

The Work of the President's Cabinet

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RECLAMATION SERVICE

"Get Together" is the slogan of Secretary Lane in all the activities of the reclamation service. It is the rallying cry not only for the executive and field forces but for all the individual farmers now living on the government projects.

A policy of broad and intelligent sympathy towards the people who have taken up homes on the public domain has characterized his administration from the beginning. This policy has developed a hearty spirit of co-operation on all the projects.

Encouragement has been given in many ways toward the development of a community spirit which is apparent in the successful initiation of numerous enterprises for producing and marketing, in consolidation of schools, in good roads work in town and county planning for improvements of all kinds and in the promotion of the most agreeable and pleasing conditions of social life.

By reason of his personal interest in the welfare of the settlers, Secretary Lane has secured the active aid of the valuable forces of the department of agriculture, and a number of its experts are permanently located on the projects as advisors and counselors. Numerous tracts of land have been set aside for demonstration farms, for consolidated schools in which elementary agriculture is taught and for libraries and other public and community buildings.

Under these stimulating influences, the settlers are buckling down to real work. They are making the great desert blossom. In the history of national reclamation, no greater progress in agricultural development has been made than during the past two years.

The reclamation service is a highly organized bureau, and the magnitude and efficiency of its work has been commended by leading engineers of this and foreign countries. Although only a young bureau, its record of excavations of rock and earth amounts to the magnificent total of 113,300,000 cubic yards. It has dug 24 miles of tunnels, mostly in the mountain country. Its canals now have a length of 8,000 miles and its drains 548 miles. Its reservoirs annually store 5,460,510 acre feet, or more than enough to submerge the state of Massachusetts a foot deep. It has built 733 miles of wagon road, it has built and operates 78 miles of railroad, 2,376 miles of telephone lines, 374 miles of transmission lines. It has constructed 1,018 buildings such as powerhouses, pumping stations, residences, etc.

The irrigable area of the projects now under irrigation or completed, embraces nearly 3,000,000 acres divided into 60,000 farms which will support 300,000 people. The area supplied with water this season produced a crop valued at more than \$15,000,000, an average of \$25 for each acre cropped. This yield, while by no means the ultimate return which will reward the irrigation farmer after his lands are properly prepared, is a fair showing when compared with the average for all farms in this country, or \$16.30 per acre.

An especially important result of Secretary Lane's policy of co-operation is becoming evident in the closer relations which now exist between the several western states and the federal government in co-ordinating all forces toward the larger development of the natural resources. It is a distinct departure from past conditions for the states and the government, with joint appropriations, to undertake huge enterprises. It is also a splendid commendation of the federal bureau whose services are thus demanded for the actual prosecution of this important work.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOOT-AND-MOUTH SITUATION ENCOURAGING IN SEVERAL QUARANTINED STATES

The secretary of agriculture signed an order on November 20 lifting the quarantine against Canada on account of the foot-and-mouth disease, and this is regarded as encouraging evidence that the authorities are "on the outside of the disease." This means that there are grounds for the belief that quarantines already

declared have been sufficient to stop the movement of infected cattle and that the disease can now be held within the limits of the areas already quarantined. It is quite possible, of course, that sporadic cases may be found in one or two more states, but it is hoped that even if this does occur the damage will not be serious.

At the present time the states most seriously affected are Ohio, northern Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. These are all feeding states; that is, states in which farmers make a practice of buying cattle and swine and finishing them for market. The quarantines, which not only prohibit the export and import of live stock from infected states, but also the import of cattle from uninfected areas for any purpose except immediate slaughter, interfere, of course, with this business. This implies considerable loss to the farmer in addition to the expense incurred by the government in the slaughter of the actually infected herds.

Outside of this belt the three New England states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts are perhaps the subject of as great concern as any. These are small, densely-populated states. Although the actual number of cattle already infected is comparatively small, it will probably be some time before any of the quarantines can be lifted in this region.

HUMAN HEALTH AND THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The anxiety that has been expressed in several quarters in regard to the effect upon human health of the present outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease is regarded by government authorities as somewhat exaggerated. The most common fear is that the milk supply might become contaminated, but in view of the precautions that the local authorities in the infected areas are very generally taking, there is comparatively little danger of this. Milk from infected farms is not permitted to be shipped at all. The only danger is, therefore, that before the disease has manifested itself some infected milk might reach the market. For this reason experts in the department recommend pasteurization. As a matter of fact, however, pasteurization is recommended by the department any way, for all milk that is not very high grade and from tuberculin-tested cows.

In this country the foot-and-mouth disease has been so rare that there are few recorded cases of its transmission to human beings. In 1902 a few cases were reported in New England and in 1908 in a few instances eruptions were found in the mouths of children, which were believed to have been caused by contaminated milk. In both of these outbreaks the sale of milk was stopped as soon as the disease was found among the cattle. As long, therefore, as the disease can be confined by rigid quarantine to certain specified areas the danger from this source is very small. Should the pestilence spread all over this country and become as general as it has been at various times in large areas in Europe, the problem would become more serious. Under any circumstances, however, pasteurization would be an efficient remedy. Where pasteurization is not possible, and where there is any reason to suspect that the disease may exist the precaution of boiling milk might be advisable.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY MARKET UPSET BY MISUNDERSTANDING

An entirely erroneous impression that the federal government, in quarantining for the foot and mouth disease, has prevented the shipment of dressed poultry into or out of quarantined states has had a very serious effect on the turkey industry of the United States, according to the poultry specialists of the department. Studies of the Thanksgiving turkey markets in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia indicated that the turkeys were somewhat scarce, and as a result prices ruled high on a very firm market. All that saved a great scarcity was the fact that there were a quantity of turkeys in excellent condition held over in cold storage from last December. This somewhat relieved the pressure.

The department, wishing to save farmers in the important turkey-growing states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Indiana and Illinois, reiterates its previous announcement that there is no federal quarantine or restriction on shipping dressed turkeys or other poultry from uninfected farms in quarantined states, and absolutely no federal restriction as to shipment

of dressed poultry into quarantined states. The federal authorities are, of course, opposed to the movement of any produce from a farm which is quarantined because of the actual presence on the farm of the foot-and-mouth disease.

In all these cases, however, the state authorities, in addition to the general county and federal quarantines, put a rigid quarantine around the farms actually infected. The number of farms so quarantined, however, is so small as not to affect appreciably the poultry supply of the country.

TO PREVENT DANGER FROM GRAIN-DUST EXPLOSIONS

Because of the damage that has been done in the past by explosions in grain mills and in industrial plants, the public is urged to report every occurrence of this kind, no matter how small the explosion may be, to the Bureau of Chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In co-operation with the bureau of mines of the department of the Interior, the bureau of chemistry is now making a study of the explosibility of grain and other forms of carbonaceous dusts, except coal dust, which is being investigated by the former bureau. Up to the present a great deal of difficulty has been experienced in obtaining definite reports of the explosions at the time of their occurrence. Mill owners, superintendents, and the public in general can, therefore, be of material assistance by sending in full information in regard to every explosion with the least possible delay.

TO BREAK UP THE TRAFFIC IN BAD EGGS

Federal, state and city authorities are now actively co-operating in Illinois to put an end to the illegal traffic in rotten eggs. From evidence already gathered, there seems to be a definite market in Chicago for "rots and spots" at \$2.00 a case of 30 dozen. In consequence, rots and spots from all over the surrounding country have been coming into Chicago in large numbers. In the past, the delay necessary to secure authorization from Washington to make the seizures under the Federal Food and Drugs act has proved a serious handicap in breaking up the traffic. With the co-operation of the state authorities, however, the delay is now largely obviated.

Under the detention section of the state law governing this matter, state inspectors are able to hold suspicious shipments for examination and further investigation. The state authorities being on the spot are able to act with great promptness. In this way not only are seizures made possible, but the necessary steps toward criminal prosecution are also facilitated. One of the firms in Chicago handling these bad eggs has already been tried by a state court and found guilty. Shipments of bad eggs are also being reported to the authorities in Chicago by federal, state and city inspectors in other states, in order that these eggs may be traced to their ultimate destination.

QUARANTINE AGAINST CANADIAN POTATOES LIFTED

The quarantine against Canadian potatoes, which was laid December 22, 1913, has been lifted. Hereafter Canadian potatoes will be permitted to enter the United States upon compliance with the regulations governing the importation of potatoes, issued by the secretary of agriculture, December 30, 1913, as modified by Plant Quarantine Decision No. 7, issued November 30, 1914. Decision No. 7, provides that, in the case of foreign countries contiguous to the United States, potatoes that have been grown from clean seed, on land which has not produced a diseased crop, or that have not been inspected and certified under regulations approved by the federal horticultural board, may be admitted.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NEW SHIPS NEEDED

The special present point of interest in the department of commerce is the earnest appeal of the secretary that funds shall be provided to do away with three old worn out and unsafe ships in the coast and geodetic survey, and to provide that service with the necessary equipment to make surveys in the dangerous waters of the northwest and Alaska, in order to stop the appalling series of wrecks that have taken place on that coast.

The American people do not understand that their government is obliged for lack of money to