Bumper Crop May Result This Year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unless farmers change their plans before planting time, they are likely to turn in another bumper harvest this year.

This prospect was painted by an Agriculture Department report late Friday. It indicated that farmers planned on March 1 to plant 352 million acres to commercial crops. That would be about three million acres less than last year.

HOPE EXPRESSED

But the Eisenhower administration has expressed hope of getting a cutback of at least 35 million acres. It is trying to reduce production and to make openings in the market for government-held surpluses which, officials say, are depressing farm prices and incomes.

Such a reduction is the goal of a soil bank plan recommended by President Eisenhower early this year and included in an omnibus farm bill now before the Senate.

In forecasting this year's acreage, the department said, however, that there still is a possibility of getting a larger reduction if the soil bank legislation is enacted before spring planting is completed. Planting gets into full swing next month.

Under the soil bank plan, the government would make payments to farmers for reducing plant of surplus crops.

No forecast was made on the possible volume of production from the prospective acreage, but with favorable weather it could easily produce a harvest approaching last year's near record output.

REPORT SHOWS

The report showed that livestock feed grain crops may furnish the major part of the total reduction in acreage from last year's level. But an indicated cutback of 2,900,000 acres in corn would be far short of a 10 million acre reduction sought by the department.

An oversupply of feed grains has been blamed for increased production of hogs and a consequent sharp decline in returns from meat animals in the politically important Midwestern farm area.

Besides corn, the planting survey indicated smaller acreages this year for oats, barley, rice, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peanuts, dry beans and tobacco.

Increases were indicated for spring wheat—mostly of the durum type—soy beans, hay crops, dry peas, sorghums, and sugar beets.

Ship Collides With Destroyers

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—The Italian freighter Laura Lauro, lashed by high winds and seven-foot tides, banged into two destroyers at the Navy's convoy escort piers here Friday. Little damage resulted, however, and there were no injuries to personnel.

Witnesses said the Laura Lauro was heading downstream when a gust caught her and headed her toward the pier. The freighter dropped anchor to fight the drag but near the end of the pier, her stern swung into the destroyer Wilson and the destroyer escort Pillsbury.

The stern and after depth charge racks on the Wilson were damaged and the Pillsbury received dents in her stern plates. The Laura Lauro's damage was insignificant.

Morty Meekle

Bate Lumber Company High Bidder On BLM Sale Offer

Bate Lumber Co. of Merlin was the high bidder for three of the four tracts of timber offered for sale by the Bureau of Land Management at their Medford Office on March 15. The four tracts, containing an estimated 7,672,000 board feet were sold for a total price of $343,730.20, or an average price of $44.80 per thousand board feet.

In the first oral auction sale, Bate topped five other bidders with bids of $50 per thousand board feet for Douglas fir, $29.55 for ponderosa pine, $40.10 for sugar pine, $9.40 for incense cedar, $11.90 for white fir and $10.20 for western hemlock. The sale consisted of an estimated 2,687,000 board feet composed almost entirely of Douglas fir timber located in the Quines Creek area of southern Douglas County.

The second oral auction sale consisted of an estimated 1,296,000 board feet of timber located near Azalea, also in southern Douglas County. It also is composed almost entirely of Douglas fir. Bate Lumber Company's bids of $47.25 per thousand board feet for the Douglas fir, $8.70 for incense cedar and western hemlock and $11.20 for white fir was also the high bid for this tract for which four other bidders competed.

The Dollar and Patterson Co., Inc. of Glendale, Oregon was the highest of three bidders for the third oral sale. That sale consisted of an estimated 3,539,000 board feet of timber located on Dad's Creek in Douglas County. About three-fourths of this tract is Douglas fir. The high bid was $45.50 for Douglas fir, $37.70 for ponderosa pine, $33.55 for sugar pine, and $7.40 for incense cedar.

The only sealed bid sale was for approximately 150,000 board feet of Douglas fir snags and windfalls located on Murphy Creek, near the town of Murphy. It was sold on a scale basis because of the difficulty of determining the sound volume in the snags, which were killed by a fire in 1945. Bate Lumber Co. bid $12 per thousand for this tract. Only one other bid was submitted.

The next regular sale will be held by the Medford District of the Bureau on April 19, at which time two tracts containing an estimated 4,857,000 board feet will be offered for sale. One tract is located on Coyote Creek in northern Josephine County and the other consists of salvage timber in the Sykes Creek burn area near Wimer.

Additional information regarding these sales may be secured from the District Forester's office in the Medford City Hall.

SUPPORT

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican leaders in Manhattan's 18th Congressional District say they will support Democratic Rep. James G. Donovan for a fourth term next November.

POPE GETS SHAMROCKS

VATICAN CITY, (AP)—Shamrocks rushed here from Ireland Saturday brightened the apartment of Pope Pius XII on this St. Patrick's Day.

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Impeach Try Brings Revolt

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UP)—Moderate members of the huge North Alabama White Citizens Council revolted Saturday in protest against drives to impeach officials handling the Autherine Lucy case.

Three officers resigned and one claimed three-fourths on the members of one council walked out in dissension over the dramatic methods of executive secretary Asa (Ace) Carter, a former radio commentator.

Carter had circulated a petition for impeachment of Gov. James E. Folsom and called for ouster of University of Alabama officials for permitting Negro coed Autherine Lucy to be enrolled.

The councils gained much of their membership and organization during the wave of violent reaction which followed the Negro's enrollment in the all-white university and her expulsion, now before federal courts.

Carter discounted the effectiveness of the membership revolt, saying a majority support his effort "to turn this thing into an action movement instead of a reaction movement."

The three officers of the big East Birmingham Council said they resigned Thursday. Carter claimed they quit because they lost support of council members.

Dr. W. C. Tucker Jr., resigned vice chairman, said that "a demand seems to be growing to form an independent citizens council group," and said some 75 per cent of the East Birmingham membership walked out after the resignations.

Carter was denounced earlier this week by Alston Keith, one of the original organizers of the Alabama councils, who said "there is no place for prejudice and greed in this movement."

Ted Hagen, who resigned as chairman of the East Birmingham council, said he was "obligated" to his friends to act in a "sober-minded, dispassionate and deliberate manner."

The third man to resign was Morris F. Dixon, secretary.

WORKERS KILLED

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — Seven forestry workers were killed today when hit by an avalanche in Western Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island.

Agriculture Department Forecasts Potato Crop

The Agriculture Department Friday forecast a potato crop of 361,093,000 bushels this year on the basis of farmers' planting plans as of March 1, the Associated Press has reported.

This would be 20,538,000 bushels less than last year's production of 381,631,000 bushels, and compares with the 10 year average of 401,146,000 bushels.

These figures are based on a predicted acreage of 31,394,000 acres, with normal yields per acre.

Forecasts of production of other crops — based on the same conditions as those made for potatoes — compared with last year and the 10 year average respectively, include:

Spring wheat 188 million bushels indicated this year; 232,787,000 last year and 286,683,000 for the 10 year average.

Oats 1,348 billion bushels; 1,575,736,000 and 1,323,321,000.

Barley 353 million bushels; 390,969,000 and 266,918,000.

Hay 105,300,000 tons; 109,697,000 and 102,132,000.

The prospective acreages of major crops this year and their percentages of last year's plantings respectively include:

Spring wheat other than Durum 12,584,000 acres or 100.9 per cent.

Oats 46,063,000 acres of 95.9 per cent.

Barley 14,773,000 acres or 91.7 per cent.

Hay 74,305,000 acres or 100.4 per cent.

The department had previously reported that a winter wheat crop —which was seeded last fall — of 735,438,000 bushels was possible on the basis of the indicated acreage. A winter wheat crop of this size and a spring crop of the size forecast in Friday's report would give a total wheat crop of 923,438,000 bushels.

This would be 14,721,000 bushels less than last year's crop of 938,159,000 bushels and would compare with the 10-year average of 1,154,073,000 bushels.

Friday's estimates were made on the basis of planting plans farmers had in mind March 1, but did not take into account possible changes in those plans which might be made as a result of new farm legislation pending in Congress.

That legislation would set up a soil bank plan under which farmers would be offered government payments to reduce crop acreages as a means of reducing present price-depressing surpluses. In advocating this plan, the administration sought in particular reductions in acreages of cotton, spring wheat and corn.

In making its spring wheat forecast, the department did not break it down between durum wheat and other spring wheat. That will be done in later production reports.

500 TOURISTS LAND

ALGIERS, Algeria, (AP) —Nearly 500 American tourists landed here Saturday and began seeing the sights of this city which only Friday was invaded by gangs of fire spreading anti-French terrorists. The tourists are making a Mediterranean cruise aboard the liner Brittanic which sailed from New York Jan. 27.

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Police Arrest Sniper Suspect

SAN FRANCISCO (UP) — Joseph Maleck, a 52-year-old night watchman, was arrested yesterday by police who accused him of being the mystery sniper who fired at a Marine sentry and a police officer.

He was booked on suspicion of assault with intent to commit murder and transferred to San Francisco Hospital for psychiatric examination.

Maleck denied he fired the shots which whistled past the ears of Marine Pvt. Nathan Thornton, 21, and police officer Thomas A. Morris, who investigated Thornton's complaint Thursday night.

However, authorities said they found an empty .22 cartridge case under the bed in Maleck's watchman's shack and an empty ammunition case.

They said Maleck was arrested in 1943 for shooting at juveniles and again last year for shooting a .22 rifle in the city limits. Both cases were dismissed.

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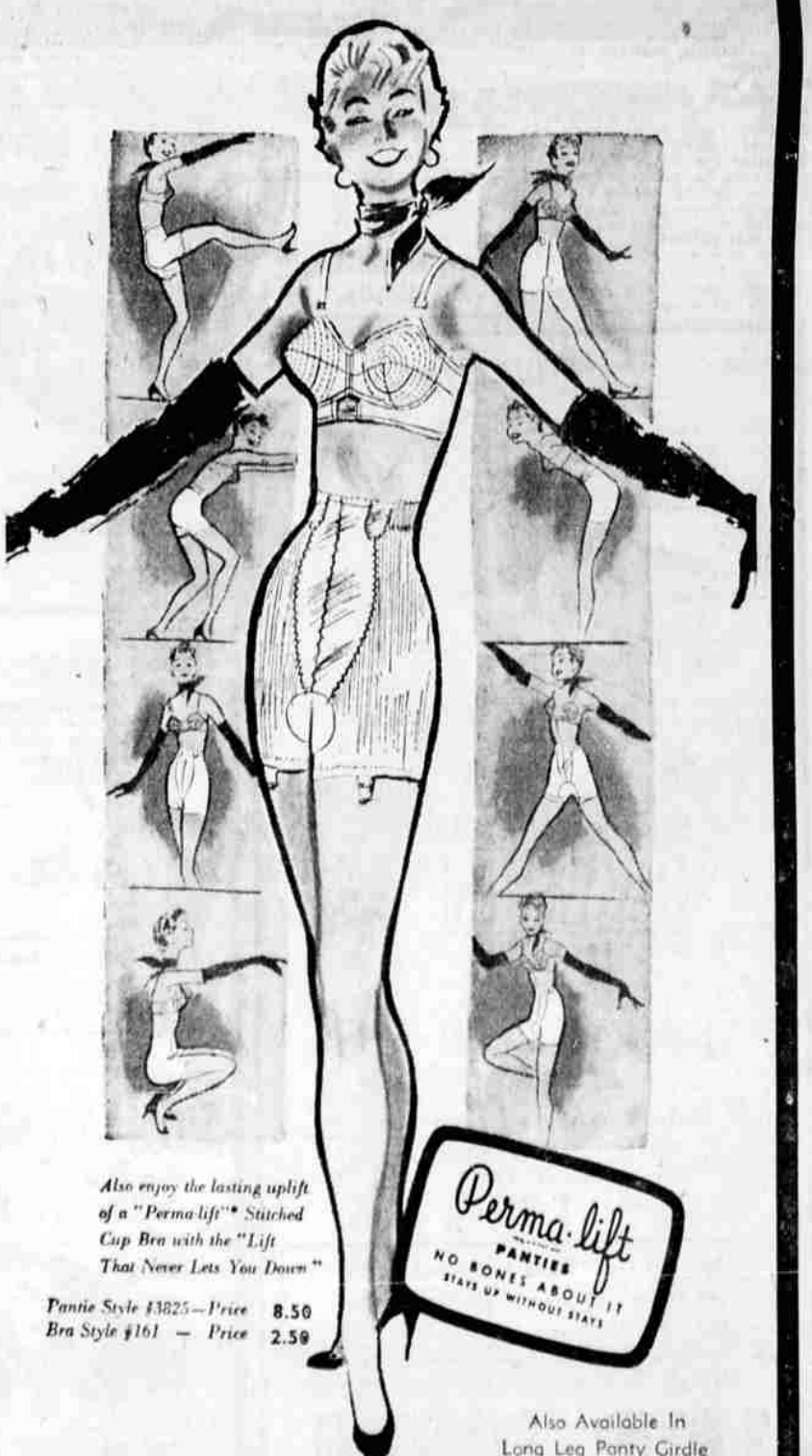

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