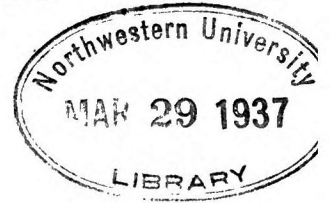


THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--



For Release to Newspapers  
Sunday, April 4, 1937

WPA Summarizes Accomplishments During One Year of Operation.

Works Progress Administrator Harry L. Hopkins today released a survey of physical accomplishments and permanent improvements achieved by WPA workers during approximately one year of operation.

"Our primary concern has been the workers themselves," Administrator Hopkins said, "but while maintaining their morale and skills; we have tried to make their labor as useful as possible to the Nation as a whole and most of these benefits have been permanent in character. The results of the inventory, which considers only work completed as of September 15, 1936, or about a year after operations began in the majority of States, are most gratifying as a demonstration of what 'boondoggling' has been worth to the taxpayers."

Outstanding features of the national report were summarized as follows:

New highways and streets built, 25,486 miles.

Roads and streets repaired, 117,499 miles.

Bridges built or repaired, 20,586 with a combined length of 130 miles.

Sidewalks and paths, built or repaired, 4,512 miles.

Drainage ditches, new or improved, serving more than 9,200 square miles.

New sanitary or storm sewers, 3,357 miles.

Sewage treatment plants (new), daily capacity of 57,000,000 gallons.

Storage dams, chiefly in drought areas, impounding a total of more than a million acre-feet of water. (An acre-foot is a depth of one foot over an area of an acre).

Reforestation including planting of 4,740,824 trees.

Wild-life conservation, featured by 22,968,393 fish planted in streams.

Water-pumping stations with a combined capacity of 94,000,000 gallons daily for new construction and 364,700,000 gallons for plants repaired or improved.

Irrigation: 772,080 acres served by new installations and 1,039,950 by improved systems.

Stream bed improvement, 2,307 miles.

Erosion terraces, new or improved, aggregating 185,231,470 square feet.

Athletic fields and playgrounds, 1,415 new; 1,535 repaired.

Parks and fairgrounds, 425 new; 1,058 improved.

New swimming pools, 248.

Airport landing fields, 45 new; 67 reconditioned.

New public buildings, 4,140; repaired 12,255.

Educational buildings (included in above), 1,099 new; 7,176 improved.

Surplus commodities distributed to needy: 31,441,541 garments, 247,452 yards of cloth; 272,948 tons of foodstuff.

Food canned for distribution to direct relief clients, 6,316 tons.

Hot lunches for undernourished school children, 72,437,606.

Garments produced or repaired for needy in sewing rooms, 60,839,300.

Visits or treatments in medical, dental or nursing assistance to relief clients, 9,110,287.

Comparisons revealed that new roads and streets built by WPA workers during this period had an aggregate length sufficient to reach around the earth at the equator and repaired or improved roads would encircle the globe nearly four and three-fourths times.

New and improved school facilities were found adequate to care for approximately the daily attendance of pupils in all New England, plus New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia--or more than 2,900,000 students.

Nearly five times the floor space of the RCA building in Rockefeller Center, largest office structure in the world, was created by public buildings, exclusive of warehouses and garages, constructed by WPA workers. New public garages, although a minor classification, provided space for nearly 10,000 cars. New warehouses added more than 12,000,000 cubic feet of storage space and improved structures of this type brought the total to 50,000,000 cubic feet, equal to the capacity of more than 100 miles of standard box cars.

The total area served by drainage ditches dug, or reconditioned and improved, is approximately that of New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Pumping stations built or reconditioned to improve community water systems would, if combined, handle approximately three and one-

half times the normal demands of Washington, D. C., a city of 500,000 population.

China's historic Great Wall, it was pointed out, is matched in length by the new sidewalks and paths built by WPA workers in a year. The new bituminous or concrete roads, if linked, would reach from Dallas, Texas, to Vancouver, B. C., although highway improvements by WPA centered on development of secondary systems, mostly of the "farm-to-market" type. The latter included 22,765 miles of new construction and 61,453 miles repaired and improved.

Further comparisons revealed that the 48 miles of new bridges built by WPA during this period, though averaging only some 33 feet in span and designed chiefly to improve less developed sections of the highway system, dwarfed the combined length of the famous bridges in New York and San Francisco. Their combined spans would equal five such structures as the new San Francisco-Oakland bridge (including its railway terminals and approaches) with enough left over to match the Triborough bridge at New York and link the banks of Niagara Falls.

The number of volumes repaired in libraries throughout the country was found to be almost three times the total number of books and pamphlets in the New York Public Library.

WPA sewing room products, though distributed only to needy persons, would have provided one article for every other person in the United States and the garments WPA workers delivered to direct relief clients from surplus commodity supplies were equal to one for every family in the nation. Every American child under the age of 10 years could have

received three meals from the hot school lunches served by WPA women during this period. Similarly, the examinations or treatments bringing medical, dental or nursing assistance to families on relief, were equivalent in number to three calls on every family in the three largest cities, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.

A vast amount of similar work, accomplished under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Civil Works Administration, is not included in this report. It was also explained that the great diversity of WPA activities made it impractical to include every project in this condensed statement. Work on projects that were still in progress September 15, 1936, was excluded.

(A copy of the national summary is attached. Separate reports, covering the individual States, will be available shortly.)

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PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS  
Through September 15, 1936

United States

(Preliminary Summary - Subject to Revision)

Construction Activities			
Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repair and Improvement
<u>Highways, Roads and Streets</u>			
Bituminous or concrete roads.....	Miles	2,454	3,813
Brick or block roads.....	Miles	267	568
Dirt, clay or gravel roads.....	Miles	22,765	61,453
Improvement of roads by surfacing.....	Miles	3,658	27,614
Road shoulders.....	Miles	1,555	18,838
Grade crossing elimination by relocation	No. eliminated	15	-
	Miles of road	26	-
Grade crossing elimination by viaducts..	No. eliminated	6	-
	Length of viaducts in feet	323	-
Bridges.....	Number	7,633	12,953
	Length in feet	251,803	435,627
Culverts.....	Number	85,811	26,541
	Length in feet	2,251,478	657,383
Sidewalks and paths.....	Miles	2,540	1,972
Curbs and gutters.....	Length in feet	7,936,922	3,721,208
	Miles of road equipped	1,130	892
Roadside landscaping.....	Miles of road	-	8,731
	Acres of roadside	-	25,702
Guardrails and guardwalls.....	Length in feet	1,881,833	1,997,514
	Miles of road equipped	1,256	799
Lights for roads and streets.....	Number	3,007	5,860
	Miles of road equipped	61	309
Fire trails.....	Miles	658	777
<u>Flood and Erosion Control - Irrigation -</u>			
<u>Navigation Aids</u>			
Grading.....	Cu. yds. excavated	17,741,185	-
	Cu. yds. filled	11,393,719	-
Bulkheads.....	Number	181	127
	Length in feet	71,630	27,022
Docks, wharves and piers.....	Number	27	52
	Ft. of waterfront	9,082	44,476
Jetties and breakwaters.....	Area in sq. ft.	161,579	1,999,797
	Number	28	15
Levees and embankments.....	Miles	5	4
	Cu. yds. placed	86,792	17,600
River bank improvement.....	Miles	107	269
	Cu. yds. placed	4,957,608	4,075,450
Riprap (other than river bank).....	Miles	-	653
	Sq. yds. surfaced	1,229,034	474,306
Retaining walls and revetments.....	Cu. yds. placed	410,508	152,735
	Number	4,014	2,206
Stream bed improvement.....	Length in feet	1,056,166	454,026
	Cu. yds. placed	765,855	293,282
Canals and channels.....	Miles	-	2,307
Irrigation.....	Number	128	178
	Miles	112	416
Irrigation.....	No. of projects	26	50
	Acres irrigated	772,080	1,039,950



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PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS  
Through September 15, 1936

United States

(Preliminary Summary - Subject to Revision)

Construction Activities			
Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repair and Improvement
<u>Flood and Erosion Control - Irrigation -</u>			
<u>Navigation Aids (Continued)</u>			
Dredging.....	Miles	80	4
	Acres	624	193
Terraces (including erosion terraces).	Number	1,315	3,138
	Length in feet	2,787,476	10,901,380
	Area in sq. ft.	104,856,137	80,375,333
<u>Recreational Facilities</u>			
Athletic fields and playgrounds.....	Number	1,415	1,535
	Acres	5,981	6,889
Golf courses.....	No. of courses	39	55
	No. of holes	435	673
	Acres	3,355	5,229
Parks and fair grounds.....	Number	425	1,058
	Acres	17,029	48,312
Swimming pools.....	Number	248	61
	Surface area in sq. ft.	2,808,607	589,301
<u>Grounds Improvement</u>			
Fencing.....	Ft. of line fence	2,776,274	2,062,829
	Ft. of enclosing fence	2,384,857	-
	Acres enclosed	16,769	-
Other grounds improvement.....	Acres	-	100,450
<u>Airports and Airway Equipment</u>			
Landing fields.....	Number	45	67
	Acres	4,207	8,360
Bituminous airport runways.....	Number	41	49
	Length in feet	92,624	94,406
	Area in sq. yds.	2,111,188	1,259,296
Concrete airport runways.....	Number	7	-
	Length in feet	17,850	-
	Area in sq. yds.	226,555	-
Other airport runways.....	Number	37	27
	Length in feet	97,194	76,465
	Area in sq. yds.	2,303,310	795,555
Air markers.....	Number	26,120	292
<u>Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage</u>			
<u>Systems</u>			
Drainage ditches.....	Number	36,088	6,916
	Acres drained	1,533,822	4,365,171
	Linear ft. of ditch	23,592,747	28,526,151
Drainage work other than ditches.....	Number	1,673	2,550
	Acres drained	129,759	127,832
	Linear ft. of pipe	1,858,393	1,470,339
Sanitary toilets.....	Number	431,014	3,505
Storm or sanitary sewers (trunk lines)	Miles	2,172	802
Storm or sanitary sewers (laterals)...	Miles	1,185	282
	No. of service connections	107,148	22,824
Sewage treatment plants.....	Number	1,155	97
	Capacity in gallons per day	57,349,962	107,308,210

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PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS  
Through September 15, 1936

United States

(Preliminary Summary - Subject to Revision)

Construction Activities			
Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repair and Improvement
<u>Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage Systems (Continued)</u>			
Storage dams.....	Number	1,593	93
	Impoundage in acre feet	1,061,604	58,449
Pumping stations.....	Number	130	58
	Capacity in gallons per day	94,347,605	364,763,120
Water purification plants.....	Number	14	4
	Capacity in gallons per day	2,355,000	3,500,000
Water mains.....	Miles	1,651	683
	No. of service connections	48,206	53,567
Wells.....	No. less than 20 ft.	124	149
	No. 20 - 100 ft.	544	1,022
	No. more than 100 ft.	97	110
<u>Buildings</u>			
Administrative buildings.....	Number	610	2,360
	Floor area in sq. ft.	2,596,260	36,907,080
Educational buildings.....	Number	1,099	7,176
	Floor area in sq. ft.	5,752,075	135,242,218
	Pupil capacity	158,611	2,750,670
Institutional buildings.....	Number	155	370
	Floor area in sq. ft.	1,078,404	22,170,172
	Person capacity	8,808	151,932
Garages.....	Number	342	336
	Vol. in cu. ft.	15,551,235	20,304,277
	Vehicle capacity	4,615	5,364
Airport hangars.....	Number	20	25
	Vol. in cu. ft.	2,843,162	16,147,790
	Ship capacity	186	715
Enclosed recreational buildings.....	Number	961	793
	Floor area in sq. ft.	3,043,493	4,507,656
Open recreational buildings.....	Number	478	174
	Floor area in sq. ft.	2,084,670	2,927,690
Warehouses and other storage buildings	Number	475	521
	Vol. in cu. ft.	12,895,598	37,948,633
<u>Electric and Communication Utilities</u>			
Power dams.....	Number	22	8
	Impoundage in acre ft.	1,754	811
Power houses.....	Number	5	10
	Floor area in sq. ft.	22,430	195,528
	KW capacity	9,830	19,078
Transmission lines.....	Miles underground	15	15
	Miles above ground	36	26
	KW capacity	4,618	3,242
Distribution lines.....	No. of service connections	1,442	2,729
	Miles underground	23	49
	Miles overhead	22	49



PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS  
Through September 15, 1936

United States

(Preliminary Summary - Subject to Revision)

Construction Activities			
Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Construction	Repair and Improvement
<u>Electric and Communication Utilities (Cont)</u>			
Telephone and telegraph lines.....	Miles underground	120	37
	Miles overhead	688	66
Fire alarm systems.....	No. of systems	11	13
	No. of boxes	171	2,503
Traffic control systems.....	No. of systems	31	27
	No. of signals	15,462	35,667
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
Paving other than for roads.....	Area in sq. yds.	2,471,230	442,716
Boats and ships.....	Number	174	5
	Displacement tonnage	143	1,916
Fire observation towers.....	Number	13	9
Tunnels.....	Number	63	9
	Miles	10	1
Mine sealing.....	Number of mines	1,859	1
	No. of openings sealed	43,065	15
<u>Other Than Construction Activities</u>			
Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
<u>Conservation</u>			
Reforestation.....	Acres		16,495
	No. of trees planted		4,740,824
Spray treatments.....	Acres sprayed		83,196
	Gallons of spray		3,720,023
Plant disease eradication.....	Acres cleared of diseased plants		967,262
Mosquito eradication.....	Acres drained		528,682
	Gallons of spray		317,803
Clearing and grubbing.....	Acres		138,728
Stocking fish.....	Number of fish		22,968,393
Stocking game.....	Number of animals		25,142
Stocking fowl.....	Number of fowl		2,670
<u>Distribution of Surplus Commodities</u>			
Garments.....	Number of garments		31,441,541
Cloth.....	Number of yards		247,452
Foodstuffs.....	Number of tons		272,948
<u>Educational, Women's and Professional Activities</u>			
Work in libraries.....	No. of books repaired		11,142,684
	No. of books cataloged		9,486,134
Sewing rooms operated.....	No. of sewing rooms		10,052
	No. of articles produced or repaired		60,839,800
Canning.....	No. of operating units		746
	Tons of food canned		6,316
School lunches served.....	Number		72,437,606
Medical, dental and nursing assistance.....	No. of visits, examinations or treatments		9,110,287

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PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS  
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United States

(Preliminary Summary - Subject to Revision)

Other Than Construction Activities		
Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Gardens cultivated.....	Number	8,987
	Acres	2,291
Demolition (except slum clearance).....	No. of structures	4,064
	Area cleared in sq. ft.	40,645,064

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Division of  
Research, Statistics and Records  
March 17, 1937