

Trade activity decreases

December business high for Nebraska and nation

Nebraska's business activity receded only slightly last month from the December level, according to W. A. Spurr, university statistician.

December business reached a new high for Nebraska and the nation. The state's retail sales and mailing activity showed little change in January after seasonal adjustment. Building operations were active and business payments declined sharply.

The table below shows the business index together with the latest individual barometers. Each index has been adjusted to remove seasonal variation and calendar irregularities, and has been expressed as a percentage of the average level of 1935 to 1937. The combined figure is made up of the first six individual indexes listed below plus new car sales, each component being weighted in proportion to its economic importance.

NEBRASKA BUSINESS BAROMETER.

1935-37=100.

Combined Index	113.9	116.5	111.7
Bank Deposits	99.0	112.9	103.3
Dept. Store Sales	100.1	102.0	92.1
Postal Receipts	108.5	108.5	103.8
Building Construction	197.9	182.8	158.8
Elec. Power Production	126.5	124.5	114.3
Pay Rolls	113.7	114.3	103.3
Employment	103.9	103.3	90.3
Life Insurance Sales	77.5	90.3	

* Preliminary.

Livestock club announces Medal Essay Contest

The Saddle and Siroloin club of the Union Stockyards, Chicago, of world-wide fame for its portrait gallery of leading live-stock men, announces its 1940 Medal Essay Contest, which is open to all undergraduates in ag colleges in the U. S. and Canada, in accordance with the rules. The Gold Medal winner will have his name inscribed on a bronze plaque, in permanent display in the Saddle and Siroloin club.

The subject of the 1940 contest shall be "The Economic Significance of Grass in American Agriculture," and essays must be in by November, 1940.

Cup for winner.

A sterling silver cup is offered annually to the college making the highest rating among the top 20 essays, and may be won permanently when won three times by one college. In the 1939 contest Nebraska as a school placed third, with Wisconsin first and Oklahoma second. Ag college juniors Wilfred Becker, Charles Gardner, and Leroy Kramer placed fifth, eighth, and twentieth, respectively. In the 1938 contest Nebraska was fifth with two students in the upper twenty.

Latin department offers contest

Students with four years of Latin either in high school or college who have not yet completed their fifth year are eligible to take an examination next Saturday, for the Grove E. Barber classical prize of \$60.

The examination will be given Saturday morning at 10 o'clock in 212 Andrews hall. This prize has been given five times before. Last year's winner was Muriel Line.

Those who desire to take the examination, or who wish further information, either on their eligibility, or the test itself should see C. A. Forbes of the Latin department sometime this week.

Profs write psych paper

Dr. D. A. Worcester, chairman of the department of educational psychology and measurements, and Dr. W. R. Baller of the department have an article describing the field clinic program they have developed in Nebraska published in the Journal of Exceptional Children.

Schultz writes article on state's early settlers

C. Bertrand Schultz, assistant director of the Museum, has described Nebraska's early settlers and the prehistoric animals which they hunted in an article appearing in the Stanolind Record, publication of the Standard Oil company of Indiana. The article is illustrated with pictures showing Museum camp sites, fossil collecting and the type of country in which the fossil material is collected.

Musicians judge clinic

Marian Wolfe and Emanuel Wishnow of the music faculty served as judges and presented several numbers at the county band and orchestra clinic in Holdrege Friday and Saturday.

Well, Thursday was a bit snowy --up to our necks!

Between four and five and one-half inches of snow fell last Thursday, weather bureau reports indicate. That brings the season's total for Lincoln up to about 21 inches since Dec. 23. All of which substantiates optimism about 1940 wheat prospects. County Agent Lindstrom of Chappell reported that moisture is down about four feet in summer-fallowed land. Moisture conditions now are favorable and most of the wheat germinated normally last fall.

But many Nebraska farmers are

asking what they could plant to replace wheat that doesn't live thru the winter, even tho it's still too early to predict just what the wheat yields will be. And Dr. T. A. Kieselbach, ag college agronomist, suggests that barley is "probably the most drought resistant spring grain crop we have" in regions uninfested by chinch bugs. For such areas, varieties of kafir may be better.

Harmony hour features New York Philharmonic

Harmony hour today begins at 2 p. m. in the Union. The program will be a broadcast of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra over CBS conducted by Joan Barbirolli.

More than 225 pounds of bread are baked daily in the Arkansas A. & M. college bakery.

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