

GARNER WORKING FOR LOCAL WPA BOARDS

Babson Sees Coming Year Best Since 1929

20 Pct. Gain Above 1938 Is Forecast

Jobs, Wages, Retail Sales, Stocks and Even Farm Prices Should Make Good-Sized Advances; No Disturbing Legislation Is Expected.

BY ROGER W. BABSON, Copyright 1938, Publishers Financial Bureau, Inc. Babson Park, Mass., Dec. 30.—Total business by the end of 1939 will be as good as—perhaps even better than—

Speakership Sought For Its Prestige

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel. Raleigh, Dec. 30.—As Libby Ward, Victor Bryant and Bill Fenner enter the home stretch of the hottest speakership race in several General Assembly sessions, the man in the street quite naturally wonders what the air is being rent with fulminations, claims and protestations.

Business Leaders Await 1939 With Some Optimism

New York, Dec. 30.—(AP)—American business leaders today expressed a general, though comparatively restrained belief that the year 1939 will witness improved economic conditions in the United States.

BABSON'S FORECAST FOR 1939

Table with 2 columns: Category (Business, Trend, Congress, Prices, Farms, Labor, Retail Trade, Living Costs, Building, Real Estate, Securities, Foreign, Summary) and Forecast (Twenty Per Cent Gain Over 1938, Gradual Upturn With Second Half Best, Relief from New Anti-Business Legislation, Moderate Increases From Current Lows, Produce Prices To Rise; Income Higher, More Jobs, Steady Wages, Increased Strikes, Ten Per Cent Gain; Price-Tags Marked Up, Food, Clothing To Lead Five Per Cent Rise, Major Prop To 1939 Gains In All Industries, Ren's Steady; Values, Activity Higher, Stocks and Medium-Grade Bonds To Advance, No War For U. S., England, or France, 1939 To Be Far Better Year Than 1938)

State Elections Board Urges Absentee Repeal

Practically Unanimous Approval of Board Given by Adding Alternative of Entirely New Absentee Law if Repeal Is Withheld by Assembly

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel. BY HENRY AVERILL. Raleigh, Dec. 30.—The State Board of Elections will late this afternoon release its recommendation to the governor and General Assembly that the North Carolina absentee ballot law be completely repealed. At least all signs point that way, although no official information about the report, or its contents, could be secured by your correspondent.

Governor To Order Vote In Franklin

Raleigh, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Governor Hoey received a formal request today from Franklin county officials to call a special election to elect a representative to the 1939 House of Representatives to succeed Representative-elect C. T. Nicholson, who died suddenly yesterday.

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French Refusal To Mediate Draws Fresh Italian Attack

France's Attitude Toward Italy's "Natural Aspirations" Called Biggest Obstacle To Peace; France Seeks Military Rights In Syria

Rome, Dec. 30.—(AP)—France's refusal to have Prime Minister Chamberlain of Britain mediate the French-Italian territorial fight brought a new barrage of fascist attacks today. The attitude of France toward Italy's "natural aspirations," the newspaper Il Messaggero said, was today's "greatest obstacle" in the path of European pacification.

Says France Fears Conference Il Messaggero openly discussed the possibility of a conference similar to the Munich meeting, declaring that "evidently the spectre of a new four-power conference—because Germany would take part in it—disturbs France's repose."

FRANCE SEEKS FURTHER CONCESSIONS BY SYRIA Paris, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Parliamentary deputies said today France would ask military concessions from Syria in a new French-Syrian agreement because of uncertainty created by Italian colonial agitation.

Official Vote In Tobacco Balloting Given By Wallace

Washington, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Secretary Wallace announced today the official vote by which growers of flue-cured tobacco rejected marketing quotas on next year's crop in a referendum held December 19. The results gave 132,460 votes for quotas and 100,933 against. The crop control law under which the referendum was held required that quotas, to be operative must be approved by two thirds of those voting.

Government Destroyer Loses Fight

Loyalist Warship Beached Trying To Run Insurgent Blockade Off Gibraltar

Coast Line Man Found Dead Upon Rocky Mt. Yards

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Generally fair, slightly colder tonight; Saturday increasing cloudiness, probably followed by snow by night.



French troops have been reported on the march to reinforce the border army in Somaliland, as Italy masses its forces just across the line in its new Ethiopian colony. The French warship D'Iberville is steaming through the Red Sea for the scene of the crisis, which arose from Italian claims to Djibouti, Gulf of Aden coaling station and terminus of the French-owned railroad to Addis Ababa, Ethiopian capital. (Central Press)

Warm Sun Thaws Icy State Roads

Raleigh, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Rising temperatures thawed out frozen highways and bridges in central North Carolina today and a bright sun dried them off quickly. W. Vance Baise, chief highway engineer, said his reports indicated all highways had been cleared of slippery ice except in some mountainous sections. Sleet and freezing rain coated hundreds of miles of roadway yesterday.

WPA Inquiry To Embarrass Mr. Hopkins

By CHARLES P. STEWART Central Press Columnist Washington, Dec. 30.—Harry L. Hopkins is tackling plenty of difficulties in his new post as secretary of commerce. To begin with, his appointment had no more than been announced before it began to be hinted that he might find trouble in getting himself confirmed by the Senate. Regardless of the merits of these suggestions, they just go to show that President Roosevelt's selection of him for a cabinet berth by no means was unanimously popular.

U. S. Prepares For New Year Festive Night

Berlin, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Germany notified Great Britain today of her intention to carry out certain rights granted her under the naval pacts by which German sea power is limited in proportion to that of the British Empire. Officials declined to disclose exactly what action the Nazi regime proposed to take regarding its navy but the matter was discussed today by high German officials and a British naval mission just arrived from London.

Connections With WPA Objected To

Vice-President Clash With Barkley's Proposal; Ickes Advises President \$1,547,769, 686 PWA Projects Have Been Contracted for Already

Washington, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Vice-President Garner was described authoritatively today as taking an active part in efforts to give local communities more control over expenditure of WPA funds.

After hearing of Barkley's statement, Garner conferred with Senator Byrnes, Democrat, South Carolina, floor manager for WPA appropriation bills.

Secretary Ickes reported to President Roosevelt that the PWA had put a \$1,547,769 686 program "completely under contract" in the last six months to the accompaniment of a "constantly accelerated recovery in business and industry."

Lease Offers For A. & N. C. Considered

Goldsboro, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Directors of the State-controlled Atlantic and North Carolina railroad appointed committees today to consider proposals submitted for leasing the line and to recommend an equitable distribution of funds received in a settlement with the Norfolk Southern railroad, former operator of the A. & N. C.

Germans Hint Breaking Of U. S. Relations

Berlin, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Germany's official news agency D. N. B. said today that hope for improved relations between the United States and Germany "lacks every foundation," so long as the Washington State Department defends Secretary of the Interior Ickes.