

O'NEILL FRONTIER

D. H. CRONIN

NEBRASKA

Enormous and still increasing profits compared with those made in 1914 are being made in the German coal, iron, machinery, textile, paper, glass and electrical industries according to an article in *Dusseldorf Lokal Zeitung*. The paper quotes the reports of numerous companies, among them being one which paid a dividend of 24 per cent, and a bonus of 25 per cent. Its shares were quoted in Berlin at 157 at the end of 1913 and now 330. A 15 per cent dividend declared by the Kammer-spinning works of Dusseldorf was only 10 per cent of the profits earned, says the German newspaper. In the 10 years previous this company has declared a dividend of only 8 per cent. The writer of the article points out that but for the evidence of such figures Germany could more effectively have resisted the demands of her opponents that she make full reparation to the allies.

A report from Wall street says business is so dull that the brokers on the stock exchange have resorted to checkers to stay awake. Enough excitement was created on a recent dull morning to get the brokers through most of the day by two innocent and inoffensive goldfish. A member of the exchange presented the organization with a new tangled ticker, wherein the tape runs back of a transparent globe of water, which greatly magnifies the figures and numerals so that they may be read for 50 feet or so. The ticker reminded one of the brokers so much of a goldfish bowl that he procured two shiny little fish and thrust them inside. The effect of goldfish swimming unconcerned in and out over the quotation strip was enough to furnish excitement for most of the day.

Figures are said to show that the trunk of a traveler through Germany has about as much chance of being left intact as a bottle of "booch" at a sociological picnic. According to the official figures published in the Berlin *Lokal Anzeiger*, cases of thievery of baggage that had been established during 1920 were: Hand baggage 1,223 pieces; trunks 4,223 pieces; express 4,223 pieces; freight 13,223 pieces; freight car contents, 12,223 cars. Of these losses, in 11,223 cases, the thieves were apprehended; of this number 1,223 were stolen by railroad employees. For thievery of baggage, 5,770 railroad employees were discharged during the year 1920.

A bill christened as "anti-swinging" bill, which has been introduced into the West Virginia legislature, provides that if any husband or wife suspects another member of being unfaithful, he or she may make them appear before a justice of the peace, swear to the facts in the case, and then send a written warning to the person lavishing the attention upon the said mate. In event the receiver of the warning fails to take heed and cause the "swinging" methods, the justice shall cause his or her arrest, and, if adjudged guilty of the charge, a fine of up to \$50 shall be assessed.

Initial trials will soon be made in the publication of a daily newspaper from airplanes in flight—a new phase of European journalism. Machines from Paris will print editions of the "Aerial Mail" in French and those from England will print their copies in English. The machines will be dropped by parachute in Boulogne, Rouen, Amiens and other cities where there are subscribers. The machines will be equipped with wireless.

Nine American members of the Koochucko air squadron, all soldiers of fortune, recently were awarded 40 acres of land each, near the Polish-Russian frontier as outlined by the Riga peace treaty. Most of the young flyers of the squadron are planning to return to America during the summer. If they do not settle upon the land within a specified time, their rights to the farms will be forfeited, but as yet none of them have decided to settle down on a Polish plot and lead the life of a peasant.

The Duchess of Marlborough, who Countess Vanderbilt of New York has bought a large tract of land on the heights overlooking the sea, near Nice, where she intends building a luxurious villa. The report that the duchess is to marry M. Balzan, a wealthy landowner of the Riviera, continues to be circulated.

Belgium has made similar arrangements, eliminating so far as possible the necessity for frequent trips to consuls etc., but because the United States charges a fee of \$10 for vising the passport of a foreigner, Belgium will not make an equal charge for Americans, although travelers of other nationalities pay a much smaller fee.

A study of the vital statistics of Hawaii show that American men residing in the territory are prone to marry women of other races than their own, and more than one in every six American women residing there marry Hawaiians. Korean women alone refuse to mix blood, and not a single case of a Korean woman marrying a man of another race has been discovered.

As the first step in the campaign of Norwegian workmen to resist the proposed plan of the employers to reduce wages, representative of the workmen's committee have formed a district council for the taking over of all industrial concerns in the country.

A bill in the Hungarian national assembly provides that any correspondent of any foreign newspaper be held responsible and punished with five years of hard labor if the paper he represents publishes any news item or editorial unfavorable to Hungary.

The United States is now the only country whose diplomatic representatives abroad aren't able to speak the language of the country to which they are accredited. France's ambassador to the court of St. James cannot talk English.

SUPREME COURT TO HAVE NO HELP

Commission Will Go Out of Existence Because Legislature Failed to Provide For It.

Lincoln, Neb., June 11.—The Nebraska supreme court commission, which has been in existence since 1915 will close its doors at the end of the fiscal year in September, as a result of the legislature failing to meet.

OLD PACKING PLANT DESTROYED BY FIRE

Fremont, Neb., June 11.—Fire destroyed the old Fremont packing plant located on the grounds of the Fremont Stock Yards & Land company a mile southeast of the city. An elevator 100 yards away was threatened, but a bucket brigade saved it. Fireman rushed from Fremont to aid in quenching the blaze, but the hose could not be used because the plant was located beyond the fire limits.

The old packing plant had been idle for a quarter of a century. It was established in 1857 and at that time the appropriation of \$37,000 with which it would have carried on the work of the next two years.

The commission was first organized when the work of the supreme court became so heavy that it was found impossible for the body to handle all matters which came up for hearing.

The commission sat as a separate board of judges and passed upon whatever cases were given over to it by the regular court. When it made a decision that decision, after ratification by the court, became an official decision of the court.

SUES MOTHER-IN-LAW FOR ALIENATING CHILD'S AFFECTION

Omaha, Neb., June 11.—In district court here John Heelan, Cherry county farmer, sued his mother-in-law for \$10,000 damages for alleged alienation of affections of his daughter, Margaret, fourteen, who has lived with her grandmother here since her mother was murdered by a farm hand in 1915. Simultaneously the grandmother sued Heelan for the keep of his daughter for five years.

DISMISSED TEACHER TO DEMAND YEAR'S WAGES

Blair, Neb., June 11.—A claim for \$1,125 salary and bonus has been filed with the board of education of Blair by Miss Jeanette Jones, a teacher, who was asked to resign after having taught less than one month in the Blair schools.

TO RAISE RATES OF LONG DISTANCE CALLS

Lincoln, Neb., June 11.—The Northwestern Bell Telephone Company Thursday filed application with the Nebraska railway commission for permission to raise the tolls on long distance telephone calls. Hearing on the application was set for June 7.

SEVERAL PERSONS ARE SHOCKED BY LIGHTNING

Omaha, Neb., June 11.—Seven persons were stunned or shocked by lightning here, today, during a short but severe electrical storm.

UTAH BARS CIGARETS.

Salt Lake, Ut., June 11.—The South-west anti-cigarette bill which prohibits the sale and manufacture of cigars in Utah, has gone into effect. Enforcement of the Southwest law is in the hands of the regular peace officers of the state.

WANT "SKIP STOP" SYSTEM ABOLISHED

Omaha Women Appeal to Nebraska Rail Body—Hearing June 16.

Lincoln, Neb., June 10.—A committee of the Nebraska district will hear the application of the Omaha woman's club to have the "skip stop" system on street car lines abolished, in the Omaha council chamber, June 16.

PREPARE TO ERECT HOSPITAL AT LINCOLN

Lincoln, Neb., June 9.—A committee of the Nebraska district of the Evangelical synod of North America has authorized immediate construction of a \$100,000 denominational hospital here. Over \$20,000 has already been raised by popular subscription. Thirty-one churches in the state are supporting the hospital.

NEWSPAPER MEN WILL MEET AT NORFOLK, JUNE 17

Norfolk, Neb., June 10 (Special).—The Northwest Nebraska Editorial association will hold its annual spring meeting here on June 17. It is expected that more than 100 newspapermen of this part of the state will be in attendance.

BLIND MAN ACTS AS TELEPHONE OPERATOR

Omaha, Neb., June 10.—Harry K. Ronne, blind and partially paralyzed, is called the wonder man of Lushton, Neb. He is operator for the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph company and has been pronounced by officials of the company to be one of the best men in its service.

FRANCE DECORATES EX-GOTHAM SLEUTH

Maj. Bernard Flood, of New York, former chief of the criminal investigation section of the A. E. F., who was decorated in Paris recently with the insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for services performed during the war. The presentation was made by Marshal Foyolle in the presence of high officials. Major Flood was formerly a detective of the New York police department.

JAPS ARE TO OCCUPY MORE SIBERIAN TOWNS

Copenhagen, June 9.—General Kumura, commanding the Japanese troops in the Vladivostok district, has announced that the Japanese in consequence of the situation developing in eastern Siberia, will be forced to occupy various Siberian towns of strategic importance, says a special dispatch from Helsinki.

RECEIVER NAMED FOR CLOSED OMAHA BANK

Omaha, Neb., June 9.—District Judge W. G. Sears today appointed Daniel W. Gaines, of Omaha, as receiver for the Pioneer State bank of Omaha, on application of the attorney general in order to liquidate the institution. Mr. Gaines expressed the opinion that all claims, including those of depositors, would be fully paid within a short time.

SOLDIER'S BODY LAID TO REST AT LYONS, NEB.

Lyons, Neb., June 9 (Special).—The body of Edwin Sundquist arrived from France and was buried in Lyons cemetery Sunday.

FOUR AMERICANS TAKEN BY BANDITS IN MEXICO

Mexico City, June 8.—Reports credited to the Mexican war department today said four unarmed Americans had been captured between Parral and Starrasalia, presumably by bandits.

BELVIDERE BANK TO BE LIQUIDATED

Arrival of Failed Barge Institution Will Clear Its Affairs Through Receivership Process.

Lincoln, Neb., June 9 (Special).—Hugh A. Bruning, president of the State Bank of Belvidere, has been appointed receiver of the failed Farmers' State bank of the town. This was operated by William Barge, who has disappeared and who hasn't been found. Bruning proposes to take over the deposits of the failed bank and liquidate it through his institution.

HOLD MEMORIAL FOR DEAD NEBRASKA JURIST

Lincoln, Neb., June 9 (Special).—Memorial services for John B. Barnes, former justice of the supreme court, and for many years a prominent lawyer of northeastern Nebraska, at the Monday session of the court. Resolutions reciting his fine personal characteristics, extolling his ability as a jurist and the extent of the loss to the state by his death were presented by M. D. Tyler, of Norfolk, Jacob Fawcett, of Lincoln; Clarence A. Davis, of Holdrege; Jesse L. Root, of Omaha, and W. V. Allen, of Madison. Brief speeches were made by Judge Allen, Chief Justice Morrissey, Justice Letton, and M. D. Tyler, at one time a law partner of the deceased.

GUARANTY FUND WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITION

Lincoln, Neb., June 9 (Special).—Thirty-five thousand dollars will be paid into the state deposit guaranty fund during the next few days. This is the salvage the receiver secured from the failure of the First State bank of Superior some years ago. The bank was the first one to fail after the guaranty fund was established in 1911, and \$24,000 was drawn out to pay the depositors at that time.

IS ELECTROCUTED WHILE WORKING ON CITY BUILDING

Haneshaw, Neb., June 9 (Special).—Edward G. Hines was instantly electrocuted here, when working on the roof of the new city jail, he came in contact with a feed wire of 2,300 volts. It is supposed that he stumbled over an iron rod reinforcement when he became dizzy, for he had complained of not feeling well. In falling he grasped at the first object near. Hines was wearing wet gloves and was standing on wet cement, so all chances for his safety were prevented.

SOME CHANGES AT WAYNE STATE NORMAL

Wayne, Neb., June 9.—Prof. C. F. Lemon, of Cumberland university, Tenn., will take the place of head of the biology department of the state normal school to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Prof. H. H. Hickman.

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The office of the American charge d'affaires had no information on the reported incident.

Business in State of Convalescence.

From an article by Rowland Thomas, in the New York World.

As a result of investigations just completed into the prevailing business depression and the resultant living and working conditions for the average man or woman, the World can definitely state that:

The cost of living, which made a fairly sharp fall 17.5 per cent between its peak last summer and March 1, has not fallen appreciably further in the last three months. It is still two-thirds higher than it was in 1914, and every dollar spent to purchase the necessities of life is worth only 60 cents, as compared with its normal buying power.

Retail prices of food and clothing have come down, respectively, 30.5 and 41.7 per cent from their highest wartime levels. Fuel and light have come down 11 per cent. Rent still stands at its maximum level.

Wholesale prices have come down 51 per cent, while retail reductions were 30. The dollar which circulates in the United States as measured by—

1. Retail prices, which determine the cost of living for the average family or man.

2. Wholesale prices, which as part of production and distribution costs are the real determining basis of retail price changes.

3. Average weekly earnings of factory workers, who with their dependents form the largest and by far the most sensitive economic group in the country.

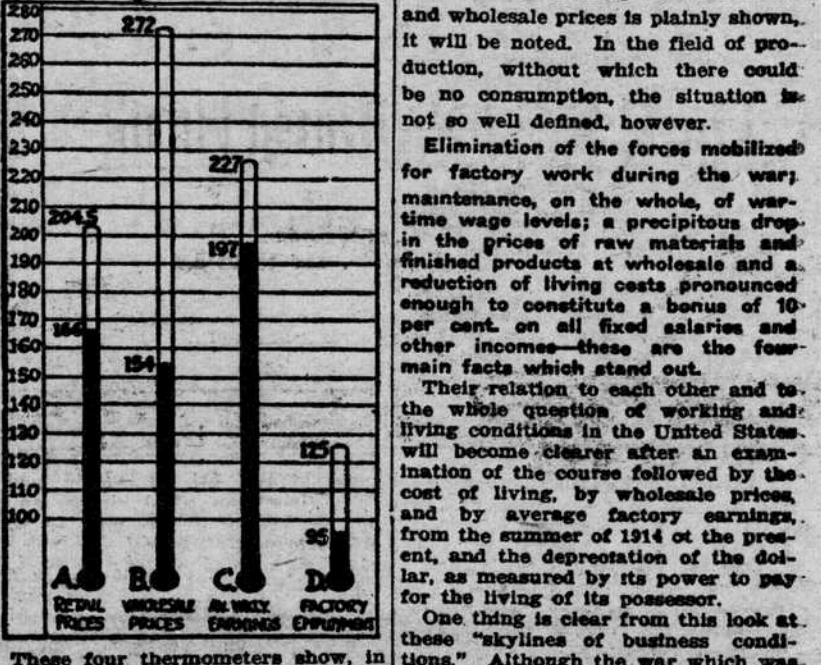
4. Employment in manufacturing establishments, which in a general way reflects employment, or lack of employment, in all gainful occupations.

You can read those thermometers for yourself or study their readings in the following table, where for convenience sake the "normal" levels of 1914 and the "peak" levels of last year are also set down. You can see just how much worse off than its best and how much better off than its worst American business is now.

Normal Peak Post-War
June, 14 June, 22 June, 22 June, 22

Retail prices	100.0	154.5	156.0	22.5	12.0
Wholesale prices	100.0	172.0	171.0	71.0	23.0
Average weekly earnings	100.0	227.0	171.0	71.0	23.0
Factory employment	100.0	150.0	125.0	25.0	25.0
Pay Envelopes	100.0	150.0	125.0	25.0	25.0
Dollar	100.0	154.5	156.0	22.5	12.0

THE A, B, C, AND D OF BUSINESS SITUATION



These four thermometers show, in degrees on the same scale, the four elements which are principally involved in the creation and the working out of the business slump. In each case 100 on the scale represents the condition in 1914, which is taken as normal.

"A" is the scale for changes in retail prices, the darkened portion showing conditions at present; "B" shows the course of wholesale prices from 1914 to the peak in 1920 and at present, "C" represents the rise and fall in average weekly earnings of the average wage earner, and "D" the course of employment, compared with 1914 as "normal." A full explanation of the situation revealed by these relative figures will be found in the text.

lating in wholesale trade is now worth 65 cents, after going below 37 at its period of maximum depreciation.

About 25 per cent of the factory workers in the country have lost their jobs since April, 1920, or between 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 persons. Factory employment now stands at only 92 per cent of its 1914 level, which means that industrial labor has been completely "deflated" of the wartime additions to its ranks.

Despite depression and despite recurrent reports of wage cuts in many lines, industrial workers who have retained their jobs have suffered only a 9 per cent loss in earnings capacity in the course of a year, and this apparent loss is more than offset by the fall in the cost of living. The level of average weekly earnings of such workers is still very high, being \$30 for the whole country, against less than \$13 in 1914.

These statements abstract and general as they have to be, will repay more detailed analysis, for they indicate a condition of vital interest to every man and woman who earns an honest dollar and spends it for necessary or useful purpose. They show that business, unaccountable as its situation still is, has at least begun to convalesce.

For seven years American business has been sick enough to need a doctor. The trouble has been that economic fever which financiers are accustomed to describe as inflation. Inflation deranges all living and working conditions in the country where it exists, and upsets all earning and spending, as well as buying and selling, standards. It boosts costs of living and costs of production, swells expenditures, incomes, credits and bank clearings, multiplies all price, wage and employment figures, and does all this by depreciating the national money. It works these destructive changes twice over, first on its upward trend toward the maximum, and again in its second-stage, as deflation, which is only inflation bound south instead of north.

Just as a doctor follows the course of his patient's illness with a clinical thermometer, it is possible with properly selected statistics to follow the ups and downs in inflation. In accompanying cut are four "fever thermometers" which reveal business conditions in the United States as measured by—

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The wide variance between retail and wholesale prices is plainly shown. It will be noted, in the field of production, without which there could be no consumption, the situation is not so well defined, however.

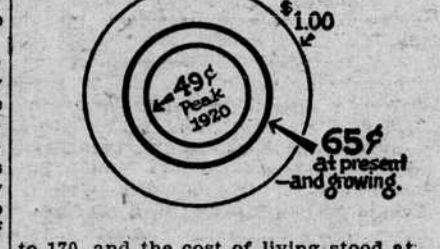
Elimination of the forces mobilized for factory work during the war; maintenance, on the whole, of wartime wage levels; a precipitous drop in the prices of raw materials and finished products at wholesale and a reduction of living costs pronounced enough to constitute a bonus of 10 per cent on all fixed salaries and other incomes—these are the four main facts which stand out.

Their relation to each other and to the whole question of working and living conditions in the United States will become clearer after an examination of the course followed by the cost of living, by wholesale prices, and by average factory earnings, from the summer of 1914 to the present, and the depreciation of the dollar, as measured by its power to pay for the living of its possessor.

One thing is clear from this look at these "skylines of business conditions." Although the war which was to result in an economic earthquake for all nations began shortly after midsummer in 1914, its effects did not begin to be felt in the United States for 18 months. The cost of living increased only imperceptibly, by something like one-half of one percent a month, while wholesale prices, generally regarded as the storm barometer of general business conditions, hung around normal till October, 1915, before beginning their long climb upward. Average factory earnings, reflecting both wage rates and employment, were equally sluggish. They bumped along just below or just above the 100 per cent line for 15 months before responding to Europe's call for munitions and supplies.

Beginning with 1916 the cost of living, wholesale prices, and earnings, rose fairly steadily until the time of the armistice in November, 1918, when wholesale prices had reached a level of 207 points, earnings had climbed

Increase in Purchasing Power of the Pay Envelope Dollar!



to 170, and the cost of living stood at 165, or almost exactly its present level. With the armistice came a slight reaction, lasting three or four months. But with the spring of 1919 the economic forces producing infection gathered fresh vigor. In the course of 12 months both income and outgo indices hurled several minor peaks and reached their maximum points—wholesale prices, 272 in May, 1920; retail prices, 204.5 in July; earnings, 227 in June, which mark they touched again last October.

Another point to notice is that wholesale prices, the element which went up fastest and furthest, all but tripling, and reaching their "peak" a full two months before retail prices, were also the element to fall away most sharply once the decline began. By the end of 1920 wholesale prices had fallen below retail prices, and ever since then they have been proportionately lower than retail prices.

Still another point is the long and stubborn struggle factory labor waged to keep its head above the rising tide of living costs. It lasted four years, and for two-thirds of that period labor was the loser. It was not until March, 1918, that the earnings finally crossed its rival, and any further proportionate increase became "velvet" for the recipient. Finally, the depreciation of the retail buying value of the dollar gives a rough but approximately accurate measurement of the amount of this "velvet," as compared with the portion of increased earnings which was at once eaten up by increased cost of living.

A young man who confessed to talking part in a recent mail robbery in New Jersey, sought to justify himself last week by explaining that he had been against the government ever since I returned from France and received a pay bonus of \$60 for my two years in the world war.

An odd straw hat is owned by a cafe-keeper in Marienthal. Every straw in it has been touched by the lips of royalty, for the hat is woven from the straws put in the drinks of the crowned heads of Europe who have frequented his cafe.