

The Work of the President's Cabinet

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ARMY-WORM PEST ATTACKS GRAIN

Letters, telephone messages, and individual callers have been soliciting aid from the United States department of agriculture to stop the advance of the hordes of army worms that threaten their fields of wheat, oats, corn, timothy, blue grass, and other grasses. There seems to be a general outbreak of this pest throughout the north, east of the Rocky mountains. These worms are emerging from eggs laid by moths that apparently swarmed up from have been noticed in the vicinity of Washington the southwest. Great numbers of these moths during the past month, hundreds of their broken wings have been seen near the union station. Lawns in the capital are being overrun by this pest.

The department has issued the following advice to those whose fields are threatened by the worm:

If the worms have not yet attacked a field the most practical way to keep them out is to plow furrows in front of them, throwing the furrow in the direction toward which they are traveling. The worms will fall into the furrow and when this is full they may be killed either by dragging a log back and forth in the furrow or by destroying the worms in holes previously dug at intervals of twenty feet in the bottom of the furrow. Kerosene poured on them in the holes will destroy them.

If the worms are already in the field, the following mixture which will attract the worms and destroy them should be spread about:

One pound of paris green (poisonous).
Fifty pounds of wheat bran.
Juice of one-half dozen oranges.

Bring this mixture to a stiff dough by the use of dilute molasses, and scatter it amongst the worms. Care should be taken to keep this dough from children or domestic animals.

Prompt action to prevent the worms from infesting a field is much better than later efforts to attempt to kill them in the grain. Once the caterpillars have infested a field the measures necessary to destroy them may seriously hurt or even destroy the crop.

The worms at first are almost always localized in some definite breeding place in the field, and immediate efforts should be taken to eradicate them in these small areas before they have had time to spread. The normal breeding place of the army worm is in rank grass, such as is usually found along the edges of swamps or in spots of pasture land that have been overfertilized. They are practically never found in swamps, because the worm needs a reasonably dry place in which to breed.

Clean cultivation, rotation of crops, cleaning up of fence corners, close pasturage, and the burnings over of waste grass land in the spring or fall are good measures to prevent a recurrence of the army worm.

THE HESSIAN FLY

There is every indication that another pest, the Hessian fly, will be unusually troublesome to the wheat crop this fall. The department has therefore been sending out questions to farmers as to whether their wheat has yet been infested by the pest.

Probably no other insect causes more damage to the wheat crop in the United States than the Hessian fly, although there are certain years when the chinch bug exceeds the fly in its devastations. During the seasons when the fly is especially abundant, hundreds of thousands of acres of wheat may be either totally destroyed or so badly injured as to reduce the yield 50 to 75 per cent. The monetary losses run far up into the millions.

A number of years ago there was in Kansas general cooperation between grain dealers, millers, and farmers to restrict the ravages of this dangerous insect. According to their own estimate, over a million dollars were saved by prompt action and thorough measures. This year the department hopes to secure general cooperation throughout the country in combating the pest. There are indications that its ravages may be severe. Already in Iowa and Oklahoma there have been threatening outbreaks of the insect.

Not only are federal and state organizations of the government cooperating in this campaign, but others, such as the National Millers' Federation, are working to secure better control over the Hessian fly. The individual wheat grower is asked to send samples of infested straw to the department before the middle of September, and sooner if possible, as after that the fly will have hatched and have entered the wheat.

Late sowing of the seed and burning of the stubble when not seeded to grass or clover are the only measures known to date that are effective in controlling the Hessian fly—that is, for winter wheat growing sections. In the spring wheat sections late seeding will not apply. On the contrary, the earlier it is sown in the spring the less it seems to suffer from this pest.

HOG CHOLERA CAMPAIGN

Under the recently passed act of Congress, which grants \$500,000 to combat hog cholera, department agents will cooperate closely with the state authorities to prevent and eradicate the disease by the use of antihog-cholera serum and quarantine methods. Approximately \$20,000 will be spent during the coming year in each experimental area selected. Thirteen of the counties, where the work is to be carried on, have been picked out, and in twelve of these work has already been started. Two other counties are to be selected within a short time. The twelve counties selected for the present campaign, where the work has actually begun, are as follows:

State	County
Idaho	Twin Falls District.
Indiana	Montgomery.
Iowa	Dallas.
Kansas	Marshall.
Kentucky	Henderson
Michigan	Branch.
Minnesota	Renville.
Missouri	Pettis.
Nebraska	Gage and Johnson (part of each)
Ohio	Allen and adjacent townships.
Tennessee	Mauzy.

The thirteenth county, where the work will soon be inaugurated, is Decatur county, Georgia.

Appropriations will be spent in making surveys, using serum on hogs on infected and exposed farms, in sanitation and quarantine work, and in organizing farmers to cooperate with the state and federal authorities. In addition funds will be used for the production by the department of antihog-cholera serum and for the inspection and proper control of serum prepared by private and other agencies.

NEW REGULATION FOR MEAT INSPECTION

The meat inspection regulations governing the slaughtering of cattle, sheep, swine and goats, and the preparation of meat food products in inspected establishments, were signed by the secretary of agriculture on July 15, 1914.

All the regulations become effective November 1, 1914, except those governing imported meats, which go into effect January 1, 1915.

The department is limited by law to jurisdiction over the slaughtering and packing establishments which sell their products in interstate or foreign commerce. These establishments slaughter 60 per cent of the meat used in the United States. The slaughtering and packing establishments which sell their product wholly within the state in which the animals are slaughtered are beyond the jurisdiction of the department.

The new regulations, which occupy eighty-seven printed pages, codify the many amendments and rulings made since the adoption of the old regulations on April 1, 1908, and also add to the requirements a number of features suggested by eight years' experience in meat inspection and conforming with recent scientific discoveries.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Cato Sells, commissioner of Indian affairs, made the following statement concerning the Indian appropriation bill just passed by con-

gress, which carries appropriations amounting to about \$11,800,000, \$1,500,000 of this amount being appropriated from Indian funds:

Commissioner Sells says the bill is the result of very careful consideration by the senate and house Indian affairs committees. Altogether, it is considered one of the best, if not the best Indian appropriation bills enacted for a number of years.

The Indian committees of congress with the co-operation of the Indian bureau have in this bill worked out constructive legislation for the Indians of the country along progressive lines. For example, for the first time in the history of the government there has been appropriated a large amount of money for improvement in the health conditions of the Indians and providing hospital facilities for them. \$300,000 is appropriated for this purpose. \$100,000 of which will be used for constructing hospitals at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 each. In addition to this the Indian bureau is now constructing three hospitals for the Sioux Indians to cost approximately \$25,000 each on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Cheyenne reservations. An appropriation is also made in the Indian bill for a hospital in the Chippewa country in Minnesota and \$50,000 appropriated therefor out of Chippewa Indian funds. The health conditions of the Indians have been found to be deplorable, and little attention has heretofore been given to correcting this condition. The appropriation in the current Indian bill will be a long step forward in solving this important problem.

The appropriation for educational purposes for the Indians is considerably increased, and special provision made for the education of the deaf, dumb and blind children, who have heretofore been unprovided for. There is also a specific appropriation for educational purposes among the Papago and Navajo Indians. These Indians heretofore have been neglected and several thousand Indian children among these Indians are without school facilities.

On the recommendation of the Indian bureau large reimbursable appropriations have been provided in this bill for industrial work among Indians. These reimbursable appropriations will amount to more than \$700,000. The Indians have heretofore been allotted land but they have not been provided with tools and general farm equipment. This appropriation will enable the commissioner of Indian affairs to improve stock conditions and place herds of cattle on a number of Indian reservations. It is expected that this appropriation will aid very materially the industrial activities among the Indians of the country and go far towards developing their self-support.

This bill carries a somewhat reduced amount for irrigation work on Indian reservations and contains a clause which will require detailed information regarding each of these projects to be furnished congress at its next session. The Indian irrigation projects have heretofore been appropriated for and constructed largely without adequate detailed information, and it is expected at the next session of congress that the Indian office will furnish a complete statement regarding each of these projects so that congress may have a thorough understanding of conditions on each of the reservations where irrigation projects are being constructed. It is also expected that the information obtained from these reports will result in procuring administrative legislative action which will protect more securely the water rights of the Indians of the country.

There is included in the bill an appropriation of \$85,000 to cover salaries and expenses of probate attorneys under the direction of the commissioner in the working out of probate reforms for the protection of the property of Indian children in Oklahoma, which will be done in harmony with rules of probate procedure adopted at a conference of the county judges with the commissioner of Indian affairs held in January and recently adopted and promulgated by the justices of the supreme court.

The bill also carries \$100,000 to support a widespread and aggressive campaign for the suppression of the liquor traffic among Indians.

The bill gives the commissioner six confidential inspectors with special civil service qualifications. It is expected that this appropriation will result in thorough investigations being made on Indian reservations and throughout the Indian country generally that he may be advised of the actual conditions as a basis for their effective reform.

The bill provides for the consolidation of the offices of the five civilized tribes and the union agency and with it a reduction of \$50,000 over