

### National Debt Is Now \$35,039,000,000

National debt rose last week to the \$35,039,000,000 limit fixed by the 1936 act. The debt rose because the treasury department reported that the nation's debt had reached \$35,039,000,000 on May 5. The increase in the debt is represented by the movement of \$52,052,000 toward the limit of \$35,000,000,000. The increase is the result of the treasury's "refunding" program through which gold imports are purchased at a lower price and segregated in a separate fund to offset the credit effects of an increasing supply.

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### Fish Hatchery In Pisgah Forest Is Now In Operation

#### Thousands of Brown, Brook, and Rainbow Trout Will Be Placed In Streams From Place

(By Wm. M. Keil, Assistant Biologist, In The Transylvania Times.)

In the Pisgah Federal Game Preserve, and located near the head of the Davidson River; a new, modern fish cultural establishment has recently been completed and placed in operation. Its purposes primarily are to provide the numbers, sizes and species of trout investigation has shown are needed to develop and maintain good angling in waters of the Pisgah territory, and to serve as headquarters for the aquatic biological research necessary to prosecute this program.

The new fishery station consists of 18 circular and rectangular concrete pools of various sizes, and is supplied with approximately 2000 gallons of water per minute through a 10-inch pipe line, 915 feet in length. A concrete dam and intake box constructed at a point upstream where the channel and banks are composed of solid bed rock, insures the water supply against the dangers of wash-outs during the most severe flood stages.

The buildings at the establishment consist of a standard Forest Service type for-room and bath cottage for the accommodation of the fish culturist in charge and his family; a two car garage; a generator house in which has been installed an automatic 2,500 watt lighting plant, and combination work shop, storage, refrigeration and feed room, and research laboratory.

This station designed by the writer, was constructed—and with the exception of scientific apparatus furnished by the Bureau of Fisheries—fully equipped by the Forest Service. The work was carried out by CCC boys from Camp F-14 under the supervision of Project Superintendents John F. Woodley and W. F. Dupre. In immediate charge of the work on construction and landscaping were R. L. Johnson and John B. Verner.

The creation of this fish cultural station at this particular locality is the outcome of a co-operative agreement between the U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, in which the Forest Service was to construct and equip the station and turn it over to the Bureau for operation. In this operation the Bureau will transport from several of its hatcheries, sufficient numbers of small fingerling trout of various kinds to provide the maximum output for re-stocking those waters within the Federal Preserve. The Bureau has also detailed a trained fish culturist, Mr. Reuben O. Knuth, who will provide the expense of the station, fish foods, ice, etc., and the necessary personnel for scientific research.

In connection with this agreement between the two Government agencies a Fish Management Project has been set up in which the four major watersheds within the Preserve will be intensively studied from every conceivable angle and all future fish planting and opened and closed fishing seasons based upon these findings. It may be remembered that three years ago, a preliminary program was instituted by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Fisheries, and a temporary plan adopted in which the procedure was broken into four steps—

(1) stream survey; (2) stream improvement; (3) fish planting program, and (4) a check up of the results to be used as a basis for modification in formulating a policy for final adoption. During the summers of 1934-5-6, the first two steps were undertaken and completed as far as conditions would allow. Due to recent road construction many of the physical and biological characteristics of the streams have undergone material changes necessitating a re-examination of the biological and thermal conditions. To carry out this investigation, the Bureau of Fisheries has detailed Mr. Thomas K. Chamberlain, a trained biologist who will use the facilities of the laboratory at the Rearing Station as his headquarters.

The new Pisgah Fish Management Project has as its primary objective the demonstration of scientific stream management as a means of improving angling conditions. The general plan has been broken up into 14 secondary objectives as follows:

To determine the biological, chemical and thermal conditions existing in the streams of the Pisgah Game Preserve; the types and quantities of food utilized by trout at different seasons and under varying conditions; the relationship between the ages and sizes of trout and their habits, growth, condition and migration; the most practical methods of securing a game fish census of these streams; which waters are best adapted to certain species; the stocking intensities of trout of various sizes that may best be supported by these waters; the most suitable methods and economical procedures for stocking these streams to provide the maximum amount of angling for the public; the most suitable policy of regulating and recording the fishing on each stream; to determine the survival and migration of young fish that have been planted; to determine the advisability of additional stream improvement work on these waters, and to study the effect of such improvements on production of fish and fish food organisms.

It is foolish for anyone to predict the number and size of the fish that will be propagated by any particular fish cultural station. In an establishment the size of the one under discussion, it is hoped that sufficient trout may be reared to adequately keep stocked the waters in the experimental area.

Brook, brown and rainbow trout will be propagated; and it is the intention to retain them in the rearing pools until they attain a length of from four to seven or eight inches. They will be undersized examples weeded out before planting time arrives. Only those deemed suitable for planting will be retained. These will be given plenty of room; special foods that tend to increase the natural coloration and resistance to disease, and which when

### Two Counties In State Vote Wet

Columbus county, rich agricultural county of the extreme southeastern section of the State, voted about two to one against legalized liquor stores in an election held last Tuesday under the new North Carolina county option law. It was the third county to hold an election on the same issue this spring. Columbus had voted dry in previous elections in which liquor was the issue.

Dare county, the easternmost county of the State, very small in population and including a large area of Albemarle sound and of the famous sand dunes, was officially declared to have voted wet by a majority of six in its election of April 24, which was carried by the dries by a majority of 19 votes on the face of the official returns, as originally announced.

Protests and complaints of alleged irregularities prompted the county board of elections to make an investigation of one precinct with the result that 25 dry ballots and one wet one were thrown out.

The dry forces' attorneys announced an appeal would be taken to the State Board of Elections.

retaken by the anglers may be worthy of display to their friends.

After the program is well under way, the open seasons for fishing and the limits to be placed on the number and size of the catch will no doubt have to be modified from time to time to conform with the careful check up of results; but it is hoped that with the co-operation of the public, sufficient information will have been gleaned in one or two fishing seasons, so that few changes may be necessary.

The first fish to arrive at the Rearing Station were about 17,000 brown trout fingerlings. These were delivered by truck on March 17th from the Bureau of Fisheries Experimental Station in Leesport, W. Va. The additional supplies of fish will be consigned from the Federal hatcheries at Erwin, Tenn., Wythville, Va., and possibly White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. Those from the Erwin, Tenn., hatchery will be transported by truck, and from the more distant points, by Bureau of Fisheries special railway cars.

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