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HENRY HOPKINS

BUSINESS, TRADE AND CROPS

Semi-Monthly Analysis of Business Situation from Authentic Information Compiled by

FIRST NAT'L BANK, ALLIANCE

It is generally accepted as a fact that business throughout the country is in a waiting position, following a period of considerable depression, yet it is also rather generally declared that fundamental and financial conditions are sound.

Why, then, does not business pick up and rapidly get back to normal activity?

Because the country is still feeling the effects of the reaction from over-production, inflated prices of all commodities, speculation, extravagance and high living for several years prior to 1908. The present condition throughout the country dates back to the money panic in the fall of 1907. But final liquidation of indebtedness which now is in progress, and labor troubles too, usually mark the end of business depression.

The presidential campaign is a factor in holding back business revival, but the influence is already fairly well discounted.

One sure index to the culmination of a period of depressed business is the number of business failures. An increasing number marks the end, and then, with the atmosphere clear, business is ready to build up again.

February made the worst showing in the number of business failures since 1908, when the effect of the money panic of the previous fall was being felt.

Now no man should put the cart before the horse and conclude that the bad record of February is something to cause alarm. On the contrary, it reflects something already past and not something ahead of us.

Bank clearings are a sure index to the volume of business, and encouragement is found in an increase over corresponding periods of 1911. While bank deposits throughout the country make a very satisfactory comparison with those of a year ago, the loans and discounts are still somewhat out of proportion, indicating that indebtedness has not yet been liquidated to a normal basis.

Merchants are generally pursuing a conservative policy relative to placing buying orders. There is a tendency, almost amounting to a policy, on the part of merchants to await developments of the next month or two before getting away from their present hand-to-mouth buying.

It was feared there would be serious strikes in the spring, particularly among railroad and coal mine employes. Such a possibility now seems remote.

For the next six months the factor of greatest importance in the commercial and financial situation will be the crops. With good wheat crops assured, it is conceded that business will improve regardless of politics. With the national conventions out of the way, business will go ahead with renewed vigor.

Crop conditions, at the present time, are very encouraging.

While there is expected to be some spotted sections in the central winter wheat states with the opening of spring, the great majority of reports from the fields are favorable.

In the southwest, in the hard winter wheat states of Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, there has been an abundance of moisture, both in the winter and recently; and excepting some small localities where the grain failed to germinate last fall, present conditions are excellent.

In the northwest, Minnesota and the Dakotas, where the bulk of the spring wheat crop is grown, the ground was saturated last fall, there were heavy falls of snow in the winter, and the ground is frozen to an unusual depth. These conditions indicate an average yield of spring wheat, at least, with normal weather conditions in the spring and summer. Very favorable conditions would result in a big crop, while only hot winds or rust would reduce the prospects to below the average.

Local conditions are favorable. The snowfall of this winter insures sufficient spring moisture to bring the grass out in good shape. Live stock losses in our state will be small. The Wyoming range is reported as practically wiped clear by the severe weather. As soon as they have grass, the stockmen of that state will doubtless ship in thousands of cattle. Leather belt-

ing, etc., has made a sharp advance during the winter. In fact, all conditions point toward a good cattle market, especially for those who are ready for shipment to an early market.

TRAIN THE GIRLS

Good Advice to Mothers in The Twentieth Century Farmer

We never grow too old for new experiences to come into our lives and give food for thought. For ten days I have been assisting in caring for a young child, whose parents are not much more than children themselves, the father being 23 and the mother not yet 16. From careless exposure the child took pneumonia and it has been a fight to keep her alive. As might be expected, the mother knew but little of nursing or how to bathe the baby properly, or the helpful effects of water for any sickness. She knows nothing of proper feeding and would give her food twice an hour, or let her go until the child is nearly famished, then overfeed it until indigestion results. But she can tell the latest step in dancing or the funniest thing shown at the picture show. She would cry one minute and say, "I know my baby won't live," and laugh the next minute over some silly saying. She has no idea of the expense of keeping a home or the value of money; knows nothing of sewing, little of housework and is launched on the sea of life to buffet the trials, cares and duties with no more knowledge than a little animal, and less real instinct.

Who is to blame? Why should not our girls be taught to sew and do all the lighter parts of housework as they are growing up? And why should they not learn the more simple things of nursing and the benefits of water and bathing in the treatment of sickness as they pass through the years between 10 and 14? Our boys are taught how to feed and care for the young stock on the farm with much painstaking in regard to balanced rations and time for feeding and regularity of watering, and those things that are so needful to success in stock raising.

We naturally expect our daughters to be mothers and homemakers in a few short years, and yet we let the first ten or fifteen years pass by with little definite teaching for their life work. I know many mothers who say that the cares will come soon enough, but do we make it any easier for them by neglecting the training that will help them best to bear the burdens, which will almost surely come?

I have many times been thankful that circumstances surrounding my childhood compelled me at an early age to assume the cares and responsibilities almost of a woman. My mother often worried over it and said that I was not having the care-free life that belonged to childhood and that I had to bear the works and duties of a woman at the time I should be having my best enjoyment in life. But I learned that enjoyment may be found in learning to do well the common things of life, and when at 12 years of age my father called me his "little home keeper" and praised my ability to make good bread and cook a common meal in a reasonable time, and explained what a benefit good cooking is to mankind, I began to feel the power of the knowledge of doing useful things. When, years after, my mother said I had added years to her life by my help and care, I felt well repaid for the toil.

MRS. ADA ERWIN,
Oklahoma.

FILE MINING CLAIMS

An Extensive Industry to be Developed from the Soda Beds

Surveyor J. P. Hazard and a Mr. Modisett of Omaha went over into Sheridan county, east of Alliance, on yesterday to stake out some mining claims, on which the latter named gentleman and others will file. This information will no doubt cause considerable surprise to some readers of The Herald who have never dreamed of this being a mining country. By way of explanation we will say that there are some extensive soda beds (commonly called alkali) and in order to operate these as claims it is necessary to file on them under the provisions of the federal law relating to mines and mining.

We understand that it is probable an extensive industry will be developed, the preliminary steps of which are now being taken. The Herald will keep its readers posted on further developments.

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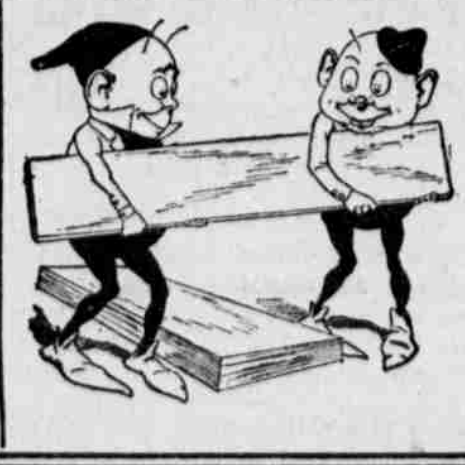
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Dr. C. E. Slagle, who has been with me the past five years as assistant, is no longer in my employ. All bills for work done by him prior to Feb. 1st, 1912, are payable direct to me. H. H. BELLWOOD, M. D. 1139-14-47

Snow Drift Flour at the Fair Store, \$1.55 per sack. Phone 589.