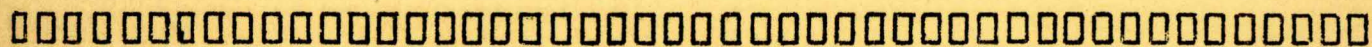


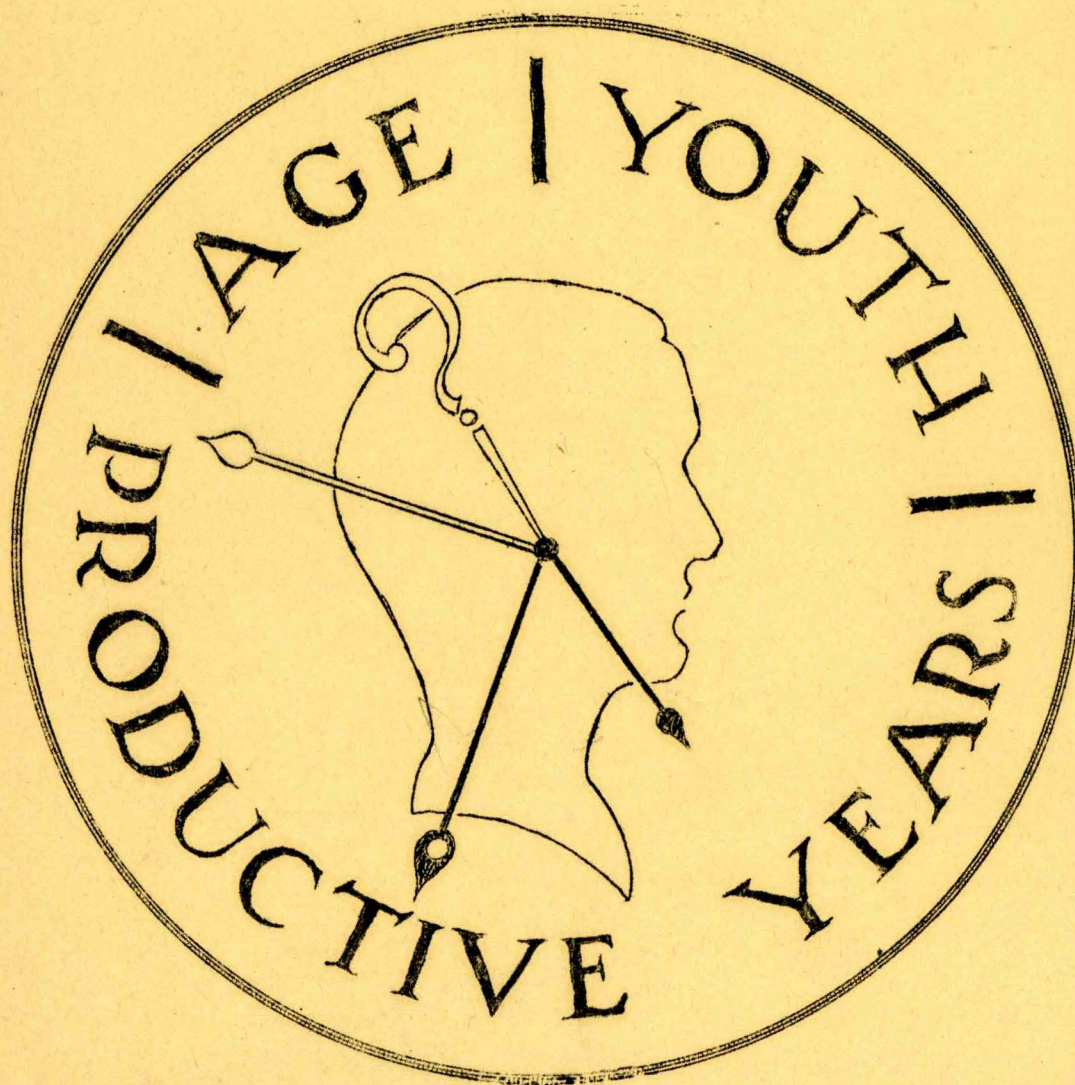
IOWA

PLANNING NEWS

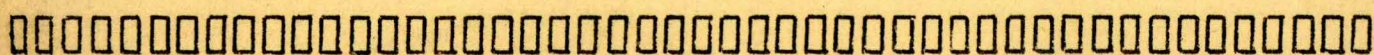


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Ames Iowa





PLANNING NEWS

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Elm Lodge, Ames, Iowa

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IOWA AND THE FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

TO INDICATE HOW UNEMPLOYMENT compensation under the Federal Social Security Act would likely operate in Iowa is the purpose of a recent report prepared jointly by the Population and Social Trends Committee of the Iowa State Planning Board and the Bureau of Business Research of the University of Iowa.

The Federal Act places a tax of three per cent on the payrolls of employers in a substantial proportion of the country's industries. It provides, however, that employers may be relieved of as much as nine-tenths of this Federal tax if the state in which they reside enacts suitable legislation on unemployment compensation, and if this state requires these same employers to contribute to a state compensation fund. To the extent that the employers contribute to the state fund they will be exempt from the Federal tax except that the Federal government will, in any event, collect at least one-tenth of the three per cent levy.

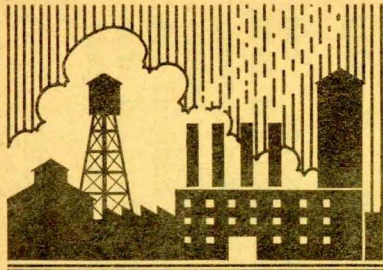
The report shows that, if Iowa adopted a program of unemployment compensation conforming to the minimum requirements of the Federal act, there would be about 324,000 employees in industries included in the plan. About 187,000 employees, mainly in agriculture, government service, and general service occupations, would not be included. However, the state legislature is free to extend the program to include as many of these industries as it sees fit.

The Federal tax applies only to those employers having eight or more employees. If Iowa adopted similar coverage, 23.3 per cent of the otherwise eligible workers, or 75,719 would be excluded from the program.

The report bases its conclusions regarding the operation of unemployment compensation in the state on an investigation of how the plan would have operated if it had been in effect between the years 1920 and 1934. It is shown that during this time most of the unemployment was of a seasonal nature, and that the number of persons unemployed as a result of general changes in business conditions, though very large, was small in comparison to the number affected by seasonal unemployment. Between 33,000 and 48,000 workers were unemployed each year during this period as a result of seasonal influences. The average length of the unemployment period for seasonal workers was about six months. On the other hand, the number unemployed because of general business changes varied each year from practically none to 105,000. Usually the number was less than 30,000.

If unemployment compensation had been in operation between 1920 and 1934, the yield of the payroll taxes (assuming that all employees in those industries included under the Federal act were eligible) would have totaled for the entire period (at different rates) the following amounts:

2.7%	\$142,985,000
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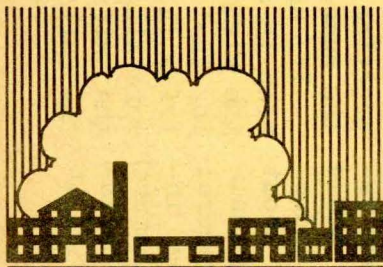
EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 15,000
GAINFUL WORKERS

INDUSTRIES MAINLY COVERED BY FEDERAL PAYROLL TAX



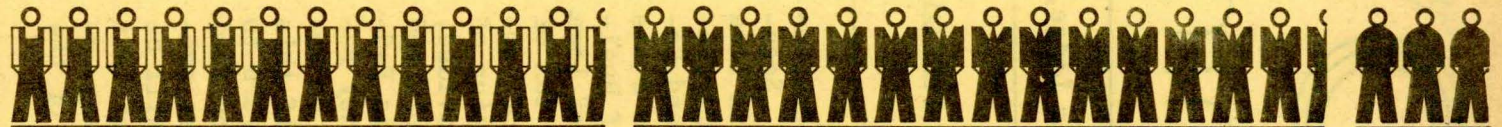
EMPLOYEES — 324,528

PROPRIETORS & OFFICIALS — 69,897
OTHERS — 15,649



EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 15,000
GAINFUL WORKERS

INDUSTRIES MAINLY NOT COVERED BY FEDERAL PAYROLL TAX



EMPLOYEES — 187,256

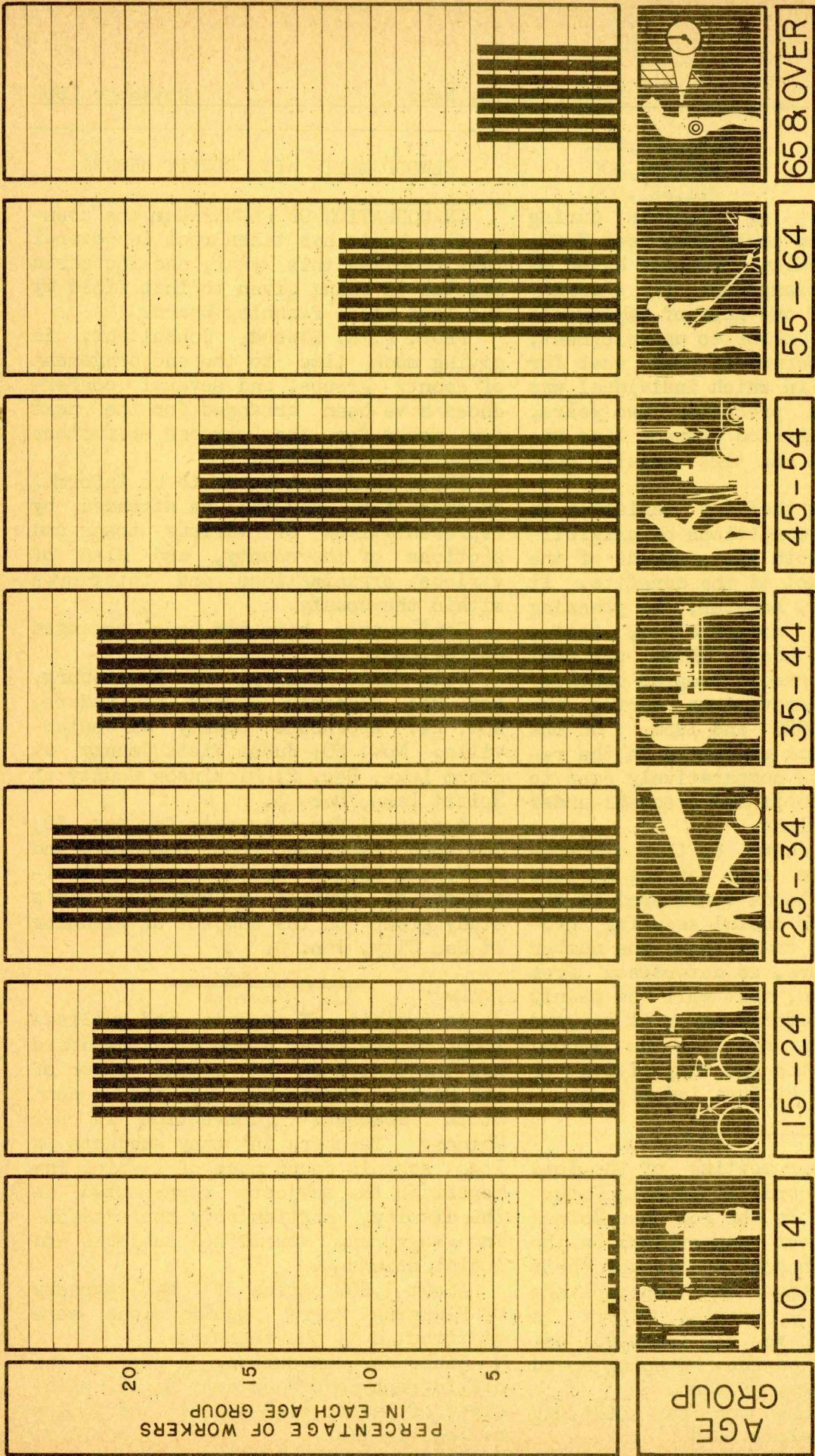
PROPRIETORS & OFFICIALS — 217,349

OTHERS — 43,860

GAINFUL WORKERS

IOWA — 1930

CHART DELINEATED BY THE IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD



AGE DISTRIBUTION OF GAINFUL WORKERS IOWA — 1930

CHART DELINEATED BY THE IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD

3.0%	\$158,872,000
3.5%	185,354,000
4.0%	211,831,000

The total cost of benefits during the same period would have been \$160,553,772. This calculation was based on the following assumption: (1) a weekly benefit rate of one-half of employee's weekly earnings prior to unemployment, (2) a benefit period of one week for each four weeks in which individual was employed during preceding two years, (3) no waiting period between time unemployment began and time benefit payments started.

It is obvious that any variation in the coverage or conditions of eligibility would vary both the proceeds of the tax and the amount of the benefits. It is worth knowing, however, in planning for unemployment compensation, that a pay roll tax of about three per cent would have supported a program containing the above provisions during the period between 1920 and 1934. On the basis of the data presented in the report, it would be comparatively easy to calculate the costs and proceeds under any other conditions.

Graphically shown on the accompanying charts are some of the factors which will need to be considered in the shaping of Iowa's social security program. The first chart shows the number of gainful workers, as determined from the 1930 census, that will be mainly covered by the Federal pay roll tax, and those that will not. In the second chart is shown the age composition of workers employed by Iowa industries.

At the December meeting of the Iowa State Planning Board, to be held Saturday the twelfth, in the Fort Des Moines Hotel, all project supervisors on the staff will be present to discuss their projects, objectives and accomplishments to date. A special effort is being made to have all technical advisors, as well as the Planning Board members themselves, present.

Opening sessions for the meeting will be at 10 o'clock A. M.

ELWOOD MEETS WITH COUNTY GROUPS

INAUGURATION OF PLANNING on the county-wide basis has taken root in several Iowa counties this year, and increased impetus is being given to that field by the Iowa State Planning Board.

Prof. P. H. Elwood, Consultant, is giving much time to the encouragement of county groups, and several conferences have been arranged for the next few weeks for the purpose of further stimulating interest.

These conferences are to be informal in character, and will be attended by representatives of various towns and sections of the county, and also of various organizations and interests within the county.

Conferences have now been arranged as follows:

Palo Alto County, at Emmetsburg, Nov. 23; Plymouth County at LeMars, Nov. 24; Appanoose County at Center-ville, Nov. 30; Buena Vista County at Storm Lake, Dec. 2; Dickinson County at Spirit Lake, Dec. 3.

A request for a speaker for Nov. 30, has been received from Humboldt, and Professor Elwood has accepted an invitation to address a business men's study group on the subject of planning at Sac City, Jan. 6.

An exhibit of reports and publications of the Iowa State Planning Board was presented on the second floor of the Shrine Auditorium at the recent State Teachers' Convention in Des Moines. Teachers in many subjects in Iowa schools found much of special interest in the subjects represented in the display, particularly those teaching geography, vocational subjects and social sciences.

About 1,500 copies of a bibliography of Planning Board publications were distributed to the teachers.

Since the convention, a copy of the bibliography has been sent to the principal of every high school and junior college in Iowa.

I M P O R T A N T N O T I C E

The essay, "Problems of Public Health Planning", appearing on pages 5, 6 and 7 of the "Iowa Planning News" for November, was written at the suggestion of the editor by an individual in charge of a WPA health survey. It was not passed upon by, nor does it bear the approval of, either the Iowa State Planning Board or the State Department of Health. It represents merely the personal views of the author.

We regret any misunderstanding which may arise with regard to the authoritativeness (or, rather, lack of authoritativeness) of this article.

-- Editor
"Iowa Planning News"

(Please insert this notice ahead of page 5 in your November "Iowa Planning News".)

PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING

LAST MONTH WE DISCOVERED that Iowa has quite an elaborate organization for protecting and promoting better public health. This organization we found to be headed by the state department of health with its various divisions and reaching down to local boards of health as health officers in each city, town and township in the state. Besides this a state board of health has extensive advisory duties and counsels the state department regarding various public health problems.

That the present program is not entirely satisfactory has been evident to many for some time. The Brookings Institution in its report on administration in Iowa suggested numerous enlargements in the program of the state department and pointed to the inadequacy of local health administration in practice. Doctors have long felt the present program to be falling short of adequacy. The Brookings Institution attributed this failure primarily to lack of funds not only among local boards of health, which were found to be spending only three cents per capita per year in townships and twenty-two cents per capita in incorporated areas for a "highly insufficient" service, but also in the state department, whose appropriation amounted to three and one-third cents per capita as compared to a national average of eleven and eight-tenths cents. "In only two states was the rate less than in Iowa," said the report.

A fundamental difficulty in suggesting an improved service was the lack of information concerning the health programs of the various local units of government including towns, townships and schools. Thought to be the most desirable place for reorganization were these same local units, but ignorance of the exact status of local health programs has prevented any comprehensive plan from being produced.

To supply this information the Iowa State Planning Board is now conducting a survey which will show the exact status of the health program in every community in the state. Once this information is compiled, the department of health will be able to tackle a definite problem and with diligence will be able to obtain beneficial improvements in local public health programs.

Other shortcomings in Iowa's public health program due to lack of funds are now being attacked through grants of the United States Public Health Service, long the largest and most effective health agency in the country, to the state department of health.

One of these new programs is a concerted effort to analyze occupational disease and its causes and sources in Iowa industry.

Though workmen's compensation laws now protect the worker from economic loss due to accident on the job, the worker who through long years of service in unregulated, dangerous industries contracts any of numerous occupational maladies which are fatal unless checked in an early stage is completely unprotected.

The grant of the United States Public Health Service will enable the department of health in conjunction with the bureau of labor to make a thorough survey of occupational diseases in Iowa industries, and on its conclusion they will be able to present a sound program for protection and adequate compensation for occupational disease.

Of greatest immediate import to Iowa's people, perhaps, are the funds now available for the organization of district health units. If this plan develops as its advocates hope and expect that it will, public health will make great forward strides within a few years.

In brief, the plan proposes to unite groups of counties into a single health

district for which a health officer, a sanitary engineer, and a public health nurse will be furnished by federal funds. On its part each county must provide at least one visiting nurse, one half of whose salary and expenses, amounting to about \$1350 annually, must be paid by the county. As soon as a group of counties have established this public health nursing service the state department is authorized to set the rest of the plan in action.

This program will give every town and city, every county and township, a readily available source of guidance and information on all matters pertaining to public health. By providing full time service for these comparatively small units, public health programs will be enabled to attack with vigor many serious problems which heretofore have escaped assault because of inadequate funds. Stream pollution, water supply, venereal disease will be fought with increasing intensity.

Beneficial as this program is, it leaves untouched the local health programs with their present ineffectual set-up. When the current survey is finished, we may be able to design a more effective local health program. How directly will this new program in districts and in localities aid in attacking the health problems of the individual?

And what is to be the ultimate goal of state directed health programs? Is Iowa going to have socialized medicine? Is America going to be satisfied with health insurance provided by private companies?

Apprehensive as the organized medical profession is concerning these questions, we cannot forever avoid facing them. Probably no one now knows what scheme will work out best, but certain it is that society will eventually have to attack the huge economic losses, the great human suffering resulting from disease, on a more personalized basis than the present public health program permits. To be able to judge this program competently we at least owe it to ourselves to be acquainted with the

prominent characteristics of each of these alternatives.

To many Americans the idea of health insurance handled by private associations holds a strong appeal. For some time men of moderate income and good health have been able to get health and accident insurance which would pay them a fixed sum for each day of work they lost. This type of policy has been expensive and, for many, hard to get. In addition to this type of insurance another, supplementary to this, has sprung up within the past few years. This plan cares for the actual cost of medical attention and hospitalization for the individual or in some cases for an entire family. Associations selling this insurance usually offer the prospect his choice of several reputable hospitals and also his choice of a lengthy list of physicians. From both hospitals and physicians the company secures a special rate for handling its cases. In most companies the insured must pay a special, though reduced, fee for any major operation. The premiums for this insurance, which has been meeting with considerable popularity in several eastern metropolitan centers, seem to be rather high for value received, and are completely out of the reach of the average working man in the lower income brackets.

Many misconceptions are prevalent concerning the operation of state health insurance despite the fact that ever since 1911 England has had a plan of compulsory health insurance for all manual workers receiving less than \$1250 per year. This covers about 80% of the working population.

Each male employee insured pays about nine cents per week, females pay eight cents and the employer pays nine cents for every employee regardless of sex. From these funds the worker receives medical care and supplies and a small allowance for each day of disability. These funds have proved more than adequate to meet expenses and the surplus has gradually grown for many years, amounting in 1934 to \$547,000, 000.

The first objection usually heard is that the patient cannot choose his own physician. This is an erroneous view. Any qualified British doctor can be put on the government list simply by making application and coming to terms about his remuneration per call. Though the British Medical Society at first strenuously disapproved of this plan, as its operation has continued successfully this organization has swung behind the program. Approximately fifty-five per cent of British doctors are now enrolled on the health insurance list. There are several advantages to this type of practice. First is the surety that each doctor has of being paid for his services among the laboring classes of the population, a surety sadly lacking in this country. Then, too, if a doctor is called in to treat the head of an insured family he is very likely to be called in to treat other members of the family who become ill, and thus may well build up a practice in the old family practitioner tradition. Thus, it would seem that compulsory health insurance has actually increased the income of British physicians, has given full protection to British laborers of low income, and has done this at very low premiums which have nevertheless been adequate to cover expenses. The fund now has a large surplus.

Still another alternative is complete socialization of medicine which would give free service to every citizen, the doctors being paid by the state with tax raised money. No nation has at present gone that far in a public health program. But still various modifications of such a plan are held by some to be the best ultimate answer to the health program.

In this short space none of these plans has been given just exposition, but in brief they are alternatives, one of which will eventually be decided upon with modifications for America.

A continuously expanding view of the duties of the government regarding public health has been characteristic from

the middle ages to the present. With continuing rapid changes in science and society, public health programs, too, must advance or fall by the wayside. So of these possibilities we urge your thoughtful consideration.—H. C.

COMMUNITIES REQUEST INDUSTRIAL SURVEYS

MEETING IN THE OLD CAPITOL building, Iowa City, on November 11, the committee on Business and Industry of the Iowa State Planning Board tentatively recommended favorable consideration of requests from five of the state's seven cities of over 40,000 for industrial surveys. The contemplated studies would analyze employment, consumer markets, storage and transportation, etc. A report would be made available to those interested in the commercial and industrial development of the communities.

It was decided that as a condition precedent the community in each case, through its Chamber of Commerce, business association or other group, should be required to bear part of the cost of the survey and report.

Dean C. A. Phillips of the College of Commerce, State University of Iowa, chairman of the Committee on Business and Industry, emphasized the value of uniformity in surveys of different cities. "Industrial surveys," stated Dean Phillips, "should be conducted by an agency outside the city, in order to insure freedom from the 'coloring' effect of local enthusiasm. The survey should not be aimed at proving the desirability of the city as a site for any and all new enterprises. It is probable, however, that each community has resources which are suitable for some commercial or industrial development."

The American Society of Planning Officials was sponsor of a Conference on City Planning, Congress Hotel, Chicago, November 19-20.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

HOMESTEAD TAX RELIEF or exemption from taxation has touched a responsive chord with large sections of the public. Before advancing any single measure of tax reform as a panacea for the ills that beset our society, however, it is well to examine its objectives to see: first, if the thing which it is intended to accomplish is socially desirable; secondly, if such an objective can be obtained by the methods proposed.

One of the claims most frequently advanced by the advocates of homestead tax relief is that it would promote greater security in the ownership of property and hence, would encourage more widespread home ownership. Most everyone seems agreed that it is desirable for people to own the homes in which they live. It makes for greater pride in the care and improvement of the home, and for greater stability in community organization. This is especially true in a state predominantly rural, such as Iowa. However, it is unlikely that the most liberal of homestead taxation laws would ever promote a high degree of home ownership in great urban centers where the vagaries of seasonal employment, shifting industrial centers, and technical replacement oftentimes make home ownership a hindrance to free movement in search of new employment, or in following an old job when the industry shifts.

Much of the impetus to homestead tax exemption in Iowa, at present, is due to the fact that under the current three-point income and sales replacement tax, all property owners benefit equitably. It is the contention that out of state property owners who do not contribute to the sales tax ought not to receive its benefits. Agreement is fairly general on that point.

However, the present sales tax legislation expires this year. To finance a permanent homestead exemption, the sales tax, or some other form of tax, will need to be made permanent. The

sales tax is easily collected and, hence, is likely to be popular with collecting agencies, though it admittedly falls most heavily upon families in the lower income brackets.

Other factors than ease of collection and the desirability of homestead exemption will need to be considered in shaping the permanent tax program. A well-planned, and just tax set-up might include provisions for homestead exemption up to \$2,500 or some such figure, coupled with higher income levies in the upper brackets and a form of sales tax, possibly exempting foodstuff.

On the other hand, home ownership does not depend solely upon the rate of taxation. Large sections of our population, if nothing further were done in the interests of home ownership than the elimination of homestead taxation for support of the state, would still be unable to own their homes.

As part of a larger, well planned program for the greater security of our American institutions, tax reform deserves full consideration, and homestead tax relief is well worthy of consideration. It cannot, however, pose as a cure-all any more than can farm ponds (for the cure of flood and drouth) or old age pensions (as the cure-all for depressions).-A. C.

ELWOOD AT HIGHWAY MEETING

Prof. P. H. Elwood, Consultant to the Iowa State Planning Board, was in attendance at two national gatherings the week of November 16. As Chairman of a sub-committee on education and public relations of the roadside development committee, Highway division of the National Research Council, he attended the annual meeting of the highway division in Washington, Tuesday, where he was to take part in a discussion of safety factors in roadside development.

On his return from Washington, Professor Elwood stopped in Chicago to attend the meeting of the American Society of Planning Officials.

I O W A S T A T E P L A N N I N G B O A R D W.P.A. P R O J E C T S
Progress Report as of October 25, 1936

Two new projects got well under way during the month of October. Both are state-wide projects, calculated to operate in all of the five W. P. A. districts:

Recreation and Historic-O.P.-65-72-5086
The Recreation and Historic survey includes a study of the factors influencing the location of recreational areas, the layout, design and marking of historic and archeological sites now being acquired for preservation by public agencies; the excavation of and a study of the number and origin of state park visitors and an extensive field survey of existing and desired recreational facilities.

Education - O.P. 65-72-287

The purpose of this survey is to obtain information relative to the facilities for secondary education afforded by the various types of schools in Iowa, and the educational records of the pupils attending these schools. This information will be studied and analyzed to find to what extent our high schools are serving our educational needs, and to what extent certain factors in the grade schools and high schools affect the later educational records of the pupils.

Urban Land Use and Traffic Studies - O.P. 65-72-5033 to 5066

Urban land use reports for Muscatine and Fort Dodge have been completed. Work on Sioux City land use report now in progress. Keokuk report has gone to printers.

Tax Survey - O.P. 65-72-2928

The state-wide tax survey to determine effect of homestead tax exemption or relief in the various counties is nearing completion. Extent of exemption has been calculated for 33 counties. Practically all of the field work is now completed.

Analysis of Farm Statistics - O.P.65-72-5321.

Studies based on available farm statistics involving distribution of farm land in various uses, trends in acreage and yield of major crops and effects of various leasing systems on farm practices and on distribution of income and expense.

During the month this study moved to 75 per cent of completion. It will be finished by approximately December 31, 1936.

Base Map Survey - O.P. 65-72-5048

This project is now operation or has operated in all but 12 counties in the state. Field work has been finished in 34 counties. Two tabulating offices are now in operation in Districts Four and Five.

Survey of Health Resources - O.P. 65-72-2953

Purpose of project is to ascertain what agencies, governmental and non-governmental are engaged in programs to promote the public health, how much these agencies are spending, and just what programs are being promoted by this expenditure.

Work is now in progress in 49 counties, and has been completed in 14 counties. Tabulating offices are operating in Des Moines, and Council Bluffs.

Biological Survey - O.P. 65-72-2927

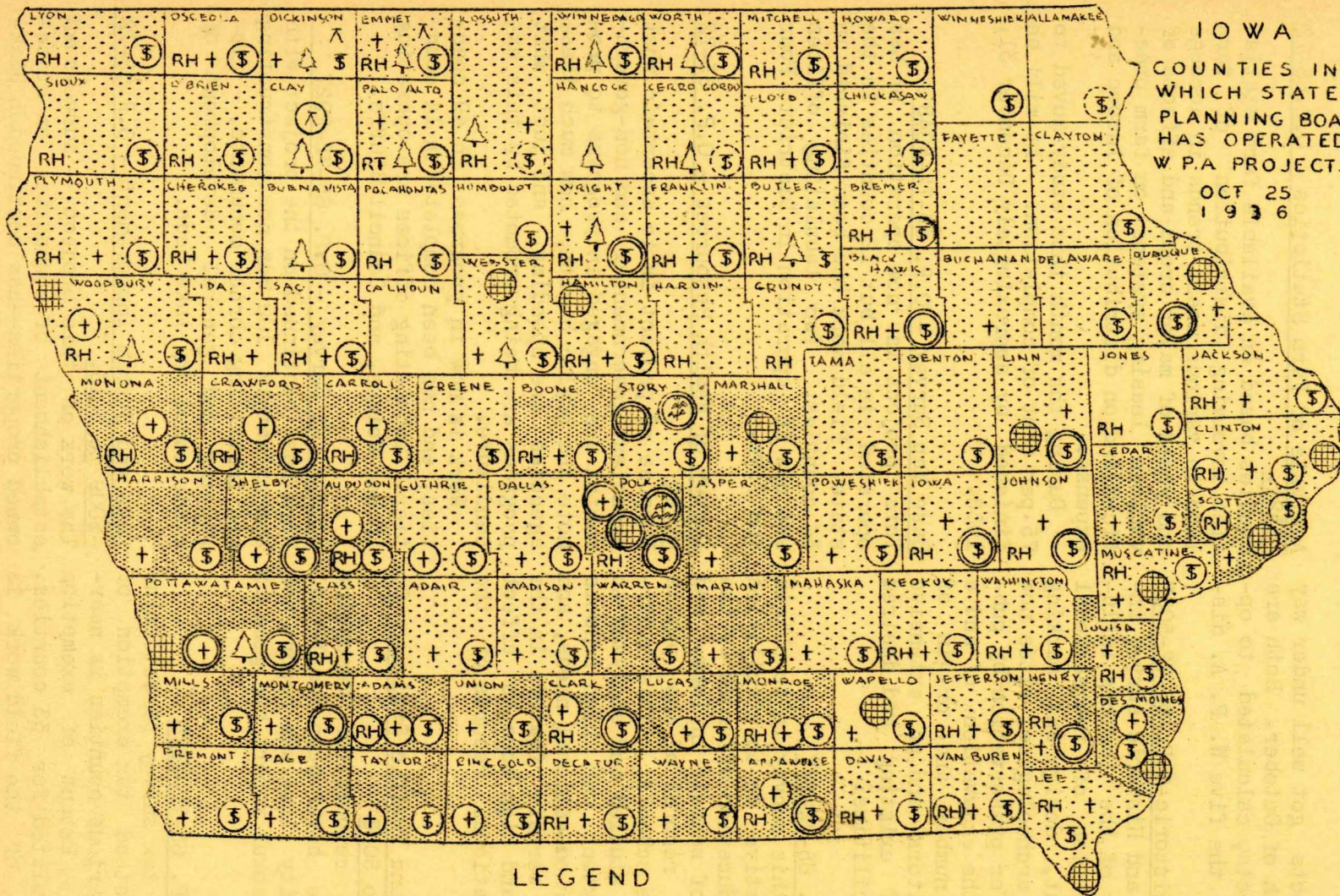
Work has continued on the project with approximately 100 men now constructing and installing corner monuments, rapping and general development of state-owned dry lake beds.

Lake and Stream Improvement - O.P.65-72-5009 to 5013.

The work of this project -- surveys and establishment of boundaries on state-owned properties--has continued in Dickenson and Emmet Counties.

IOWA
COUNTIES IN
WHICH STATE
PLANNING BOARD
HAS OPERATED
W.P.A. PROJECTS

OCT 25
1936



LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| \$ | TAX SURVEY | △ | LAKE AND STREAM IMPROVEMENT | ○ | FIELD WORK COMPLETED |
| RH | RECREATION AND HISTORIC | ⊠ | URBAN LAND USE TRAFFIC STUDIES | ○ | FIELD WORK INTERRUPTED TO BE CONTINUED |
| 🌳 | ANALYSIS OF FARM STATISTICS | ⋯ | BASE MAP SURVEY | ⊙ | TABULATING OFFICE |
| 🌲 | BIOLOGICAL SURVEY | ⊠ | BASE MAP COMPLETED | + | PUBLIC HEALTH |

I O W A S T A T E P L A N N I N G B O A R D

H. H. Kildee, Chairman Dean of Agriculture, Iowa State College
T. R. Agg Dean of Engineering, Iowa State College
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Mrs. Henry Frankel Iowa State Conservation Commission
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Chester A. Phillips . . . Dean of Commerce, State University of Iowa
Agnes Samuelson State Superintendent of Public Instruction
A. C. Trowbridge State Geologist
Fred White Chief Engineer, Iowa Highway Commission

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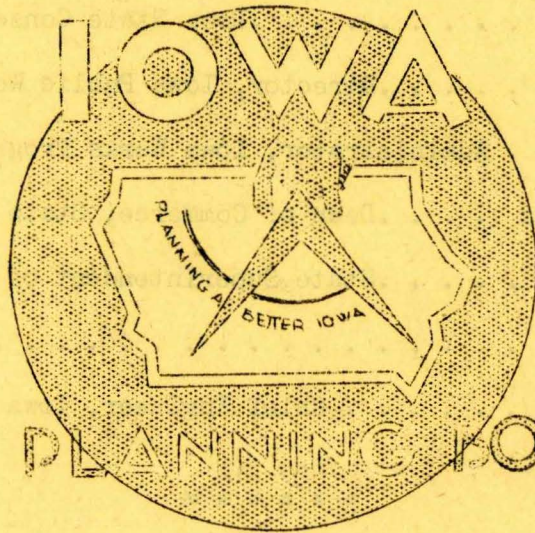
R. H. Matson. Director
A. H. Wieters Secretary

* * * * *

C. M. Moderwell, District Chairman National Resources Committee
P. H. Elwood, Jr., Consultant. National Resources Committee

Material in the "Iowa Planning News" is assembled, edited and published, without review by the members of the Iowa State Planning Board itself. Additional items, corrections or new addresses for our mailing list will be welcome.

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