

Washington Notes

FATS AND OILS

Increased supplies of fats and oils in this country are resulting in decreased prices, according to the Department of Agriculture, which declared that the production of lard during the first six months of this year is estimated to exceed by 200,000,000 pounds the 700,000,000 produced during the same period of 1946. The situation abroad, however, remains critical and quantities of materials normally used in making soap are still being diverted to human consumption.

PENSIONS

Starting on September 1, 208,000 Civil and Spanish-American war veterans and their dependents will get a twenty per cent pension increase. The increase will cost the Government \$29,000,000 for the first year but the additional expense will decline rapidly thereafter as deaths occur. Pensions now average about

\$100 a month for Civil War veterans and \$75 for Spanish-American War veterans. Death compensation to the dependents averages more than \$40 a month.

ARMY COPTER

A new five-passenger helicopter, which can rise vertically 450 feet a minute, operate at a top speed of 105 miles an hour, has a cruising speed of 90 miles an hour, and can climb to 13,000 feet, is being tested for use by the Army Air Forces. It was built by the Bell Aircraft Corporation.

HOME BUILDING

Private contractors began work on 80,000 new homes in July, breaking records of twenty years standing, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number approached the all-time high of 1925 and exceeded the July total by 28,000,000 and the July, 1946 number by 17,400.

HOME COST

In the first seven months of 1947, 441,000 home-units have been started, costing an estimated

\$2,500,000,000. This compares with a little more than \$1,500,000,000 during the same period of 1946.

SURPLUS

About \$15,000,000 worth of surplus telephone and telegraph equipment has been placed on sale by the War Assets Administration. The sales are being held at the Army General Depot at Ogden, Utah, and the War Assets warehouse in Philadelphia.

BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits issued in July were slightly higher than the level reached in June and were sharply above that of July last year. The July total for 215 cities was \$281,705,850 compared with \$208,578,599 in June and \$213,467,921 a year ago.

COST-OF-LIVING

Latest Bureau of Labor Statistics show that prices on everyday items people buy today are five per cent higher than in 1920, the boom year following World War I—and the end is not yet in sight. The peak was reached in June, latest month tabulated, when the consumers price index hit 157 over the 1935-39 average, or eight index points higher than the 149 recorded in June, 1920.

POLIO SPURTS

The recent sharp rise in the incidence of infantile paralysis cases, following a quiet summer, with increases noted in 32 states, is still below the average for the lowest year since 1942. The U. S. Public Health Service reported a total of 2,664 cases up through the week of August 16, compared with 8,841 for the comparable period in 1946 and 1,505 cases in 1942.

CORN

Bad crop weather cut the prospective corn crop to the lowest level since the severe drought year of 1936, according to the Agriculture Department, which predicts a decline from the expected 2,770,000 bushels on July 15 to 2,437,000,000 bushels by August 15. The Government's original corn goal was 3,000,000,000 bushels. The crop last year set a record of 3,287,000,000 bushels.

MEAT PROSPECTS

Since this year's corn crop largely determines the size of the nation's meat supply in 1948, Department of Agriculture officials are predicting smaller meat supply, at much higher prices, than at the present time.

CONSTRUCTION

Total construction activity, including highway and street building and publicly-financed educational facilities, represented an outlay of \$1,300,000,000 in July, or 16 per cent above the corresponding month of 1946. For the first seven months of 1947, total construction expenditures had amounted to \$7,500,000,000, compared with \$5,800,000,000 for the same period in 1946.

DODGER DUO



Jackie Robinson (left), Brooklyn Dodgers first baseman, who was the first negro to play major league ball, welcomes teammate Dan Bankhead, who became the first negro pitcher to make the grade. Bankhead took a shelling from the Pirates in his debut, but he contributed a home run to the Brooklyn attack.

100-Mile Eastern Championship Race Set for Wilkes Track

North Wilkesboro—The 100-mile eastern championship stock car race will be held at the North Wilkesboro speedway Sunday, September 14. Bill France, president of the National championship stock car racing circuit, announced this week.

The event will number 160 laps around the five-eighths of a mile dirt track, labeled as the fastest of its kind in America. Time trials will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and the track will be conditioned for the big race on Saturday. In addition, a 20-lap consolation will be held Sunday afternoon prior to the championship feature. The fastest 26 cars in the time trials and the first four in the consolation will be eligible for the main event, first of its kind ever to be held in the South. Total prize money will be \$4,350, largest purse ever offered

in the Carolinas. First place in the feature alone will be worth \$1,700 to the winner.

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Grain Feed Shortage May Cause Milk Prices to Increase

What will happen when the full impact of the shortest U. S. corn crop since 1936 hits North Carolina's 20,000 commercial dairymen is a matter of conjecture. But J. A. Arey, in charge of dairying for the State College extension service said this week that this scarcity of corn and its influence on feed prices, coupled with extremely high labor costs, will cut the flow of milk to major outlets at a time of year when local production is "already too low to meet the demand." He said that many dairymen may be forced to stand by while decreases in milk production sharply affect the price of milk to the consumer.

"Corn should be the backbone on any dairy ration," the specialist said, adding that the price of this ingredient largely determines the price of mixed dairy feeds. "With the price of dairy feed already at an all-time high, and getting higher, because of prospects for a short corn crop, this state's dairymen who are already operating on a close margin will be seriously handicapped." Mr. Arey said this may even lead to dispersal of some herds.

Very few North Carolina dairy farmers grow enough grain feed for their own requirements, Mr. Arey pointed out. Thus a corn crop nearly one-fourth short of last year's production will strike this 65-million-dollar-a-year industry a serious blow, he said.

As an emergency measure to offset this critical grain shortage, Mr. Arey urges that a large crop of temporary grazing be seeded early this fall. "with plenty of good grazing," he said, "a fairly good production of milk can be secured on a limited grain ration."

RISES TO MUSIC

Fort Worth, Tex.—Edra Zoe Austin can rise in the morning to the tune of "Tale of the Vienna Woods" played by her 75-year-old alarm clock. "he says that the 10 minutes of music is fine, but getting up is bad business regardless of the method.

GUN-TWIRLER SHOT

Van Nuys, Cal.—While bragging about his gun-twirling ability to a friend over the telephone, Robert Ravis, 24-year-old truck driver, had the unpleasant experience of having the gun go off, the bullet striking him in the stomach. He will recover, however.

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