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PAST YEAR GOOD FOR BUSINESS

America Produced More, Spent More, And Saved More Than In 1922

Washington, Dec. 30.—The American people produced more, spent more and saved more in 1923 than in 1922, the federal reserve board said tonight in its annual review of economic conditions for the year.

As a whole, the review said, the year was characterized by a large industrial output, practically full employment, a sustained customers' demand for goods, and a level of prices more stable than in any year since 1915.

Tracing the course of business development, the board found that the peak of the output was reached in May. There followed a recession in industrial activity during the summer months which, the board said, arose more from "a hesitancy of business concerns in placing forward orders than from a lessened demand on the part of ultimate consumers." The price declines which accompanied the condition were, therefore, chiefly in materials used in industry rather than in customers' goods.

13 Percent More Wages

"A national income larger than in 1922 arising both out of increased earning of factory workers, and larger proceeds from the sale of farm products," the review continued, "furnished the buying power to absorb the year's increased output of goods. The income of industrial workers, as the result of a volume of employment approximately 13 per cent larger than in 1922 and of wage advances, greatly exceeded that of the previous year."

"The total value of agricultural production was about \$900,000,000 greater than in 1922. This increase in income was not accompanied by a corresponding rise in the cost of living and the large growth in savings deposits indicates there was a considerable margin of income above expenditures. The increased buying during the year is reflected in the volume of retail trade, which was larger for every month of 1923 than of 1922 so far as monthly figures are now available, and the total of department store sales for the ten months exceeding those for the corresponding months of last year by 13 per cent. The distribution and marketing of goods was facilitated by the improvement of transportation facilities and the volume of railroad traffic was the largest on record."

Farm Products Higher

"In agriculture the final estimates for the year indicates a physical volume of production larger than the year before and at the prevailing level of farm prices the total value of the years crops is about 12 per cent above that of 1922. Furthermore a large proportion of farm income was available for current expenditure since less of the income than in the preceding years was used in the payment of loans."

"Sales of mail order houses, representing chiefly purchases in rural communities, increased by 31 per cent in 1923."

"The recovery of agriculture, however, is still incomplete, particularly in the wheat and live stock industries and the unusual business growth of the year has been chiefly in the industrial sections. It is the demand on the part of industrial workers which, even with the decreased foreign demands, has resulted in a better market for agricultural products."

"In addition to the large purchases of goods for immediate consumption there was also an exceptionally heavy demand for houses and automobiles as indicated by the growth in the construction of buildings and the manufacture of motor cars. The automobile output of the year will total nearly 4,000,000, an increase of more than 50 per cent over 1922."

The building activity which had been at a high level during 1922, reached a maximum in the spring of 1923 and then slackened somewhat owing to the rapid advance in wages and in prices of materials. With the subsequent declines in the construc-

10 SCHOOLS IN CO. GRANTED LOANS

Organizing Schools On County Wide Basis Makes Possible These Loans

The State Board of Education at a meeting held on Friday, December 21st, approved loans to ten school districts of Johnston County totaling \$170,000.00. The amounts loaned 77 counties ranged from \$200.00 to Dare County up to \$170,000.00 to Johnston County. Guilford County getting \$110,000.00 and Craven getting \$105,000.00 with the next highest in amounts to Johnston County.

These loans are made by the State from the proceeds of a \$5,000,000.00 Bond issue provided by the 1922 legislature. The State sells its bonds so that it can loan the money to the several school districts at a very low rate of interest; whereas, if the district had to sell its own bonds to get its money, the rate of interest would be about 2 per cent higher. The total amount loaned at the recent meeting of the State Board of Education is \$3,700,000.00.

No assistance is given from this fund to any county in the construction of its school houses unless the proposed buildings are in line with plans to reorganize the county school system on the county wide basis.

The following are the amounts received by the school districts of Johnston County: Kenly, \$10,000.00; Princeton, \$40,000.00; Glendale, \$30,000.00; Archer Lodge, \$10,000.00; Brodgen, \$10,000.00; Corinth-Holders, \$7,000.00; Four Oaks, \$10,000.00; Corbett-Hatcher, \$5,000.00; Minerva, \$33,000.00; Wilson's Mills, \$15,000.00.

The only application for a loan from Johnston County not granted was from the Pine Level school for \$30,000.00. This school being so close to a standard high school, it is hard for the state to see its way clear to grant a loan to this school until all other schools not so near a standard high school have first been provided for. It is understood from the superintendent's office that other plans are being made whereby Pine Level may get an additional building.

NEW SERVICE STATION OPENS TODAY

One of the new year firms which open for business today is the Jones Service Station located on the corner of Market and Fourth streets. Mr. Simon Jones is the proprietor and needs no introduction to the people of Smithfield or Johnston County. Mr. Chas. B. Springs who was formerly with the Sanders Motor Co. will be with Mr. Jones, and they propose to do an up-to-date business. The best mechanics available are employed. The new concern opens up in a brand new brick building just completed by Mr. Jones.

Services At Pisgah

There will be services at Pisgah Baptist church next Saturday afternoon, Jan. 5th, at 3 o'clock, and on Sunday, the 6th, at 11 o'clock a. m. The members are urged to be present.

Mrs. Tom Coats, who has been with The Davis Department Stores for sometime, has resigned and will take in sewing at her home on Second street.

Miss Florence Boyett, of N. C. C. W., Greensboro, spent several days here last week the guest of relatives and friends.

Notwithstanding the business expansion of 1922 and early 1923, the amount of credit used by the country, as indicated by the demand on the federal reserve banks, remained practically constant. The range of amounts borrowed through the reserve system was from \$1,000,000.00 to about \$1,200,000,000, the board's records showed. —Associated Press.

Ten Year Old Boy Shot and Killed Yesterday

Julius Green, the ten year old son of Dude Green, who lives on the road between Smithfield and Clayton, was accidentally shot by Roland Howell young son of George Howell yesterday morning about 8:30 o'clock and died about an hour later. The little fellow was rushed to the hospital here, but his condition was beyond medical aid.

According to report, the little boy was helping his father do some work near the house. Two neighbor boys

came up to play with him. Soon after their arrival the dog discovered a rabbit and one of the boys suggested that Junius go in the house after the gun to shoot the rabbit. Against the protest of the boy's father, he slipped in the house and got the gun, and one of his companions while fooling with it, accidentally fired the fatal shot. It is a sad occurrence, and the bereaved family have the sympathy of the community.

WILSON OBSERVES BIRTHDAY QUIETLY

Washington, Dec. 28.—Woodrow Wilson is 67 years old today, but there were no celebrations or demonstrations to break the quiet routine of his home.

The former President spent the day much in the manner that he has passed his time in recent months. He continues his program of rest varied with frequent automobile rides into the country.

FIRST AWARD WILL BE MADE ON NEXT BIRTHDAY

New York, Dec. 28.—On the sixty-eighth anniversary of the birth of Woodrow Wilson, one year from today, the first \$25,000 prize of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation for outstanding public service will be awarded, trustees of the foundation announced today at a luncheon celebrating the former President's 67th birthday anniversary.

The trustees also announced that nominations of the first annual award could be submitted from today until June 1, 1924. A jury of nine headed by President Emeritus Eliot of Harvard, will select the winners.

The annual prize will remain at \$25,000 for the first three years, and thereafter probably will be the income collected from the fund, which now is over \$800,000 and has an income of almost \$27,000 a year. The trustees said the foundation fund probably would total \$1,000,000 before subscription books were closed.

The prize will go to the "living individual who has rendered within a specified period unselfish public service of enduring virtue." It also was announced that works of writer candidates must have appeared in print and must have been written in English; nominations also must be in writing, with two seconders.

A congratulatory birthday telegram was sent Mr. Wilson by the trustees.

New Business To Open Up

The new year always brings changes, and among those this year, we note with interest the establishment in this city of The Buick Sales Co. Mr. L. D. Debnam of Selma, manager of this concern, has leased the building of Mr. J. H. Kirkman, and will open up here about Jan. 15th. An up-to-date Buick service station will be operated.

Mr. Kirkman, who has conducted a battery and tire business here for the past fourteen years, has secured the place next door to The Herald office, and will continue to run a battery and tire station.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY SCHOOL TO GIVE PLAY

The play, "Dust of the Earth" will be presented Saturday night, December 29th at 7:00 at Corbett-Hatcher school house; and it will be presented the following Monday night at Archer school house at the same hour.

This play is being presented by members of the Thanksgiving Sunday school and the proceeds will go to the Sunday school.

Circle No. 4 To Meet

Circle No. Four of the Methodist Missionary Society will meet Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock with Mrs. N. B. Grantham. Important

JOHNSTON CO. BOY IS KILLED

Owen Stevens And Mrs. Gatling, Victims Of Double Tragedy In Raleigh

Raleigh, Dec. 30.—Efforts of Raleigh police and county authorities to apprehend Lawrence Gatling, who, according to the police, shot and killed Owen Stevens when he found Stevens in the company of his wife last night, and then fired on Mrs. Gatling and killed her, had been without avail late tonight. One of the developments today were the statements of two eyewitnesses to the slayings who said that after killing his wife, the second victim of his shootings, Gatling did not take flight in an automobile as reported yesterday, but walked away.

Corner J. E. Owens began an investigation this morning, but announced he did not think an inquest necessary.

The police and county authorities made an intensive search, they reported, but it resulted in establishing no clues of the whereabouts of Gatling, who is the son of former Postmaster Bart M. Gatling.

Owen Stevens, the first of Gatling's victims, was buried this afternoon at Shiloh church in Johnston county, and the body of Mrs. Gatling tonight was in a local undertaking establishment awaiting burial here tomorrow afternoon.

Stevens was unmarried. Mrs. Gatling leaves a son by a former marriage, Carlton Tippet. According to the death certificates Stevens was 22 years old and Mrs. Gatling 25.

Mrs. Stevens Fesperman, who with a son was boarding with Mrs. Gatling and her sister, Miss Janie Griffin, at the house in a Raleigh suburb where the slayings took place, today gave an account of the affair.

"I was standing at the back of the house in the kitchen," she said, "when Gatling came in through the back door. Stevens had just come into the house and was standing at the door of Mrs. Floyd's (Miss Janie Griffin) room, talking to Mrs. Gatling and her sister. Gatling stuck a big blue steel pistol into my stomach and told me to get out of the way. He had not been drinking, but he looked mean and mad. I called my little boy and Mrs. Gatling's little son and started out of the back door of the house. I heard Mrs. Gatling say 'Behave yourself Lawrence. Don't do that Lawrence.' Then Stevens cried out, 'Don't hurt me; don't hurt me.' Gatling cursed and then I heard the shots quick and close to each other; then a pause as he loaded his gun, and then another succession of shots as he poured another pistol full of bullets into the man. He was killed instantly, but Gatling filled him full of bullets after he was dead."

"Miss Janie ran out of the front of the house when Lawrence Gatling killed Stevens, and Helen (Mrs. Gatling) followed her. Helen cried, 'I can't stand it,' and also ran across the street."

Gatling loaded his gun again and ran to the porch and shot her down as she ran along the other side of the street with a bullet through her back. She ran a little further and then fell, face upon the sidewalk. Gatling went to where she lay and emptied his revolver into her body. Then he reloaded his gun and fired the whole charge into her breast. Then he went off to the road to the east. He didn't have any car."

A story told by a newsboy who said he witnessed the shooting of Mrs. Gatling corroborated in that part of the story told by Mrs. Fesperman.

(Note). Stevens was a son of Mrs. Thad Stevens, who lived in the Shiloh section until a few years ago when she moved to Raleigh. Other news dispatches state that Gatling and Stevens had been partners engaged in bootlegging and had had a quarrel several days ago.

Mr. Leslie Humphrey who has been spending several days in the city the guest of relatives returned yesterday to his home in Zebulon.

VOCAL UNION DRAWS BIG CROWD

Five Choirs Of The Lower Johnston County Vocal Union Meet Here

The Lower Johnston Vocal Union held here Sunday in the Court house, was attended by the usual large crowd which the singing of these choirs always attracts. The auditorium of the court house was packed to its capacity throughout the day many of the people of this city being present, besides those from the communities represented by choirs.

The Methodists gave way their morning service and Rev. D. H. Tuttle, pastor of the Methodist church, addressed the assemblage in the court house.

Mr. J. B. Beasley president of the Union, was master of ceremonies, calling out the various choirs. The following choirs were present: Johnston Union, Duke, Tee's Chapel, and Yelvington Grove.

In Memory Of Della Dunn

It is with a sad and broken heart I attempt to write the death of my dear friend and cousin, Della Dunn, who departed this life November 13, 1923.

Della was sick several weeks with typhoid fever and her death was not unexpected. However, it was a shock to her relatives and friends.

She was the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Dunn. She was about sixteen years of age and was loved by everybody. It was hard to part with such a friend as Della but, God knew best.

She lived a good and upright life and was kind to everybody. She never went on without speaking to people whom she knew but was faithful and true to all. She had a good character everywhere she went which can never be forgotten. If every young lady had a character like hers they would live a life worth while.

We cannot understand why Della was taken from us. But He who gave her life knew best when to take it back. He took her home where sorrow and trouble never come. And may we prepare to meet her some day where we will shed no more tears and where good-byes are o'er and troubles never come.

Oh! Della how we miss you. We see your sweet face no more. But we hope to meet on the evergreen shore.

Della leaves a heartbroken father, mother, two sisters, one brother and a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. But we hope our loss is her eternal gain.

She was laid to rest in the family burying ground near her grandfather's Mr. D. B. Adams, November 14, 1923, amid a large crowd of sorrowing friends and relatives. The floral offerings were many and beautiful.

She is sleeping sweetly sleeping. In a new made grave today. We are weeping sadly weeping. For our Della gone away.

Written by a heart-broken friend.

TOBACCO CO-OP ASS'N. REPORTS RECEIPTS

The Tobacco Gowers Cooperative Association will start the new year with receipts to date of over 125,000 pounds of the 1923 crop when its warehouses open on January 2 in the dark and sun-cured belts of Virginia and on January 8, at all its receiving points in the old belt and Eastern North Carolina.

A land slide of tobacco and new members to the marketing association took place during the last delivery days of 1923, Virginia and Carolina coops delivering 12,800,000 pounds of the weed in one week and bringing tobacco to the association floors at the rate of two and a half-million pounds a day during the last delivery days of 1923. Receipts in the South Carolina belt have gone fourteen million pounds beyond those of the association last year. In Eastern Carolina, last year's total receipts by the marketing association were passed in December.