

The Work of the President's Cabinet

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OUTBREAK OF STABLE FLY

The stockmen of north Texas, Oklahoma and the grain belt to the north have been confronted with conditions favorable to a serious outbreak of the stable fly, and the department has been recommending methods of control for this pest during the past month. In the grain-growing section it has advised that the care of the straw after threshing is by far the most important step. Oat straw and rice straw are preferred by the fly for its breeding, although in the absence of these the straw of wheat, rye or barley, if in the proper state of fermentation, will produce large numbers of them.

RAILROADS VIOLATE 28-HOUR LAW

For the confinement of cattle for more than 28 hours without unloading for feed, water, and rest, 37 prosecutions have been reported to the bureau of animal industry of the department during the month of June. The fines for those total nearly \$5,000. The railroads who were defendants in the prosecutions and the fines which were imposed on them are as follows:

Number of Cases	Defendant	Fine.
6	Chicago, Rock Island & Pac. R. Co.	\$712.90
4	Mobile & Ohio R. R. Co.	460.20
1	Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. Co.	118.50
2	Chicago & Alton R. R. Co.	235.60
12	Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe R. R.	1,859.60
3	Kansas City, Mexico & Orient R. R.	352.50
1	Northern Pacific Ry. Co.	204.09
1	Chicago & Northwestern Ry. Co.	215.11
1	Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis	113.61
1	St. Louis & San Francisco R. R. Co.	116.70
2	Louisville & Nashville R. R. Co.	227.16
1	Chicago Great Western R. R. Co.	120.80
1	Iowa Central R. R. Co.	119.40
1	Missouri Pacific Ry. Co.	115.90
37	Total	\$4,972.07

ROAD EXPERTS STUDYING CONVICT CAMPS

A joint arrangement has been perfected between the department's office of public roads and the public health service for the study of convict camps and of the utilization of convict labor in the construction of roads and the preparation of road materials. There is a constantly increasing tendency on the part of state governments to use convict labor in works of public improvement, such as road construction, rather than in the manufacture of articles which compete with the product of free labor.

The purpose of the joint study is to determine the conditions and methods by which most satisfactory results are obtained and the lines along which improvements may be inaugurated. Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are states where visits will first be made. Later on the studies will extend to Michigan, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico.

BULLETIN ON ARSENICAL CATTLE DIPS

The department has issued a 16-page Farmers' Bulletin (No. 603) on methods of preparation and directions for the use of arsenical cattle dips. These are the dips which are effective against the Texas fever tick.

The bulletin gives farmers and stock raisers explicit practical directions for the making and use of boiled and self-boiled dips. The measures prescribed for the safe handling of these poisonous substances should be read attentively by every farmer who wishes to dip his own cattle.

The bulletin will be sent free to any one who will send a postcard to the Editor and Chief, Division of Publications, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

ARMY-WORM MOTHS WITH ONE COLORED WING

To determine the habits of the troublesome army worm, the department's entomologists are catching army-worm moths where they are plentiful, coloring one wing of each, and then liberating them in the same territory, so that they may determine whether these moths fly direct west, or north, and how quickly and far they will spread. A better knowledge of the habits of this pest should enable the department to control its spread. No moths are to be let loose

where their liberation could possibly add to the natural damage.

The moths are already showing themselves in Virginia and in Maryland, and the department's agents are catching specimens at Portsmouth and Charlottesville in Virginia, and Hagerstown in Maryland. The agents at Portsmouth are applying a red stain to one wing of each specimen caught; those at Charlottesville a black or yellow stain; and those at Hagerstown, a violet color. Then the moths are left to follow the natural course they would have pursued. The department's agents east of Mississippi have been advised to look out for these moths.

TERRITORY RELEASED FROM QUARANTINE

The Secretary of Agriculture has issued an order to take effect September 1, lifting the quarantine on account of Texas fever of cattle from certain portions of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. This action is taken as a result of further progress made in the eradication of cattle ticks by co-operation between state and federal authorities. The area released amounts to 6,801 square miles. This brings the total territory released from quarantine since the beginning of the work in 1906 up to 222,709 square miles, which is nearly one-third of the total area infested with ticks at the time the work of eradication was begun.

UTAH FREED FROM QUARANTINE FOR SHEEP SCABIES

The department has given notice that inasmuch as the counties of Carbon, Emery, and Grand, in the state of Utah, are now free from the disease known as scabies among sheep, the quarantine against these counties has been lifted, effective August 24, 1914. This frees the entire state of Utah from the quarantine for sheep scabies. The only territory remaining under federal quarantine for this disease consists of the western portion of California, the southeastern portion of Colorado, and the entire state of Texas.

The result in Utah has been accomplished by an effective state law passed by the Utah legislature in 1913 for the eradication of live stock diseases, and through active co-operation under that law on the part of the state board of sheep commissioners with the department. For over twelve years prior to the passage of the law the state and federal authorities had been working to eradicate sheep scab from Utah, but with unsatisfactory results.

QUARANTINE FOR ILLINOIS CATTLE

All cattle in five counties in northeastern Illinois will be under a federal quarantine for bovine tuberculosis after October 1, 1914. The governor and the sanitary officials of Illinois will co-operate actively with the federal authorities in making this quarantine effective. The five counties affected are Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage and Cook.

Under the terms of this quarantine no cattle can be shipped from the five counties for dairy or breeding purposes unless they are accompanied by a certificate showing that they have been subjected to the tuberculin test and found free from disease. These certificates must be issued by an employe of the bureau of animal industry, United States department of agriculture.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INVESTIGATE RISE IN PRICES

Instructions have been sent by Secretary Redfield to field agents of the bureau in New York, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Atlanta, and New Orleans to inquire immediately and carefully whether there has been a recent rise in retail prices in those localities and if so on what articles and to what extent, special attention being given to foodstuffs and articles of clothing and other necessities. They are to learn whether the advance, if it exists, is general or confined to particular commodities, and if so what ones, and also if it has been sudden or gradual. If any articles have fallen in price the facts will be noted. The reasons given for any advance that may have occurred are to be ascertained and inquiry is to be made particularly as to whether such reasons are the actual ones.

Special care will be exercised in determining if there has been any advance due to speculation, either on the general war situation or on the temporary delay in ocean transit. Whether a fair stock exists or is available of any commodity

that may have been advanced and whether the facts show a purpose to use the war situation to secure undue extra profits by increased prices will be considered.

An effort will be made to learn if any combination exists for the advance of prices under existing conditions.

As soon as the facts shall have been determined sufficiently to give a clear idea of the general situation, reports will be made to the chief of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce and the inquiry continued subject to his instructions.

EXTENDING EXPORT TRADE

In view of the importance not only of maintaining but of extending export trade under existing conditions, and in practical appreciation of the opportunity afforded to do so in South America through the proffered cooperation in mutual trade coming from both official and private sources, the department of commerce is undertaking the establishment of both a permanent and traveling force in South America.

This force will consist of men familiar with the language, customs and business methods of Latin America, who have had practical experience in various lines of business carried on with Latin-American countries.

Four of the department officers will be commercial attaches for which provision was made by recent legislation. They will be assigned, respectively to Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago, and Lima. It is hoped to have these officials at their posts before the first of October.

In addition to these, six traveling commercial agents will be promptly dispatched to South America and will, in their travels, cover all the commercial areas of that continent. These will include specialists in hardware, textiles, lumber and other industries, and arrangements will be made also for a general study of any commercial and industrial opportunities that may be open in favor of American interests.

Although American trade is well established in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru and is growing despite the lack of direct banking facilities, steamship accommodations, etc., American banks are imperatively needed in South America as a dependable resource in the campaign for greater trade. This is the conclusion of E. N. Hurley, President of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, who has submitted to the department a report on banking and credit in South America, based upon a careful investigation of that field. Mr. Hurley was assigned to this special task by Secretary Redfield, who is making a strenuous effort to increase the sale of American products in South America and was instrumental in securing an appropriation from congress for this particular purpose.

Foreign and native banking houses reasonably well accommodate the ordinary routine of American trade, Mr. Hurley states, but they naturally withhold the full measure of interest and solicitous support accorded to enterprises of their own nationality. Moreover, many valuable collateral benefits arising from the financing of over-sea trade are lost through American reliance upon London banking mediation, while the compulsory use of European materials in many South American enterprises financed in Europe is steadily restricting the potential market for American goods. American salesman and trading houses also lack the support given by foreign banks to their national trade seekers.

Mr. Hurley's study of the problem of banking and credit in South America was made from the point of view of the manufacturer. It is not a technical banking report; rather it deals with the financial environment of American trade in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru, its disadvantages and examples from the experience of other nations that have considered over-sea banking operations essential to their conquest of foreign trade.

As to the feasibility of establishing banks in South America Mr. Hurley summarizes the methods as branches of American national banks, organized solely for American business in South America, purchase of an interest in existing South American banks, and banks for investment and industrial development. Mr. Hurley states that various kinds of banking must be carried on by an institution adapted to assist American trade, for its business, like that of European banks in South America, can not be limited to strictly commercial banking. Banking services there are intimately connected with loans to governments and cities, with industrial investments, etc., which would not come under the operation of the United States federal re-