

HIGH PRICES NO FAULT OF FARMER

Secretary Wilson Finds That Middleman Gets Big Share of Consumers' Cash.

1910 CROP MAKES RECORD

Corn Far Exceeds Previous Yields and Potatoes Seldom Have Excelled in Quantity—Valuable Discoveries Are Made.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The enormous value of the farm products of the United States in 1910—\$3,325,000,000—and a discussion of the share of the price paid by the consumer that is received by the farmer are features of the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, made public today.

The report concludes that there is no well-grounded complaint against the farmer for the high cost of living. The report discusses also the problems of reforestation and the economic value of the forest reserves.

High prices for commodities have attracted the attention of the farmer's opponent because various percentages of the consumer's price for farm products in the case of milk, in 73 cities distributed throughout the United States where the subject was investigated by the department, the farmer receives a scant 50 per cent, or one-half of the price paid by the consumer.

The milk wagon of the retailer has a long route, the report says. It stops at a house or two in one city block, perhaps passes several blocks without stopping, and so proceeds to the next town, thinly distributed along a route of miles.

At the same time the milk wagons of other retailers are covering various portions of the same route, and so there is a great waste of effort and expense in the distribution.

Farmer's Share Estimated. The farmer receives hardly more than half of the consumer's price in the case of poultry; 60 per cent in the case of eggs; cabbage 40 per cent when bought by the head and 50 per cent when bought by the pound; celery, 50 per cent when bought by the bunch.

The apple-grower receives 25 per cent of the consumer's price when the purchase is by the bushel, 30 per cent when by the barrel; the strawberry-grower gets 40 per cent of the consumer's price in purchases by the quart and 35 per cent when by the crate.

Among the many other products represented in the list are oats, with 74 per cent of the consumer's price going to the farmer when bought by the bushel; melons, 60 per cent when bought by the pound; parsnips, 50 per cent when bought by the bunch; potatoes, 50 per cent when bought by the bushel; string beans, 50 per cent when bought by the barrel; sweet potatoes, 50 per cent when bought by the barrel; turnips, 60 per cent in purchases by the bunch; watermelons, 24 per cent when bought singly.

The report says that the present year has been progressive without interruption. If the value of the products of 1909 is placed at 100, the value for this year is almost double the value for the census year 11 years ago.

Corn Crop Breaks Records. The corn crop of 1,113,311,000 bushels exceeds that of the record year 1908 and is greater than the average crop of the preceding five years by 14 per cent. While the value of this corn crop is less than that of 1909 and also of 1908, the amount belongs to stories of magic. It can hardly be reckoned as less than \$1,500,000,000, a sum sufficient to cancel the present-bearing debt of the United States, buy all of the gold and silver mined in all of the countries of the earth in 1909, and still leave to the farmers a little pocket money.

All of the cereals except corn are together worth only three-fourths as much as that crop. The great allied iron and steel industries had, in the latest census year for which results have been published, 1904, a production worth only 60 per cent of the value of this year's corn crop.

The value of the hay crop is about \$720,000,000, an amount which has been exceeded but once, and that in 1907; it is 13 per cent above the average of the preceding five years.

Fortunately the wheat crop is divided into two seasons, Autumn and Spring, so that the two crops are subject to different climatic accidents as well as the crop of the year. The production of Spring and Winter wheat is 691,757,000 bushels, or substantially the average of the preceding five years, whereas the value is about \$225,000,000, or 74 per cent above the five-year average.

Next in order of value is the potato crop, which has been exceeded only in two or three former years. With the exception of the crop of 1909, which was in a degree an overproduction, the crop of this year is the largest ever grown in this country, the preliminary estimate of the department is 228,757,000 bushels, or 5 per cent above the average of the preceding five years.

The farm value of the cereal crops declined \$230,000,000 in 1910 from 1909 and the value of all crops declined \$13,989,000. A gain was made, however, in the value of animal products amounting to \$124,000,000. It has been a year of high prices for meat and animals, for poultry and eggs, and for milk and butter, and for these reasons the total value of all farm products increased in 1910 \$304,000,000 above the estimate for 1909.

hand. At last the products are started on their way to the consumer. The railroad, however, again adds a percentage of increase to the farmer's price that is not large. After delivery by the railroad the products are stored a short time, are measured into the various retail quantities, more or less small, and the dealers are rid of them as soon as possible. The dealers here take that are practically small, except credit sales, and such risks as grow out of their trying to do an amount of business which is small as compared with their number.

Production per acre is beginning to overtake increase of people, declares the Secretary of Agriculture, in discussing one of the features of his report. "The evidence is very plain that the yields per acre of our crops are now increasing, and if the facts were assembled in detail for the states it would be found that the percentage of increase in yield of many of them is greater than the percentage of normal increase of population—that is, the increase of births over deaths in the old native element."

The Secretary while in hearty accord with the general proposition to provide better facilities for work in the interest of the public health, expresses himself as opposed to any plan which will remove from the Department of Agriculture the inspection work involved in the enforcement of the food and drug act. "It is our policy," he says, "to see nothing of certain plans which would take away the biological and entomological work of the department."

With reference to its investigations of fruit-growing, the report says: "The investigation and study of fruit diseases has shown a healthy progress. The new methods of spraying with sulphur compounds worked out by the pathologists of the department has been widely adopted by apple-growers. The investigation secured against fungus diseases without the injurious effect resulting from copper acetate. Bordeaux mixture is still being used, but in the spraying of apples it has taken second place. Special attention has been given to experimental work in perfecting the method of using the new sulphur sprays on the spot and leaf diseases. As a result, fruit-growers who have used the new sprays have secured fine crops of the best quality over the country. The peach-growers of Virginia, West Virginia, and Georgia have been prompt to adopt the discovery of spraying with self-boiled kerosene for brown rot and scab, which has resulted in the removal of some of the most serious and the growing of this fruit unharmed. The pear blight eradication methods have been in extensive use on the Pacific Coast."

Hay Is Cured Artificially. The department has tested, for the benefit of regions where the rainfall is untimely, a process of curing hay artificially. It has designed a drier that cures green alfalfa in 30 minutes at nominal cost. Its researches have resulted in discovering, among other things, a variety of alfalfa from Erivan, which is said to be longer lived than the Turkish; a species of Medicago, from the altitude of over 4000 feet, which is already being utilized in the work of creating new hybrid alfalfa for the Northwest; the Afghanistan apple and special varieties of pears for trial in the Gulf States; some remarkable olives, which have withstood zero temperatures and still borne good crops of fruit; seeds collected in the Caucasus from wild plants of the true Paradise apple, which is used as a dwarf stock for the purpose of obtaining seedlings not infected with crown gall and scab, a newly produced crabapple, reported to be a better keeper than American crabapples.

During the year forest fires burned over an area of 3,000,000 acres at a rough estimate at a loss of \$25,000,000 and the destruction of over 6,000,000 feet of timber. During 1909 the burned area was 2,204,000 acres as compared with 1,100,000 acres in 1908. It is charged that a considerable number of the fires were caused by incendiaries, which has led the department to offer a reward for the conviction of the incendiaries. Foremen and rangers are being employed by the department to reduce the fires to a minimum, such as the construction of roads and trails and the establishment of fire lines. During the year 16,000 miles of road and 16,000 miles of trail were completed.

It is estimated that there are about 15,000,000 horsepower of water power in the National forests, only an insignificant fraction of which has been controlled. The total of livestock of all kinds owned by the National forest rangers during the year under pay permits fell off 2.75 per cent in comparison with the previous year. This is the first year since regulated grazing began that there has been an increase. The cause of the drop is to be found in the reduction of the available range through eliminations of land found to be better suited to other uses than for forest purposes.

THURSTON HALL ENGAGED. As the Christmas holiday attraction at the Baker Theater Manager George L. Baker will present both the new leading man and the new second woman, in George Broadhurst's powerful play, "The Dollar Mark."

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McCorquodale Says All Moneys Due Farmers in Mail. McKinley Mitchell received a telegram yesterday from W. W. McCorquodale, a former commissioner of this city, who left rather suddenly about two weeks ago.

McCorquodale telegraphed from Chicago that he had just learned of the charges made against him in Portland, which he declared to be spite work on the part of his enemies. He says that all remittances due farmers are now in the mail. McCorquodale will go to New York today, where he will permanently reside, and give his New York address as the Cadillac Hotel.

Wright Chosen Mayor. UNION, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The city election Monday resulted in the election of the following officials: Mayor, L. A. Wright; Recorder, J. D. Wright; Treasurer, Oshorn Richins; Councilmen, C. J. Forstrom, W. H. Vogel, Marshal, H. M. Shannon; Street Commissioner, W. B. Harsh.

Bay City Has New Lighting Plant. BAY CITY, Or., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The opening of the new electric lighting plant marks another era in the upbuilding of Bay City. The United Railways has purchased large holdings at Bay City for terminals and warehouses.

Partner Waits for Her in Hotel Elevator, With Revolver. He Tries Suicide. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—Stopping the elevator midway between two floors of the hotel, Mrs. Bartley, who is the partner of James Whitley, fired four bullets into the body of Mrs. Julia Bartley today and then cut his throat and immersed himself in a filled bath tub. Both will die.

Mrs. Bartley, who is 35 years of age, is the divorced wife of Benjamin S. Bartley, a wealthy grocer of Oakland. Shortly after her divorce, she met Whitley in this city.

According to the story told the police by Whitley, he had deserted a wife and daughter in Grand Junction, Colo., just before he met Mrs. Bartley. From this city the two went to Salt Lake City with a stable of race horses.

Pair Buys Hotel. Returning here last August, they purchased the hotel where the shooting took place, and conducted it under the firm name of Whitley & Webb. Mrs. Bartley retaining her maiden name of Webb.

Complaining that she was annoyed by the attentions of certain male guests of the hotel, Mrs. Bartley brought J. W. Hudson to the hotel and introduced him as her brother, "J. W. Webb." Hudson was employed as a clerk in the hotel until yesterday, when, through the gossip of a woman guest, Whitley learned of the deception. Hudson was discharged and did not return to the hotel until the moment of the shooting.

Man Lies in Wait for Woman. According to the story of the police, Mrs. Bartley was out today and Whitley awaited her return in the elevator after relieving the operator. Without noticing that her partner was operating it, Mrs. Bartley entered the elevator, which was brought to a stop between the first and second floors. Telling her to kiss him good-bye, Whitley drew a revolver, and on her refusal to comply, fired five times, three bullets striking her in the abdomen and the fourth lodging in her chest. The fifth shot went wild.

Leaving the elevator, Whitley sent it, with its bleeding burden, to the top of the shaft, and rushed to Mrs. Bartley's room, where he cut his throat with a paper knife. Hotel employees and a patrolman forced open the door of Mrs. Bartley's room and found Whitley trying to drown himself in a bath tub.

WOMAN'S TO; SENT TO ROOF IN LIFT

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ACTORS IN TRAGEDY DYING

Jealous of Divorced Wife of Rich Grocer, Man Stops Cage of Their Hostelry to Beg Goodbye Kiss; Refused, He Fires.

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WHITLEY RICH FRUITGROWER. Man Who Shoots Woman Partner Well Known in Colorado. GRAND JUNCTION, Colo., Dec. 7.—James Whitley was prominent in Western Colorado as a fruit-grower and still owns valuable fruit farms near here. He also headed a syndicate of local men to take over the properties of the Amador Mines Company of Amador, Cal., and was president of the company until last year, when he sold out his holdings and retired from the management.

Whitley visited Grand Junction last July. Since leaving for the Pacific Coast, Mrs. Whitley has received letters from him at intervals, but she knew nothing of his relations with Mrs. Bartley. Mrs. Whitley and her daughter are prostrated over the tragedy.

Merchants' Association is composed of 45 of the largest mercantile firms and individual merchants in the city. C. M. Fassett Will Circle Globe. On his way to encircle the globe, Charles M. Fassett, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Spokane, Wash., accompanied by his wife and daughter, Kate, will arrive in this city this morning, having departed from his home city last night. Mr. Fassett will remain here for a few days visiting friends, and then will leave for San Francisco, and thence to Mrs. Bartley. Mrs. Whitley and her daughter are prostrated over the tragedy.

SENATORS FILE PROTEST. OBJECTION TO COLWELL IS ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. Opposition to Statement One Given as Reason—Ellis to See Taft, Upholding Appointment. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 7.—Senators Bourne and Chamberlain today filed with the chairman of the Senate judiciary committee a brief joint letter protesting against the confirmation of Elmer Colwell as United States Marshal for Oregon.

How far they intend to go to prevent Colwell's confirmation they will not say. They have not made any protest to the President, nor is it their present intention to do so. Evidently they are proceeding upon the assumption that their protest will be heard by Colwell's confirmation, but, as pointed out yesterday, the mere prevention of confirmation will not keep Colwell out of office so long as the President is behind him. His nomination must be rejected in order to remove him.

Senator Chamberlain said today that the protest against Colwell was based upon the general ground that in the judgment of the Senators he is incompetent. Pressed for specifications, he said that Colwell had been around the Legislature at Salem endeavoring to induce Statement 1 legislators to go back on their pledges and personally felt that any man who would urge another to violate his oath was not fit to be a United States Marshal. Bourne's objection to Colwell is reported to be on similar grounds, due primarily to Colwell's opposition to Statement 1.

Representative Ellis will call upon President Taft tomorrow and advise him that Colwell is in every way competent and worthy and will recommend that his nomination be kept before the Senate, where he will explain that opposition to Colwell is largely, if not entirely, based upon political grounds.

MERCHANTS WILL AID ELKS. Plan to Raise \$125,000 Entertainment Fund in Jorssel. The Portland Retail Merchants' Association last night endorsed the plan of the local lodge of the Elks to raise \$125,000 as a fund with which to entertain the delegates of the order, should they see fit to select Portland as their 1912 convention city. A resolution was unanimously passed after C. A. Whitmore, a prominent Elk and a member of the special committee appointed to gather the fund, had addressed the meeting. The Elks are jubilant as the Portland Retail Mer-

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SUSPENDERS 50c to \$4.00
BATH ROBES \$5.00 to \$12.50
NECKWEAR 50c to \$2.50
UMBRELLAS \$1.50 to \$12.50
HANDKERCHIEFS . . . 25c to \$1.00
PAJAMAS \$3.50 to \$6.00

Plenty of Courteous Salesmen who will give you all the time you require to make your selections. You avoid the crush of department stores by shopping here.

GREAT REDUCTIONS IN LADIES' MAN-TAILORED SUITS AND DRESSES

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SCHOOL ENLARGES SCOPE. Agriculture and Horticulture to Be Taught at Pearson's Academy. WALLA WALLA, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Radical changes will be made in Pearson's Academy, beginning with the Fall term of 1911, it having been decided to add courses in agriculture and horticulture, and to extend the scope of the school to take in pupils eligible to any grade above and including the sixth.

Compare Our Prices. With those you have been in the habit of paying, and you will see that we offer you a substantial saving on all work and you cannot get better value work anywhere, no matter how you pay.

Advertisement for Northern Pacific, featuring a train illustration and text about routes and fares. Includes 'Compare Our Prices' and 'Wise Dental Co., Inc. Painless Dentists'.