

1934 DROUGHT IS TAKEN IN STRIDE BY U. S. FARMERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The American farmer took the most devastating year since 1881 in his stride.

One year ago farm prices had been improved, credit was slightly looser, and cash a little freer, but back of such indications lay a fear that perhaps the bottom of the farm depression had not been reached.

Then in the spring of 1934 began the worst agricultural conditions the country ever had seen. Heat rose to record-breaking heights while rainfall declined to nothing over large areas. Twenty-seven states were affected seriously. Grasshoppers consumed thousands of acres of growing crops while chinch bugs sucked the moisture out of other thousands.

Yields of food grains and cotton were drastically reduced, production of feed, forage, and pasture declined to nothing over a wide area, and a heavy reduction in livestock numbers was made necessary.

Farmers' Income Rose

The drought, coupled with the farm administration's acreage curtailment, brought wheat production down to 497,000,000 bushels, the lowest since 1883, and the corn output to 1,372,000,000 bushels, smallest since 1881. Most other crops, except vegetables and fruits grown in restricted sections of the east and south, suffered in similar fashion.

Despite this calamity cash income of farmers totaled about \$6,000,000,000 for the calendar year, an increase of 19 per cent over the figure of \$5,067,000,000 for 1933 and 39 per cent above the low level of \$4,328,000,000 in 1932.

About \$550,000,000, or 10 per cent, of this increase came from cash benefit payments of the AAA in return for reductions in acreage; slightly more than \$100,000,000 came from emergency sale of cattle and sheep to the AAA; about \$10,000,000 came in payments for cattle destroyed by the government after they had been found to be tubercular or infected with Bang's disease. The remainder came from sale of farm products and non-farm work done by farmers and their families.

As drought damage continued to increase, prices of farm products dipped in response. Cotton rose from 9.5 cents a pound on the farm to 12.3 at the close of the year. Wheat went up from 70 cents a bushel to 90, corn increased from 40 to 75 per cent a bushel, and hogs from \$3.50 a hundredweight to \$5.00. Part of these increases was attributed to President Roosevelt's devaluation of the dollar.

Reduction Quotas Whittled

The index of all farm prices rose from 80 to 102, expressed in terms of the 1900-1914 average, thus touching and slightly exceeding the much-talked-of "parity" point toward which the AAA has been driving since it started a year and a half ago. These prices were not truly indicative, however, since prices paid by farmers went up from 110 to 130 and the ratio of prices received to prices paid up only from 69 to 81.

The farm administration, starting on its permanent program of adjusting production to the level of domestic demand plus whatever amounts can be sold abroad, announced for 1935 a 10 per cent reduction in wheat acreage instead of the 15 per cent in force during 1934, curtailment of cotton by 25 per cent compared to 40 per cent, slicing of corn production by 10 to 30 per cent instead of 20 to 30, and curtailment of hog numbers by 10 per cent instead of 25.

In addition the administration adopted a comprehensive national land policy and began its program of buying instead of renting land to take it out of production, having purchased about 5,000,000 acres of definitely submarginal land, moved the families living on them to better areas, and turned the land back to grass, forests, and game.

As outstanding developments was the new federal voluntary control of production on the part of farmers to compulsion under which cotton and tobacco farmers were given definite production allotments and taxed heavily if they attempted to market any goods in excess of their quotas.

While the new AAA was busy at its adjustments problems older divisions of the department of agriculture continued engrossed in their many-sided activities ranging from predicting tomorrow's weather to searching the Hymalayas and the Gobi desert of Asia for new grass plants.

The forest service, in addition to its regular work in conservation and forest management aided in directing the civilian conservation corps in thousands of far-flung camps and began work on the \$75,000,000 Canada-Texas shelterbelt of trees.

In the field of farm finance the farm credit administration practically halted the explosive mortgage foreclosures of 1933 and refinanced approximately \$1,342,920,513 in mortgage indebtedness while sealing down those debts by \$20,000,000.

Senate Upholds Tugwell

A plan which partially solved the controversial sugar problem was effected, dividing the United States' sugar consumption between domestic sugar producers, insular territories, and Cuba.

The administration failed to secure enactment of a new pure food and drug act, failed to enact the clarifying amendments to the agricultural adjustment act, and was unable to sell its plan for milk production control to dairy farmers. However, a major legislative victory was won in the confirmation by the senate of Rexford G. Tugwell as undersecretary of agriculture, and a start was made toward enacting new legislation regulating commodity exchanges.

With more than 5000 scientists and many scientific institutions, Washington, D. C., is now regarded as the scientific capital of the nation, if not of the world.

One-half of the population of France is engaged in agricultural pursuits, according to estimates.

The NEW YEAR

By BRUCE CATTON

WHY greet the New Year, if it is to be
A copy of the years that went before—
A tale of wrongs unrighted, golden ore
Unmined and songs unsung, of victory
That infirm hands let slip, of children's tears
That no one tried to dry? How dare we write
Another page, unless it set aright
A beacon for the marchers down the years?

Now, by our vision of a brighter day,
Our hope of dawn in everlasting night,
Let this year see us farther on the way
That winds through darkness to the sun-crowned height
Where gleams a shining city. Ah, be bold—
And make the new year better than the old!



ECLIPSES IN STORE FOR WESTERN SKIES FOR 1935, PRUETT

By J. HUGH PRUETT
(Astronomy Instructor, University of Oregon)

Seven eclipses, five of the sun and two of the moon, are due during the year 1935. This is the largest number possible in one year. Only once more during the present century, in 1982, will this maximum number occur again. Not all of these will be visible from any one place. However, the Pacific Coast will be favored with three fine ones.

Of the three eclipses which Eugeneans may see, one is of the sun and two of the moon. Early in the morning of February 3, the sun will be about two-thirds hidden by the moon. Both lunar eclipses will be total. The first, January 10, will take place about daybreak; the second, July 25, will occur in the evening. More definite information regarding these phenomena will be given shortly before they are due.

During most of the past year the planet Venus has been brilliant in the morning sky. Very soon it will be easily visible in the southwest in the evening twilight. Even when at its dimmest, no other planet or star equals it in brilliance. In August it will be twice as bright as at the first of the year. It will then be seen as a beautiful "new moon" when viewed through telescopes. Early in September it will again be lost from the evening sky.

A great deal is written about the red variable star Mira, yet many enthusiastic star students never observe it. During most of the year this star is too faint to be visible to the naked eye. When at its best it is as bright as the North Star.

A few weeks ago Mira was invisibly without optical aid. After two weeks of stormy skies, a clear night revealed a few weeks ago. Several observations since show it is brightening rapidly. A week before Christmas it was quite distinct even in bright moonlight. Through field glasses its redness is quite noticeable in comparison with the blue white stars in its vicinity.

The maxima of Mira come, on an average, 11 months apart. The last maximum was on February 4, 1934. The next may be expected early in January, 1935. This interval is not always the same nor is the maximum brightness. It should be very interesting to star students to watch this star reach its brightest point and then for a few weeks gradually fade into invisibility. The cause of the variability is little understood.

The star group in which Mira is located, Cetus, (The Whale), is at this time of year in the south in the evening. It may be located by joining a line drawn from the brilliant star Capella through the Pleiades and on to about the same distance beyond. The writer will be glad to furnish a diagram defining a self-addressed postal card.

Bellfountain News

BELLFOUNTAIN, Jan. 1.—(Special)—Mr. and Mrs. P. Starr were the honor guests at a family dinner Sunday, Dec. 23, at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Haworth. The dinner was in recognition of their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary, which occurred Saturday, Dec. 22. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Starr, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Haworth, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Starr of Toledo and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Haworth.

Another of their all-day meetings at the W. O. W. hall Friday with a basket dinner at the noon hour. The families were invited to attend and enjoy the day with the club. The ladies worked on a "flower garden" quilt for Mrs. Tola Humphrey. Those attending during the day were Mr. and Mrs. William Blum, the Misses Lucille, Vivian and Treva Blum, Billy Blum, Mrs. Paul Bloom and children Verrin, Maxine and Barbara, Mrs. J. Christman, Mr. and Mrs. William Christman, Jr., and children Gloria and Carlisle, Mr. and Mrs. Tammy Coon, Dewey Cole, Mrs. Hubert Haworth, Mrs. H. H. Hult, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Hinton, Alvin and Lynn Hinton, Mrs. Tola Humphrey, Miss Elma Humphrey, Elmer, Lois, Kenneth and Jackie Humphrey, Mrs. Harry Kessler, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Lamb, Miss Myrtle Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. Avery Larkin, Clifford, Dorothy, Garth and Melvin Larkin, Miss Edith Larkin, Mrs. F. S. Malcom, Miss Virginia Malcom, Mrs. F. A. Nussbaum, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Post and daughter Barbara, Mrs. Tom Reader, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Reader and daughter Lois Jena, Mrs. Garth Rickard, Mrs. Ray

EXTRA GUARDS ARE POSTED AT CANAL

COLON, Panama, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Rumors of threats to blow up Gatun locks swept the Canal Zone today when it became known that extra precautions were being taken to guard the canal. The rumors were officially denied.

The rumors were to the effect that H. M. Thomas, assistant superintendent of the Gatun locks, had received an anonymous letter threatening to blow up the control house of Gatun Sunday.

Both the military intelligence service and Thomas himself denied the receipt of such a letter. However, effective Saturday, all persons except employees were forbidden to enter the lock area which was guarded with redoubled sentries.

Members of the Gatun golf club who cross the locks while playing golf are required to be accompanied by sentries. All employees who carry packages are being searched. The 1,500 laborers who are registered for work in the overhaul of the locks which will begin January 4 must show identification checks before entering the area.

Tourists arriving here on the S. S. Kungsholm were refused entrance to the lock area.

Camp Belknap News

CAMP BELKNAP, McKenzie Bridge, Jan. 1.—(Special)—Over one-half of the members of the camp spent Christmas at their homes, leaving camp Dec. 21 and returning the night of Dec. 26. Others who remained in camp spent an enjoyable Christmas and will be granted leave to spend the New Year's holidays at their homes.

Guests of Company 927 on Christmas day were Mr. and Mrs. Garlinghouse and family and Mr. Garlinghouse's mother, of Creswell; Mr. and Mrs. Armand Riggs of Cottage Grove.

G. R. Bonelli, camp educational adviser, spent the Christmas holidays with his wife and family in Salem.

J. R. Mitchell, camp superintendent, and Mrs. Mitchell spent Christmas with friends in Eugene.

Lieut. L. M. Cowan, camp commander, and Mrs. Cowan entertained at their home near McKenzie Bridge with open house on Christmas eve. Guests present included Lieut. R. E. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Steel-Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pratt and daughter, and James Womack.

On January 2 the following envelopes of Company 927 will have completed their 15 months in the CCC and will be discharged to return to their homes: Paul Adams, William Alkeltinger, Willis Adams, Fred Decker, Robert Salvas, Edward Segre, Tony Slatini, Joel Stevens and Howard Ward.

Effective January 1 Camp Belknap will establish its own newspaper which will be published twice monthly for circulation among members and other companies of the Vancouver district.

Major Gen. Malin Craig, commanding officer of the 9th corps area, is being transferred to the general staff of the army, Washington, D. C. Company 927 congratulates Gen. Craig on his advance in the army, but regrets the loss of a very able commanding officer. Gen. Malone, now in command of the 2nd corps area, will succeed Gen. Craig.

E. C. Alford, traveling educational adviser and lecturer for the 9th corps area, visited camp Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 22 and 23. He gave two very interesting lectures to the assembled members while in camp.

Norman Maynard, member, was discharged during last week to accept a position as circulation manager for the News Telegram in the Newburg district.

Word has been received that Capt. K. S. Whittemore, Company 927's organizer and first commander, has been transferred from Vancouver barracks to the Department of Hawaii. The captain will sail with his family on the army transport U. S. S. Republic on January 5.

Camp Belknap's basketball quintet took a loose game from a picked team of Vida players Monday night. The game was slow and replete with very poor shooting from both teams, with the CCC boys taking a 6 point lead in the first quarter and adding 11 throughout. Chancey of the camp was high point man for the evening.

Girls feel undesired suitors by expert fencing with words.

Redmond and daughter Nancy Kaye, Mrs. P. R. Starr and son Edwin Starr, Mr. and Mrs. Roe Shelton, Donald Shelton, Mrs. O. K. Scott, Miss Myrtle Farris and Mrs. G. M. Gragg also called at the hall for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Haworth were Christmas dinner guests at the home of Mr. Haworth's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Ragdale and family of Corvallis.

Hubert Starr of Toledo was a week end guest with relatives at Bellfountain. Mr. Starr has recently purchased a place near Toledo and came over after his household goods which were stored at the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Starr.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Henykel are enjoying a visit from Mr. Henykel's half brother, Mr. Nelson of Iowa. Mrs. Nelson and their daughter and son-in-law complete the party.

"Esquire" to Aid Students in Alpha Delta Sigma Dance

"Esquire," national magazine for men, will cooperate with Alpha Delta Sigma advertising fraternity at the University of Oregon for the society's annual dance, and in addition to several hundred copies of the magazine, will furnish favors, promoting material and assist in other ways. It was announced here today by Ralph Schomp, Salem, chairman for the event.

The dance, to be held January 5 at the Eugene hotel, will, due to the assistance given by Esquire, be one of the most elaborate and colorful ever held on the campus. It is declared.

The unique style of illustrations followed by the magazine will be used for decorations, and a large number of unusual features have been planned by the committee in charge.

Members of the committee in charge of the dance include Ed Labbe, Fred Fisher, Mel Johnson, Grant Theumell, William Russell and William J. Schloth, all of Portland; Frank Nash, Pendleton; Jack Campbell, Eugene and William Phipps, Medford.

One of the unusual features of the dance will be a setting of stage for the orchestra. A set of pictures for use later in the magazine, and a reel of motion pictures, will be taken during the evening.

At Camas Swale

CAMAS SWALE, Jan. 1.—(Special)—A Christmas program was held at the upper Swale school Christmas eve.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale and family spent week before last in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Buell and son, and Harold Buell spent Christmas at the O. G. Thornton home near Corvallis.

Guests at the Allen home for Christmas were his sister and family of Marshfield.

Mrs. Demerast and daughter, Vina, and son, Art, of Portland, spent Christmas at the Fred Demerast home.

If you are in a hurry, and haven't time to clean off roof film that drips on your windshield after a shower, just take it off with an ordinary squeegee, rubbing vertically and horizontally to remove streaks. It will not scratch the glass, and the polish may be put on at your leisure.

Flapper Fanny Says:

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