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## COTTON ACREAGE SETS NEW RECORD

GOVERNMENT REPORT SHOWS 38,387,000 ACRES NOW CULTIVATED.

## CONDITION IS VERY LOW

Crop of 11,412,000 Bales is Forecast; North Carolina Acreage Breaks Record.

Washington.—More cotton was in cultivation on June 25 in the United States than ever before in the history of the country.

The government's first official announcement of this year's acreage, made public, disclosed that there were 38,387,000 acres of cotton growing in the fields of the cotton belt. This acreage is one-eighth or 4,271,000 acres more than was being cultivated on June 25 last year, and almost 1,200,000 acres more than was harvested in the previous record acreage year of 1913.

The condition of the crop, however, was lower than it has been on June 25 in the last 22 years, with the exception of 1921. The official forecast was 142.6 pounds to the acre, which government experts calculate will result in a total production of 11,412,000 bales on the record acreage now growing. This total would be 1,650,000 bales more than harvested last year. This year's final production, the crop reporting board pointed out, may be larger or smaller than today's forecast, according as conditions developing during the remainder of the season prove more or less favorable to the crop than the average.

Texas, largest producing, has more than 14,000,000 acres in cotton for the first time, the acreage this year being 15 per cent more than last year. Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas and Oklahoma also have larger averages than ever before in their history. Missouri's acreage is almost double last year's.

The forecast was based on the condition of the crop on June 25 which was 69.9 per cent of a normal and on the preliminary estimate of the area under cultivation at that time which was 38,287,000 acres or 12.6 per cent more than last year's area on that date.

The acreage estimate and condition on June 25 by states follow.

Virginia, 83,000 acres, and condition 90 per cent of a normal.  
North Carolina, 1,704,000 and 80  
South Carolina, 2,049,000 and 64.  
Georgia, 3,927,000 and 56.  
Florida, 1,711,000 and 65.  
Alabama, 3,312,000 and 68.  
Mississippi, 3,353,000 and 67.  
Louisiana, 1,316,000 and 69.  
Texas, 14,077,000 and 77.  
Arkansas, 3,025,000 and 68.  
Tennessee, 1,193,000 and 67.  
Missouri, 394,000 and 62.  
Oklahoma, 3,357,000 and 64.  
California, 235,000 and 91.  
Arizona, 133,000 and 92.  
All other states 115,000 and 60.

### Higher Rates Are Effective.

Washington.—New commodity rates prepared by railroad to effect freight traffic to and from points in the south-east of the United States on and after July 1st have been allowed to become effective by the Interstate Commerce Commission in spite of protests filed by the Southern Traffic League and other organizations.

The protests asked the Commission to prevent the rates from becoming effective until after an investigation could be made and charged that the schedules would involve increases in freights generally, but the commission denied this.

The general commodity rate revision was undertaken by railroads concerned under orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission which required the elimination of a large number of existing rate conditions by which short haul traffic was charged amounts in excess of long haul traffic.

### Arrest Made in Rocky Mt. Case.

Rocky Mount.—Officers here are certain that they have one of two negroes who killed W. S. Biggles, and seriously wounded W. W. Andrews, proprietor of a store. The two men were closing up for the night when the two negroes, said to have been loitering in the store, opened fire on them. After rifling the cash drawer, the negroes made their get-away, supposedly on a passing freight train. Feeling ran high and posses of citizens joined officers in the search which extended for many miles.

## DEMPSEY-GIBBON FIGHT DEFINITELY CALLED OFF.

Great Falls, Mont.—The Dempsey-Gibbons battle of the heavy-weight championship of the world was definitely called off by George H. Stanton, Great Falls banker, after a last minute conference with Jack Kearns, Dempsey's manager.

Kearns it was stated, agreed to go on with the fight if the promoters would pay him \$50,000 immediately and permit him to take the remaining \$50,000 of the guarantee out of the first gate receipts.

Mr. Stanton said that he told Kearns it was impossible to pay him this amount, as the committee which he represented had already mailed back the checks to those who had advanced sums to make up the final amount.

## ACTIVITY SOON TO FOLLOW

### SPEAKERS TELL REAL ESTATE MEN AT CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND.

Statistician Also Forecasts Some Depression For General Business; Study of Questionnaires.

Cleveland.—Predictions of falling prices in the cost of building and a general real estate activity were made by speakers at the opening session of the 16th annual convention of the National Association of Real Estate Boards here. The convention, however, said to be the largest gathering of business men this year, attracted approximately 7,500 delegates from the United States and Canada. Basing his conclusions on questionnaires issued to all real estate boards by the national association in May, Melvin L. Morse, real estate statistician of Wellesley Hills, Mass., also forecast some depressions for general business. He predicted no general crash, however, but a gradual decline of business in a series of steps.

"The demand for new buildings at the present level of costs is nearly filled," Mr. Morse stated, "but the need for new buildings, taking all classes as a whole, is by no means filled. When costs are reduced another lot of contracts will be forthcoming."

The extent of each drop "will depend mainly on the readiness of building material men and of labor traders to adjust themselves to the situation," he said. "A marked depression would be prevented by the suburban movement of home building, which he said would rival the growth of the automobile, good roads, the movies or radio.

A general diminution of prices in the near future also was predicted by Congressman Theodore E. Burton of Ohio, who added that this would not be a general disadvantage to many because of the greater purchasing power of money. During the afternoon the realtors divided into seven divisional meetings.

Speaking before the property management division, Albert W. Swayne of Chicago urged cooperative apartment building and ownership as a great step towards solution of the housing problem.

### Four Killed, Two Hurt in Smash-Up.

Plainfield, N. J.—Four persons were killed and two seriously injured when an automobile in which they were riding was struck by a Baltimore and Ohio express train at a crossing near South Plainfield station.

Those killed were Harry Nichols, of East Orange, driver of the car; Andrew Barnes, of Newark, Miss Grace Mouteney, of Caldwell, a nurse, and E. J. Ellis, of Newark.

Miss Helen Ford and Miss Cathleen Crooks, both nurses, were seriously hurt.

The party had been making a trip to seashore resorts in honor of Miss Mouteney, who was to have been graduated as a nurse next week.

The car was carried 600 feet up the tracks and thrown against a freight train on a siding.

### Three Killed When Boiler Explodes.

Albany, N. Y.—Three men were killed and three fatally injured at Sumner, Worth county, when a boiler in the J. D. Bridges saw mill exploded.

The dead are Rhodes Ellis, master mechanic of the plant; West Rosier, negro; Julius Frances, negro.

The injured: Lovell Ellis, age 18, son of Rhodes Ellis, believed to have been fatally scalded.

The explosion is said to have been caused by putting cold water into the boiler when the water was low. The boiler was a double one, and only one part blew up. The plant was wrecked.

## FIVE MEN KILLED ON A DESTROYER

SCALDED TO DEATH WHEN THE FIRE ROOM IS FLOODED WITH HOT WATER.

## FOUR OTHERS ARE INJURED

Feared Three of Them Cannot Recover; Destroyer Williamson Heads For Newport, R. I.

Newport, R. I.—Five men lost their lives aboard the destroyer Williamson through the flooding of the fire room with steam and hot water. Three other members of the fire room crew were seriously injured and it is feared three of them cannot recover. The dead: Doc Abernathy Milligan, fireman, third class, Fairfield, Ala.; Harry C. Lincoln, fireman, third class, Lebanon, Ohio; Joseph A. Giantino, water tender, second class, Lockport, N. Y.; Louis R. Blanchard, fireman, first class, Springfield, Mass. The injured: Harry Amundson, water tender, first class, Bemidji, Minn.; Haskell B. Fields, fireman, first class, Durham, N. C.; Tony Rock, fireman, first class, Ashtabula, Ohio.

The Williamson went out from this port to test torpedoes on the long range outside Narragansett bay. Preparations were being made to fire the first torpedo when the accidental closing of a ventilator cover turned back the heated air escaping from the fire room, the pressure caused the ventilator blower to fly to pieces and the steam and hot water pipes were broken. The eight men in the fire room had no chance to escape. Four were scalded to death almost instantly and the others dropped to the floor overcome by the rush of steam and hot water.

At great personal risk, Lieutenant Commander H. E. Knauss, in command of the Williamson, and other officers and members of the crew rushed into the fire room and took out the injured men and the bodies. The injured were given first aid and the destroyer, which was not seriously damaged, speeded back to Newport.

At the naval hospital it was said that only Amundson appeared to have a chance of recovery.

### May Take Out Wheat Surplus.

Washington.—A proposal that a minimum of 200,000,000 bushels of wheat be withdrawn by American farmers from this year's visible supply, in view of this country's indicated large surplus, placed in warehouses under supervision of the department of agriculture financed through the intermediate credit banks and carried forward to augment next year's crop at harvest time was made public by the American farm bureau federation.

In a telegram to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace who is accompanying President Harding on his Alaskan trip, the federation commended the President's statement in Kansas supporting intermediate credits and warehousing and urged Mr. Wallace to advise the President to recommend that farmers avail themselves of the new warehousing and intermediate credits acts.

The country's present wheat crop and carry-over, the telegram stated, is approximately 1,000,000,000 bushels, domestic consumption about 550,000,000 bushels; seed requirements, 50,000,000 bushels and a possible export outlook 150,000,000 to 200,000,000 bushels. The federation's proposal, Mr. Wallace was told, "will give the farmers an opportunity to adjust their acreage in the fall and spring seedlings so that no undue large surplus need exist at that time."

Such a move, in the opinion of the federation, would allow co-operative and orderly marketing and lift wheat from 75 or 80 cents, the present price, to \$1.40 or \$1.50 and would continue it on that basis throughout this consumptive year, thereby being helpful to both producer and consumer and eliminating speculation.

15 Lynchings First Six Months. Mobile, Ala.—In the first six months of 1923, ending June 30, there were 15 lynchings in the United States, according to the records compiled by the Tuskegee, Ala., Normal and Industrial Institute. This is 15 less than the number, 30, for the first six months of 1922, and 21 less than the number, 36, for the first six months of 1921.

Of those lynched, two were whites and 13 were negroes. One of the latter was a woman.

## TEN PERSONS KILLED AND FIFTY INJURED.

Berlin.—Ten persons were killed and fifty injured in the explosion that wrecked a Belgian troop train near Duisburg, according to reports received here.

Belgian military authorities immediately arrested several high officials at Duisburg, including a representative of the Mayor. They are held as hostages pending an investigation to fix blame for the explosion.

Traffic over the railroad was immediately prohibited by military order.

## WILL SEIZE LIQUOR SHIPS

STEP IS DECIDED UPON IN ENFORCEMENT OF SUPREME COURT'S DECREE.

Will Not Stop at Confiscating Ships But Will Arrest Captains of Liners Bringing in Whiskey.

Washington.—The government prepared to take the extreme step, in enforcing the supreme court ban against liquor imports, of seizing ships which bring in intoxicating beverages whether in cargo or under foreign government's custom seals.

Continued if not studied violation of the court's decision by an increasing number of foreign vessels entering New York with large quantities of beverage liquors under seals, it was said, apparently made necessary the drastic penalty of seizure, not only of the contraband beverage, but of the ships themselves. Officials declared privately that the present practice could not be tolerated much longer and steps to invoke the extreme penalties of the Volstead act were said to be imminent.

High government officials at a series of conferences discussed the situation and the steps necessary to enforce observance of the nation's prohibition laws as applied to foreign vessels within American territorial waters. A new treasury regulation was reported to have been drafted providing for additional directions to customs officers to seize all vessels found bringing in beverage liquors, even under foreign customs seals, after adequate notice to foreign governments of the new and more drastic policy. The instructions also would provide for the arrest of the captains of such ships.

No official announcement of the government's plan was made, information of the consideration of the ship seizure policy developing from the official conferences. It was stated, however that an official statement on the question might be expected in a "very few days."

Participation in the day's conference were Secretary Hughes and other state department officials, acting Secretary Gilbert and Assistant Secretary Moss, in charge of customs, of the treasury department, Commissioner Blair of the internal revenue bureau; Prohibition Commissioner Haynes, and Assistant Commissioner Jones, Chief Counsel Brit of prohibition headquarters, and others. A day full of conferences on the situation was concluded with one between Secretary Hughes and Mr. Gilbert on which neither later would comment.

### Deficit Caused By Confederacy.

Washington.—For 62 years the post-office department has carried on its books a debit of 37,277.06 charged against four southern cities—New Orleans, Savannah, Galveston and Little Rock. There seems to be no hope of wiping out these debts and they probably will be carried on the books indefinitely, or until Congress sees fit the charge them to profit and loss.

Every time a balance is struck and every time the postmaster general issues his annual report the entries must be taken into consideration to make the accounts balance. So old has the account become and so accustomed have the postoffice clerks become to taking it into consideration that it was difficult to find the proper explanation. At last however one was discovered familiar with its history.

In 1861, he said, Confederate forces took possession of federal postal funds at the New Orleans sub-treasury in the amount of \$31,164.44 in United States depositories at Little Rock in the amount of \$5,823.50, at Savannah of \$205.73 and at Galveston of \$83.36.

In 1921 legislation was offered in Congress to have the accounts wiped from the books. An amendment, however, was accepted providing that the books should be kept open so that the money could be received in the event it was offered.

## RESERVE BOARD ANNOUNCES RULING

WON'T HANDLE CHECKS DRAWN ON BANKS CHARGING EXCHANGE.

## THE COLLECTION OF FEES

Will Charge to Handle Checks Endorsed or Issued by Banks Refusing to Remit at Par.

Washington.—Extending the scope of their par collection arrangement, the federal reserve board, in a ruling announced, prohibited the federal reserve banks in the future "from receiving on deposit or for collection" checks drawn on banks which demand a fee for collections.

By the same ruling, the board required the banks to make a collection charge not exceeding one-tenth of one per cent on checks "which bear the endorsement of, or are drawn by or emanate from any non-member bank" which refuses to remit at par.

With the announcement, the board issued a formal statement of its policy respecting the par clearance of checks in which it declared that banks which did not participate in the par collection arrangement should not be allowed to benefit from it. The arrangement, the statement asserted, is entirely voluntary and based upon a system of reciprocity and, in view of the recent decision of the supreme court on the question, the board said, it is certain the federal reserve banks cannot pay exchange.

In explaining its position, the board said, it regarded the creation of the reserve system as in the interest of all commercial and banking establishments of the country, adding that the membership of the system now numbers 92 per cent of all banking institutions and about 98 per cent of the total banking resources of the country.

"The federal reserve board, therefore, in the exercise of its legal authority has amended Regulation J Series of 1920, in such a way as to prohibit any federal reserve bank from receiving on deposit or for collection any check drawn on any non-member bank which refuses to remit at par in acceptable funds and to require federal reserve banks to make a collection charge for their services in collecting checks which bear the endorsement of, or are drawn by or emanate from any non-member bank which refuses to remit at par in acceptable funds, such collection charge to be at rate not to exceed one-tenth of one per cent."

### Exposition to Be Held in Charlotte.

Charlotte, N. C.—The Directors of the Made-in-Carolina Association have designated Sept. 24 to October 6th as the dates for the third annual Made-in-Carolinas Exposition to be held at Charlotte.

Last year over eighty thousand people attended the Exposition, and the entire program met with the approval of those attending. Mr. John L. Dabbs, President of the Association, states that plans have been made to surpass all previous efforts in regard to exhibits, attendance and entertainment. From the amount of interest manifested by the manufacturers of the two Carolinas in this year's exposition, a display of exhibits is now assured beyond expectations.

### Doctors Kill Prohi Moves.

San Francisco.—The American Medical Association in convention here declined to go on record regarding prohibition. It killed four resolutions directed as provisions of the Volstead Act.

The house of delegates, representing body of the organization of 90,000 doctors, voted overwhelmingly to table the resolutions, which were offered by Doctors T. C. Chalmers, Forest Hills, N. Y., and V. G. Veckl, San Francisco. Approval, however, was given to another resolution, also by Dr. Chalmers, recommending that pharmacists be permitted to sell upon prescription, bottles of bonded whiskey in sizes appropriate for medical purposes, to be dispensed in the original bottles.

Dr. William Allen Pusey eminent dermatologist and professor of skin diseases in the University of Illinois medical college, was elected president and Chicago was chosen as the 1924 convention place.

The delegates indorsed the action of Governor Smith of New York in calling a conference of representative members of organized medicine to draft health legislation.

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