

Bellefonte, Pa. June 18, 1920.

ESTIMATING THE NATION'S CROPS.

Early in May, 1919, the United States Department of Agriculture issued a report showing the condition of winter wheat to be 100.5 half a point over a "perfect" condition as compared with the average of former years.

How is it done, this matter of estimating before the plants are fully grown, the amount of wheat and other grains which will be produced in this country in a single season?

On the table are a number of sheets of paper—copy of the crop estimate—face down. An official of the bureau stands nearby with an accurately timed watch in his hand.

All this is a part of the government's determination to play absolutely fair, to see that no biased information is put out before the fixed time, and to see that the report is released to all interested parties simultaneously.

The little race among the Washington correspondents is only the beginning of the flash which carries the report to every person in the United States who is sufficiently interested to read it.

A national crop report is, to a considerable extent, a composite of thousands and thousands of individual estimates of the local situation. That the reports are absolutely unbiased no well-informed person can doubt.

In the central office of the Bureau of Crop Estimates at Washington are housed about 135 employees, the majority of whom are statistical clerks, computers and trained statisticians experienced in handling and interpreting agricultural facts.

Each agent enlists the voluntary services of from 250 to 1500 selected crop correspondents in his State, who report to him every month regarding crops. At the close of the month the agent makes up a detailed estimate.

and partial totals are tabulated on sheets which are identified by numbers only, there being nothing on the sheets to indicate either the State or the crop, so that the work of adding up and averaging the partial totals is purely mechanical.

Inasmuch as the field agents are experienced crop inspectors, and as each devotes his entire time to studying the crops of his State, great reliance is placed upon their estimates. Yet the estimate of the other classes of correspondents are a check upon them.

Real Estate Transfers.

Foster V. Jodon Jr., et ux, to Geo. H. Wilson, tract in Spring township; \$3850.

Margaret D. Garbrick to Christ Eckley, tract in Benner township; \$500.

George W. Ward, et ux, to Mary J. Martin, tract in Ferguson township; \$102.50.

Ellen Meese to Christina Rine, tract in Bellefonte; \$1200.

Louisa Bush to D. C. Kustaborder, tract in Spring township; \$250.

William M. Allison, et al, to Henry Foust, et ux, tract in Potter township; \$350.

F. P. Royer, et ux, to Corney R. Boob, tract in Millheim; \$600.

The wheat grower need have no apprehension as to the supply of binder twine this season. Reports coming to the Bureau of Plant Industry, of the United States Department of Agriculture, indicate that there will be a plentiful supply of this commodity available for the American farmer.

Yucatan—the chief and cheapest source of henequin, from which the twine is made—produced a large crop this year; which, coupled with the termination of control of prices by the Commission Reguladora, was responsible for a drop in the price of fiber from 15 to 10 cents a pound in March.

Although there is no danger for this year's twine supply, officials of the Department of Agriculture are somewhat apprehensive over the effect that the low prices for fiber prevailing now will have upon the production of the henequin during the next few years.

ers in Yucatan to reduce their planting, with the result that a real shortage of the fiber five or six years hence is a very likely possibility.

Industrial accidents injured 13,882 Pennsylvania workers during April, according to an announcement made recently by Clifford B. Connelley, Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry. The accident reports received by the State Bureau of Workmen's Compensation indicate 177 of the 13,882 workmen died from the injuries received.

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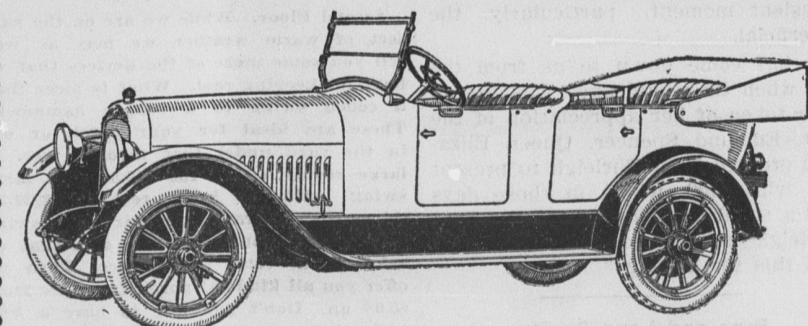
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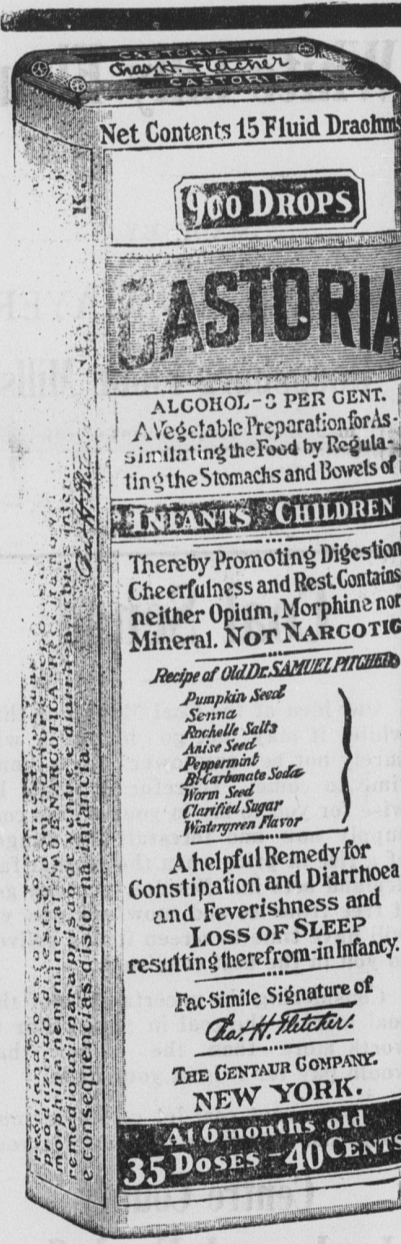
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