

REPORTS ROADS BUILT IN YEAR

National Chief of Public Roads Also Tells of Projects Under Construction at This Time.

Washington, December 17.—Eight thousand, eight hundred and twenty miles of roads of all types throughout the United States were completed under Federal aid during the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1923, according to the annual report of Thomas H. M. Donald, chief of the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Agriculture which was issued here today. This, according to the report, added to the mileage completed prior to this year, brought the total to 29,524 miles.

"The 1922-23 construction program," the report stated, "resulted in the completion of 8,820 miles of roads, which, when added to the 14,772 miles completed in 1921-22, and the 25,576 miles completed in 1920-21, and the 14,772 miles under construction, there were at the close of the year a number of projects approved but not yet placed under construction, the aggregate length of which was 6,917 miles.

An outstanding achievement of the year has been the work done in extending the roads to constitute the Federal-aid highway system. This has been done in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Highway Act which requires that a system of roads consisting of not more than 7 per cent of the total rural mileage in each state be designated and that all Federal aid be spent on such a system. The total mileage of rural roads in the United States, as certified by the various states, is 2,859,575 miles which will limit the Federal-aid highway system to 200,170 miles. At the end of the first fiscal year 35 state systems comprising 111,699 miles had been approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and it was not thought likely that the initial program will exceed 189,000 miles.

The bureau is charged with the construction and utilization of our national forests," continued the report. "It is reported that 197 miles of forest roads were completed at a cost of \$1,737,000 bringing the total mileage completed to 1,536 miles. At the close of the fiscal year 932 miles were under construction and surveys were in progress for 1,014 miles in 62 projects."

CATAWBA COUNTY POULTRY RAISER

Already Known as Dairy County Is Making Bid for First Place as a Chicken Producer.

Raleigh, Dec. 17.—Catawba County, already known throughout the South as one of the leading dairy centers of the State, is making a bid for first place as a poultry producing center because of the excellent records made in that county by the boys and girls organized into poultry clubs by extension workers of State College and the Department of Agriculture, according to an announcement made here by Dr. B. W. Kilgore, director of the extension work. Dr. Kilgore's statement was based on the report of County Agent J. W. Hendricks as to the work done by the poultry club members of the county.

"This report shows," stated Dr. Kilgore, "that the boys and girls making reports had 1,495 chickens in their flocks on January first of this year. This number was increased during 1923 to 3,243 birds with a farm value of \$4,009.60. In addition the members sold eggs for hatching to the amount of \$835.09 and sold on the local market a total amounting to \$2,531.81. Not only did these club members sell a large number of eggs for breeding purposes but they also sold a good number of their pure bred birds. The records show that this one item amounted to \$621.75 and that they sold other birds on the local market amounting to \$1,797.90.

"The club members from this county made a good record at all the fairs where they exhibited poultry this fall. They sent a solid car of exhibit birds to the State Fair and two other district fairs where they took most of the first prizes. Their winning during the year amounted to \$1,643.45. When from all of these returns there is deducted the cost of feed given amounting to \$1,767.18 the members still had a net profit on their work of \$9,821.10."

In making his statement Dr. Kilgore expressed the opinion that the record of the Catawba County poultry clubs was one of the best ever made by any group of club boys and girls in the South and added that it means that the county eventually will be placed in a leading position with regard to being a center for pure bred poultry production.

LOSSES BY FIRE DURING NOVEMBER

In North Carolina Mounted Up to Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars, Says Monthly Report.

Raleigh, Dec. 17.—North Carolina has the loss for the month of November was \$800,000 from 245 fires according to the monthly report of the State Fire Marshal, Stacey Wade, Commissioner of Insurance for the State. This was an increase of 229 fires over November when 229 fires caused a loss of \$2,200,000, and also was 14.1 per cent more than the month of October, 1923, when 141 fires caused a loss of \$222,000. Mr. Wade, in his statement, explained that though the loss for November was heavy that "from the standpoint of actual carelessness with fire it was not so bad." In two fires at Goldsboro and Wadesboro more than half of the loss occurred. Seventeen other fires did \$300,000 damage, an average of \$17,000 per fire while the remaining \$100,000 was divided among 211 fires, an average of only \$475 per fire.

Warsaw	\$17,000
Flour mill at East Biltmore	50,000
Hospital at Raeford	22,000
Hospital at Gastonia	22,000
Stores at Stover	200,000
Stores at Raleigh	200,000
Business buildings at Castle	100,000
Ware	11,000
Dwellings in Columbus county	16,000

"Of the 245 fires," continued the report, "141 were dwellings with a total loss of \$110,000. The average loss in such dwellings was \$780. The total loss of 1923 was \$1,700,000 compared with \$1,500,000 for the 11 months up to 1922.

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comparison, said Mr. Wade, "an actual illustration of the actual losses value to both citizens and in many instances of better fire fighting facilities in the homes."

"The approximate loss in the United States and Canada for November last," concluded the report, "amounted to \$29,792,200 against \$30,775,100 for November of last year. This brings the total national fire losses for the 11 months up to \$3,843,575,000 for 1923 compared with \$3,843,575,000 for the 11 months of last year. North Carolina does not make as good a comparative showing, having a total fire loss for the 11 months of \$5,119,228, but the same period in 1922."

Mrs. Everett Harrison and little daughter Naomi left Sunday for Bethlehem, Pennsylvania where she will visit her sister.

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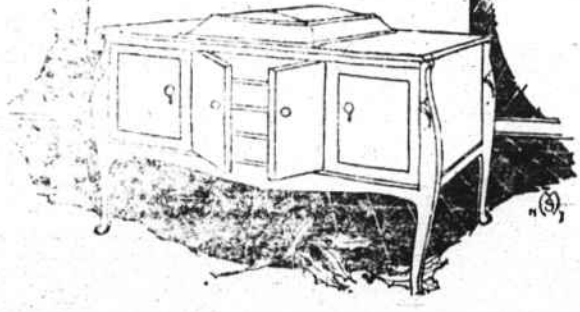
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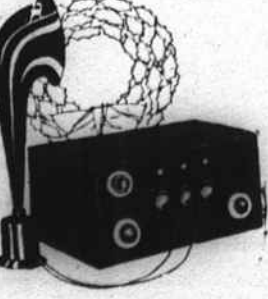
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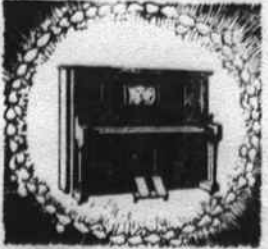
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