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**Progress report of Iowa State Planning
Board projects, Feb. 1-15, 1936.**

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State Planning
Board
Progress...

PROGRESS REPORT
OF
IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS
FOR

FEBRUARY 1-15, 1936

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PROGRESS REPORT OF IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS

FEB. 1-15, 1936

In the report for January, three projects were described and their progress recorded. These projects, "Business and Industry", "Urban Zoning and Planning Studies", and "Biological Survey", have gone forward steadily during the first half of February.

Five other projects have received final approval of WPA officials in Washington, and the status of these as of Feb. 15 will be described in this report.

Business and Industry
Project No. 00-85-477

This project, as described in the report for January, consists of a state-wide taxation study to determine the effects of a proposed homestead exemption law in Iowa, particularly with respect to loss of tax revenue.

The progress of the survey is shown by the following summary:

	February 1-15, 1936	
	Field Work	Tabulations and analyses
No. of counties in which project was active	83	0
No. of counties in which project was completed	0	0
Total per cent of project completed (approx.)	40	0

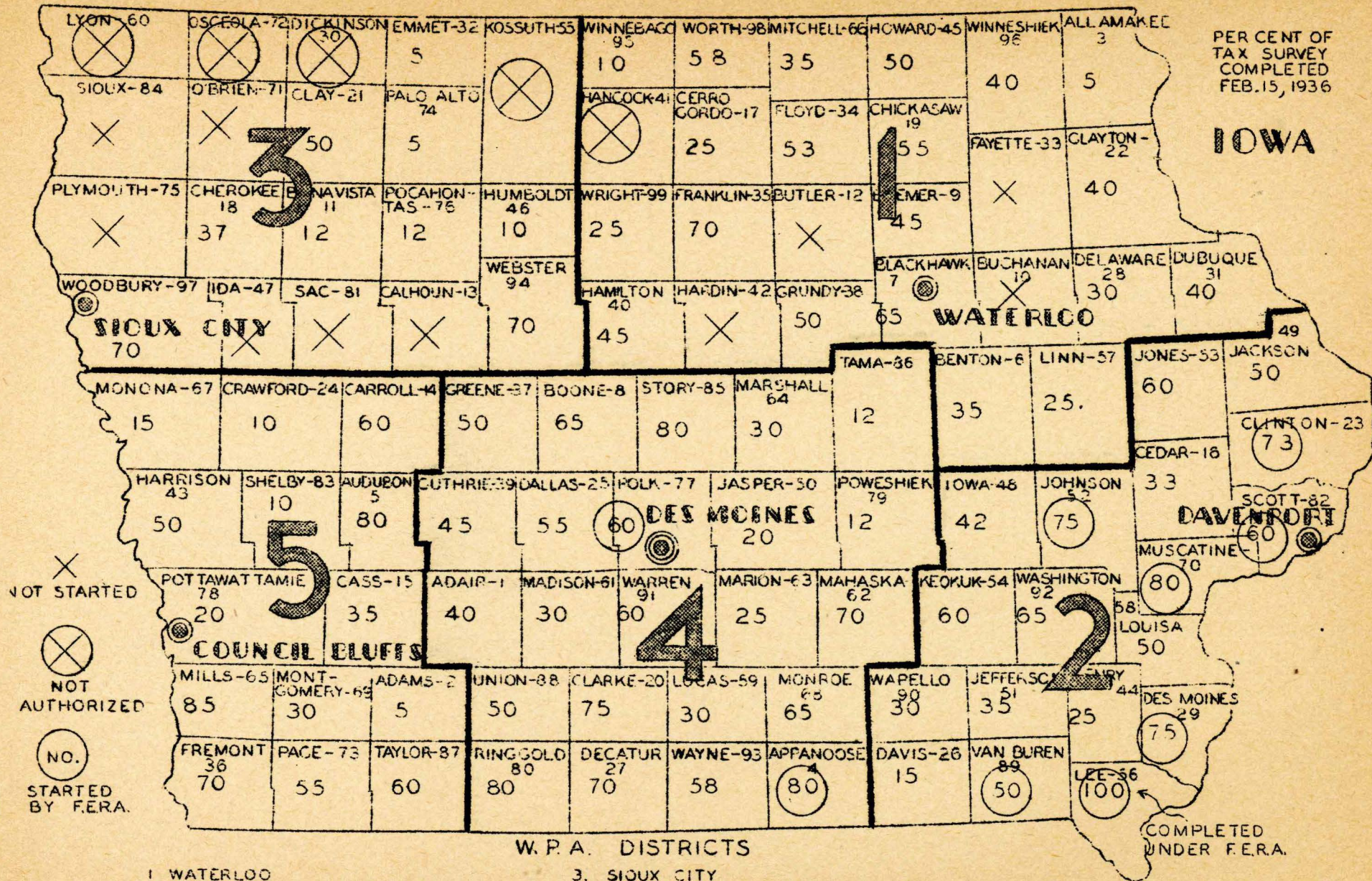
We note that roughly 40% of the field work was completed to Feb. 15. None of the work of tabulating and analyzing the data was done, because of the fact that this work cannot be begun until the data on occupancy is obtained, which data must be obtained last.

The progress of the survey in each county is shown by the map on page 2. The figures represent the per cent completion of the field work. In 10 counties (marked with crosses) in districts 1 and 3, work has not been started. In five others (marked with cross and circle) in the same districts, work has not been authorized.

A total of approximately 175 relief workers were employed, an average of a little more than 2 per county. There were 14 non-relief workers.

PER CENT OF
TAX SURVEY
COMPLETED
FEB. 15, 1936

IOWA



URBAN ZONING AND PLANNING STUDIES
PROJECT NO. 00-85-3011

Although this project consists of two distinct surveys, namely, a traffic survey and a survey of urban land use, most of the work to Feb. 15 was done on the former, the severe weather making the latter difficult. It is possible to make traffic counts without difficulty even in an Iowa "good old-fashioned winter", when the enumerators are protected by small sidewalk shelters or do the counting from a room in some building. At stations where the enumerator stands in the open, the count must be interrupted on some days.

In the table on page 4, the progress in the various cities is represented. In the third column are shown the types of surveys contemplated. Land use surveys have been begun only in Webster City and Muscatine. The percentages of work completed are necessarily rough estimates. They represent the field work only, except in Des Moines where the work of tabulation has begun.

On Feb. 15 this project was employing 278 relief workers and 24 non-relief, a total of 302. This is to be compared with 85 relief workers employed as of Jan. 24.

In Marshalltown, a National Youth Administration project also was conducted supplementary to the traffic survey. This gave employment to 11 youths between the ages 15 and 25. They work one-third time and are paid proportionately.

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
PROJECT NO. 00-85-475

Although the work under this project to Feb. 15 has been of an emergency nature, it has been very beneficial. The almost ~~unprecedented~~ cold winter has covered the lakes of Iowa with ice from 15 to 36 inches thick. In addition, a blanket of snow has sealed any cracks in the ice which might admit oxygen, without which fish cannot live.

The work has consisted largely in opening holes through the ice, on shallow lakes in the northern part of the state. ~~These~~ holes are cut about 6 ft. wide and 100 ft. long, extending in a northwest-southeast direction so that the prevailing wind will help to keep them from freezing over. In some places outboard motors are placed at one end of the hole and operated, to agitate the water and by so doing admit oxygen into it.

By saving the fish we are not merely maintaining the recreational facilities of Iowa. Loss of fish means loss of food, also loss of revenue to the Fish and Game division of the Conservation Commission. If fish die under the ice they decompose, contaminating the water and making it unsanitary and malodorous for use of nearby towns and for those who wish to swim in it.

The work is as follows in the different counties:

City	County	Type of survey	Date Work Begun	Percent of work completed Feb.1-15 (approx)	No. of Employees Feb. 15	
					Relief	non-relief
<u>District 1.</u>						
Cedar Rapids	Linn	traffic	Feb.3	5	24	1
Dubuque	Dubuque	"	Feb.3	5	25	2
Webster City	Hamilton	land use	Feb.4	20	6	
<u>District 2.</u>						
Burlington	Des Moines	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.27	15	25	
Keokuk	Lee	traffic	Jan.27	15	16	
Clinton	Clinton	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.15	15	22	
Ottumwa	Wapello	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Feb.3	15	30	
Muscataine	Muscataine	land use	Jan.27	15	13	1
Davenport	Scott	(tabulations only)	-----	0		
<u>District 3.</u>						
Fort Dodge	Webster	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.20	15	24	
<u>District 4.</u>						
Marshalltown	Marshall	land use	-----	0		
		traffic	Jan.15	15	29	
Des Moines	Polk	(tabulations only)	Jan.27	2	41	4
Ames	Story	(Head-quarters county)			1	15
<u>District 5.</u>						
Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	traffic	Jan.29	15		
Per cent (approximate) of total project completed - 8 (equals average of county percentages completed)						
Total number of persons employed - - - - -					278	24

District 3

Buena Vista County

Five relief laborers working on and around Storm lake, and under supervision of conservation officer.

Clay County

Seven relief men working on Trumbull Lake.

Dickinson County

Thirteen relief men working on Silver, Swan, Spirit and E. Okoboji Lakes, under direction of a supervisor from the Conservation Commission.

Palo Alto County

Twelve relief men on Lost Island Lake and five on Silver Lake near Ayrshire.

Webster County

Four relief men, under supervision of conservation officer, doing winter feeding and working on waste land area.

Emmet County

An allotment of \$1,570.00 has been made and as soon as assignment of men can be completed, work will begin on Mud, High, Tuttle and Iowa Lakes.

Woodbury County

An allotment of \$678.00 has been made and work will be started as soon as requisitioned material arrives and weather permits.

District 4

An allotment of \$4,400.00 has been made in a lump sum for this district. Work will begin as soon as assignments of men are completed.

The total number of relief workers employed on the project was ⁴⁶~~42~~ This is ¹²~~7~~ more than were used during January.

Besides these three projects, six others have had final approval* in Washington and will be begun as soon as possible. These are "Transportation", "Public Education", "Recreation and Historic", "Public Service", "Analysis of Farm Statistics", "Lake and Stream Improvement". The status of each is as follows:

Transportation,
Project No. 00-00-2967

Delay in inaugurating this survey is due to the necessity of the Highway Commission getting their traffic survey on primary roads (financed by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads) completely organized before giving attention to the Planning Board survey.

The latter is made up of five distinct surveys and studies as follows: (1) appraisal survey of primary road system; (2) research on uniform classification of highway accounts; (3) transportation study of railways, waterways, airways and trunk pipe lines; (4) trade area survey; (5) study of service lives of Iowa highways; (6) traffic counts on secondary roads, in cooperation with county engineers.

Public Education
Project No. 00-85-480

Assurance was given that this project would be approved in Washington providing certain points could be clarified satisfactorily. One question which arose was whether there was duplication between this survey and the Planning Board project, "Health Survey", also before the W.P.A. for approval. Other questions had to do with the details of procedure, the purposes to be served, the contacts to be made, the submission of complete statistical forms, the degree of completion of each part of the studies under F.E.R.A., etc. Detailed answers to all these questions were submitted Feb. 4. It is believed that these should satisfy W.P.A. officials in Washington and it is expected that approval will be received soon. To date (Feb. 15) no word from Washington has been received.

Recreation and Historic
Project No. 00-85-483

Final approval of this project was received from Washington in January. Because of the severe winter weather and the fact that much of the work is to be done in the open, it has been deemed best to delay starting the work until field conditions are more favorable. Request for an allotment for a wood-working shop in Dubuque has been submitted. In this shop markers are to be made for marking recreational, historical and archaeological sites throughout the state.

* "Public Education" was approved tentatively, pending further information.

Public Service,
Project No. 00-85-482

The status of this survey is similar to that of "Recreation and Historic" in that the inclement weather has delayed the beginning of the work. The project consists mainly of open-country surveys to obtain data which will be used in revising township base maps in 63 counties and in checking (and, if necessary, revising) the maps in the remaining 36 counties. The condition of the roads has made such work inadvisable to date.

Analysis of Farm Statistics,
Project No. 00-77-2875

Final approval of this study was received from Washington Feb. 8. The first allotments from the state W.P.A. were made Feb. 10 and 11. Some difficulties have been encountered in setting up the work, however, so that nothing has been accomplished to date (Feb. 15). It is expected that all details can be worked out satisfactorily with little delay.

The studies involve only records now available and on file in Des Moines and Ames. The bulk of the work is to be done in Des Moines, since most of the records are there. The results of the study should have far-reaching effects upon agricultural practices in Iowa and elsewhere.

Lake and Stream Improvement,
Project No. 00-85-484

It is expected that allotments will be made very soon for beginning this project on 13 lakes in the northern part of the state. It is planned to use 4 parties of workers, of 7 men each, under the supervision of two men experienced in such work. Close cooperation with the State Conservation Commission is planned.

Besides these six projects on which approval has been received, the status of project "Population and Social Trends" should be noted.

Population and Social Trends,
Project No. 00-85-478

At the suggestion of the Coordinating Committee of the Central Statistical Board, it was arranged in January for a representative from the Advisory Committee on Social Security Studies of the W.P.A. to come from Washington to go over the details of the proposed surveys with the sponsors. This was done and the project proposal resubmitted without being very substantially changed. There has been insufficient time to receive notice of action on the proposal since being resubmitted.

George E. Davis,
Statistical Coordinator

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