

THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--

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Williams Reports 23,074 Destitute Farmers at Work on WPA Projects in 5
Western Drought States as of July 13.

At the close of books on July 13, a total of 23,074 destitute
farmers have been put to work on water conservation projects in five
States since the inauguration of the Works Progress Administration
program in the Western drought areas on July 9.

This report was received today by Deputy Works Progress Administra-
tor Aubrey Williams from North and South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota and
Wyoming.

Mr. Williams has authorized the employment of drought-stricken
farmers in the Western areas up to 55,000, and up to 20,000 in the South-
eastern States.

Employment reports from Missouri, Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Carolina,
Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia have not yet been received here.

The number of workers employed by reporting States are:

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| North Dakota | 5,767 |
| South Dakota | 7,600 |
| Montana | 1,957 |
| Minnesota | 6,050 |
| Wyoming | 700 |

Meantime, Montana Works Progress Administrator Joseph E. Parker in-
formed Mr. Williams today that rainfall in his State, which has varied
from a trace in some sections to an inch precipitation in other areas,

has made farmers reluctant to abandon their farms and accept Works Progress Administration employment.

As the result, Mr. Parker advised that "applications for immediate help have diminished materially."

Mr. Parker, however, cautioned that, according to reports he had received from the field, "the recent rains will make no difference in the number of persons Works Progress Administration will be eventually required to take care of, unless heavy precipitation follows."

The Montana administrator may employ up to 6,000 destitute workers, according to the schedule drafted by Mr. Williams. North Dakota with all of its counties designated by the Department of Agriculture as drought areas, may employ up to 20,000; South Dakota may employ up to 17,000; Minnesota, 7,500 and Wyoming, 2,000.

The South Dakota administrator, M. A. Kennedy, advised Mr. Williams that conditions in his state today were "generally the same as for the past two weeks with the exception of scattered showers in some sections and slight moderation of the heat wave."

Mr. Kennedy further advised that "shipment of stock out of the state is increasing."

At the same time, Works Progress Administration officials in the Southeast pressed forward with their efforts today to bring relief to suffering farmers and livestock. Malcolm J. Miller, Southeastern Field Representative for the Works Progress Administration, held conferences in Atlanta throughout the day with Works Progress and other Federal and local government officials, mapping ways and means of meeting the situation in that State, where curtailed cotton and corn crops have thrown thousands of farm laborers out of work and withered vegetable plots

present the added specter of hunger.

A program of cooperation was developed with the Resettlement Administration, Soil Conservation Service, State Highway Department and other groups to speed employment of destitute farmers and laborers on an expanded quota basis. Certification and intake work have already gotten under way on the hundreds of applications for aid which have accumulated. Mr. Miller said today that similar conferences were scheduled in the course of the next few days at Montgomery, Ala., and Oklahoma City.

Meanwhile, regional offices of the Works Progress Administration in New Orleans were advised today by W. S. Key, Oklahoma Administrator, that the drought situation in that State was becoming "more serious daily."

"Our corn crop is practically ruined, seed and food crops are a failure, and our cattle industry is paralyzed," he reported. "Calls have been coming into my office all morning from farm groups in various parts of the State asking what can be done to alleviate their situation.

"We have our full quota of 55,000 people working at present, but I estimate there are another 20,000 families throughout the State who have become desperately in need in the past month as a result of the drought."

He added that a majority of the drought relief cases added to the rolls in the next week would be put to work on water conservation projects and on farm-to-market roads.

Reports received this morning from Tennessee and Arkansas were more encouraging. While neither state has experienced more than sporadic showers during the last 48 hours, and temperatures continue to hover around the 100 degree mark, crop destruction has not been as wide-spread as in other sections.

South Carolina, on the other hand, finds many of its counties rife

with destitution. Relief measures are proceeding rapidly there, however. Following yesterday's conference between Works Progress Administration and other officials when a course of action was mapped out.

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