

CROPS RECORDED IN SIZE AND VALUE

Wheat Is Estimated at Nearly One Billion Dollars—All Crops \$5,568,773,000.

CORN MORE THAN 3 BILLION

Oats, Rye, Sweet Potatoes, Rice and Hay All Establish New Records, While Tobacco, Barley, Potatoes Fall Short.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The nation's harvests this year have surpassed any ever before recorded. The value of the principal farm crops, based on prices paid to farmers December 1, was announced today by the Department of Agriculture in its final estimate as \$5,568,773,000, making 1915 a banner year both in value and production of crops.

The unusual situation of extraordinary production and high prices, probably never before so pronounced, is credited principally to the European war. With the prices of grain soaring as the war progressed, American farmers began the season by planting greater areas to grain. The average of the principal crops this year aggregated approximately 484,578 square miles. That is larger than the combined area of Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Switzerland.

Corn was planted on 148,121,000 acres, the second largest area ever planted, and the harvest was 2,544,323,000 bushels, the second largest crop ever grown. Its value was \$1,733,339,000, exceeding that of the previous most valuable corn crop by \$27,000,000.

New Crops Make Record.

New records were made in production by wheat, oats, barley, rye, sweet potatoes, rice and hay. The production of wheat, the largest of the crops, reached 1,193,415,000 bushels made in 1915. Each of these crops, in addition, established records as being the most valuable ever grown except in the case of barley and tobacco.

Production of the first 1,000,000-bushel wheat harvest there ever before recorded, 2,500,000 bushels of corn crop were features of the year.

Wheat acreage aggregated 23,595,000 acres, or 6,000,000 more than ever before. The yield was 16.3 bushels an acre, the largest acre yield for winter and spring wheat combined ever attained in this country.

The final estimate of production was 1,011,959,000 bushels with a value of \$26,302,000. The crop exceeded last year's which was a record by more than 120,000,000 bushels and by \$44,000,000 in value.

Oats, rye, potatoes, sweet potatoes and tobacco all were planted on a cord area. Oats exceeded the record production of 1912 by 122,000,000 bushels, and its record value of 1914 by \$5,600,000. Barley production was 13,400,000 bushels more than the 1912 record crop and was worth \$4,900,000 more than the former most valuable crop grown in 1914. Rice passed the 1913 record by 200,000 bushels and its 1912 record value by \$1,700,000.

Hay Crops Never Equalled.

Sweet potatoes exceeded by 14,000,000 bushels the 1910 record, and were worth \$1,000,000 more than the 1913 value record. Hay showed a 12,000,000-bushel increase in the record production of 1912, and was worth \$2,000,000 more than the value record made that year. Tobacco, while growing on a record acreage, was worth 100,000,000 less than the record value year.

The potato crop received, perhaps, the most severe setback of the year. Farmers planted 1,000,000 more acres to potatoes, but the output was only 353,102,000 bushels. That was \$1,000,000 less than the record year and \$4,000,000 less than the year. The value of the crop, however, was \$22,000,000 more than last year.

10-HOUR DAY IS DENIED

PERMISSION REFUSED STORES TO WORK GIRLS LONGER IN RUSH.

Chamber Fails to Obtain Request, but Issue of Night Sales by New Force Not Touched On.

A request by the Chamber of Commerce that the Industrial Welfare Commission temporarily set aside its ruling that women employed in stores shall work only eight hours and 10 minutes a day, to permit them to work 10 hours during the week or 10 days preceding Christmas, was refused by the Commission yesterday.

One reason advanced by the Chamber for its request was that department stores desired to give work to unemployed women.

In the formal letter of reply the Commission points out that under the Chamber's proposal girls at present employed would work 10 hours a day, making a daily contribution to Portland employers of approximately 20,000 working hours during the Christmas rush, for which the girls would not be paid. It is further pointed out that this, rather than providing work for unemployed girls, would seem to have the contrary effect.

Many protests were received by letter and telephone by members of the Commission from working girls in the stores against granting of the request. The Consumers' League also made a formal protest.

Although the point was not touched on in the decision, it is worth noting that the Commission has not ruled whether employment of a separate force of girls to work after 8 o'clock might be permitted. The question of suspending the 8 o'clock ruling was touched in the Chamber's request, so it still is not passed on.

SLEUTH SEES DEATH TRIED

Bert Bridges Takes Poison While Talking to Detective.

While talking to Detective Ackerman at Chapman and Jefferson streets early last night, Bert Bridges, 31 years old, and the son of Mrs. J. B. Bridges, 483 Columbia street, attempted suicide by swallowing cyanide of potassium. The detective saw Bridges put a powder in his mouth, but thought nothing of it until Bridges said that he had taken poison.

The officer summoned the police patrol and took Bridges to the Emergency Hospital, where Dr. K. Lawton, the steward, attended him. Bridges is a brother-in-law of Dr. George Koehler. His father was a well-known contractor. Bridges' condition is critical.

SOME OF THE PROMINENT FIGURES AT BANKERS' CONVENTION IN PORTLAND YESTERDAY.



1—H. B. EVANS, CANBY. 2—EDWIN T. COMAN, SPOKANE. 3—WILLIAM G. TAIT, TILLAMOOK. 4—F. L. MEYERS, LA GRANDE. 5—A. C. SHUTE, HILLSBORO. 6—A. O. JONES, PORTLAND.

BIG PROFIT NOT AIM

Purpose of Reserve Banks to Stabilize Currency.

STOCK CUT IS PROPOSED

Bankers and Credit Men Hear Discussion Looking to Reduction of Subscription of Member Banks in Federal System.

FOUR IN CATTLE THEFT NET

Rancher Obtains Arrest of Men Slaying Wild Animals.

THREE SPEAKERS HEARD

Experience of Business Houses of Europe Shows Reliability of System—Rediscounting Privilege Aids Banks.

SWEETHEARTS TRY SUICIDE

Russian Girl Is Dead and Fiance Wounded as Result of Pact.

DIAMONDS ARE MISSING

Mr. Fletcher is making an inventory of all pledges on which the Elby Company, which to all intents and purposes was Mr. Rosenthal himself, has made loans.

MR. FINLEY IS 'STUCK'

Edgar H. Samsenich, cashier of the Northwestern National Bank, presided at the meeting. He, together with E. C. Sammons, assistant cashier of the Lumbermen's National Bank, and J. N. Edlefsen, cashier of the Peninsula National Bank, constituted a committee in charge of the meeting.

TRADE PAPER LIKED

Experts Indorse Substitution for Open Book Accounts.

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SEATTLE CANDIDATE OUT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ERIKSSON TO RUN FOR MAYOR.

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Public Ownership Is Platform and Has One Other Aspirant—Bill Gill May Make Opposing Contest.

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Advertisement for Woodward Clark Co. featuring various household items like cameras, irons, and sewing machines. Text includes: 'Our store will be open from 8 A. M. to 10 P. M. all this week. Trading Stamps are the careful shopper's handmaid. BUY A CAMERA NOW—All prices from \$22 to \$55. With every purchase of a Camera we give an absolutely free six weeks' course of instruction covering everything from developing of films to a lantern slide enlargements. This course starts after the first of the year. THE "DOVER" IS DIFFERENT. THE DOVER IRON does your ironing. It permits you to use it as a stove and heater, curling iron, The best combination of any on the market at the price. Unlimited guarantee. Stove Stand, Curling Iron Heater, \$3.50. A FINAL CLEAN-UP OF LIQUORS. 50c Dury Port Wine, extra 36c. 45c Old Tom Martin, full 49c. 45c Colmont, blend, extra 49c. 45c Monogram, very 33.00. \$11 Nine-Cup Machine Style \$9.50. FREE 10 STAMPS with all ice cream purchases in our Soda Fountain until we close at 9 P. M.

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Advertisement for Grape-Nuts cereal. Text includes: 'Experts Who Know—The Leading Hotel Stewards and Chefs of the World Use and Recommend Grape-Nuts. This splendid food is made of wheat and barley and contains the entire nutriment of these grains, including the priceless mineral elements so necessary for building and maintaining vigor of body and mind, but which are so often lacking in the usual dietary. A Suggestion—In stuffing your chicken, turkey, duck or goose for the Christmas dinner, try using one quarter Grape-Nuts and three-quarters bread crumbs, instead of all bread crumbs. You will be delighted with the crisp, nutty flavor imparted by this wholesome ingredient. Grape-Nuts food comes ready to eat direct from the package; and is nourishing, easily digestible, economical, delicious. "There's a Reason" Sold by Grocers Everywhere.