

City Prison Farm Increases \$44,000 in Value in 3 Years

New Dormitory, Surplus in Food and Stock-Feed, Good Dairy Herd Being Built Up Under Management of Superintendent.

(Editor's Note: Atlanta's Hope Hull Gibson, humanitarian and efficient penologist, resumed yesterday a task which he had not for a moment actually abandoned—the management of the City Prison Farm which he has made into a model public institution. City council, responding to unmistakable public outrage over petty and ridiculous charges against a trained and devoted prison superintendent, exonerated him. The Fulton grand jury previously had gone carefully into the small matters alleged against Gibson and had declined to act. He was even likened to the famous Thomas Mott Osborne, who introduced decency into the management of Sing Sing prison and thereby drew the heavy fire of disgruntled politicians. It is for these reasons that the Atlanta Christian Council interested itself in Gibson. Here is a story of conditions at the prison farm.)

By WILLARD COPE.

They are starting off the year out at the city's scrupulously clean and highly productive prison farm with surpluses of food and stock feed, produced on the premises, with green fields luxuriantly displaying winter oats, with a new dormitory well along that is costing taxpayers virtually nothing and a three-year increase of nearly \$44,000 in value of the plant and land.

They are building up a herd of good dairy cows—the institution used to be called the city dairy farm—whose coats are sleek and whose whole general appearance is a pleasure to the eye. They are maintaining the expertly devised farm terraces, and the more than 50 acres of reclaimed land. They have a host of fattening pigs. They are continuing, over in the woman's sewing room with its three power machines, to lay up stores of well-made uniforms.

There are human values as well—a merit system for good conduct and personal industry; beds and quarters that, while badly overtaxed, are vermin-free and livable; reasonably good food, properly prepared by attendants in sterile white in a modern and well-arranged kitchen fired by a

gas line from the city's disposal plant at a saving of \$2,000 a year in coal, and there is excellent morale.

The accomplishments, modestly tabulated, are set forth in the annual report of Superintendent Hope Hull Gibson, dynamic practitioner of penology and farm management who took charge in August, 1938. They are the results of his determination and skill, his interest in doing a constructive job for the unfortunates in his charge, men and women serving misdemeanor sentences running from 20 days to eight months.

This past year they produced and put away 7,500 bushels of corn, of which 3,500 is surplus and will go to Grady hospital, Steiner Clinic and Battle Hill sanitarium as corn meal.

The shelves contain 6,274 gallons of tomatoes, turnips, greens, corn, okra, sweet potatoes, green beans and peas—products of the garden, which were harvested during the summer and processed in the cannery Gibson established soon after taking office. These stores are conservatively estimated as worth about \$1,900, which is

Continued on Page 5, Column 3.



PART OF SURPLUS—Superintendent Gibson, of the city prison farm, points out to a visitor the surplus of 3,500 bushels of corn which will provide meal for Grady hospital, Steiner Clinic and Battle Hill sanitarium. Under his agricultural program the farm produced 7,500 bushels of corn in the season just past. There are 40 acres of winter oats now growing.



SAVING SUMMER VEGETABLES—Not only do inmates of the city prison farm provide much of their own food from the garden during the summer, but the past year they canned 6,500 gallons of vegetables for the winter. This scene shows white women prisoners, directed by the matron, Miss Anna Jackson, second from right, at work in the cannery created by Superintendent Hope Hull Gibson, at extreme left.

Prison Farm Has \$44,000 Gain in Value

Continued From First Page.

\$600 more than the money cost of the canning equipment.

The corn crop is valued at \$7,500, and there are also 25 tons of fodder and tops and 20 tons of hay, worth, in all, another \$500, at least. Cash sales of meat and produce approached \$4,500.

It cost 12½ cents a day to feed each prisoner, a total of \$33,670 for the year, including station-house inmates. In return, the construction department received 49,455 man-days of work; the parks department, 4,941; Grady hospital, 1,839 schools department, 735, and the prison itself in all departments—farm, new building, boiler room—13,708.

Notable Ambition.

When Gibson went there the farm had two cows. Now there are 10 good producing Jerseys, six young heifers and a registered Guernsey bull.

"It is my aim," he said yesterday, "to be able to provide in time at least one glass of milk a day for each inmate."

Since his 1940 average of prisoners was 767 daily, this is a notable ambition. But Gibson believes that any human being is entitled to fare sufficient to sustain health, to clean clothing and quarters, to some suggestion of hope and normal life.

Disease disturbs him mightily. He estimates that 20 per cent of the persons housed in the prison are syphilitic. Thus he is eager, animated and smiling when he discusses the new dormitory now under way. For it will give the inmates more room, whereas now they must keep 12 men to each 20-foot square of floor area, and it will permit the present dormitory to be converted into a segregation ward and hospital.

Estimate Difficult.

No new investment is being put into the dormitory as it is being built from the proceeds of the sale for about \$40,000 of the Negro men's prison on Hillard street near Decatur street, plus considerable salvage.

"It is difficult," says Gibson in his report, "to estimate the exact value of the new quarters due to the fact that \$4,000 to \$5,000 worth of lumber and materials were salvaged from the old prison and stables (both donated to the city by the Federal Housing Authority) plus the saving by employing prison labor in the construction."

He has many things of which he

is proud. One is that the men now have woolen jackets when they work outdoors in winter. Another, bespeaking the agricultural engineer, is that he is about ready to deepen the farm lake some three feet, which will enable the 35-acre garden—another of his creations—to be irrigated, thus greatly enlarging its productivity.

Interests Numerous.

Gibson's interests are numerous. A virile man in his 40's, with a strong face and lithe body, he is a trained psychologist, educator and penologist, has finished the work for his master's degree in sociology, and yet, on the practical side, has served as manager of a 6,000-acre Arkansas farm, as a road overseer and as superintendent of a consolidated school near Athens. He is extremely proud of his accomplishments at the prison.

"This must go on," he insists. "We are making progress every year. There must be no looking back."

Rehearing Appeal Denied Dixi-Cola

The United States fourth circuit court of appeals, meeting in Richmond, Va., yesterday denied a rehearing to the Dixi-Cola Laboratories, Inc., on a decision which forbade the firm to use certain trade names which resembled the name Coca-Cola.

The original action, brought by the Coca-Cola Company against the corporation, was heard in the United States district court for Maryland at Baltimore.

Britain Ready To Take 'Long-Term' Offensive

LONDON, Feb. 18. — (AP) — Britain's "great success in Africa . . . marks the beginning of a long-term offensive against the Axis," A. V. Alexander, first lord of the admiralty, broadcast tonight.

"The main clash with Germany has yet to come," he declared. "We want stout hearts when the storm breaks as it must . . . in the supreme battle for our island."

Senate Passes Bill Cutting Pay Of Commission

Public Service Members' Salaries Are Reduced to \$4,000.

One of the last of the administration-sponsored bills to come before the upper house passed unanimously yesterday when senators voted to reduce the pay of public service commissioners from \$4,800 to \$4,000 per year.

The pay of the commission chairman, Walter McDonald, likewise was reduced from \$5,300 to \$5,000 per year. The bill was tagged among the economy measures and originally called for a \$1,200 decrease. The decrease was lightened to \$800 after a conference with members of the commission.

★
OPPOSITE the CAPITOL and UNION STATION
 Whether you come to Washington for business or pleasure, you'll appreciate our convenient location directly facing the Capitol. You'll also enjoy our cheerfully furnished outside rooms and the fine food at moderate prices served in our restaurants.
 Outside Rooms with bath:
 SINGLE from \$2 • DOUBLE from \$3.50

