

A Labor Index?

Roger W. Babson Proposes The "Production Rating" by Which Various Cities Can be Judged

Continuing his personal survey of business conditions Roger W. Babson sends the following from the central south. These authentic statements are appearing exclusively in the COMMONWEALTH.

Before continuing the report of the balance of my trip I want to discuss a problem of importance of such importance in fact that it will not wait. Since leaving home last November I have visited 20 of the largest cities and have pretty much covered industrial America from Canada on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south. This trip has impressed me with two major facts. Business is suffering from two entirely separate things. The first is the weakness of our system of distribution which I intend to take up immediately upon my return. The second is our appalling ignorance of production standards as evidenced by the variation of the efficiency of labor in different sections of the country.

When a manufacturer faces a problem in finance or marketing he gets his information on railroads, rental charges, dock facilities, population and climatic conditions. When he faces the problem of production he can get no figures.

I have tried the Chambers of Commerce in practically every city I have visited. I have tried the Department of Labor and the other departments at Washington. No one apparently has any data on the relative efficiency of labor in different sections of the country. In the same line of business there are great variations. Men doing the same kind of work in two different sections of the country produce a different output. Wages per hour are pretty much standardized, but when it comes to production per dollar we are all in the dark.

As a solution to this difficulty I suggest having a National Committee of three or five appointed by the Secretary of Labor to prepare certain labor tests and then as an experiment apply them in a half a dozen cities—say New Orleans, Birmingham and Atlanta in the South, and Boston, Cleveland and St. Louis in the North. Each local Association of Commerce would appoint its own local committee of five, one man representing the Association, one representing the workers, and one each for manufacturing, building and agriculture. This committee would secure the local statistics for its own city. In addition to securing definite information for comparing different sections of the country. The plan also has another far-reaching standard: standards are determined thru experiments it may be possible to keep the figures up-to-date for each large city. Thus the relative labor efficiency per dollar could be quoted just as "commodity prices" and "freight rates" are now quoted. This would inevitably create a friendly rivalry between different sections and tend to increase the efficiency of both management and labor for the entire country.

In so doing we would accomplish more in reducing prices, developing foreign trade and creating prosperity than could ever be done with any sort of Congressional legislation. In fact I am writing the substance of the above article to several Chambers of Commerce today and there is no reason why the Chamber of Commerce of any progressive American city should not go ahead on its own hook and make such a survey. Advertising the production efficiency of a community will do more toward bringing the industries to it than any number of booster conventions and ordi-

GENERAL CARR IS REPORTED IMPROVED

(By Associated Press.)
DURHAM, N. C., March 14.—An improvement in the condition of General Julian S. Carr was shown this morning, according to reports received. The general has been sick for sometime from an attack of influenza.

THE BRITISH WORKMEN ON PRE-WAR BASIS

London, March 13.—Wages of the British workman were out more than 6,000,000 a week in 1921, says the British Board of Trade. The reduction affected more than 7,000,000 workers and was almost equal to the increases in pay which had been granted in 1919 and 1920.

The severity of the British income tax may be judged by the fact that installments now payable, including the super-tax amount to 400,000,000 sterling. This burden is borne by less than 2,500,000 persons. The sum now levied in income taxes is almost twice as much as the whole national revenue in 1914.

The number of unemployed continued to increase during the past month. A statement issued by the American Chamber of Commerce in London shows the severe declines in British trade last year. It gives British imports in 1921 as only 74.3 percent of their volume in 1913, while exports were only 49.8 percent of those of 1913. In the last three months of 1921, however, a steady increase is noted in exports of coal and manufactured goods.

Many municipal publicity campaigns. Many manufacturers complaining about business today and many wage workers out of employment will find the solution of their problem when their local Chamber of Commerce institutes a labor test and publishes the results for comparison with the figures of other cities.

Incidentally I want to reiterate the fact that labor policies and production efficiency will prove to be the greatest single factor in governing industrial profits for 1922. The speculator will do well to buy shares in concerns who are following an intelligent labor policy, and who have come to realize that the solution to the labor problems lies in production per dollar and not in dollars per hour per week.

Mr. Babson claims that there must be an increase in production efficiency in order to lower costs and quicken buying. He believes the solution of our troubles will come about thru increasing efficiency rather than in decreasing wages as the latter results in decreased purchasing power. He says that appreciation and intelligent action along these lines will do more than any other one thing to bring the Babson chart—which now stands at minus 13 per cent,—back to normal.

WIRELESS TELEPHONE INSTALLED IN PRIVATE HOME

CONCERTS AND SERMONS HEARD FROM VARIOUS PLACES IN THE COUNTRY

WILLIAM J. BRYAN HEARD SPEAKING AT PITTSBURG CHURCH SUNDAY NIGHT

A private wireless outfit has been installed at the home of Mr. Ean's Bryan on Church Street which is the joint accomplishment of Mr. Bryan and "wireless wizard" O'Neal.

Sunday night Mr. Bryan invited a party to "listen in" and they had the pleasure and profit of hearing William Jennings Bryan in a sermon preached at the First Presbyterian Church at Pittsburg. The opening hymn was "Onward Christian Soldiers," and the recessional "Bring forth the Royal Diadem."

The music, and the introduction of the speaker as a man whose name was on every tongue, known the world over, was distinctly heard.

Mr. Bryan took as his subject: "The Price of Life," selecting as his text the 19th and 20th verses of the 28th chapter of Matthews. His theme was service, on which he elaborated, frequently quoting other passages from the bible.

Those who heard this address say that it was in keeping with Mr. Bryan's wonted eloquence.

BUTLER FILES BRIEF IN BEHALF OF N. C. BIDDER FOR MUSCLE SHOALS

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 14.—A supplemental brief filed with the House Military Affairs Committee by former Senator Butler, of North Carolina, the legal adviser of Frederick Egstrem, of Wilmington, declares it would be most imprudent to lease Muscle Shoals to Henry Ford with all the remainder of the enormous waterpower surrounding it and mortgage it to a private monopoly for a hundred years or more.

FOUR POWER PACT CREATES NO ALLIANCE

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 14.—Senator Willis, Republican of Ohio, declares in a statement that the Four Power Pact creates no alliance, does not encroach upon American sovereignty, is based upon civilized public opinion and not upon force and is the longest step toward peace and mutual understanding in a thousand years.

The first issue of the Senate fight over ratification is to be decided at four o'clock when the Robinson amendment is voted upon.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Braxton will regret to learn that they are both confined to their bed with the influenza.

RATHER BE CHAUFFER THAN DWELL IN THE BABYLON PALACES

(By Associated Press.)
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., March 14.—Margaret E. Matzenauer, famous diva, has lost her chauffeur husband, who she termed a one hundred percent man.

Her husband, Floyd Glotzbaeh, comes back to a hotel here driving tourists about declaring, that he had rather be a chauffer in California than dwell forever in palaces of Babylon.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON MONTH OF FEBRUARY

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 14.—Cotton consumed during February amounted to four hundred and seventy-three thousand seven hundred and three (473,703) bales of lint, and thirty-eight thousand five hundred and nine (38,509) bales of linters, the Census Bureau reported.

WEATHER REPORT

For North Carolina: Rain tonight and Wednesday. Somewhat colder Wednesday in west portion. Fresh south and southwest winds.

What The N. C. Cotton Growers Must Do To Meet The Boll Weevil

(By C. B. WILLIAMS)
Since the cotton boll weevil entered the southern border of the State in 1919, our cotton growers have been watching the weevil's progress and wondering when their different farms would be reached and what the results of the coming of the weevil would be. There is hardly any hope but what all the cotton-growing area of the State will eventually be more or less invaded, and unless many of our growers recast their present methods, they will suffer severely if not be put entirely out of business. Naturally the infestation will in all probability vary in intensity and damage as one goes from the coast seaward, the prospects being for far less damage in the Piedmont section than in the lower Coastal Plain region. The situation is not by any means dangerous, however, for the man who will adopt suitable methods of crop rotation; plant suitable and high producing cotton seed; fertilize and manure well and intelligently; plant early and cultivate thoroughly, rapidly and fairly late throughout the season; and practise other good farming methods that are already being practiced by many of our best farmers. Such a farmer may expect far less damage from the weevil than will be inflicted upon the farms of those who plant cotton on poor land every year without any effort at systematic crop rotation and soil improvement; who prepare their land poorly and late in the spring; who plant their cotton late with poor yielding seed; and who cultivate the crop poorly after it is up. This latter man will without doubt be put out of business, certainly out of the profitable growing of cotton.

The man who will practice good and effective methods may expect, outside of the low-lying and heavily wooded areas of the State, to be able to continue the growth of cotton, and make it as profitable as in the past or more so, provided the crop is economically

SEC. MELLON AND GOV. HARDING TO APPEAR BEFORE BONUS BILL COM.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 14.—Secretary Mellon, Comptroller of the Currency Crissinger and Governor Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, have been asked to appear before the House Ways and Means Committee to explain further the bank loan provisions of the bonus bill.

GOV'T FORCES CLOSING IN ON REVOLUTIONISTS

(By The Associated Press)
LONDON, March 14.—Government forces are closing in on revolutionists from East and West according to South African advices. A locomotive was derailed and the railway line dynamited near the Transvaal border with no casualties. Johannesburg, Union So. Africa, March 14.—Government forces have captured the Brakpan Coal Mining center.

The Peanut Growers Keep Old Directors

HALIFAX-NASH DISTRICT ONLY ONE FAILING TO ELECT DIRECTORS WHICH WILL BE DONE WED. MARCH 15th. AT ENFIELD AT 1:30 O'CLOCK.

The new Board of Directors of the Peanut Growers Exchange will contain only two new members. Meetings held this week in sixteen of the seventeen districts show that all the present Directors were reelected with the exception of two. The only changes were in Hertford and Perquimans Counties. P. Winborne succeeds F. J. M. Director for Hertford, and J. M. M. succeeds Dr. I. A. as Director for Perquimans. The only district failing to elect Director at Wednesday's meetings is the one composed of Halifax and Nash counties, which has two Directors. The meeting for the nomination of Directors for this district will be held next Wednesday, March 15th, at 1:30 o'clock at Enfield.

Reports to the Peanut Growers Exchange show that, notwithstanding the small attendance at several of the district meetings on account of the wretched condition of the roads, the growers present were greatly pleased on account of what has been accomplished, and were oant enthusiastic in their support of the proposed movement for the Exchange to arrange to clean their peanuts to and to sell them under its own trade mark and brands. Resolutions were again passed urging the Senators and Representatives from Virginia and North Carolina to put forth their best efforts to secure such tariff on peanuts, as is now provided for in the pending tariff bill.

The Directors nominated at the district meetings Wednesday will be elected at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Peanut Growers Exchange to be held in Suffolk May 10th.

COTTON HAS BEEN SUPERCEDED BY WHEAT AS AGRICULTURAL KING

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 14.—Wheat valued at five hundred and fifty-one million dollars was exported last year ranking that product as king of American agricultural exports. Cotton was second with a value of five hundred and thirty-four million.

| COTTON MARKET | |
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| TODAY'S MARKET | |
| March | 18.14 |
| May | 17.92 |
| July | 17.21 |
| October | 16.74 |
| December | 16.53 |
| YESTERDAY'S MARKET | |
| March | 18.13 |
| May | 17.85 |
| July | 17.04 |
| October | 16.59 |
| December | 16.29 |

A TORNADO HITS LOUISIANA TOWN

Baton Rouge, March 14.—A tornado at sunrise, Louisiana, killed one and injured eight persons. Many houses were destroyed.