

WHEAT OFF SIXTY MILLION BUSHEL

Condition of Crop Shows Improvement, but Acreage is Smallest for Years.

FAR BELOW BUMPER YEAR

BULLETIN.
Nebraska Sixty Per Cent.
Condition and estimated production in important producing states follow:

State	Product	Condition	Forecast
Nebraska	Wheat	60	21,472,000
Ohio	Wheat	82	28,198,000
Indiana	Wheat	69	22,840,000
Illinois	Wheat	54	18,271,000
Missouri	Wheat	64	18,322,000
Kansas	Wheat	59	42,696,000
Oklahoma	Wheat	79	21,784,000

Washington, May 8.—In the face of a threatened world food shortage the American winter wheat crop shows the lowest condition recorded since 1888 and promised a smaller yield than any other since 1904.

Agricultural conditions otherwise are good, the department announced, and it recalled that although the winter wheat crop of 1912 showed an equally discouraging outlook the total production of crops that year was the greatest on record.

The crop, planted last autumn on one of the largest acreages ever sown to that grain, but which met disaster in several important producing states from severe winter conditions, now promises a harvest of 366,116,000 bushels this year.

That quantity was forecast today by the Department of Agriculture which based its estimate on the condition of the crop May 1 as reported by the thousands of agents throughout the grain belt.

Big Decrease in Month.
A month ago a crop of 430,000,000 bushels was forecast. Production last year was 481,744,000 bushels and in 1915 it was 673,947,000 bushels.

On May 1 the area of winter wheat to be harvested was about 271,653,000 acres, compared with 400,090,000 acres sown last autumn and 34,829,000 acres harvested last year.

The condition of the crop on May 1 was 73.2 per cent of a normal, compared with 63.4 on April 1, 82.4 on May 1 last year and 86.6, the average of the last ten years on May 1.

Hay and Pastures.
Meadow (hay) lands: Condition 88.7 per cent of a normal, compared with 88.4 on May 1 last year and 87.9 the ten-year May 1 average.

Hay: Stocks of hay on farms May 1 are estimated at 12,488,000 tons, or 11.4 per cent of last year's crop, against 14,452,000 tons, or 13.5 per cent, on May 1 last year; and 10,827,000 tons, or 12.5 per cent, the five-year average on May 1.

Pastures: Condition 81.9 per cent of a normal, against 85.2 on May 1 last year and 85.2 the ten-year May 1 average.

Spring Work Well Along.
Spring plowing: Was 72.4 per cent completed up to May 1, compared with 70.4 on May 1 last year and 69.3 the ten-year May 1 average.

Spring planting: Was 88.7 per cent completed up to May 1, compared with 86.7 on May 1 last year, and 86.3 the ten-year May 1 average.

Nebraska Conditions Reviewed.
Aaron E. Anderson, field agent, gives the following general review of crop conditions in Nebraska, May 1:

Most of the counties will have a little winter wheat, ranging from the occasional field to a better condition in a few of the less important counties where possibly one-third to one-half of the acreage will be left. Many of the most important counties will have practically no wheat. In eastern counties farmers have not yet decided whether to plow up the wheat fields or to leave them. If many of these fields do not show at least a fair prospect by the latter part of the month they will be planted to corn. The condition of the wheat in the eastern counties is very bad. Even some of the better fields are nearly a month late, weedy, thin stand, and with many of the underground stems so badly damaged that it is doubtful if many of them can carry the necessary nourishment from the soil. At best, the yield will be light and with unfavorable weather it may be almost nothing. In the western part of the state, the condition of a part of the wheat is fairly good. In the central part of the state where we have the large acreage, there is practically no wheat upon which to report condition.

Damage to Alfalfa.
Even the 1916 was more or less damaged and many reports indicate a certain percentage of abandonment. The condition of the alfalfa left for harvest is low but is improving.

The abandonment of alfalfa will be very large, but the extent is yet doubtful. The greatest damage appears to be confined to a strip east and west through the center of the state which includes many of the most important counties, but reports indicate damage over the entire state. Fields over three and four years killed out worst. The extent of the damage to last year's alfalfa depends upon the quantity of moisture which was conserved previously to seeding. Red clover killed out badly. From a study of many field conditions, both clover and alfalfa was damaged by the drought and freezing.

The supply of hay on farms is perhaps the lowest for some time. The shipments were much larger than usual, but not equal to the demand.

Farmers are delayed with the plowing, due to a late spring, rains, extra large per cent of work to be done, and the shortage of necessary power. Practically all small grain is seeded and corn planting has begun. With a large increased acreage, this means a very busy month. Pastures are backward.

Federal Aid Will Be Given To Revive River Traffic

St. Louis, May 8.—Promise that the federal government would give financial aid to the immediate rehabilitation of river transportation was given to the river conference here today by Brigadier General William Black, chief of engineers of the United States army.

General Black said that he was asked by Secretary of War Baker to urge on the conference the immediate revival of river traffic.

The federal shipping board has authority, he said, to use some of its funds in the revival of this traffic and would be willing to loan money for the immediate establishment of barge and steamboat lines.

The War department, the shipping board and the Council of National Defense, he added, were impressed with the urgency of rehabilitating river transportation.

Millionaire Banker of Los Angeles Expires Suddenly

Los Angeles, May 8.—Otho S. Houston, millionaire banker and principal owner of about twenty banks in Texas, two of them in Fort Worth, was stricken with apoplexy in his office here today and died within a few minutes. He was a nephew of General Sam Houston and a distant relative of David F. Houston, secretary of agriculture.

OUTLOOK GRAVE, SAYS HERBERT HOOVER

Submarine destruction has been steadily increasing for six weeks. The situation is one of extreme gravity, make sure of that." This was the warning of Herbert C. Hoover, who is to be America's food dictator, on his arrival in the United States from France. "The European food situation as well as the general war situation there requires every possible effort we can make," he said. "What Europe needs most is wheat, and it must have wheat; but it must also have beef and pork products. We have landed only 60,000 tons of food in Belgium during March and April. Deaths greatly increased. The babies were cared for first. They did not die. It was the adults, the old people, the mothers, who suffered. The relief commission has only thirty vessels. It should have seventy to feed Belgium alone."



Federal Council of Protestant Churches Outlines War Program

Washington, May 8.—A special war program of action for virtually all "Protestant churches in the United States was formulated today by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and will be embodied in an address to the churches to be issued tomorrow.

Among the proposals for this program, presented in committee reports today, were the following:

- National prohibition as a war measure.
- Practical economy by individuals and families.
- Co-operation of the churches with the Red Cross in war relief.
- Declaration against lowering of labor standards under war stress.
- Co-operation of all churches through a committee of the federal council with the War and Navy departments to supply the most efficient ministers as chaplains.
- Action by churches and the Young Men's Christian association to promote a moral and religious atmosphere about the new army.

Hundred Millions Is Paid To France

Washington, May 8.—France today received the \$100,000,000 the United States has decided to lend it to meet its expenses in this country during May. The amount was transferred by Secretary McAdoo to Ambassador Jusserand today by treasury warrants.

LANSING PUTS GAG ON ALL OFFICIALS

Subordinates Who Give Information to Papers Will Be Dismissed.

FORMS "NEWS" BUREAU

Washington, May 8.—Secretary Lansing today followed up the State department gag order, which forbids any other official there to give information to the public, with a statement that any other official who gave out information conveying a criticism of the department's policies would be dismissed.

Mr. Lansing reiterated that the giving of information to the public through the newspapers would hereafter be restricted to himself and the newly created bureau of foreign intelligence.

Secretary Lansing said he had forbidden officials to talk with newspaper correspondents because he was dissatisfied with having information come from many different channels and perhaps from contrary points of view. He intended, he said, to centralize all information, even as to details, in the bureau of foreign intelligence.

Nails Lid Down.
Apart from what was given out by the bureau or by himself, the secretary said no information would be allowed to reach the public through the State department.

Secretary Lansing was pressed for an instance of where information harmful to the best interests of the country had thus been published. He said that as yet no serious cause had occurred, but he was much afraid that this would occur shortly.

Secretary Lansing stated that the press would have to content itself with what the bureau of foreign intelligence gives out. That bureau, he said, would handle everything in the international field; all subjects connected with the war—in short, everything.

Censors Inexperienced.

The bureau is manned by two officials. The chief of the bureau is without newspaper experience and his assistant has been in foreign fields—Cuba, China and England—for several years. The bureau also has the task of supplying American missions abroad with information.

Under the new order a State department official is prevented from giving the public even such information as that of personalities of distinguished foreigners, who come to the United States on missions. The news gatherers have access only to the officially censored announcements of the department.

Senate Takes Up Spy Bill Behind Closed Doors

Washington, May 8.—The senate closed its doors again today when it took up the embargo section of the espionage bill.

The section, as desired by the administration, was virtually agreed to last night when Senator La Follette proposed an amendment forbidding an embargo to nations which consume American exports themselves and did not allow them to get to enemy countries; and provided that the embargo should not be used to coerce neutral nations.

ARMY BILL MAY GO BACK TO CONGRESS

Joint Conference Committee in Deadlock Over Important Amendments.

WORK ON IT IS SUSPENDED

Washington, May 8.—Conferees on the army bill today fell into such a deadlock over the amendment to permit sending of Colonel Roosevelt's division to France that they suspended work and considered returning the bill to house and senate and asking for instructions.

The prohibition amendment, the age limits for the selective conscription and the amendments for raising volunteer patrol regiments for the Mexican border also are stumbling blocks.

Teachers Describe the Ideal Perfect Woman

Liverpool, April 30.—"The Perfect Woman" has just been defined by a conference here of teachers from girls' schools throughout England. Here is the result of their united efforts:

"The perfect woman is 40 years old, is married, and is the mother of five children. She is in happy circumstances, living in a beautiful part of the country a few miles from a big town. She is the center of a good home, in which there is a high standard of cleanliness and comfort, and where good taste is everywhere visible in furniture, carpets, curtains, wall paper, ornaments, clothes."

"The ideal woman is sensible and business-like, and her home is a place of peace. She is patriotic and interested in politics, and does all she can to remove the causes of suffering among the poor. She is a delightful companion, and has a gift for friendship. She is a religious woman, and tries to fulfill her duty toward God and toward other people."

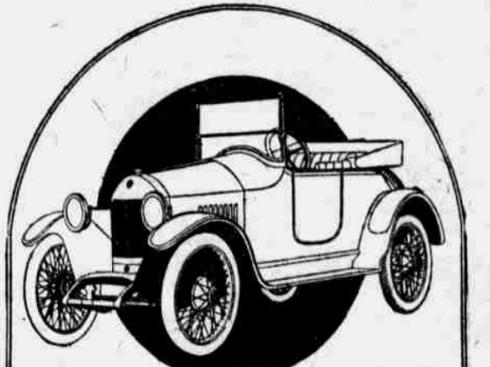
"She takes walks, rides bicycles, climbs, swims, dances, skates, rows, and plays games. She can ride a horse and drive a motor car. She is proficient in many branches of practical learning. She can do anything and everything about the house. She has some knowledge of the law, knows how to invest money, can use a typewriter. She is a great reader; every day she reads some serious book as well as a newspaper and a novel. She speaks three languages besides her own and reads foreign books. She is fond of gardening and has learned several crafts—wood carving, metal-work, bookbinding and embroidery."

Steel Corporation Takes Big Slice of the Liberty Loan

New York, May 8.—The United States Steel corporation will subscribe \$25,000,000 to the liberty loan, the largest single subscription yet announced. Officials of the corporation in making known today intention to subscribe for this amount intimated it probably would be increased by an aggregate of subscriptions from the employees of the corporation.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Arthur Herring, aged 9, son of Attorney Herring of the Board of Education, has left his school in St. Louis to work on a farm in northern Minnesota.



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