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BIOLOGICAL SURVEY MAKES PROGRESS
IN ACQUIRING REFUGES FOR BIRDS

Statistics assembled by the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture covering the land status on the Bear River Migratory-Bird Refuge in Utah, as of June 30, 1930, show that the lands purchased total 15,850.65 acres; public lands withdrawn, 30,632.12/ acres; State cession lands, 2,132.85 acres; lands leased, 7,860.98 acres; and right-of-way easement, 0.14 acre; or a total of 56,486.74 acres. When withdrawn lands exchanged, amounting to 4,099.8 acres are deducted, the net refuge area is 52,386.94 acres. During the fiscal year 1930 there was expended for lands \$24,547.28; other expenditures for acquisition purposes amounted to \$307.41, making a total of \$24,854.69. The average cost an acre for lands purchased was \$1.55.

Of the 163,468 acres within the boundary of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge, 19,162 acres are reported as agricultural and semi-agricultural lands, 20,000 acres as unsuited for purchase, 9,743 acres as State and city owned, 25,018 acres as public domain (made part of refuge by Executive orders), 1,650 acres as acquired by gifts and cessions, 8,777 acres under contract, and 56,548 acres actually paid for, leaving 22,570 acres to be taken under contract.

The cost of examining and appraising 225,000 acres was \$22,500, or 10 cents an acre. This calculation is based on land area examined and takes no account of approximately 70,000 acres of interlocking waters that were covered by examinations. For making boundary surveys \$10,939 has been expended; and \$40,393.46 for negotiating for 65,325 acres under contract or acquired, or an average of 62

cents an acre. This figure is based on the tracts covered by contracts, although all the tracts within the refuge have been negotiated for. The average cost of lands taken under contract is \$6.29 an acre, and the average cost of lands paid for is \$6.06 an acre.

Lands to be acquired for the Cheyenne Bottoms Migratory Bird Refuge, near Great Bend, Kansas, the creation of which was authorized by act of Congress approved on June 12, 1930, are being surveyed by field crews of the Biological Survey. When the Government gains control of the lands needed for the purpose, the refuge established will be of outstanding importance to the birds migrating in the Mississippi Valley region.

Topographic surveys of other proposed refuge areas are being conducted and engineering facts gathered with dispatch. Part of the information being obtained is to enable the Biological Survey to determine what may be done toward establishing migratory-bird refuges in regions where it may be possible to restore areas now desolate of their natural condition.

These refuges are being established in furtherance of the terms of the migratory bird conservation act, to preserve the birds of the United State and Canada protected by treaty with Great Britain.

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