

Making Thousands of Warm Garments



1,873 women are now engaged in 79 sewing rooms located in communities throughout Iowa in an effort to provide employment for them, and needed garments for distribution through relief agencies statewide. Above is shown the busy WPA sewing room located in the Federal building at Cedar Rapids, one of eight in the state now concentrating on the production of woolen clothing.

The hum of sewing machines and attendant activities in these sewing-rooms sings a song of accomplishment, of which the women concerned and local county officials who sponsor these projects are equally proud.

Imagine what the making of 700,000 garments in Iowa has meant not only in the lives of hundreds of capable women, who have to support themselves and dependents on their WPA sewing room wages, but also to the many thousands of families on relief who require and get to wear them.

Large sewing rooms located in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Waterloo, Sioux City, Davenport, Council Bluffs and two in Des Moines are now concentrating on converting 50,000 yards of woolen materials into warm garments. Already 20,596 such have been produced, including girls' jumper dresses, boys' suits and men's trousers. Before long 4,300 misses' coats, 4,000 women's coats and 6,000 men's mackinaws will be completed for statewide relief agency distribution and winter wear.

The instruction and training received by the women in these WPA sewing rooms definitely adds to their practical knowledge and ability, making them more capable and valuable to industry, to home and family, and the community in which they live.