Drought Employment in 13 Western States to Reach 200,000 on October 1.

Employment of drought victims on Works Progress Administration projects will reach 200,000 by October 1, and probably more than 250,000 by November 1, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins was advised today in a report from Howard O. Hunter, Assistant Administrator, covering the 13 West and Midwest States in which he is directing the drought program of this agency. Approximately 190,000 drought farmers are employed by the Works Progress Administration in these States today, Mr. Hunter added.

Eleven other States have been affected to some extent by the drought, bringing the total number of farmers certified as in need of job aid from the Works Progress Administration to 214,635 last week.

Recent rains over much of the parched area have brought a reduction in the number of job demands, Mr. Hunter reported, but it has been necessary to add approximately 10,000 a week to Works Progress Administration rolls in the 13 States comprising most of the emergency drought territory. He estimated the number of jobs necessary to meet the demands of drought victims in these States during October and November as follows:

- Colorado, 4,000; Iowa, 15,000; Kansas, 15,000; Kentucky, 15,000; Minnesota, 20,000; Missouri, 35,000; Nebraska, 15,000; North Dakota, 50,000; South Dakota, 50,000; Montana, 10,000; Wyoming, 2,000; Wisconsin, 35,000; Illinois, 5,000. Total, 271,000.

"The needs of all drought victims are being carefully checked by local relief agencies before they are certified for Works Progress Administration jobs," Mr. Hunter said. "All needy farmers will be taken care of, but every precaution will be exercised to keep chiselers off projects. We intend to make it impossible for persons to work on Works Progress Administration drought projects and at the same time hold other jobs, thus causing more unemployment in rural areas and undermining farm wage standards."

Mr. Hunter said the job program as now set up was meeting a "two-fold need":

"It is providing a livelihood to drought stricken farmers who otherwise would be destitute and it is creating sorely needed public improvements which are benefiting all citizens."

In many cases the improvements would not otherwise be undertaken for years to come, Mr. Hunter added.