

# THE AMERICAN FARMER ROLLS IN RICHES THESE HAPPY DAYS

SECRETARY WILSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SAYS 1912 IS THE BEST YEAR YET—GREAT WEALTH COMES FROM SOIL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—After sixteen years, a record of service in the United States Department of Agriculture submitted today to President Wilson as head of the United States Department of Agriculture. The report is more than a review of the year's work; it contains a summary of the agricultural advance of the country during the venerable secretary's term of public service.

The record of sixteen years has been written, he says. "It begins with a yearly farm production of \$1,000,000,000 and ends with \$9,500,000,000. Sixteen years ago, the farmer was a joke of the caricaturist; he is like the stone that was rejected by the builder and has become the head stone of the corner." The soil of the country was burdened with debt, he adds, "but prosperity followed and grew with unexpected beginnings. There has been an increase in production per acre increasing more than the natural increase of population. There has been an upward movement of agriculture and of country life. During the past sixteen years the farmer has steadily increased the amount of production year by year, with the exception of 1911. During the sixteen years the farmer's wealth increased 141 per cent. The most productive of all agricultural years in the country has been 1912. The earth has produced its greatest annual dividend. The sun and the rain and the human control have heeded not the human control, but kept on working in cooperation with the farmer's efforts to utilize them. The prices at the farm are generally profitable and will continue the prosperity that farmers have enjoyed in recent years. The total production of farm wealth is the highest yet reached by half a billion dollars. The grand total for 1912 is estimated to be \$9,532,000,000. This is more than twice the value of the farm wealth in 1895. More than \$105,000,000,000 is the total of far wealth production, the report says, during the past sixteen years, an amount equal to about three-quarters of the present national wealth.

The most effective move toward increased cost of living is the production of greater crops, says the Secretary, and this move he declares is due to the work of the Department of Agriculture, colleges and experimental stations and to the help of the press in publishing every movement to help the farmer. The Nation, he adds, forgot its farmers in the general scheme of education of past years and philanthropists thought of them when giving for education, but they are waking up and thinking for themselves and congress has been slow to them.

The Secretary first takes up the work of the various bureaus of his department in the past year and then talks of the growth in some instances from their foundation, of these bureaus during the time he has been head of the department. He praises highly the experts who have worked under him.

"The great and growing movement carried on by the department for agricultural betterment," he declares, "has not been sustained solely by the man nor by a few men. A choice corps of scholarly experts in their special lines of endeavor has been growing in membership, in breadth of view, and in the practical application of their efforts."

"The department is prepared to continue and increase its public service. During sixteen years it has progressed from the kindergarten through the primary, middle and upper grades of development until now it has a thousand tongues that speak with authority."

From a department with 2,444 employees in 1897 and on appropriation of \$2,272,902, it has increased to 23,453 employees at the beginning of the present fiscal year with an appropriation this year of almost \$25,000,000. Whereas there are now 23,453 requests every week for department publications, there was but 100 in 1897; and during this period 23,000 copies have been distributed. The soil investigation an area of 623,000 square miles, equal to that of Germany, France, Great Britain, Ireland and Italy, has been covered. A field half as large again as Italy or nearly as large as either France or Germany is the area of this country's cornfield. This year's corn crop is the largest ever produced in this country, and reaches the staggering amount of \$1,149,000,000 bushels. In value, the corn crop of this year is the highest on record, and reaches the fabulous amount of \$1,759,000,000. This crop is worth to the farmer 20 per cent more than the average corn crop of the previous five years.

Hay has returned to its old place and is the crop that is second in value. The year was most productive for grass and hay, and the harvest of hay is measured by 22,425,000 tons. This is 16 per cent above the average crop of the previous five years. The value of this year's hay crop is \$861,000,000 and has never been equalled. It exceeds the five-year average by 21 per cent. The importance of this crop to the farmer is better realized when it is observed that its value is greater than that of the

directed efforts. If the by-products of beet sugar manufacture are included, the value of this industry in 1912 is about \$67,000,000.

The cane sugar industry fared badly on account of the Mississippi river flood. The production of sugar is the lowest since 1899, and the value of all the products of the industry is only about \$24,000,000.

If to the value of the products of the beet and cane sugar industries are added the value of the sorghum sirup and maple sugar and sirup made on farms, the total is about \$117,000,000.

The year 1912 was a record-breaking one for crop production and crop values. Only two crops had been exceeded twice in former production, and these are wheat and tobacco. Only two crops had been exceeded once in production, and these are cotton and rice. All of the other crops stand at high-water mark—all of the cereals but wheat and rice, the great hay crop, potatoes, flaxseed and beet sugar.

With respect to value, the only crops that have been exceeded three times are potatoes and cotton seed. The crops exceeded twice in value are wheat, cotton seed, tobacco and rye, and the crops that have been exceeded once in value are cotton lint, beet sugar, and buckwheat. All the other crops reached their highest value in 1912, and these include all of the cereals except wheat and rye, the prominent hay crop, flaxseed and beet-sugar by-products.

**Live Stock Products.**

The dairy cow is one of the principal producers of wealth on the farm and the value of her products in 1912 is estimated at about \$330,000,000, an amount which exceeds the value of the cotton lint and is nearly equal to the combined value of lint and seed. The wheat crop is worth only 3-4 as much as the dairy products.

The magnitude of the poultry industry is set forth. An egg may be worth only a cent and three-quarters, and yet 1,700,000,000 dozen eggs are worth \$350,000,000, and these are the estimates for 1912. If to the value mentioned is added the value of the fowls raised, the products of the poultry industry on farms amounts to about \$570,000,000. This is nearly equal to the value of the wheat crop and is more than three-fourths of the value of the cotton lint produced this year.

The animals sold from the farm and the animals slaughtered on it together number about 111,000,000, and the farm value of these animals is estimated at \$1,920,000,000.

The total value of the animal products of the farm in 1912 is estimated to be about \$3,395,000,000. This is a larger value than that of 1911, but is about \$150,000,000 below the estimate for 1910, which is the only year that exceeds 1912 in value of animal products produced on farms.

While animal products are about one-third of the wealth production on farms in 1912, the crops are about two-thirds. Their value is \$6,137,000,000, an amount which is vastly above the high water mark of total crop value in 1911.

The report states that there is a general agreement throughout the country that the cotton crop will be next to the largest one in production and is likely to exceed the average crop of the five preceding years. It is estimated that the lint cotton of 1912 may be worth \$735,000,000, an amount that exceeds that of 1911, although the crop of that year was much greater than this year's crop.

The seed out of the cotton crop of this year is estimated to be worth about \$117,000,000, or over 6 per cent more than the five-year average, but its value has been exceeded by the crops of three preceding years. The combined value of the cotton lint and seed is estimated to be \$860,000,000, or about one-half the value of the corn crop and a little less than the value of the hay crop. In value as well as in production the cotton crop of this year has been exceeded by only one year, and that was 1911 for production and 1910 for value.

The wheat crop is estimated to be worth \$596,000,000, an amount which was exceeded by the value of the crops of 1909 and 1908, but no other year. The quantity of the crop, 729,333,000 bushels, is 11.2 per cent greater than the average production of the previous five years and has been exceeded by the crops of only two years. It is only 15,000,000 bushels below the next higher crop and only 28,000,000 bushels below the highest production.

The oats crop is fifth in order of value. Although the price has declined, the production is so enormous that the value of the crop is estimated to be \$478,000,000, or a little more than one-half the value of the entire cotton crop. The remarkable production of 1,417,172,000 bushels, was 51.5 per cent greater than the average of the preceding five years.

The potato crop is another one of highest production. Its 414,232,000 bushels are above the five-year average by 29 per cent, but the crop is worth only \$190,000,000 on account of low prices. Three previous smaller crops have been more valuable.

With a production of 224,619,000 bushels, the barley crop far exceeds the largest one heretofore produced. It is 35.7 per cent above the average production of the five preceding years. The value of this year's crop, \$125,000,000, is below the value of the crop of 1911, although the production of that year was 64,000,000 bushels less.

The tobacco crop has not quite risen to the high level of production of most of the other crops, yet it amounts to 959,437,000 pounds and is 7.1 per cent above the average of the preceding five years. The price has risen somewhat, so that the total value of the crop, \$97,000,000, is about 11 per cent above the five-year average.

Flaxseed is the most valuable of the smaller crops, the amount for this year being about \$39,000,000, or 32.4 per cent above the average value of the five preceding crops. The production is 29,755,000 bushels.

Rye is one of the crops that remain nearly stationary in production. This year's crop contains 35,422,000 bushels and is the largest one produced. Its value is \$24,000,000.

The rice crop is about 8 to 10 per cent above the average production and would have been much greater had it not been damaged by the Mississippi river freshet. The value may amount to more than \$20,000,000.

The buckwheat crop is the largest since 1868 and amounts to 19,124,000 bushels, worth \$12,000,000. Extraordinary conditions of the world's hop market in 1911, on account of deficient European production, have not been repeated this year. It is estimated that the crop of 44,500,000 pounds is worth about \$11,000,000.

All of the cereals except wheat and rice, produced their largest crops in 1912 and, including those crops, made a gain of 25.6 per cent above the five year average. The total production of the seven cereals is 5,609,807,000 bushels—a bulk of food so large as to be entirely beyond understanding. The combined value of this great mass of cereals is a little over \$3,000,000,000 and is 15.8 per cent above the average of the previous 5 years.

Sugar beets and sugar cane are treated from the point of view of sugar manufacture. The raising of sugar beets for sugar making can hardly be regarded as being an established industry 16 years ago. Under the encouragement of the law, this department and other agencies promoted the growth of this industry. The latest fruition of all these efforts, declares the secretary, appears in the magnificent testimonial of the production of 1912. The beet sugar crop of 1899 amounted to 81,729 short tons. It increased to 218,406 tons in 1902, to 501,682 tons in 1909, and to 599,500 tons in 1911. The production of 1912 amounts to about 700,000 short tons, or a gain of about 100,000 tons over the preceding year. The beet sugar production of 1912 is about one-fifth of the national consumption of sugar, and, declares the report, illustrates what can be done under the protection of the law and in consequence of practical and well-

## Dec. 6

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## Daily Christmas Hint

Novel Decoration for the Holiday Dinner Table

The Jack Horner pie seen in the cut may serve as an inspiration for a Christmas centerpiece of home manufacture.

A pasteboard box will do admirably for the chimney, which forms the structure of the pie. The simulated chimney is then covered with red



JACK HORNER PIE

crisp paper, which in turn is treated to a decoration of artificial holly.

The gabled roof of the house is outlined with fringed tissue paper, symbolic of snow drifts.

A figure of Santa Claus peeps out from the chimney top, and in his hands he holds red ribbons, which inside the "pie" are attached to favors.

## An Appeal to Wives

You know the terrible affliction that comes to many homes from the result of a drinking husband or son. You know of the money wasted on "drink" that is needed in the home to purchase food and clothing. ORRINE has saved thousands of drinking men. It is a home treatment and can be given secretly. Your money will be refunded if, after a trial, it has failed to benefit. Costs only \$1.00 a box. Come in and get a free booklet and let us tell you of the good ORRINE is doing. Owl Prescription Pharmacy, Front street.