

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington. — Cash income received by farmers from products marketed in the month of September amounted to \$754,000,000, the bureau of agricultural economics announced.

Cash income from marketings for August was \$635,000,000 and for September last year \$648,000,000. The September increase over August this year was somewhat more than usual. The gain over September 1935 amounted to 16 per cent.

An important item entering into the September gain in farm income was the increased income from cotton, resulting from increased receipts of cotton at the principal spot markets and a favorable upturn in prices. The income from tobacco also increased more than usual in September.

An unusually large amount of livestock was sent to market in September, some of it presumably the result of liquidation in the drought area. Average prices of meat animals were about the same in September as in August, but were materially lower than in September last year.

Although prices of wheat and oats were higher than a year ago, the sales of these grains were sharply reduced. The net effect was a smaller income from grains this September than last.

Rental and benefit payments by the government in September amounted to \$6,000,000 compared with \$11,000,000 in August and \$57,000,000 in September, 1935.

The total cash income of farmers in September, including government payments, was \$760,000,000, compared with \$646,000,000 in August and \$705,000,000 in September, 1935.

For the first nine months of this year, total cash income from farm marketing and from government payments, was \$5,434,000,000, of which \$210,000,000 were government payments. In the corresponding nine months of last year total cash farm income was \$4,830,000,000 of which \$407,000,000 represented government payments.

## Favors Aid to Labor

The national labor relations board asserts in defense of its activities under the Wagner act that federal intervention is the only way to protect the constitutional rights of steel workers.

Proclaiming the necessity of its existence in order to maintain an equilibrium between laborers and employers in collective bargaining, the board said: "In steel particularly the existence of company police and of the company town system, with the consequent suppression of civil liberties, makes governmental intervention the only way to secure for the workers the free exercise of their rights to organize for collective bargaining purposes.

"Governmental intervention of some kind has been the rule in major labor disputes for more than half a century," the board said.

The study, which Chairman J. Warren Madden said represented the views of the board, although prepared by its economic division, charged there are between 40,000 and 50,000 "spies" active in American industry.

Taking cognizance of the fact that the Supreme court is expected to deliberate on constitutionality of the Wagner act this winter, the board said:

## Has Some Success

"Notwithstanding the sentiment pervading business elements that new legislation should be defied until its constitutionality is determined, and the indiscriminate issuance of injunctions by a number of the lower federal courts tying up the activities of the board in their jurisdiction, the present national labor board has achieved considerable success.

"The present board has only negative powers based on a minimum of legal sanctions. Its duties consist primarily of aiding in the creation of a labor situation where there is a relative equality of bargaining between employers and employees so that they can arrive at a fair bargain on wages, hours and other working conditions that go to make up the wage contract.

"The national labor relations board is not a novel venture. Nor is the act that created it a hypothetical conception. On the contrary this board is an outgrowth of the extensive experience of the government in intervention in labor relations, and particularly in labor disputes."

## Progress in Trade

Business has shown steady improvement for three successive quarters and every sign at present points to a full year of progress, says Banking, official organ of the American Bankers' association. This is the first time since the beginning of the depression that there have been nine months of constantly increasing business activity, the review adds.

Security prices have reached a level not attained since the devalu-

ation of the pound in 1931. Commodity prices average higher than at any time since 1930 and industrial production is higher than at any time in the last six years, the survey continues.

Business is not unmindful of the weaknesses in the present situation. These unfavorable conditions have not been discounted so much as they have been ignored and defied. A comparison between the thriving condition of business in the United States and the disturbing developments abroad furnishes an interesting contrast and constitutes a fair measure of the forward surge now taking place in the commerce and industry in this country, Banking asserts.

Increased mortgage lending, a housing shortage, rising rents, higher farm values and, in general, a more active market for buildings and land are reported by a majority of the bank realty officers whose opinions on the real estate outlook were requested by Banking in a survey conducted in key cities throughout the country.

## More Navy Officers

The navy will reach its full strength of officer personnel about 1941 at the present rate of graduation of midshipmen from the Naval academy, the Navy department said. This is contingent on conditions remaining as at present, officials added.

The service will need around 1,000 new officers in addition to what it will lose in the meantime through deaths, resignations and from other causes, so the treaty navy will be properly officered when it attains its authorized strength by 1942, under present plans of the administration and congress. This growth in officer personnel will be in the junior grades, officials said, as rear admirals and captains will not experience any material alteration.

This increase in officer personnel is required to keep pace with additional warships being constructed under the Vinson-Trammell act, which provides that by 1942 the American navy will be up to allowances under existing treaties. It also is made imperative by the recent material increase in the number of enlisted men of the navy, which is still continuing.

The authorized strength in officer personnel is 6,531 line officers and actually at the present time the navy has around 6,000 officers. Officials anticipate that in 1941 some 500 lieutenants, who have not received the required promotion 21 years after graduation, will be dropped from the active list.

The enlisted strength of the navy by July 1 next will be 100,000. The average for this fiscal year is 96,000, it was said. There have been indications that 5,000 additional blue-jackets will be requested from congress shortly so the new warships may be properly manned.

## Treasury Receipts Up

The month-end Treasury statement showed an increase in October receipts and a drop in total expenditures.

The October deficit was set at \$412,612,127, compared with \$561,238,209 for the same month last year. In the first four months of this fiscal year, expenditures exceeded receipts by \$937,496,212, compared with a \$1,393,259,976 deficit in the same period last year.

October receipts totaled \$272,172,437, compared with \$235,435,238 in October, 1935. Receipts for the four months were \$1,408,988,114, compared with \$1,233,899,703 in the corresponding period a year ago.

Total October expenditures were \$684,784,564, including \$314,887,007 of emergency expenditures, against \$796,673,447, including \$285,835,495 of emergency outlays, a year ago.

For the first four months of this fiscal year, expenditures were \$2,345,584,239, including \$916,629,959 of emergency expenditures. For the same period last year, total expenditures were \$2,627,159,679, including \$1,166,517,940 of emergency outlays.

## Peace Trade Parleys

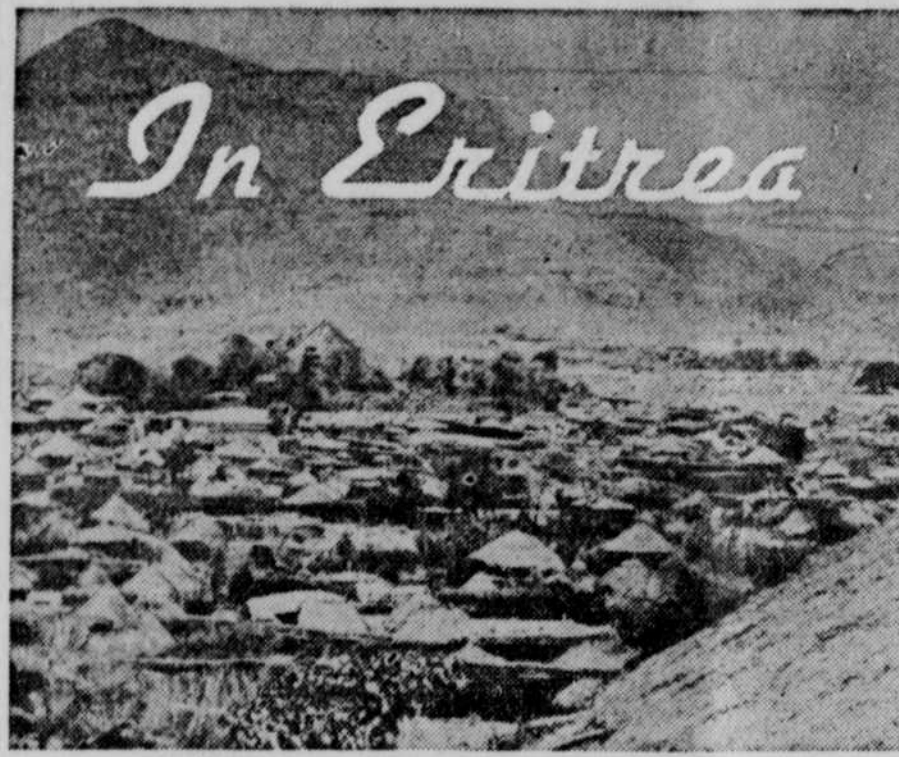
Promotion of peace and expansion of mutually profitable trade between 21 American republics will be the principal subjects for discussion at the inter-American conference opening December 1 at Buenos Aires.

In an effort to pull tighter the friendly strings which hold the United States and her 20 sister republics together, the Washington delegation will seek to extend commercial relations in the markets of the western hemisphere.

The aftermath of the world depression saw Great Britain, Germany, Japan, France, and other great trading nations making renewed and vigorous bids for Latin America's trade, long a sphere for profitable buying and selling of needed raw materials and manufactured articles by importers, exporters and manufacturers of the United States. The United States is depending on progressive Yankee business methods and ingenuity to retain its third of a billion dollar stake in Latin American sales and—through trade pacts that reduce tariff rates and trade barriers—capture an even greater share of Central and South American business.

WNU Service.

**Sending Wedding Gifts**  
Wedding gifts should always be sent early, as soon after receipt of the invitation as possible. Only the card of the donor should accompany the gift. A personal letter would be in bad taste, and it is never appropriate to congratulate a bride-to-be. The gift is addressed to her.



View of Village in Eritrea.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

**F**EW spots on earth are so barren, so inhospitable, as Assab, in Eritrea, on the west coast of the Red sea. With only a few palm trees, some low houses and a well set between the glaring Red sea and a waterless waste beyond, it seems a hopeless place for white men to choose as home.

Yet here the Italian colony of Eritrea began its blistering existence. Neither treasures nor sheer adventure, however, had anything to do with its beginning. What is now Eritrea began in 1870, when the Italian Rubattino Steamship company needed a coaling station in the Red sea and bought the Bay of Assab and its miserable oasis from a petty local ruler, the sultan of Raheita.

Until then Assab was only a small harbor for the sambuks, or Arab sailing craft, trading on the Red sea. Even today it is little more. Assab proved itself of slight use as a coaling depot; yet by its purchase the Rubattino company was launched into the business of buying land. By 1879 a small Italian military force had landed in Assab and hoisted the Italian flag in this corner of the world. Today, that red, white and green banner flies over a strip of Red sea coast which is 670 miles long. Inland from Assab across the desert rise the cool highlands of Ethiopia (Abyssinia).

Torrid, barren and fever-stricken is the coast that stretches north-west from Assab, but as you approach the port of Massaua the topography begins to change. Behind Massaua the green highlands rise in steep bankments, forming a sort of gateway to the interior of Africa.

It was when Italy occupied Massaua in 1885 that Eritrea took definite shape; now the area in Eritrea ruled by Italy stretches inland in some places 220 miles or more to the frontiers of Ethiopia and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

In brief, within 20 years after the Rubattino company bought Assab as a coaling station which was never developed, her colony here had come to cover nearly 46,000 square miles of Africa. On January 1, 1890, this new colony was christened Eritrea by the Italian government, in remembrance of the "Mare Erythraeum," as the old Romans called the waters of this part of the world.

## Massaua a Hot Place to Work

Massaua, one of the hottest cities in the world, with its environs, is the home of 15,000 natives and a few hundred Europeans. The white men, mostly Italians, work during the day in their offices under big fans, with glasses of cool water on their desks. In a damp and steamy air they toil with a mean temperature for July of 94 degrees Fahrenheit, 20 degrees hotter than the average for the hottest month in New York.

Service in the government and administration; routine work for shipping companies and banks; trade in products of the land; the importation of goods—all these go their routine way, uninterrupted by the murderous climate.

Only by constant work can the white man stand the climate and forget the heat. No idle man could endure it here. Except for a few nurses in the hospital, no white women live in Massaua in summer. Then, the families of white employees go to the high plain of Hamassien, the real center of Eritrea.

The harbor of Massaua is the only place in Eritrea where large ships can tie up at docks to discharge their passengers and cargo. For this reason it was here that the landing of Italian troops and war materials took place.

## Population Is Much Mixed

The native population is a colorful mixture. Here you see some pure Ethiopian Hamites; also, always near the coast, many Semitic Arabs who invaded the land partly as conquerors, partly as traders, or as members of that uncertain class between the two. Where there are Arabs in the East there is usually the negro, too—from many parts of Africa. Arabs have been slave traders for centuries, especially along these coasts. In this district the sea route seems to have been the simplest; one finds here more Somali negroes than Sudanese.

Recently a new element has come—the Indian traders, common now in nearly all places on the east coast of Africa. It is they who, in the main, bring cheap Japanese wares into the retail trade of the country.

Arabs, on the other hand, carry most of the Red sea local traffic in their sambuks, or baby clippers, whose form has changed but little with passing centuries.

The Dahalach islands, facing Massaua, are the center of Arab pearl fisheries and mother-of-pearl dealers.

Behind the smooth surface of Massaua's harbor entrance stretches a broad lagoon, from which glaring sun draws a trembling vapor. Back of the lagoon rise the jagged outlines of what one at first takes to be white sand dunes, quivering in the heat like a mirage, ghostly in their detached existence. Everywhere the heat rests like a curse on all living creatures.

Yet, since man cannot escape this heat, he has put it to work. Here is one of the largest salt works on the Red sea coast. What one thinks are white sand dunes are really huge piles of white salt!

## Salt Industry Flourishes

In wide, flat basins connected by canals with the Red sea, salt water evaporates perhaps more quickly than anywhere else in the world. In the salt pans of Massaua, the African sun evaporates in a single day almost 2,000,000 gallons of water. To this terrific heat Massaua owes an important part of its income—from the export of salt.

From the evaporating pans native workers scrape the salt into cone-shaped piles. Thereby the last vestige of moisture is drained and the space is made immediately ready for the next water supply. The sun is an investment here and must not be allowed to shine unused. With pails and shovels, a troupe of half-naked natives throw themselves into the work. In an endless chain, like the buckets on a big dredge, they go, one carrier behind another.

You see the piles of salt grow higher minute by minute, quickly becoming a pyramid about 15 feet high—a new addition in the row of many hundred similar salt pyramids. Here, the stand, the property and investment of the Italian "Societa per le Saline Eritree," and await the buyer. He comes, unexpectedly enough, from Japan!

Much of Japan's raw-salt needs are met by Eritrea. To get this African salt, Japan sends specially-built freight steamers to the Red sea.

## The Climb to Asmara

In summer, Massaua Italians speak of Asmara, the colony's capital city, as paradise.

The air route from Massaua to Asmara is barely 40 miles. The railroad and the highway are almost twice as long; they wind up to where Asmara stands nearly 8,000 feet higher than Massaua.

One climbs into the four-coach train which makes the one and only daily run to Asmara. At first the road lies over fairly even country, dotted with a few palms and low sycamores. Panic-stricken by the noise of the locomotive, a lonely, long-legged ostrich flees across the fields.

Slowly now the track begins to climb; and the temperature sinks. Mountain slopes become greener, and one can see fruit-bearing cactus, and a little later also the first euphorbia, typical plant of the Ethiopian highland.

Over this easy route men now travel at high speed. Four hundred years ago, a certain group moved over it slowly, painfully, in one of the strangest undertakings in the history of colonization. Here in the summer of 1541 Dom Christovao da Gama, "a strong hero, whose heart seemed to be made of iron and steel," together with 400 of his Portuguese warriors, marched under incredible hardships from Massaua to the high plateau. Neither adventure nor chance to loot drew them; their urge was to save Christianity in the world's oldest Christian kingdom.

At that time a powerful Moslem general, Mohammed Gran, "the left-handed," had decided to make Abyssinia a Moslem land. He had wiped out the Christian Ethiopian emperor's army, slaughtered the Christian population, and burned the churches. It was to check Mohammed Gran and to aid the Christian emperor that young Christovao da Gama and brother of the governor of India at that time, came to Asmara. Though da Gama was captured and put to death and most of his faithful followers fell in battle, through their sacrifice a rare old culture was saved to the world.

## On Congeniality—

Companionship Plus Adjustments Is Far Better Than Loneliness

**I**N EVERY family, whether little or large, and however small or spacious the dwelling may be, there are times when conflicts arise because of unwanted contacts. Some special place may be desired above all others by one, or possibly two, in conference and a second or a third person coming in and wanting that particular room also is a cause of dissension. There may be no lack of affection between the people, but a temporary ruffling of personalities which is disturbing. When living quarters are congested, these occasions arise frequently, but they are not limited to such conditions. There are these convergencies, with their annoying discords, regardless of space, or the lack of it, and numbers of persons, or the fewness of them. It would appear to be partly a similarity of tastes as well as the popularity of the spot, whatever it is, that was an element of the magnetic force drawing the people together.

### Transient Dissension.

It is true that instances are rare in which such trouble is more than a passing dissension. But this is enough to set the persons in bad humors for a few moments anyway, unless one or more of them has enough understanding of the situation to smooth others, or has a keen sense of humor, which sense is like oil to machinery in keeping things running without friction.

### Congeniality.

It should be remembered that congeniality is one cause for this convergence of persons. The same things are liked, the same impulses are present, and enjoyment

and discord are both caused by such the same things. Each of these persons is drawn to the same things and to the same places, and so naturally meet in the same room in the home, or the identical spot. If there is the desire to be alone, resentment is stirred by the presence of another. It is at such times that tact and kindness are needed. I am assuming that love is not lacking. Without this essential element in home life, there will be discord anywhere and at any time, if not, indeed, at all times.

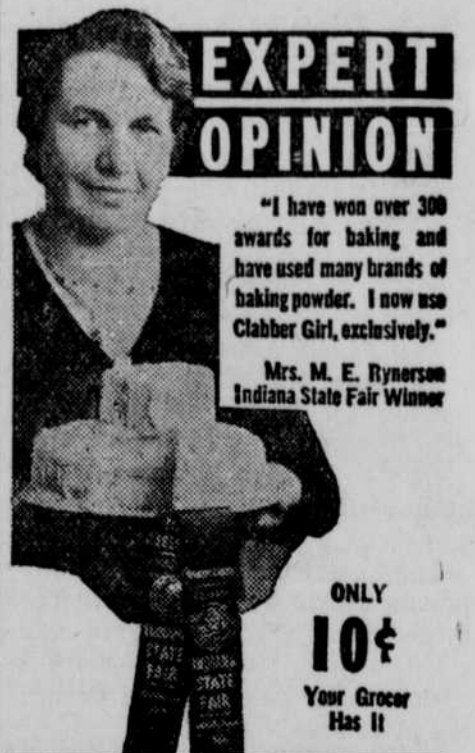
### Loneliness.

When harmony is desired, and clashes of temperaments of those caused by such things as are under discussion today, exist, it is well to bring oneself up with a round turn by thinking of the loneliness that would be felt if we did not have our family about us. During absences from home, or when one is left there when others are away, the realization of what it means to be alone and also together, creeps into the mind and it is warmed by the very thought of companionship of dear ones.

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## A Peaceable Man

A peaceable man doeth more good than he who is well-learned. A passionate man turneth even good into evil, and easily believeth evil. A good peaceable man turneth all things to good.—Thomas a Kempis.



**EXPERT OPINION**

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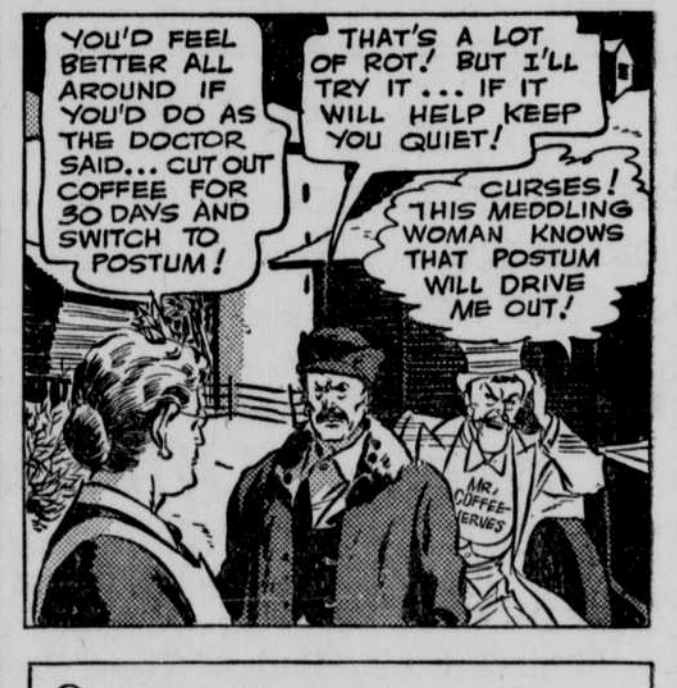
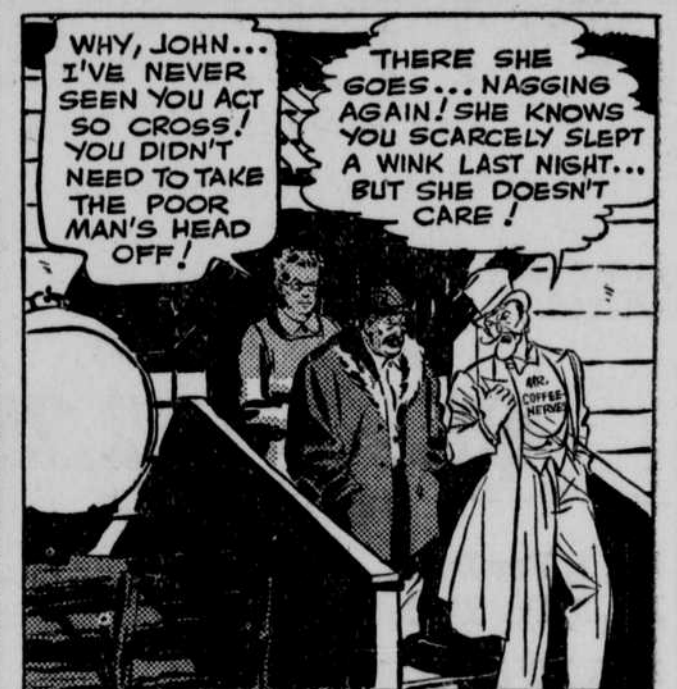
\*Nervousness, constipation, poor appetite know no age limits. They prey upon the energy of thousands when diets lack a sufficient amount of the precious Vitamin B so richly supplied by a Quaker Oats breakfast. So serve the whole family a bowl of Quaker Oats every morning.

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