

**CROP INSURANCE
DATA PREPARED
BY COMMITTEE**

2 Billion Dollar Program
To Be Recommended
To Congress.

By United Press
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The Federal government, already the largest insurance company in the world, plans a \$2,000,000,000 annual crop insurance program to include eventually cotton, corn and wheat.

President Roosevelt's crop insurance committee, which recommended a Federal program in 1938 for wheat, has gathered data for similar insurance of cotton and corn, the other two of the three principal crops.

Mr. Roosevelt is expected to send the committee's recommendations to Congress early in the session with a request for legislation. Senator James Pope (D., Idaho) said he would introduce a bill to insure wheat "at the earliest possible moment."

Department of Agriculture officials co-operating with the insurance committee, have gathered data on cotton and corn for inclusion in the program if Congress desires. Congressmen from cotton and corn states have conferred with Department of Agriculture officials.

Should the government write insurance for all wheat, cotton and corn grown in the United States it would have an annual "risk" of \$3,000,000,000. It is estimated, however, only about two out of every three farmers would insure.

Large Scale Business

The government under President Roosevelt's administration already has entered the insurance business on a large scale. It insures bank accounts up to \$5,000, loans on homes and farms, lives of World War veterans, and Social Security Insurance covering aged, blind and unemployed.

The failure of every private and mutual company undertaking crop insurance since 1899 has not deterred Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace from establishing the plan as one of the four pillars of his 1937 agricultural program.

He is chairman of the President's committee that recommended insurance of wheat, admittedly the most "risky" of all crops. Cost of administration of the program, in event of claims, balanced indemnities would be in the order of \$25,000,000 a year. President Roosevelt is expected to ask Congress for an initial appropriation of \$100,000,000 to place the program into effect.

Assure Even Flow

Mr. Wallace has chosen crop insurance as a means of putting his even-normal grain market plan effect. The government would step up wheat taken in premiums for distribution in short crop years, thus assuring an even flow of wheat to market and stabilizing prices.

Farmers' would benefit, he said, by an even income and consumers would be protected against wide price fluctuations. Unevenness in the flow of crops to market leads to wide fluctuations not only in prices but in crop plantings and livestock breeding, Mr. Wallace said.

Department of agriculture officials argue that a crop insurance program costing the government up to \$100,000,000 a year would be "cheap" because the government now spends much more than that aiding victims of droughts and other crop disasters. In the last three years it has spent \$25,000,000, in addition to \$1,500,000 in AAA benefits.

Meanwhile, a determined drought-state bloc in Congress made plans to fight for adequate protection of farmers stricken by dry weather.

Provide Relief Work

One plan being considered was for legislation providing for work relief, whereby farmers could work for two days a week when their crops are burned out. Opposition to direct "grants or gifts" from the Federal government was expressed by bloc members.

A committee of 15 Senate and House members, representing all drought states, will draft the program and submit it to the bloc. Support of the President also will be sought.

Rep. Jack Nichols (D., Okla.), bloc leader, said that assurances had been received from government officials that in the transfer of rural citizens from the WPA to Resettlement Administration, there would be little lapse of financial aid.

Mr. Nichols said, however, he was disappointed in the reports of officials of WPA, Resettlement Administration and Reclamation Bureau, because "they went around too many corners."

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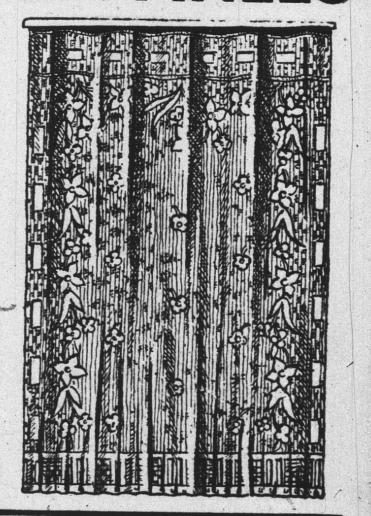
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