group to receive funds is 19,598 dependent children. Old-age pensions are being drawn by 17,816 persons and 669 blind persons are getting financial assistance.

Last July 2,538 fewer persons were drawing welfare checks in the State. At that time 20,560 clients were drawing direct-relief payments, 20,237 dependent children were being cared for, 17,672 aged were getting pensions and 657 needy blind were receiving assistance.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Christian Science" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Churches of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday, December 24th.

The Golden Text will be from Isa. 52:9—"Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforteth his people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem."

Among the citations comprising the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible—I John 1:3—"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

The Lesson-Sermon also will include passages from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, among which is the following, page 269—"The testimony of the material senses is neither absolute nor divine. I therefore plant myself unreservedly on the teachings of Jesus, of his apostles, and on the testimony of the Science of Mind."

Services: Sunday, 11 A. M., Sunday School 9:45 A. M., Wednesday evening testimony meetings at 8 o'clock, 11 North Harrison Street, Easton, Maryland.

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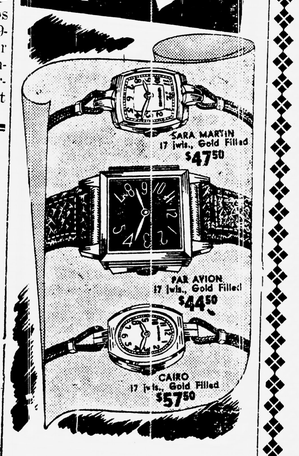

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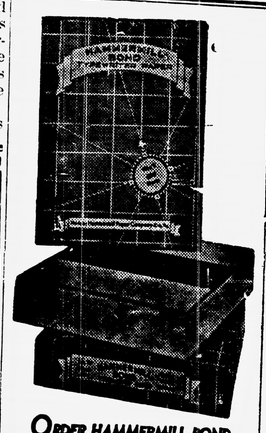

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