For Immediate Release
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WPA Speeds Drought Program in Western States.

Employment of destitute farmers in the drought area is mounting swiftly, carrying out a carefully executed program in the five States where damage is greatest, Aubrey Williams, Deputy Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, announced today.

Fifty-five thousand men are to be put to work, Mr. Williams said, on a schedule that calls for completion of the employment program within a week or 10 days at the most. The Deputy Administrator estimated that nearly half this number would be employed within 24 hours.

The Works Progress Administration is to employ 20,000 in North Dakota at the rate of 2,000 a day, under direction of Thomas H. Moodie, State Administrator, with headquarters at Bismarck.

In South Dakota, 17,000 are to be employed at an average of 2,800 a day under the organization headed by State Administrator M. A. Kennedy at Pierre.

Jobs for 6,000 are called for in Montana, at the rate of 400 a day, State Administrator Joseph E. Parker, Helena, directing.

Two thousand men are to be employed in Wyoming at the rate of 700 a day under the program headed by Will G. Metz, State Administrator with offices in Cheyenne.
Minnesota's schedule calls for the employment of 7,500 at an average of 800 a day under direction of Victor Christgau, State Administrator, at St. Paul.

Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, who recently made a personal inspection of the drought area, and Mr. Williams will supervise the activities from Washington, with Assistant Administrator Howard O. Hunter, who has established headquarters at Chicago, in direct charge of operations.

"The need of this program was anticipated as a result of studies conducted by our research division covering successive droughts of recent years," Mr. Williams explained.

"The program was ready when the need arose. Water conservation projects—digging wells, building dams and creating artificial lakes—as well as farm-to-market roads had been sponsored by local sponsors and from this reservoir of approved projects it was possible to launch this operation with minimum of delay.

"To bring relief to these people as swiftly as possible, we are taking every short-cut the law allows to get these projects in operation. We know the projects are good, for they had been carefully prepared before the drought withered the fields of these States.

"Foresight, based on the study of conditions in an area that has suffered three severe droughts in six years, enables us to meet the situation expeditiously. The suffering in these States is now being materially reduced and the entire employment program should soon be complete."

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