Hon. Elmer Thomas,

United States Senate.

Dear Senator Thomas:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 6, which was addressed to Dr. C. W. Warburton, referring to the many letters and inquiries received by you with regard to conditions in your State.

Eighteen counties in Oklahoma have now been officially designated by the Department of Agriculture Drought Committee as "Emergency Drought Counties". They are: Adair, Cherokee, Cimarron, Delaware, Greer, Harmon, Haskell, Jackson, Kiowa, Latimer, Le Flore, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Pittsburg, Sequoyah, Wagoner, Washita.

In addition to serving as a guide for relief activities conducted by various governmental agencies in drought-stricken areas, immediate use of the designations will be made for the application of reduced freight rates on shipments of livestock out to available pasture areas before September 2 this year, and back again before June 30, 1937. They will serve also for determining the need and location of works projects by the Works Progress Administration, and for the making of loans and grants by the Resettlement Administration. Administration of the proposed limited cattle purchase program likewise will be guided by the Drought Committee designations.

In addition, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has a limited supply of mill feed which has been obtained as a by-product from the conversion of wheat into flour for relief distribution. We are advised that 62 cars of this mill feed have been ordered shipped to Oklahoma, most of which have already gone forward. There will probably be additional limited shipments made into the State, but the amount of such shipments will necessarily depend more or less upon the available mill feed.

We shall be glad to supply further information in this connection if you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Tapp, Chairman, Department Drought Committee.

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