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WHEAT CROP OF NORTHWEST IS ESTIMATED AT \$108,000,000

BY HYMAN H. COHEN
(Written for the United Press)
Portland, Ore., July 21.—Aside from the other grain crops, the production of wheat alone in the three Pacific Northwest states today indicates a total value of \$108,000,000 compared with an estimated value of \$75,000,000 of the 1916 crop in the same sections. Many more millions of dollars will be added to the grand total value of the northwest cereal crop by oats and barley which promise to show unusual values.

While the general cereal crops of the three states will be somewhat below that of the bumper production of 1916, still Oregon, Idaho and Washington growers are promised a far greater sum for their year's labor than ever before known. In fact this much is already assured.

The total wheat crop of the three northwest states was greatly curtailed by the protracted dry weather. June and July of this year are the driest known to the interior for many years, despite the long extended cold and rainy spell in the spring.

Crops suffered rather severely for this reason. Had the bulk of the plant-

ing of wheat been done in the fall and winter months, the 1917 crop situation would have been materially changed—production reaching record figures.

Oregon, Idaho and Washington are essentially fall wheat growing sections. At least fall planting generally produces a far greater average per acre than the spring wheat; this being due entirely to the fact that the interior which grows most of the grain usually runs shy of moisture. If the crop is extremely late as shown during the present season, there is much danger of the spring planting being severely damaged by hot winds and protracted drought. It was the spring wheat that is bearing the brunt of the hot weather attack this season more so than usual because the dry spell was not only longer continued but it caught the spring grain just as it was really in need of added precipitation in order to show good growth.

A rainfall during the last week would have added at least \$10,000,000 to the value of the wheat crop in Oregon, Idaho and Washington and the coarse grains in some sections would also have been directly benefited.

While Washington and Idaho normally plant considerable spring wheat and those states therefore suffered less in proportion than did Oregon, this state as a rule puts in most of its grain during the fall months. At least the best results are secured from

such planting.

In the Columbia river counties the damage by hot weather was great. There is much real good wheat in Gilliam, Morrow and Deschutes counties, but the percentage is much below normal. In Sherman county there was also a greater planting of spring wheat than normal, but the prospects there are considered within 10 per cent of a year ago. In Umatilla county, the banner wheat section of Oregon, the outlook is badly mixed. Around Echo, the situation is not good; it is within a fraction of normal in the Pilot Rock country and is damaged perhaps 20 per cent from the ordinary year around Athena and on the Umatilla reservation proper. Further east, up toward Weston and around Milton, the outlook is improved; in fact this improvement reaches into the counties of Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield in Washington. In none of these sections, however, with the exception perhaps of Columbia will the production reach more than 85 per cent of the normal while in Columbia the production will show a loss of but 5 to 10 per cent.

In Whitman county, Wash., the spring seeding was unusually extensive and here the damage was increased by hot winds. Spokane county shows almost a normal crop while in the Big Bend district the production has been cut at least 20 per cent during the last 10 days.

In Idaho the showing around Latah county is for a loss of 10 to 15 per cent, due to the greater spring planting than normal. In the Lewiston country the crop has been hit about the same proportion. Up on Camas prairie, the planting consists of fully 90 per cent spring sowing and this has been damaged 20 to 35 per cent during the last week or 10 days.

East of Pendleton the showing has been rather poor during the last few

days. Baker and Wallowa counties show losses of about 20 per cent during that period.

In the Willamette valley the crop promises but 2,000,000 bushels, due both to the greater spring seeding and the dry weather.

Should there be a rainfall in the interior during the next few days it would add a number of million bushels to the grand total, and severe hot winds will cut down the yield an equal amount.

CORPORATION COMMISSIONER MAKES HIS ANNUAL REPORT

Salem, July 21.—(Special)—Corporation Commissioner H. J. Schulderman reports a further saving in expenses and a steady increase of business of the Corporation Department. In a comparison made of the expenses incurred and business done the result shows that more business has been handled for the State and at much less cost per cent than during any like period in the history of the department.

During the fiscal year, July 1, 1914, to June 30, 1915, the operating expenses of the Corporation Department amounted to \$19,961.77. The expenses for the following year, the first full fiscal year under Mr. Schulderman's administration, were \$16,120.86, a saving effected by the present Commissioner of \$3,840.91. The expenses of the Department for the year just ended, July 1, 1916, to June 30, 1917, show a further reduction to \$15,608.95, a saving of \$4,352.82 as compared with two years ago.

During the first year from July 1, 1914, to June 30, 1915 the receipts were \$189,105.61; for the fiscal year July 1, 1915, to June 30, 1916, the receipts amounted to \$199,356.70; and during the fiscal year of July 1, 1916, to June 30, 1917, the receipts of the Department were \$203,318.30. This comparison shows that the business of the Department has increased \$14,212.69 during the past year over the same period of time two years ago.

During the past year the operating expense of the Department has been 7.7 per cent of its revenue received, which sets a new record in the cost of administration of any department.

Up to July 1st of this year the Corporation Commissioner had turned over to the State Treasurer \$187,709.35, to become a part of the general fund and as such to be used for other State expenses.

Principal among the corporations organized during the past year are 15 shipbuilding companies. These corporations represent a total authorized capital stock of \$5,952,000.

To Study Thrift.

New York, July 21.—(Special)—America will be the first nation in the world to re-write her text books so that the children of this country will be taught thrift in the school room. According to an announcement made today by the Thrift Education committee of the National Education association, radical innovations in the American school curricula are about to take place. The lives of James J. Hill, Marshall Field, John Wanamaker and other great American business men will be studied in the schools.

WOOD & COAL

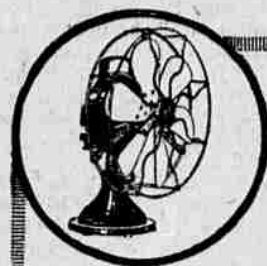
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23

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WEEK OF
MONDAY
JULY

23

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THE MIRACLE

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IGORROTE VILLAGE
ATHLETIC SHOW

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WONDERLAND
SPIDORA
BLUEY-BLUEY
HATTIE

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AURORA
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CAROUSAL
FERRIS WHEEL