

INTERESTING FACTS
about the
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

WORKERS

3,000,000 unemployed put to work.

FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS

Under construction are projects valued at \$160,000,000, which will provide improved roads for millions of farmers.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

5,300 schools built or repaired.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (excluding schools)

4,200 structures erected or repaired.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

5,000 parks and playgrounds constructed or improved.

WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

6,300 plants built or repaired.

CONSERVATION (flood and erosion control)

3,000 projects under construction.

AIRPORTS

328 projects in operation.

UTILITIES (electric)

130 systems installed or repaired.

AMERICAN YOUTH

289,000 young people of high-school and college age being assisted to continue their studies. This keeps them out of the present over-crowded ranks of idle labor.

A MORE DETAILED SUMMARY IS PROVIDED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

SUMMARY

THE WORKS PROGRAM

See page 1. The Works Program is a consolidation of the emergency work activities of the Federal Government. It is financed by funds appropriated under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, which gave expression to the policy that, in place of direct relief, aid for the unemployed was to take the form of useful public work. Under this program over 3,850,000 persons were employed at the end of February.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

PROJECTS

See pages 1, 2, 25-37, 81. The W. P. A. is conducting 69,000 projects throughout the country. Seventy-nine percent of the 3,850,000 workers are employed on these projects.

LABOR AVAILABLE

See pages 3, 4, 20-23, 26-28. Construction projects account for over four-fifths (81 percent) of the total value of W. P. A. projects selected for operation. Four-fifths of the persons on relief rolls eligible for employment under the Works Program were manual and unskilled workers. Relatively these workers are more numerous on the relief rolls than in the general population, in which they compose less than three-fifths of the total number gainfully employed. This composition of the available labor supply is reflected in the program by the predominance of construction projects which require a large supply of manual and unskilled labor. "White collar" workers, on the other hand, are less than half as numerous in the relief population as in the general population. Accordingly, as the table on page 27 shows, only 7.3 percent of W. P. A. money is being used on "white collar" projects.

SPONSORS

See pages 19, 26-29. Four out of every five W. P. A. dollars go directly into workers' wages. Local governing bodies contribute approximately 19 percent (amounting to almost 222 million dollars) of the value of W. P. A. projects selected for operation. These contributions consist chiefly of materials, thus permitting development of substantial projects without diverting too large a proportion of Federal funds from the major purpose of providing wages for workers.

CONSTRUCTION

See pages 26–29, 33. Almost three quarters of all W. P. A. projects are for the four major types of public improvements:

1. *Highways, roads, and streets*

More than 23,000 projects, valued at \$461,633,000 (over a fifth of which is being contributed by sponsors), and providing more than 83,000,000 man-hours of work per month (41 percent of the total), have been selected for operation.

2. *Public buildings*

Nine thousand five hundred buildings, including over 5,000 schools, are being erected or repaired. These represent a cost of nearly \$116,000,000, of which local sponsors contribute almost a quarter.

3. *Water supply and sewers*

Disease caused by impure water and lack of adequate sanitation facilities is being checked at its source in many communities by the construction of nearly 2,000 water purification and supply systems, almost 4,000 sewer systems, and the prosecution of 2,300 sanitation and health projects.

4. *Parks and playgrounds*

In the interest of health and recreation, nearly 29,000,000 hours of labor have gone for the improvement of almost 5,000 parks and playgrounds.

5. *Other construction*

Work on 16 generating plants and the installation of 52 transmission lines has enabled many communities to provide more adequate electric facilities to their citizens.

Over \$65,000,000 is being spent for 2,989 sorely needed flood control and conservation projects, which will help to prevent a recurrence of the recent disastrous loss of life and property occasioned by floods.

FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS

See pages 27, 29, 30. Farm-to-market road work is providing improved means of transportation for millions of farmers, making markets accessible for their produce, bringing schools within easier reach of their children, and enabling rural mail carriers to make more regular deliveries in rainy weather. Nearly 10,000 road projects, valued at \$158,733,000 and amounting to 14 percent of the value of all projects selected for operation, are under construction. This program, of course, does not include work carried on under the Bureau of Public Roads. The bulk of Federal money spent on roads goes for pay rolls, since the 27 percent put up by sponsors for the most part takes care of materials. At the end of December over 360,000 men were working on farm-to-market road projects in 47 States.

AIRPORTS

See pages 30,
31.

The airport program looks to the needs of the future. With air travel growing by leaps and bounds in the United States, the fields of today will be inadequate tomorrow. Heavier planes require larger and more durable landing fields. Emergency fields are needed off the main lines to cut the toll of accidents. Airports are being drained, filled in, and leveled, new runways added and old runways paved, hangars are being constructed, beacon lights installed, and markers put up.

ART, MUSIC, THEATRE, WRITERS' PROGRAM

See pages 22,
33-34.

Less than 1 percent of the persons on relief rolls have devoted their lives to the arts. These people have neither the requisite skills nor the physical stamina to engage in construction. To provide suitable employment to those of the relief population normally engaged in artistic endeavor, a Nation-wide cultural program has been undertaken. Although only a small percent of the appropriation is being spent for these projects, they were carefully selected with the aim of enriching the cultural life of the Nation. Writing, music, painting, and the drama have always been recognized as vital aspects of civilized life.

YOUTH

See pages 34-
35.

The National Youth Administration is helping to preserve the morale and self-respect of 289,000 young people of high-school and college age who might otherwise increase the present overcrowded ranks of idle labor. One hundred and sixty-five thousand secondary-school students and 119,000 college students, as well as 2,900 prospective M. A.'s and 1,800 candidates for doctor's degrees, receive aid under this program. In addition to educational aid, the program includes youth work relief, job guidance and placement, apprentice training, and community activities.

SUMMARY

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE WORKS PROGRAM

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

See pages 39-42. The Public Works Administration has issued grants and loans of approximately \$480,000,000 to State and community governmental organizations for construction work in which schools and other educational buildings predominate. Water-supply and sewer systems, municipal buildings, hospitals, and other public buildings follow in importance. Funds provided locally account for 35 percent of the total cost of more than \$743,000,000. Housing projects now being carried on call for an expenditure of over \$100,000,000 in Federal funds and will provide facilities for about 75,000 persons.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK

See pages 43-44. Through the Civilian Conservation Corps nearly half a million young men are being provided with healthful employment in conserving and developing the Nation's natural resources. The table on page 43 bears eloquent testimony to the value of the work accomplished by this section of the Works Program. Over a million rods of fences have been built or repaired, almost 115,000,000 forest trees have been planted, harmful rodents have been controlled on over 5,000,000 acres of land, more than 900,000 man-days of labor have gone toward fire fighting and fire control, nearly 2,500 bridges have been constructed, and almost 500,000 soil-erosion check dams have been built.

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

See pages 45-47. Under the Resettlement Administration more than 333,000 destitute farm families in all parts of the country were being assisted, as of November 30, in readjusting their debts, obtaining necessary capital goods, and the like. Plans are being perfected for the transfer of 20,000 families from submarginal lands (which will be devoted henceforth to forestation, grazing, and wildlife protection) to places better suited to agriculture.

PUBLIC ROADS

See pages 49-50. Under the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Agriculture 73,353 persons were at work by December 28 on the construction of highways throughout the country. For grade-crossing elimination \$200,000,000 has been appropriated, and \$300,000,000 for other highway projects.

OTHER AGENCIES

- See page 51. Other governmental agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, Labor, Navy, War, and Treasury, account for allocations of over \$375,000,000 through December 31, 1935.
- See pages 60-62, 64. The Corps of Engineers of the War Department is spending the largest portion of this sum, with \$88,000,000 going for dredging, channel improvements, and general improvement of inland waterways, and \$42,000,000 for 34 flood-control projects. The Bureau of Reclamation of the Interior Department is using \$82,650,000 of the total on irrigation projects.
- See pages 53-55. Allocations totaling \$16,559,817 have been made to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The Forest Service has received allocations of \$13,827,500 for fire prevention and control, shelterbelt and forest planting, and the development of fish and game preserves. The Soil Conservation Service is spending \$21,000,000 to prove the value of erosion control to farmers.
- See pages 63-67. The Treasury will spend over \$6,000,000 of its allocation on taxation studies; \$5,263,995 on repair and construction of Coast Guard Stations and equipment; and \$3,450,000 on public health studies. The Navy's \$17,345,470 goes for work on yards and docks. The Commerce Department will spend \$10,207,944 on business census projects, improvements to fisheries and lighthouses, and tests of building material under the Bureau of Standards. Over \$11,000,000 is allotted to the Rural Electrification Administration, \$1,234,120 to the Veterans' Administration, \$211,500 to the Library of Congress, and \$200,000 to the Alley Dwelling Authority of the District of Columbia.