

AGRICULTURE

- OF LOCAL INTEREST TO -

WAYNE COUNTY FARMERS

FARM CROPS SHOW REMARKABLE GAIN.

Acres Decreases, But Value Increases by \$190,000,000 Over Last Year.

Washington.—With decreases in the production of the eleven important farm crops, not including cotton, the total value of these this year reached \$3,769,562,000, according to the final estimate announced last week by the Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of almost \$190,000,000 over their value last year.

The Department's final estimate of production to-day differs considerably from its preliminary estimate made in November because of a revision of the acreages based upon the Census Bureau's figures which became available since that time. The important features of the different crops, compared with last year were:

Corn—An increase of 1,790,000 in acreage, a decrease of \$354,772,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$180,441,000 in value.

Winter wheat—An increase of 1,833,000 in acreage, a decrease of 3,486,000 bushels in production and a decrease of \$3,167,000 in value.

Spring wheat—An increase of 2,029,000 in acreage, a decrease of 10,297,000 bushels in production and a decrease of \$14,821,000 in value.

Oats—An increase of 390,000 in acreage, a decrease of 258,215,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$8,257,000 in value.

Barley—A decrease of 116,000 in acreage, a decrease of 13,592,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$38,756,000 in value.

Rye—A decrease of 88,000 in acreage, a decrease of 1,778,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$2,604,000 in value.

Buckwheat—A decrease of 27,000 in acreage, a decrease of 49,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$1,099,000 in value.

Flaxseed—An increase of 290,000 in acreage, an increase of 6,652,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$5,800,000 in value.

Rice—A decrease of 26,500 in acreage, a decrease of 1,576,000 in production and an increase of \$1,650,000 in value.

Potatoes—A decrease of 101,000 in acreage, a decrease of 56,295,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$9,212,000 in value.

Hay—A decrease of 2,674,000 in acreage, a decrease of 13,534,000 tons in production and a decrease of \$50,499,000 in value.

Tobacco—A decrease of 353,000 in acreage, a decrease of 198,306,000 pounds in production and a decrease of \$16,932,000 in value.

The acreage planted and the farm price per bushel on Dec. 1, 1911, follows:

Crop.	Acreage.	Cts. per Bush.
Corn	105,825,000	61.8
Winter w't	29,162,000	88.0
Spring w't	20,831,000	86.0
All wheat	49,543,000	87.4
Oats	37,763,000	45.0
Barley	7,627,000	86.1
Rye	2,097,000	83.2
Buckwheat	833,000	72.6
Flaxseed	2,757,000	1.82
Rice	636,300	79.7
Potatoes	3,619,000	79.9
Hay	43,017,000 tons	14.64
Tobacco	1,012,800 lbs.	9.4

Hay totals are given in tons and tobacco totals in pounds.

Swamp Reclamation is Task of a New League.

Chicago.—The immediate drainage of the 80,000,000 acres of swamp and overflow land in the United States, the immediate regulation and control of the flood waters of every river in the country, the immediate development of a national policy for the control of the entire water question as a unit, are the aims of the National Drainage Reclamation association just formed in Chicago of men from the south, southeast, east, southwest, middle west and far west.

To this end the new association will get behind the bill introduced in the senate by Senator Newlands, providing for the regulation and control of all rivers and streams, storing their flood waters and distributing them in times of low water.

"It is a big question," said E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture, commerce and industry, of South Carolina, "a tremendous question. But now is the time to do the work. Now is the time for the patriotic citizens of all the United States to say to congress: 'We demand (not ask) that the federal government do its duty; we demand that the federal government drain the swamp lands, store the flood water, restore the forests.'"

"It is a great work," said B. A. Fowler, of Phoenix, "perhaps the greatest work ever undertaken by any body of men in the United States. We of the west are with you. We will help you of the south and the east and the central states and the northern states to drain your swamps and to drain our swamps, for we of the west have millions of swamp acres to be reclaimed."

James R. Garfield, former secretary of the interior, and Gifford Pinchot, former chief forester and at present the president of the National Conservation association, were present at the organization meeting. Each spoke at length upon the magnitude of the work the association was about to undertake; each spoke of the necessity for a strong organization, built upon the policy of national patriotism.

As the name of the association indicates, its primary work will be to compel the federal government to take immediate steps to reclaim the 80,000,000 acres of swamp and overflow lands that are scattered all over

the country. At the same time it will give its aid and support to every other conservation movement, to forestry, irrigation, river regulation. The word "reclamation" in the name indicates the comprehensiveness of the aims of the association.

"We want to reclaim these 80,000,000 acres of swamp lands," said Edmund T. Perkins, of Chicago, who called the meeting. "We want to add to the permanent wealth of the country five or eight billion dollars' worth of land, and hundreds of millions of dollars to the value of the annual crops from our lands. We want Uncle Sam to do this for the sake of all his people—to provide more homes for his nephews and nieces, to increase the prosperity of the land, to decrease the high cost of living.

Cows Scarce in India.

London.—A deputation has arrived from India to put before the British public and government a grievance. It is that in order that British troops in India may have beef to eat, the cow, the most valuable possession of the tiller of the soil in India, is being slaughtered too freely. As the natives use the bulls as beasts of burden and for plowing, the result is that only cows are offered for slaughter. Now it is contended that cows have become scarce and that the milk supply falls far short of the demand. It is urged that the government import Argentine beef to India.

POULTRY NOTES

Paying Poultry.

We are living in an era of improvement, and the agricultural world has not been slow to "catch on." When we look back a score or more of years, and compare the condition of the farmer at that time with his standing at the present day, we can readily note that he has been wide awake and is keeping abreast of the times.

But in no branch has he shown more progress than he has in the poultry line. The writer remembers, when he was a boy, the manner of attention paid "chickens," and how the theory seemed prevalent that it was next to impossible to have hens lay in winter, or during cold weather generally. They reasoned that while such a thing was possible, it was not probable. The erection of commodious, comfortable winter houses was considered a waste of good lumber and money, and the possession of pure-bred poultry was deemed all right for a hobby, but all wrong for business. Artificial incubation and brooding was looked upon as a visionary affair, a regular "pipe dream."

There no doubt was a good reason for all these objections, but time has changed it all.

To-day we find farms on which are erected large and substantial poultry houses, on which a regular system of feeding and care are employed, on which the incubator and the brooder are playing important parts, and on which nothing but strictly pure breeds are kept. What is the result? The farmer has made the poultry branch one of the most important adjuncts to the farm, and he has secured a winter income which previously was practically unknown.

There was a time when it was far more profitable to use crossbreeds for practical purposes than it was to use breeds in their purity. The fanciers of that day, and there were but a handful compared to the number of the present time, were so ambitious to flourish in the show-room that inbreeding was carried on to an alarming extent. This was done at the expense of hardiness and egg production, and it is no wonder that farmers became disgusted with "fancy chickens" and held on to the common hen.

These facts led people to cross breeds, and they secured birds strong of constitution, activity and vigor, and birds that could be relied upon for producing a good crop of eggs, or carcasses of tempting flavor and size. Had the farmer stuck to the original crosses and not mated up the cockerels with the pullets of the same cross, all might have been well; but when he recrossed those birds the stock deteriorated and he soon had worse than mongrels on his hands. Crosses for profit are really only half-breeds, and beyond that are worthless. They are good for one generation only.

This failure with crosses led the fanciers to improve the pure-bred in order to save the poultry world from going quite to mongrelism. Instead of breeding closely to standard requirements, regardless of utility, they changed the order of things, and began to pick out their best layers and their best-bodied fowls, and then each year, with utility as a foundation, paying the way for practical pure-breeds. They were successful. To-day we have stronger and better stock, and the mongrel hen is annually growing less in numbers and influence.

Properly bred pure bloods are more prolific in laying, are producers of better-sized and more uniform eggs, grow quicker and better carcasses, are more quiet in manner and utilize the food eaten to better advantage than could ever have been credited to either the crossbred or the mongrel fowl.

What is a mongrel? A mongrel is a mixed breed, a conglomeration of different kinds. Use a dunghill male on pre-bred females and in one sea-

son you will have a large flock of all sizes, all colors and all conditions. What then could be expected if cockerels from such a hatch were allowed to mate up with the pullets? Originally the mongrel represented good blood, eventually it could boast of nothing. That is the very kind of mix out of which it is the purpose of the writer to lead the farmer. Get out of the rut, and aim for more poultry and better quality.

We have known cases where mongrel poultry have been graded up to better stock. For instance, a flock of common hens of the same color were selected, and a pure male of a distinct breed of the same color was introduced. The next year a male, not related, of the same breed was mated with the pullets of the first cross, and so on the breeding was continued until the common blood was practically eliminated. It can be done, but it is a long way to secure what can be accomplished the first season by installing the genuine goods.

The advice is, secure a breeding pen of practical purebreds, keep nothing else on the premises, do not introed, build warmer and better houses, feed a ration that will make eggs and not fat, and give the hens as good care as would be given the cows. The result will be more eggs, better eggs, larger and more plump carcasses—and, more money in the hennery.

One of the topics most discussed among horticulturists, both practical and scientific, is the use of fertilizers for apple orchards; and diametrically opposed views in regard to both kind and amount of plant food needed are vigorously supported. After long and careful tests on both old and young orchards, the authorities at the New York state experiment station, at Geneva, now advocate quite strongly utilization of natural soil fertility through tillage and cover crops rather than the use of added plant food. In an experiment in an old orchard, completed several years ago, the use of wood ashes and acid phosphate continued for twelve years and seven years, respectively, did not increase the yields or improve the quality of the fruit to any profitable extent; in a test of sod mulch and tillage the application of fertilizers on the tilled plots was of no financial advantage; and in the experiment now reported in Bulletin No. 339, stable manure, phosphoric acid, phosphoric acid and potash, and a complete fertilizer were all used at a loss to a young orchard.—Philadelphia Record.

HOW TO RISE IN THE WORLD

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- George J. Knorr, farmer, Lebanon.
- John E. Haley, farmer, Prompton.
- Jacob Storr, glasscutter, Honesdale.
- Ernest Riefler, farmer, Cherry Ridge.
- G. W. Swartz, poultryman, Ariel.
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- Horace T. Manner, merchant, Honesdale.
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- Morris Kellam, farmer, Lookout.
- John Reining, farmer, Beachlako.
- J. C. Snedeker, farmer, Canaan.
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- G. O. Gillette, undertaker, Salem.
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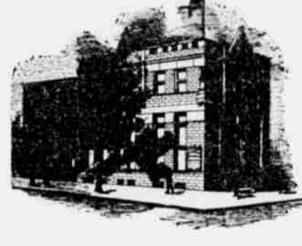
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FROM THE 33d ANNUAL REPORT

Total admitted assets	271,513,003.66
Total insurance in force	1,080,235,708.00
Total number policy-holders	425,481.00
New Insurance Reported and paid for in 1910	118,750,032.00
Increase in Insurance in force over 1909	67,540,613.00
Total Income for 1910	5,879,802.25
Total payment to policy-holders	32,903,850.00
Ratio of expense and taxes to income	12.73 per cent.

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