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First volume of national series of American Guide to be issued this Fall.

The first volume of the American Guide, a nation-wide WPA white collar project employing some 5,200 writers and other workers taken from relief rolls, will appear this fall, Henry G. Alsberg, Director of the WPA Federal Writers Project, announced today in discussing plans for publication of the 5-volume work embodying American historical and sociological data. Publication of other volumes will follow thereafter.

"There has never been the slightest doubt of what will be done with the material assembled for the Guide," Mr. Alsberg said, "The original allocation made for this work provided adequate funds for the necessary expenses of publication and the original plans submitted to the President included information as to the method of publication."

Material being assembled by the relief writers is being collected in such form that it can be used for state guide books, and is then further edited and cut down to proportions for use in the national Guide. The costs of publishing any State or local guide book must be met by the state or some other public body outside the Federal government, since the WPA allocation covers costs of the five-volume American Guide only.

The Guide, in national, state and local series should prove of inestimable value not only in promoting tourist travel in the United States, but also in classrooms of schools and colleges throughout the country, Mr. Alsberg said.

Requests for the Guide have been flowing in to the Guide office in Washington for several months, Mr. Alsberg said. One large transportation organization has stated through its president that it could use 5000 or more sets of the American Guide on publication.

Four hundred and twenty-five Chambers of Commerce, in addition to a large number of Women's, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions, and automobile clubs are cooperating with the Guide writers in the States, and both officers and members
have already indicated a desire to purchase the Guide as soon as it leaves the press.

"College presidents, school officials and librarians are particularly anxious to have sets of the Guide for reference use," Mr. Alsb erg declared. "Most of the universities and colleges of the country are aiding us in our work by furnishing voluntary consultants to further insure the accuracy of information presented in the Guide.

"Teachers of geography and history in the schools are particularly anxious to secure the finished work as a reference book," Alsb erg continued. "As a matter of fact, in Ohio some schools are already using our instruction sheets to stimulate interest in local history and geography. These sheets, designed for our field workers, are also serving as questionnaires for the students who write themes based on what they have learned about their own localities."

The American Guide will not be the first guidebook prepared and published under relief auspices, Mr. Alsb erg pointed out. Under the program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Connecticut relief workers compiled and edited for publication the Connecticut Guide, of which more than 10,000 copies were sold in two months, returning all publishing costs to the State Relief Administration. Returns from the sale of the American Guide are expected to cover all printing and binding costs in like manner.

In some states, officials have indicated that funds will be made available to publish state guides from material assembled by the Federal Writers' Projects. Local guides, covering only one city and its environs, will be published by some municipalities. New York City is expected to put out its guide in connection with advance publicity on the World's Fair to be held there in 1937.

Material assembled by the Guide workers and not needed for the American Guide, will be placed on file in the state or largest public library in each state. Whether or not a state plans to publish its own guide from this material, the information will be available to students, writers and others interested in state history and progress. New information, never before available to writers and students will thus be open for ready reference.

Already, Mr. Alsb erg explained, members of university faculties and librarians have written to Washington asking when the manuscripts will be ready. Plans are being made to use guide copy in preparation of master's and doctor's theses.