



Bostwick Photo

Business Booming in Nebraska

Bankers Say Prosperity at Hand for Industrious

Opportunities Ripe for Those Who Go After Them, Says John L. Kennedy—Demand Must Equal Production—Men Must Be Employed.

Presidents of three of Omaha's largest financial institutions have been prevailed upon to write articles on prosperity for readers of The Bee.

Each has made a serious effort to define prosperity, to trace factors which result in prosperity, and to some extent foretell what the economic future holds.

Here is what John L. Kennedy, president of the United States National bank, has to say on prosperity.

"Provincial prosperity is no longer permanent. Local conditions may for a time stimulate trade and commerce in particular sections, but they are not controlling factors throughout the country as a whole.

"In a national sense, prosperity must be founded upon favorable conditions which are fundamentally sound, otherwise they cannot long continue. It is not sufficient that production be at the peak.

"Prosperity in the larger sense cannot come to the United States until conditions in other countries are improved. Our own interests will force us to assist directly or indirectly in their rehabilitation.

time to come, and there is considerable evidence at hand to justify such a belief. Conditions compared with those of six months ago have very materially improved.

Increased Demand. "Mills and factories are reporting increased demand for their goods and in many cases are getting back to somewhere near normal production.

Satisfactory Wages. "Without attempting to scientifically define prosperity, I feel sure we may properly say that people are fundamentally prosperous when the product of their labor enables them to obtain the necessities of life in addition to setting aside from their earnings a reserve for old age.

"In 1917, 1918 and 1919 there was employment for everyone who desired to work at top wages. During the same years we were eminently successful in exchanging our surplus products—livestock and grain—at an exceptionally good price for the commodities which we found it necessary to purchase during that period.

"There is a wide spread belief that we are entering into an era of prosperity, that will continue for some

Prosperity is at hand. Evidences of return to normal conditions and comfortable living are to be seen on every side.

Omaha and Nebraska have come through the period of post-war business depression with colors flying.

Omaha continues to hold a leading position among the cities of the United States in bank deposits.

The live stock market is booming again and top prices for cattle and hogs once more are rivaling those of the days before the world conflict.

Receipts and disposition of live stock, too, are back to a stable basis and motor trucks laden with stock, bound for the market, dot the highways into the city from north, south, east and west.

Fruit Undamaged. No frost came this spring to damage the local fruit or berry crops. The wheat stand is reported to hold banner prospects.

Early hot nights gave the corn an impetus which will carry that crop on through the season, according to, if not ahead of, schedules based on previous years.

There have been several "million-dollar" rains, welcomed with joy by the farmer, as well as words of thankfulness from the city folk sweltering in their offices and factories without complaint because of the knowledge that a hot sun makes the corn grow.

In the cities, too, the wheels of commerce and manufacturing again are grinding full force, without halt or delay, on full time.

Unemployment Dwindles. Unemployment has dwindled. Men still loiter somewhat in the lower Douglas street neighborhood, but a careful examination of them reveals a different expression and different faces.

They are not loitering because there is no work. They are loitering there between jobs, waiting to be sent out to their work by the employment agencies, which again are all a-bustle.

And panhandling on the main business streets of Omaha has fallen to practically nothing.

Rapid Strides Made by Omaha Stock Market

Cattle Receipts Grow From 88,603 in 1884 to 1,340,492 in 1921—Stockyards Area Expanded.

Since the South Omaha livestock market was established in 1884, Omaha has gradually worked into the first division of the world's livestock and packing house centers.

During 1884, cattle receipts were 88,603; last year, 1,340,492. Hogs received during 1884, 3,686; 1921, 2,665,276; sheep, 1884, 5,593; 1921, 2,729,62.

Since its organization, the Union Stock Yards company has cared for more than 173,000,000 head of cattle, hogs, sheep, horses and mules. During a year, 50,000 farmers and shippers of Nebraska and 21 other central and western states, are represented on the market through livestock they have raised or fed.

provides an ample supply of fresh water. Chute equipment to the capacity of 260 cars permit this company to give expedited service.

Seventeen Packing Houses. Seventeen packing houses are located in Omaha, all doing a steadily increasing business and to that extent increasing the demand for livestock at this point.

The Omaha livestock market has grown and developed during the last 38 years in response to the needs of the livestock industry and the steady growth and development of the tributary territory.

Left-Handed High School Pitcher Joins Cardinals. Waltham, Mass., July 1.—Jim Hanney, left-handed pitcher, a graduate of the Waltham High school, may wear a St. Louis Cardinal uniform this summer.

Waltham Branch Rickey while at Braves field sent him a contract and terms and it is likely he will sign it and join the Cardinals on the road. Hanney has pitched some fine games while at Waltham under the coaching of Jack Leary, former big league catcher. Hanney weighs about 170 and is 5 feet 10.

Street cars are loaded again morning and evening with happy toilers, who buy their necessities in Omaha.

Retail, wholesale and jobbing businesses, as well as manufacturing, are booming again. Traveling salesmen are covering their trade territories without curtailment.

Department stores, whose aisles were affected by the recent slump, are filled again with buying crowds, not just bent on looking, but on purchasing.

Advertising, too, reflects the return of prosperity, not only in volume, but in the message it carries. Real bargain sales are being held for the benefit of the customer.

Another pulse of business by which can be felt the throb of returned prosperity is the automobile trade, which probably was hit as hard as any by the slump.

Autos Line Roads. Automobiles line the highways and byways. Street car men, policemen, city firemen, packing house employees, office workers, professional men, attorneys, bankers, business men and preachers are driving their own cars, and many of them are new models of the latest types and styles.

This gives impetus to business, too, for automobiles must have accessories, tires, gasoline and oil. The money paid for these attributes of motoring leaps into circulation and makes the big cycle by which the wheels of commerce are accelerated.

Building, another artery of good times, is going full swing again, too. Homes, garages, barns, store buildings, office buildings are being erected.

The city is building a \$3,000,000 high school. City council has authorized a number of paving, curbing and sewer projects, as well as the county opening bids for long stretches of paving of highways of Douglas county, with state and federal aid.

And Omaha will benefit by these payrolls, not only through her banks, businesses, factories, stores and professions, but in the pockets and savings accounts of her working men, the backbone of the community.

Facts Point to Business Life Stability Here

No Cause for Complaint if Conditions Compared With Those of Normal Years Before War.

By LEO B. BOZELL, Secretary Omaha Real Estate Board. The present condition of business industry and investment is now such that there would probably be no thought of depression or hard times had it not been for the abnormal activity in 1918, 1919 and 1920.

Of course, conditions are not what they were in those three years. No conservative man or woman who has the welfare of her home at heart wants to see those conditions returned.

Facts Reflect Strength. In Omaha there are at least three outstanding facts which reflect strength and stability in Omaha's business life.

that a very large number of Omaha citizens are in comfortable circumstances, or the direct opposite of being "hard up."

Secondly, there is a large number of new homes being built in Omaha at present, practically all of them by, and for, families of moderate means.

The rate at which homes are being erected in Omaha this year shows first that a large number of Omaha citizens are financially able to build a home, and, secondly, that Omaha is still maintaining its position of leadership among other American cities in home ownership gains.

Thirdly, the third condition, which reflects remarkable credit on the business stability of Omaha, is the strong and growing values of business property, both in downtown sections and in the outlying districts.

These values are not being maintained artificially. Outside investors of long experience, such as Boston Ground Rent Trust and others, are putting their money in Omaha business property in price that equals or surpasses those of a few years ago.

\$4,500,000 Improvements Planned Here This Year

Addition and Repairs to Paving, Sewers and Sidewalks, as Contemplated by Commissioner Koutsky, to Surpass Program of Any Previous Year.

A public improvement program of \$4,500,000 for paving, sewers and sidewalks is the mark that City Commissioner Joseph Koutsky has set for this season. If this can be accomplished it will be much in excess of any previous year in the history of the city.

Contractors and city construction crews are working in many parts of the city and already have accomplished much, with much more in prospect. Public improvements have resumed normal conditions.

Keen Competition. One of the outstanding features of the situation is the keen competition among contractors in bidding for work. Outside contractors have been attracted. A Council Bluffs paving firm entered this field during the spring and caused a surprise by being low on a lot of bids amounting to nearly \$500,000.

Paving bids run about \$1 a yard less than a year ago and sewer bids are lower this year. Commissioner Koutsky says he did not press the paving situation hard last year because he was confident that prices would be stabilized this season.

The city already this season has sold \$1,200,000 bonds to finance paving, will be in the market soon for another issue of \$600,000 and Mr. Koutsky believes that still another issue of \$500,000 will be sold before this season is over.

New System. Under the new plan, bonds are sold and contractors are paid forthwith from the proceeds. The money comes back when property owners pay their special taxes assessed against the property in the various paving districts.

Another Large Project. Another large project covers Sixteenth street, Douglas street to the terminus of the pavement in North Omaha. Four districts have been created. The first being from Douglas street to Victor avenue; another from Victor avenue to Wirt street; the next from Wirt to the Dietz club boulevard; and the fourth, north of the boulevard. A contract has been awarded for resurfacing from Douglas street to Victor avenue and resurfacing also will be done from Victor avenue to Wirt. The street railway company will go into the

street within the next 10 days to extend its lines continuously from Cumming to Clark streets and eliminate the Seventeenth street link from Cass to Clark streets. This work will be completed before the next Ak-Sar-Ben carnival season.

Another paving district of importance embraces Pierce street, Sixth to Tenth; Sixth from Pierce to Hickory and Seventh from Pacific to Pierce, the material to be brick block and the cost estimated at \$55,000.

Lake to Be Paved. Lake street, Thirtieth to Forty-first streets, will be paved with brick block. The curbing will be started this month. This improvement will cost about \$50,000. Water and gas mains are being laid in this district to obviate disturbance of the pavement. This paving contract has been let.

Records of the public improvements department show that 175 paving contracts have been let this season or are ready for signatures. These contracts range from small alley districts to large contracts like the ones already referred to.

Four large sewer contracts now are under way. One extends along Sixteenth street, Grace to Laird streets, ranging in size from four feet to eight inches and to cost \$62,000. The Spring Lake district sewer will cost \$45,000. A large sewer in Fifth-fifth street, Center to Leavenworth streets, will cost \$40,000 and another between P and Y and Thirty-eighth to Forty-eighth, will cost \$45,000.

Several Street Projects. Sewers will be started soon in Minnie Lusa district and along Redman avenue, the combined cost to be \$75,000. The sewer program this year includes addition to the Grace street sewer at an expenditure of \$75,000.

Several street widening and opening projects are on the calendar. The first will be the work of widening of Twenty-fourth street, Leavenworth street to St. Marys avenue, this being deemed advisable on account of the St. Marys avenue improvement completed last year. This line of Twenty-fourth street will be widened 40 feet, bringing the street on a line with the present street and St. Marys avenue. The work will be started within a few days.

Harney to Be Widened. Harney street will be widened from Twentieth to Twenty-fourth and from Twenty-sixth to Twenty-eighth, property already having been acquired by the city along the south side of the street for this improvement.

Douglas street will be widened from Twentieth to Twenty-fourth and opened west of Twenty-fourth street.

Commissioner Koutsky stated that permits already have been issued this year for the construction of six miles of permanent sidewalks.

"I don't believe that I overstated it when I announced early in the season that we would put through an improvement program of \$4,500,000," said Commissioner Koutsky. "I believe it will be nearer \$5,000,000 if weather conditions are favorable.