

# Agriculture Is Recovering But Yet Far From Normal

### Report Prepared by Late Secretary Wallace Says Situation Best Since 1920 but Still a Considerable Distance from What It Should Be

Washington, Dec. 8.—American agriculture, on the whole, occupies the best position it has held since 1920 but much further recovery is required to bring it back to its pre-war condition, the Agriculture Department informed President Coolidge this week in its annual report. The report was prepared by the late Henry C. Wallace and embodies his views but was signed and presented by the present secretary, Howard M. Gore, who was assistant secretary under Mr. Wallace.

"Prospects are that the gross income from agricultural production for the crop year 1924-25 may reach approximately \$12,000,000,000, compared with \$11,500,000,000 in 1923-24 and \$9,500,000,000 in 1922-23," said the report. "A favorable readjustment has taken place in price ratios between agriculture and industry. While the purchasing power of farm products is 18 per cent below the pre-war level, it is 35 per cent above the index for May, 1921, when the depression was in its worst period. This year's harvest was the finest in five years. Though not the greatest in volume of products, it was the best balanced and represented the best income."

the average return to other capital. Income from agriculture has not in any year since the price decline of 1920 sufficed to allow both a commercial return on capital and adequate rewards for the farmers' labor, risks and management."

The outstanding event in the agricultural history of 1924 has been the wheat situation, the report said. Apparent surpluses of bread grains have been much reduced, and the world's crop promises to be between 300,000,000 and 350,000,000 bushels below that of last year. Exportable surpluses in the principal producing countries have been reduced and requirements of the importing countries have been increased. The demand for wheat from the United States should be stronger than it was last year. Wheat promises large yields per acre, and a total crop larger than that of last year is expected on a reduced acreage. Reduced yields in foreign countries have brought about a market situation in which the American farmers are receiving higher prices for a larger crop. Nevertheless the rise in the price of wheat has not yet sufficed to give a bushel of wheat its pre-war purchasing power. While the wheat situation has greatly improved, it has not yet reached a point where farmers should think no further readjustments are necessary. It would be a mistake to suppose that the wheat acreage may again be expanded with the expectation of high prices.

The outlook for cotton is promising. This year's crop should contribute approximately \$1,500,000,000 to the purchasing power of the cotton growers. Cotton yields this year have, for a time at any rate, set at rest any fear that American cotton production will not again be able to meet the world demand.

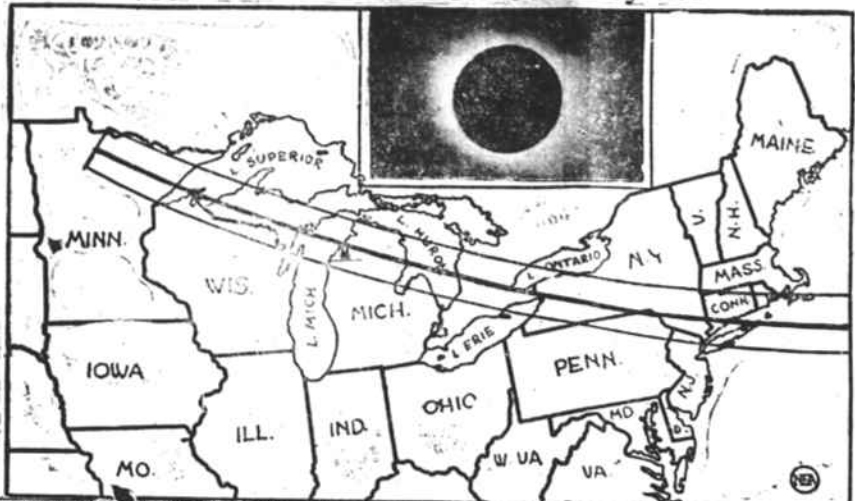
The livestock industry is on a firmer foundation than at any time since the price collapse of 1919 and 1920, said the report, although 1924 was not a year of good profits for cattle and hog producers. Cattlemen have had a harder time than any other group of livestock producers. Slow but steady liquidation has been going on in the cattle industry for three years. Today, however, many of the war-time loans, with high interest rates, have been paid. Money is available on more favorable terms, conditions in the cattle country are improving, and the prospective reduction in hog raising should strengthen the market for beef.

Speaking of the tax burden of the farmer, the report said too often the amount of the tax has little or no relation to the amount of the farmer's income. Selling values of land which serve as a basis for taxation do not rest only on current earnings but also on anticipation of future earnings. This often means that taxes have to be paid on fictitious values.

"Perhaps the general property tax system should be modified," said the report. "Another defect in our tax system which tends to increase the burden on agriculture is the fact that a large amount of personal property in urban centers escapes the tax assessor. Some tax evasions are unlawful and others have the sanction of law. Among the latter are those made possible by the enormous volume of tax-exempt securities that has been issued. Farmers' wealth is mainly in the form of land and other forms of personal property which can readily be assessed. Farmers are consequently forced to pay a larger part of the total tax bill than their share of the national wealth warrants. To ease the tax burden on agriculture new sources of revenue should be tapped. This means of relief, coupled with wider diffusion of public burdens, should be sought at the earliest possible moment."

Pointing out that bills have been introduced in Congress in the last two years which would put the Government squarely into the business of promoting co-

## Sun Will Hide on January 24



If the weather is fine on the morning of Saturday, January 24, dwellers along a hundred-mile wide strip from western Lake Superior to southern New England will have a chance to see a total eclipse of the sun. The moon's shadow will strike the earth in northern Minnesota just as the sun is rising and then rush southeastward at the terrific speed of 2000 miles an hour. Map shows the territory over which the eclipse may be seen. Inset is a picture of a previous eclipse.

operative associations, the report declared, the need for strong co-operative marketing associations could not be over-emphasized but that they should be controlled by their membership and kept free from domination of Government agencies or commercial interests.

"Co-operative marketing is a logical development in the rural economy of a nation," the report continued. "Co-operative marketing may be described as an effort on the part of the producer to recapture the understanding and control of the marketing process which his forefathers possessed. Good, sound growth in the co-

lative associations, on the loyal support of the membership, and on getting a sufficient volume of business.

"Some converts urge that the Government should proceed to organize the farmers in co-operative associations. But if the Government should ask the farmers to join some particular co-operative association it would put itself in the position of guaranteeing an enterprise without having an authoritative voice in its management. There is confusion in the minds of promoters of co-operative enterprises as to what the Government may properly do. These bills introduced in Congress would set up a great Federal overhead agency and secondary boards of control and would have these bodies assume control of a number of highly important activities such as the dissemination of market news, a service which is already carried on efficiently by the Federal Department of Agriculture and which in the interest of the farmers should be kept in the control of a well-organized impartial permanent government department devoted to the service of agriculture and free from entangling business alliances.

"The relationship of the Government to co-operation should be one of service. It should help the farmers market their crops just as it helps them to produce

**PREACHES AGAINST POLICY OF HERIO!**

Quimper, France, Dec. 8.—Tens of thousands of pietistically dressed Catholics gathered yesterday to hear Bishop Eugene Deshayes and protest against President Herriot's revival of his anti-clerical campaign.

**Consolidated School Building Is Destroyed**

Maxton, S. C., Dec. 8.—Liberty Consolidated School, an institution of learning in the community, was destroyed by fire, supposedly incendiary in origin, yesterday.

groups, not by doing the work but by supplying information which the farmers can not get for themselves. To no further would he injure rather than aid the co-operative movement."

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**The Albemarle Pharmacy**  
—adds Quality

**Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Hartford, Conn.**  
Established 1846

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Mitchell's ad on page eight  
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**Albemarle Pharmacy**  
—ADDS QUALITY

**AN OLD RECIPE TO DARKEN HAIR**

Sage Tea and Sulphur Turns Gray, Faded Hair Dark and Glossy.

Almost everyone knows that Sage Tea and Sulphur, properly compounded, brings back the natural color and lustre to the hair when faded, streaked or gray. Years ago the only way to get this mixture was to make it at home, which is messy and troublesome.

Nowadays we simply ask at any drug store for "Woolly Sage and Sulphur Compound." You will get a large bottle of this old-time recipe improved by the addition of other ingredients, at very little cost. Everybody uses this preparation now, because no one can possibly tell that you darkened your hair, as it does so naturally and evenly. You dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time; by morning the gray hair disappears, and after another application or two, your hair becomes beautifully dark, thick and glossy and you look years younger.

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The first dose stimulates the liver, giving immediate relief, regulating bowels and digestive organs, inducing

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Domestic Dolls, Imported Dolls — Mamma Dolls, Sleeping Dolls — every kind of Doll imaginable to be sold at one-third less than the original cost.

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## DOROTHY DARNIT

By Charles McManus

WHERE ARE WE GOIN' PAPA?

I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO HAVE YOUR PICTURES TAKEN!

WELL, HERE WE ARE!

SO I SEE! SO I SEE!

HOLD THAT POSE CHILDREN!

IT'S GOING TO MAKE A BLUE RIBBON PHOTOGRAPH. DON'T SMOKE PLEASE!

FLASHING POWDER!

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