

Syphilis Survey Conducted In State's Prison Camps

Survey Shows 23.3 Percent Infection, 2,229 Out of 9,563 Prisoners Carry Disease.

Raleigh, Jan. 17 — Out of 9,563 prisoners in eighty camps who were given serological tests for syphilis in a statewide survey conducted cooperatively by the State Board of Health and the North Carolina Highway and Public Works commission, 2,229, or 23.3 percent, were found to be syphilitic. The survey was made with the aid of the Reynolds Foundation.

The results, announced by Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, State Health officer, following conferences with prison officials, showed that 8.5 percent of all white prisoners and 34.2 percent of all Negro prisoners reacted positively to the tests. White syphilitics numbered 341, out of a total white prison population of 4,010, while the total number of Negro syphilitics was 1,888, out of a total Negro prison population of 5,523.

The highest percentage of positive reactions among both whites and Negroes was found in the county units, with a combined population of 5,291. In this group, 248 of the whites reacted positively, this being 9.5 per cent of a total of 2,528, while 1,572 of the 2,763 Negroes, or 53.2 percent, were syphilitic. The total for this group was 34.3 percent.

Of the 4,242 prisoners examined who were sentenced or cleared through the State's Prison in Raleigh, there were 409 positive reactors, this being 9.6 per cent of the total. Ninety-three of the white prisoners examined, or six and two-tenths percent of a total of 1,482, were shown to be syphilitic, while positive reactors among the 2,760 Negroes given blood tests totaled 316, or 14.3 percent.

This survey for determining the prevalence of syphilis among

the State's prison population was made possible and its successful culmination was achieved through an arrangement whereby the cooperating agencies provided the necessary funds and personnel. On the part of the State Board of Health, the movement to secure and assemble this important data was sponsored by Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, state health officer, who designated Dr. J. C. Knox, Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Venereal Disease Control, and Dr. F. S. Fellows, Venereal Disease Consultant of the United States Public Health Service, who has been loaned to the State Board of Health, to work in cooperation with Frank L. Dunlap, Chairman of the State Highway and Public Works Commission; Robert Grady Johnson, Director of Prisons; Dr. Felda Hightower, Medical director at the Central Prison, and his assistants.

Funds for paying the Technician who worked in the Central Prison Laboratory making serological tests from blood specimens sent in were supplied by the Reynolds Foundation. Dr. Hightower and his staff obtained the specimens.

"The object in making this exhaustive survey," said Dr. Reynolds, "was to get that portion of our prison population infected with syphilis under competent treatment. Cooperative arrangements have been made whereby the prison department will meet the other half of the expense for this purpose.

"Plans are also being worked out," the Health Officer continued, "whereby the jail or prison authorities will be notified of the status of any syphilitic under treatment in any of the 228 venereal disease clinics in the State.

"Also, whenever prisoners are discharged, the clinics are being notified, in order that treatment may be continued. I cannot place

too much emphasis on the importance of this," Dr. Reynolds declared, "for on this point rests the crux of the syphilis eradication campaign.

"This follow up," he went on, "will be made possible by the information gained through the Board of Health's Central Tabulating Unit, which is operated under the direction of the Division of Epidemiology and Venereal Disease Control.

"When a prisoner is discharged, his record and course of treatment are sent to the State Health Department, and from this point the case is followed and treatment continued in the clinic in the area in which the prisoner lives. The Central Tabulating Unit issues a daily report."

Dr. Reynolds emphasized the spirit of thorough cooperation between the State Board of Health and the North Carolina Highway and Public Works commission that marked the course of the study, "which," as he stated it, "enables us to carry on this extensive and valuable program."

The Health Officer declared that the fact that "Dr. Hightower and his staff are so well qualified in this field of work as of untold advantage," as well as the fact that "the prison physicians realize so fully the importance of this survey and the value of continued and uninterrupted treatment among those who are infected." He went on to declare that "their interest in the work and the able manner in which Dr. Hightower directed this undertaking demand special commendation."

He continued: "The significance and the importance of this thorough and comprehensive survey is outstanding, in that it has established as an indisputable fact that there is a serious public health problem yet unsolved which will tax the ingenuity of all agencies dedicated to this task.

"This particular group has little responsibility to society, and it behooves us to place it members in such a physical condition as will improve their mental at-

titude, with the hope that they may become, through the processes of physical rehabilitation, restored to the point where they will become useful citizens, with an awakened sense of their responsibility to that society which extends them protection.

"Furthermore," Dr. Reynolds said, "this survey indicates just how necessary and essential it is to syphilis control in North Carolina that county and city officials should make a similar and continuous survey of their prison population.

BEST

Soil conservationists, after repeated tests, are continuing to find that plain, old-fashioned grass sod is one of the best anti-erosion measures.

STOPS

The U. S. Agriculture department has stopped paying subsidies on most wheat exports in view of prospects for a short crop this year and relatively favorable domestic prices.

Water Famine

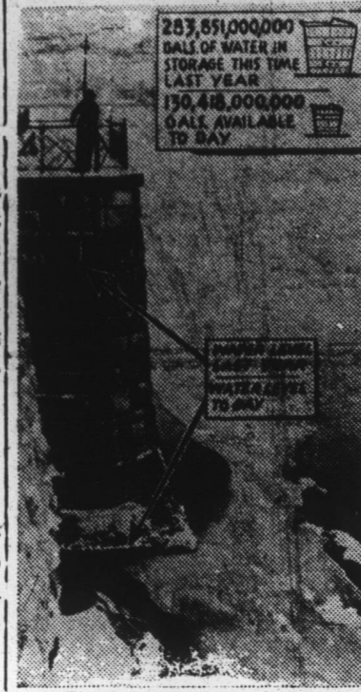


Photo-diagram shows the seriousness of New York city's water shortage, due to last year's drought. The reserve water is only 46 per cent of the 1939 total at Croton reservoir. Gatehouse Foreman John Tompkins indicates with a pole the point to which water usually reaches.

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Award Winner

(Continued From Front Page)

activities of the local chapter and State association.

2. Must have satisfactory completed at least three years of instruction in vocational agriculture (or have completed all the vocational agriculture offered in the school attended) and have in operation an outstanding program of supervised farming which shows comprehensive planning, continuation, growth, and increase in scope as substantiated by complete, accurate, and neat records.

3. Must have earned by his own efforts from farming and other agricultural work and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least \$500 (at least two-thirds of the amount must be derived from his supervised farming program). In case where the applicant has assisted in the support of dependents, the amount so expended, in the National amount so expended, in the judgement of the National Board of Trustees, may be considered as an investment.

Show outstanding ability in

leadership and cooperation.

4. Show outstanding ability in leadership and cooperation.

5. Be in the upper 40 per cent of his class in all school subjects during the entire period of his secondary school instruction.

6. Be recommended by the National Board of Trustees and receive a majority vote of the delegates present at the national convention of Future Farmers of America.

COTTON

A demonstrational program has been started by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under which a small quantity of low-grade cotton will be used in the manufacture of high-grade paper.

DIFFERENCE

Although he applied calcium metaphosphate on his clover in the late spring, C. D. Baldwin of the Lansing community in Ashe county reports he could tell a marked difference when the clover was cut for hay.



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CHOC. COVERED PEANUTS, 2-lbs. 25c
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Florida Grape Fruit 4 for **11c**
Beets 2 bunches **9c**
Carrots 2 bunches **9c**
Green Onions 2 bunches **9c**
Radishes 2 bunches **9c**
Lettuce 2 heads **13c**
Celery 2 heads **13c**

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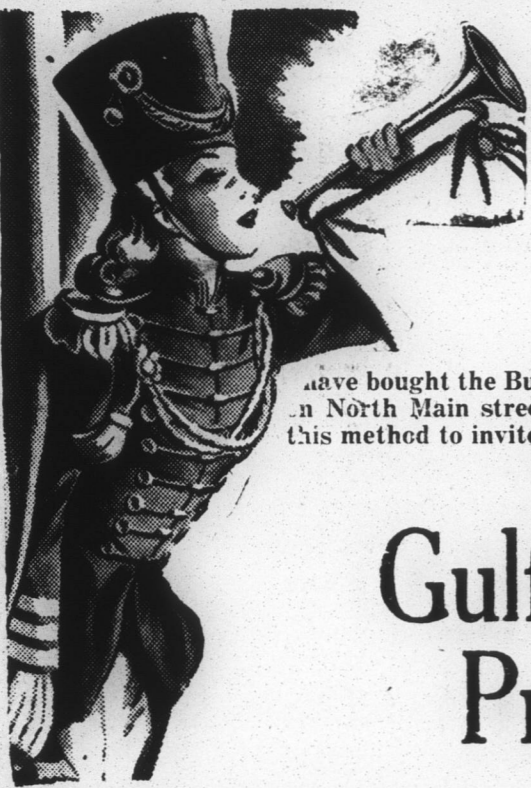
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