Bellefonte, Pa, June 18, 1920.

ESTIMATING THE NATION'S

years. On the acreage sown—almost 49,000,000 acres—this indicated a winter wheat crop of approximately 900,-000,000 bushels. Adding to this a normal spring wheat crop of some 350,000,000 bushels, there was a promise for a total wheat crop in 1919 of a billion and a quarter bushels.

Subsequent reports reduced the prospective yield, due to losses through blight, insect enemies and other causes, until, at the end of the crop season it stood at a little less than 900,000,000 bushels for the combined winter and spring wheat bined winter and spring wheat.

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?

If you should wander into a certain room of the Bureau of Crop Estimates at Washington on the day when one of these reports is to be given out, you would find gathered around a ta-ble many newspaper correspondents and press representatives. The word "wander" is used figuratively, because you could not gain access to the room without proper credentials, and once there you would be unable to leave until the business at hand was finished; all doors leading to the room are plicable to their conditions. locked, and there is no way of com-

on the table are a number of sheets of paper—copy of the crop estimate—face down. An official of the bureau says "ready," and the press representatives range themselves around the table, each with a hand on created the same and the table. E. S. Bullock of the same and the table at the same and table at the same at table sheets of paper. Next comes the command, "Get set!" and the reporters assume attitudes corresponding to those of a group of sprinters. Finally there comes in stentorian tones the anxiously awaited word "Go!" Immediately there is a sound of feet racing over the flooring, followed in a few seconds by the rapid fire of tel-egraph instruments and by the excited shouting into telephone transmitters of a series of numbers. The crop \$900. estimates is going to the four quarters

of the country.

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 re-leased to all interested parties simul-taneously. Of course, the reporter with the longest or the fastest moving legs may obtain a few seconds' advantage over his competitors after the

signal to go is given, but that is all.

No matter on what day the government crop reports are issued, the time is always exactly the same-2:15 o'clock eastern time to the second. The reason for this is that it is the hour of closing of the principal grain exchanges in the West-1.15 p. If the reports reached the ex- \$1. changes during the midst of a session, they might create unwarranted fluctuations in prices.

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 reper 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. As for the force of statisticians, no incentive for bias exists among them, even if a prejudiced report were possible, since the tabula-tors and computers who make up the totals do not even know the States to which the reports pertain and the final telegraphic reports and comments of field agents relating to speculative crops are kept locked in the office of the Secretary of Agriculture until crop-reporting day, when they are turned over to the crop-reporting board. This entire board is immediately locked in, with guards stationed at the doors and telephones discon-nected, until the minute the report is

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 interpre-ting agricultural facts. In addition, there are forty-two salaried state field agents, each of whom is required to travel during the crop season, interview farmers, representatives of com-mercial houses, mills, elevators, buy-ing and selling agencies and state and

local authorities. 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 actimate

agent makes up a detailed estimate. Two other classes of voluntary reporters send reports direct to the bureau at Washington; 2800 volunteer county correspondents, 33,000 town-ship correspondents, 20,000 field aids who report to the state agents, 6400 special price correspondents and more than 12,000 mills and elevators.

Approximately 200,000 volunteer correspondents in all make up the bureau's list, including 50,000 individual farmers.

In addition to the special reports sent in each month by the field force, the crop-reporting board has all other available data, such as the Weather Bureau reports, crop reports issued by state authorities and private

crop-estimating agencies.

The crop-reporting board is composed of the chief of the bureau, assistant chief of the division of crop reports, two statistical scientists and one or more of the field agents called in from the different States each month. When the returns from the voluntary crop reporters are all in, they are sorted by States and districts \$400.

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. The tabulation sheets are cut up into sections, which 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. On the acreage sown—almost 49.000.000 acres. This is office. The state field agents go directly to the secretary of agriculture and are locked, unopened, in a vault in his office. until the morning of crop-reporting day, when they are turned over to the chief of the bureau, at the time the crop-reporting board is called into

Inasmuch as the field agents are experienced crop inspectors, and as each perienced 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. Furthermore, when the members of the crop-reporting board consider these estimates they take, in conjunction with them, other factors. conjunction with them, other factors, such as weather conditions during the few days since the reports were made, and the estimates for adjoining States. The average of the three estimates is then made.

The Bureau of Crop Estimates is considered by those who know to be the best organized, smoothest-running piece of human machinery for gathering and disseminating agricultural statistical data in existence. So well recognized is that fact that a number of foreign countries have sent repre-sentatives here to study our system

Real Estate Transfers.

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

ley, tract in Huston township; \$2000. John Daniell, et ux, to Stephen Sabol, tract in Snow Shoe; \$1200.

Isaac S. Frain's Exr's. to Albert N. Womelsdorf, tract in Marion township; \$125.

Edward P. Lucas, et al, to George F. Walker, tract in Boggs township;

Jacob Carver's heirs to Thomas Mc-Closkey, tract in Snow Shoe township; Charles W. Erb, et ux, to Annie K. Humphrey, tract in Philipsburg;

Margaret D. Garbrick to Christ

Eckley, tract in Benner township; Daniel H. Michaels' heirs to Clyde M. Viehdorfer, tract in Burnside

township; \$150. John Zwalderigo, et ux, to Paul Kassop, et al, tract in South Philips-

Bertha D. Jones to Mary Gill, tract in Philipsburg; \$1. Michael Gill, et ux, to Bertha D. ones, tract in Philipsburg; \$1.

Estella E. O'Brien to Moravian Coal Mining Co., tract in Snow Shoe;

James A. Beaver, trustee, to Frank M. Crawford, tract in Bellefonte; T. F. Rogers, et ux, to James Da-

vis, tract in Potter township; \$1. T. F. Rogers, et ux, to James Swabb, tract in Potter township;

Harry Dukeman, sheriff, to Fannie S. Musser, tract in College township; \$1200.

Wm. H. Brown, et ux, to Carolyn B. Edwards, tract in State College;

Wm. H. Brown, et ux, to George R. Green, tract in State College; \$4000. Estella E. O'Brien to Moravian Coal Mining Co., tract in Snow Shoe;

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

J. I. Reed to Mary J. Martin, tract in Ferguson township; \$125. Edward H. Meyers, et ux, to Edward L. Taylor, tract in State College borough; \$200.

Ida M. Rishel heirs to James Reed, tract in Harris township; \$1750.

Harry H. Ishler, et ux, to Alfred Lee, tract in Harris township; \$2300. W. G. Runkle, et ux, to J. Forrest Bible, tract in Potter township; \$200. Andrew Lytle, et ux, to Ella E. Catherman, tract in College township;

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

Sarah J. Moore, et al, to James H. Hugg, tract in Philipsburg; \$5000. Fred Leathers, et ux, to W. C. Shay,

George W. Beezer, et ux, to N. H. Krape, tract in Benner township; \$7500. tract in Howard borough; \$340.

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

Clayon B. Stover, et ux, to Elmer D. Ripka, tract in Spring Mills; \$275. F. M. Crawford, et ux, to J. E. La-Barre, tract in Bellefonte; \$500.

Frank F. Palmer, et ux, to John Wilkinson, tract in Potter township; \$350. William M. Allison, et al, to Sarah Hoar, tract in Potter township; \$450. John Wilkinson, et ux, to Lawrence M. Boal, ract in Potter township;

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

W. W. Price to John P. Sebring tract in Taylor township; \$350. Eliza Jane Harvey, et bar, to Lillie

Mae Shellenberger, tract in Philipsburg; \$1. Jacob Harpster, et ux, to Isaac G. Harpster, tract in Ferguson township;

Mary E. Sholl, et bar, to Orvis M. Sholl, tract in Millheim; \$450.

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

Philips, tract in Potter township; David Chambers, treasurer, to Big Compensation Paid During April.

Hiram Bowes, tract in Liberty township: \$20.10

tract in Rush township; \$275. James C. Reed, et ux, to John F. Kimport, tract in Harris township;

Ida Sullenberger, et bar, to Elmer Day's heirs, tract in Liberty township; \$3600.

Binder Twine Plentiful, Cheaper.

The wheat grower need have no aporehension 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. Not only will it be plentiful, but it is likely to be cheaper this year than for likely to be cheaper this year than for

some years past.
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. The price is now reported to be 8 cents a pound. This reduction should be reflected in the price of twine this

Thus far the recent revolution in Mexico has not affected the henequin industry of Yucatan and Campeche, the two important fiber-growing States of that country. It is too late now for any disruption of this industry to affect seriously the supplies of twine for his year's harvest, as prac-tically all the fiber necessary for the present needs have already been imported to the United States.

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 will have upon the production of the henequin during the next few years. Low prices, according to reports to the Department, are leading the grow-

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similating the Food by Regula-

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.

Hiram Bowes, tract in Liberty township; \$29.19.

Henry Cele to Mary Ellen Williams, cract in Rush township; \$275.

James C. Reed, et ux, to John F. Kimport, tract in Harris township; tabor 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. The record of the injuries received. The record of disabling accidents for April is approximately 1,500 less than in March. During the first four months of this year, there have been 844 industrial to the second of the second trial workers killed and 56,072 other

workers injured. Pennsylvania workmen, April, lost 68 eyes, at a workmen's compensation cost of \$85,579. The following losses of limbs were suffer-

ed at compensation costs as indicated:
Thirty-three hands at \$61,838; nine feet, at \$14,785; seven arms, at \$13,-703, and five legs, at \$11,400.
The Bureau of Workmen's Compensation, during April, approved payment in 192 fatal accident cases. Fatal compensation awards totaled \$422,016. Fatal compensation paid during the month amounted to \$203. during the month amounted to \$203,-461. Disability compensation paid during the same period was \$444,828.

No Progress for Him.

"Don't want a railroad through

"You don't?" "No siree. I'm satisfied with the way things are now. Take your old railroad somewhere else." "But this will improve the value of

your property. It is a progress."
"That may all be, but I'd just as soon not have progress build a railroad near my farm. It's hard enough o get work out of the hired help now, without having them stop and rest, and look every time a train goes by."

—Detroit Free Press.

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