

**The Pulse of Today's Business**

During the past two months, ninety-nine percent more grain has been moved to markets than the average amount during the same months of 1920, 1921 and 1922. A comparison reveals an increase of twenty-three percent in the foreign products.

In connection with the movement of grains, these figures which have been compiled from statistics of car loadings of revenue freight for the respective periods, the deduction that higher grain prices have encouraged the farmers to market their crops earlier and in larger proportions, is fairly safe, particularly since total yields of grain crops have been less during the current year than they were in the other years entering into comparison. The increase of twenty-three percent in the movement of foreign products is but additional evidence of an already bountiful supply that structural activity throughout the country is continuing at comparatively high levels.

An increase of thirteen percent in the movement of live stock during the past two months, above the average of the same months of the three years 1920 through 1922, reflects a desire on the part of farmers to sell their animals rather than feed them grain at its present inflated prices. With no strikes pending, and a popular belief that transportation facilities will be adequate to meet requirements, the buying of coal has been below normal.

Looking as a total freight movement as a fairly accurate barometer of business activity, October and November of the present year were better than two, three and four years ago by thirteen percent.

Rapid increase in the use of radio in farms during the past year is shown in a special survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture. It is estimated that there are more than 370,000 radio sets in use on farms as compared with 145,000 a year ago.

The survey was made among county agricultural agents. Reports from 233 county agents placed the aggregate number of radio sets in their counties at 108,710, or an average of 130 sets per county, projecting the average of 150 per county for all of the 3,850 agricultural counties in the United States as a whole, as compared with a similar estimate of 145,350 sets a year ago.

The radio market news service of the United States Department of Agriculture has been developed rapidly during the past three years and now it is possible for farmers in practically all parts of the country to receive daily market quotations and reports on agricultural conditions.

Prospects are that the gross income from agricultural products in the United States for the crop year 1924-25 may reach approximately \$2,000,000,000 compared with \$1,100,000,000 in 1923-24 and \$9,550,000,000 in 1921-22. This favorable situation was revealed in the annual report to the President.

The report declares that American agriculture is in the best position since 1920. Many crops are priced at the highest point in four years while cost of production has declined. Though not the greatest volume of products, the year was the best balanced and represented the best income of any of the past five seasons.

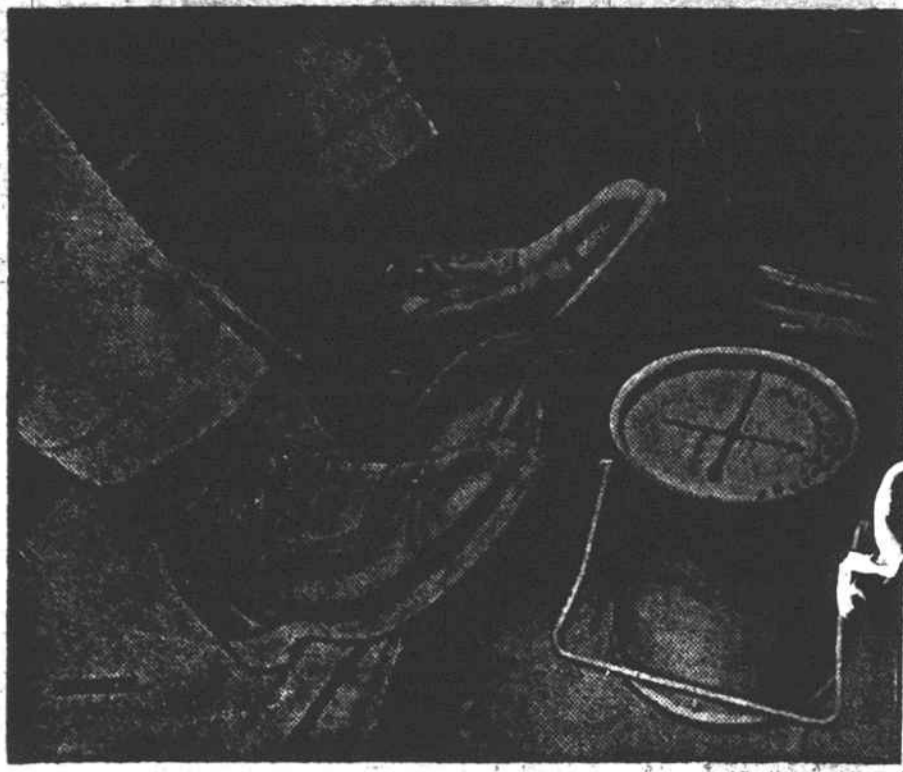
The total acreage in all crops this year is estimated to have been about 370,000,000 a decline of 6,900,000 acres from 1923 and 6,000,000 from the 1919 area.

Grain producers stand to receive an increase in cash incomes of two hundred and ninety millions of dollars. Of this amount, the wheat growers will get the largest share. While corn is bringing higher prices, its increased value is somewhat offset by lower productions. It will be necessary for cotton growers to realize an average price of 35 cents a pound to equal last year's income of \$1,529,000,000.

In summary, the report informs that the year will bring increased income to the surplus grain-producing regions, to the Corn Belt, and possibly to the cotton states.

Farmers in United States produced \$2,810,000,000 of wealth this year, or an average of \$3,000 farm products by each of 6,400,000 farmers. Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation finds total exceeds 1923 production by \$212,000,000 an increase of \$95 a farmer. Reports the state average farmer is \$458 better off than during depression and his dollar is worth 10 per cent more than last year as result of decrease in average prices of products he buys. Cotton farmers have increased production greatly, most of which is absorbed, however, by decrease of about 10 cents a pound in price.

**INSTRUMENT TO TEST BRAKES OF AUTO**



The United States Bureau of Standards, in Washington, has been making tests on auto brakes with a view to setting safe standards for their performance. In making these tests, the dynamometer, an instrument invented by the bureau of standards is used. This instrument is set on the floor of the car without being attached to it and held in position by a heavy weight and springs. When the brakes are applied the weight moves against the springs and catches a pointer to move on the dial, indicating the number of feet required to stop the car from 20 miles per hour without regard to weight of car.

STORAGE WAREHOUSES often store something besides property and chattels. Many of them are store places for the human emotion known as "sentiment." For instance in one of our large cities, on each Tuesday morning, an old man totters into one of the large warehouses, and is taken on the elevator to the ninth floor. Down the aisle stacked high with boxes and crates are feeble steps lead him to a corner where sits a piano, a relic of days long passed. At this instrument he sits and for about an hour pours out his soul in the melodies of what to him were balmy days. The employees around the warehouse say that he has been doing this same thing regularly for the past seven years. It seems that at one time, he had aspired to be a great musician. He fell passionately in love, as is a musician's wont, but his devotion was spurned and the spurning retarded his climb to the fame which he today is sure was waiting for him. With the old piano, each Tuesday morning, he speaks the sorrows, regrets and disappointments of the life which has been his.

TO THE SAME WAREHOUSE, at frequent intervals, a liveried limousine with all the markings of wealth carries a woman of around fifty. With many a rustle and sweep of high position this woman proceeds to a private vault. One of the attendants unlocks the door and she enters. Trunkers and helpers with no intention of eavesdropping have heard terms of most motherly exhortation coming from this room for hours at a time. What is more, these men know that this room contains nothing but three trunks in which repose, three dog collars and as many dog blankets. They laugh among themselves and say, "The nut is in again." But I happen to know that this woman is not a nut. In her home, she is the essence of refinement, culture and intelligence. What is more, her home is a pleasant but childless one. And her husband is a gruff, determined and successful fighter in the field of business. Long since she had discovered that he was not the kind on which she could pour out even a small bit of her over-abundance of affection. So, the three dog collars in the three trunks in a gloomy, dusty warehouse, are the unresisting and unrepenting recipients of the big part of her life-sentiment.

Automobile output for the first nine months of 1924 is within 9 per

**Studies**  
Crafty men condemn studies; simple men admire them; and wise men use them; for they teach not their own use; but that there is a wisdom without them, and above them, was by observation.—Francis Bacon.

**Flores Weight Up**  
In 1920 the average weight for flores was only 1.25 pounds for the entire nation. Now the national average is from 7 to 8 pounds. In Oregon, the average is 9 pounds, with many bands averaging 10 pounds.

Island is an easy winner in the eating of potatoes. The average per capita consumption in the Emerald Isle is four pounds a day. The United States is second in this class, with a record of 200 pounds yearly for each inhabitant.

**Epidemic Among Birds**  
That birds suffer from infectious diseases is a well-known fact. Ten years ago an epidemic slew thousands of wood-pigeons in the south of England. Their dead bodies littered some of the coppices in Wiltshire and Dorset.



**Cage Your Savings**

Dollars, like birds, fly as the wind blows. The man who keeps his bird in a cage preserves him for posterity—the man who keeps his dollars caged, preserves them for prosperity. You'll do well to cage yours—we'll furnish the cage.

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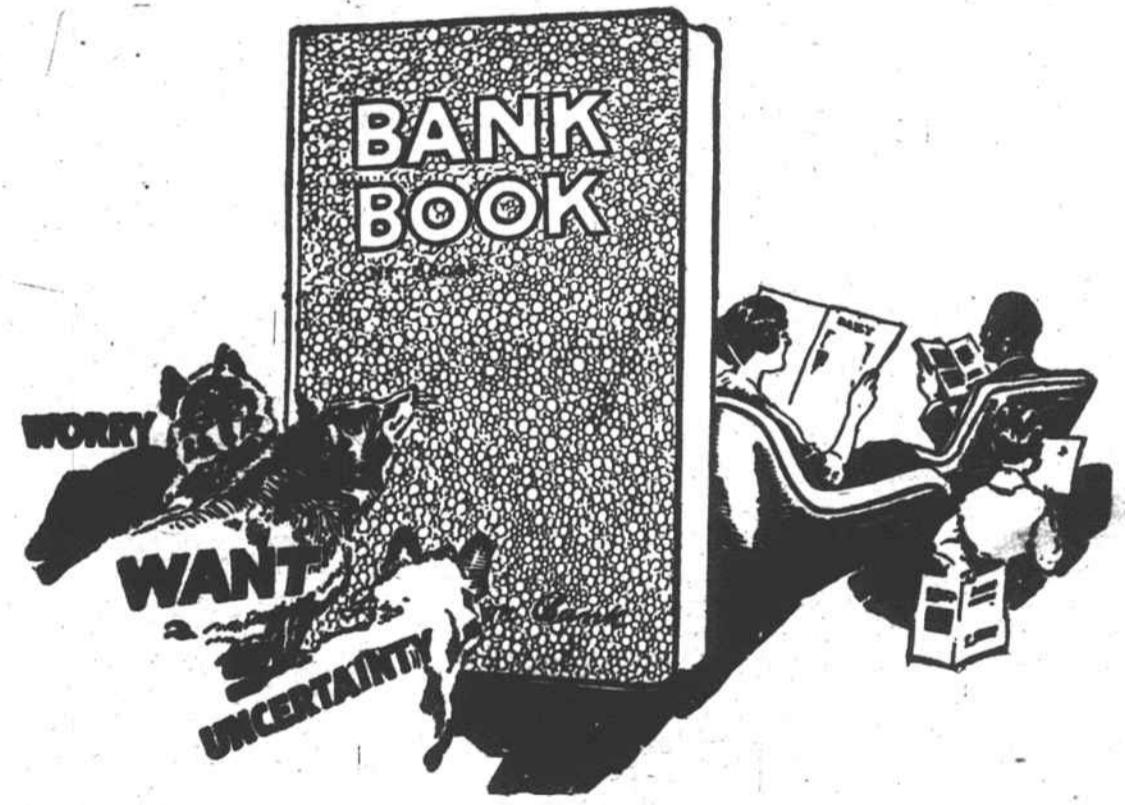
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